OpenSSH Secure remote shell

START HERE

`ssh <user>@<host>`
Log in

`scp <file> <host>:<path>`
Copy a file

`ssh-keygen -t ed25519`
Make a key pair

`ssh -L 8080:localhost:80 <host>`
Forward a port

`ssh-copy-id <user>@<host>`
Install your key

`ssh -J <jump> <host>`
Hop via a bastion

`ssh <host> <command>`
Run one command

`ssh-add`
Load key into agent

Client ssh + ssh-agent — encrypted → **Jump host** optional bastion — forwarded → **Server** sshd, authorized_keys

CONCEPTS

Put per-host settings in ~/.ssh/config so a long command becomes just: ssh <alias>.

Keep the private key secret; only the .pub file ever leaves your machine.

ssh ignores private keys and config files that other users can write or read; use chmod 600 ~/.ssh/id_* and chmod 700 ~/.ssh.

CONNECT

`ssh <user>@<host>`
Log in to a host

`ssh <host>`
Log in as your local user name

`ssh -p <port> <user>@<host>`
Use a non-default port

`ssh <host> <command>`
Run a command and return

`ssh -i <keyfile> <host>`
Pick a specific private key

`ssh -t <host> <command>`
Force a terminal (sudo, top, tmux)

`ssh -v <host>`
Show debug output (up to -vvv)

`ssh -o <Option>=<value> <host>`
Set a config option for this run

`ssh -C <host>`
Compress the connection

`ssh -q <host>`
Suppress warnings

`ssh -E <logfile> -v <host>`
Write debug output to a file

KEYS

`ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "<comment>"`
Generate an Ed25519 key pair

`ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096`
Generate an RSA key (legacy servers)

`ssh-copy-id <user>@<host>`
Install your public key on a host

`ssh-keygen -p -f <keyfile>`
Change a key's passphrase

`ssh-keygen -y -f <keyfile>`
Print the public key of a private key

`ssh-keygen -l -f <keyfile>`
Show a key's fingerprint

KEYS (cont.)

`ssh-keygen -R <host>`
Forget a host in known_hosts
Use after a server is rebuilt and ssh warns that the host key changed.

`ssh-keyscan <host>`
Fetch a host's public keys

`ssh-keygen -F <host>`
Find a host in known_hosts

`ssh -Q key`
List supported key types

AGENT

`eval "$(ssh-agent)"`
Start an agent in this shell

`ssh-add`
Add the default key to the agent

`ssh-add <keyfile>`
Add a specific key

`ssh-add -l`
List loaded keys

`ssh-add -D`
Remove all loaded keys

`ssh-add -t <seconds> <keyfile>`
Load a key with a lifetime

`ssh -A <host>`
Forward your agent to the host
The remote admin can use your agent while connected. Prefer -J for hops.

`ssh -a <host>`
Disable agent forwarding

COPY FILES

`scp <file> <user>@<host>:<path>`
Upload a file

`scp <user>@<host>:<path> <dir>`
Download a file

`scp -r <dir> <host>:<path>`
Copy a directory

`scp -P <port> <file> <host>:<path>`
Use another port (capital P)

`scp -J <jump> <file> <host>:<path>`
Copy via a jump host

`sftp <user>@<host>`
Interactive file transfer session

`ssh <host> "cat <file>" > <local>`
Stream a remote file

TUNNELS

`ssh -L <lport>:<dest>:<dport> <host>`
Local forward: reach dest via host
Example: ssh -L 5433:db.internal:5432 bastion, then connect to localhost:5433.

`ssh -R <rport>:<dest>:<dport> <host>`
Remote forward: expose a local port on host

`ssh -D <port> <host>`
Open a local SOCKS proxy

`ssh -N <host>`
Forward only, run no command

`ssh -f -N -L <lport>:<dest>:<dport> <host>`
Tunnel in the background

`ssh -J <jump> <host>`
Connect through a jump host

`ssh -J <jump1>,<jump2> <host>`
Chain several jump hosts

`ssh -W <dest>:<port> <host>`
Pipe stdin/stdout to dest via host

`ssh -X <host>`
Forward X11 graphical apps

CONFIG

`ssh -F <file> <host>`
Use another config file

`ssh -G <host>`
Print the effective settings

`Host <alias>`
Start a config block

`HostName <name-or-ip>`
Real address of the alias

`User <user>`
Default login name

`Port <port>`
Default port

`IdentityFile <path>`
Key to use for this host

`IdentitiesOnly yes`
Offer only the listed key
Stops the agent from offering many keys and tripping the server's attempt limit.

`ProxyJump <jump>`
Always hop via this host

`ForwardAgent yes`
Forward the agent for this host

`LocalForward <lport> <dest>:<dport>`
Config form of -L

CONFIG (cont.)

`ServerAliveInterval 60`
Send keepalives every 60 s

`AddKeysToAgent yes`
Auto-add keys on first use

`Host *`
Defaults for every host

MULTIPLEXING

`ControlMaster auto`
Share one connection per host

`ControlPath ~/.ssh/cm-%r@%h:%p`
Socket path for shared connections

`ControlPersist 10m`
Keep master alive after logout

`ssh -O check <host>`
Is the master running?

`ssh -O exit <host>`
Close the master connection

ESCAPE KEYS

`Enter ~.`
Kill a hung session
Works only at the start of a line, in a session with a terminal.

`Enter ~?`
List escape sequences

`Enter ~#`
List forwarded connections

`Enter ~C`
Add a forward on the fly

`Enter ~^Z`
Suspend ssh to the shell

RECIPES

Host entry with a jump host

```
# ~/.ssh/config
Host db
  HostName db.internal
  User deploy
  ProxyJump bastion
  IdentityFile ~/.ssh/
id_ed25519
  ServerAliveInterval 60
```

First-time key login

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519
ssh-copy-id <user>@<host>
ssh <user>@<host>
```

Reach a remote database locally

```
ssh -f -N -L
5433:localhost:5432 <host>
psql -h localhost -p 5433 <db>
# stop: pkill -f "ssh -f -N -L
5433"
```

Fast repeated connections

```
Host *
  ControlMaster auto
  ControlPath ~/.ssh/cm-%r@%h:
%p
  ControlPersist 10m
```