

How to configure ssh to automatically connect to non standard ssh port numbers (!port 22)

Author : admin



Today I've learned from a admin colleague, a handy tip.

I'm administrating some Linux servers which are configured on purpose not to run on the default ssh port number (22) and therefore each time I connect to a host I have to invoke the **ssh** command with **-p PORT_NUMBER** option.

This is not such a problem, however when one has to administrate a dozen of servers each of which is configured to listen for ssh connections on various port numbers, every now and then I had to check in my notes which was the correct ssh port number I'm supposed to connect to.

To get around this silly annoyance the **ssh client** has a feature, whether a number of ssh server hosts can be preconfigured from the `~/.ssh/config` in order to later automatically recognize the port number to which the corresponding host will be connecting (whenever) using the ssh `user@somehost` without any **-p** argument specified.

In order to make the "auto detection" of the ssh port number, the `~/.ssh/config` file should look something similar to:

```
hipo@noah:~$ cat ~/.ssh/config
Host home.*.pc-freak.net
User root
Port 2020
Host www.remotesystemadministration.com
```

```
User root
Port 1212
Host sub.pc-freak.net
User root
Port 2222
Host www.example-server-host.com
User root
Port 1234
```

The ***.pc-freak.net** specifies that all ssh-able subdomains belonging to my domain pc-freak.net should be by default sshed to port 2020

Now I can simply use:

```
hipo@noah:~$ ssh root@myhosts.com
```

And I can connect without bothering to remember port numbers or dig into an old notes.
Hope this ssh tip is helpful.