SSH login without password

You want to use Linux and OpenSSH to automize your tasks. Therefore you need an automatic login from host A / user a to Host B / user b. You don't want to enter any passwords, because you want to call ssh from a within a shell script or you are just lazy.

First log in on A as user a and generate a pair of authentication keys. Do not enter a passphrase:

```
a@A:~> ssh-keygen -t rsa
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/a/.ssh/id_rsa):
Created directory '/home/a/.ssh'.
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/a/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/a/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
3e:4f:05:79:3a:9f:96:7c:3b:ad:e9:58:37:bc:37:e4 a@A
```

Now use ssh to create a directory ~/.ssh as user b on B.
(The directory may already exist, which is fine):

```
a@A:~> ssh b@B mkdir -p .ssh
b@B's password:
```

Finally append a's new public key to b@B:.ssh/authorized_keys
and enter b's password one last time:

```
a@A:~> cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub | ssh b@B 'cat >> .ssh/authorized_keys'
b@B's password:
```

From now on you can log into B as b from A as a without password:

```
a@A:~> ssh b@B
b@B:~>
```

If you still get a password prompt, check the permissions of you local ~/.ssh and the remote ~/.ssh directory.
Both should look like this

```
drwx------   2 a users      4096 Jan 23  2006 .ssh
```

only read/writeable by you.
If this does not help, change the following option on the remote sshd config:

```
#LogLevel INFO
```

to

```
LogLevel DEBUG
```

This should tell you the reason why the passwordless login was not possible. As soon as you fixed it, restore the LogLevel option, according to the sshd manpage "Logging with a DEBUG level violates the privacy of users and is not recommended."

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http://linuxproblem.org/auth_1.html

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