

# Access Virtual Machine (VM) using SSH Key (Windows / Macbook)

Here are step-by-step instructions to access a Server or Virtual Machine using SSH on both **Windows** and **Mac**:

## Windows (Using PowerShell or Command Prompt)

### 1. Ensure OpenSSH Client is Installed

- Go to **Settings > Apps > Optional Features**.
- Confirm **OpenSSH Client** is installed; if not, click **Add a feature**, find it, and install.

### 2. Open PowerShell or Command Prompt

- Press `Windows + R`, type `powershell` or `cmd`, and hit Enter.

### 3. Connect via SSH

- Use the command:

```
ssh username@server_ip
```

- Replace `username` with your remote server username.
- Replace `server_ip` with the server's domain name or IP address.
- If the server uses a non-standard port, add `-p` followed by the port number:

```
ssh username@server_ip -p port_number
```

### 4. Verify and Accept Host Key

- At first connection, you'll be asked to verify the server's fingerprint.
- Type `yes` and press Enter to continue.

### 5. Authenticate

- Enter your password when prompted (or if using key authentication, make sure your private key is loaded or specify it with `-i`).

### 6. You are connected when your prompt changes to the remote server's shell.

# Mac (Using Terminal)

## 1. Open Terminal

- Use **Spotlight** or find Terminal in **Applications > Utilities**.

## 2. Connect via SSH

- Type the command:

```
ssh username@server_ip
```

- Substitute `username` and `server_ip` with appropriate remote account and server info.
- For custom ports, add `-p` option:

```
ssh username@server_ip -p port_number
```

## 3. Accept Host Key

- For the first-time connection, review and accept the host key by typing `yes`.

## 4. Authenticate

- Enter your password or ensure your SSH private key is loaded (use `ssh-add` if needed).

## 5. You are connected once you see the shell prompt of the remote server.

### Additional Tips:

- To specify a custom private key file, use the `-i` flag:

```
ssh -i /path/to/private_key username@server_ip
```

- To exit the SSH session, type:

```
exit
```

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