

# Have Script Deal with SSH/SCP password Prompt

*Source:* <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.ssh/2005-08/0074.html>

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Here is my problem:

I have my one client with the private key and numerous servers with the public key. Key authentication works fine.

I have a Korn Shell Script that SCPs a file from the client to each of the servers' home directory in the middle of the night. Here is the line that does the copy:

```
scp -i PrivateKeyFile /home/chad/file.txt username@server:~/
```

This works absolutely fine.

Now I am adding new servers every day. What if I forget to copy the public key to one of the servers? or something else with the connection goes wrong? Answer: SCP will prompt for a password and my script will hang in the middle of the night.

I would much rather prefer my script to write to an error log, then continue with its business.

Any ideas on how I can get my script to deal with the password prompt?

Thanks a lot! ~ Chad