

Generating SSH Key in OSX

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Keywords

ssh, osx, rsa

Symptom (public)

I am unable to ssh into Linux hosts that are Managed by Lightspeed from my Macintosh laptop/desktop.

Problem (public)

For enhanced security, all Lightspeed hosts both in On-Demand and On-Premise do not support passwords. In order to be granted ssh access, you need to have an up-to-date ssh public key installed into the host you are connecting to that is paired with the ssh private key you have installed in the device you are connecting from (laptop/tablet/phone)

Solution (public)

Manually generating your SSH key in macOS Modified: 19 Apr 2018 15:48 UTC

You generate an SSH key through macOS by using the Terminal application. Once you upload a valid public SSH key, the Triton Compute Service uses SmartLogin to copy the public key to any new SmartMachine you provision.

[1]About Terminal

Terminal is the terminal emulator which provides a text-based command line interface to the Unix shell of macOS.

To open the macOS Terminal, follow these steps:

- In Finder, choose Utilities from the Applications folder.
- Find Terminal in the Utilities listw.
- Open Terminal.

The Terminal window opens with the commandline prompt displaying the name of your machine and your username.

[2]Generating an SSH key

An SSH key consists of a pair of files. One is the private key, which should never be shared with anyone. The other is the public key. The other file is a public key which allows you to log into the containers and VMs you provision. When you generate the keys, you will use ssh-keygen to store the keys in a safe location so you can bypass the login prompt when connecting to your instances.

To generate SSH keys in macOS, follow these steps:

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Enter the following command in the Terminal window.

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa
```

This starts the key generation process. When you execute this command, the ssh-keygen utility prompts you to indicate where to store the key.

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Press the ENTER key to accept the default location. The ssh-keygen utility prompts you for a passphrase.

- Type in a passphrase. You can also hit the ENTER key to accept the default (no passphrase). However, this is not recommended.

You will need to enter the passphrase a second time to continue.

After you confirm the passphrase, the system generates the key pair.

Your identification has been saved in /Users/myname/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /Users/myname/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.

The key fingerprint is:

```
ae:89:72:0b:85:da:5a:f4:7c:1f:c2:43:fd:c6:44:38 myname@mymac.local
```

The key's randomart image is:

```
+--[ RSA 2048 ]----+
```

```
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| E . |  
|
```

```
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| + + o . + |
|. + o = o + |
| o...o * o |
|. oo.o . |
+-----+
```

Your private key is saved to the `id_rsa` file in the `.ssh` directory and is used to verify the public key you use belongs to the same Triton Compute Service account.

Never share your private key with anyone!

Your public key is saved to the `id_rsa.pub` file and is the key you upload to your Triton Compute Service account. You can save this key to the clipboard by running this:

```
pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

Interim installation

Until the customer ssh portal is complete, we will install the key for you. Paste that into an email to helpdesk@lightspeed.com.sg indicating which host you need access to and we'll get that installed in a jiffy.

[1] <https://docs.joyent.com/public-cloud/getting-started/ssh-keys/generating-an-ssh-key-manually/manually-generating-your-ssh-key-in-mac-os-x#about-terminal>

[2] <https://docs.joyent.com/public-cloud/getting-started/ssh-keys/generating-an-ssh-key-manually/manually-generating-your-ssh-key-in-mac-os-x#generating-an-ssh-key>