SSH Host Picker Documentation

This document explains how to configure and use a PowerShell function (`ssh-pick`) that allows you to quickly select and connect to SSH servers defined in your SSH config file (`~/.ssh/config`).

# 1. Requirements

- Windows 10/11 with PowerShell  
- OpenSSH client installed (`ssh` command available)  
- A valid SSH config file at `%USERPROFILE%\.ssh\config`  
- Execution policy set to allow profile scripts (e.g., `RemoteSigned`)

# 2. Editing Your PowerShell Profile

To ensure the `ssh-pick` function is always available, you must add it to your PowerShell profile script.

Step 1: Check if you already have a profile file:

Test-Path $PROFILE

Step 2: If it doesn’t exist, create it:

New-Item -ItemType File -Path $PROFILE -Force

Step 3: Open the profile in Notepad:

notepad $PROFILE

# 3. Adding the ssh-pick Function

Paste the following function into your profile file:

function Get-SshAliases {  
 param([string]$Config = "$HOME\.ssh\config")  
 $pat = '^[ \t]\*Host[ \t]+(.+)$'  
 $aliases = @()  
 if (Test-Path $Config) {  
 Select-String -Path $Config -Pattern $pat | ForEach-Object {  
 ($\_.Matches[0].Groups[1].Value -split '\s+') |  
 Where-Object { $\_ -and $\_ -ne '\*' -and $\_ -notmatch '[\\*\?\[\]]' } |  
 ForEach-Object { $aliases += $\_ }  
 }  
 }  
 $aliases | Sort-Object -Unique  
}  
  
function ssh-pick {  
 param([string]$Config = "$HOME\.ssh\config")  
 $hosts = Get-SshAliases -Config $Config  
 if (-not $hosts) { Write-Host "No Host entries in $Config"; return }  
  
 Write-Host "Available SSH hosts:`n"  
 for ($i=0; $i -lt $hosts.Count; $i++) {  
 Write-Host "$($i+1)) $($hosts[$i])"  
 }  
  
 $sel = Read-Host "Enter number"  
 if ($sel -as [int] -and $sel -ge 1 -and $sel -le $hosts.Count) {  
 ssh $hosts[$sel-1]  
 } else {  
 Write-Host "Invalid choice."  
 }  
}

# 4. Reloading Your Profile

After saving, reload your profile with:

. $PROFILE

# 5. Usage

Now you can simply run the following command in PowerShell:

ssh-pick

It will list all host aliases from your SSH config file, show them as a numbered menu, and let you pick which one to connect to.

# 6. Optional: Add a Short Alias

To make it even quicker, add this line at the bottom of your profile:

Set-Alias ss ssh-pick

Then you can just type `ss` instead of `ssh-pick`.