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**THE GREAT CIPHER  
MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD  
伟大的密码胜于利剑**



**Inventor of SSH Protocol  
CEO of SSH Communications Security**

**EFFECTIVE KEY MANAGEMENT & AUDITING  
UNDER EVOLVING  
REGULATORY CHALLENGES**

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# What Is the SSH protocol?

- SSH is a protocol for secure encrypted communication over computer networks
- It ships with every Linux and Unix operating system and nearly all Internet routers, xDSL modems, etc
- SSH is used to provide security for more than half of world's web sites
- Also widely used for file transfers (also on Windows), system management, backups, etc



# About the Author



ssh® is a registered trademark of SSH Communications Security (Tectia Corp)

- Developed and published the original SSH as free software in 1995
- Founded SSH Communications Security Corp in 1995
- CEO and controlling shareholder for SSH Communications Security
- Long-term entrepreneur
- Deeply involved in development of solutions for large SSH environments for both commercial SSH products and OpenSSH



## Quick Facts

### Who we are

- Inventors of the SSH protocol
- NASDAQ OMX Helsinki (TEC1V)
- Work with large enterprises

### What we do

- Cost-saving Linux/Unix security
- Key management for large SSH environments

### Customers

- 3000+ customers
- 7 out of top 10 Fortune 500
- 40% of Fortune 500



● = SSH Office  
● = SSH Competence Center

- **Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), 2004**
  - Customer data protection across the entire industry worldwide
- **Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX), 2002**
  - Require to establish an adequate internal control structure and include an assessment of its effectiveness in annual report
- **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 1998**
  - Mandate health plan providers & healthcare clearing houses to protect health information

# Evolving Regulations in China

- **Approving and Forwarding the Opinions of China Securities Regulatory Commission on Improving the Quality of Listed Companies**
  - was issued in 2005 by The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC)
- **Central Enterprises Comprehensive Risk Management Guidelines**
  - by State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC)
- **Stock Exchange Listed Company Internal Control Guidelines**
  - was issued in 2006 by Shanghai Stock Exchange, and in 2007 by Shenzhen Stock Exchange
- **Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS)**
  - has been pushed within leading payment gateways and top online merchants
- **China Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX)**
  - was issued in 2008, with supporting guidelines issued in 2010

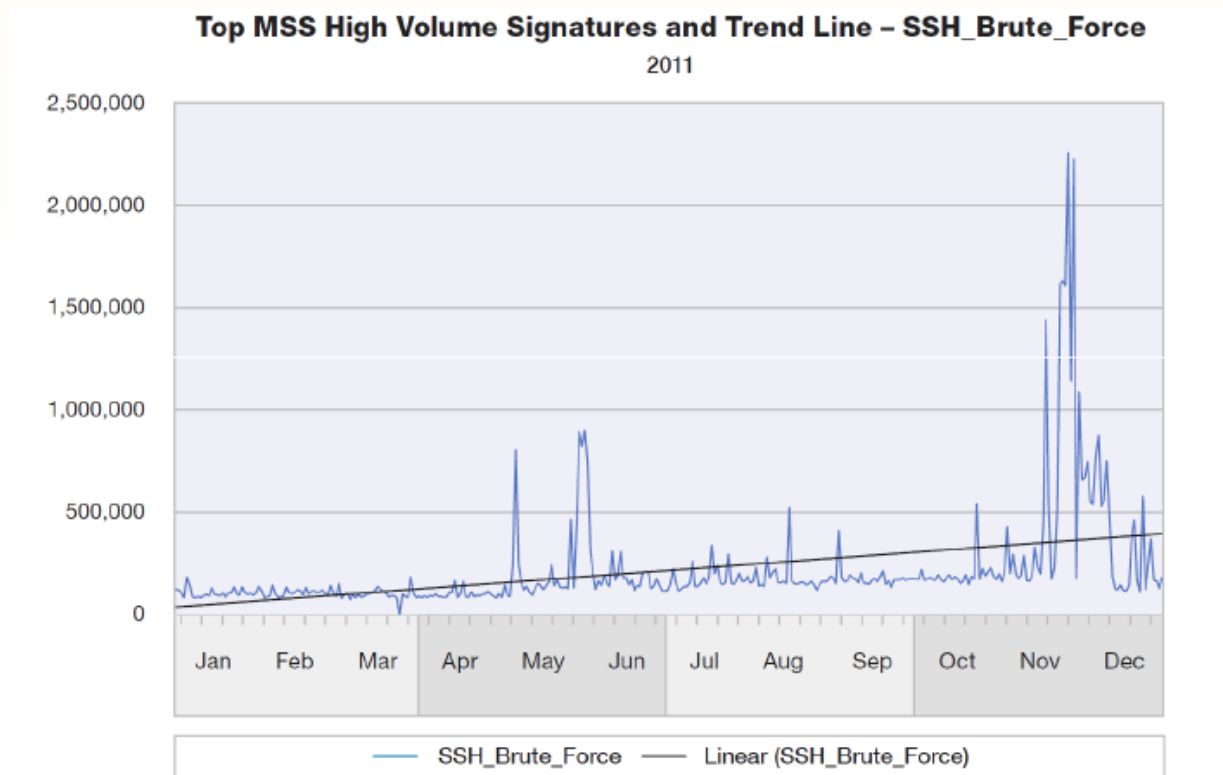
- Most security standards require
  - Knowing who can access what
  - Terminating user's access when employee leaves
  - Changing passwords regularly
  - Securing encryption keys and changing them regularly



# SSH Servers Are Increasingly Targets for Attacks

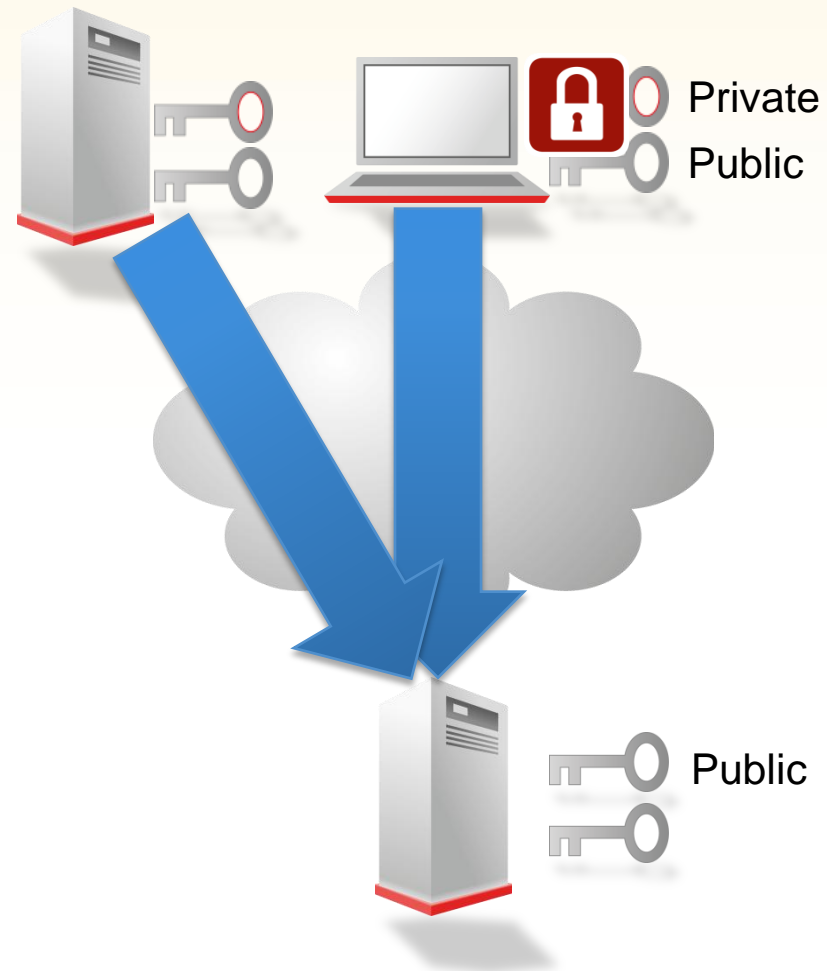
According to the IBM X-Force 2011 Trend and Risk Report, a sharp rise in SSH brute forcing attacks in the latter half of 2011.

E.g. automated password guessing attempts directed at secure shell servers

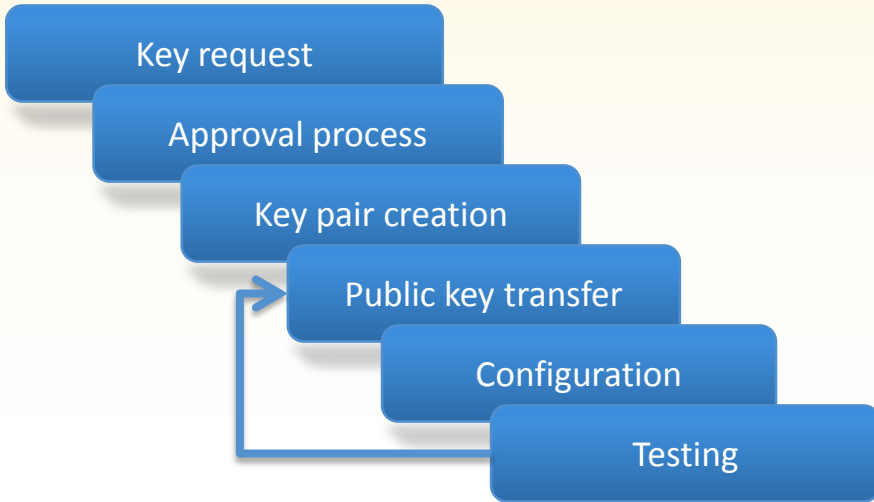


## What Are SSH User Keys?

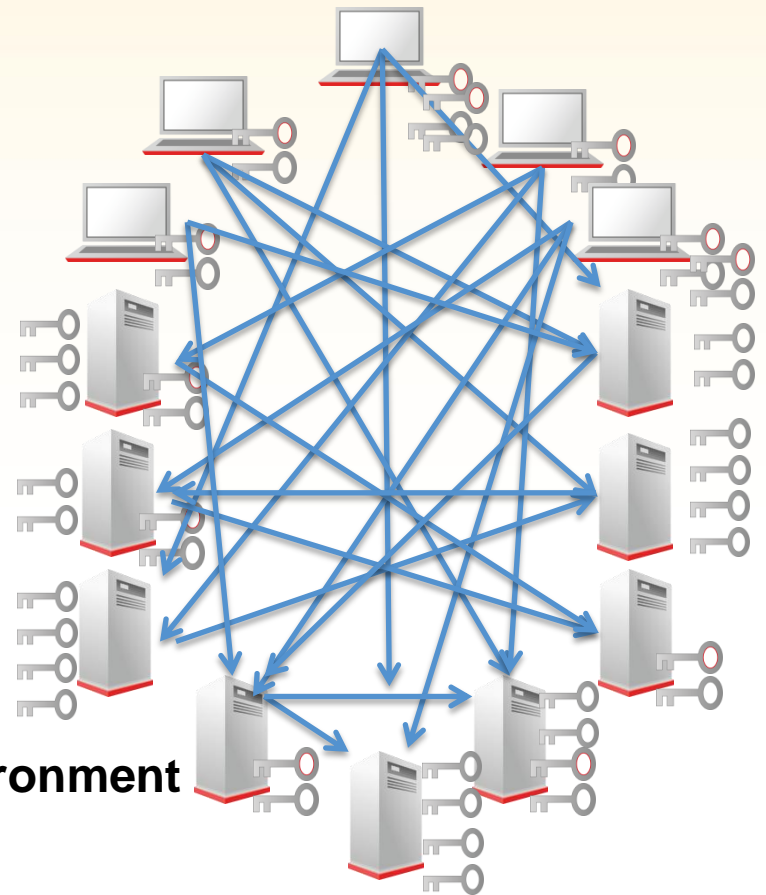
- A key pair, consisting of private and public key, that is used to prove user's identity during the SSH authentication process
- Client sends digital signature by private key to server; server verifies using public key
- Enables non-interactive authentication
  - Mainly used for scheduled and automated file transfers and other tasks where user interaction is not possible



# Typical Key Setup Procedure



Key setup procedure



Complicated environment  
for user keys

For large IT environments, unmanaged user keys have become a **major security problem**, a **substantial cost** and a **key audit finding**

# Cost of Key Management in Large Environments

- A real case of a **major global financial institute** – now have over 100,000 user key pairs between accounts in their systems

<b>Number of computers or virtual machines in environment</b>	20,000
<b>Number of new key setups per year</b>	10,000
Average time per setup	15 min
Average number of systems per setup	10
<b>Number of key removal operations per server per year</b>	2
Time required per operation	30 min
<b>Number of other key operations per server</b>	4
Time required per operation	15 min
<b>Average cost per hour of security admin</b>	US\$ 59
<b>Estimated operational costs per year</b>	<b>US\$ 3,835,000</b>

# Audit Requirements on Key Management

## ➤ PCI-DSS

- 3.5 *“Protect encryption keys used for encryption of cardholder data against disclosure and misuse.”*
- 3.6 *“Fully document and implement all key management processes and procedures.”*

## ➤ COBIT, IT Governance Framework

- *DS5.8 - Cryptographic Key Management*
  - *Certification practices, key visibility, creation, storage, distribution and revoke*
- *Supports SOX and other external audits*
- *Often referenced on internal security policies*

## ➤ ISO 27001-1

- *A.12.3.2 Key Management*



- Administrators who left the organization years ago may still have access (copied private keys)
- Unused user keys still granting access to critical hosts
- Key pairs that have not been changed in years
- Lack of visibility to who has access to what
- Dozens or even hundreds of people with high-level access rights
- Human errors in manual key installation and removal processes

Based on experience with customers, the following approach for bringing SSH user keys under management provides compliance **and** saves costs:

1. **Discover** existing legacy keys and trust relationships in the environment
2. **Automate** creation and removal of keys and trust relationships (integrate to change control systems)
3. Automatically **rotate** (renew) keys every X months



# Auditing Privileged Access and Encrypted Connections

- Another auditing challenge relates to controlling what system administrators do with their privileged access to computers
- A further challenge is monitoring what data is transferred encrypted across corporate firewalls
- Most system administration is nowadays done using encrypted protocols (SSH, Windows Remote Desktop (RDP), HTTP+SSL)
- System administrators like to use existing familiar tools and automated scripts cannot be easily changed





# Transparent Monitoring of Encrypted Connections

- Requires access to keys (e.g., SSH host keys)
- Effectively performs friendly man-in-the-middle cryptographic attack on connections
- Enables co-operative inspection of plaintext content of encrypted traffic
- Content can be recorded for audit and sent to a DLP (Data Loss Prevention) system for detecting and preventing data theft
- Solves important audit and forensics problems without requiring workflow changes and works also for non-interactive scripts



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at SSH booth!



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# Thank You



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