sshfs Mount over SSH

CONCEPTS

sshfs speaks SFTP over a normal ssh login: if ssh <host> works, sshfs <host>: <dir> works. Run it as your own user, not root.

Your programs ls, cp, editor
↓ FUSE
sshfs local mountpoint
↓ ssh + sftp
sftp-server on the remote host
↓ disk
Remote dir /srv/data

MOUNT AND UNMOUNT

`sshfs <user>@<host>:<dir> <mountpoint>`
Mount a remote directory

`sshfs <host>: <mountpoint>`
Mount the remote home directory

`fusermount3 -u <mountpoint>`
Unmount (Linux)

`umount <mountpoint>`
Unmount on macOS and BSD

`sshfs -p <port> <host>: <mountpoint>`
Use a non-default SSH port

`sshfs -o IdentityFile=<key> <host>: <mountpoint>`
Pick the key to log in with

`sshfs -F <ssh_config> <host>: <mountpoint>`
Use another ssh config file

`sshfs -o ro <host>: <mountpoint>`
Mount read-only

`sshfs -C <host>: <mountpoint>`
Compress traffic (slow links)

`findmnt -t fuse.sshfs`
List active sshfs mounts

`sshfs -f <host>: <mountpoint>`
Stay in the foreground

`sshfs -d <host>: <mountpoint>`
Debug output (implies -f)

`sshfs -o delay_connect <host>: <mountpoint>`
Connect on first access

MOUNT AND UNMOUNT (cont.)

`fusermount3 -uz <mountpoint>`
Lazy unmount a busy mount

`sshfs -V`
Show sshfs and FUSE versions

RECONNECT AND HANGS

`sshfs -o reconnect,ServerAliveInterval=15 <host>: <mountpoint>`
Recover after the link drops

`sshfs -o ServerAliveInterval=15,ServerAliveCountMax=3 <host>: <mountpoint>`
Drop a dead connection after ~45 s

`pkill -f 'sshfs.*<mountpoint>'`
Kill a hung sshfs, freeing stuck programs

A frozen mount (ls hangs, cd stalls) usually means a dead connection with no keepalive: set ServerAliveInterval together with reconnect.

PERMISSIONS AND SYMLINKS

`sshfs -o allow_other <host>: <mountpoint>`
Let other local users use the mount

`sshfs -o allow_other,default_permissions <host>: <mountpoint>`
Enforce file modes locally too

`sshfs -o idmap=user <host>: <mountpoint>`
Map remote user's IDs to yours

`sshfs -o uid=<n>,gid=<n> <host>: <mountpoint>`
Show files as owned by this uid/gid

`sshfs -o follow_symlinks <host>: <mountpoint>`
Show remote symlinks as real files

`sshfs -o transform_symlinks <host>: <mountpoint>`
Rewrite absolute links as relative

SPEED AND CACHING

`sshfs -o dcache_timeout=<s> <host>: <mountpoint>`
Cache directory data longer (default 20 s)

`sshfs -o dir_cache=no <host>: <mountpoint>`
Always ask the server for fresh listings

`sshfs -o auto_cache <host>: <mountpoint>`
Reuse cached files until mtime changes

`sshfs -o workaround=rename <host>: <mountpoint>`
Allow mv over an existing file

Chatty workloads (git status, builds, find) are slow over sshfs: raise dcache_timeout, or work on the remote host directly.

MOUNTING AT BOOT

`sudo mount <mountpoint>`
Mount an fstab entry by mount point

`mkdir -p <mountpoint>`
Create the mountpoint first

fstab line

```
<user>@<host>:<dir> <mountpoint>
fuse.sshfs \
  _netdev,reconnect,
ServerAliveInterval=15,
IdentityFile=<key> 0 0
# one line in the real file
```

fstab mounts run as root, so give an absolute IdentityFile path that root can read, and accept the host key once as root first.

RECIPES

Mount a server for the day

```
mkdir -p ~/mnt/box
sshfs -o
reconnect,ServerAliveInterval=15
<user>@<host>:/srv/data ~/mnt/box
ls ~/mnt/box
fusermount3 -u ~/mnt/box
```

Read-only mount on a custom port

```
mkdir -p ~/mnt/logs
sshfs -p 2222 -o
ro,IdentityFile=~/.ssh/id_ed25519
<host>:/var/log ~/mnt/logs
```