

Using SSH to Login and Copy Files

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Introduction

Logins and file transfers to the Shared Computing Resources are accomplished by using SSH. The following describes how to use SSH on a Unix or Linux system to login to these systems from on campus and how to use SCP to transfer files. All of the instructions below assume that you are logging in to these systems from on campus.



You must apply for an account.

If you do not have an account on the Shared Computing Resources then you should [apply for one](#). You will need a faculty sponsor for your account who is willing to pay the [access fee](#).

How to Login with SSH

The following are valid SSH commands that can be used to login:

```
$ ssh username@hostname.rice.edu  
  
$ ssh hostname.rice.edu -l username
```

Substitute the hostname of the system you are logging in to in place of `hostname.rice.edu` and substitute your username in place of `username`.

The very first time you login, you will receive the following reply from SSH:

```
[anyuser@anyhost ~]$ ssh hostname.rice.edu  
The authenticity of host 'hostname.rice.edu (128.42.60.102)' can't be established.  
DSA key fingerprint is 65:fe:78:0d:7e:6e:a3:9c:ec:63:cb:ae:7c:f6:40:4d.  
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes  
Warning: Permanently added 'hostname.rice.edu,128.42.60.102' (DSA) to the list of  
known hosts.  
username@hostname.rice.edu's password:
```

Future attempts to login will only result in you being prompted for your password unless you are using a different desktop system. Each time you change to a different desktop system, you will be greeted with this message from SSH.

How to Transfer Files with SCP

In order to transfer files from your Linux or Unix desktop, use the `scp` (Secure Copy) command which is a component of SSH. The following example will transfer files from your desktop to your home directory on the remote system:

```
[anyuser@anyhost ~]$ scp filename username@hostname.rice.edu:
username@hostname.rice.edu's password:
filename                               100%  889      0.9KB/s   00:00
```

Substitute the hostname of the system you are logging in to in place of hostname.rice.edu and substitute your username in place of username.

After you enter your password, scp will display a list of all files transferred along with their size and transfer speed.

How to Login or Transfer Files from Off-Campus

Direct logins and file transfers from off-campus are not allowed. Please see our [Off-Campus Access FAQ](#) for details on connecting from off-campus.

Using SSH on Mac or Windows

The OS X operating system on the Mac already has SSH as part of its default installation and will work the same way as described above from a terminal window. A [Setting up SSH on Windows](#) can be found here. The Windows version of SSH is a graphical program, not command line oriented like the examples above. It contains a Secure Shell Client for logins and a Secure Shell File Transfer program which is a substitute for scp.