CHEAT SH

SSH Essentials Cheatsheet A comprehensive guide to SSH (Secure Shell) commands, configuration, and usage scenarios, covering basic connections, key management, port forwarding, and more. This cheat sheet provides a quick reference for both beginners and experienced users.



Basic SSH Usage

Connecting to a Remote Server

SSH Configuration File (~/.ssh/config)

| ssh user@host | Connects to the specified host as the given user. Example: ssh john.doe@example.com | The -/.ssh/config file allows yo settings for SSH connections. Example: |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| ssh -p port user@host | Connects to the host on a specific port. Example: ssh -p 2222 john.doe@example.com | Host example HostName example.com User john.doe Port 2222 |
| ssh -i private_key user@host | Connects using a specific private key file. Example: ssh -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa john.doe@example.com | IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa Now you can simply use ssh exam connect. |
| ssh -v user@host | Verbose mode, useful for debugging connection issues. | |
| ssh -T user@host command | Execute a single command on the remote host without opening a shell. Example: ssh -T john.doe@example.com uptime | |
| ssh -q user@host | Quiet mode, suppresses most warning and diagnostic messages. | |

~/.ssh/config file allows you to define tings for SSH connections. ample: ost example HostName example.com User john.doe Port 2222

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Common SSH Options

| ng ProxyComm and | (ask)). Command to use to connect to the server. |
|-------------------------|---|
| StrictHos tKeyChecki | Controls how SSH handles unknown host keys (yes, no, |
| IdentityF ile | Specifies the private key file for authentication. |
| Port | The port number to connect to (default is 22). |
| User | The username to use for the connection. |
| HostName | The actual hostname or IP address of the server. |

Key Management

Generating SSH Keys

Copying Keys to Remote Servers

Key Security

| ssh- keygen | Generates a new SSH key pair (private and public key). Example: ssh-keygen -t rsa -b | ssh-copy-id user@host | Copies your public key to the remote server's ~/.ssh/authorized_ke ys file. | Always protect your private key. Ensure it has appropriate permissions (e.g., chmod 600 ~/.ssh/id_rsa). Never share your private key with anyone. |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | 4096 -C "your_email@example.com" | | Example: ssh-copy-id | Use a strong passphrase when generating your SSH key. This adds an extra layer of security. |
| ssh-keygen -t ed25519 | Generates a new Ed25519 SSH key pair (private and public key). | cat | Alternative method to copy the public key | |
| | Example: ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "your_email@example.com" | <pre>~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub ssh user@host 'mkdir -p ~/.ssh && cat >></pre> | manually. | |
| ssh-keygen -t rsa -b | Generates a new RSA SSH key pair with 4096 bits. | ~/.ssh/authorized_k eys' | | |
| 4096 | | pbcopy < | Copy the public key to | |
| ssh-keygen -f keyfile | Creates a key without prompting. | ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub | clipboard. | |

Port Forwarding

Local Port Forwarding

Remote Port Forwarding

SCP (Secure Copy)

| <pre>ssh -L local_port :host:remo te_port user@ssh_s erver</pre> | Forwards traffic from local_port on your machine to remote_port on host as seen from ssh_server. Example: ssh -L 8080:localhost:80 john.doe@example.com (Access the web server on example.com via localhost:8080 on your machine). | <pre>ssh -R remote_por t:host:loc al_port user@ssh_s erver</pre> | Forwards traffic from remote_port on ssh_server to local_port on host as seen from your machine. Example: ssh -R 9000:localhost:3000 john.doe@example.com (Someone connecting to example.com:9000 will be forwarded to your machine's port 3000). | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| ssh -L 8080:192.1 68.1.10:80 john.doe@e xample.co m | Access the web server on 192.168.1.10 on your machine. | | | C |

Dynamic Port Forwarding (SOCKS Proxy)

| ssh -D local_por t user@ssh_ server | Creates a SOCKS proxy on local_port on your machine, routing all traffic through ssh_server. Example: ssh -D 1080 john.doe@example.com (Configure your browser to use localhost:1080 as a SOCKS proxy). |
|---|---|
| ssh -N - D 1080 user@ssh_ server | Background the process and don't execute a remote command. |

Common Options

- -f: Requests ssh to go to background after authentication.

Advanced SSH Usage

Executing Commands Remotely

ssh Executes a single command on scp file Copies a file to a remote host. the remote host. user@host user@host:des Example: scp myfile.txt 'command' tination Example: ssh john.doe@example.com:/home/ john.doe@example.com 'df john.doe/ h' (Shows disk space usage on Copies a file from a remote scp the remote server). user@host:fil host. ssh Executes multiple commands е Example: scp user@host << using a 'here document'. destination john.doe@example.com:/home/ EOF command1 Example: john.doe/myfile.txt . command2 EOF ssh john.doe@example.com scp -r Copies a directory recursively to a remote host. << E0F directory user@host:des mkdir test_dir Example: scp -r mydirectory tination cd test_dir john.doe@example.com:/home/ pwd john.doe/ EOF Copies a file from a remote scp -P port host on a specific port. user@host:fil Execute a shell script. ssh е user@host Example: scp -P 2222 Example: ssh destination bash -s < john.doe@example.com:/home/ john.doe@example.com bash -s script.sh john.doe/myfile.txt . < script.sh

SSH Agent Forwarding

| ssh -A user@ho st | Enables agent forwarding, allowing you to use your local SSH keys on the remote server for further connections. Use with caution, as it can pose a security risk. |
|---|---|
| | Note: Ensure ForwardAgent yes is in your ~/.ssh/config or the server's /etc/ssh/ssh_config. |
| ssh -o Forward Agent=y es user@ho st | Enables agent forwarding, allowing you to use your local SSH keys on the remote server for further connections. Use with caution, as it can pose a security risk. |

Mosh (Mobile Shell)

Mosh is a mobile shell that provides a more robust and responsive connection, especially over unreliable networks. It tolerates intermittent connectivity and IP address changes.

Basic Usage:

- Install mosh on both your local machine and the remote server.
- 2. mosh user@host