

PASSWORD MANAGER > DEVELOPER TOOLS

SSH Agent

View in the help center:
<https://bitwarden.com/help/ssh-agent/>

SSH Agent

Bitwarden Password Manager desktop app can act as an SSH agent to securely encrypt and store your SSH (Secure Shell) keys for use with:

- Authenticating to servers
- Signing Git commits
- Interacting with SSH based services

The Bitwarden SSH agent will organize and protect your keys in one secure location. SSH keys can be accessed with the desktop app, web app, browser extension, and mobile app. SSH keys can be generated using the desktop app, web app, and browser extension.

Note

The SSH Agent requires release version 2025.1.2 or newer.

macOS:

The macOS store builds do not support the SSH agent at this time, the [.dmg download](#) can be used for SSH agent support.

Linux:

The Flatpak builds do not support the SSH agent at this time, the [Snap download](#) can be used for SSH agent support.

Storing an SSH key

New SSH keys can be created and saved in the Bitwarden desktop app. Bitwarden SSH keys will store:

Field	Description
Key name	The name for your SSH key.
Private key	The private key is sensitive data that will be used by the server to facilitate secure connection. Private key data should be treated with care and kept secure. Users may use Bitwarden to generate a secure, unique private key.
Public key	Portion of the key shared with the server that you will be connecting to.
Fingerprint	A short unique string generated from the public key for identification. For example, SSH-signed git commits can be verified using the fingerprint.

SSH keys stored in the Bitwarden Password Manager will have access to Bitwarden features such as [folders](#), [favorites](#), [master password re-prompt](#), [notes](#), [cloning items](#), [attachments](#), and [custom fields](#).

Create new SSH key

Create a new SSH key using the Bitwarden desktop app, web app, or browser extension. Once created, SSH keys stored in Bitwarden can be accessed from the desktop app, web app, browser extension, and mobile apps.

1. Select the **New** button and choose **SSH key** as the item type.



There are no items to list.

[Add item](#)

ADD ITEM

Type
SSH key

Name
GitHub

Private key
-----BEGIN OPENSSSH PRIVATE KEY-----
.....
.....
.....
.....
-----END OPENSSSH PRIVATE KEY-----

Public key
ssh- [copy]

Fingerprint
SHA256: [fingerprint] [copy]

Import key from clipboard

Folder
No folder

Favorite

Master password re-prompt

[save] Cancel

Create new SSH key on desktop client

Note

At this time, Bitwarden can only generate ED25519 type SSH keys.

2. Fill in remaining details such as **Name** and select the Save icon once complete.

Organization SSH keys


Organization owned SSH keys are not able to be used in the SSH agent. Individual organization users may create and store SSH keys in their individual vault for authentication. Sharing SSH credentials is not a recommended practice.

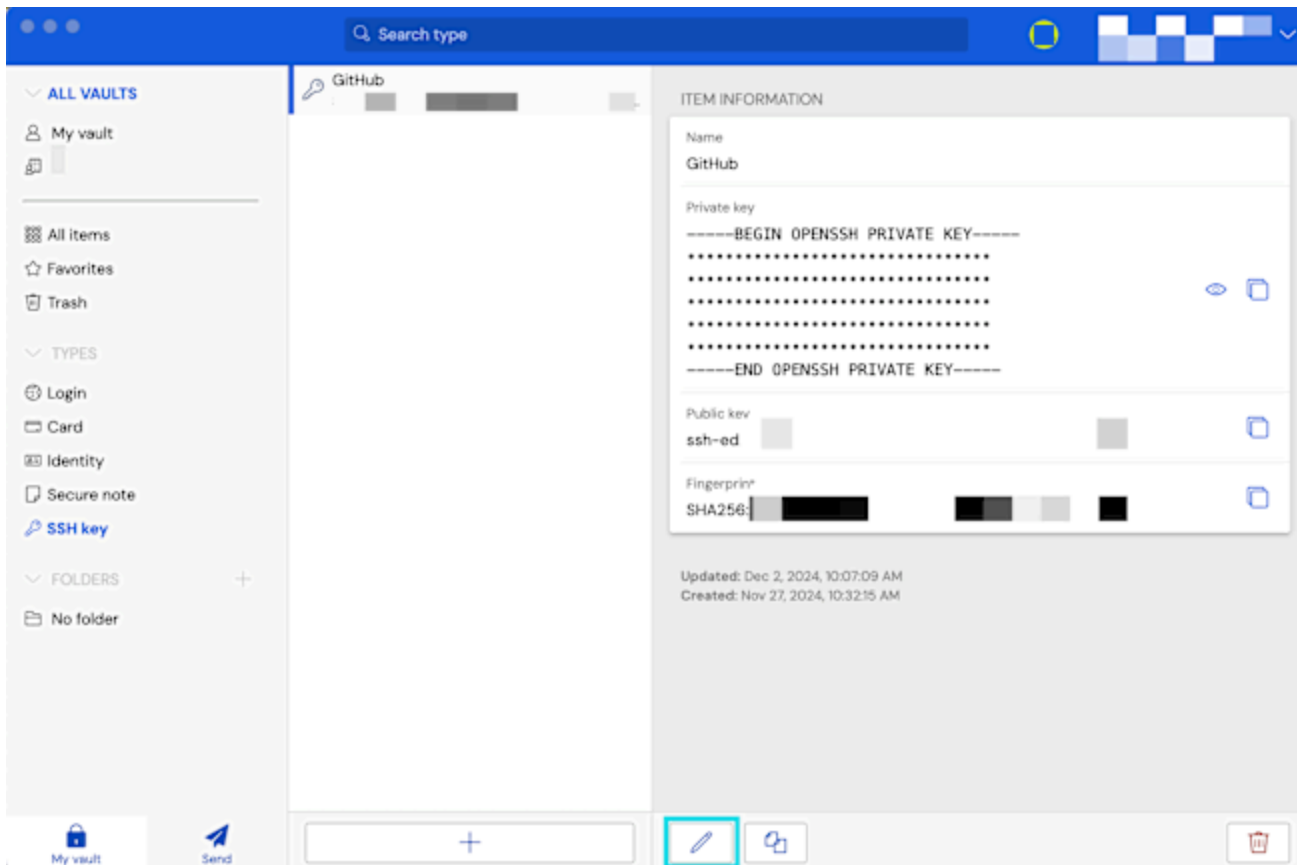
Edit existing keys

Once an SSH key has been saved in your Bitwarden vault, you may edit the key:

⇒Desktop

To edit SSH keys on the Bitwarden desktop app:

1. Open the Bitwarden desktop app and navigate to **SSH keys**.
2. Locate the SSH key you wish to edit and then select  **Edit**.



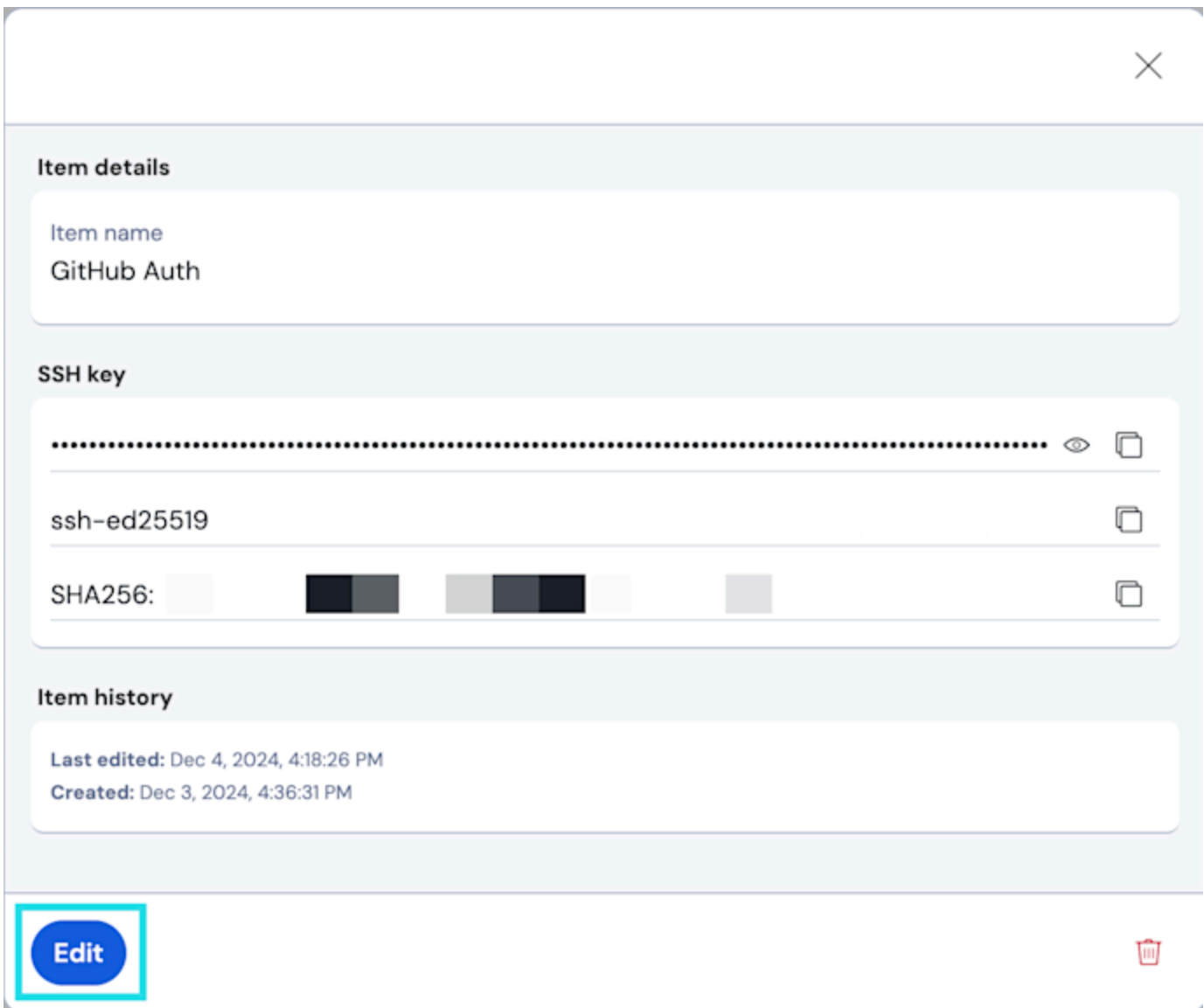
Edit desktop SSH item

3. Once you have completed the desired changes, select  **Save**.

⇒Web app

To edit SSH keys on the Bitwarden web app:

1. Open the Bitwarden web app and navigate to **SSH keys**.
2. Locate and select the SSH key you wish to edit. A dialogue will appear on screen, then select **Edit**.



Edit SSH item web app

3. Once you have completed the desired changes, select **Save**.






⇒ Mobile

To edit SSH keys on the Bitwarden mobile app:

1. Open the Bitwarden mobile app and navigate to **SSH keys**.

Vaults

Q Search

TYPES	5
 Login	2
 Card	1
 Identity	0
 Secure note	0
 SSH key	10

Mobile SSH key vault

2. Locate the SSH key you wish to edit and then select **Edit**.



Close View item **Edit** ⋮

ITEM INFORMATION



Name

Server Key



Private key

.....  

Public key

ssh-  

Fingerprint

SHA256:  

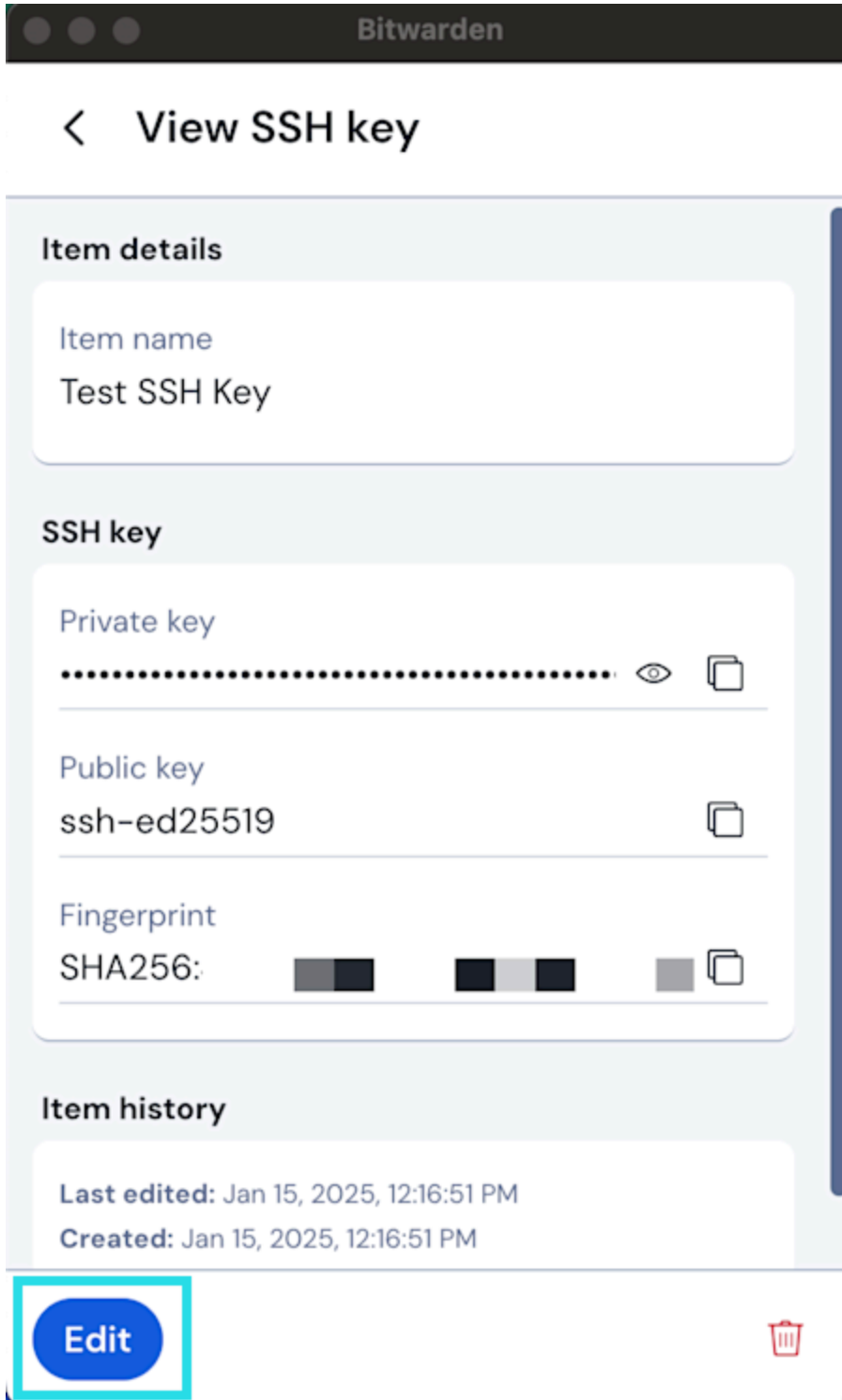
Select edit SSH key iOS

3. Once you have completed the desired changes, select **Save**.

⇒ Browser extension

To edit SSH keys on the Bitwarden browser extension:

1. Open the Bitwarden browser extension and navigate to **SSH keys**.
2. Locate and select the SSH key you wish to edit. A dialogue will appear on screen, then select **Edit**.



Edit SSH Browser

3. Once you have completed the desired changes, select **Save**.

Import key to Bitwarden

Existing SSH keys can be imported into Bitwarden.

1. Select  **SSH key** from the navigation menu.
2. Copy the existing SSH key you wish to import into Bitwarden. Use the **Import key from clipboard** option. This will automatically paste the SSH key into Bitwarden.

ADD ITEM

Type

SSH key

Name

GitHub

Private key

```
-----BEGIN OPENSSSH PRIVATE KEY-----  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
-----END OPENSSSH PRIVATE KEY-----
```

Public key

ssh- [visual representation of public key]

Fingerprint

SHA256: [visual representation of fingerprint]

Import key from clipboard

Import SSH key on desktop client

Note

Imported keys must be in **OpenSSH** or **PKCS#8** format

Additionally, at this time, imported SSH keys from Putty are not compatible.

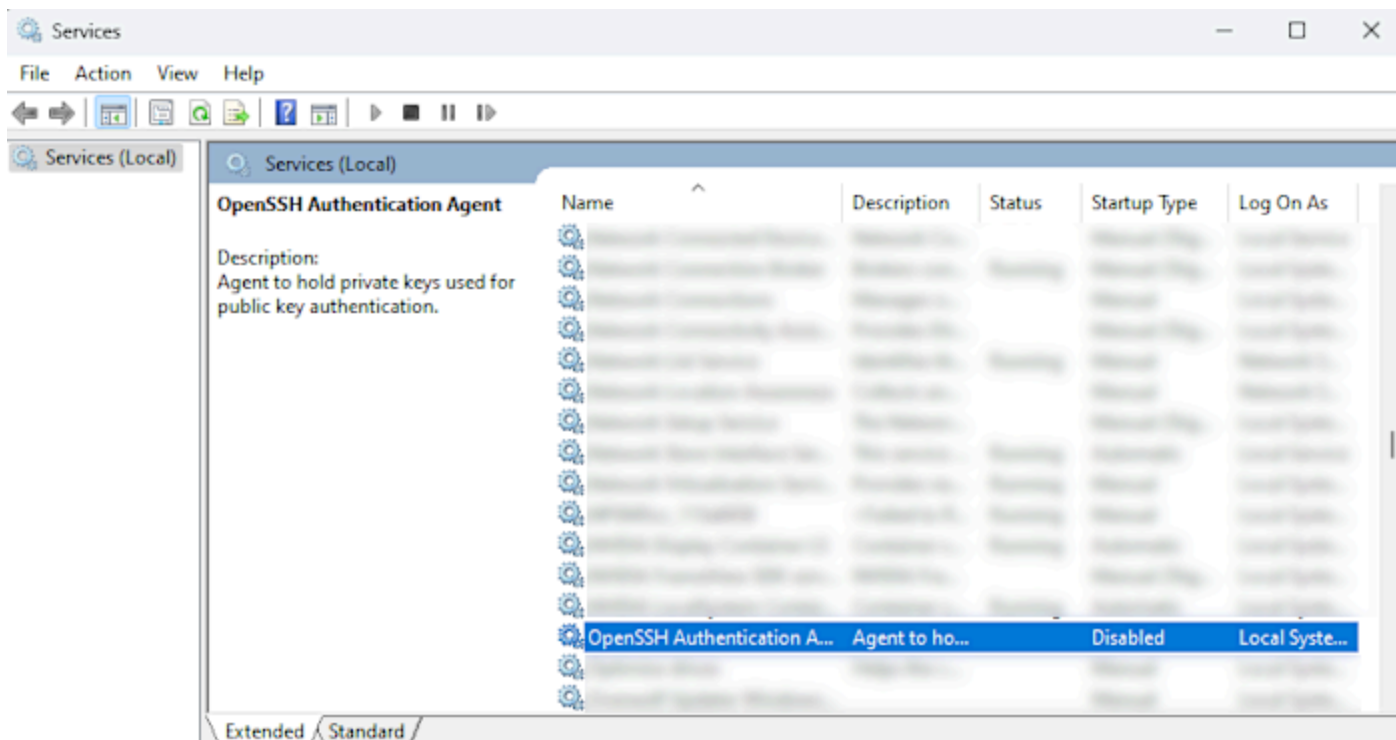
Configure Bitwarden SSH agent

In order to use Bitwarden as your primary SSH agent, you will be required to configure your SSH client to communicate with Bitwarden for authentication.

⇒Windows

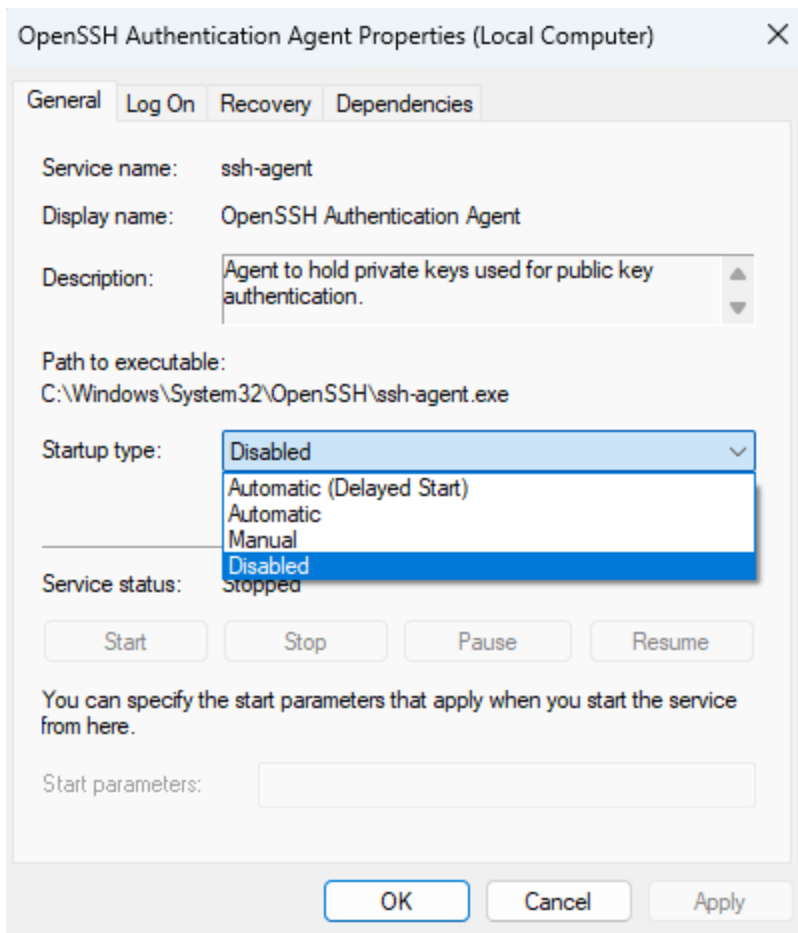
To enable the Bitwarden SSH agent on Windows, you must disable the OpenSSH service on your Windows machine. To disable OpenSSH:

1. On your Windows machine, navigate to **Services → OpenSSH Authentication Agent**. Services can be located with the Windows search bar.



Windows Services panel

2. Once you have opened the OpenSSH Authentication Agent Properties window, set the **Startup type** setting to **Disabled**.



Disable OpenSSH Windows

3. Once the settings have been adjusted, select **Apply** and then **OK**.

Note

If OpenSSH Authentication Agent is not an option in the Services list, there is no need to disable the service.

4. To use the SSH agent with Git, configure the `core.sshCommand` variable in your Git config to use Microsoft OpenSSH:

Plain Text

```
git config --global core.sshCommand "C:/Windows/System32/OpenSSH/ssh.exe"
```

5. This can also be set using your `gitconfig` file:

Plain Text

```
[core]
sshCommand = C:/Windows/System32/OpenSSH/ssh.exe
```

⇒ macOS

Enable the Bitwarden SSH agent on macOS:

1. Configure the `SSH_AUTH_SOCK` variable to point to the Bitwarden SSH Agent socket. The following example demonstrates how to do this for macOS after replacing `<user>` with your username:

Bash

```
export SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/Users/<user>/.bitwarden-ssh-agent.sock
```

⇒ Linux

Enable the Bitwarden SSH agent on Linux:

1. Configure the `SSH_AUTH_SOCK` variable to point to the Bitwarden SSH Agent socket. The following example demonstrates how to do this for Linux after replacing `<user>` with your username:

Plain Text

```
export SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/home/<user>/.bitwarden-ssh-agent.sock
```

⇒ Snap

Enable the Bitwarden SSH agent on snap installations:

1. Configure the `SSH_AUTH_SOCK` variable to point to the Bitwarden SSH Agent socket. The following example demonstrates how to do this for snap after replacing `<user>` with your username:

Plain Text

```
export SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/home/<user>/snap/bitwarden/current/.bitwarden-ssh-agent.sock
```

Enable SSH agent

To enable the SSH agent on your Bitwarden desktop app, navigate to **Settings** and **Enable SSH agent**.

Enable SSH agent

Enable the SSH agent to sign SSH requests right from your Bitwarden vault.

Enable SSH storage on desktop client

Testing SSH keys

Once the SSH agent has been configured for Bitwarden, we can test the setup by requesting an SSH list:

Plain Text

```
ssh-add -L
```

This will return a list of SSH keys saved in your Bitwarden desktop client.

Note

When accessing an SSH key, the behavior of Bitwarden will differ depending on the locked or unlocked status of the client.

- **Locked vault:** If your Bitwarden vault is locked, Bitwarden will automatically prompt you to unlock your vault in order to gain access to the SSH key.
- **Unlocked vault:** If the desktop vault is unlocked, you will be prompted to confirm the SSH key usage.

Use SSH key to authenticate with Git

SSH can be used to authenticate with Git. The Bitwarden SSH agent can add security and ease of use to your Git workflows. In this example, the Bitwarden SSH agent will authenticate to GitHub.

1. On your GitHub account, setup an SSH key by navigating to **Settings, SSH and GPG keys**, then select **New SSH Key**.

The screenshot shows the GitHub Settings page. On the left is a navigation sidebar with 'SSH and GPG keys' highlighted. The main content area has three sections: 'SSH keys' with a 'New SSH key' button, 'GPG keys' with a 'New GPG key' button, and 'Vigilant mode' with a checkbox for 'Flag unsigned commits as unverified'. The 'SSH keys' section contains text stating there are no keys and a link to a guide. The 'GPG keys' section contains text stating there are no keys and a link to a guide. The 'Vigilant mode' section contains a checkbox and explanatory text.

2. On the add new SSH key screen, add a **Name**, select a **Key type**. Choose **Authentication Key**. Copy & paste the **Public key** from your Bitwarden vault into the **Key** field on GitHub.

Add new SSH Key

Title

Key type

Key

```
ssh- [redacted]
```

Add SSH key

Create new GitHub key

- Once you have completed all of the fields, select **Add SSH key** to save the key. GitHub will request you verify your GitHub account before the key is saved.
- Test the GitHub SSH key in your terminal, for example if you are using macOS:

Plain Text

```
ssh git@github.com
```

- If successful, Bitwarden will prompt you to verify the access request. Select **Authorize** to confirm. If successful, you will receive a message verifying the authentication attempt:

Plain Text

```
Hi <USER>! You've successfully authenticated, but GitHub does not provide shell access.
```

Authenticate with git repositories

Use the Bitwarden SSH agent to sign SSH Git commits. Before using the Bitwarden SSH agent to sign Git commits, your system will require:

- Git version 2.34 or newer. Check your Git version with:

Plain Text

```
git --version
```

- OpenSSH version 8.8 or newer. Check version with:

Plain Text

```
ssh -V
```

- Bitwarden desktop client with SSH agent enabled.

Configure Git for SSH signing

Configure your Git environment to point to your SSH key for signing. To complete this you may set global variables or establish the instructions in your `.gitconfig` file.

Set global variables

To configure Git settings using `--global` variables:

1. Set Git to use SSH for signing:

Plain Text

```
git config --global gpg.format ssh
```

2. Specify the SSH key to use as the signing key. To use the Bitwarden SSH agent, replace `<YOUR_PUBLIC_KEY>` with the public key copied from the SSH key saved in your Bitwarden vault.

Plain Text

```
git config --global user.signingkey "<YOUR_PUBLIC_KEY>"
```

Set `.gitconfig` file

To configure Git using a `.gitconfig` file:

1. Access `.gitconfig` with your preferred text editor:

Plain Text

```
nano ~/.gitconfig
```

2. Add the following configurations:

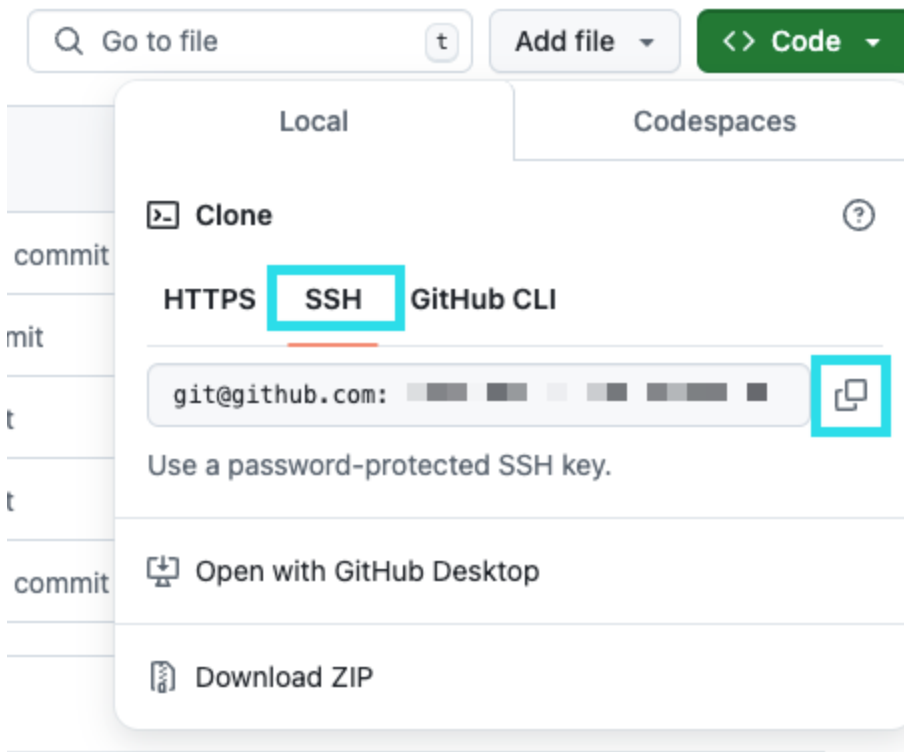
Bash

```
[gpg]
  format = ssh
[user]
  signingkey = "<YOUR_PUBLIC_KEY>"
  name = <USER_NAME>
  email = <USER_EMAIL>
[commit]
  gpgsign = true
```

Sign Git commits

Using SSH to authenticate with Git can add security and ease of use to your workflow. Similarly, SSH keys stored in Bitwarden can be used to sign and verify Git commits using SSH protocol. In this example, the Bitwarden SSH agent will be used to sign Git commits to GitHub.

1. On your GitHub account, setup an SSH signing key by navigating to **Settings, SSH and GPG keys**, then select **New SSH Key**.
2. On the add new SSH key screen, add a **Name** and select a **Key type**, Choose **Signing Key**. Copy & paste the **Public key** from your Bitwarden vault into the **Key** field on GitHub.
3. Use the SSH key to clone your repository with SSH method:



SSH clone

Plain Text

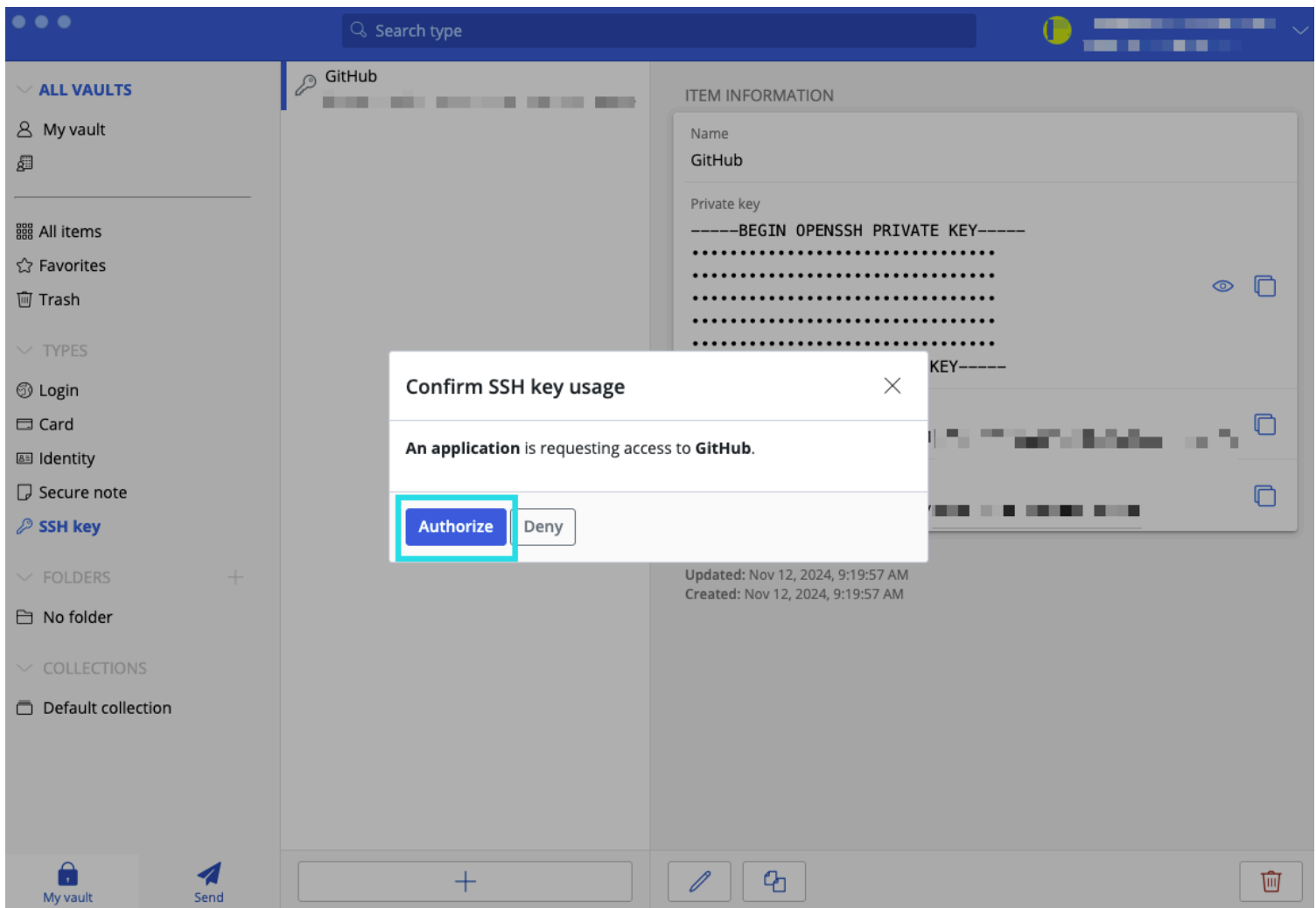
```
git clone git@github.com:<USER>/<repository>.git
```

4. Create the Git commit using terminal or your preferred text editor:

Plain Text

```
git commit -m "This commit is signed using SSH"
```

5. Bitwarden will prompt you to authorize the key usage:



Authorize SSH with client

6. Once authorized, the SSH key will be initiated to approve the commit. You may now push the commit:

Plain Text

```
git push
```

7. You may verify your commit on Github by navigating to GitHub commits:

The screenshot shows a GitHub interface. On the left, a notification box with a green checkmark icon states: "This commit was signed with the committer's **verified signature**." Below this, it shows a user profile icon, the text "SSH Key Fingerprint:" followed by a redacted fingerprint, and the verification date "Verified on Dec 4, 2024, 11:29 AM". A link "Learn about vigilant mode" is also present. On the right, a list of commits is visible, with the top one marked "Verified" in a green pill, followed by the commit hash "ab367c6" and icons for copying and viewing the commit details. The second commit has the hash "2d12a15".

2024-12-04 11-32-12