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Adding SSH Keys in cPanel

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Overview:

Creating an SSH Key in cPanel and connecting to your server via SSH is a secure way to access your server and perform command-line tasks. By default, our shared web hosting services do not include shell access as part of their package, however, you can request that this be enabled by contacting our <u>Micron21 Support team</u> directly.

Prerequisites:

- 1. Ensure that Shell/SSH access has been enabled for your specific account. You can email our <u>Micron21 Support team</u> and have them enable it on your behalf.
- 2. Authorise your local IP address using the <u>FTP/SSH Web Authenticator</u>. If you're not sure how this is done, you can <u>review our guide here</u>.

Creating and authorising SSH keys:

Create a new SSH key using the cPanel generator, save the key locally and connect using an SSH application.

- 1. Log into your cPanel hosting service.
- 2. Navigate to the "SSH Access" tool in the "Security" category.
- 3. Click the "Manage SSH Keys" button.
- 4. In the "Manage SSH Keys" page, click on the "Generate a New Key" button.
- 5. Fill in the required information to generate the key.
 - 1. Key Name: Default is id_rsa.
 - 2. **Key Password:** Set a strong password for the key, and save it in a secure place.
 - 3. **Re-enter Password:** Re-type the password you set.
 - 4. Key Type: RSA or DSA if unsure, leave this as the default.
 - 5. Key Size: We recommend 2048 (or 4096 where possible).
- Click "Generate key", this will generate the public and private key combination and save it to the following path:

Your identification will be saved in /home/USER/.ssh/KEYNAME.

Your public key will be saved in /home/USER/.ssh/KEYNAME.pub.

- 7. Authorise your key by clicking "**Go Back**" or navigating to the "**Manage SSH Keys**" page again.
- 8. Under "**public Keys**" click manage on the new key you created then click "**Authorize**".
- 9. Navigate to the file using the "**File Manager**" tool in cPanel, you will need to show hidden files as the directory is a dotfile.
- Download the **private Key** and save it in a secure location on your local machine. (Right-click the file and select download).

Connecting to the server by SSH:

- 1. Open your SSH connection application, such as puTTY or Windows Terminal, on your local computer.
 - 1. The default for windows devices: Command Prompt.
 - 2. The default for Mac: Devices Terminal.
- Type the command ssh username@yourdomain.com -i /path/to/privatekey and press enter.
 - 1. The username will be your primary cPanel username.
- 3. If prompted, enter the passphrase for the private key.
- 4. You should now be connected to the server via SSH and can perform command-line tasks.