

Claude Code — Remote SSH Connection Setup (Windows)

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Prerequisites

- Claude Code desktop app installed on Windows
- Target machine running Linux/macOS on your LAN
- OpenSSH client installed on Windows (built-in since Windows 10 1809)
- Network access between the two machines

Step 1 — Verify OpenSSH is installed on Windows

Open **PowerShell as Administrator** and run:

```
Get-WindowsCapability -Online | Where-Object Name -like 'OpenSSH.Client*'
```

If the state shows `NotPresent`, install it:

```
Add-WindowsCapability -Online -Name OpenSSH.Client~~~~0.0.1.0
```

Step 2 — Fix "Host denied (verification failed)"

This error means SSH cannot verify the remote machine's host key.

Option A — Remove stale host key (most common fix)

```
# Replace 192.168.1.x with your remote machine's IP  
ssh-keygen -R 172.17.1.x
```

Then test the connection manually to accept the new key:

```
ssh root@172.17.1.x
# Type "yes" when prompted about the host fingerprint
```

Option B — Edit known_hosts manually

Open the file:

```
notepad C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\known_hosts
```

Find and delete the line containing your remote machine's IP or hostname, then save.

Option C — First-time connection (no prior key)

Just connect once manually and accept the fingerprint:

```
ssh root@172.17.1.x
# Answer "yes" at the prompt
```

Step 3 — Generate an SSH key pair (skip if you already have one)

```
# Check for an existing key first
dir C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\id_ed25519

# If no key exists, generate one
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "your_email@example.com"
# Press Enter to accept the default path
# Set a passphrase or leave it blank
```

Step 4 — Copy your public key to the remote machine

From Windows PowerShell:

```
# Replace user and IP with your values
type $env:USERPROFILE\.ssh\id_ed25519.pub | ssh root@172.17.1.x "mkdir -p ~/.ssh && cat >>
~/.ssh/authorized_keys && chmod 600 ~/.ssh/authorized_keys"
```

If that fails, do it manually:

1. Print your public key:

```
type C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\id_ed25519.pub
```

2. Copy the output.

3. SSH into the remote machine with a password:

```
ssh root@172.17.1.x
```

4. On the remote machine:

```
mkdir -p ~/.ssh
echo "PASTE_YOUR_PUBLIC_KEY_HERE" >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
chmod 600 ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
chmod 700 ~/.ssh
```

Test passwordless login:

```
ssh root@172.17.1.x
# Should log in without a password prompt
```

Step 5 — Install Claude Code on the remote machine

Claude Code must be installed on the remote machine for remote development to work.

```
# On the remote Linux machine
npm install -g @anthropic-ai/claude-code
```

Verify:

```
claude --version
```

Step 6 — Add SSH config entry (recommended)

This makes connections easier and is required by Claude Code's remote feature.

Open or create `C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\config` in a text editor:

```
notepad C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\config
```

Add an entry:

```
Host myserver
  HostName 172.17.1.x
  User your_username
  IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_ed25519
  ServerAliveInterval 60
```

```
ServerAliveCountMax 3
```

Test it:

```
ssh myserver
```

Step 7 — Connect from Claude Code (Windows app)

Method A — Via the GUI

1. Open the **Claude Code** desktop app.
2. Click the **remote connection icon** (or go to **File → Connect to Remote**).
3. Enter the SSH connection string:

```
ssh://root@172.17.1.x
```

Or if you set up a config alias in Step 6:

```
ssh://myserver
```

4. Select the remote working directory you want to open.
5. Click **Connect**.

Method B — Via the terminal inside Claude Code

Open the integrated terminal in Claude Code and run:

```
# Navigate to a remote project
claude --remote ssh://root@172.17.1.x /path/to/project
```

Method C — Launch from PowerShell

```
claude --remote ssh://myserver /home/user/myproject
```

Troubleshooting

Error	Cause	Fix
Host denied (verification failed)	Stale or missing host key	Run <code>ssh-keygen -R <ip></code> then reconnect
Permission denied (publickey)	Key not on remote	Repeat Step 4
Connection refused	SSH not running on remote	<code>sudo systemctl start ssh</code> on remote

Error	Cause	Fix
Connection timed out	Firewall or wrong IP	Check firewall, verify IP with <code>ip addr</code> on remote
<code>claude: command not found</code> on remote	Claude Code not installed	Repeat Step 5

Quick Reference

```
# Remove stale host key
ssh-keygen -R 192.168.1.x

# Test SSH connection
ssh user@192.168.1.x

# Test SSH config alias
ssh myserver

# Copy public key to remote
type $env:USERPROFILE\.ssh\id_ed25519.pub | ssh user@192.168.1.x "cat >>
~/.ssh/authorized_keys"

# Connect Claude Code to remote
claude --remote ssh://myserver /home/user/project
```

File Locations

File	Path
SSH private key	<code>C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\id_ed25519</code>
SSH public key	<code>C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\id_ed25519.pub</code>
Known hosts	<code>C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\known_hosts</code>
SSH config	<code>C:\Users\YourUsername\.ssh\config</code>

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