

How to Set Up Passwordless SSH in Putty?

written by sysadmin | 8 January 2025

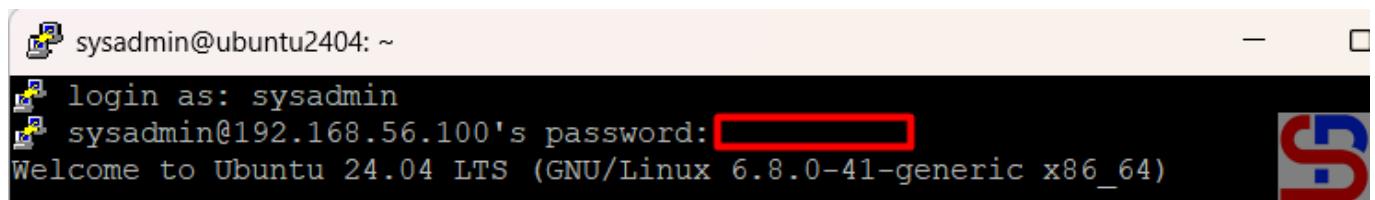
[The previous article](#) explained how to create a passwordless SSH login. However, the article is useful if a sysadmin accesses a Linux server through another Linux server. In general, many sysadmins use PuTTY to access their Linux servers.

Problem

How to set up passwordless SSH in Putty?

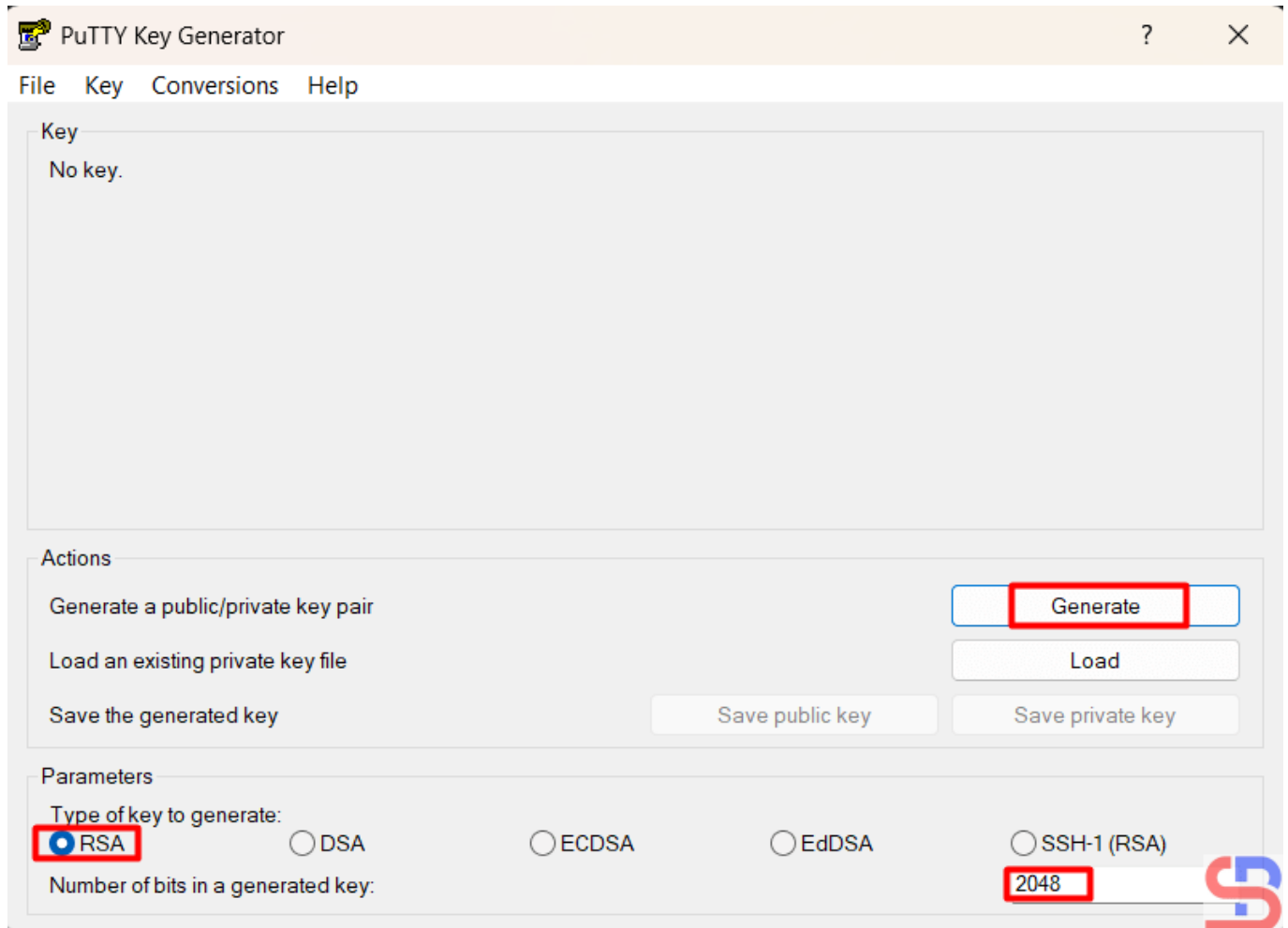
Solution

PuTTY is a tool created by Simon Tatham to access a device using SSH, Telnet, rlogin, and serial protocols. As of January 2025, the stable version of PuTTY is 0.82. You can visit [this page](#) to see the latest version and download PuTTY. Just like accessing a Linux server via SSH from another server, if you access a Linux server using PuTTY, you will be asked to enter a username and password, as in the image below:



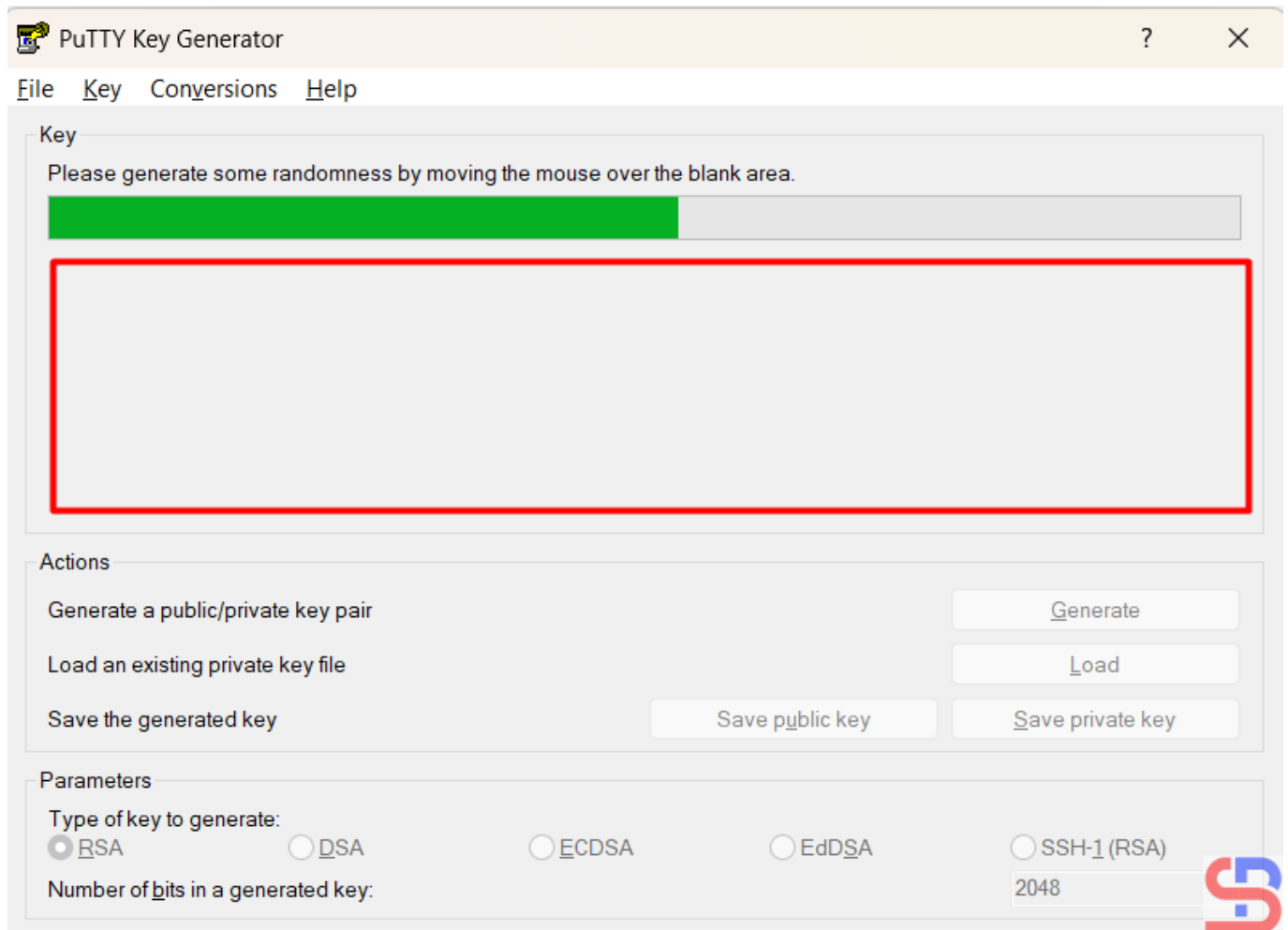
Access to the Linux server using PuTTY

To set up passwordless SSH in Putty, download the Puttygen application [here](#) to create your private/public keypair. After that, run the Puttygen application and you can choose the key according to your wishes, but in this article, we use an RSA key with 2048 bits.



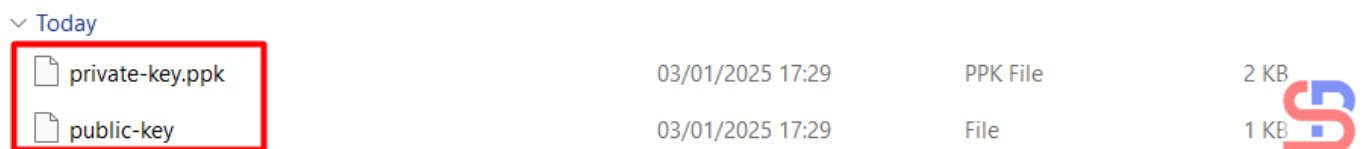
Choose the RSA key and click the Generate button

Press the **Generate** button and move your mouse randomly in the blank area of this application until the key is generated. Please see the image below for more details:



Move your mouse randomly on the blank area

After that, press the save **public key** and **save private key** buttons to save the two keys on your computer. Press the **Yes** button if you are asked a question when you click the Save Private Key button. On your computer, there should be 2 keys as in the image below:



Two key files from puttygen

Then copy the public key by opening the public key file or copying it directly from Puttygen, as in the image below:

PuTTY Key Generator

File Key Conversions Help

Key

Public key for pasting into OpenSSH authorized_keys file:

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQACQ0zQz4GEQCfV0KXSvUQYvcvUqjaN3fYjYYX4zShSK1DwdKMNDX57R5zF/6SjQ7OZzXGFkOr0pSoyk7FqSPL1Qhvja5iDR6WnVuTE7X3lPAd3buPtV1Wh+HXaV9evZJyUVYcZSs4MD0JCplJhH5Q9vIfv64Y4aCrtTpoEI3/G4BSmwx8H/aJ+p6NUtmvB7BVvwnHE9aVGBJMVt1GNx
```

Key fingerprint: ssh-rsa 2048 SHA256:UiQ3d5V2MRkH3XXBhb0LKooQjn3tFH8e+V/Q8MsS3u4

Key comment: rsa-key-20250103

Key passphrase:

Confirm passphrase:

Actions

Generate a public/private key pair Generate

Load an existing private key file Load

Save the generated key Save public key Save private key

Parameters

Type of key to generate:

☒ RSA ☐ DSA ☐ ECDSA ☐ EdDSA ☐ SSH-1 (RSA)

Number of bits in a generated key: 2048

Copy the public key

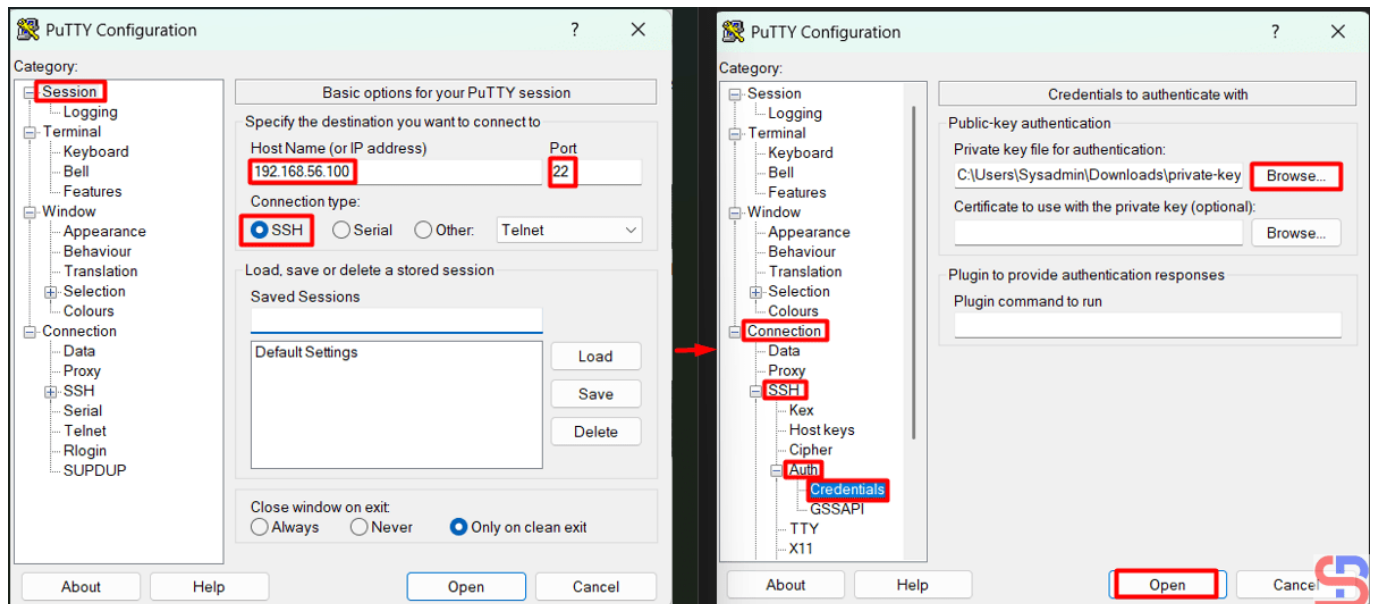
After that, go to the remote server, open the **.ssh/authorized_keys** file, and enter the public key from Puttygen into that file:

```
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ cat .ssh/authorized_keys
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ vi .ssh/authorized_keys
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ cat .ssh/authorized_keys
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQACQ0zQz4GEQCfV0KXSvUQYvcvUqjaN3fYjYYX4zShSK1DwdKMNDX57R5zF/6SjQ7OZzXGFkOr0pSoyk7FqSPL1Qhvja5iDR6WnVuTE7X3lPAd3buPtV1Wh+HXaV9evZJyUVYcZSs4MD0JCplJhH5Q9vIfv64Y4aCrtTpoEI3/G4BSmwx8H/aJ+p6NUtmvB7BVvwnHE9aVGBJMVt1GNx+snUY7SLCsBcDwRtcol6oX9hBRUqj2ARki/sbS7WP4ysSSwC4GwmO8l/XgxtUorbWUsNV52xYTEizZ+i0p54CqrLo/dOOzutAaEjFCCF4vHKqzEQ584GMKNS3Z0c1sDtk/IH rsa-key-20250103
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
```

Put the public key into the remote server

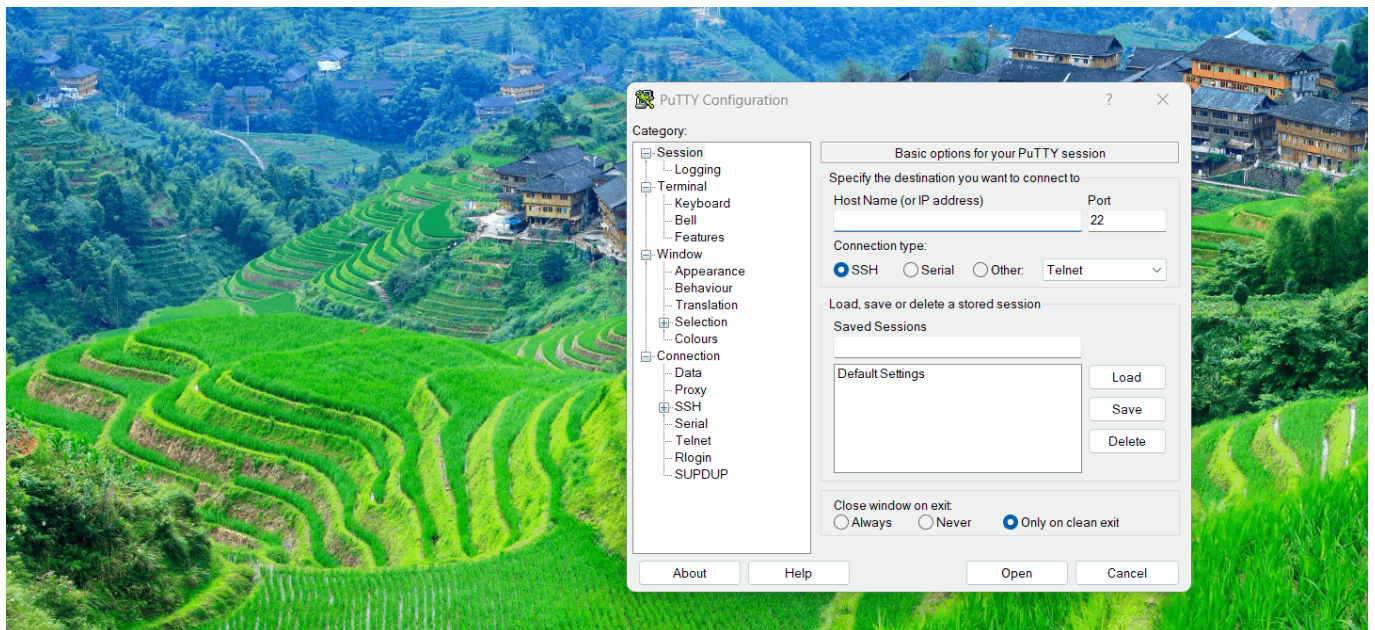
After that, try the remote server to test the SSH Passwordless login. Open Putty, then go to the **Session** and enter the IP of the remote server in the HostName section.

After that, go to the **Connection > Auth > Credentials > Browse** section in the Private key file for the authentication section as in the image below:



Configure PuTTY to access the Linux server without a password

Press the **Enter** or **Open** button, and you should be able to access the server without having to enter a password as in the image below:

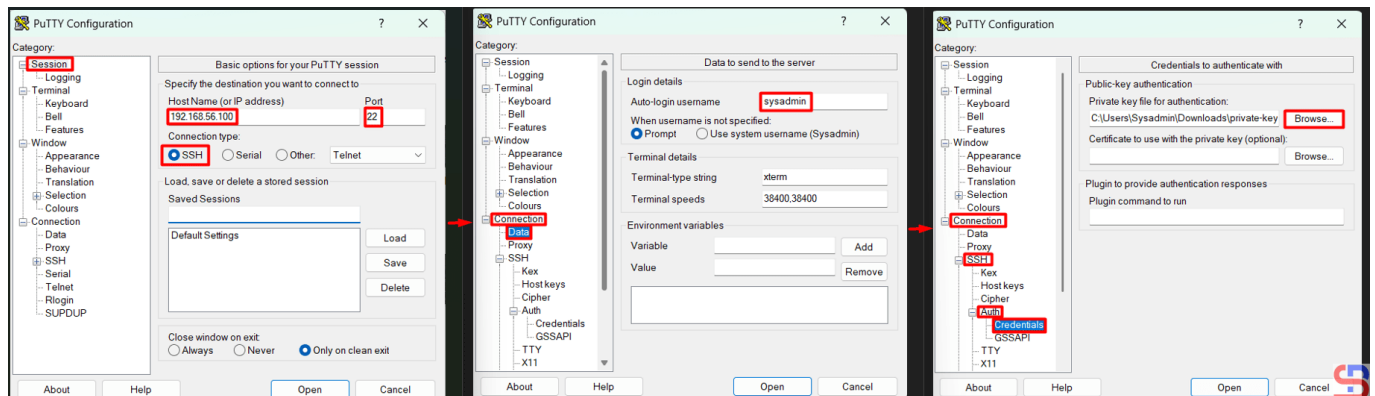


Steps to access the Linux server without a password using PuTTY

Note

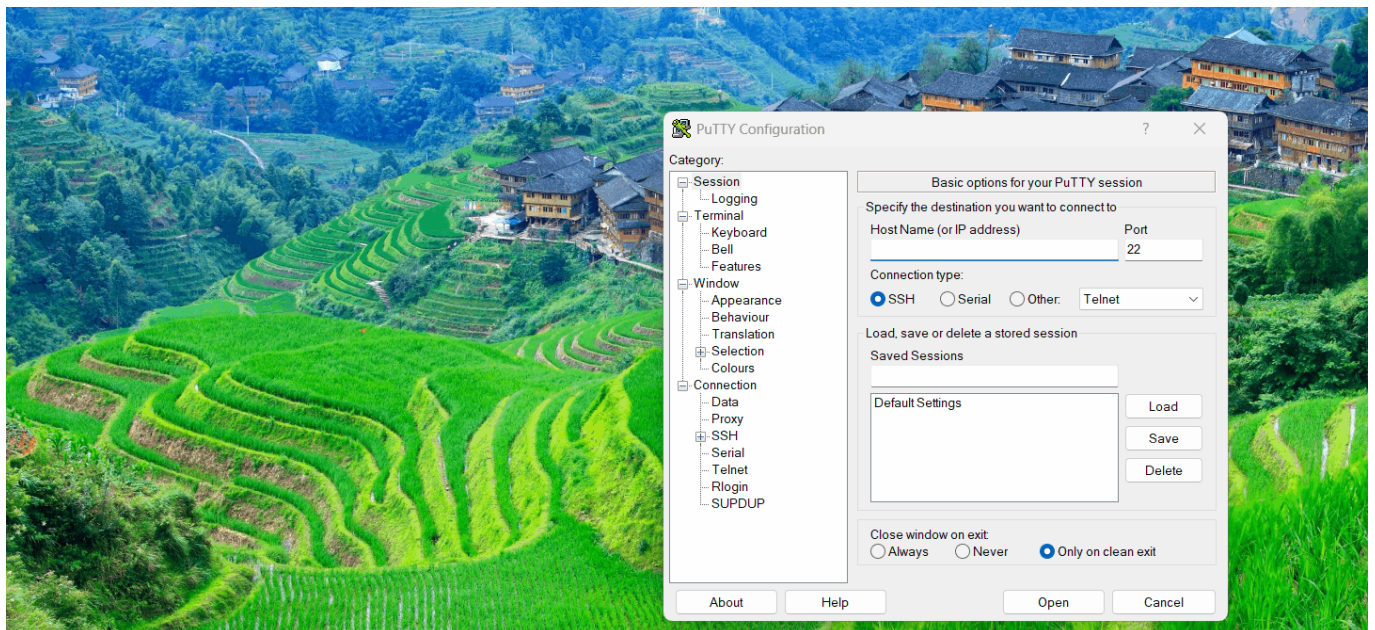
To speed up access to the Linux server, you can also not

write your username to Putty by configuring it in **Connection** > **Data** > Enter your username in the **Auto-login username** column, as in the image below:



Steps to not write your username in Putty

Press the **Enter** or **Open** button, and you should be able to access the server without having to enter the username and password, as in the image below:



Steps to access the Linux server without a username and password using Putty

References

en.wikipedia.org
portal.nutanix.com
help.dreamhost.com
tecmint.com
filecloud.com