

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