

## How to disable public key authentication in SSH

Written by BiRU  
Sunday, 17 July 2016 19:34 -

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SSH in most system by default allow login using public key. While this is convenient, it is a security risk when unauthorized person manage to get the private key, especially when the key is not protected by any passphrase. The option to allow public key authentication is `PubkeyAuthentication` in the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` configuration file. If it is not set, SSH daemon will allow public key authentication.

Edit configuration file

To disable it, add the following line (or change the option to `no` if the option already exist) in the configuration file, `/etc/ssh/sshd_config`;

`PubkeyAuthentication no`

Reload SSH service

To have the changes take effect, the SSH daemon need to reload the edited configuration file with the following command;

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$ sudo /etc/init.d/ssh reload
```

In some Linux distribution, the command is as the following;

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$ sudo /etc/init.d/sshd reload
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<https://docs.oseems.com/general/application/ssh/disable-public-key-authentication#sthash.bbHMmyzw.dpuf>

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