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| **Key** | **Telnet** | **SSH** |
| Definition | Telnet is the joint abbreviation of Telecommunications and Networks and it is a networking protocol best known for UNIX platform designed specifically for local area networks. | SSH or Secure Shell is a program to log into another computer over a network, to execute commands in a remote machine, and to move files from one machine to another. |
| Operation | Telnet uses the port 23 and it was designed specifically for local area networks. | SSH on other hand runs on port 22 by default however it can be easily changed. |
| Security | As compared to SSH, Telnet is less secured. | SSH is a very secure protocol because it shares and sends the information in encrypted form |
| Data format | Telnet transfers the data in simple plain text. | SSH uses Encrypted format to send data and also uses a secure channel. |
| Authentication | No authentication or privileges are provided for user's authentication. | SSH is more secure, so it uses public key encryption for authentication. |
| Preference | Due to its less security provisions, Telnet is recommended only for private networks. | SSH is suitable for Public networks. |