

## Re: Problems with scp and cron

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2004-10/0153.html>

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Nico Kadel-Garcia <[nkadel@comcast.net](mailto:nkadel@comcast.net)> wrote:

>> *yes, I had to do it without a passphrase to get an automated*

>> *every-night backup of recent files.*

> *No, you don't. You can store the ssh-agent settings in a text file that gets*

> *sourced by your program, something like this.*

> *set | grep SSH > ssh-agentfile.txt*

> *source ssh-agentfile.txt*

Surely that depends on having the settings actually there. I often use passphraseless keys for automated jobs on machines. They must run even if the machine has rebooted and I haven't logged into the box to type a passphrase.

> *I urge you to use ssh-agent instead. This approach isn't perfect, but at*

> *least you don't have to leave an unencrypted lying out there in plain text*

> *where it's even easier to be stolen. It's also a common way to do ssh-agent*

> *key management for servers where lots of people need access to core system*

> *key files: you log in as yourself to the server account, which is tracked in*

> *the logs, and automatically get the SSH keyfiles added at login-time this*

> *way without unencrypted key files being left on the server in*

> *question.*

Interesting. I've never heard of that technique before. To accomplish this, do you have to make changes to the agent socket so that others can read it?

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Got some Dr Pepper?

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