

Connect to an AWS EC2 Instance – Windows & PuTTY

When you have created and launched an AWS Linux EC2 instance, you can connect to it from your computer using the SSH protocol. PuTTY is a free SSH client that allows you to do this from a local computer running Windows. Once the connection has been established, you work within the EC2 instance just like you would on a local computer running Linux.

Overview of the steps in this recipe:

- A. Prerequisites
- B. Generate a PuTTY private key file
- C. Connect to EC2 instance

A) Prerequisites

a. You must have an AWS account. If you don't have an account, click HERE to create one.

Note: You will need to provide credit card information for your new account.

b. You will need to create and launch a Linux EC2 instance to connect to. Instructions for this are found in the recipe titled "Create a Basic Elastic Cloud Compute (EC2) Instance."

B) Generate a PuTTY Private Key (.ppk) file

- 1. Download and install PuTTY. https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html
- 2. Open the folder that PuTTY was installed to (default path is C: > Program Files > PuTTY).
- 3. Double click on the file **puttygen.exe**.



- 4. In PuTTY Key Generator (Fig. 1), click the **Load** button and navigate to the folder that contains the private key file *(.pem)* created during the EC2 configuration process.
- 5. Click on the **PuTTY Private Key Files** button in the lower right corner of the window (Fig. 2) and select *All Files (*.*).*



6. Select your private key file (.pem) and click **Open** (Fig. 3).

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PuTTYgen Notice

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Successfully imported foreign key (OpenSSH SSH-2 private key (old PEM format)). To use this key with PuTTY, you need to use the "Save private key" command to save it in PuTTY's own format.

OK ×

- 7. Click **OK** to close the *PuTTYgen Notice* pop-up window.
- 8. In *PuTTY Key Generator*, make sure *Type of key to generate* value is set to RSA (Fig. 4).
- 9. Click Save private key and then Yes to close the PuTTYgen Warning pop-up window.

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Key Public key for parting	into OpenSSH authorized keve file:				
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2E oD3tnRDU2I/4Ra6a +ZX6gKjtXVtweOIBV H6hul4B04O//xAGC	AAAADAQABAAABAQCNvv9A7jx67Kr3IShsFIERgBAAł nx /83zPnEArXYgGyAsVa3AkXJdeVnHCgwME5gZOI7urK /b4HQ5TuLY6ASzvu+	hxmeqszyd yGoOZ2b		Are you sure you want to sav without a passphrase to prot	e this ke ect it? <u>N</u> o
Key fingerprint:	ssh-rsa 2048 aa:01:76:92:a4:2d:44:45:42:c0:bf:07:d3	3:dd:7d:07			
Key comment:	imported-openssh-key				
Key p <u>a</u> ssphrase:					
Confirm passphrase:					
Actions					
Generate a public/priv	vate key pair	<u>G</u> enerate			
Load an existing priva	te key file	<u>L</u> oad			
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• <u>R</u> SA	DSA O ECDSA O ED25519 O) SSH- <u>1</u> (RSA	N		
Number of <u>bits</u> in a ge	nerated key: 20	048			

10. Navigate to the location you want to store your *PuTTY Private Key file (.ppk)* and give it a name (Fig. 5)..

→ ↑ → This PC → Documents → AWS → private keys	5	✓ Č) Search private ke	vs Q
anize New folder			· · · /
Pictures Pictures Pictures Pictures Google Drive # Google Drive # AWS GMTSSAR Downloads nevember 2017 private keys Dropbox OneDrive This PC Desktop File game asf_tutorial_keypair	Date modified Type No items match your search.	Size	
Save as type: PuTTY Private Key Files (*.ppk)			~
Hide Folders		Save	Cancel

- 11. Click Save.
- 12. Close the *PuTTY Key Generator* window.

C) Connect to EC2

- 13. Open PuTTY by clicking on the desktop icon or the **putty.exe** file in the PuTTY folder.
- 14. In the Host Name (or IP address) box, type ubuntu@your_public_DNS (Fig. 6) (1).
 - a. *Note*: The **Public DNS** for your instance is displayed in AWS in the EC2 Management Console *Instance Description* in the middle of the screen.
- 15. Make sure:
 - a. Port is set to 22 (2)
 - b. *Connection type* is **SSH (3)**

Session	Basic options for your PuTTY of	ession
Logging Logging Terminal Bell Features Window Appearance Behaviour Translation	Specify the destination you want to conn Host Name (or IP address) ubuntu@ec2-34-235-152-101.compute- Connection type: Raw I telnet Rlogin SS Load, save or delete a stored session Saved Sessions	nect to 2 Port 1 22 6H O Serial
	Default Settings billhauer@gwa billhauer@gwd	Load Sa <u>v</u> e Delete
Serial	Close window on e <u>x</u> it: Always Never Only on	clean exit
About Help	Open	Cancel

- 16. In the *Category* pane on the left of the PuTTY Configuration window, under *Connection* click on the + next to *SSH* to expand the choices (Fig. 7) (4), then click on *Auth* ((Fig. 7) (5).
- 17. Under Authentication parameters, click **Browse** and navigate to the directory where your *PuTTY Private Key (.ppk)* file is located (6).

a. Click on the (.ppk) file to select it

18. Click Open.



Note: If you want to save these settings to use later, navigate to **Sessions** in the PuTTY **Category** tree. Enter a name in the **Saved Sessions** box and click **Save** on the right.

- 19. Click **Open** in *PuTTY Configuration* to connect to your Instance.
 - a. If this is the first time you have connected to your Instance, a "PuTTY Security Alert" will ask you whether to proceed with the connection (Fig. 8).
 - b. Click **Yes** to complete the connection.
 - c. The EC2 instance window will appear (black screen below).





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