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# How to Upload SSH Public Keys to a DigitalOcean Account

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DigitalOcean Droplets are Linux-based virtual machines (VMs) that run on top of virtualized hardware. Each Droplet you create is a new server you can use, either standalone or as part of a larger, cloud-based infrastructure.

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After you create an SSH key pair, you can upload your public key to your DigitalOcean account to make it easier to add your keys to your Droplets. It's safe to freely share your SSH public key because it cannot be used to re-create the private key. It can only be used to validate the user who holds the associated private key.

To add an SSH public key to your DigitalOcean account, log in to the control panel. In the **Account** section of the main menu, click **Settings**, then click the **Security** tab at the top of the page.

This brings you to the account security settings page. In the **SSH keys** section, click **Add SSH Key**.

SSH keys provide a more secure way of logging into a virtual private server with SSH than using a password alone. [Learn more](#)

Next, copy your **public** key and paste it into the **SSH key content** field.

### Tip

**Can't find your keys?** By default, your key files are saved to the hidden SSH folder in your **home directory**, and your public key ends in `.pub`. On Linux, your public key is typically `/home/your_username/.ssh/id_rsa.pub`, and on macOS and Windows, it's typically `/Users/your_username/.ssh/id_rsa.pub`.

If you generated your key pair with PuTTYgen on Windows, you need to **use PuTTYgen to view the public key** in the appropriate format.

In the second field, enter a name for the key. You'll use this name to identify this key in the DigitalOcean Control Panel. We recommend using the name of the machine you copied the public key from.

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Google offers a solution for two-factor authentication. You can then access third-party services without having to enter your password every time.

**Two-factor authentication**

Default method: App

When you log in you will be prompted to enter a code from your app.

Backup method: SMS

We will send a unique code to your phone.

**SSH keys**

Paste a copy of your public key in the space below. It should end in `~.pub`. [Learn more](#). This does not add an SSH key to your existing Droplets. To do so, [follow the instructions here](#).

**SSH key content**

```
AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAQABAAQDd58Chc5F6bUvt2JGL
KnypjifSaMRMUOB6Whp0ErRqtZ0z47UumLkp/Bu6MObiVBts6/1HL
aL/conmy7t8l5Zwbav7BTH7HzBBKc/HyajJ/8YjVaEGI7bNoN0cyjXiU
IWGLzQCmUbDdJucx8hDrp1UqfaaJm/dqEs/VcuxrPnh10YybINEGq
CLdbA9HLvglvECvKOfeZz1N05sYU/+awwfE3g31ej+M4!NkO7Py5hiq
WOE0zARq7odwOtgmlyuGHRsH5XUVj/Xq1X90zzdC0wAf+sWe8M
VhS1lnyN45WN3k4PX8QkFrYatN0QuOSC5I0vzNBXrF1TkfTfZNrlfV
Bh root@home-machine
```

**Name**

Home machine

**Add SSH Key**

Click the **Add SSH Key** button when you are finished. The key is displayed on the **Security** page. You can use a key's **More** menu to edit the key information or delete it entirely:

SSH keys		Add SSH Key
Name	Fingerprint	
Home machine	EX:AM:PL:E9:64:aa:2d:18:17:c4:a1:6b:33:02:d5:cc	<a href="#">More</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Edit</a></li> <li><a href="#">Delete</a></li> </ul>

When you create Droplets, you can automatically embed this key by selecting it in the **Add your SSH keys** section of the Droplet create page.

If you've used DigitalOcean before, you may be used to receiving an email with a password when you create a new Droplet. When you use SSH keys for authentication, you will not receive an email. Instead, you will use your private key to sign in. If you set a password on the

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