

## Re: SSH scripting

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2004-03/0333.html>

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**Date:** 03/26/04

Date: Fri, 26 Mar 2004 08:34:35 -0500

Sensei wrote:

> *On Tue, 23 Mar 2004 10:50:20 -0500, Chris Vidal wrote:*  
>  
>> *Can someone either tell me how to accomplish this or point me to a*  
>> *doc that describes this.*  
>  
> *Search for "ssh no password login" and generate all private/public*  
> *keys, move them to the ssh server and then make a simple scp: you*  
> *won't use passwords and so you can use script for whatever you want.*  
> *A)bort, R)etry, I)nfluence with large hammer.*

Than slap the idiot in the head for suggesting this commonly used and amazingly dangerous technique. It's the equivalent of taping the user's password to their monitor: once someone manages to get the file that has the passwordless key on one machine, they have remote access to a user account on the other machine. It's a direct violation of the most basic standards of how to use a secure tool: you may as well just put the files on an FTP site and put the FTP site password in a shell script.

Instead, pick up a copy of Richard Silverman's book from O'Reilly Associates publishers with details on how to do this using "ssh-agent" to store the password-unlocked key in a way accessible from your SSH client for overnight usage. And review whether SSH is really what you need, or whether "rsync" can do the job more simply but safely enough for your needs. If you really need to have passwords or user keys, you might also consider using the ssh-agent key with the file server using chroot cages ([chroot.sourceforge.net](http://chroot.sourceforge.net)).