Blogs

Told you, we love sharing!

Home (/) / Blog (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/) / Technology (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/category/technology/) / AWS (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/category/tech

Category

ENTER EMAIL	Subscribe to Our Blog

Change ssh key-pair of Running EC2 Instance

AWS (HTTP://WWW.TOTHENEW.COM/BLOG/CATEGORY/TECHNOLOGY/AWS-2/), DEVOPS
(HTTP://WWW.TOTHENEW.COM/BLOG/CATEGORY/TECHNOLOGY/DEVOPS-TECHNOLOGY/)

19 / AUG / 2014   BY VIKASH JHA (HTTP://WWW.TOTHENEW.COM/BLOG/AUTHOR/VIKASH-JHA/)   6 COMMENTS
(HTTP://WWW.TOTHENEW.COM/BLOG/CHANGE-SSH-KEY-PAIR-OF-RUNNING-EC2-INSTANCE/#COMMENTS)

Share this blog

Email   Twitter   Facebook   LinkedIn   Google+

Sometimes we get the requirement to change the key-pair for some security reasons. In this article, we will be changing the key pair of running EC2 instances.

Steps:

1. Create a new key pair from AWS Console.
2. Generate Public key from newly created key pair (Private Key).
3. Paste the generated public key (from Step 2) in ~/.ssh/authorized_keys of Server.
4. Delete the existing key from ~/.ssh/authorized_keys of Server
5. Perform ssh using new key.

I have a running EC2 Instance (Ubuntu 14.04) having key-pair "testing-key".

Name		Instance ID ▲	Instance Type ▼	Availability Zone▼	Instance State ▼	Status Checks ▼	Alarm Status	Public DNS		Public IP	▼	Key Name	▼
SSH-KEYP...		i-b1527b5e	t2.micro	us-east-1b	🟢 running	✅ 2/2 checks...	None	🔖	ec2-██████████	██████████		testing-key	

Let's change the key

1. Create a new key pair from AWS Console

Create Key Pair   ✕

    Key pair name: testing-ssh-key

                                    Cancel   **Create**

This is a private key that you have to download on your local machine.

2. Generate Public Key from Private Key (testing-ssh-key)

Execute

```
1   "$ ssh-keygen -y"
```

and provide the path for private key.
Here "testing-ssh-key.pem" is the new private key

```
$ssh-keygen -y
Enter file in which the key is (/home/ubuntu/.ssh/id_rsa): testing-ssh-key.pem
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAABAQCT0EDE5pq1S8FiHAqzt79MPJatxq3e7sRRw6ueOc8

Omdevj2AzMFcprK/iM7YBGnOJDYJmHmyuyfiljvxFHayPALXQFkGSx
```

3. Append the above generated public key to ~/.ssh/authorized_keys

4. Remove the old key from ~/.ssh/authorized_keys ("testing-key.pem")

5. Perform ssh using new key

```
1   $ ssh -i testing-ssh-key.pem ubuntu@X.X.X.X
```

You can now log in using new key.

```
[vikash@zerocool ~]$  ssh -i testing-ssh-key.pem ubuntu@
Welcome to Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (GNU/Linux 3.13.0-29-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com/

  System information as of Tue Aug 19 08:58:28 UTC 2014

  System load:  0.0               Processes:           100
  Usage of /:   9.7% of 7.74GB    Users logged in:     1
  Memory usage: 6%                IP address for eth0: 172.31.32.155
  Swap usage:   0%

  Graph this data and manage this system at:
    https://landscape.canonical.com/

  Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest:
    http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.


Last login: Tue Aug 19 08:58:29 2014 from 115.112.156.2
ubuntu@ip-172-31-32-155:~$
```

Read more about our D (http://www.tothenew.com/devops-aws)evOps AWS (http://www.tothenew.com/devops-aws) capabilities.

Note: This article is not for changing key-pair if it is lost or deleted. Before performing below actions, it is advisable to take the backup of existing EC2 Instance.

Tag -

Aws Devops (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Aws-Devops/)   Aws. Amazon Web Services (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Aws-Amazon-Web-Services/)

Cloud Devops (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Cloud-Devops/)   Devops (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Devops/)

EC2 Instance (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Ec2-Instance/)   Key Pair (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Key-Pair/)

Ssh (Http://Www.Tothenew.Com/Blog/Tag/Ssh/)

FOUND THIS USEFUL? SHARE IT
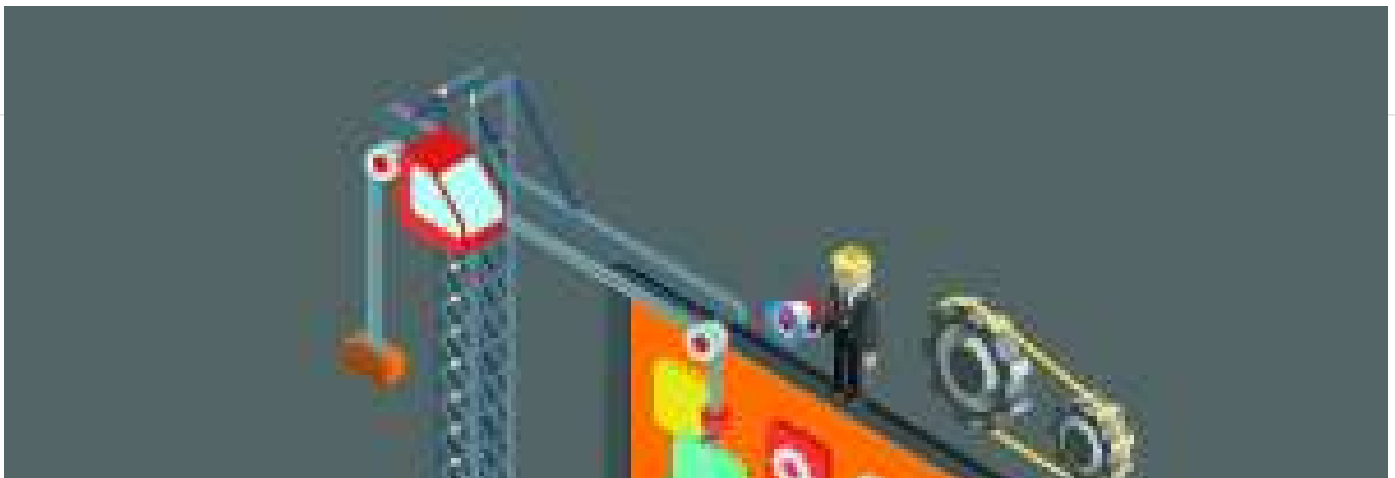
Whitepaper
DevOps Practices and Principles To Improve IT Efficiency

C O M M E N T S (6)

Download Whitepaper (http://insights.tothenew.com/devops-practices-principles-for-it-efficiency)

Akhil T -November 21, 2016 at 5:40 pm (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-172874)

Thanks. This worked perfectly. Only issue is the EC2 instance is still showing the old key name in dashboard. Any suggestions to change it to new name?

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=172874#Respond)

Sameer -December 20, 2016 at 5:06 pm (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-174762)

Yes i too tried this, but it doesn't updates the key name in the dashboard, which might create a problem for a new person, if he doesn't knows about the change of the perm file.

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=174762#Respond)

sandeep -August 31, 2016 at 5:29 pm (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-170998)

i followed the above steps for changing the key pair and i changed the authorized keys after that i am not able to login into my ec2 instance . please help me .thanks

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=170998#Respond)

Lovato -March 3, 2016 at 5:06 pm (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-155587)

Tks! Gread step by step. Solved my problem.

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=155587#Respond)

barry -February 21, 2016 at 7:10 am (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-155086)

this doesnt help if you cannot get into the instance

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=155086#Respond)

Renato -September 26, 2015 at 3:22 pm (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/change-ssh-key-pair-of-running-ec2-instance/comment-page-1/#comment-139973)

Brilliant! It was the best article I've found about changing the key pairs. Tks heaps!

Reply (/Blog/Change-Ssh-Key-Pair-Of-Running-Ec2-Instance/?Replytocom=139973#Respond)

LEAVE A COMMENT -

Name *

Email *

Comment

Submit

by
Vikash Jha (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/author/vikash-jha/)

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Puppet manifests to change pem key of running ec2 instances (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/puppet-manifests-to-change-pem-key-of-running-ec2-instances-and-adding-a-new-user-to-all-the-instances-and-give-sudo-privileges/)

CHEF recipe to change pem file of running ec2 instances and adding... (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/chef-recipe-to-change-pem-file-of-running-ec2-instances-and-adding-a-new-user-to-all-the-instances-and-give-sudo-privileges/)

Launching an AWS EC2 instance using CloudFormation Template (http://www.tothenew.com/blog/launching-an-aws-ec2-instance-using-cloudformation-template/)

FOLLOW US ON

(https://www.facebook.com/TOTHENEW) (https://twitter.com/togetthinking) (https://www.linkedin.com/company/tothenew)

Subscribe to our Blog

Get latest articles straight to your inbox

ENTER EMAIL	Subscribe Now

Who We Are   +

What We Do   +

Knowledge   +

Contact Us   +

Connect With Us

TO THE NEW