

How to transfer files to / from Linux servers using SFTP

If the OpenSSH daemon is running on that computer, users can connect to it via Secure / SSH FTP (SFTP) protocol.

Most people prefer to use utilities like FileZilla or WinSCP when they need to transfer files to or from Linux / BSD servers. If the OpenSSH daemon is running on that computer, users can connect to it via Secure / SSH FTP (SFTP) protocol. The aforementioned utilities make file transfer easier by providing a graphical interface, but users must install and configure those programs.

Some simpleists don't want to install additional utilities. Others simply like the command line because it allows more control and faster to 'say' with what utilities the user wants it to do. But now, there's another reason to use the command line when you want to transfer files. By default, Windows 10 starts to include an OpenSSH client application that allows logging in to Linux / BSD servers directly from the Command Prompt.

This client also comes with a host of other utilities and SFTP is among them. Therefore, users can now transfer files to Linux / BSD operating systems, directly from Command Prompt, without having to install anything on a Windows computer.

Instructions for using SFTP to transfer files to / from Linux servers

1. How to login using the sftp command
2. How to download the file after logging in with sftp
3. How to upload files after logging in with sftp
4. How to continue to transfer and use spaces containing spaces

How to login using the sftp command

If you're on Windows, open **Command Prompt**. If you're on Linux, open a terminal window.

To log in to the server using the sftp command, use the same syntax as the ssh command.

```
sftp your_username@IP-address-or-hostname
```

Example commands:

```
sftp john@203.0.113.1 sftp john@example.com
```

```
CA\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe - sftp root@199.247.1.100
C:\>sftp root@199.247.1.100
The authenticity of host '199.247.1.100 (199.247.1.100)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:Gx8qpT77mpjrh8JLc1ApKYvGf4ynXfnDgTeSBoA3wB4.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?
Warning: Permanently added '199.247.1.100' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@199.247.1.100's password:
Connected to root@199.247.1.100.
sftp>
```

How to download the file after logging in with sftp

You can now enter the command at the sftp> prompt to interact with the files on the server.

To download a file:

```
get /path/to/file/on/server
```

For example:

```
get /bin/ls
```

This command will download the current directory (the directory before logging in to the server). To download a specific local directory (on Windows):

```
get /path/to/file/on/server C:pathtolocalfolder
```

For example:

```
get /bin/ls C:UserJohnDesktop
```

On Linux, just use Unix type paths (forward slashes instead of backslashes):

```
get /bin/ls /home/john/Desktop
```

Note : Even when using slashes (incorrect) for Windows paths in sftp, it seems that the utility will still understand them.

The path may also be relative. This means that if it's already in **C: UserJohn** when you open the Command Prompt, the user can download the desktop (**C: UserJohnDesktop**) with:

```
get /bin/ls Desktop
```

Remote paths can also be relative. This means that if you log in with **sftp john@203.0.113.1**, the user is already in the **' / home / john' directory**, so you can use it to download **' / home / john / file'**.

```
get file Desktop
```

This command will download **' / home / john / file'** into **'C: UsersYourUserDesktopfile'**.

```
Command Prompt
sftp> get -r /bin Desktop\bin
Fetching /bin/ to Desktop/bin/
Retrieving /bin
/bin/systemd-notify      100% 10KB 98.0KB/s 00:00
/bin/kbd_mode            100% 10KB 28.2KB/s 00:00
/bin/nano                 100% 220KB 131.2KB/s 00:01
/bin/busybox             100% 657KB 392.8KB/s 00:01
/bin/systemctl           100% 170KB 415.7KB/s 00:00
/bin/systemd-escape      100% 14KB 130.4KB/s 00:00
/bin/dash                100% 114KB 197.3KB/s 00:00
/bin/setupcon            100% 37KB 212.0KB/s 00:00
/bin/chown               100% 63KB 295.8KB/s 00:00
/bin/bash                100% 1073KB 973.0KB/s 00:01
/bin/bzgrep              100% 3642 39.7KB/s 00:00
/bin/bzcmp: not a regular file
/bin/chmod               100% 59KB 359.3KB/s 00:00
/bin/lesspipe            100% 7765 81.2KB/s 00:00
/bin/lessfile: not a regular file
/bin/bzfgrep: not a regular file
/bin/egrep               100% 28 0.1KB/s 00:00
/bin/zfgrep              100% 140 1.5KB/s 00:00
/bin/bzcat               100% 35KB 77.1KB/s 00:00
/bin/fgrep               100% 28 0.3KB/s 00:00
/bin/hostname            100% 19KB 148.9KB/s 00:00
/bin/zegrep              100% 140 1.6KB/s 00:00
```

To copy the directory, the user must add the **-r** parameter to the command.

```
get -r /bin Desktopbin
```

Remember to add a name for the new folder you want to create locally, as in **'Desktopbin'** in this case. If using **get -r / bin Desktop**, the files will be copied directly on the Desktop. It requires files to be copied, not the directory itself.

How to upload files after logging in with sftp

Upload to files or directories according to the same rules. The only exception is that the paths are reversed, meaning that the user first specifies the local file / directory and then the remote path.

On Windows:

```
put C:pathtolocalcontent /path/where/to/upload
```

On Linux:

```
put /path/to/local/content /path/to/remote/location
```

When uploading folders, remember that the same rules as in the previous section apply. It is actually the files in the folder that are copied, not the folder itself. Therefore, specify a new name for a folder you want to copy those files into.

```
put -r Desktop/bin bin
```

This will create a new folder named **'bin'**.

To exit **shell sftp**, just type:

```
exit
```

How to continue to transfer and use spaces containing spaces

When transferring a large file, if interrupted, the user can continue by replacing the previous command with **reput** and **reget** (instead of **put** and **get**). Just make sure you use the exact paths you used before, leaving the source and destination exactly matched.

```
reget /path/to/file/on/server C:pathtolocalfile reput C:pathtolocalfile /path/to
```

To continue moving the directory, just add the **-r** parameter :

```
reput -r Desktop/bin bin
```

If the path to the file contains spaces, put it in quotation marks.

This command does not work:

```
put C:Program Files (x86)SteamsteamappscommonThe Witcher 3SOUNDTRACKThe_Witcher_3
```

But the following command has:

```
put "C:Program Files (x86)SteamsteamappscommonThe Witcher 3SOUNDTRACKThe_Witcher_3"
```

This article covers the most important things to know about SFTP. Hope you are succesful.

You finished reading the article "**How to transfer files to / from Linux servers using SFTP**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.