

# Key generation

Log in as the future user of the keys on the system where the private key will be kept private.

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa
Enter file in which to save the key ...: <your choice>
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase): <your choice>
```

Two files should have been created, for example:

```
c@CW8:~$ ls -l .ssh/id_rsa*
-rw----- 1 c users 1679 Jan  4 2011 .ssh/id_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 c users 387 Jan  4 2011 .ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

The names and permissions of the keys reflect their purpose. `id_rsa.pub` is the public key and can be readable by anyone. `id_rsa` must be kept private.

The public key is annotated with the user name and short hostname of the system it was created on:

```
c@CW8:~$ tail -1 .ssh/id_rsa.pub ssh-rsa
AAAAB3NzaClyc2EAAAADAQABAAQCPFeU5a3XE0y5UJWUey+LeImYraVdKvb5Fp5bQYdU0cblFGgsuU600ZMH2yvmi4lXkCbuwpVqXMXxmu8eA70
qmwRc2ouWzucAzebNV10UKN74WgQ4lY2A7pFhv+4UapBWi39GCfQx3sofIBWwF8ccEVGzDhWJeZT+VRj6Ih9YEr2F
/zYH01YiBxL4Ly8XRLV5ixkJh7vcNXLa5KsBtGu/97oxBQJYUDbf3FpiljRcGcHz/Kgtq7J6lBvHkjzaVUeuCF99kMp36lTsX0MJgAvJMv+Edq
/I7Gihlf9Vm2po4sqBH8xKEjEeiWjjBKchp0LxDs+sYL4slEexYxuODnzbT c@CW8
```