THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
Department of Nuclear Engineering

Nuclear Engineering computing seminar

Ondřej Chvála
<ochvala@utk.edu>

Introduction to practical SSH

and a few selected notes regarding computer security

Lecture overview

- Shared/public key cryptography
- Using SSH with keys
- Secure copy SCP
- SSH tips and tricks: per session config, remote execution, output redirection, tunneling, ssh filesystem, SOCKS proxy
- Useful screen command, job control, nohup and disown

The need for secure computing

- **Internet was designed as plain-text based**, since 1960s computers were slow, and the DARPANET lines were physically secured.
  - Security of communication has to be added by the Netizen!
- Now computers are fast, and who knows who is listening.
  - **Encrypt everything**, including hard drives: gadgets with personal information (i.e. SSN in tax returns) get stolen.
  - **Disable FireWire** in BIOS!
- Cryptography can and should be used in general: email reading, web browsing, data storage. Some examples on next slide.
- Telnet & FTP – use clear plain text passwords, clear plain text sessions.
  - Use ssh and scp – encrypted credentials and session data.
  - The problem is much more wide spread, see next slide.

Practical suggestions

- **Common Internet services** such as HTTP (standard port 80, web browsing), POP3 & IMAP (ports 110 & 143, email reading), SMTP (25, email sending), NNTP (119, news reading), and many others send **credentials** (user names and passwords) in **plain text!**
- Make sure you ALWAYS use secure alternatives: HTTPs, POP3s, IMAPs, SMTPs, NNTPs, etc. which run the original protocol over **SSL/TLS**: point to point secured transport layer. Generally they use different ports (443, 995, 993, 465, 563). See /etc/services file on a UNIX box (usha).
- Note regarding Web: Even if passwords are sent encrypted over HTTP (banks, e-shops, and web2.0 such as Facebook) **your session can be hijacked** by anyone on local network or between you and the web server: password changed, money and identity stolen, etc.
  Fortunately HTTPs is often enforced nowadays, but do not bet on it →
- **Install "HTTPs Everywhere" extension in your browser to be sure.**

Interlude: Practical suggestions II

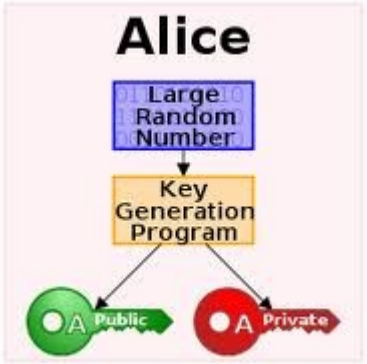
- **No proprietary OS can ever be really secured.**
  - Consider legal and personal repercussions if all sensitive information stored on your machines gets public.
  - This includes: personally identifiable information (i.e. tax returns), export controlled codes & data, trade secrets or classified information you may use for research.
  - You may be a vector for phissing attacks towards national labs, such as you worked for an ORNL employee as a summer inter.
- Anything you share via UTK email, Web based email services, or Web2.0 services (Facebook, Twitter, …) consider as **public**, unless you take precautions such as PGP.
- (Cyber) security approach needs to be appropriate to expected attack vectors. You are prime targets due to nature of your work, research, access, and associations!

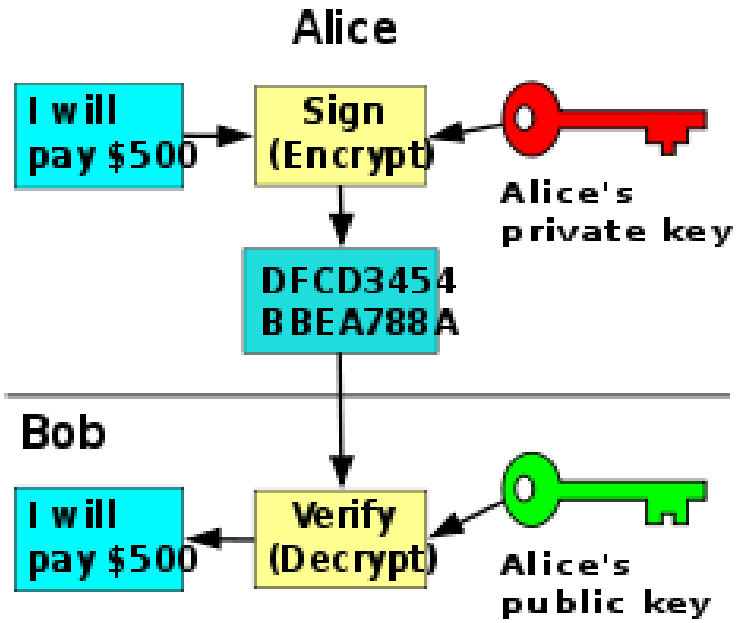
Shared key cryptography

- Both sender and receiver share the same key.
  - The only encryption method publicly available until 1976.
- SKC a.k.a symmetric key cryptography.
  - Block ciphers – blocks of data transformed by algorithm + key.
    - Examples: EAS, DES, 3DES, RC5
  - Stream ciphers – each character in the message is transformed using a pseudo-random cipher digit stream seeded by the key.
    - Examples: RC4, cell phones use A5/1, A5/2, or A5/3

Public key cryptography

- Based on trap-door mathematics a.k.a. one-way functions
  - Described by Stanley Jevons (1835 – 1882) of Jevons paradox
  - Example: factorization of very large numbers, RSA algorithm (1977)
  - Take two large primes P, Q: P*Q => R is trivial, but R => P*Q is hard
- PKC a.k.a asymmetric key cryptography: public & private key pairs
  - Public key encrypts data
  - Private key decrypts data



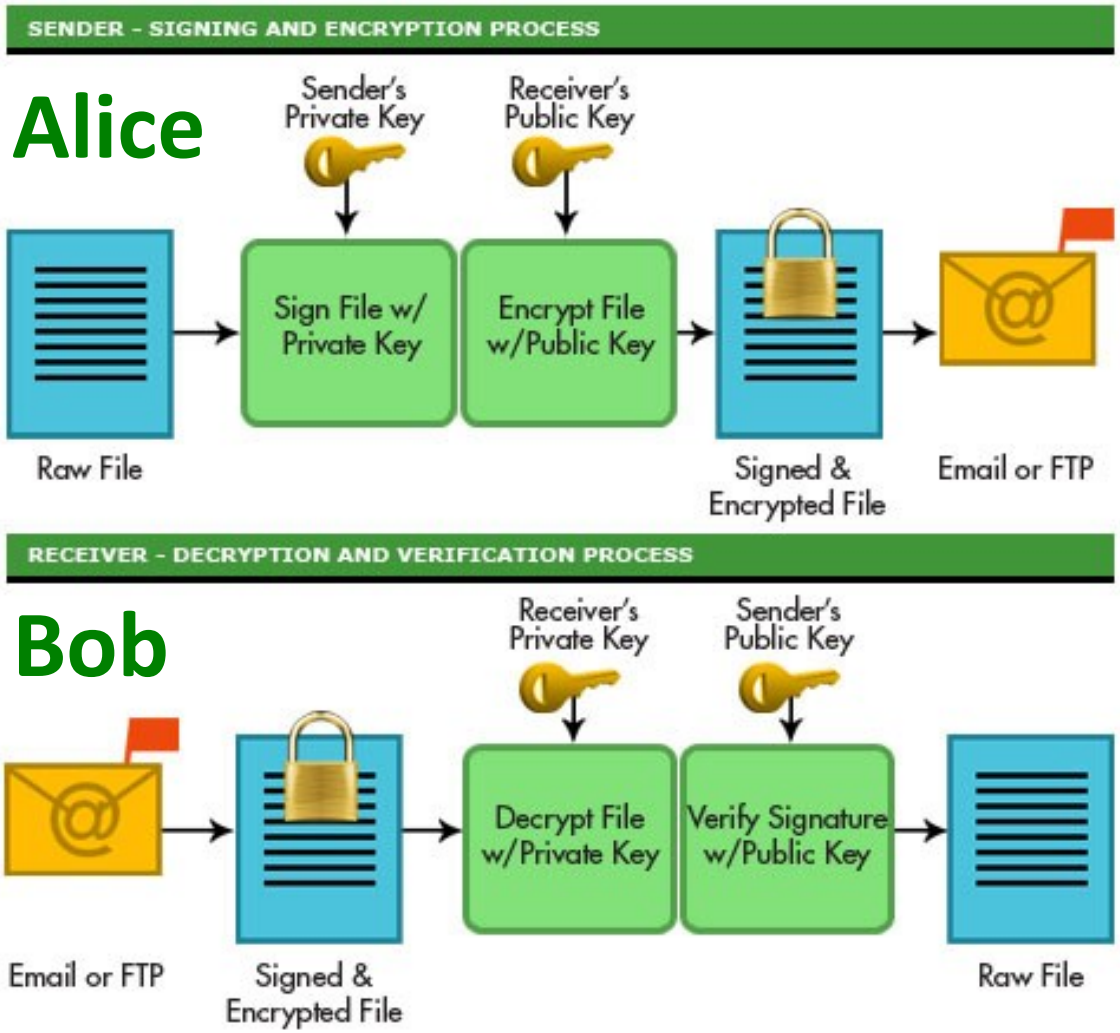


OpenPGP – RFC #4880

- PGP – Pretty Good Privacy, created by Phil Zimmerman in 1991
  - Signing and encrypting with 2 key pairs: encrypt and verify sender

- Sender Alice
  - signs with her private key
  - encrypts with Bob's public key

- Recipient Bob
  - decrypts with his private key
  - verifies sender using Alice's public key



SSH: Secure SHell

- Secure replacement for remote shells, with other benefits:
  - compression, secure file copy, secure remote GUI, port forwarding.
- Server-client architecture: server/daemon on server, client connects.
  - Server listens on TCP port 22 per standard, can be changed.
- Authenticates the session by public key cryptography, generates random shared key for each session, uses the shared key to encrypt the session data (faster).
- 1995: SSH-v1 designed by Tatu Ylönen at Helsinki University in Finland
  - This version is vulnerable, and should be disabled by default.
- 2006: SSH-v2 adopted by IETF as a new standard.
- Most popular implementation is OpenSSH developed by the OpenBSD project.

Connecting to Usha, overview

- Use **ssh client** to connect to an **ssh server**, a daemon on remote box
  - Linux/Mac: ssh command, Windows: PuTTY
- **Generate** public/private key pair on your local machine
  - Linux/Mac: ssh-keygen command, Windows: PuTTYgen
- **Copy** the public key to the remote machine
  - Linux/Mac: scp command, Windows: WinSCP; Filezilla GUI for all OS
- Configure a **shortcut** on your local machine for NEcluster
  - Linux/Mac: edit file ~/.ssh/config, Windows: save session in PuTTY
  - Enable X11 forwarding, Windows: install X11 server

Practical SSH on Linux/Mac

- Simplest connection: *ssh <user>@<machine>*
  - Type password when prompted

For Usha <machine> = **usha.engr.utk.edu**

- NOTE: *man ssh* for command-line options and other tricks

- Problem: one has to remember the password.
  Often either **bad password** (weak or shared with other accounts) or **bad password management** (written on a stick-it note).

Using keys

- Generate key: *ssh-keygen*
  - Generates public & private key pair

```
o@tws ~ $ ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/o/.ssh/id_rsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/o/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/o/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
f0:d5:99:bb:07:4e:ae:42:13:bf:85:8e:c7:35:3b:f6 o@tws
The key's randomart image is:
+--[ RSA 2048]----+
|                 |
|            . o  |
|       .   . +   |
|        o..   .  |
|         So .+   |
|         o o++o  |
|        . = ++o. |
|         o =.+.  |
|          o.. oE |
+-----------------+
o@tws ~ $
```

~/.ssh/id_rsa
Private key – keep on your computer!

~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
Public key – copy over to the computer you want to connect to.

Add into ~/.ssh/authorized_keys on the REMOTE machine (Usha)

NB: See *man ssh-keygen* for options such as key length, changing passphrase, validity intervals, change options related to the key, etc.

Copying files using *scp*

- To copy files: *scp <local_file> <user>@<machine>:<remote_path>*
  or *scp <user>@<machine>:<remote_file> <local_path>*

  NB: dot "." means current directory

  NB: *man scp* for options. Ex.: *-r* copy dir., *-p* preserve attributes

- To copy the public key to usha using scp:

```
o@tws ~ $ scp .ssh/id_rsa.pub ochvala@usha.engr.utk.edu:
id_rsa.pub                    100%  387     0.4KB/s   00:00
o@tws ~ $
```

- Connect to usha, create ~/.ssh/, add id_rsa.pub into file ~/.ssh/authorized_keys

```
ochvala@usha:~$ mkdir .ssh
ochvala@usha:~$ chmod 700 .ssh
ochvala@usha:~$ cat id_rsa.pub >> .ssh/authorized_keys
```

Using keys (2)

- **NB:** Easier way which works with OpenSSH: *ssh-copy-id <user>@<box>*
- After we added the keys, *ssh <user>@<machine>* works without password. Still needs to unlock the key by passphrase.
  (*ssh-agent* can help with that)
- Potential issues with manual copying: access rights: *chmod 700 ~/.ssh*
  - See: *man chmod*

```
ochvala@usha:~$ ls -la .ssh/
total 16
drwx------ 2 ochvala ochvala 4096 Sep  5 16:43 .
drwx------ 7 ochvala ochvala 4096 Sep  5 16:44 ..
-rw-r--r-- 1 ochvala ochvala  387 Sep  5 16:42 authorized_keys
-rw-r--r-- 1 ochvala ochvala  222 Sep  5 16:42 known_hosts
```

- File known_hosts contains public keys of machines you connected to.

ssh-agent

- To keep ssh keys unlocked, i.e. avoid typing passphrases, use *ssh-agent*
- Most distributions start ssh-agent with X session ("GUI"), so you dont need to worry about that. Otherwise run: *ssh-agent bash* to open new shell with ssh-agent wrapped around it.
- To add keys: *ssh-add <private key file>*
  - Options: -l lists keys in memory, -D deletes all identities;
    - *man ssh-add*
- **Agent forwarding – chaining ssh authorization**
  - Laptop (has my private key) → server1 → server2 → … → serverN works as long as each server has the relevant **public key** in ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
  - Magic: ssh daemons running on intermediate machines act as forwarding agents!

Lets make life easy: ~/.ssh/config

- Instead of typing the <user>@<machine> and command line options, place all into **~/.ssh/config** and use a nickname. See: *man ssh_config*

```
Compression yes
ForwardX11 yes
ForwardAgent yes
ForwardX11Trusted yes

Host usha
        HostName usha.engr.utk.edu
        User ochvala
        IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa
Host cl
        HostName necluster.engr.utk.edu
        User ondrejch
        IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa.UTKNEcluster
```

Default options for all sessions

Per-host configurations

- Instead *ssh -XYC ochvala@usha.engr.utk.edu* much simpler: *ssh usha*. Also *scp <local_file> usha:<remote_path>* etc.

Remote execution & I/O redirection

- Run program on a remote machine: *ssh usha <what_to_run>*
  - Example: ssh usha w
- Redirect output: *ssh usha tar -tzf MyArchive.tgz > ListOfFiles.txt*
  - This will list remote archive content into local file.
- Redirect input: *ssh usha tar -xz < LocalArchive.tgz*
  - Extracts LocalArchive.tgz on usha
- Pipes work in and out: *cat myfile.txt | ssh usha lpr*
  - Will print myfile on usha

Mounting remote filesystems via sshfs

- SSH-FS = ssh file system. User-space implementation of file system client over ssh. Works on any system you can ssh to.
- Typically sshfs has to be installed: *sudo apt-get install sshfs*
  - Usha has it. See *man sshfs* for all options.
  - Using: *sshfs <user>@<host>:[remote_path] <mount-directory>*

```
o@usha:~$ mkdir ~/clusterhome
o@usha:~$ sshfs cl: clusterhome
o@usha:~$ df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
rootfs           38G  9.2G   27G  26% /
[..]
/dev/sdc2       107G  1.8G  100G   2% /home
cl:             3.6T  2.2T  1.3T  65% /home/o/clusterhome
```

- Note: user has to be member of fuse group:

  sudo usermod -a -G fuse <username>

X11 forwarding

- If allowed, ssh will automatically create a fake X server, and send all X11 traffic via an encrypted tunnel.

```
ochvala@usha:~$ env | grep DISPLAY
DISPLAY=localhost:13.0
ochvala@usha:~$ gnomine &
```

- These calls will be captured by local X server: voilà, remotely run graphical programs.
- Linux, Mac, *BSD, … come with native Xservers. There are free Xservers for Windows, see previous seminar slides for details.

Local port forwarding

- Say there is an web server behind a firewall at UTK: intranet.utk.edu
- Create a tunnel via usha:
  - *ssh usha -L 8888:intranet.utk.edu:80*
  - Connect to intranet.utk.edu by browsing to http://localhost:8888
- Say you have to connect to unsecure service provider at UTK, such as IMAP (versus IMAPs). You can wrap the connection in an ssh tunnel:
  - *ssh usha -L 8143:unsecure.utk.edu:143*
  - Point your mailer to localhost, port 8143
- In general: ssh <ssh-server> -L <local-port>:<target-box>:<target-port>
- Config file option:

```
Host intranet
HostName usha.engr.utk.edu
LocalForward 8888 intranet.utk.edu:80
```

Remote port forwarding

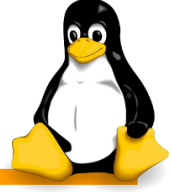
- Inverse situation: how to make a local port available on remote box.
- Say a firewall blocks all incoming connections.
- Create a tunnel at usha, “home” is alias for home machine.
  - *ssh home -R 8889:intranet.utk.edu:80* (executed at usha)
  - This will connect to home machine creating an ssh tunnel, waiting for incoming requests to port 8889 to be re-routed though the tunnel to intranet.utk.edu:80
  - Now you can connect to intranet.utk.edu from home by browsing to http://localhost:8889 (at home)
- Config file option (at usha):

```
Host remote-intranet
HostName home.dyndns.org
RemoteForward 8889 intranet.utk.edu:80
```

Dynamic port forwarding (SOCKS proxy)

- General version of local port forwarding, which maps all ports.
- Useful for connecting to Internet at untrusted network (hotel, mall, …)
- At local machine create dynamic port forward session:
  - *ssh usha -D 9999*
  - At local machine open Firefox, Menu/.../Connection settings
    Manual Proxy Configuration, fill SOCKS fields
    SOCKS Host: localhost
    SOCKS Port: 9999
  - Voilà, browsing via a secure channel (up to usha)!

Notes on port forwarding



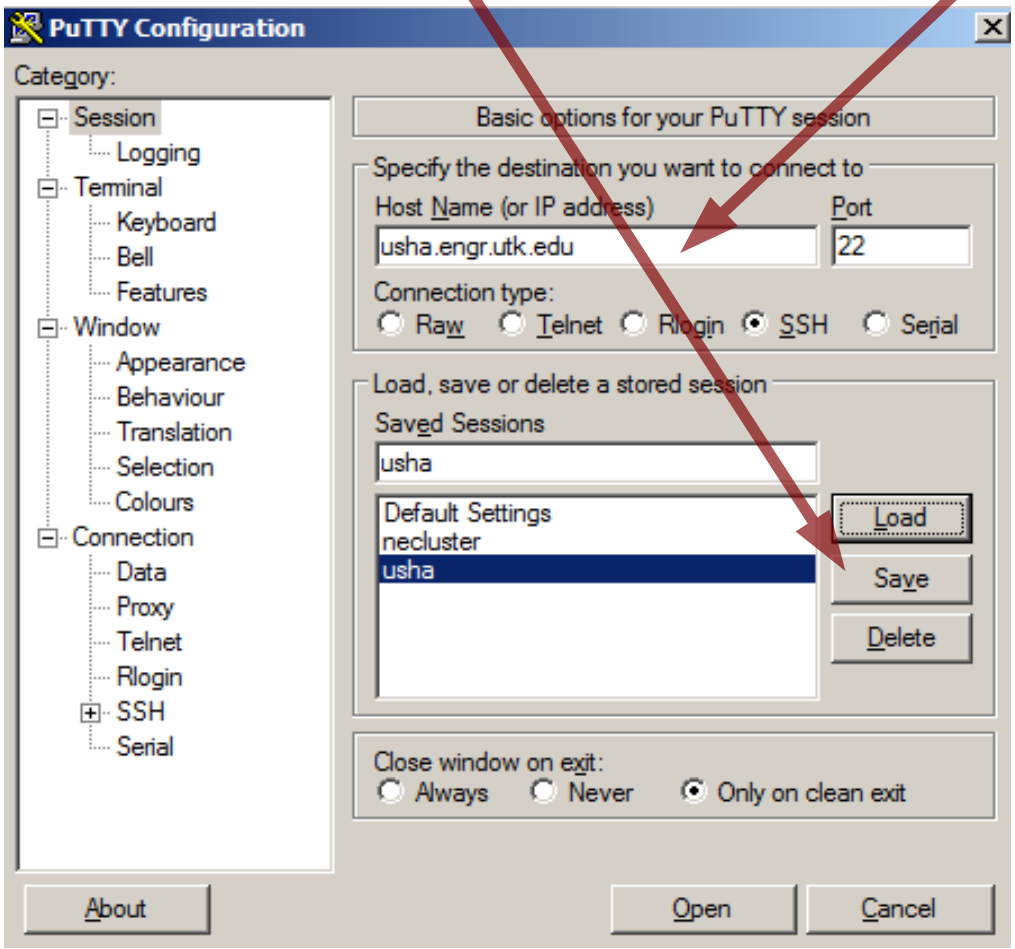
- Usha is used as an example of a machine running the ssh daemon, any other will do as well.

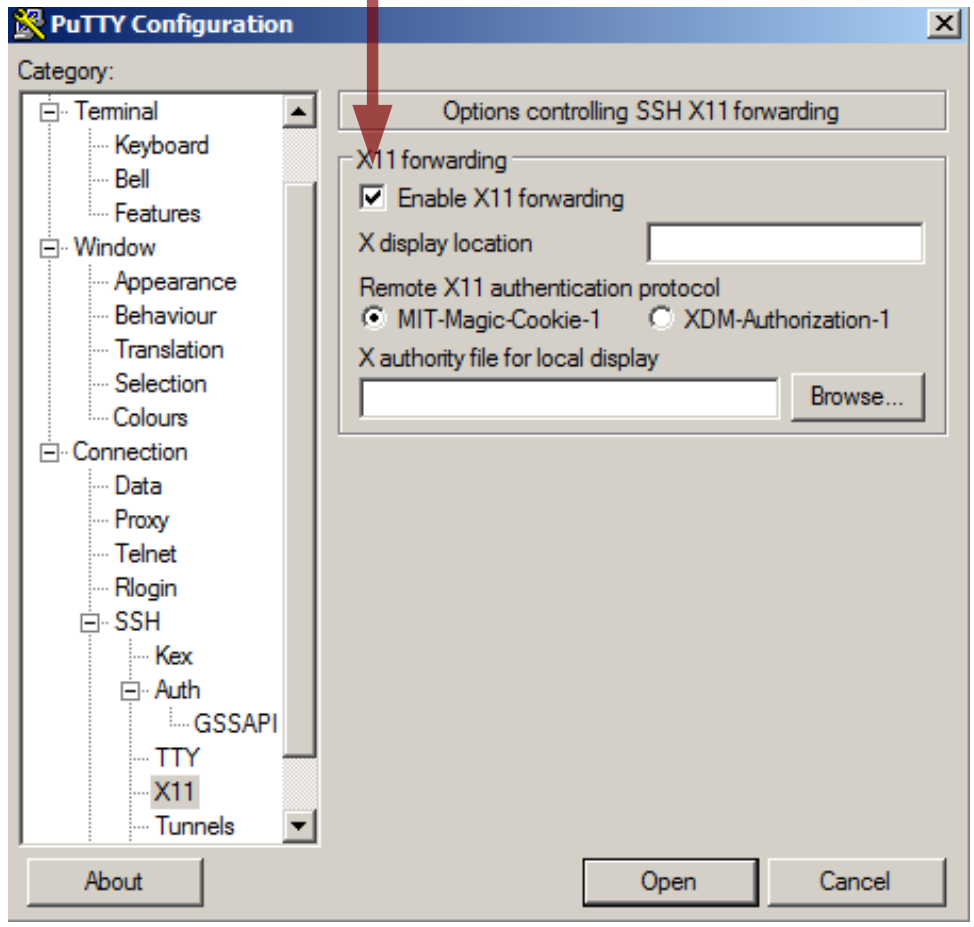
- Port numbers in examples are arbitrary, however:
  - You would need to log in as root if you want services to listen on a port < 1024.
  - Remember to open necessary ports on any firewall between your machine and usha.
  - Unfortunately you can only forward services running on TCP, but there is a way to forward UDP through SSH using netcat.

- **Make sure you are not breaking Acceptable Use Policy or other applicable cybersecurity rules. In particular national labs (ORNL) prohibit punching holes in firewalls, and you will get caught!**

Practical SSH on Windows

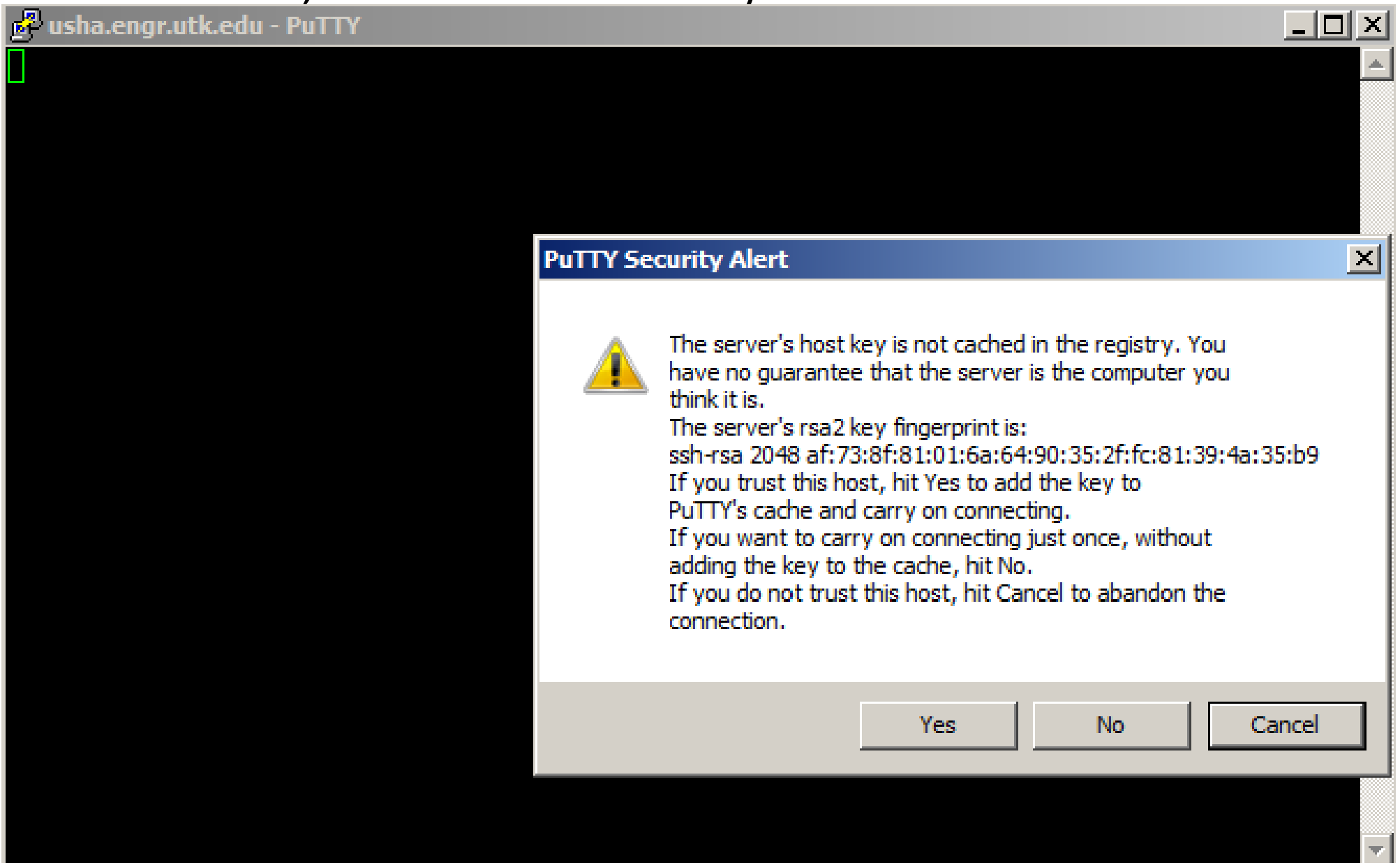
- Download ssh client for Windows named PuTTY: (Google PuTTY)
  http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html
- Put “usha.engr.utk.edu” into Host Name, enable X11 forwarding, save session





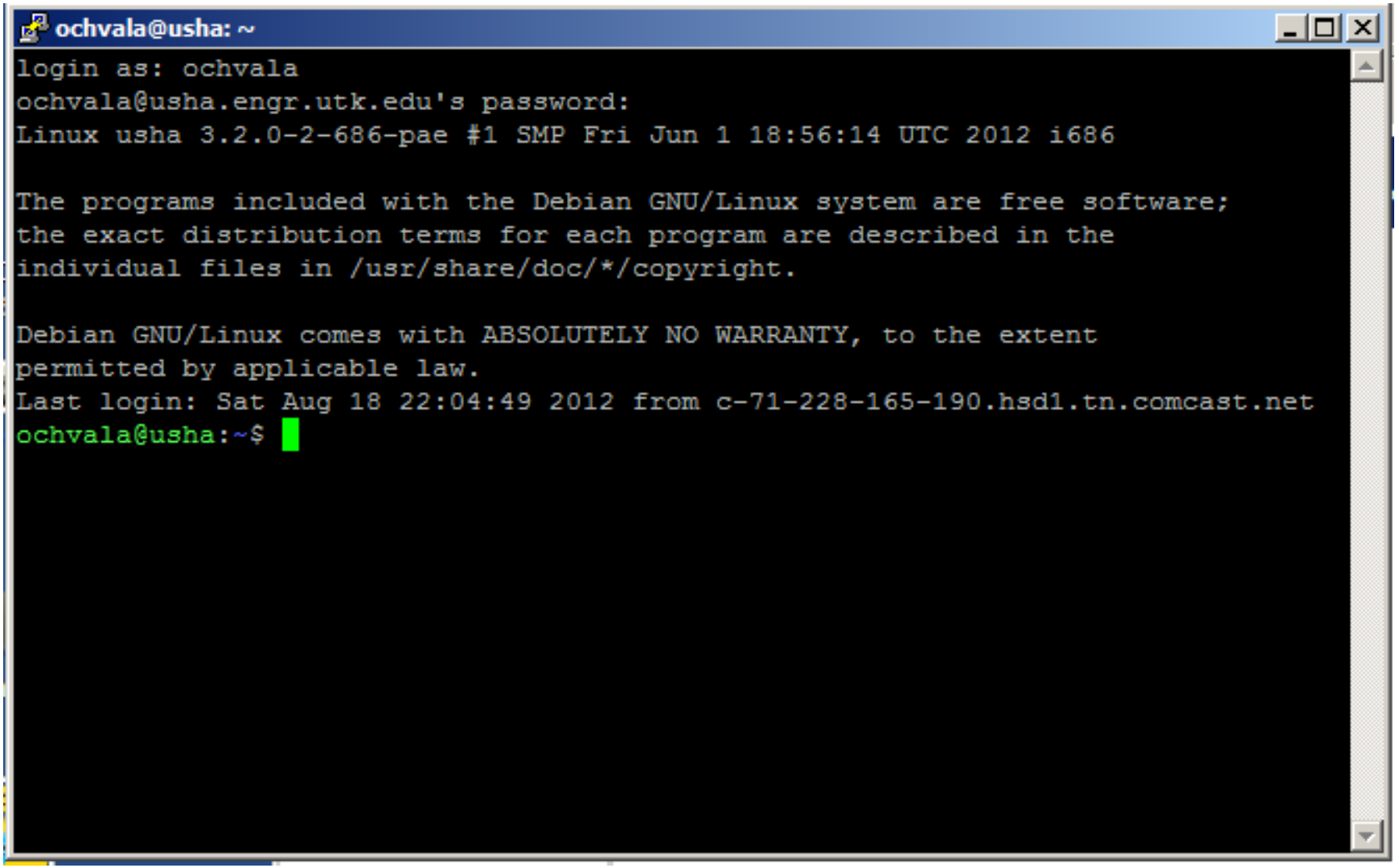
Windows, Connecting to Usha (2)

- Click Connect, confirm ssh server key:



Windows, Connecting to Usha (3)

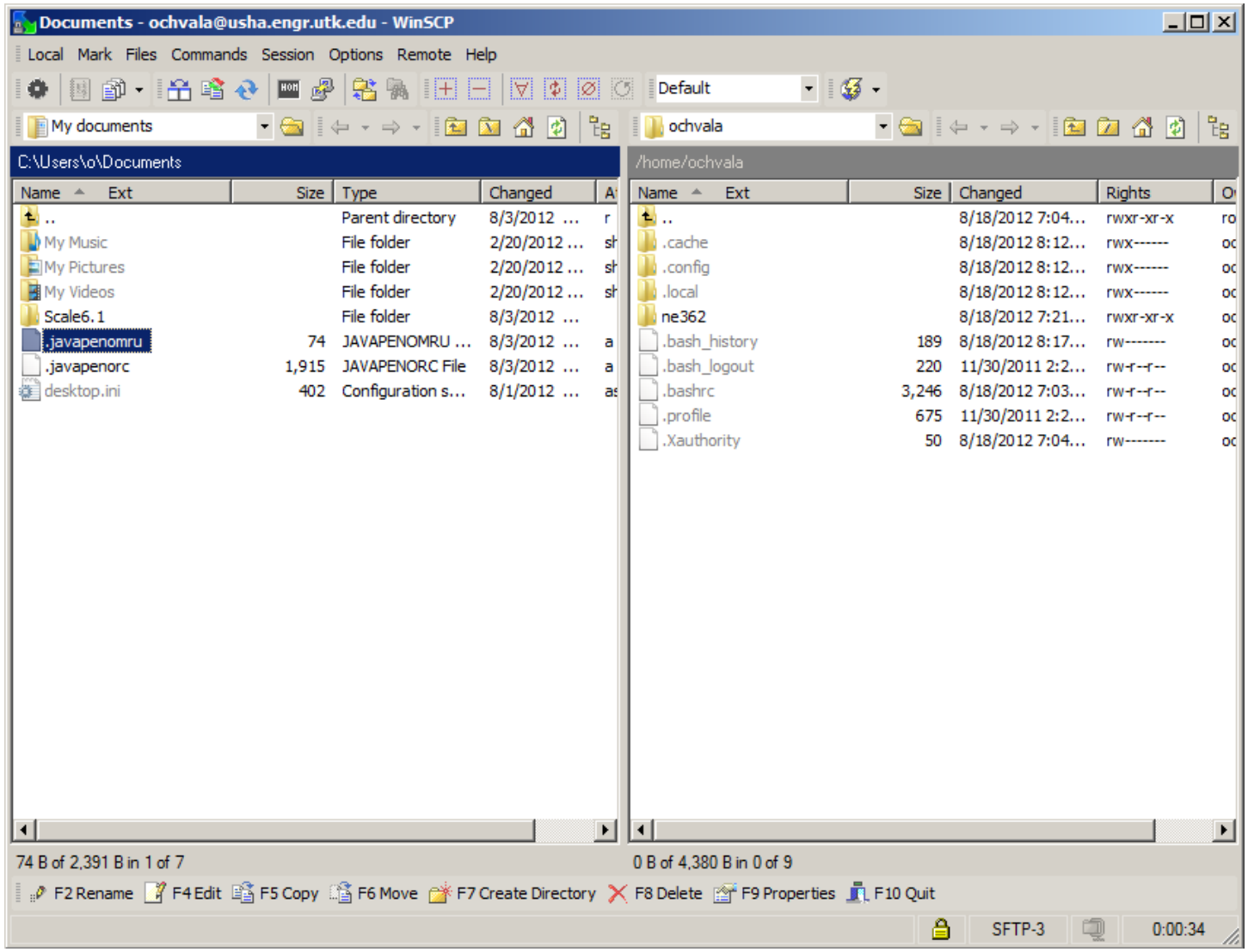
- Type your username and password, and you are in:



- **Change your password using *passwd* command!**

Copying files between Usha and Windows

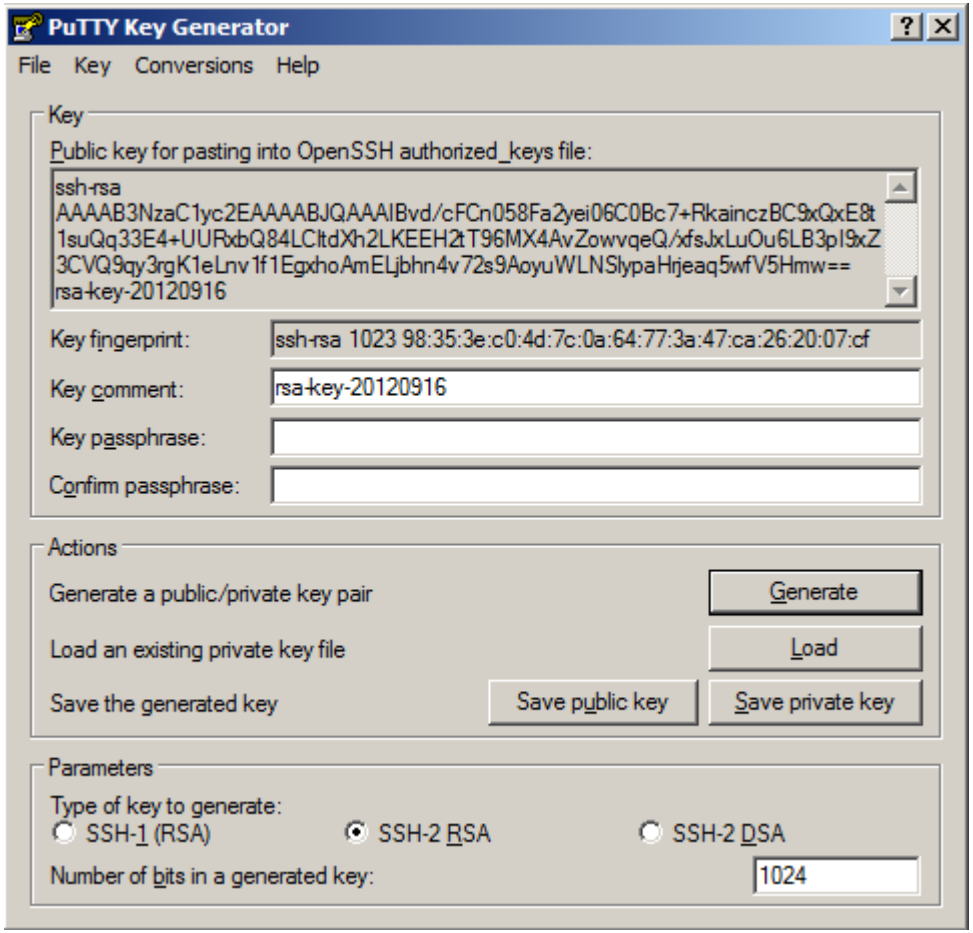
- Use WinSCP http://winscp.net/eng/download.php



- Note: Filezilla is another alternative, works also on Mac and Linux
  http://filezilla-project.org/download.php

Generating ssh keys in Windows: PuTTYgen

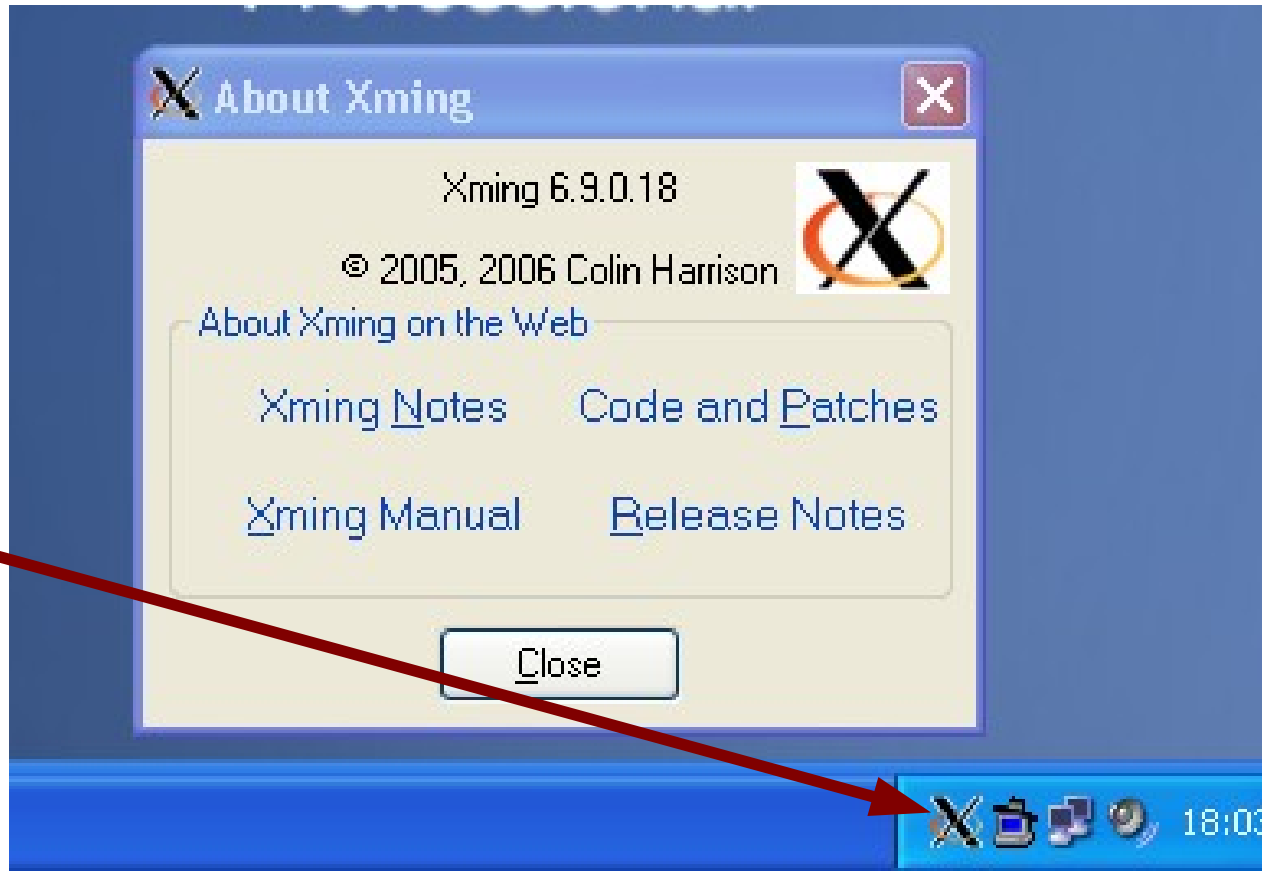
- Windows see Configuring PuTTY to use Identities i.e. keys http://www.mtu.net/~engstrom/ssh-agent.php#PuTTY



X11 in Windows

- Linux and Mac come with X11 server implementation.
- There are several Xsevers for Windows. A nice freeware is Xming.
- First install the package Xming (by clicking on this link) and then install the package Xming-fonts.

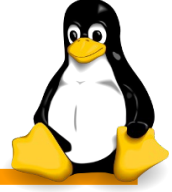
- When started, you should see an icon in the dock, click it to get info window.



Navigating Linux environment

- List files in a directory: *ls -lah*
- Copy file: *cp <from> <to>*; move: *mv <from> <to>*
- Remove file: *rm <file>*; Remove directory: *rmdir <file>*
- Editors: *vi*, *nano*, *emacs*, *geany*, *kate*, ...
- Need help? Use *man <command>,* Google is your friend.
- See “resources” links at http://usha.engr.utk.edu/welcome.html and remember that Google is your good friend indeed!
- **Midnight Commander** (command *mc*) is a useful tool to navigate around a Linux computer, similar to Norton/Far/Volkov Commanders.
  - View/change directory, view/edit/copy/move files, ...

More ssh related resources



- Practical Cryptography SSH: youtube talk
- An Illustrated Guide to SSH Agent Forwarding
- SSH with Keys HOWTO
- SSH Port Forwarding - UbuntuDoc
- Short series on ssh port forwarding
- SSH Dynamic Port Forwarding (SOCKS proxy)
- SSH one-liners from http://www.commandlinefu.com
- Windows: Configuring PuTTY to use Identities i.e. keys
- Windows: SSH Tunneling: Using Putty to Bypass Web Filters
- Windows: Another article about PuTTY tunneling, with useful links

Summary for ssh and cryptography

- Internet is fundamentally plain-text based, and you need to worry about security. Hardware gets stolen, passwords get sniffed, http connections hijacked → personal identities get stolen.
- Computers are fast, strong encryption is available. Therefore, encrypt everything: communication channels (https, imaps, smtps, etc.), storage media, backups, disk drives, USB keys, phone storage, …
- Set strong passwords, use keys for authentication, set convenient aliases for your connections in ~/.ssh/config
- SSH is much more than just secure shell:
  - Remote execution, file transfer, X11 forwarding, mounting filesystems via ssh, local/remote port forwarding, SOCKS proxy, and more. Practice and investigate on your own.
- **Make sure you follow applicable cybersecurity rules!**

screen

- Screen is a full-screen window manager that multiplexes a physical terminal between several processes (typically interactive shells).
- Type *screen* in terminal to start. “ctrl+A ?” for help. Also *man screen*.

o@usha: ~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

Screen key bindings, page 1 of 2.

Command key: ^A Literal ^A: a

break	^B b	history	{ }	other	^A	split	S
clear	C	info	i	pow_break	B	suspend	^Z z
colon	:	kill	K k	pow_detach	D	time	^T t
copy	^[[	lastmsg	^M m	prev	^H ^P p ^?	title	A
detach	^D d	license	,	quit	\	vbell	^G
digraph	^V	lockscreen	^X x	readbuf	<	version	v
displays	*	log	H	redisplay	^L l	width	W
dumptermcap	.	login	L	remove	X	windows	^W w
fit	F	meta	a	removebuf	=	wrap	^R r
flow	^F f	monitor	M	reset	Z	writebuf	>
focus	^I	next	^@ ^N sp n	screen	^C c	xoff	^S s
hardcopy	h	number	N	select	'	xon	^Q q
help	?	only	Q	silence	_		

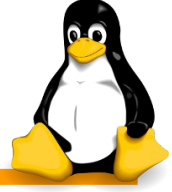
Selected screen control commands

- “ctrl+A <something>” is used to control screen
- Useful commands:
  - “ctrl+A c” **c**reate and open a new shell window.
  - “ctrl+A n” switch to **n**ext window
  - “ctrl+A p” switch to **p**revious window
  - “ctrl+A <N>” switch to window # **N**
  - “ctrl+A C” **C**lear screen
  - “ctrl+A h” save current window's **h**ardcopy into hardcopy.<N> file
  - “ctrl+A H” Begins/ends logging into screenlog.<N> file
  - “ctrl+A d” **d**etach screen. Reattach with *screen -rd*

job control and nohup

- **nohup**: When you want to let a process running even after you logout.
  - Usage: *nohup <what-to-run> &*
  - Writes output to a file *nohup.out*
  - To save output to *FILE*, use *nohup COMMAND > FILE*
  - To redirect standard error: *nohup COMMAND 2> ERRFILE*
- Ampersand "*&*" after a command will detach the command from the standard input, and the job will run in background.
- Use *jobs* to see how many detached jobs are running.
- To detach a running job, use suspend "ctrl+z", then *bg* command.
- To reconnect a job, use *fg* command.
- *bg* and *fg* accept argument <job number>. Use *jobs* command to see which job corresponds to which number.

disown



- **disown**: When you want to let already executed process running even after you logout.
  - Usage: *disown [-ar] [-h] [job_number …]*
  - Without options, each *job_number* is removed from the table of active jobs.
  - If the *-h* option is given, each *job_number* is not removed from the table, but is marked so that it is not terminated if shell terminates.
  - If no *job_number* is present, and neither the *-a* nor the *-r* option is supplied, the current job is used.
  - If no *job_number* is supplied, the *-a* option means to remove or mark all jobs;
  - *-r* option without a *job_number* restricts operation to running jobs.

Summary for job control and screen

- Commands can run on foreground (stdin connected to terminal), or on background (stdin disconnected).
- “ctrl+z”, *jobs*, *bg*, *fg*
- *disown* to prevent jobs from killing on shell termination (i.e. logout).
- *nohup* to start a job such that it runs disowned.
- *screen* to keep terminal shells running even when you disconnect.