Web Security:
Secure Data Storage
(Setting up Key Based Authentication in Debian)

RRC Polytech

Full Stack Web Development

Winnipeg, MB Canada

RRC POLYTECH

Motivation

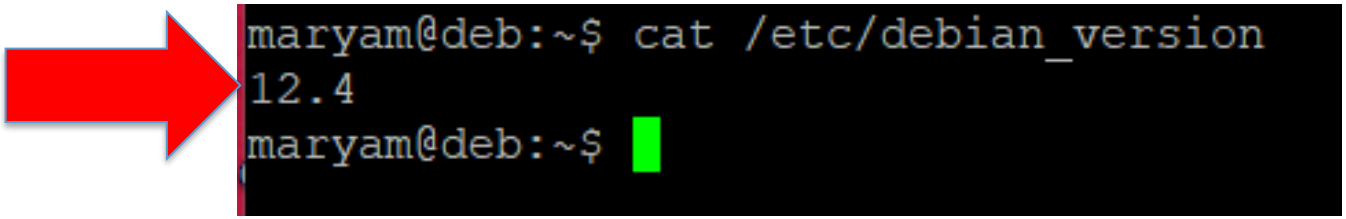
- **Hackers are (or could be) actually good, pleasant and extremely intelligent people who could keep computer criminals on the run (run away, escaping).**

Ankit Fadia

Tools Needed for This Step

Required tools

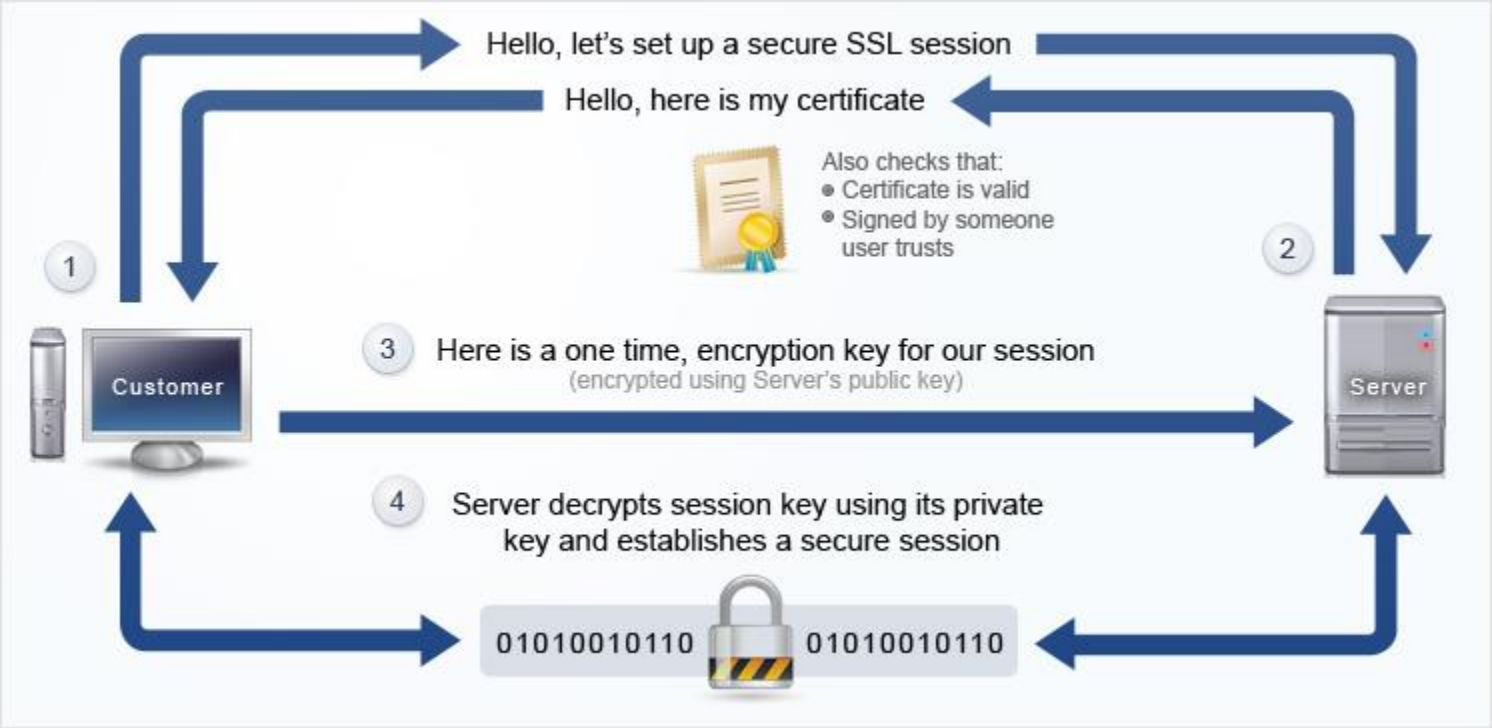
- Windows based SSH client (called PuTTY)
- Key generating tool (called puttygen)
- Connection to openssh_server running on Debian
- Debian operating system version 10 or higher

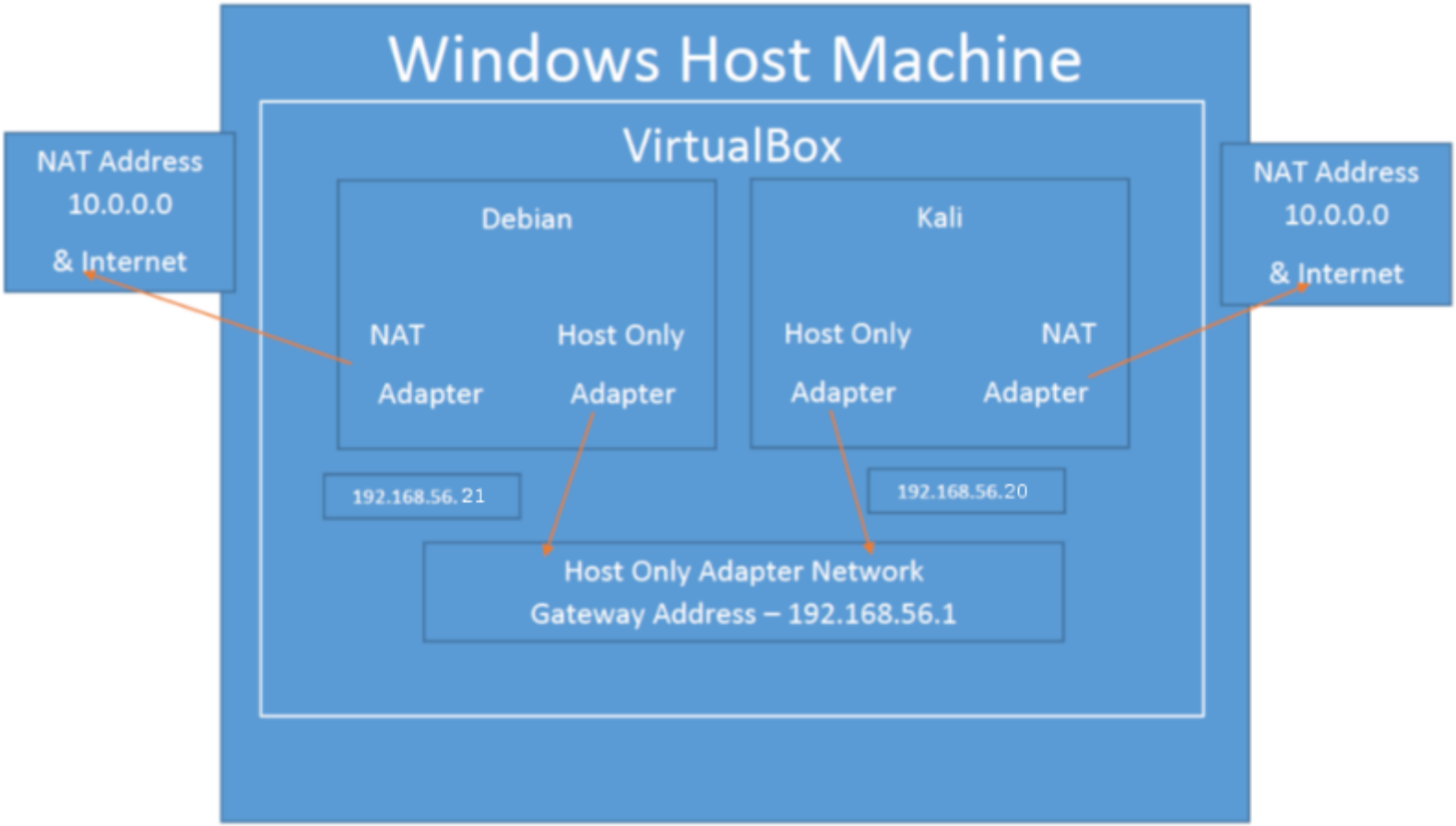


Setting Up SSH Key Based Authentication

- Encrypted communications (TLS (SSL), SSH, SFTP, SCP) are required for communications.

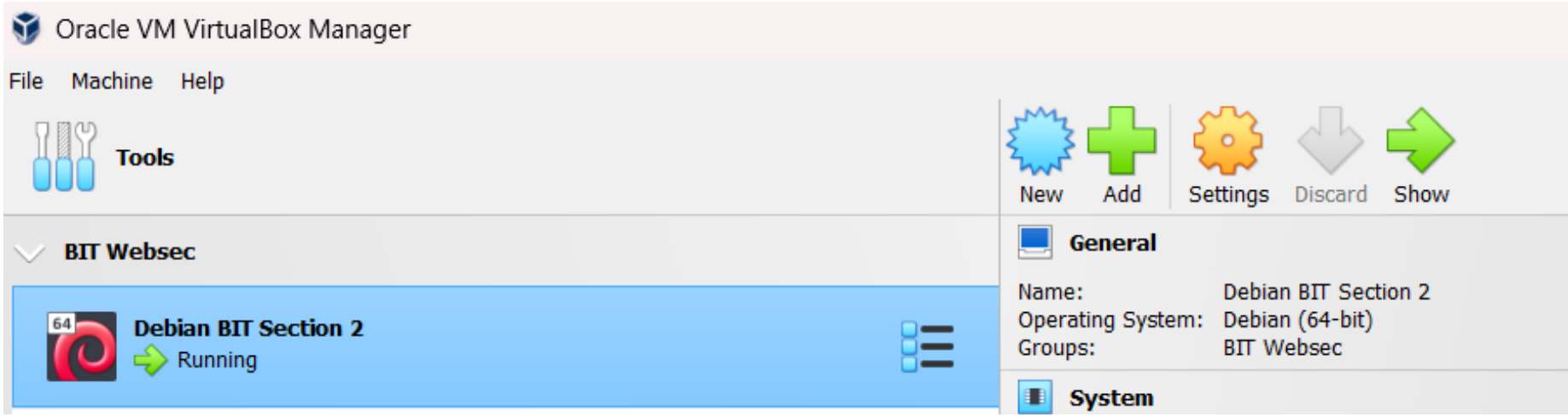
How TLS Works



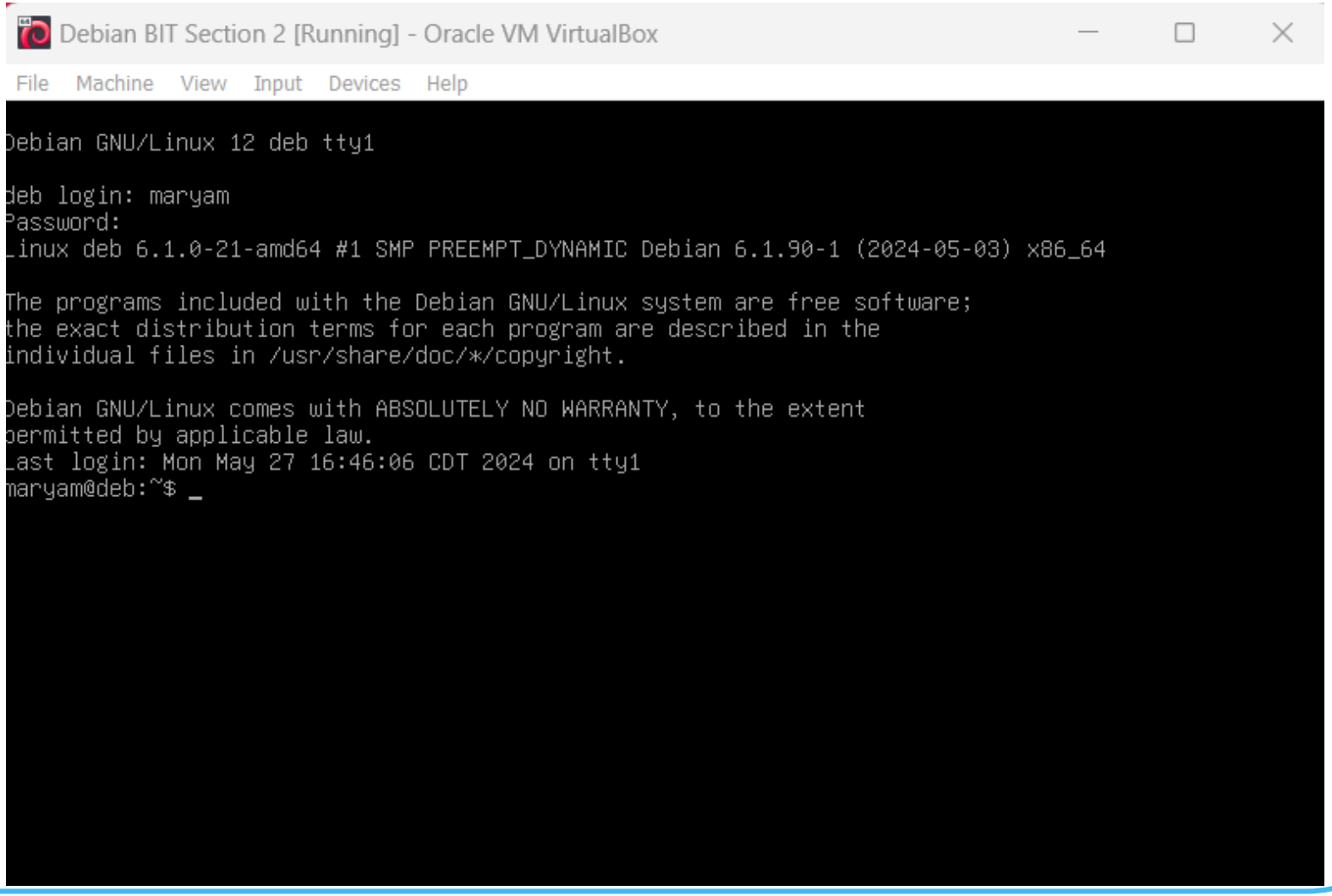

Windows Host Machine
VirtualBox
NAT Address
10.0.0.0
& Internet
Debian
NAT
Adapter
Host Only
Adapter
Kali
Host Only
Adapter
NAT
Adapter
NAT Address
10.0.0.0
& Internet
192.168.56.21
192.168.56.20
Host Only Adapter Network
Gateway Address – 192.168.56.1

verify your network is setup properly

Run Debian


Oracle VM VirtualBox Manager
File
Machine
Help
Tools
New
Add
Settings
Discard
Show
BIT Websec
Debian BIT Section 2
Running
General
Name: Debian BIT Section 2
Operating System: Debian (64-bit)
Groups: BIT Websec
System

Login Debian as a Regular User



Run “ip addr”

```
maryam@deb:~$ ip addr
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host noprefixroute
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 100
0
    link/ether 08:00:27:04:70:a0 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic enp0s3
       valid_lft 86187sec preferred_lft 86187sec
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe04:70a0/64 scope link
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
3: enp0s8: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc fq_codel state UP group default qlen 100
0
    link/ether 08:00:27:72:c4:58 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 192.168.56.101/24 brd 192.168.56.255 scope global dynamic enp0s8
       valid_lft 387sec preferred_lft 387sec
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:fe72:c458/64 scope link
       valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
maryam@deb:~$
```

Creating an Asynchronous Key Connection between Windows WinSCP, PuTTY, and Debian

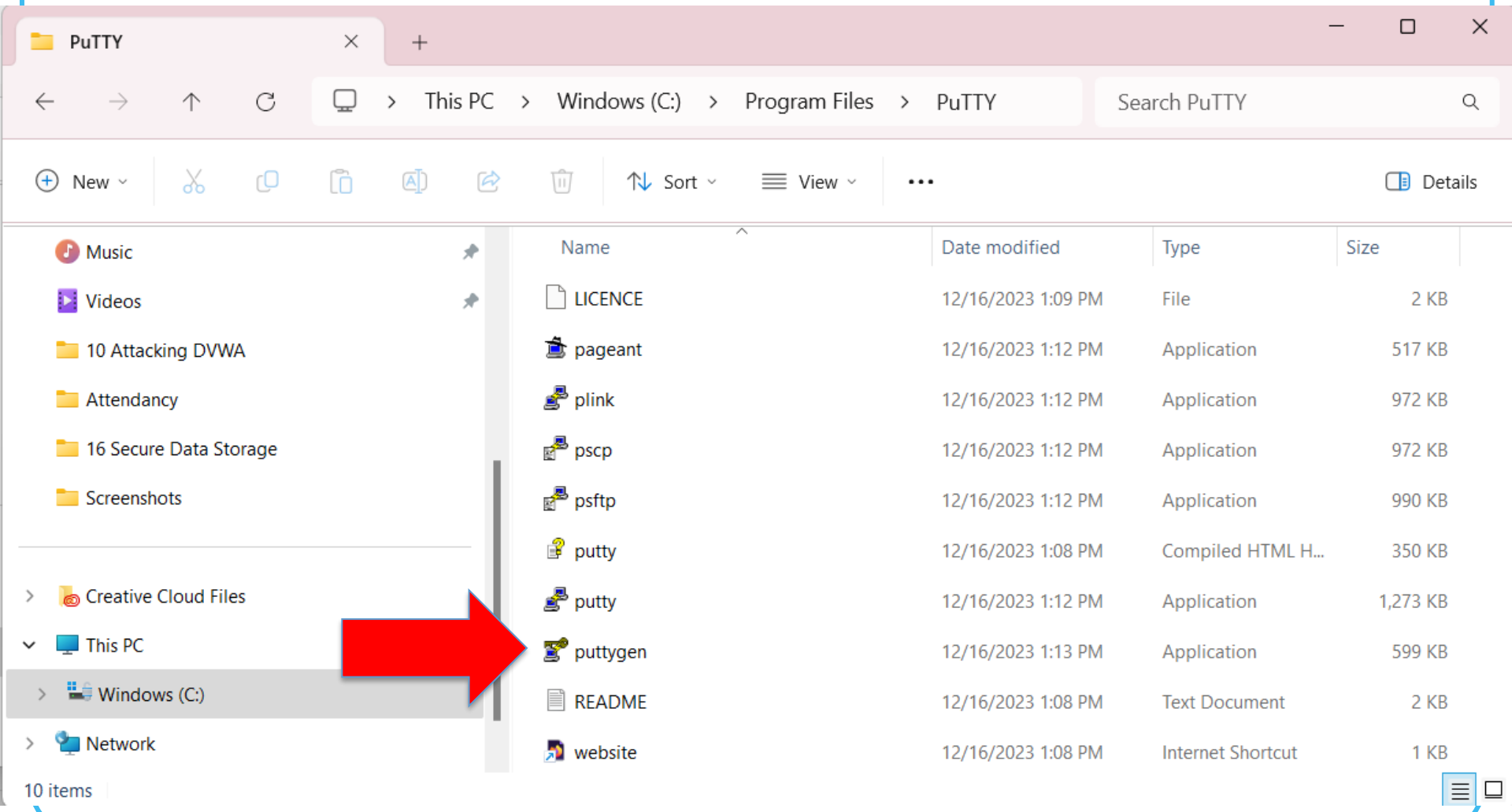
public/private key to enable ssh key authentication

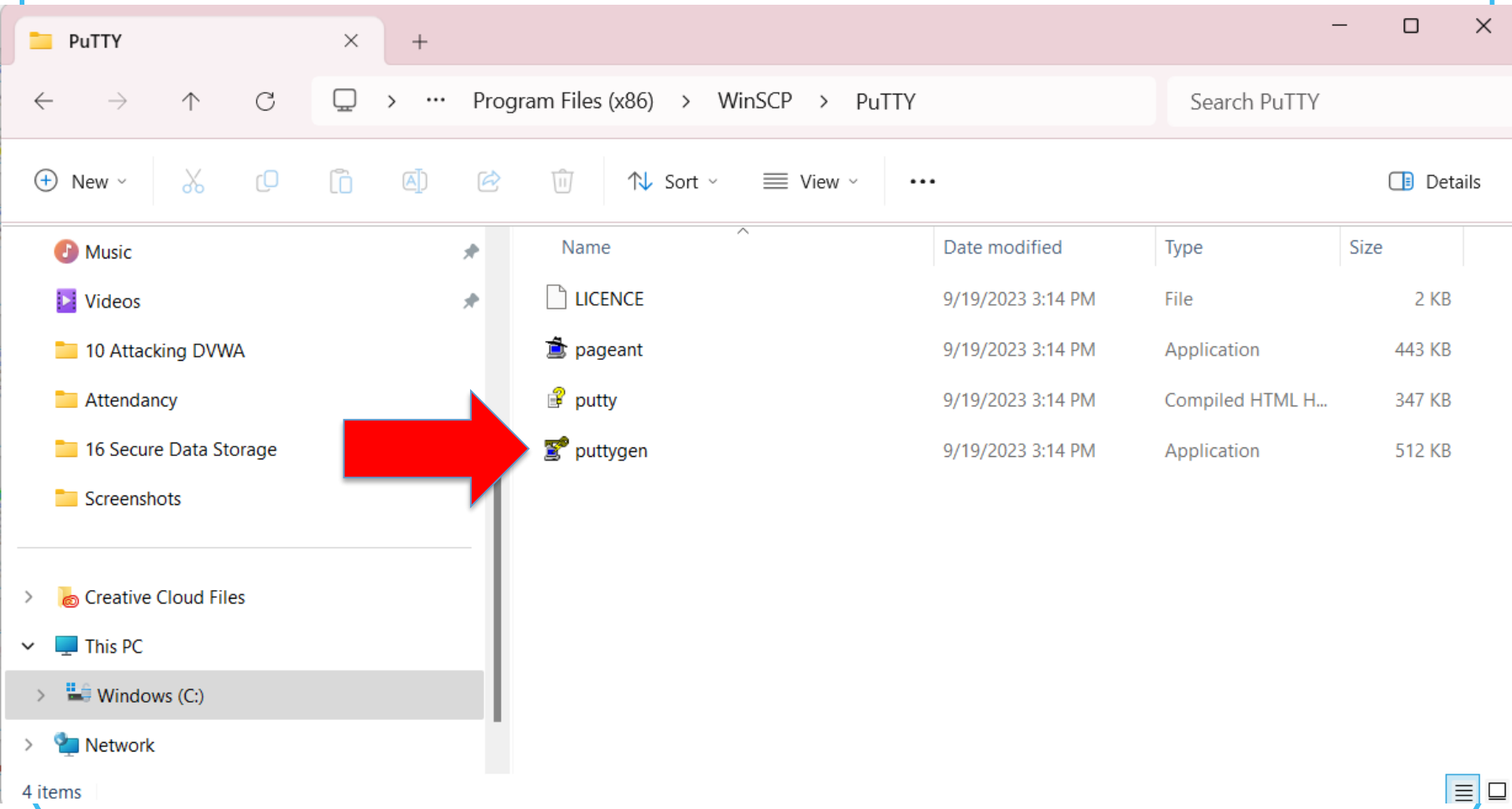
- we have SSH communications between the server and the client
  - the Debian machine acting as a ssh server
  - our host machine acting as a client
- we can look at creating a public/private key combination to enable ssh key authentication.

Install
PuTTY Key Generator

Verify Installation

- To verify that PuTTYgen has been installed correctly, you can search for it in the Start menu or simply navigate to the installation directory:
  - C:\Program Files (x86)\WinSCP\PuTTY
  - C:\Program Files\PuTTY
- look for the puttygen.exe file
- PuTTY Key Generator is installed, and you can use it to manage SSH keys

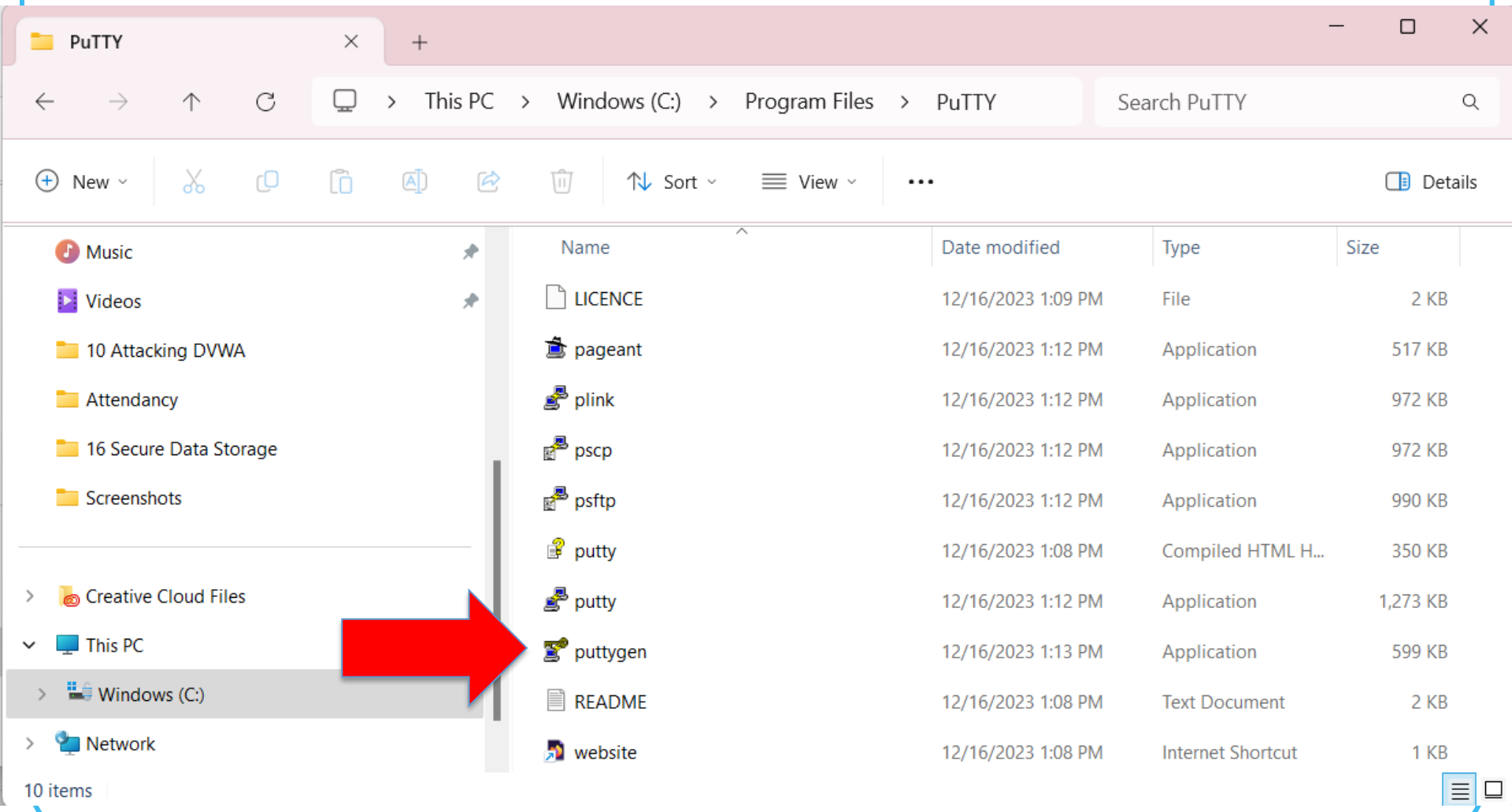

PuTTY
This PC
Windows (C:)
Program Files
PuTTY
Search PuTTY
New
Sort
View
Details
Music
Videos
10 Attacking DVWA
Attendancy
16 Secure Data Storage
Screenshots
Creative Cloud Files
This PC
Windows (C:)
Network
Name
Date modified
Type
Size
LICENCE 12/16/2023 1:09 PM File 2 KB
pageant 12/16/2023 1:12 PM Application 517 KB
plink 12/16/2023 1:12 PM Application 972 KB
pscp 12/16/2023 1:12 PM Application 972 KB
psftp 12/16/2023 1:12 PM Application 990 KB
putty 12/16/2023 1:08 PM Compiled HTML H... 350 KB
putty 12/16/2023 1:12 PM Application 1,273 KB
puttygen 12/16/2023 1:13 PM Application 599 KB
README 12/16/2023 1:08 PM Text Document 2 KB
website 12/16/2023 1:08 PM Internet Shortcut 1 KB
10 items


PuTTY
Program Files (x86)
WinSCP
PuTTY
Search PuTTY
New
Sort
View
Details
Music
Videos
10 Attacking DVWA
Attendancy
16 Secure Data Storage
Screenshots
Creative Cloud Files
This PC
Windows (C:)
Network
Name
Date modified
Type
Size
LICENCE
9/19/2023 3:14 PM
File
2 KB
pageant
9/19/2023 3:14 PM
Application
443 KB
putty
9/19/2023 3:14 PM
Compiled HTML H...
347 KB
puttygen
9/19/2023 3:14 PM
Application
512 KB
4 items

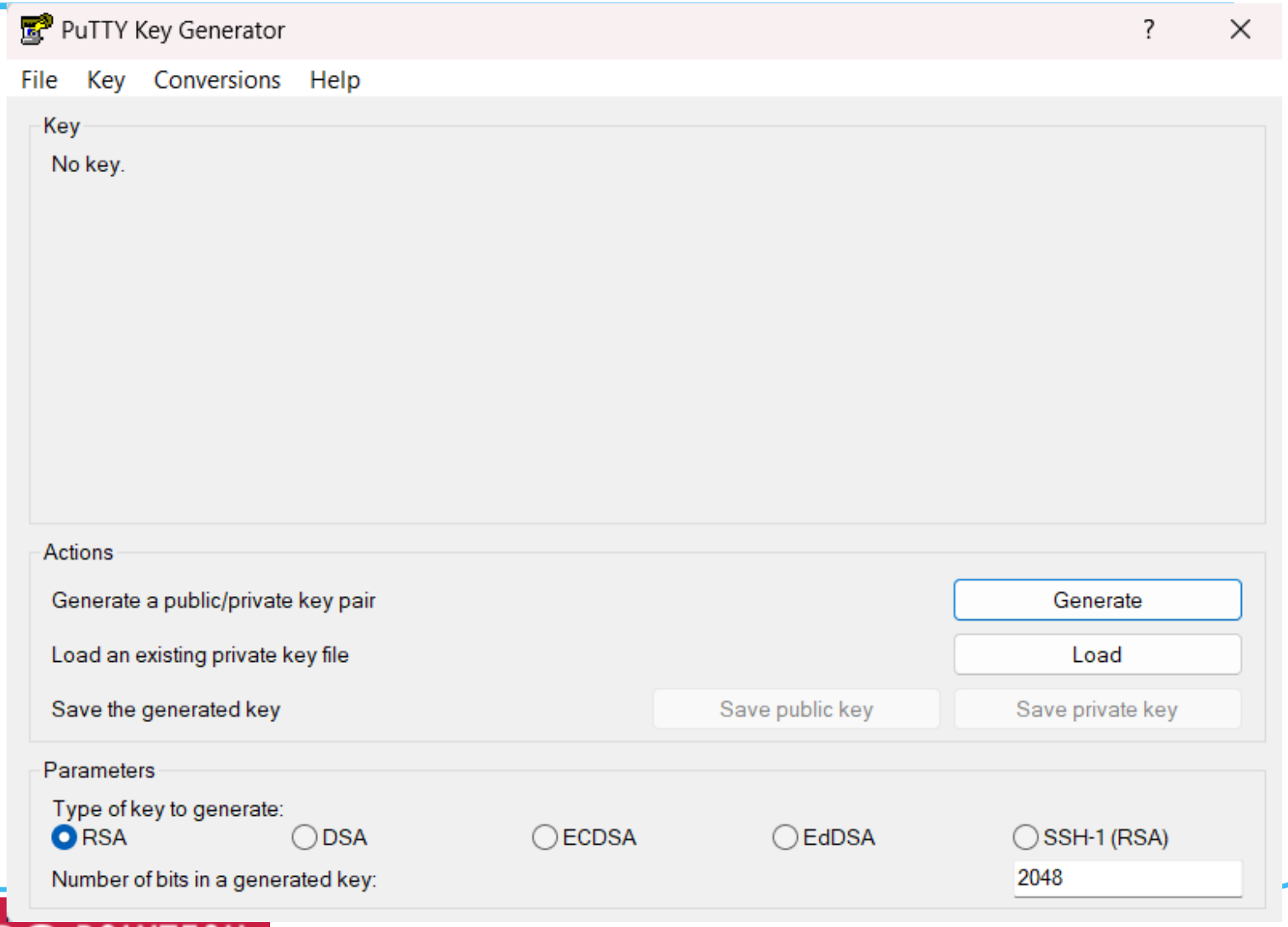
Not sure if you selected PuTTYgen during PuTTY installation

- If you don't find puttygen.exe in the PuTTY installation directory, it's likely that PuTTYgen was not selected for installation during the PuTTY setup process.
- In that case, you may need to reinstall PuTTY and ensure that you select PuTTYgen as one of the components to install.

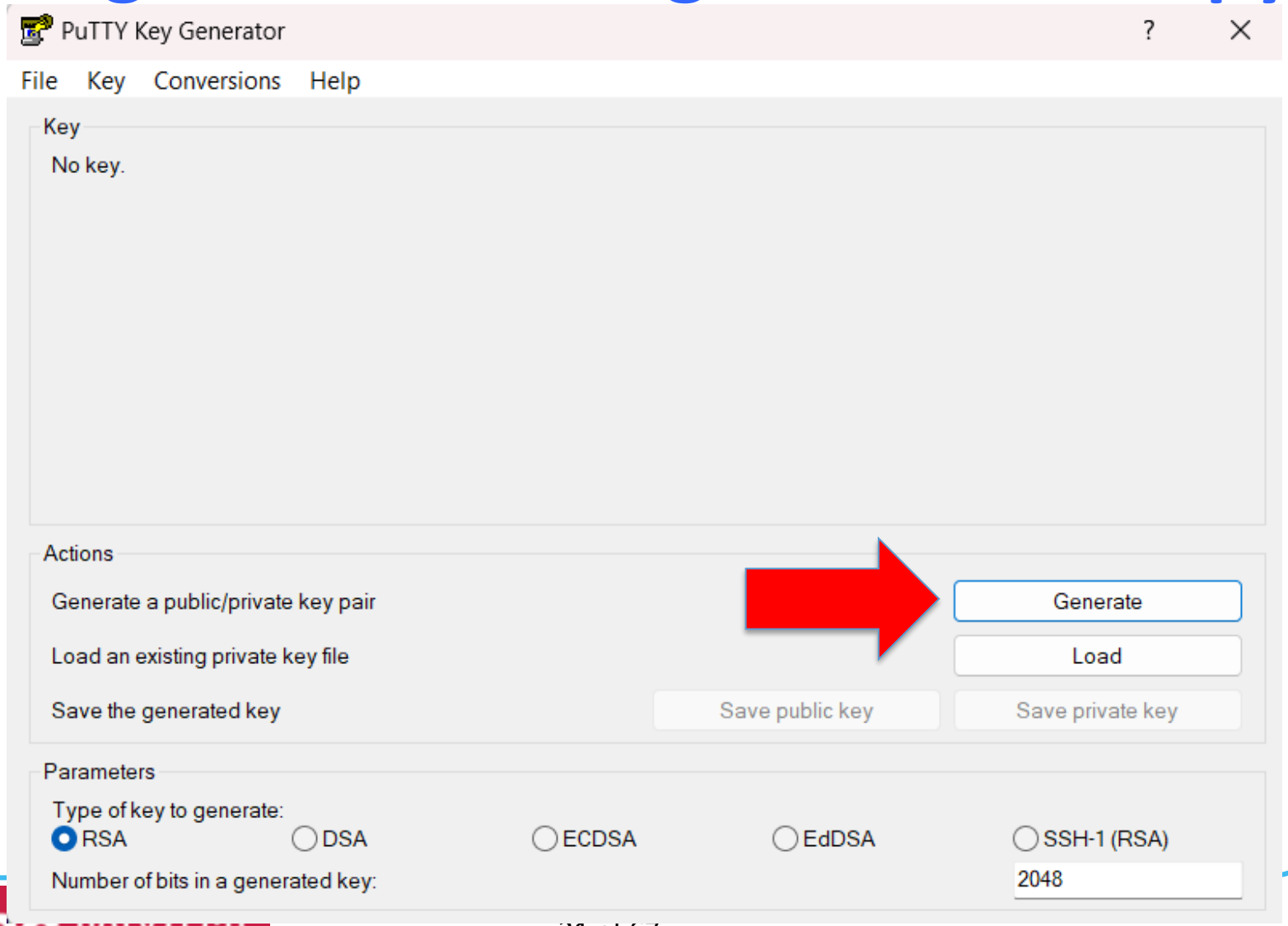
Double Click on the “puttygen”



The Following Window Is Opened



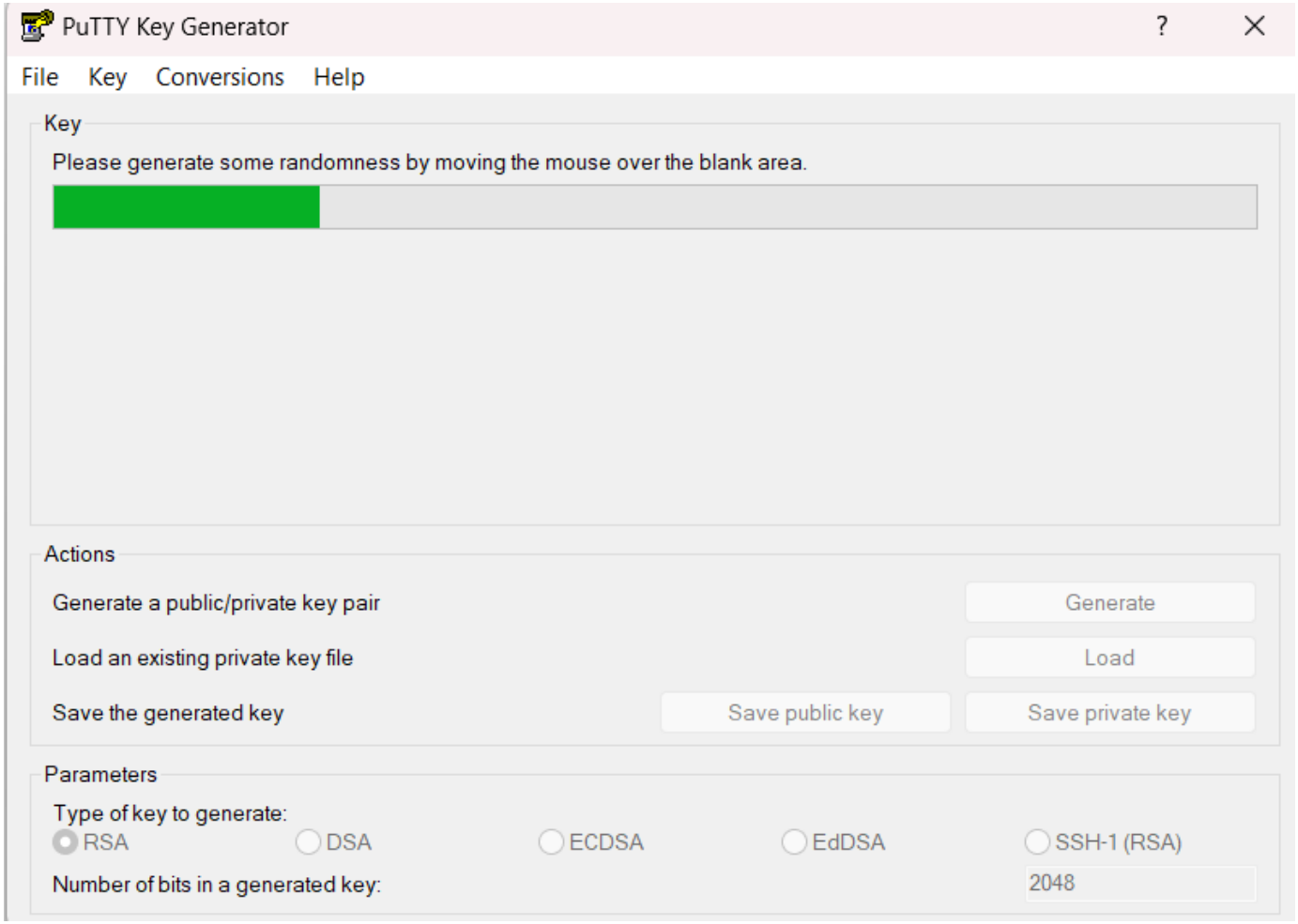
Move mouse randomly within the PuTTYgen window to generate entropy



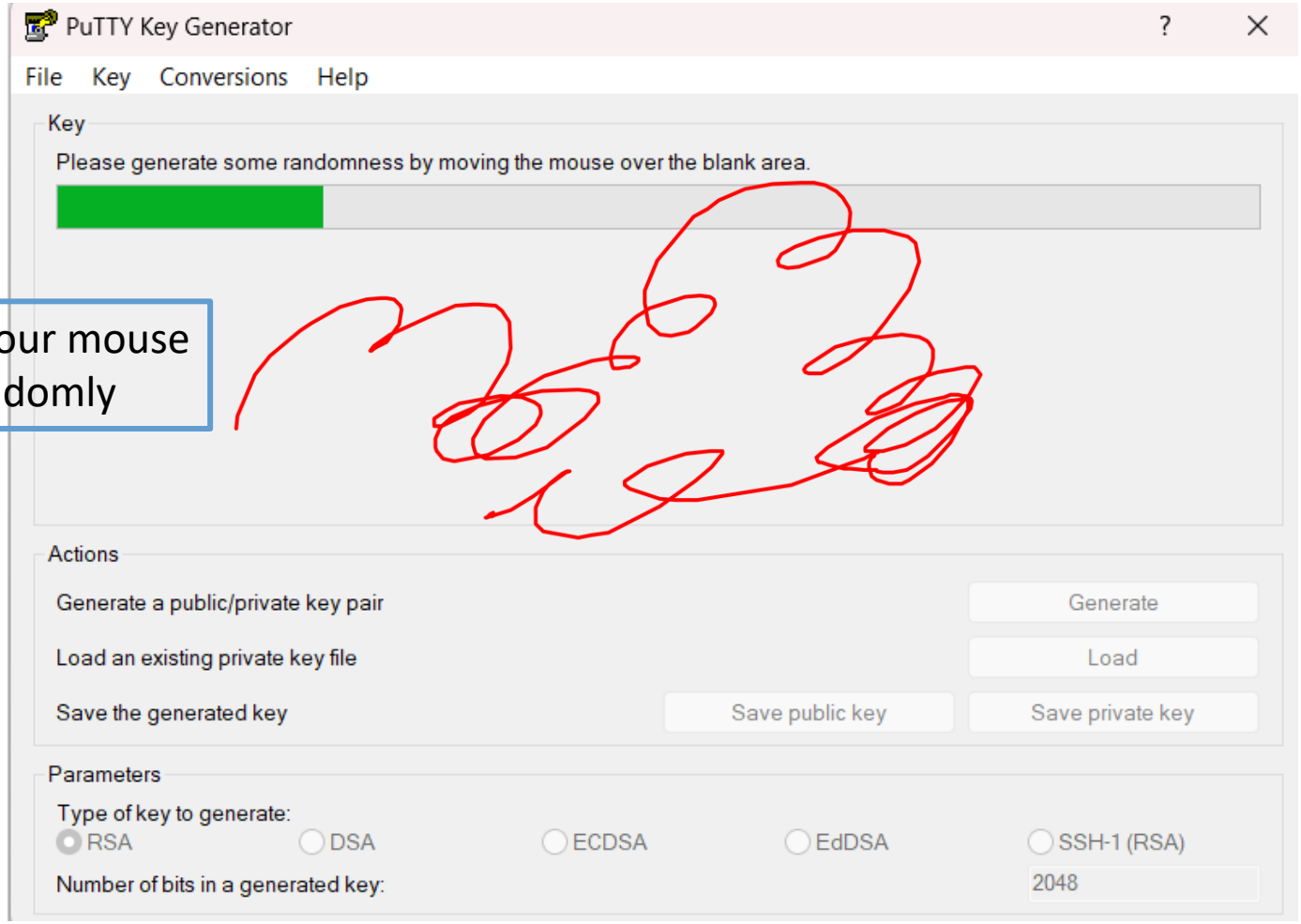
Generate a New SSH Key

- If you need to generate a new SSH key pair, you can do so by selecting the desired key type (such as RSA, DSA, ECDSA, or ED25519) and clicking the "Generate" button.
- Follow the on-screen instructions to move your mouse cursor randomly within the PuTTYgen window to generate entropy, which is used to create a secure key pair.

Generate a New SSH Key

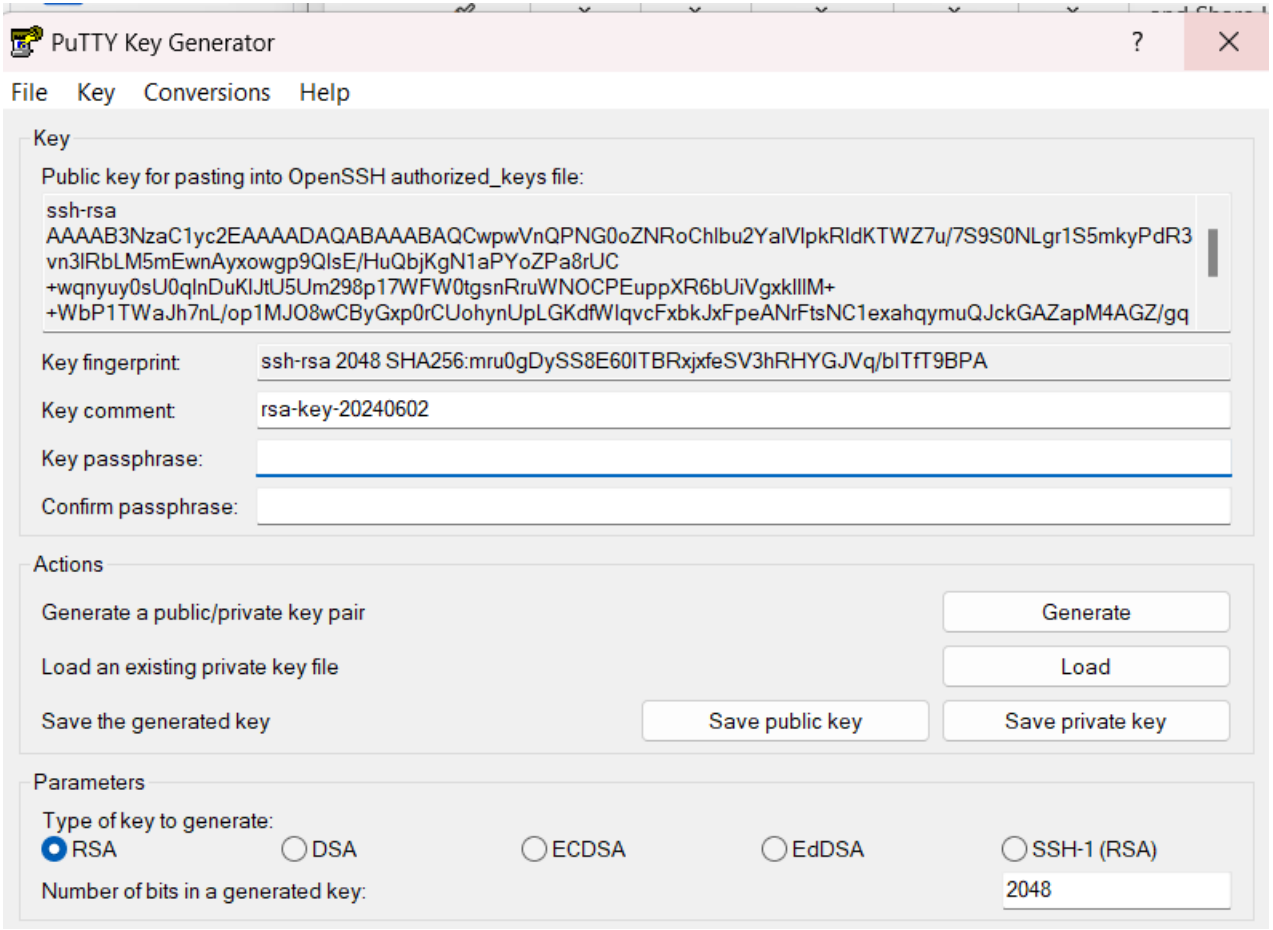


Generate a New SSH Key



Move your mouse Randomly

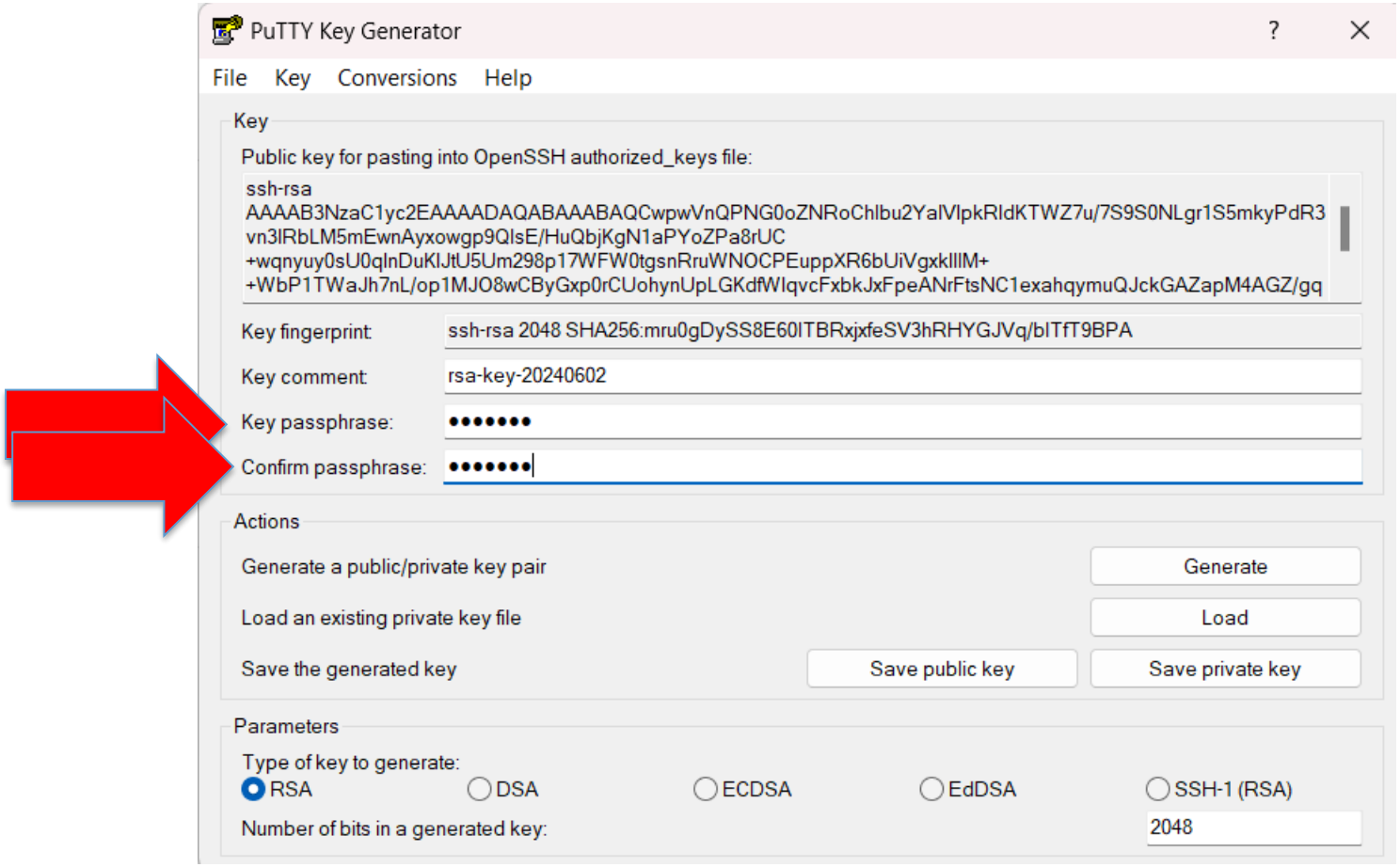
Generated SSH Keyes



Save the SSH Key Pair

- Once the key pair is generated, you can optionally provide a passphrase to encrypt the private key for added security.

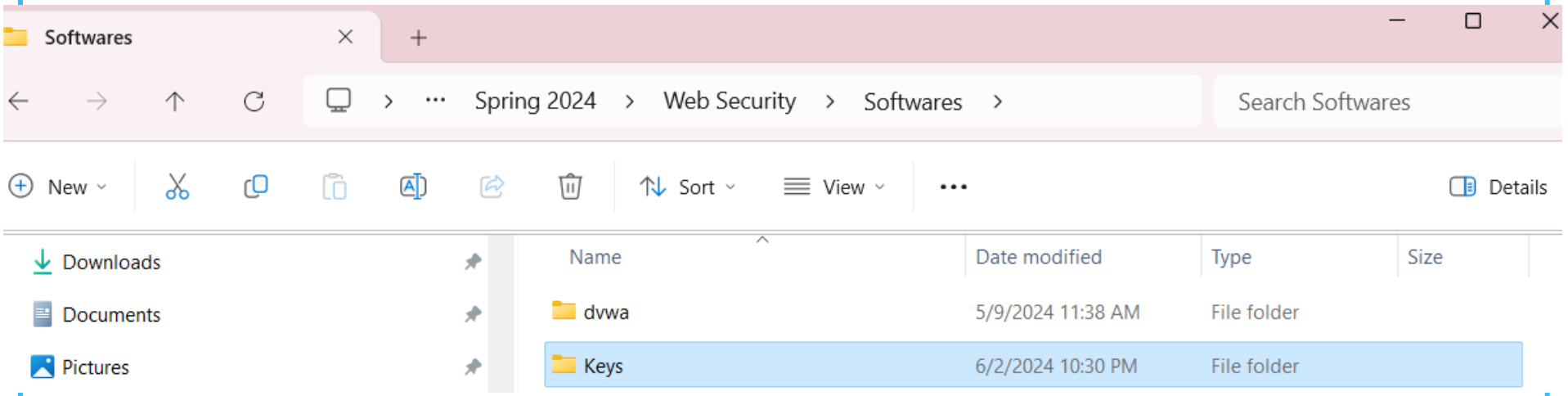
Add Key passphrase



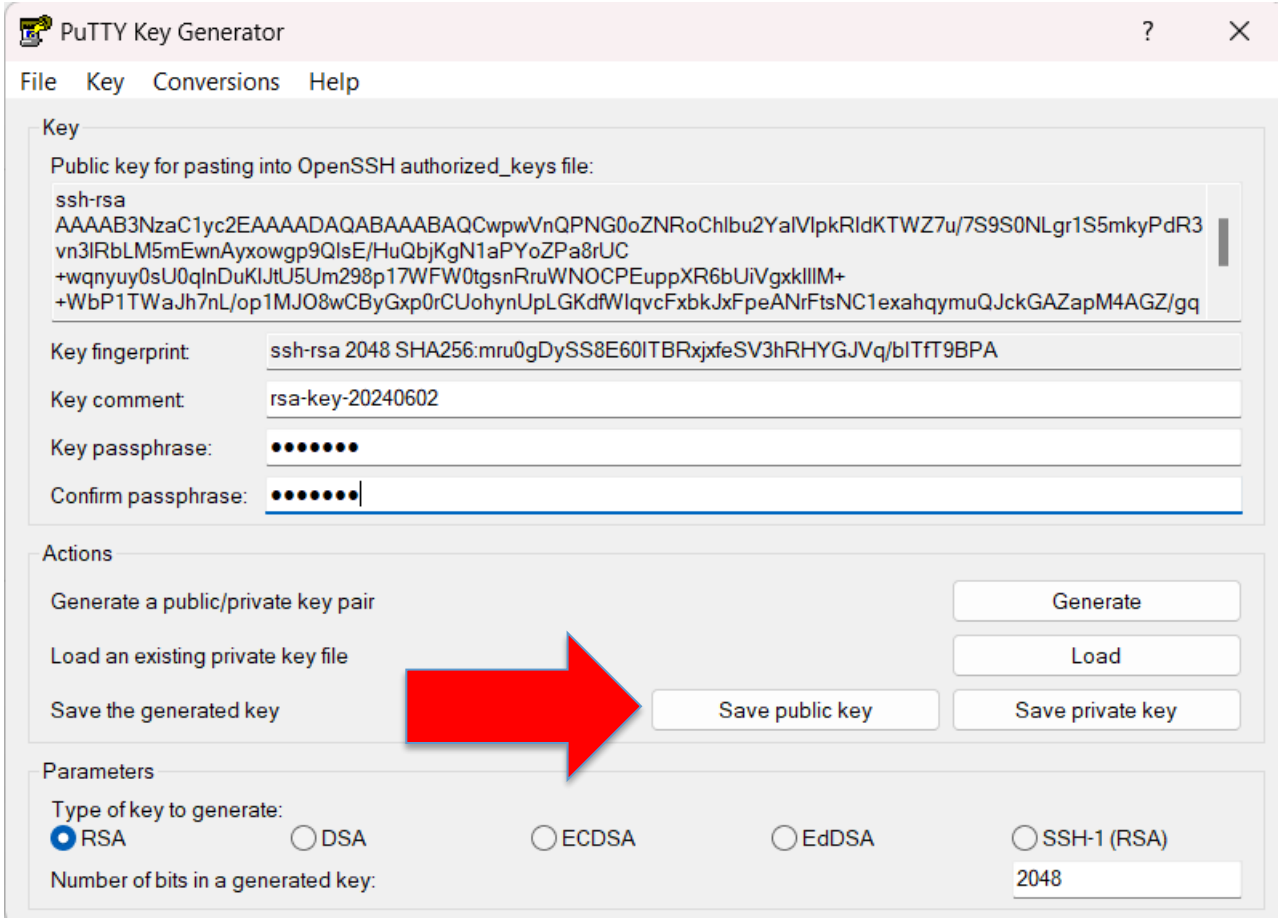
Save the SSH Key Pair

- You can also click the "Save public key" button to save the corresponding public key.
- You can click the "Save private key" button to save the private key to a file on your computer.

Create a Folder in Software to Save Public Key and Private Key

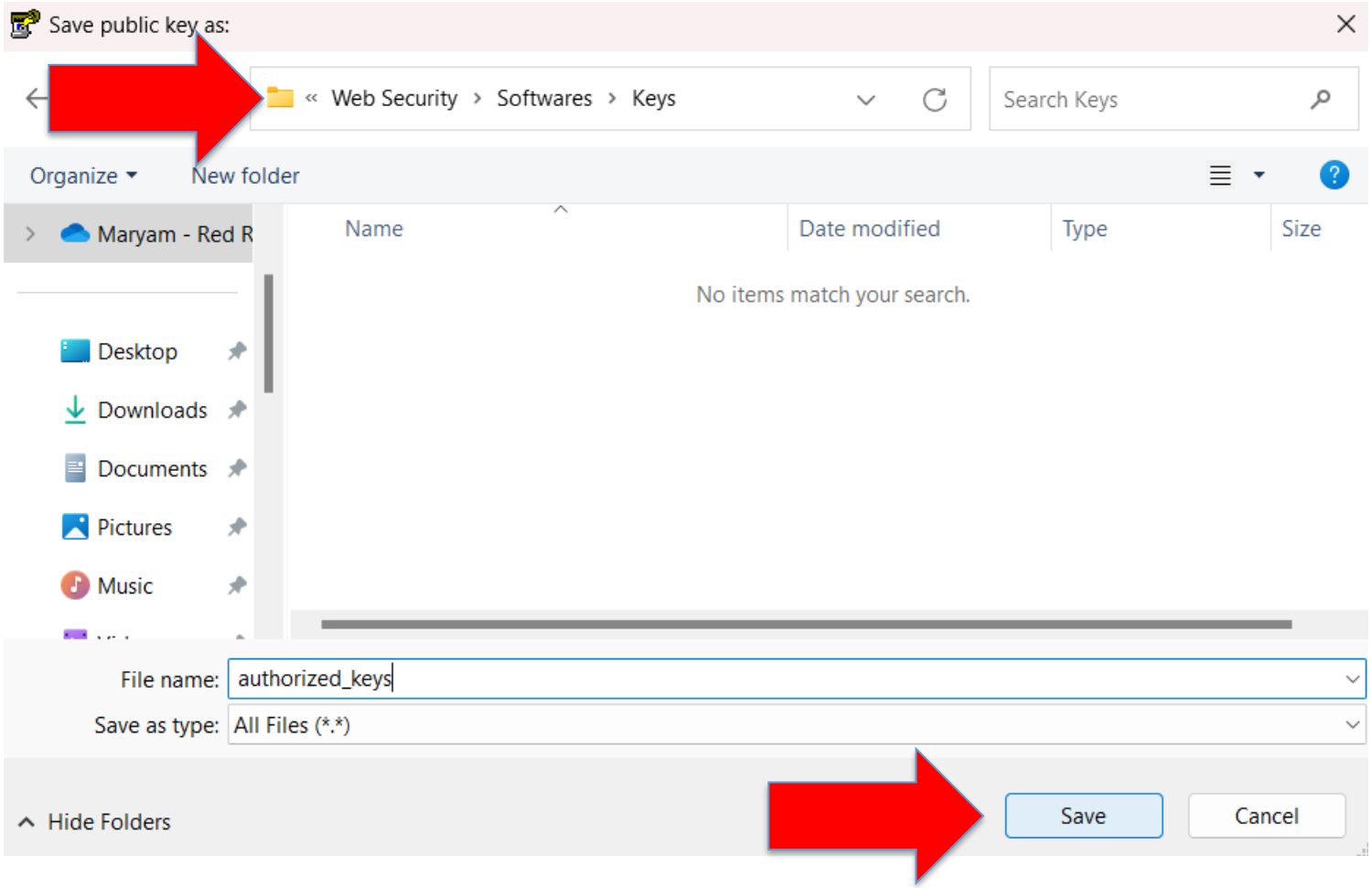


Save Public Key

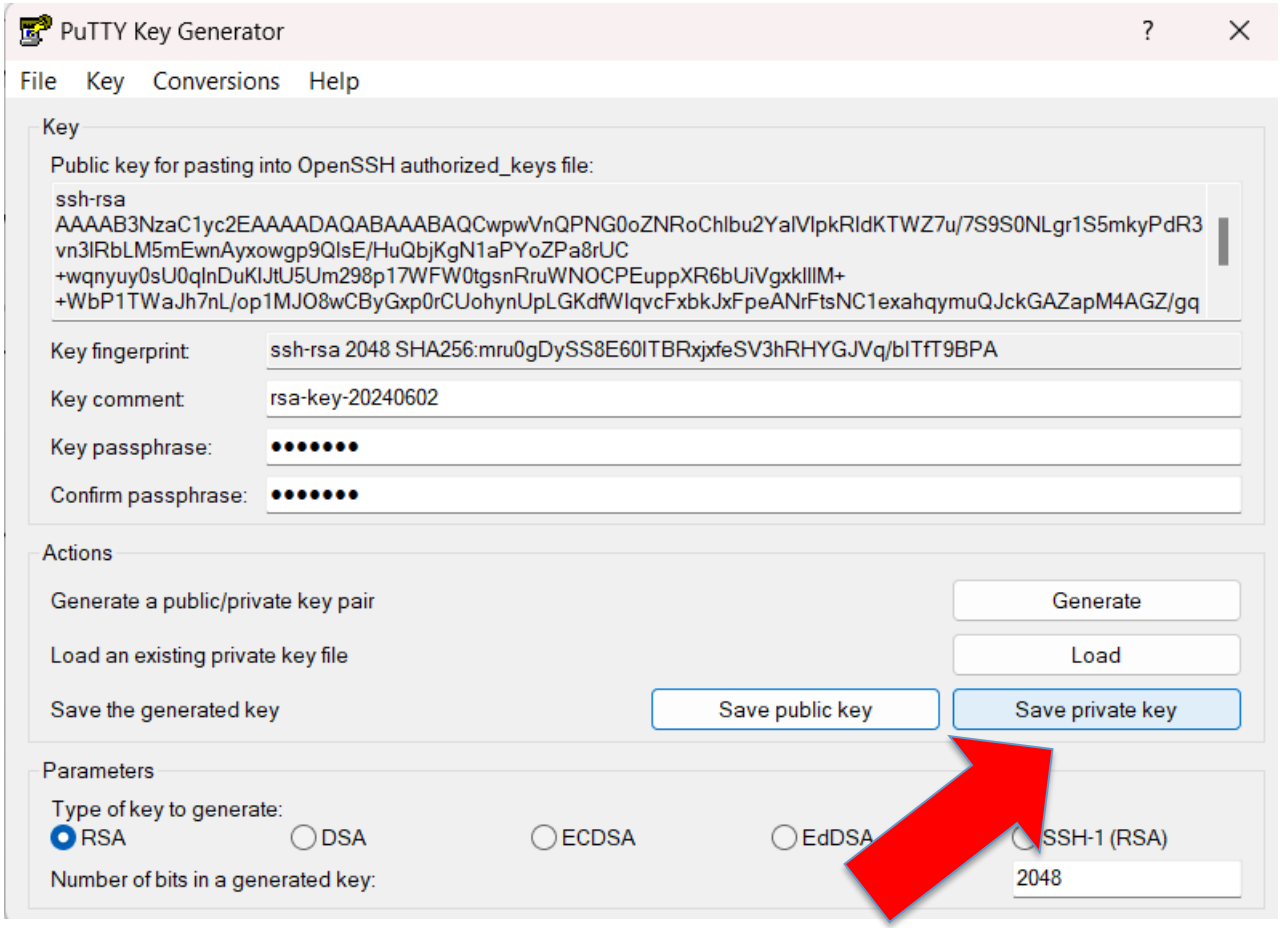


Path to Save Public Key:

`authorized_keys`

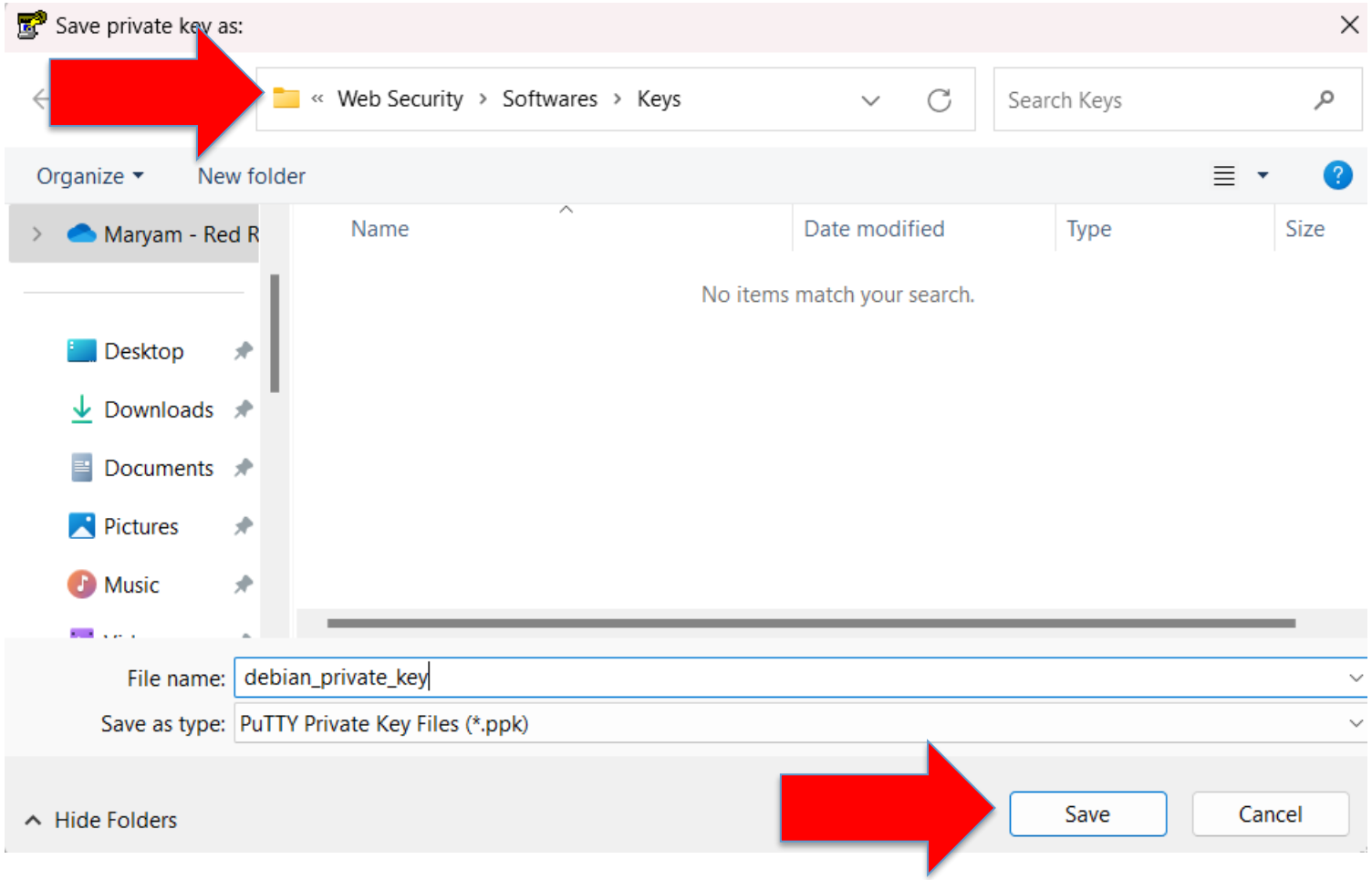


Save Private Key



Path to Save Private Key:

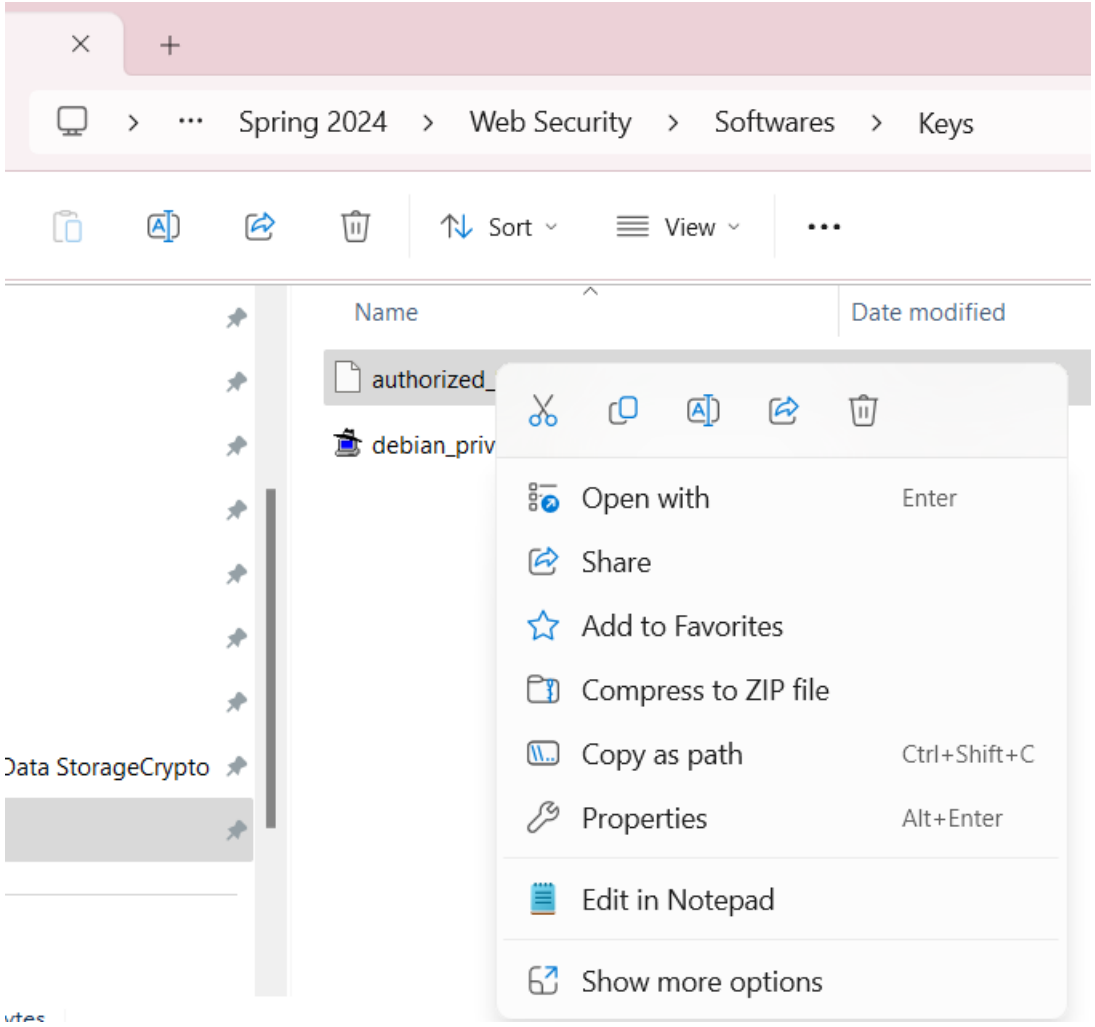
debian_private_key



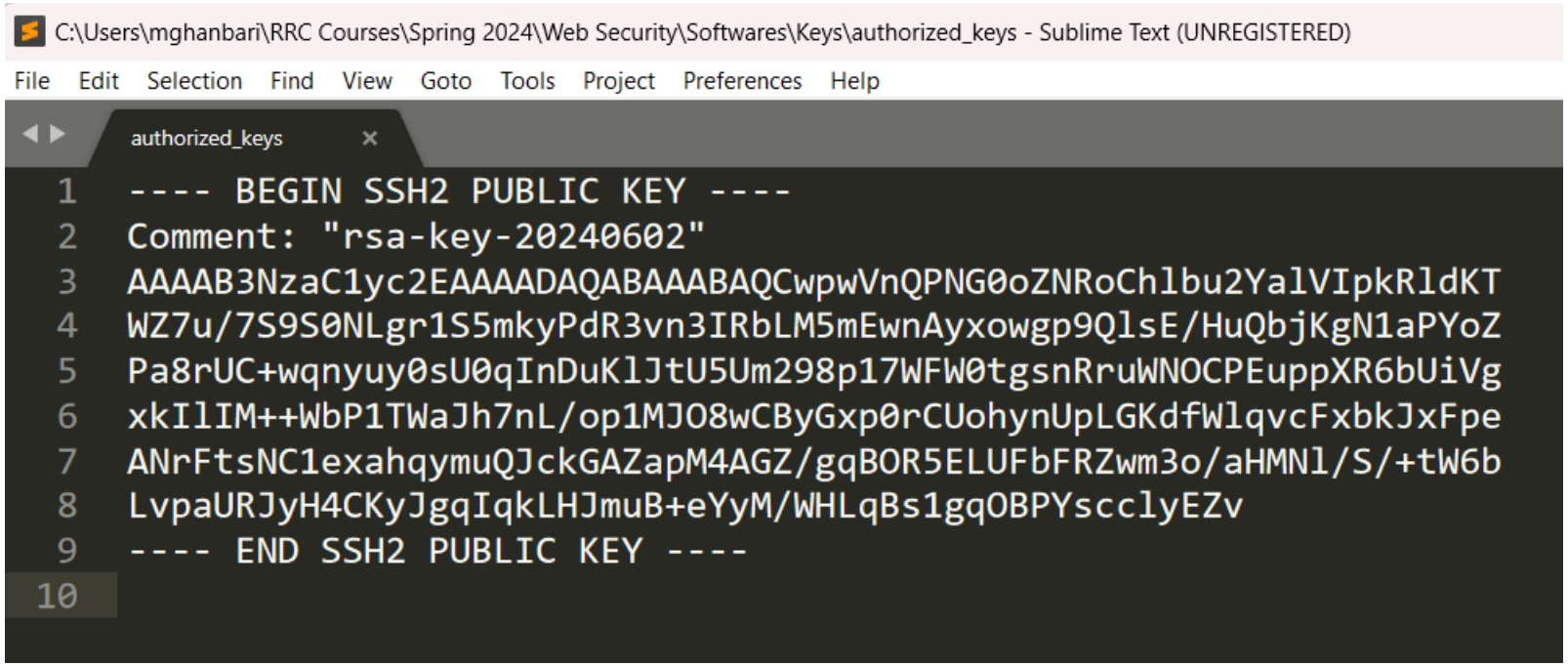
Problem

- Unfortunately, the format of the public key is wrong for Debian. We need to update the content of our “authorized_keys” file with the public key.

Open “authorized_keys” in an Editor

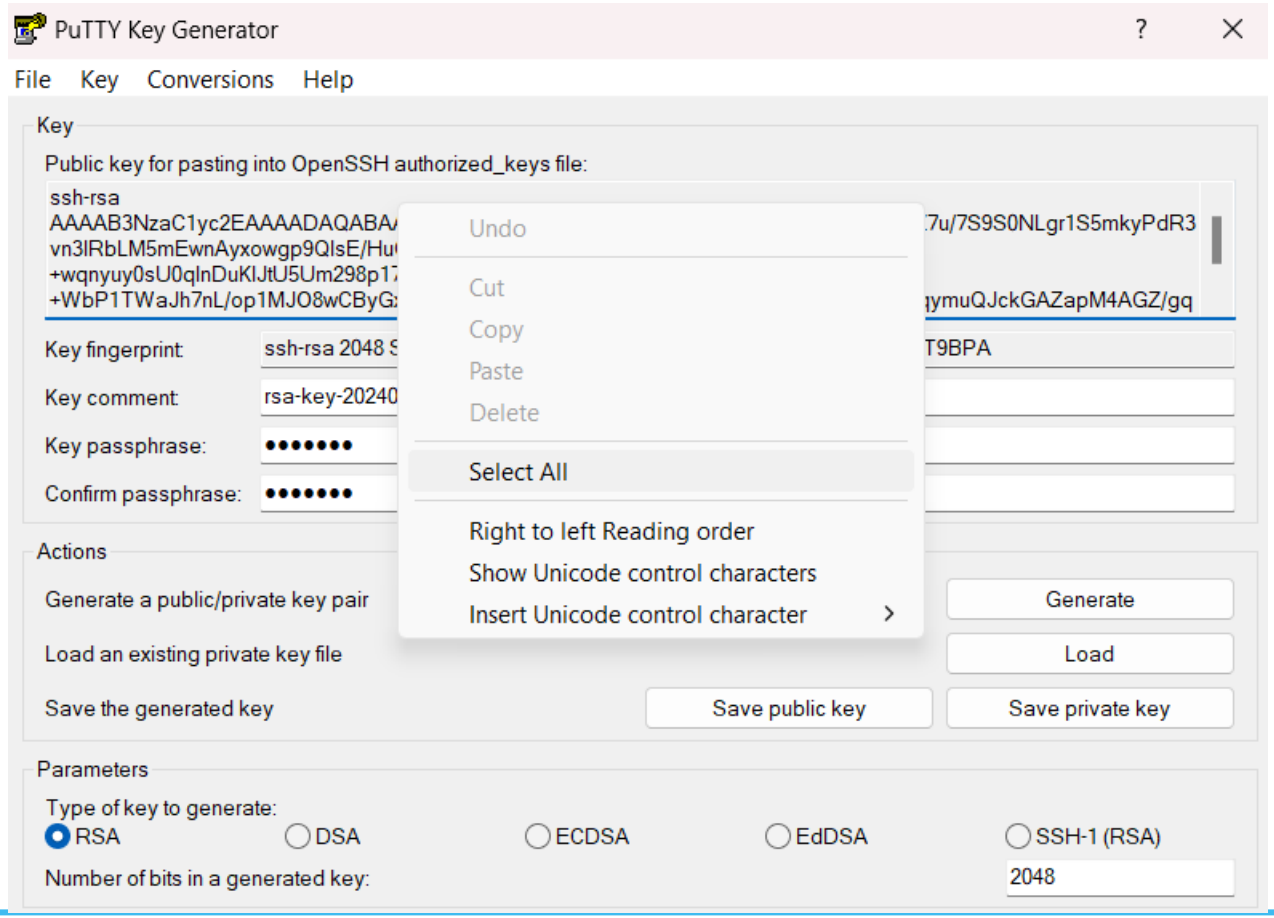


The content of “authorized_keys” File

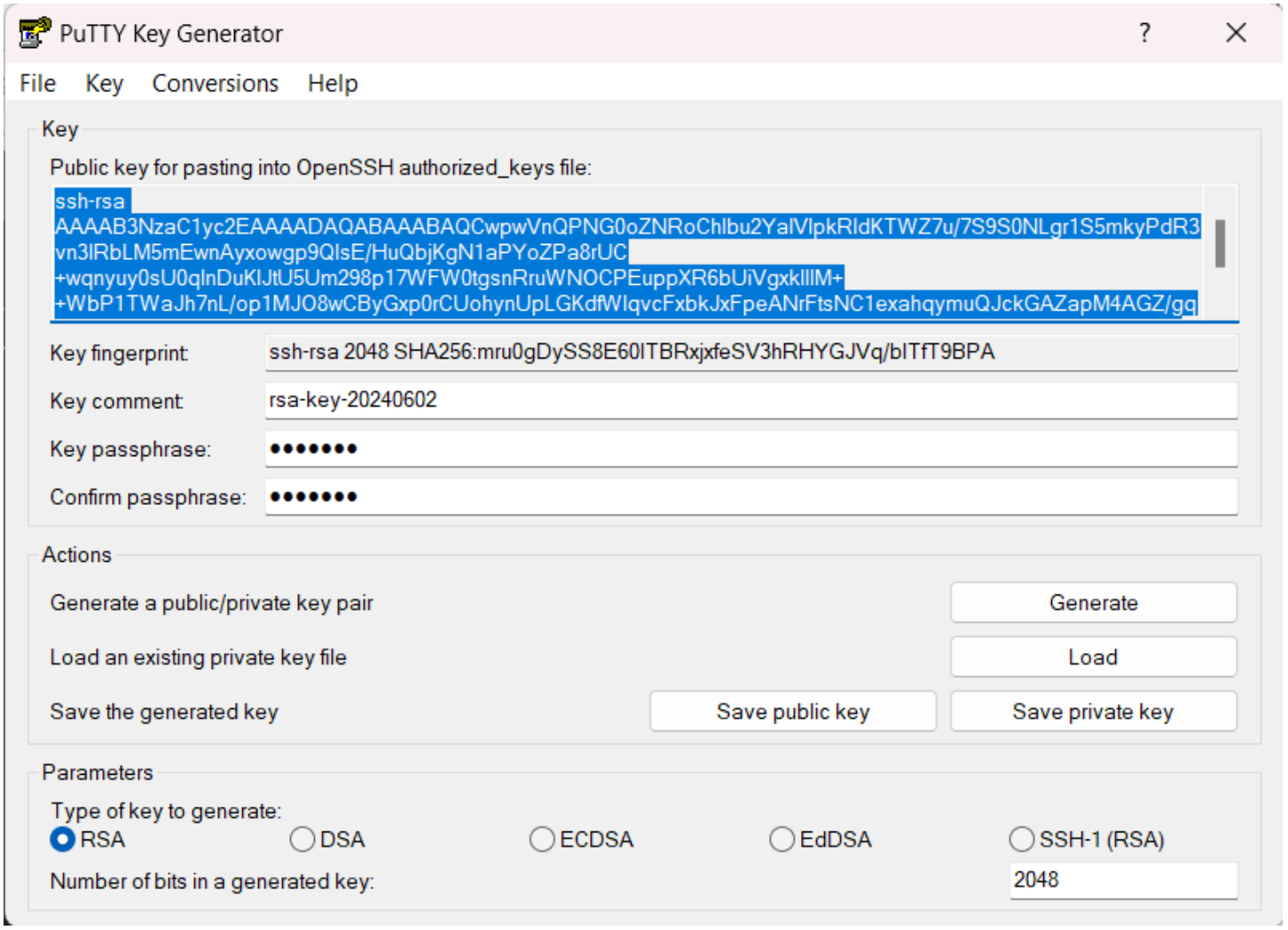


Open PuTTY Key Generator

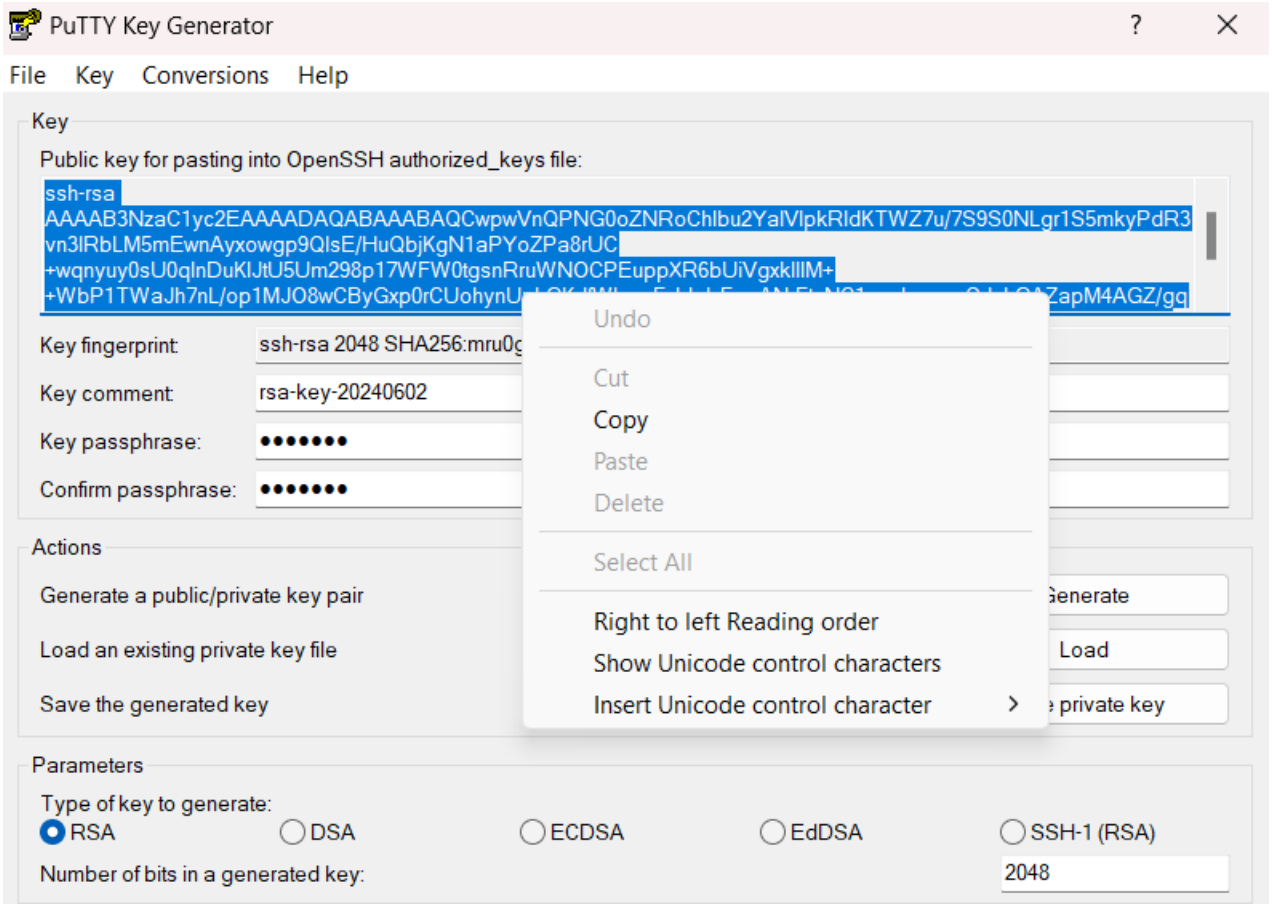
- Hit “select All”



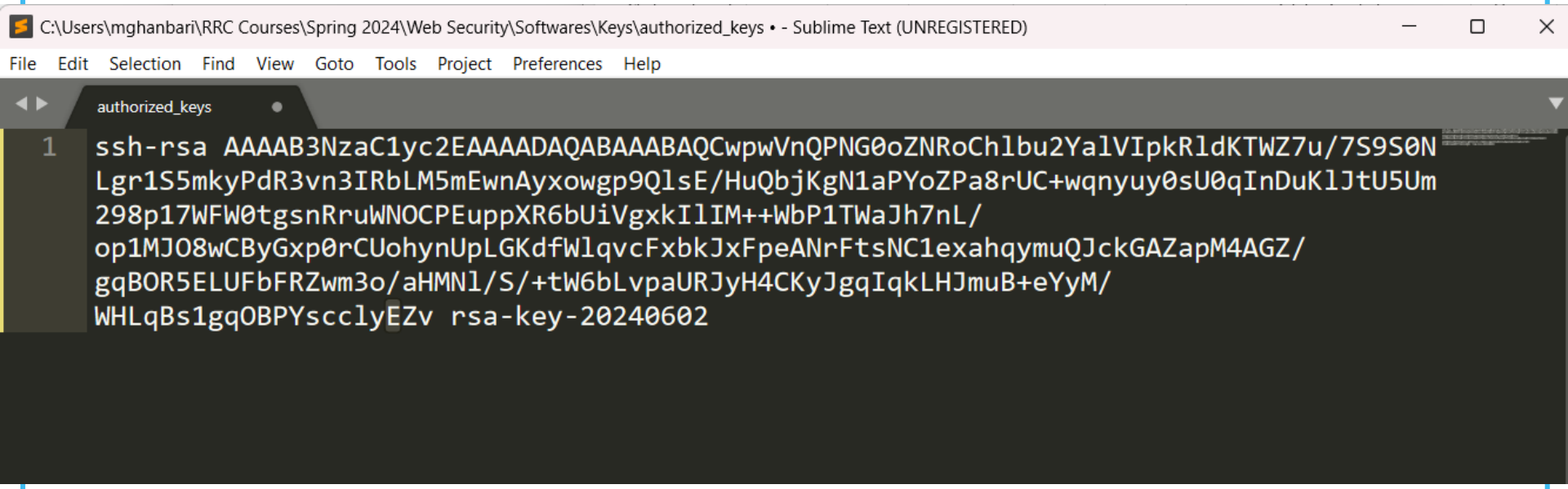
In PuTTY Key Generator: select all



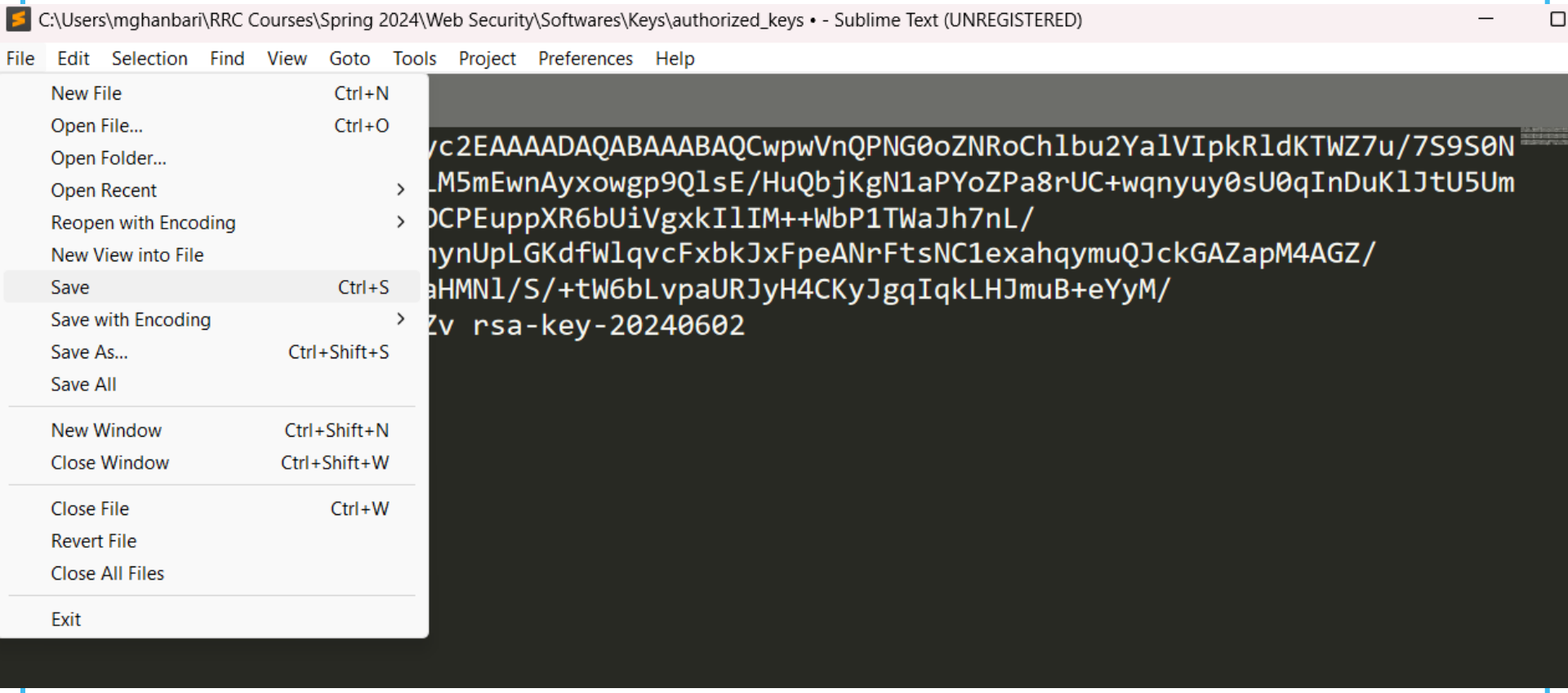
In PuTTY Key Generator: copy



Delete the content of “authorized_keys” File and paste the Public Key from PuTTY Key Generator

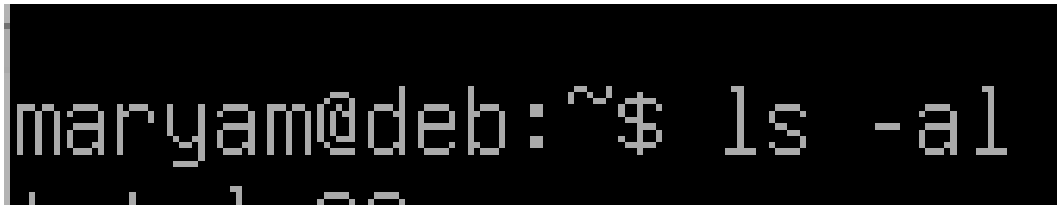


Save the “authorized_keys” File



Set up Debian to Use Key Based Authentication

- In Debian write:
  - ls -al



Debian

```
maryam@deb:~$ ls -al
total 32
drwx------ 4 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 root   root   4096 Jan 15 12:41 ..
-rw------- 1 maryam maryam 1243 May 25 00:04 .bash_history
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam  220 Jan 15 12:41 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam 3526 Jan 15 12:41 .bashrc
drwxr-xr-x 3 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 .local
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam  807 Jan 15 12:41 .profile
```

In Debian Create a Directory call “.ssh”

- create a folder called .ssh

```
maryam@deb:~$ mkdir .ssh
```

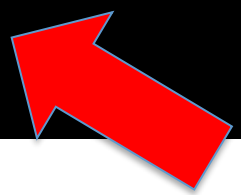
Set the Permission

- Set the proper permissions (read/write/exec for the owner only) to the directory using chmod command

```
maryam@deb:~$ chmod 700 .ssh
```

Deploy Your Public Key to Your Debian Server

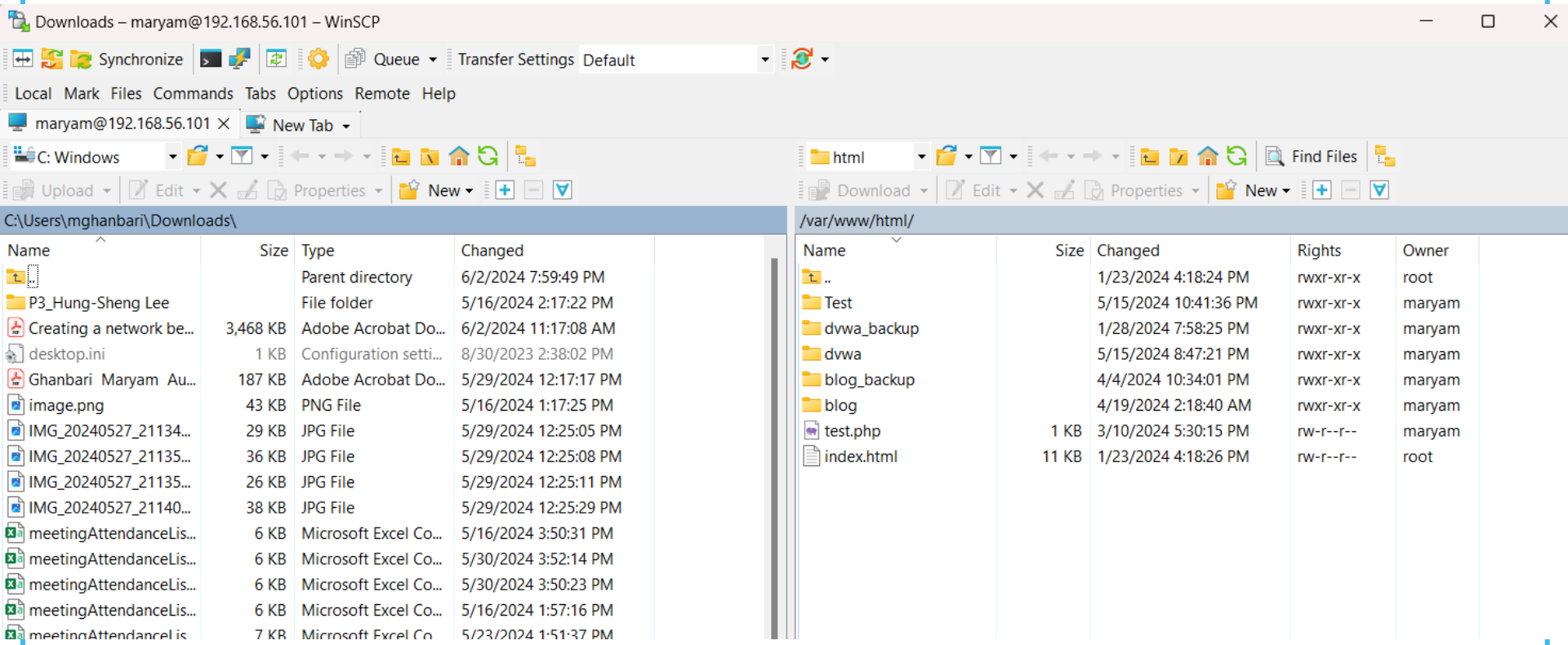
```
maryam@deb:~$ ls -al
total 32
drwx------ 4 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 .
drwxr-xr-x 3 root   root   4096 Jan 15 12:41 ..
-rw------- 1 maryam maryam 1243 May 25 00:04 .bash_history
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam  220 Jan 15 12:41 .bash_logout
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam 3526 Jan 15 12:41 .bashrc
drwxr-xr-x 3 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 .local
-rw-r--r-- 1 maryam maryam  807 Jan 15 12:41 .profile
drwx------ 2 maryam maryam 4096 Feb 15 11:06 .ssh
maryam@deb:~$ _
```



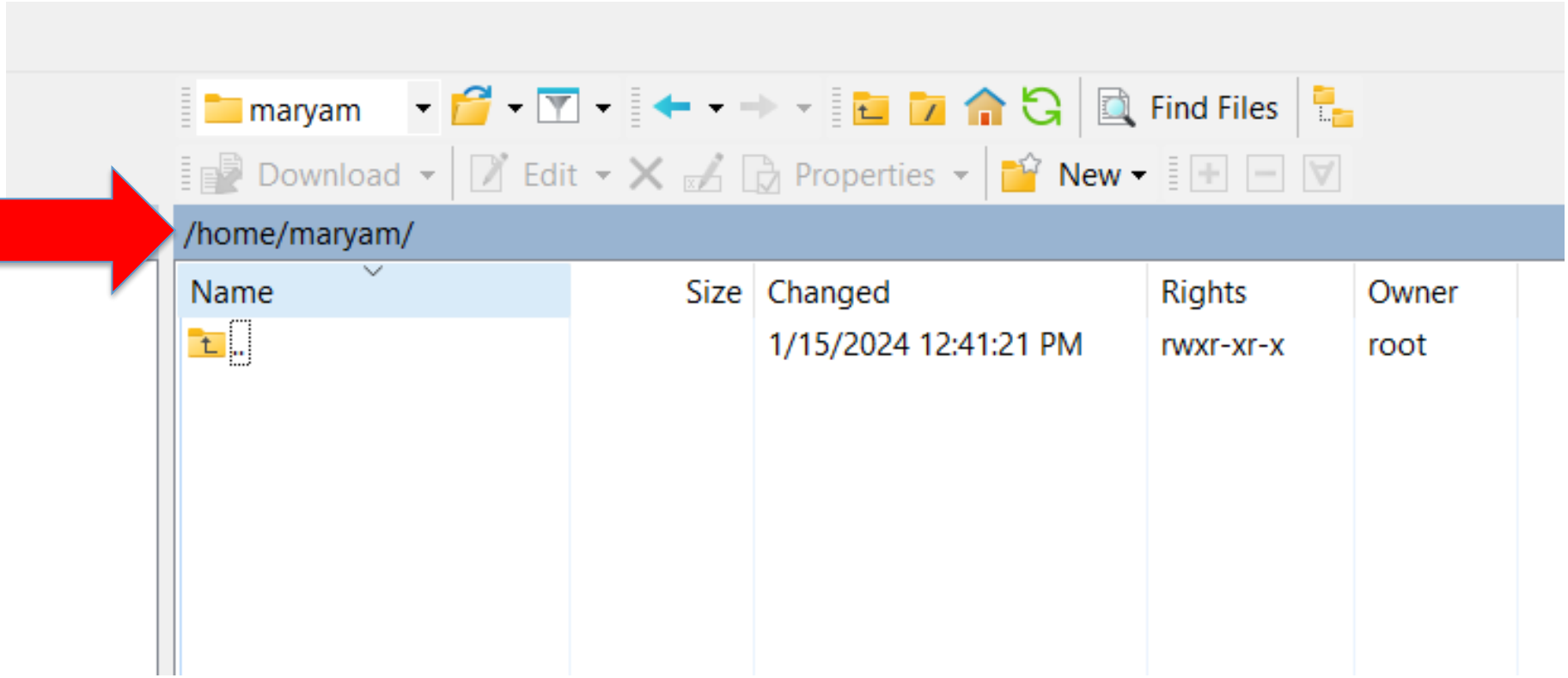
Open WinSCP

- Upload Your “authorized_keys” File to Your .ssh Folder Using WinSCP

Open WinSCP

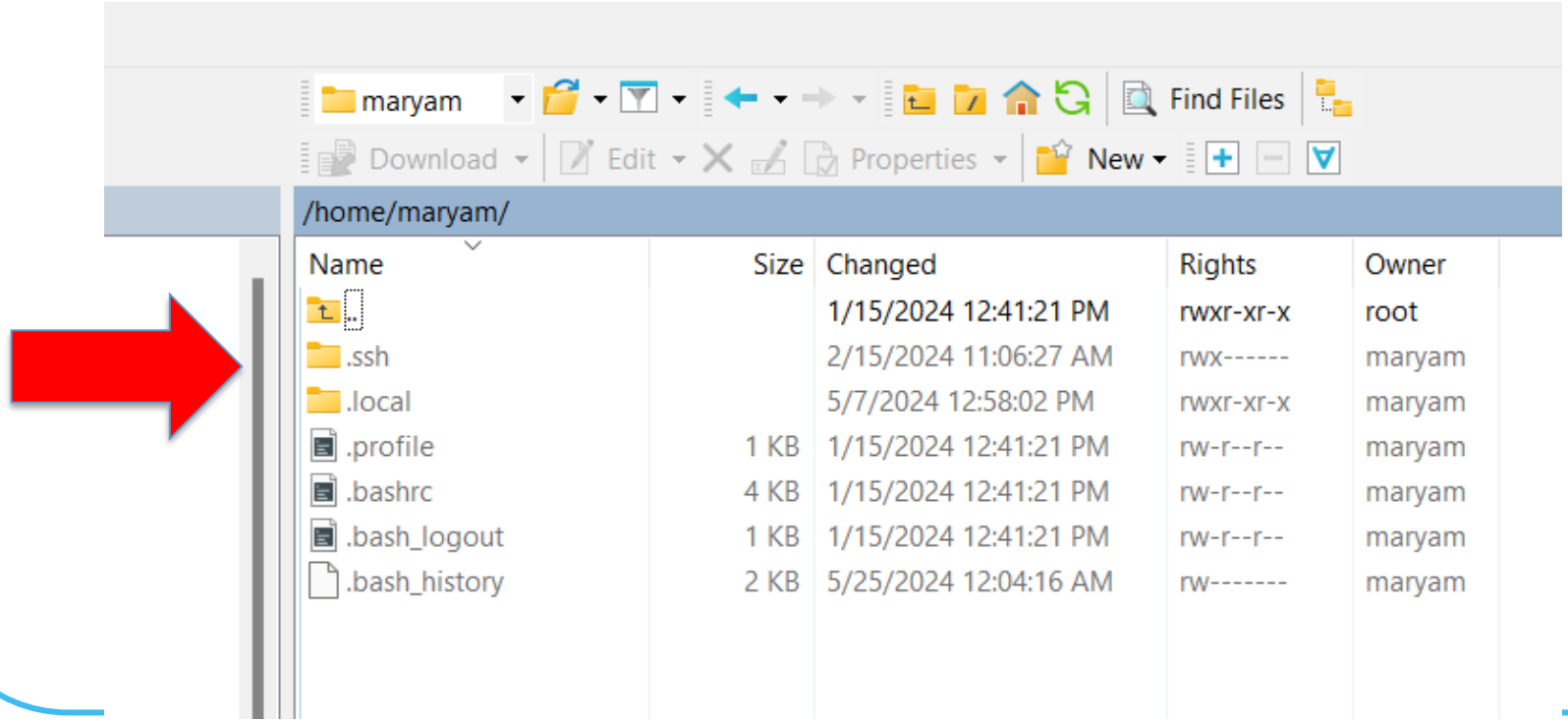

Downloads – maryam@192.168.56.101 – WinSCP
Synchronize
Queue
Transfer Settings
Default
Local Mark Files Commands Tabs Options Remote Help
maryam@192.168.56.101
New Tab
C: Windows
Upload
Edit
Properties
New
C:\Users\mghanbari\Downloads\
Name Size Type Changed
Parent directory 6/2/2024 7:59:49 PM
P3_Hung-Sheng Lee File folder 5/16/2024 2:17:22 PM
Creating a network be... 3,468 KB Adobe Acrobat Do... 6/2/2024 11:17:08 AM
desktop.ini 1 KB Configuration setti... 8/30/2023 2:38:02 PM
Ghanbari Maryam Au... 187 KB Adobe Acrobat Do... 5/29/2024 12:17:17 PM
image.png 43 KB PNG File 5/16/2024 1:17:25 PM
IMG_20240527_21134... 29 KB JPG File 5/29/2024 12:25:05 PM
IMG_20240527_21135... 36 KB JPG File 5/29/2024 12:25:08 PM
IMG_20240527_21135... 26 KB JPG File 5/29/2024 12:25:11 PM
IMG_20240527_21140... 38 KB JPG File 5/29/2024 12:25:29 PM
meetingAttendanceLis... 6 KB Microsoft Excel Co... 5/16/2024 3:50:31 PM
meetingAttendanceLis... 6 KB Microsoft Excel Co... 5/30/2024 3:52:14 PM
meetingAttendanceLis... 6 KB Microsoft Excel Co... 5/30/2024 3:50:23 PM
meetingAttendanceLis... 6 KB Microsoft Excel Co... 5/16/2024 1:57:16 PM
html
Find Files
Download
Edit
Properties
New
/var/www/html/
Name Size Changed Rights Owner
.. 1/23/2024 4:18:24 PM rwxr-xr-x root
Test 5/15/2024 10:41:36 PM rwxr-xr-x maryam
dvwa_backup 1/28/2024 7:58:25 PM rwxr-xr-x maryam
dvwa 5/15/2024 8:47:21 PM rwxr-xr-x maryam
blog_backup 4/4/2024 10:34:01 PM rwxr-xr-x maryam
blog 4/19/2024 2:18:40 AM rwxr-xr-x maryam
test.php 1 KB 3/10/2024 5:30:15 PM rw-r--r-- maryam
index.html 11 KB 1/23/2024 4:18:26 PM rw-r--r-- root

In WinSCP, Go to “home” Directory



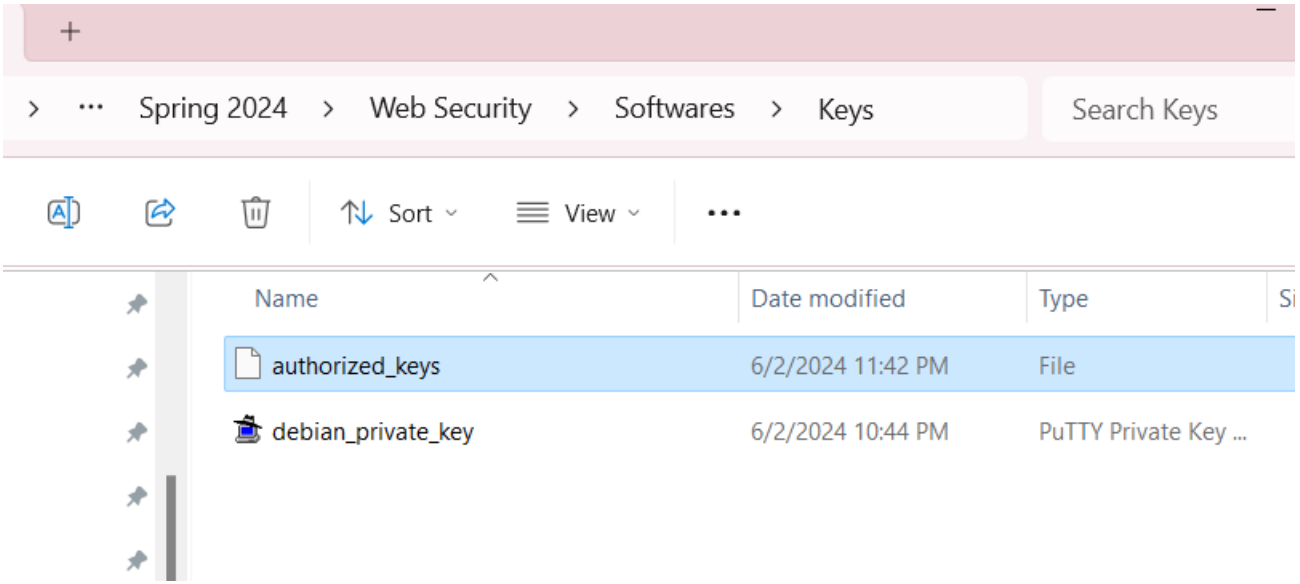
In WinSCP, Go to “home” Directory -> Your Username

- Because our directory is called .ssh. It is hidden, so we have to make it visible using
  - Ctrl + Alt +H



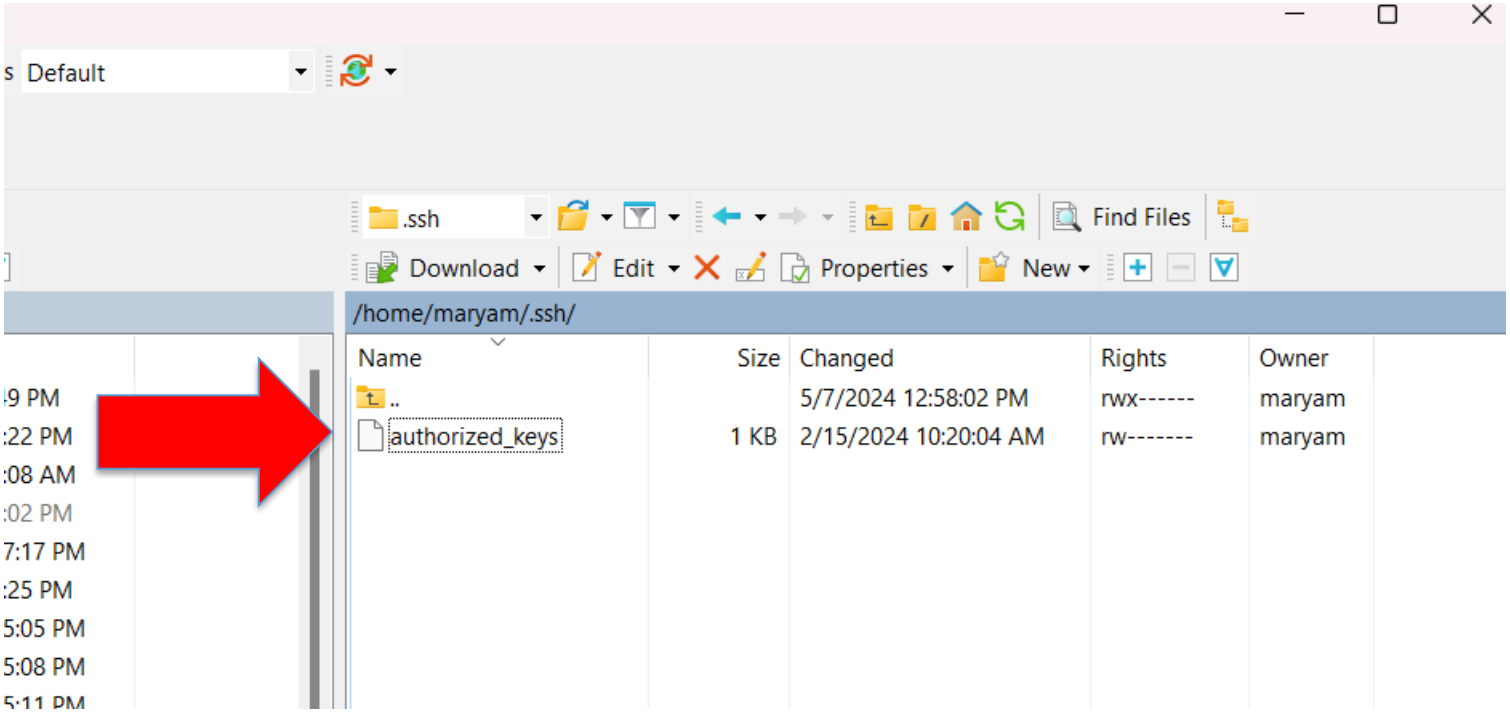
In WinSCP, Go to “home” Directory -> Your Username -> .SSH

- Copy the “authorized_keys” File



In WinSCP, Go to “home” Directory -> Your Username -> .SSH

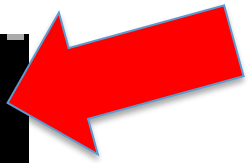
- Paste the “authorized_keys” File in the .SSH in



In Debian Change into ".ssh" Directory

- Set the permission again

```
maryam@deb:~$ cd .ssh
maryam@deb:~/.ssh$
```



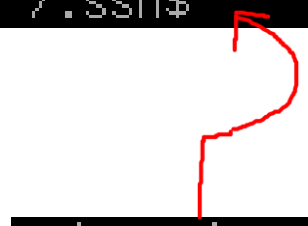
Set the Permission Again To Ensure Extra Security for Our Keys

```
maryam@deb:~/.ssh$ ls -al
total 12
drwx------ 2 maryam maryam 4096 Feb 15 11:06 .
drwx------ 4 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 ..
-rw------- 1 maryam maryam  397 Feb 15 10:20 authorized_keys
maryam@deb:~/.ssh$
```

Set the Permission Again To Ensure extra security for our Keys

- Secure the file containing your public keys (read/write)

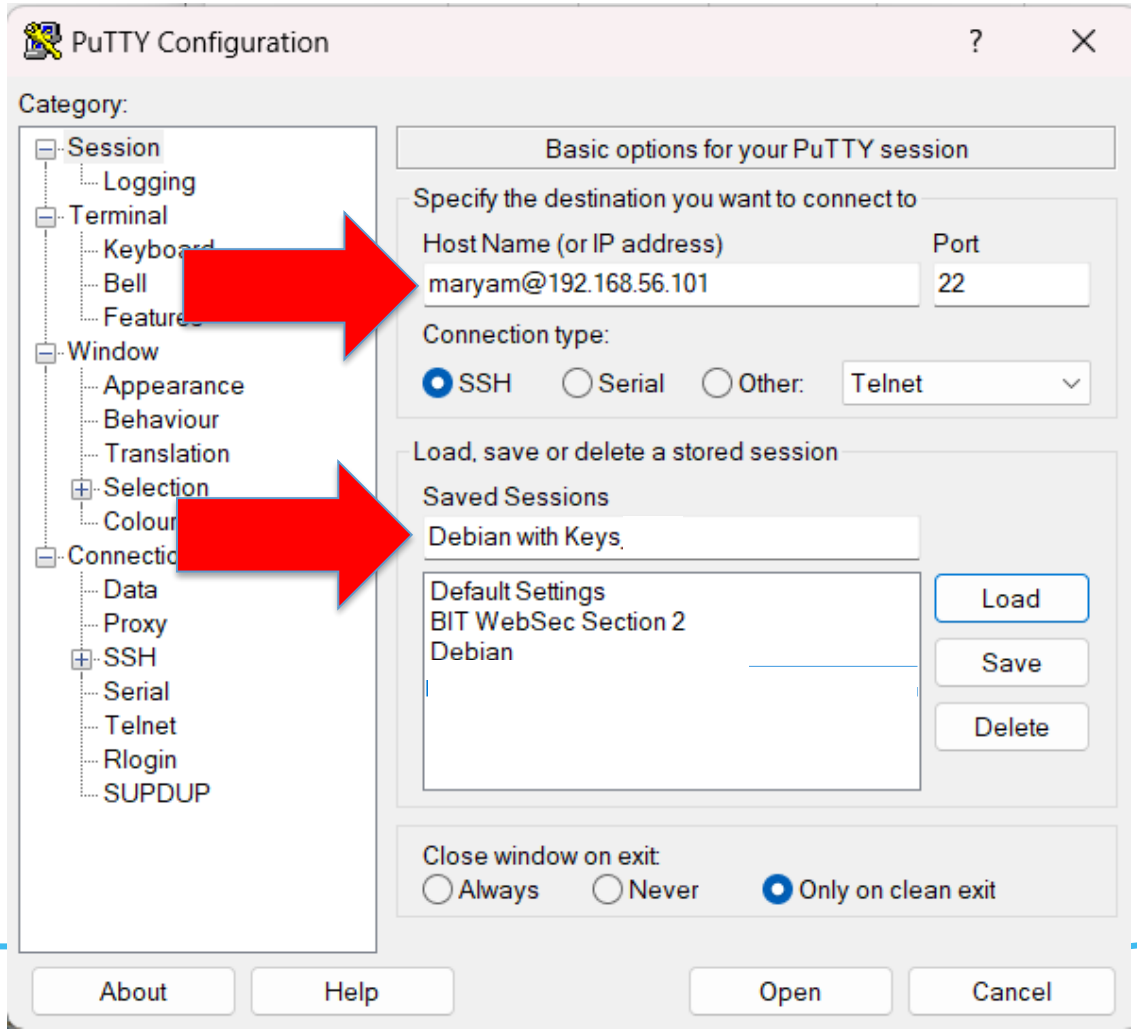
```
maryam@deb:~/.ssh$ ls -al
total 12
drwx------ 2 maryam maryam 4096 Feb 15 11:06 .
drwx------ 4 maryam maryam 4096 May  7 12:58 ..
-rw------- 1 maryam maryam  397 Feb 15 10:20 authorized_keys
maryam@deb:~/.ssh$
```



```
chmod 600 authorized_keys
```

Test the Configuration

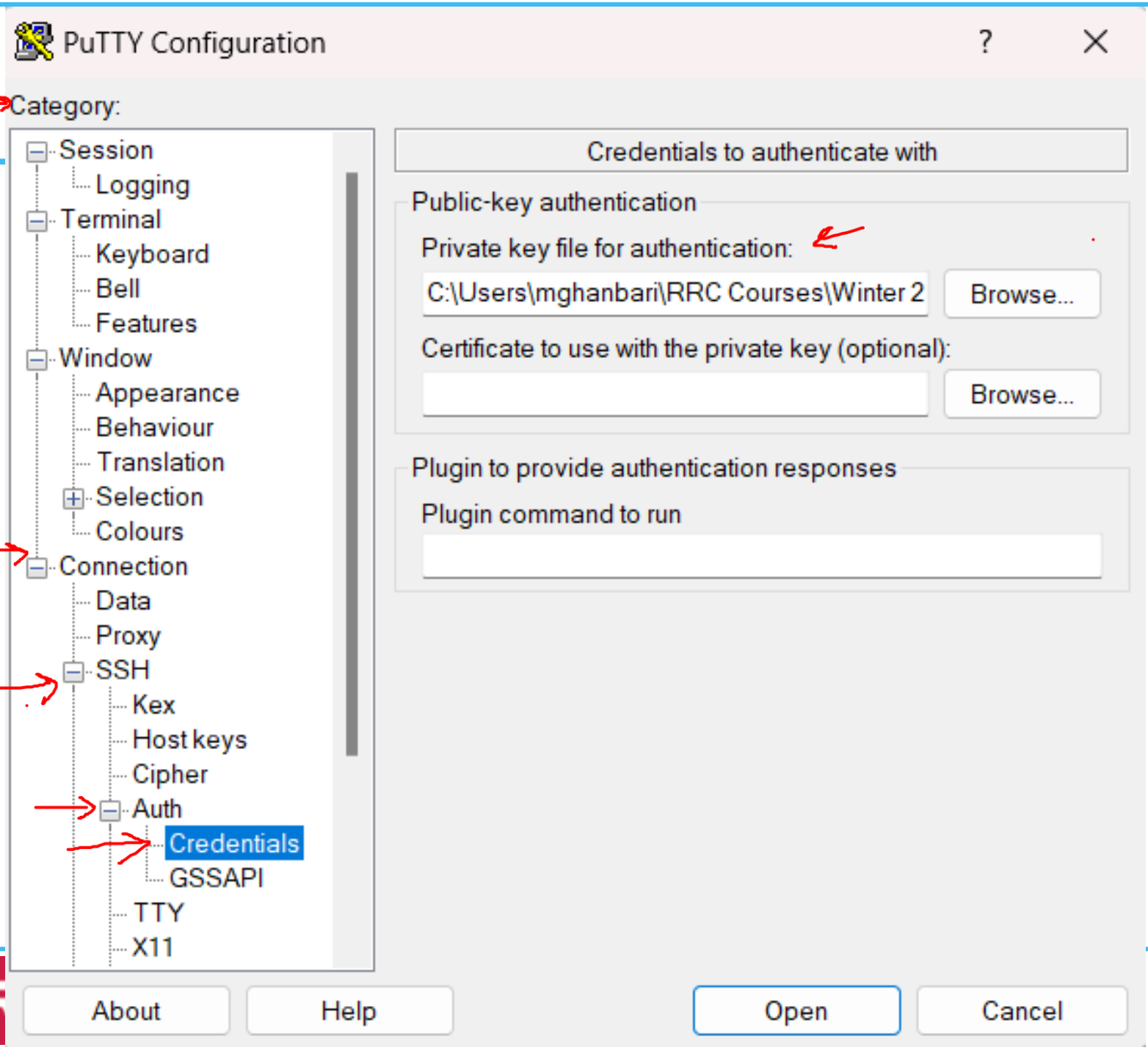
- Open Putty and enter information



RRC POLYTECH

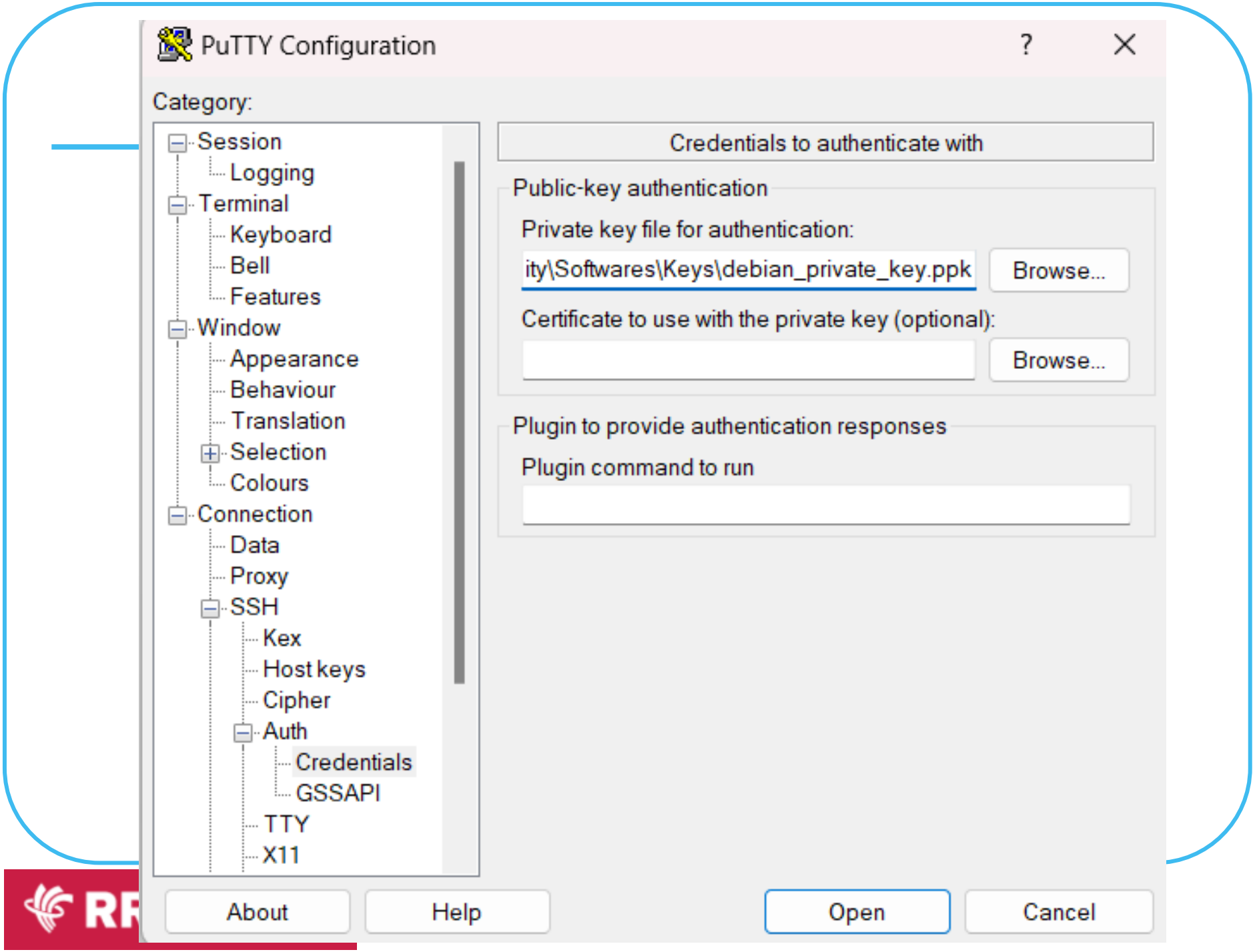
Tell PuTTY to Use Private Key

- Category -> Connection -> SSH -> Auth -> Credentials -> Private key file for authentication


PuTTY Configuration
Category:
Session
Logging
Terminal
Keyboard
Bell
Features
Window
Appearance
Behaviour
Translation
Selection
Colours
Connection
Data
Proxy
SSH
Kex
Host keys
Cipher
Auth
Credentials
GSSAPI
TTY
X11
Credentials to authenticate with
Public-key authentication
Private key file for authentication:
C:\Users\mghanbari\RRC Courses\Winter 2
Browse...
Certificate to use with the private key (optional):
Browse...
Plugin to provide authentication responses
Plugin command to run
About
Help
Open
Cancel

Browse

- Browse for the created private key from the Software -> keys folder


PuTTY Configuration
Category:
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Features
Window
Appearance
Behaviour
Translation
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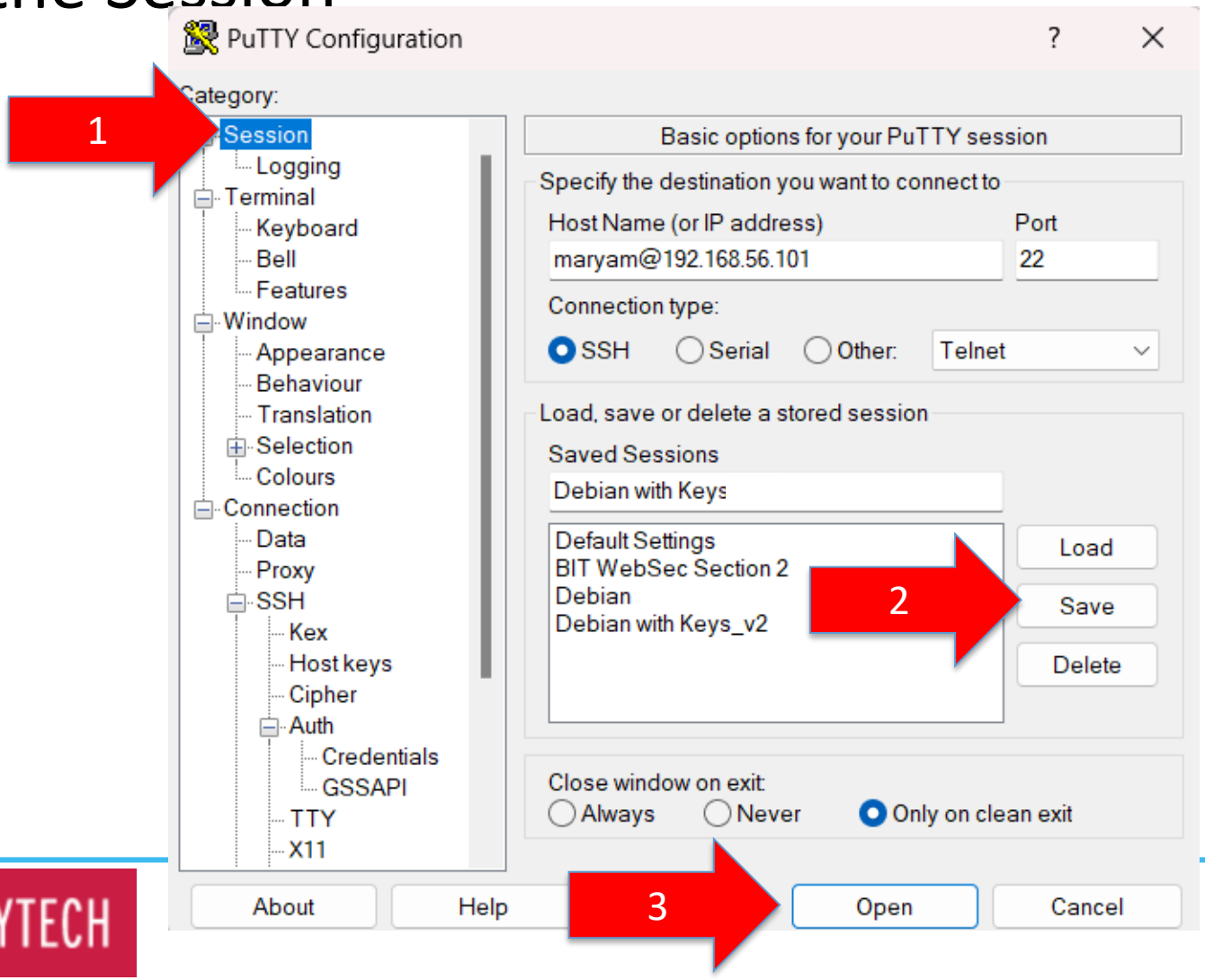
Colours
Connection
Data
Proxy
SSH
Kex
Host keys
Cipher
Auth
Credentials
GSSAPI
TTY
X11
Credentials to authenticate with
Public-key authentication
Private key file for authentication:
ity\Softwares\Keys\debian_private_key.ppk
Browse...
Certificate to use with the private key (optional):
Browse...
Plugin to provide authentication responses
Plugin command to run
About
Help
Open
Cancel

Save the Session

- Select the Session

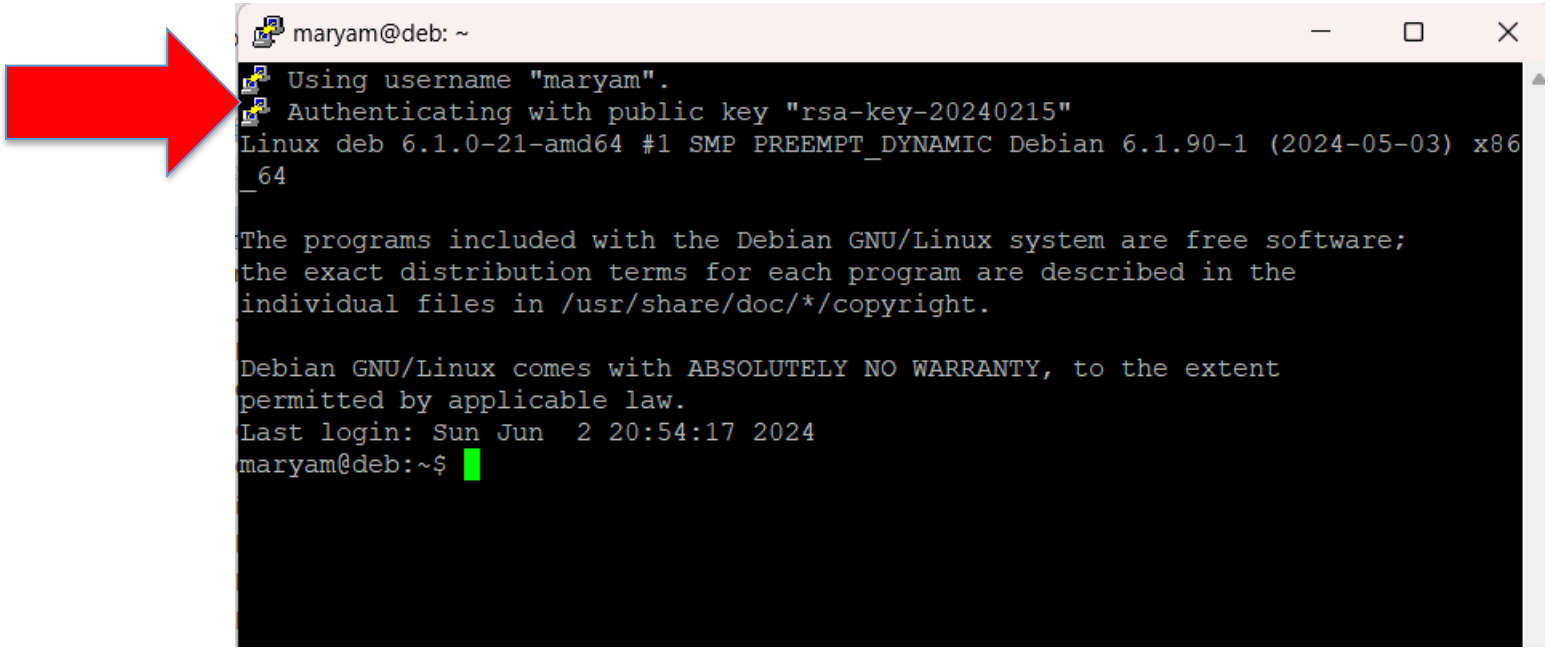


- Save
- Open

RRC POLYTECH

Open the Session to Test it

- Enter Passphrase

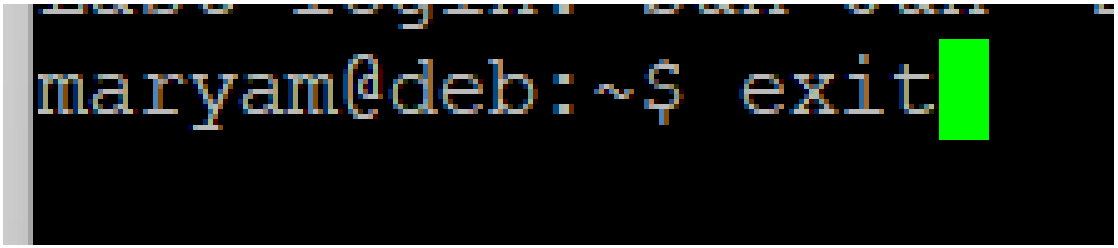


Open the Session

- We can see that we have successfully made a key based connection

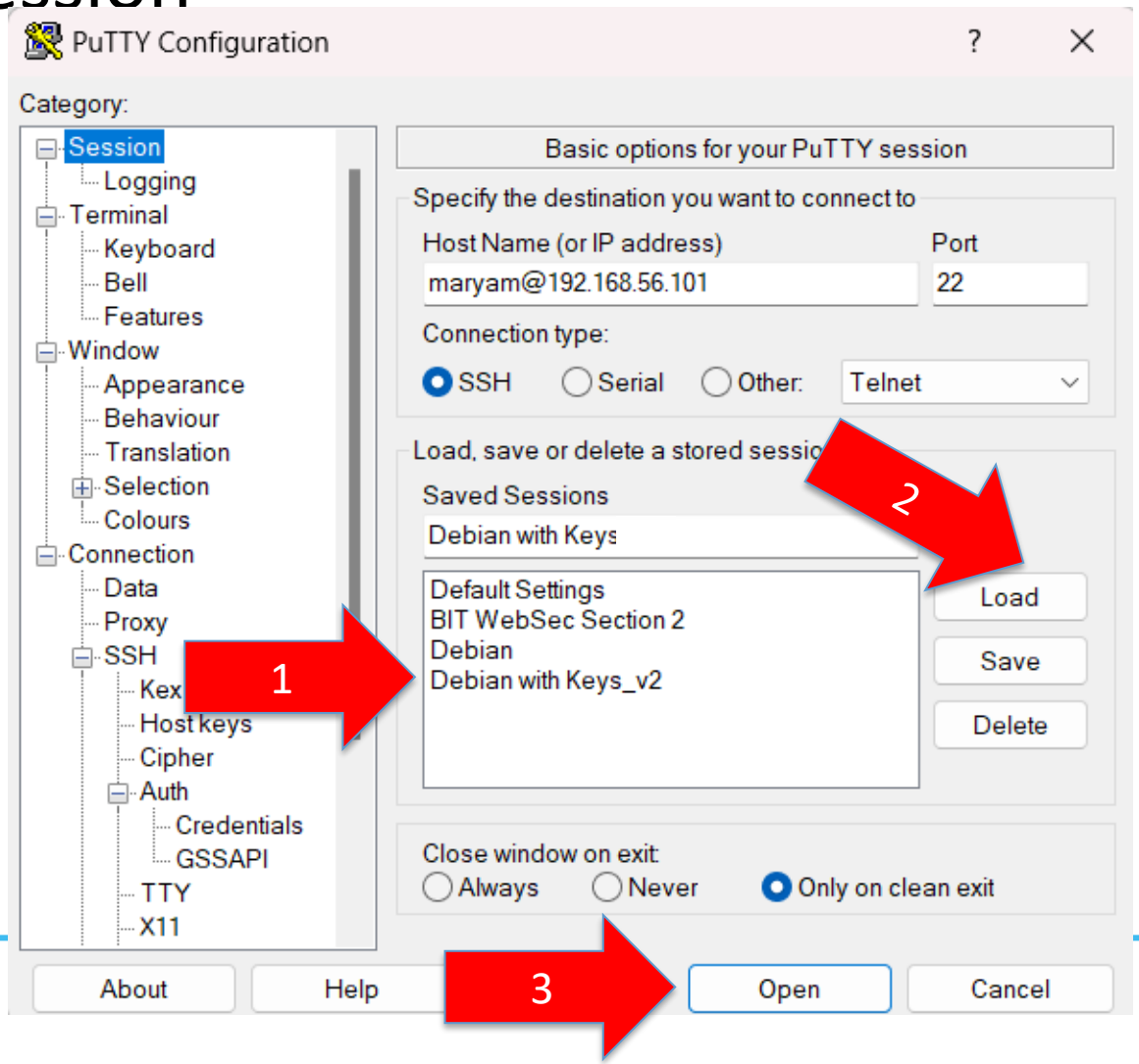
Exit the PuTTY

- Exit the PuTTY and



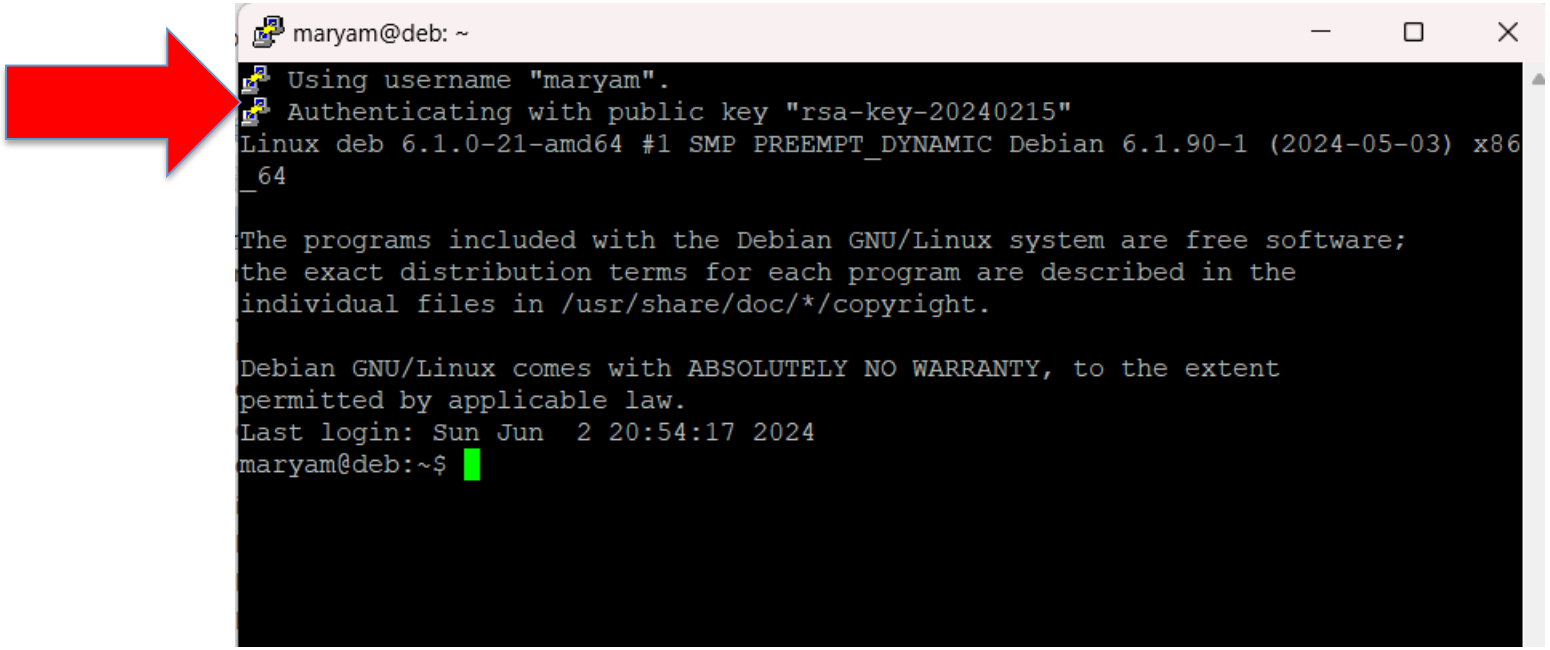
Open the Session Again

- Select the Session



Open the Session to Test it

- Enter Passphrase



End

- Exit PuTTY
- Close WinSCP
- Close PUTTYGen
- Shout down Debian
- Quit VMWare