

How to Configure OpenVMS Host-Based Authentication (OpenSSH to OpenSSH)

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1. How to Configure OpenVMS Host-Based Authentication (OpenSSH to OpenSSH)

Applies to: OpenSSH G Kit or later

This document describes how to configure SSH host-based authentication between two OpenVMS systems running OpenSSH.

The procedure covers the required client and server configuration changes, including enabling host-based authentication, exchanging and registering host keys, configuring trusted hosts, and updating the TCP/IP hosts database.

 Note

The examples in this document were verified using OpenSSH V8.9-1G.

2. Procedure

2.1 Configure SSH Client

Edit `SSH$ROOT:[ETC]SSH_CONFIG` and enable the following parameters by setting them to `yes`:

```
HostbasedAuthentication yes
EnableSSHKeysign yes
```

Ensure the following entry is also present in `SSH_CONFIG`, if not add it:

```
HostbasedAcceptedAlgorithms ssh-rsa,ssh-dss
```

2.2 Server Configuration

1. Create a copy of the client host public key so that the server's host key is not overwritten.

```
CLIENT$ COPY SSH_HOST_RSA_KEY.PUB TESTPUBKEY.PUB
```

Transfer the file to the server using SFTP.

```
$ SFTP server
```

```
sftp> CD /SSH$ROOT/ETC
sftp> PUT TESTPUBKEY.PUB
sftp> EXIT
```

2. Edit `SSH$ROOT:[ETC]SSHD_CONFIG` and enable the following settings:

```
UseDNS yes
HostbasedAuthentication yes
```

Create or update `SSH_KNOWN_HOSTS` using the transferred host key:

```
$ APPEND TESTPUBKEY.PUB SSH_KNOWN_HOSTS.
```

or

```
$ RENAME TESTPUBKEY.PUB SSH_KNOWN_HOSTS.
```

Edit `SSH_KNOWN_HOSTS` and prepend the client's FQDN and IP address:

```
$ EDIT SSH_KNOWN_HOSTS
client.my.domain.com,10.10.118.7 ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAAB...
```

2.3 Host-Based Trust Configuration and Troubleshooting

Create SHOSTS.EQUIV:

```
client.my.domain.com
10.10.118.7
```

Add the client to the TCP/IP hosts database:

```
$ TCPIP SET HOST CLIENT /ADDRESS=10.10.118.7
```

Verify:

```
$ TCPIP SHOW HOST

      LOCAL database

Host address      Host name
-----
10.10.118.7       CLIENT
127.0.0.1         LOCALHOST, localhost
10.10.112.102     SERVER
```

If connection fails, define OPENSSH\$SFTP_PATH process logical. If the setting is required permanently, add it to LOGIN.COM or SYLOGIN.COM so that it is automatically defined at login.

```
$ DEFINE/PROCESS OPENSSH$SFTP_PATH "VMS"
```