

Using SSH for remote commands

This tip shows a less common use of SSH. Most people use SSH to login to servers or boxes remotely. However, you can also use SSH to issue commands on remote servers without opening a full login shell.

Note: To use SSH without having to enter a password all the time, use the passwordless login tutorial in the "Security" section.

To issue commands through SSH, simply type the command after the normal SSH login information (e.g. `ssh user@host command`). The following example shows you how to view log files on a remote web server.

Code Listing 1: Viewing an Apache2 access_log

```
% ssh david@www.example.com tail /var/log/apache2/access_log
```

Alternatively, you could change passwords over SSH (although using public key authentication with SSH is recommended over passwords).

Code Listing 2: Remotely changing a password

```
% ssh david@example.com passwd
(current) UNIX password: password
New UNIX password: new_password
Retype new UNIX password: new_password
Changing password for david
```

This should get you started with remote command execution. See the SSH man pages for more options.

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