

Using Multiple SSH ports



Unix Tutorial

This is not the most obvious functionality, hence I decided to share it as a separate post. It's quite easy and perfectly acceptable to specify more than one [SSH port](#) for your [sshd daemon](#) – useful for debugging or added security (when bound to separate IP addresses).

Adding Extra SSH ports

Simply edit the `/etc/ssh/sshd_config` file and add more port numbers under the existing default port (it's commented out because 22 is used by default):

```
greys@server:~$ sudo vi /etc/ssh/sshd_config
```

Change this:

```
#Port 22
AddressFamily any±
ListenAddress 0.0.0.0
ListenAddress ::
```

to this:

```
Port 22
Port 221
Port 222
AddressFamily any±
ListenAddress 0.0.0.0
ListenAddress ::
```

IMPORTANT: you must uncomment Port 22, otherwise new ports will be the only SSH ports listened on (so SSH port 22 will stop working).

Now restart ssh:

```
greys@server:~$ sudo systemctl restart ssh
```

Confirm each new SSH port

netstat command with grep confirms that all 3 ports are being listened on now:

```
greys@server:~$ netstat -nal | grep 22
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22          0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:221        0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:222        0.0.0.0:*
LISTEN
```

If we want to, we can even try connecting to a non-standard ssh port like 221 or 222 as per our changes.

Don't be alarmed about warning:

```
root@server:~# ssh greys@localhost -p 222
The authenticity of host '[localhost]:222 ([127.0.0.1]:222)'
can't be established.
ECDSA          key fingerprint          is
SHA256:12efZx1M0EmlxQ0WKhm5eaxDwJr4vUllhcpElkGHTow.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '[localhost]:222' (ECDSA) to the
list of known hosts.
greys@localhost's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 19.04 (GNU/Linux 4.18.0-20-generic x86_64)
```

Hope you enjoy this advice, stay tuned for more!

See Also

- [ssh port](#)
- [SSH](#)
- [ssh command](#)