

# SSH FileSystem

- there is a filesystem client based on the SSH File Transfer Protocol
  
- advantages
  - since most SSH servers already support this protocol it is very easy to set up: i.e. on the server side there's nothing to do
  - on the client side mounting the filesystem is as easy as logging into the server with ssh
  
- features:
  - implemented in userspace (although there is a kernel implementation if required)
  - multithreaded: more than one request can be on it's way to the server
  - allows large reads (max 64k)
  - caches directory contents



# How to mount a filesystem

- once sshfs is installed, running it is very simple:

```
$ mkdir mountpoint  
$ sshfs hostname: mountpoint
```

## Example of ssh filesystem

```
$ df -h .
Filesystem                Size      Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda3                  57G      2.7G   51G   6% /home
$ mkdir foo
$ sshfs fred@mcgreg.comp.glam.ac.uk:/home/fred/Sandpit /home/fred/foo
Password:
$ df
Filesystem                1K-blocks      Used Available Use% Mounted on
/dev/sda1                  9614116    2372668   6753076   26% /
udev                       10240         52     10188    1% /dev
devshm                     518260         0     518260   0% /dev/shm
/dev/sda3                  59020704   2816436   53206140   6% /home
sshfs#fred@mcgreg.comp.glam.ac.uk:/home/fred/Sandpit
7999999992         0 7999999992    0% /home/fred/foo

$ cd foo
$ ls
autopassword                MorlocSounds.tar.gz
autopassword.tar.gz        MPlayer-1.0pre7try2
build                       MPlayer-1.0pre7try2.tar.bz2
build-32                    oa051
```

## Example of ssh filesystem

```
$ cd ..  
$ fusermount -u foo  
$ df  
Filesystem                1K-blocks      Used Available Use% Mounted on  
/dev/sda1                  9614116    2372668   6753076   26% /  
udev                       10240         52     10188    1% /dev  
devshm                     518260         0     518260   0% /dev/shm  
/dev/sda3                  59020704   2816436   53206140   6% /home  
$
```

## Summary of ssh

- ssh uses public/private key encryption
  - all usernames, passwords and data are encrypted
  
- can be used to tunnel any TCP port across the ssh port (22)
  - contents of this port is encrypted
  - can also tunnel X11 traffic across this port
  - ssh has a basic ftp client (`sftp`)
  
- sshfs exists and can be installed (client side on GNU/Linux, MacOS, FreeBSD)
  - no server side additions are needed

# rsync

- a fast, versatile, remote (and local) file-copying tool
  - it computes the differences between the various files and only transmits these
  - thus minimising the network throughput required
  - uses the `ssh` protocol

```
$ rsync -t *.c foo:src/
```

- `-t` preserves time
- copies all `*.c` files onto remote machine `foo` into directory `src`

# rsync

- ```
$ rsync -az username@remote.machine.com:/directory /localdir
```
- copy all files (recursively)
  - use archive format, preserve ownerships, symbolic links, devices
  - compress data before transmission, uncompress data after reception
- above mechanism is a very useful method of providing per user remote backups
- can install a rsync daemon (if desired)
  - easier to perform system backups or multiple user backups