samegoal

Convert Private Key

If a public/private key pair is generated for Mac or Linux (which uses an OpenSSH-style private key), it can easily be converted for use on Windows (which uses a PPK-style private key) using PuTTYgen. Or vice versa.

Steps to convert a private key

Steps *To convert a private Mac/Linux (OpenSSH-style) key to a Windows (PPK-style) key:*

1. Download PuTTYgen
2. Launch PuTTYgen. Visit **Conversions > Import Key**.
3. Browse to and open the OpenSSH-style key (**id_rsa**)
4. Click the **Save private key** button.
5. When prompted "Are you sure you want to save this key without a passphrase to protect it?" choose Yes.
6. Save the file. Recommended filename: **id_rsa.ppk**

Steps *To convert a private Windows (PPK-style) key to a Mac/Linux (OpenSSH-style) key:*

1. Download PuTTYgen
2. Launch PuTTYgen. Visit **File > Load private key**.
3. Browse to and open the PPK-style private key (**id_rsa.ppk**)
4. Visit **Conversion > Export OpenSSH key**
5. When prompted "Are you sure you want to save this key without a passphrase to protect it?" choose Yes.
6. Save the file. Recommended filename: **id_rsa**