

This version of GitHub Enterprise was discontinued on 2023-03-15. No patch releases will be made, even for critical security issues. For better performance, improved security, and new features, [upgrade to the latest version of GitHub Enterprise](#). For help with the upgrade, [contact GitHub Enterprise support](#).

Adding a new SSH key to your GitHub account

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You can access and write data in repositories on your GitHub Enterprise Server instance using SSH (Secure Shell Protocol). When you connect via SSH, you authenticate using a private key file on your local machine. For more information, see "[About SSH](#)."

After you generate an SSH key pair, you must add the public key to your GitHub Enterprise Server instance to enable SSH access for your account.

Prerequisites [↗](#)

Before adding a new SSH key to your account on your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, complete the following steps.

- 1 Check for existing SSH keys. For more information, see "[Checking for existing SSH keys](#)."
- 2 Generate a new SSH key and add it to your machine's SSH agent. For more information, see "[Generating a new SSH key and adding it to the ssh-agent](#)."

Adding a new SSH key to your account [↗](#)

After adding a new SSH authentication key to your account on your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, you can reconfigure any local repositories to use SSH. For more information, see "[Managing remote repositories](#)."

1 Copy the SSH public key to your clipboard.

If your SSH public key file has a different name than the example code, modify the filename to match your current setup. When copying your key, don't add any newlines or whitespace.

```
$ pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub  
# Copies the contents of the id_ed25519.pub file to your clipboard
```

Tip: If `pbcopy` isn't working, you can locate the hidden `.ssh` folder, open the file in your favorite text editor, and copy it to your clipboard.

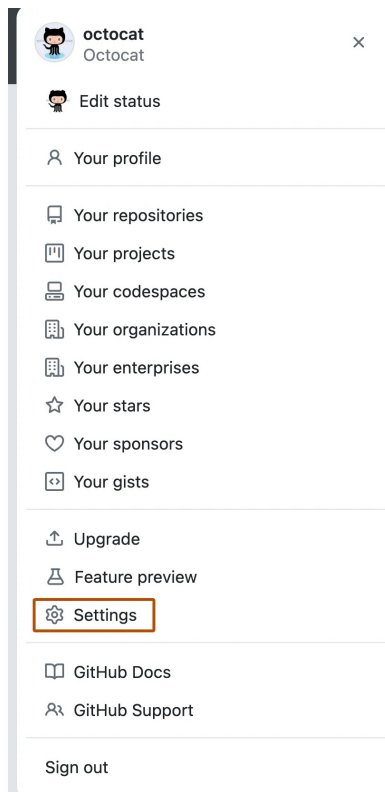
```
$ clip < ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub  
# Copies the contents of the id_ed25519.pub file to your clipboard
```

Tip: With Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL), you can use `clip.exe`. Otherwise if `clip` isn't working, you can locate the hidden `.ssh` folder, open the file in your favorite text editor, and copy it to your clipboard.

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub  
# Then select and copy the contents of the id_ed25519.pub file  
# displayed in the terminal to your clipboard
```

Tip: Alternatively, you can locate the hidden `.ssh` folder, open the file in your favorite text editor, and copy it to your clipboard.

2 In the upper-right corner of any page, click your profile photo, then click **Settings**.



- 3 In the user settings sidebar, click **SSH and GPG keys**.
- 4 Click **New SSH key** or **Add SSH key**.
- 5 In the "Title" field, add a descriptive label for the new key. For example, if you're using a personal laptop, you might call this key "Personal laptop".
- 6 In the "Key" field, paste your public key.
- 7 Click **Add SSH key**.
- 8 If prompted, confirm access to your account on GitHub Enterprise Server. For more information, see "[Sudo mode](#)."

To learn more about GitHub CLI, see "[About GitHub CLI](#)."

Before you can use the GitHub CLI to add an SSH key to your account, you must authenticate to the GitHub CLI. For more information, see [gh auth login](#) in the GitHub CLI documentation.

To add an SSH authentication key to your GitHub account, use the `ssh-key add` subcommand, specifying your public key.

```
gh ssh-key add KEY-FILE
```

To include a title for the new key, use the `-t` or `--title` flag.

```
gh ssh-key add KEY-FILE --title "personal laptop"
```

If you generated your SSH key by following the instructions in "[Generating a new SSH key and adding it to the ssh-agent](#)", you can add the key to your account with this command.

```
gh ssh-key add ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
```

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