

How to Make Your Own TF2 Server

By therealbumface

How to Use This Guide

- **Yellow Text** is a hyperlink, for a download or video
- **Red Arrows** indicate hyperlinked images
- **Blue Background** is a **Bash Script**



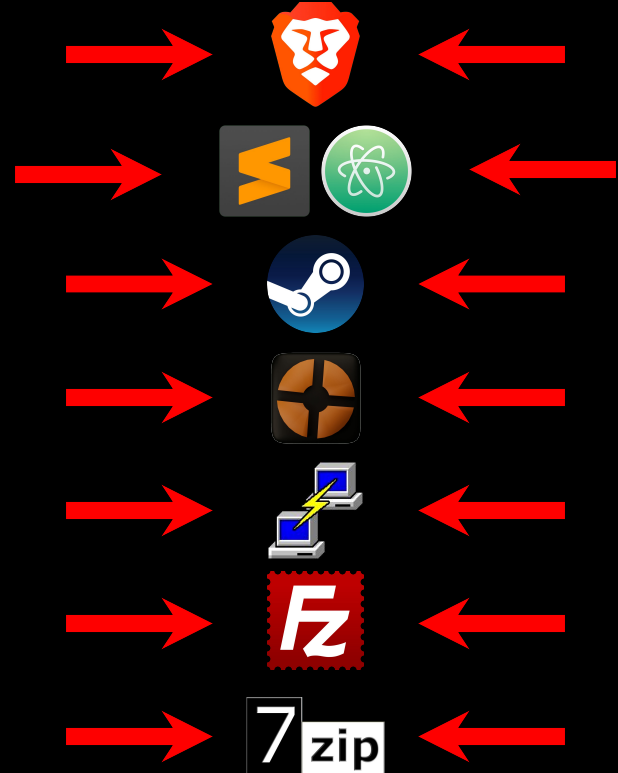
Why?

- Increase Your Skill Stack
- Create Your Own Community Server
- Contribute to the TF2 Community
- Spread Positive Vibes
- Make the World a Better Place!

Desktop Apps

1. Browser (Brave)
2. Text Editor (Sublime Text or Atom.io)
3. Steam
4. TF2
5. Putty / PuttyGen / Pageant
6. FileZilla
7. 7-Zip

Download Links



Mobile Apps

1. Steam Mobile Authenticator (2FA)
2. ProtonMail (for email)
3. Authy (2FA)

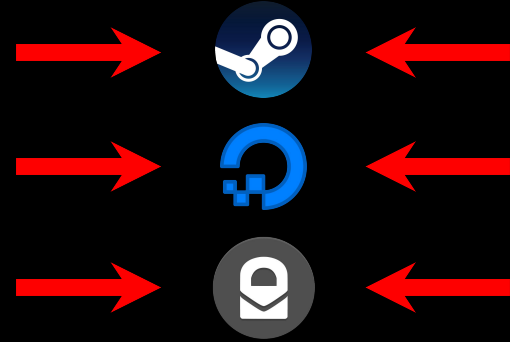
Download Links



Accounts

1. Steam (to play the game)
2. Digital Ocean (to host your server)
3. Email (ProtonMail is good)

Download Links



Tutorial I Learned From

1. Run Your Own Custom TF2 Server for CHEAP! - Video Tutorial by Aar



2. How to Install a TF2 Server on a VPS - Text Tutorial by Aar

How to Install a TF2 Server on a VPS

Written by Aaron "Aar" P.
Last updated November 12, 2021

[This guide is meant to be used in conjunction with this video.](#)

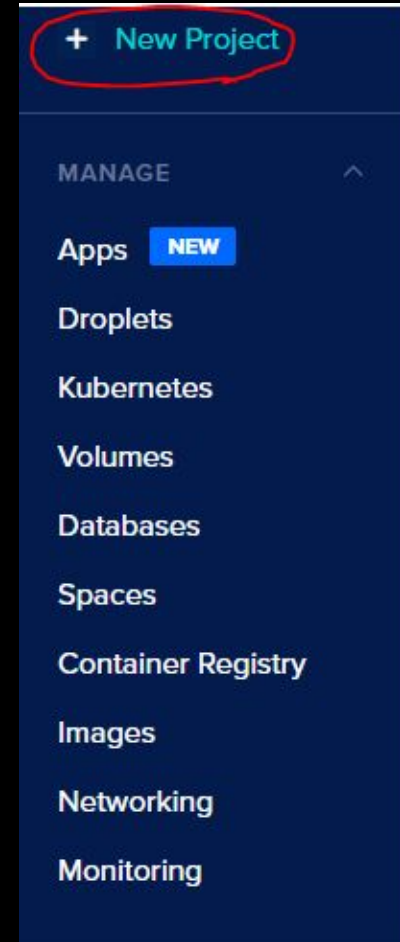


Initialization

1. Log in to your DigitalOcean account or [sign up with Aar's referral link](#). You will need to have a payment method on your account to make your own server, such as a debit or credit card. Aar's referral link gives you \$100.00 free credit for a few months, but you still need a credit card.

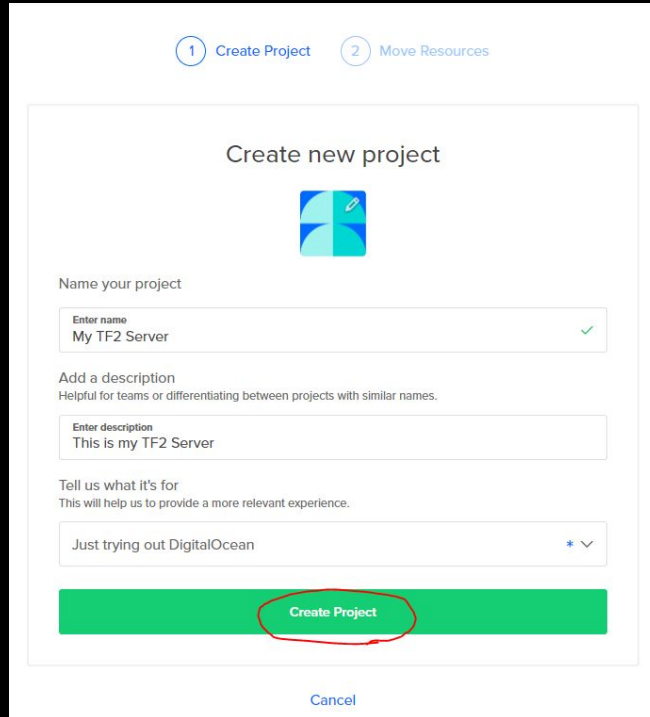
Initialization

2. Click “New Project” on the left panel.



Initialization


3. Enter a name, description, and reason for your server. Then click “Create Project”.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Create new project" with a blue icon of a server and a pencil. The form has three sections: "Name your project" with a text input containing "My TF2 Server" and a green checkmark; "Add a description" with a text input containing "This is my TF2 Server"; and "Tell us what it's for" with a dropdown menu showing "Just trying out DigitalOcean". At the bottom, there is a large green button labeled "Create Project" which is circled in red, and a blue "Cancel" link below it. The top of the form has two steps: "1 Create Project" and "2 Move Resources".

1 Create Project 2 Move Resources

Create new project



Name your project

Enter name
My TF2 Server ✓

Add a description
Helpful for teams or differentiating between projects with similar names.

Enter description
This is my TF2 Server

Tell us what it's for
This will help us to provide a more relevant experience.

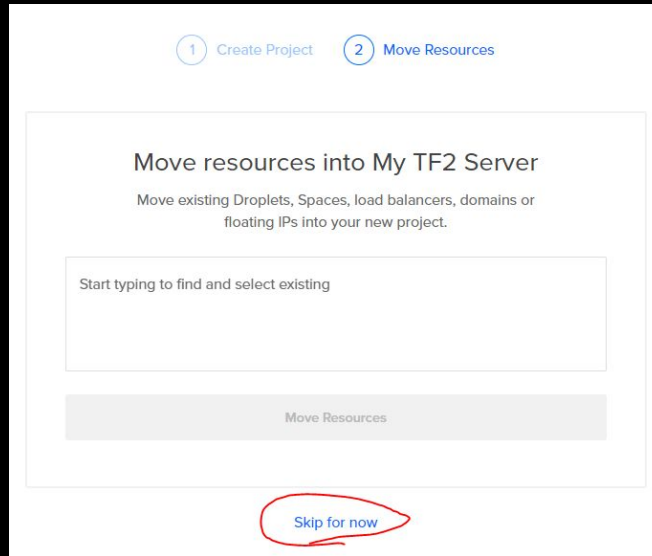
Just trying out DigitalOcean * v

Create Project

Cancel

Initialization

4. Click “Skip for now” when asked about moving resources.



The screenshot shows a two-step process for creating a TF2 Server. Step 1, 'Create Project', is completed. Step 2, 'Move Resources', is the current step. The main heading is 'Move resources into My TF2 Server'. Below it, a subtitle reads: 'Move existing Droplets, Spaces, load balancers, domains or floating IPs into your new project.' There is a search input field with the placeholder text 'Start typing to find and select existing'. Below the search field is a disabled 'Move Resources' button. At the bottom of the form, there is a 'Skip for now' link, which is circled in red.

1 Create Project 2 Move Resources

Move resources into My TF2 Server

Move existing Droplets, Spaces, load balancers, domains or floating IPs into your new project.

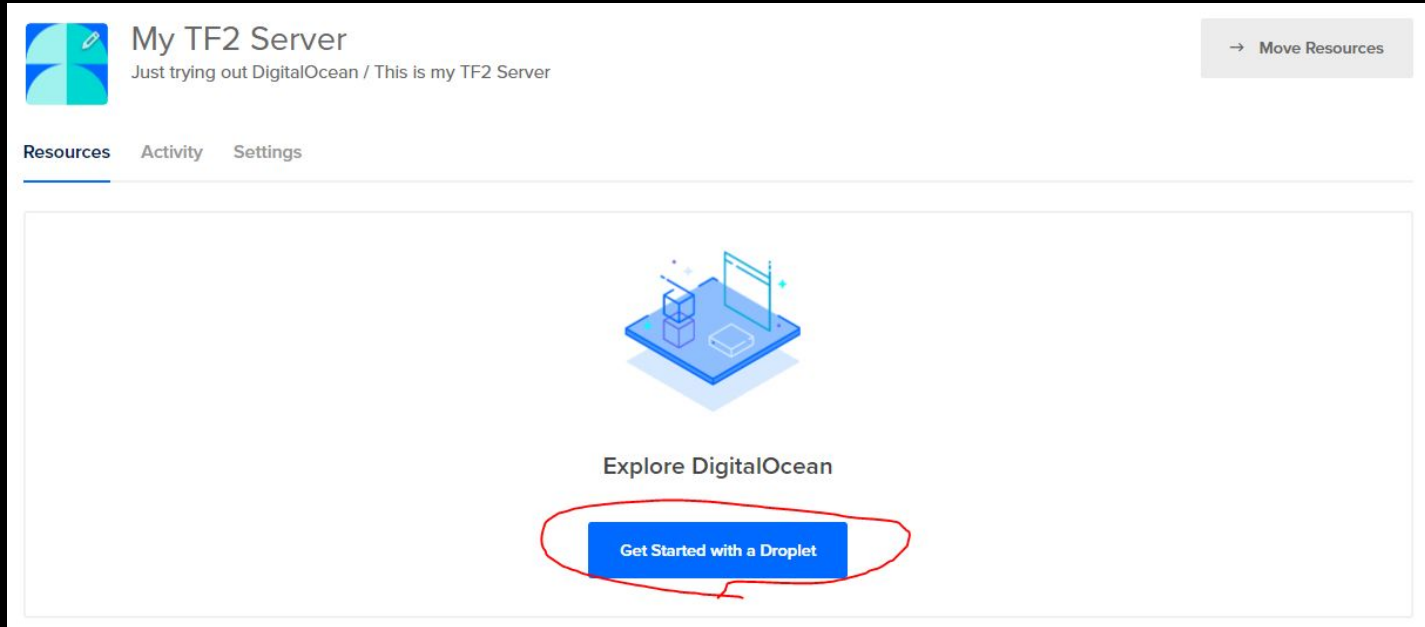
Start typing to find and select existing

Move Resources

[Skip for now](#)

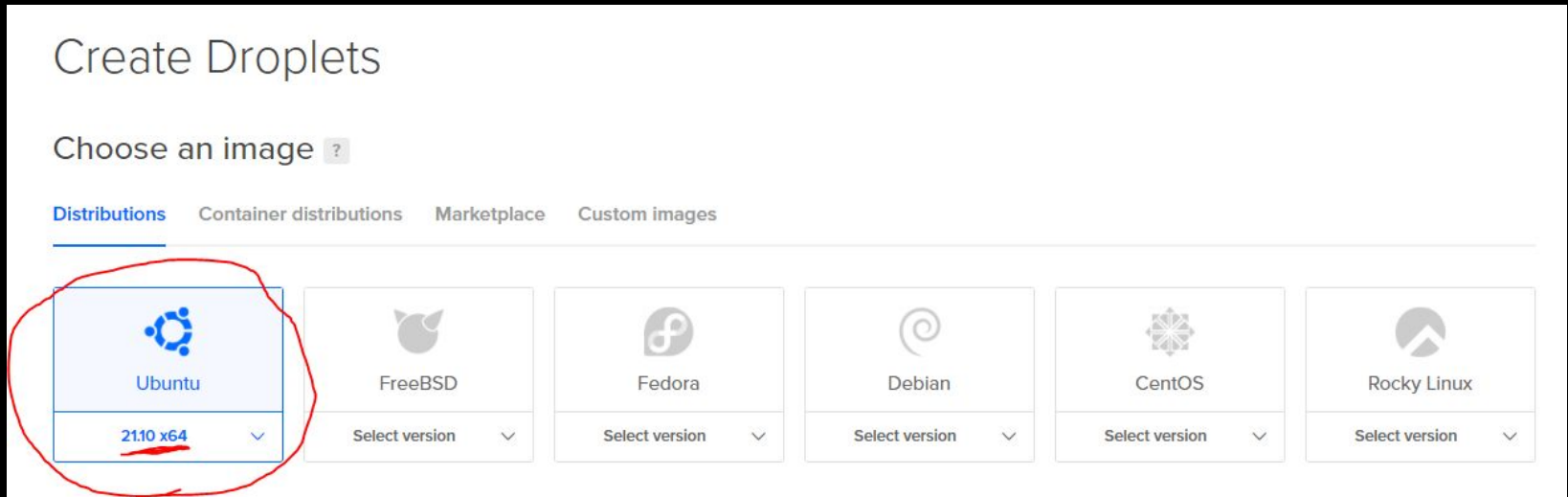
Initialization

5. Click “Get Started with a Droplet”.



Initialization

6. Select the latest Ubuntu Distribution. I chose Ubuntu 21.10 x64.



Initialization

7. Select the cheapest option (\$6/mo), either Premium Intel or AMD.

Choose a plan [Help me choose](#)

SHARED CPU	DEDICATED CPU			
Basic	General Purpose	CPU-Optimized	Memory-Optimized	Storage-Optimized NEW

Basic virtual machines with a mix of memory and compute resources. Best for small projects that can handle variable levels of CPU performance, like blogs, web apps and dev/test environments.









CPU options: ☐ Regular Intel with SSD ☒ Premium Intel with NVMe SSD **NEW** ☐ Premium AMD with NVMe SSD **NEW**

\$6/mo \$0.009/hour	\$12/mo \$0.018/hour	\$18/mo \$0.027/hour	\$24/mo \$0.036/hour	\$48/mo \$0.071/hour	\$96/mo \$0.143/hour
1 GB / 1 Intel CPU 25 GB NVMe SSDs 1000 GB transfer	2 GB / 1 Intel CPU 50 GB NVMe SSDs 2 TB transfer	2 GB / 2 Intel CPUs 60 GB NVMe SSDs 3 TB transfer	4 GB / 2 Intel CPUs 80 GB NVMe SSDs 4 TB transfer	8 GB / 4 Intel CPUs 160 GB NVMe SSDs 5 TB transfer	16 GB / 8 Intel CPUs 320 GB NVMe SSDs 6 TB transfer

Initialization

8. Choose a datacenter region. I chose San Francisco (3). This is where your server will be located, so pick one close to where you live if you want good ping.

Choose a datacenter region

 New York 1 2 3	 San Francisco 1 2 3	 Amsterdam 2 3	 Singapore 1	 London 1	 Frankfurt 1
 Toronto 1	 Bangalore 1				


Initialization

9. Under “Authentication”, click “New SSH Key”.

Authentication ?

☒ **SSH keys**
A more secure authentication method

☐ **Password**
Create a root password to access Droplet (less secure)

Choose your SSH keys  Select at least one key.

☐ Select all

☐ demo pub

☐ demo key

☐ tf2pubkey

[New SSH Key](#)

Initialization

10. This window will pop up. We will now open PuttyGen.

Add public SSH key

Copy your public SSH key and paste it in the space below. For instructions on how, follow the steps on the right.

SSH key content must be a valid SSH key *

SSH key content

Name *

Add SSH Key

SSH Keys

Follow these instructions to create or add SSH keys on Linux, MacOS & Windows. Windows users without OpenSSH [can install and use PuTTY](#) instead.

Create a new key pair, if needed

Open a terminal and run the following command:

ssh-keygen

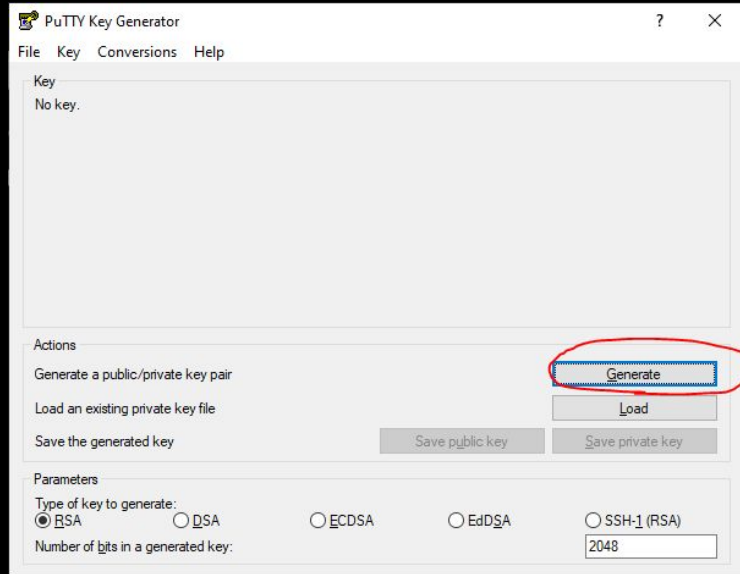
Copy

You will be prompted to save and name the key.

Generating public/private rsa key pair. Enter file in which to save the key (/Users/USER/.ssh/id_rsa):

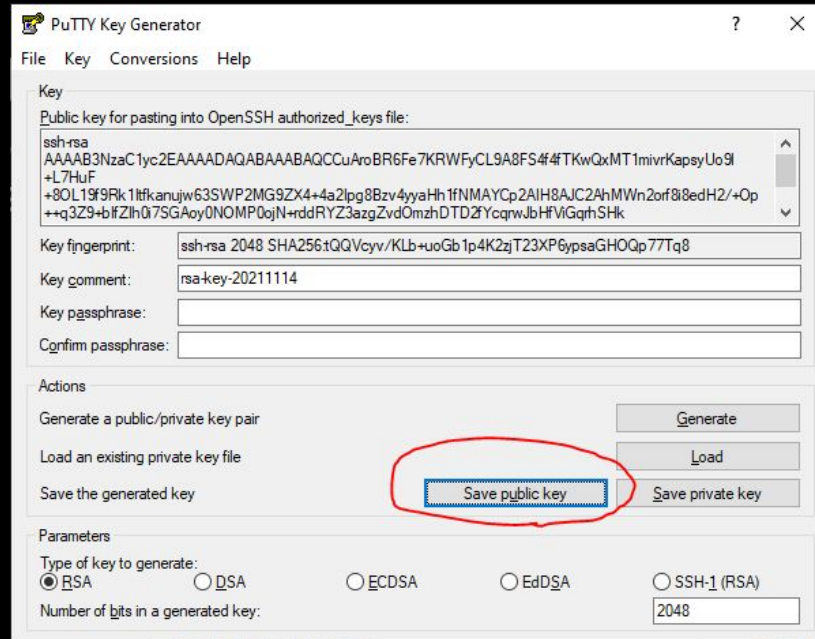
Initialization

11. Click “Generate”. It will ask you to move your mouse around to generate randomness. Move your mouse around when prompted.



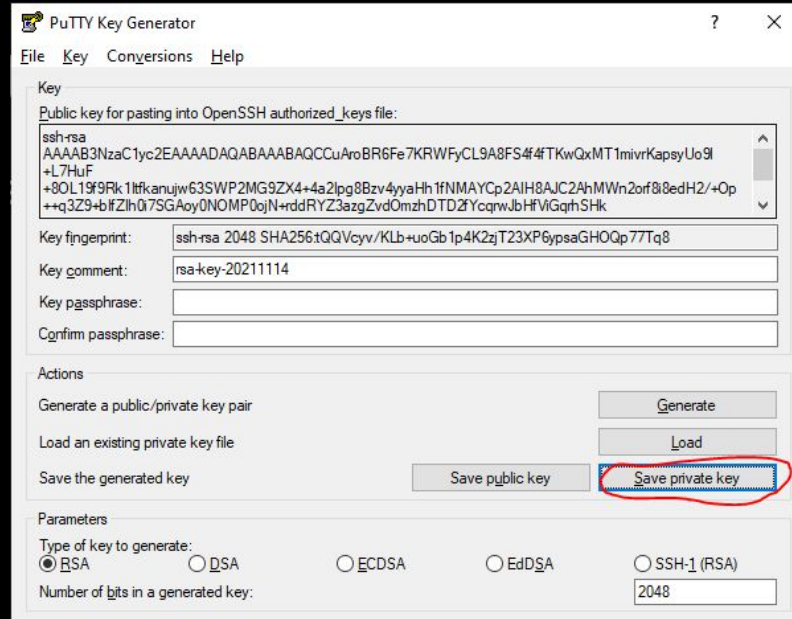
Initialization

12. Click “Save public key”. Name the key “myPubTF2”.



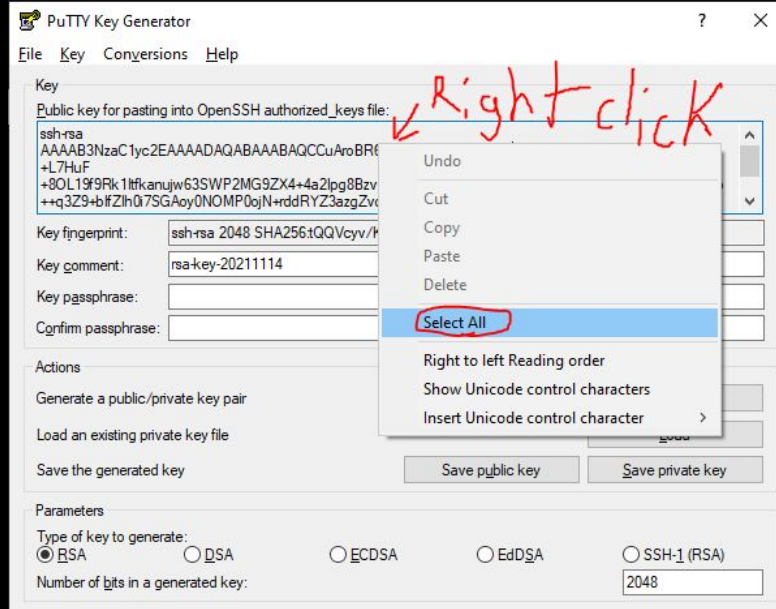
Initialization

13. Click “Save private key”. Name the key “myPrivTF2.ppk”. You can choose to use a passphrase; I choose not to for ease of use.



Initialization

14. Right click inside the Public Key box. Click “Select All”. Press Ctrl+C to copy this text. Go back to the “Add public SSH key”, and press Ctrl+V to paste.



Initialization

15. Name your public SSH Key “myPubTF2”. FYI I have blacked out my SSH Key. Click “Add SSH Key”.

Add public SSH key

Copy your public SSH key and paste it in the space below. For instructions on how, follow the steps on the right.

SSH key content

ssh-rsa [REDACTED]rsa-key-20211114

Name

myPubTF2

Add SSH Key

SSH Keys

Follow these instructions to create or add SSH keys on Linux, MacOS & Windows. Windows users without OpenSSH [can install and use PuTTY](#) instead.

Create a new key pair, if needed

Open a terminal and run the following command:

ssh-keygen

Copy

You will be prompted to save and name the key.


Generating public/private rsa key pair. Enter file in which to save the key (/Users/USER/.ssh/id_rsa):

Initialization

16. Click “Create Droplet”.

Select Project

Assign Droplets to a project

 My TF2 Server

Add backups


☐ Enable backups **RECOMMENDED**
A [system-level backup](#) is taken once a week, and each backup is retained for 4 weeks.

\$1.00/mo (per Droplet)
20% of the Droplet price

Create Droplet

Initialization

17. Wait for the Droplet to finish loading.




My TF2 Server

Just trying out DigitalOcean / This is my TF2 Server

[→ Move Resources](#)

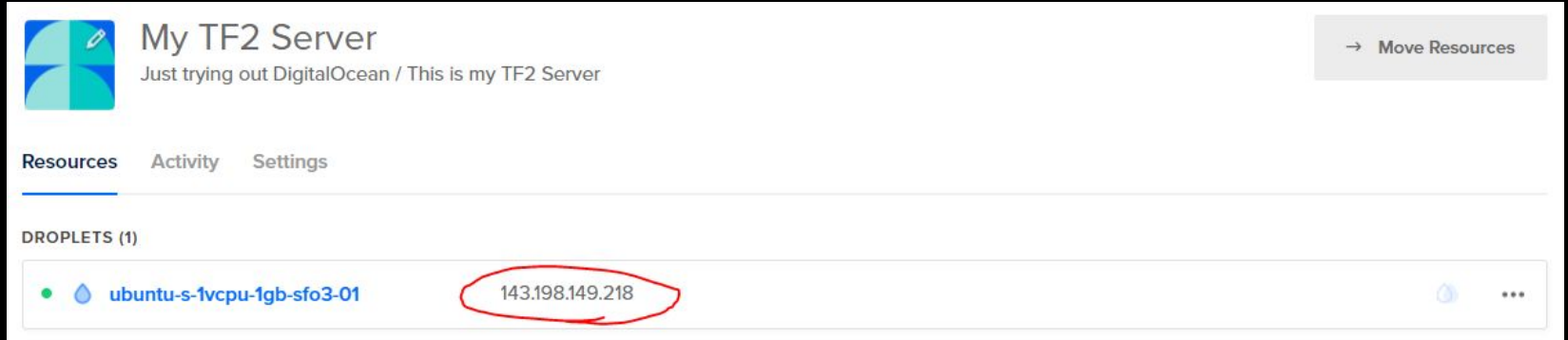
[Resources](#) [Activity](#) [Settings](#)

DROPLETS (1)

 `ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-sfo3-01`

Initialization

18. Copy the IP Address of your Server.

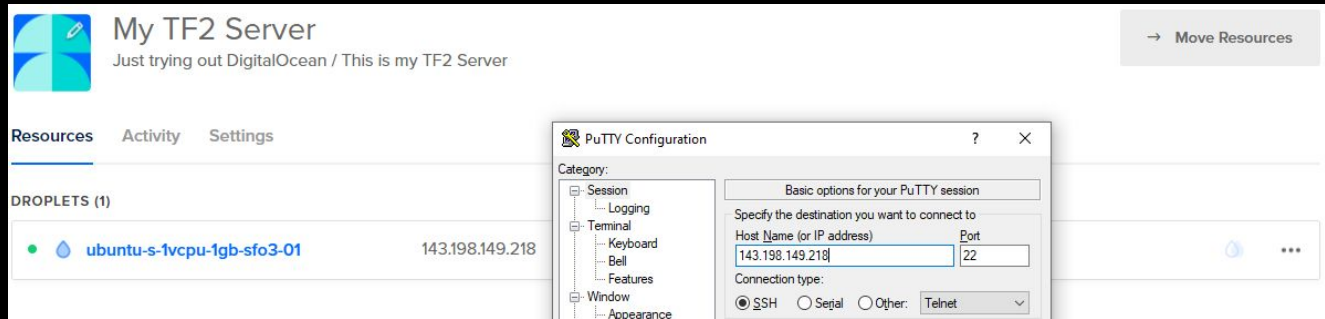


The screenshot shows the DigitalOcean dashboard for a resource named "My TF2 Server". The description reads "Just trying out DigitalOcean / This is my TF2 Server". There is a "Move Resources" button in the top right. Below the resource name, there are tabs for "Resources", "Activity", and "Settings". Under the "Resources" tab, it says "DROPLETS (1)". A single droplet is listed with the name "ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-sfo3-01" and the IP address "143.198.149.218". The IP address is circled in red. To the right of the IP address are a refresh icon and a menu icon (three dots).

Resource Name	IP Address
ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-sfo3-01	143.198.149.218

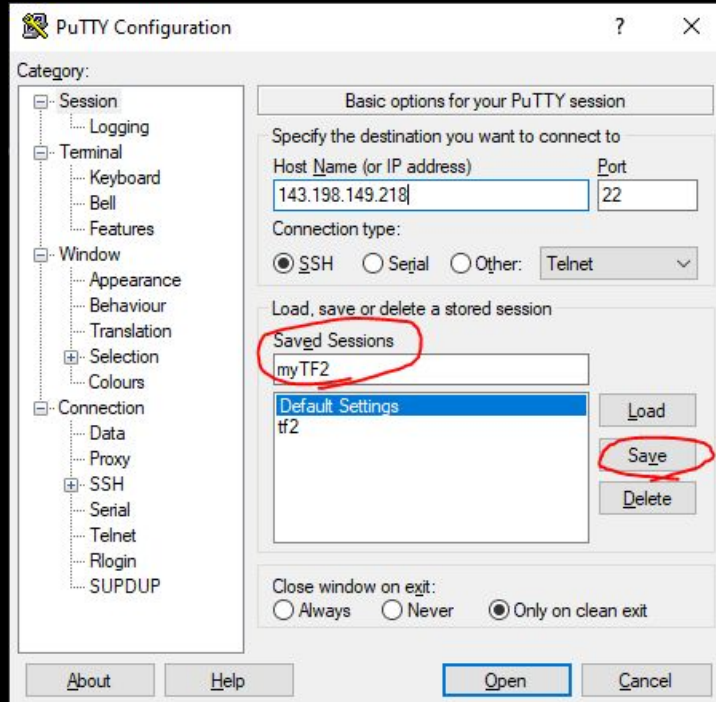
Initialization

19. Open Putty. Paste the IP Address in the Host Name (or IP address) box.



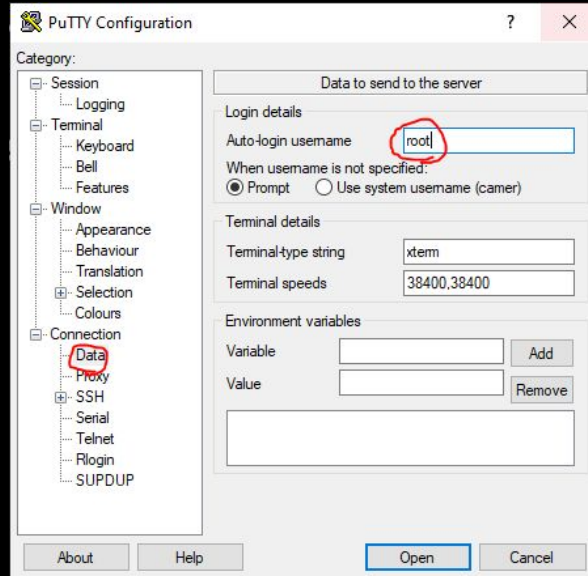
Initialization

20. Under “Saved Sessions”, type “myTF2”. Then click “Save”.



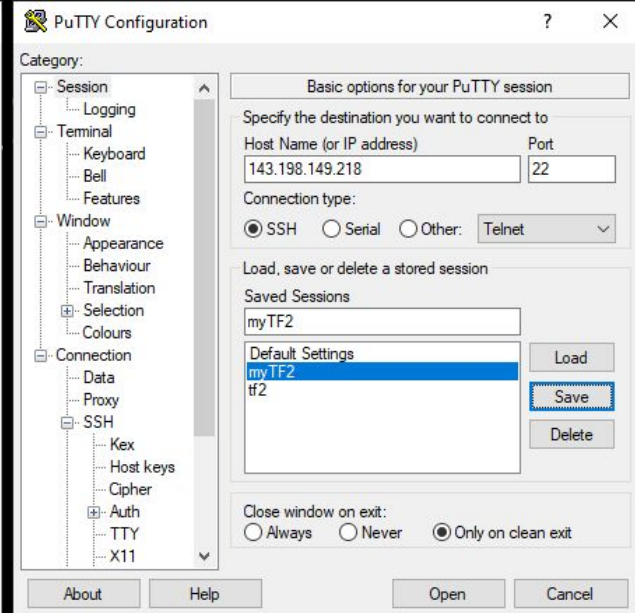
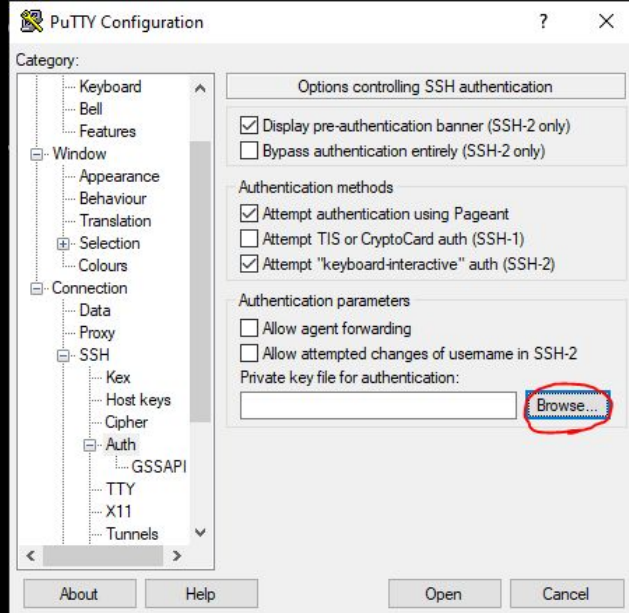
Initialization

21. Under “Connection”, click “Data”. Then, under “Auto-login username”, type “root”.



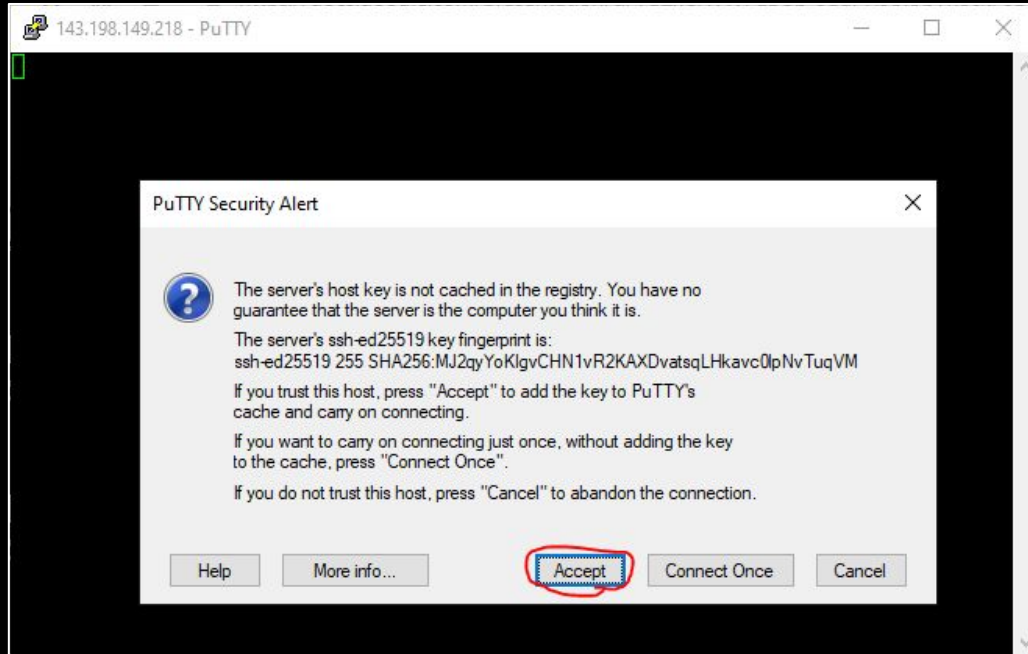
Initialization

22. Under “Connection”, click “SSH”. Then click “Auth”. Click “Browse”, and select your private key (myPrivTF2.ppk). Go back to Sessions and click “Save”.



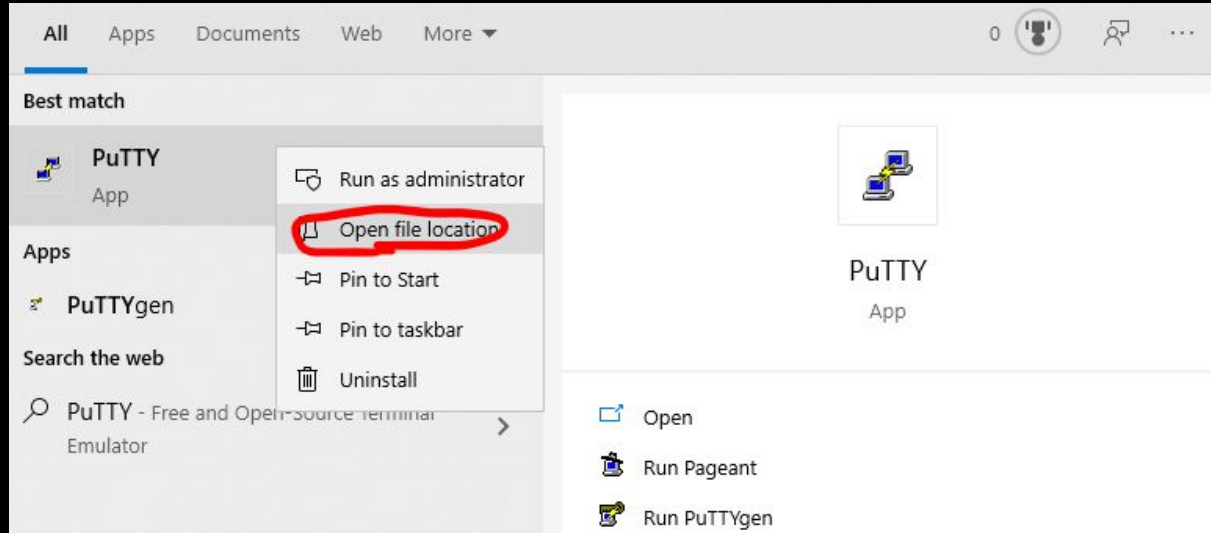
Initialization

23. If prompted, click "Accept".



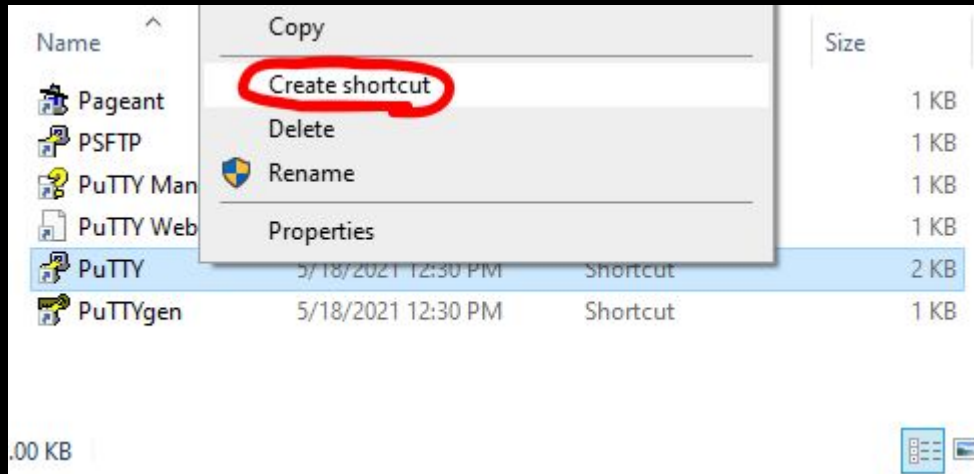
Initialization

24. Close PuTTY. Press the Windows Key, and search for Putty on your computer. Right click, then click “Open file location”.



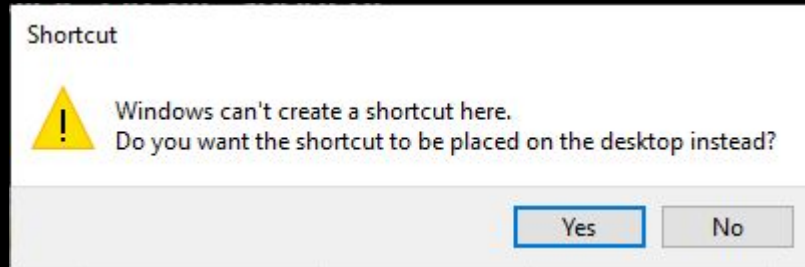
Initialization

25. Right click Putty, and click “Create shortcut”.



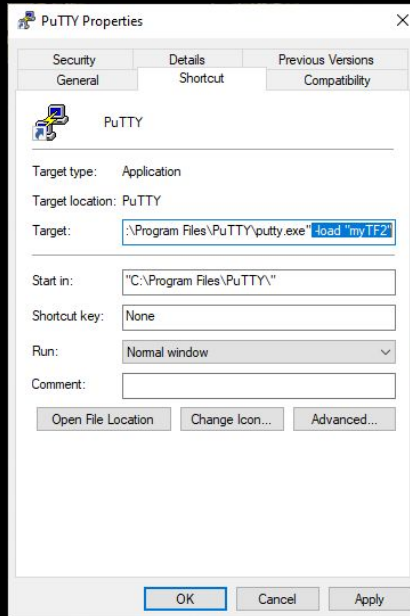
Initialization

26. Click “Yes” when prompted.



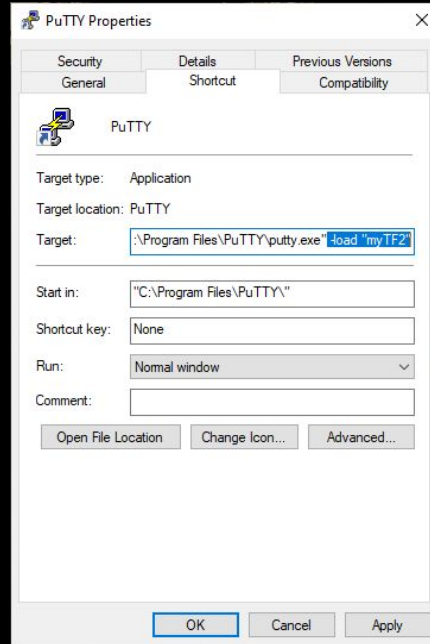
Initialization

27. Right click on your shortcut, then click “Properties”. Type “ -load “myTF2” at the end of the target box. Click “Apply”, then click “OK”.



Initialization

28. Right click on your shortcut, then click “Properties”. Type “ -load “myTF2” at the end of the target box. Click “Apply”, then click “OK”. You can drag this shortcut onto your Taskbar, or just double click it from your Desktop to automatically load your saved session “myTF2”. This makes jumping into the console extremely quick.



Initialization

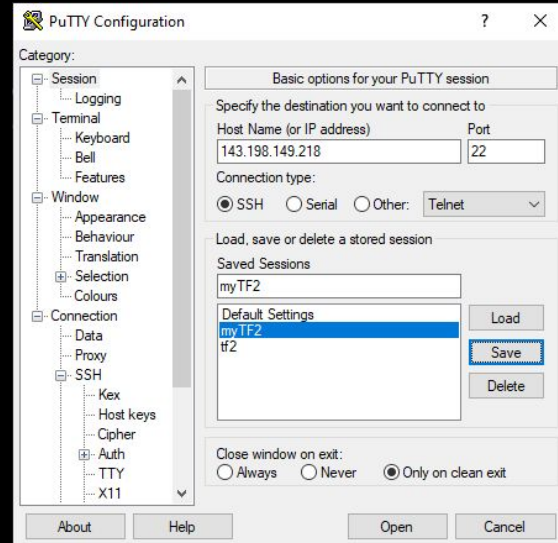
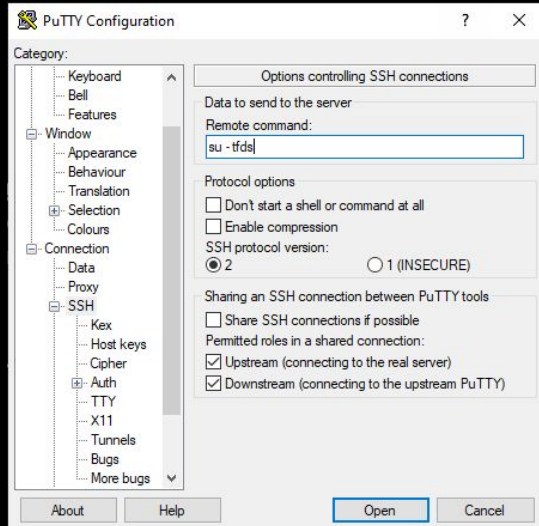
29. Open Putty (you should default to root user) using your Shortcut you created. Run the following command:

```
cd / && wget https://github.com/thereal-bumface/scripts/archive/refs/heads/main.zip && apt install unzip && unzip main.zip && cd / && cd scripts-main && sudo chmod +x start.sh && ./start.sh
```

This command should automate and walk you through the entire process. If at any point it doesn't work, you can always go to your droplet, under the "Destroy" section, and click "Select an Image" to Rebuild your droplet.

Initialization

30. After the scripts/installation is completed, there's one final step to make accessing your screen session easier. Open Putty normally (not using your Shortcut). Under Connection click SSH. Under "Remote command", type "su - tfds". Go back to Saved Sessions, and click "Save" to save this change. If you ever have issues, you can always open Putty or any of the other programs by pressing the Windows key and searching manually.



GitHub Links

<https://github.com/thereal-bumface/scripts>

<https://github.com/thereal-bumface/modList>

Performing Regular Maintenance

1. Log on to your Droplet with PuTTY
2. Run the command **sudo apt update && sudo apt-get full-upgrade -y**
3. If you are prompted to reboot the server, ensure no players are in your TF2 server and run **sudo reboot** at a convenient time. If your server is rebooted, remember to launch the TF2 server again
4. Repeat these steps at least once per week to ensure proper security patches are installed