

4.0 SSH Configuration File

The SSH configuration file is used to control the behavior of the SSH client and server, respectively. Client configuration (which is the focus for this document) allows users to define preferences for SSH connections, such as default usernames, key files, ports, and more.

Creation

1. Locate the `.ssh` folder
2. Create a new file in the folder and rename it "config" (make sure to not have any extension)

Common Directives

1. Defining Hosts

The `Host` directive allows users to create shortcuts for SSH connections.

```
Host [SERVER]
    HostName [IP ADDRESS]
```

e.g. Instead of typing `ssh user@[IP ADDRESS]`, users can simply type: `ssh server-name`

2. Specifying a Username

If the remote username is different from the local one.

```
Host [SERVER]
    User [USER]
```

e.g. Now, `ssh myserver` will default to `myuser@[IP ADDRESS]`

3. Setting a Custom SSH Port

By default, SSH uses port `22`, but some servers use custom ports for security.

```
Host [SERVER]
    Port [PORT]
```

e.g. Now, `ssh myserver` will connect to `10.10.1.100` on port `1666`

4. Local Port Forwarding

Allows a user to securely tunnel traffic from a local machine to a remote server through SSH.

```
LocalForward [local_port] [destination_host]:[destination_port]
```

EXAMPLE:

```
Host pi-club-is-cool
  HostName raspberrypiclub.org
  User lilian
  LocalForward 8006 10.10.10.50:8006
```

- When you connect using `ssh pi-club-is-cool`, SSH will:
 - Log in to `raspberrypiclub.org` as user `lilian`
 - Forward your *local port* `8006` to `192.168.1.18:8006` through the SSH connection
- Any requests made to *localhost:8006* on your local machine will be securely sent to `10.10.10.50:8006` via `raspberrypiclub.org`

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