

# How to setup and use SSH Socks Proxy with Putty/iSSH & Firefox

SSH otherwise known as Secure Shell can be used to create SSH Socks proxy through a process known as Dynamic Port Forwarding which can be used to tunnel internet traffic over a secure, encrypted SSH tunnel. This means that you can safely browse the web, chat, email (or what have you) safely and securely without having to worry about people snooping in on your active connections.

Dynamic Port Forwarding with SOCKS over SSH is probably the easiest and cheapest secure method to connect a client application to a remote host over a preferred port. This method allows an application on a client computer to make request to a local port, then the requests are forwarded to a remote host, which processes the requests and returns the data back to the client. This is very similar to a simple proxy, with the exception that in a proxy set up the application sends data directly to the remote host, while in this configuration we have an emulated local SOCKS server that handles the requests first and then directs them to the remote computer encrypting the traffic in the process. Dynamic Port Forwarding over SSH is in a way a simple alternative to VPN

---

## **How it Works**

A SOCKS proxy is a server that explicitly intercepts client connections, bypassing the default routes and firewall rules of the local network. When you connect to the SSH SOCKS proxy, your IP address is hidden as you browse the web. In addition to that, your internet traffic cannot be snooped because the traffic is encrypted. In addition, the tunnel will unblock any web sites you are restricted from accessing because network filters can not see what goes through it.

---

## **What you'll need before starting**

You're going to need a couple of things in order to create an SSH tunnel that you can use as a SOCKS 5 proxy for Firefox browser or any application that supports Socks 5. Here's a short list of things you'll need:

1. A remote server you can connect to using SSH. You will be provided the SSH server IP after your signup
2. By default our SSH runs on port 443 to enable our users bypass through any firewall/proxy
3. The Putty software or iSSH software, which you can obtain from the developers' websites.

---

## How to Configure Putty to Create SSH Socks Proxy

Putty is a free SSH client which can be used to create the secure tunnel. Putty can be downloaded freely from the developers site:

<http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/putty/0.61/x86/putty.exe>

Before configuring Putty to create the SSH Socks proxy, you need to have a SSH tunnel account. You can signup for a SSH Tunnel account from our order page at:

<http://www.anonyproz.com/member/signup.php>

After obtaining the SSH tunnel account, then proceed to create the SSH Socks proxy as follows depending on your operating system:

- **MAC OS X**

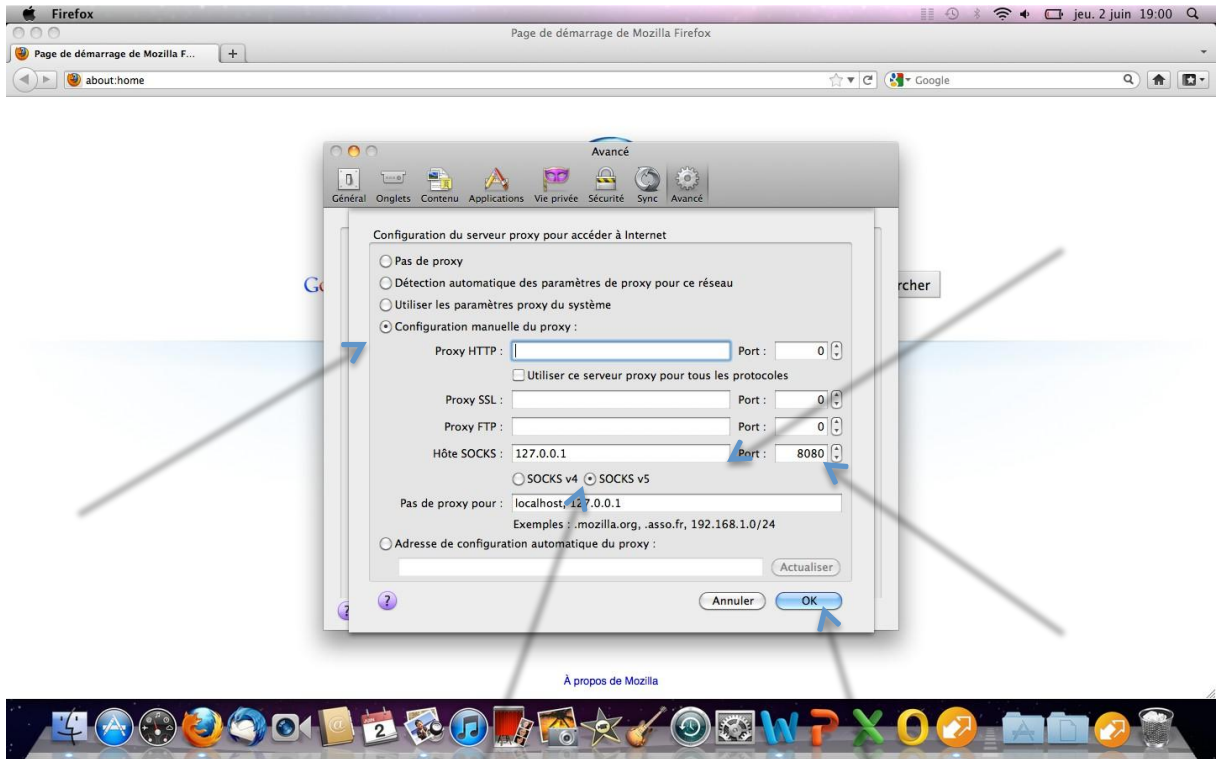
To connect to an SSH server for MAC, we will use a simple and powerful application called iSSH available from <http://macserve.org.uk/projects/iss/>. iSSH is a front-end application to the command line application “ssh”. It provides a quick and easy way to start an SSH connection to a remote computer. The following steps are required to create the SSH Socks proxy using iSSH.

The screenshot shows the iSSH application window with the following configuration options:

- Remote Address:** A text field containing "Enter server IP" and a **Port** field containing "443".
- User Name and Password:** Two text fields labeled "User Name" and "Password".
- Port Forward (-L):** A radio button is unselected. It has a **Local Port** field with "5900" and a **Remote Port** field with "5900".
- SOCKS Proxy (-D):** A radio button is selected. It has a **Local Port** field with "8080".

At the bottom, there are several buttons: "Load Settings", "Save Settings", "Connect", "Disconnect", "Quit and Disconnect", and "Just Quit".

1. Launch iSSH to get the window shown above
2. Complete with your username and password
3. Check Socks Proxy Button enter the local port as 8080
4. Click Save Settings (to restore them with load settings next time)
5. Click Connect.
6. Open Firefox and go to preference --> Network --> Settings
7. Complete just like the screenshot and click ok.



- **Windows**

For Windows users, the Putty application can be used to easily create the SSH Socks proxy. The following steps are required to create the SSH Socks proxy using Putty:

Step 1: Downloading and installing Putty

This step is easy. Just browse to the official Putty website at:

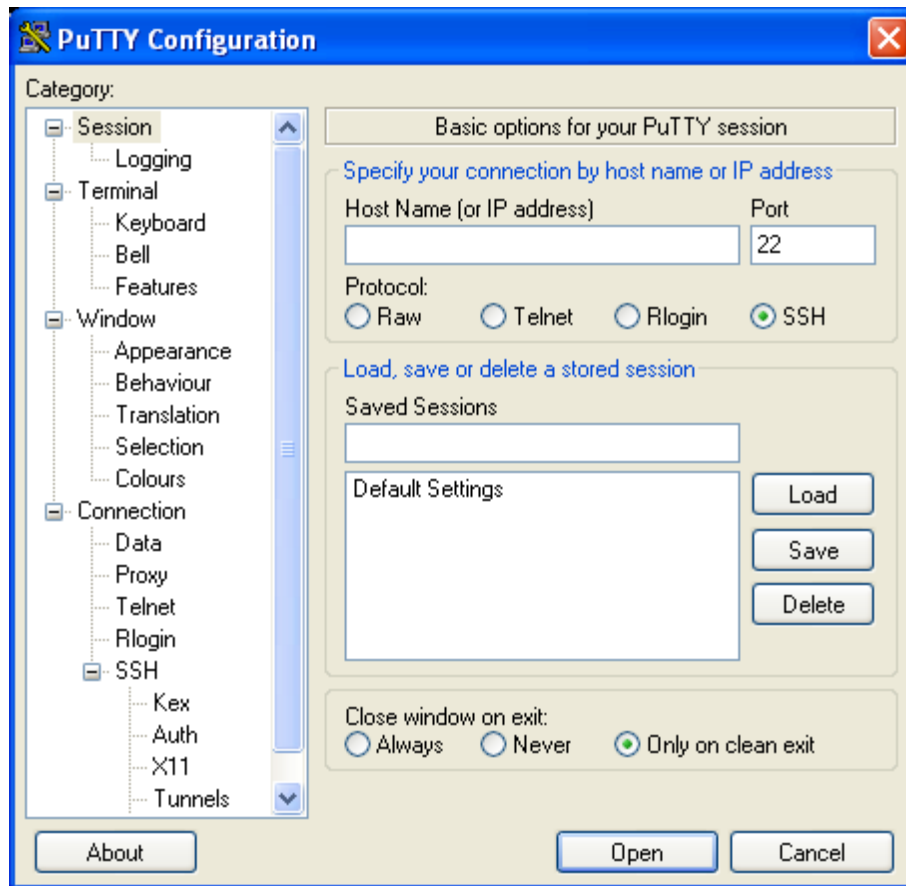
<http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/putty/latest/x86/putty.exe>,

Then download the putty.exe executable file. As of this writing there is no installation process -- just download it, drop it in a folder, and it's ready to be used.

Step 2: Configuring a tunnel to your SSH server

Next, we'll use Putty to create an SSH tunnel and connect to your remote server. You will need the SSH server IP which was provided to you when you signed up.

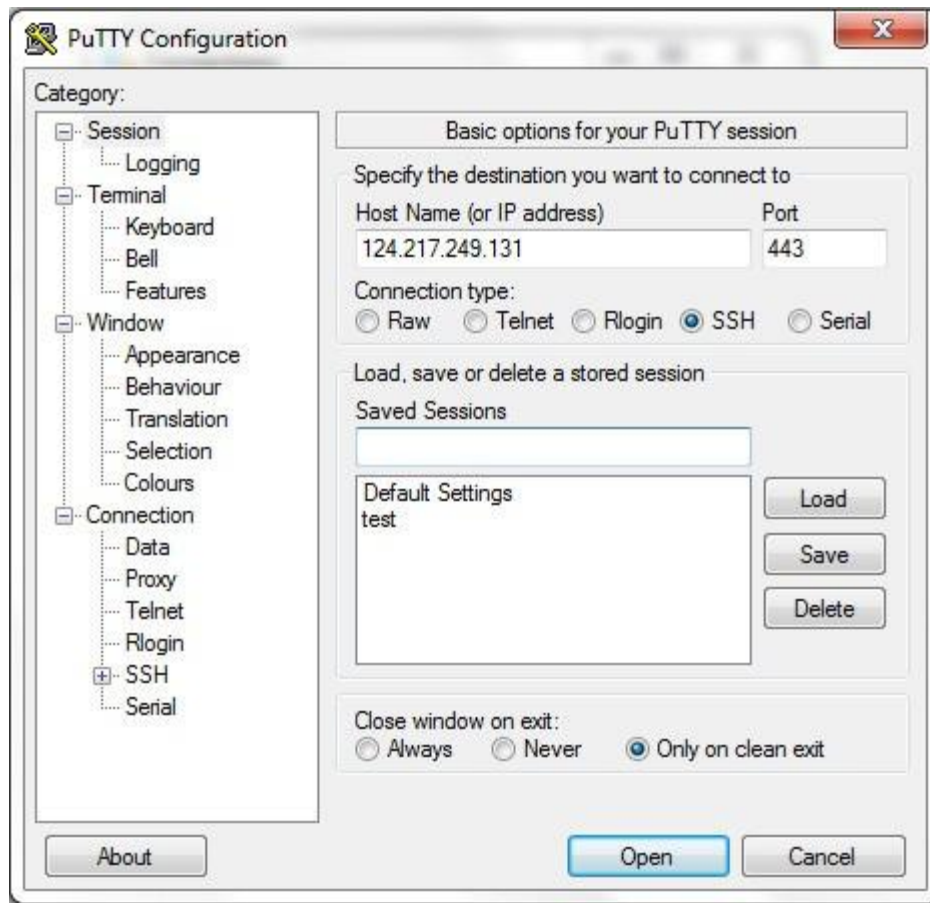
When you start Putty you should see a window that looks like the next figure:



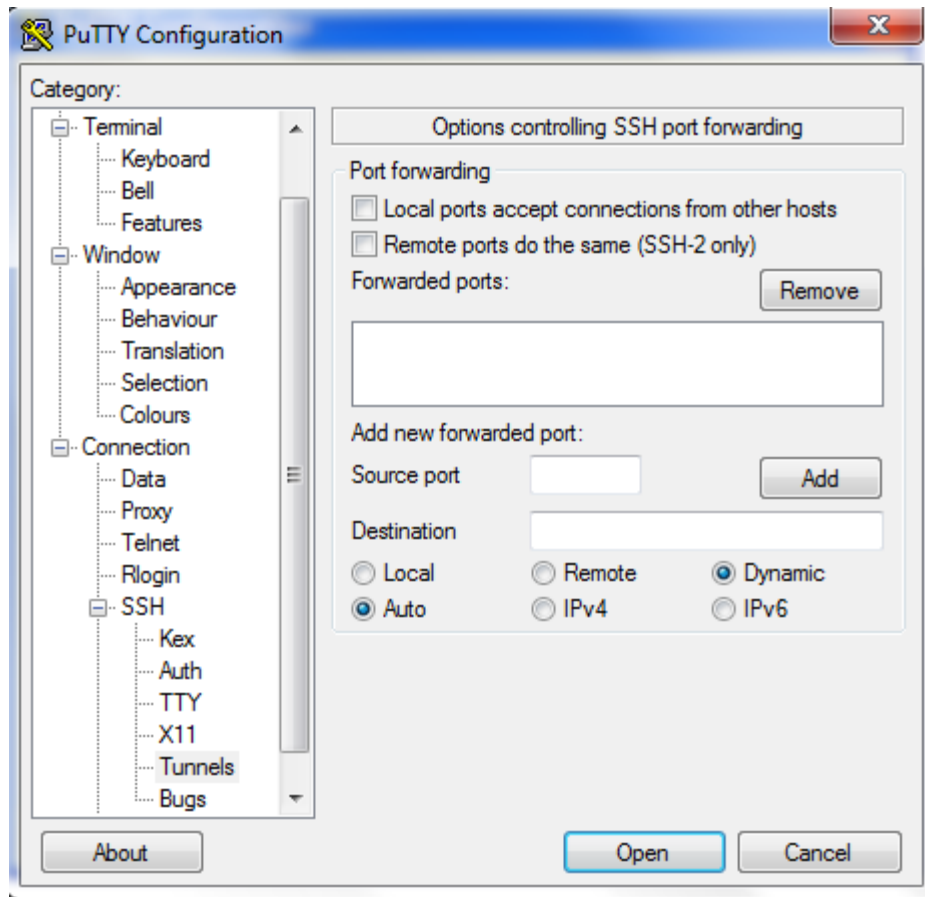
Start Putty, and we'll create a new session configuration that will serve as your tunnel. In the field labeled "Host Name (or IP address)", enter the hostname or TCP/IP address of our remote server.

In the text field labeled "Saved Sessions", enter a name that you want to use to identify this configuration. This is typically the hostname or IP address of the remote server, but it can also be something like "SSH tunnel".

At this point your Putty window should look like the following figure:

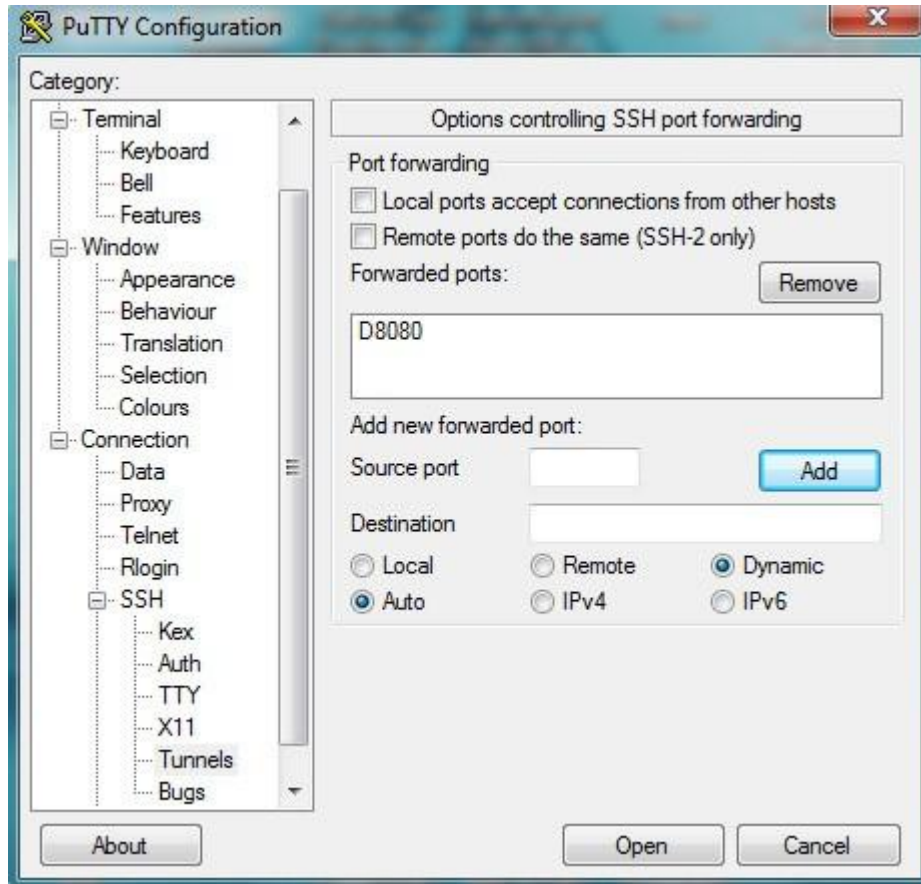


Next, on the left side of the putty window there is a navigation tree. In that tree you want to select the Tunnels item. If this item isn't already visible, you can find it by clicking the Connection node in the tree, then SSH, and then Tunnels. This is shown in the next figure:



Under the section labeled "Add a new forwarded port" type in a port such as 8080 for the source port. Leave the Destination field blank, and then select the Dynamic and Auto radio buttons. Then click the Add button, and you should see the text D8080 show up in the text area just above the "Add a new forwarded port".

Your Putty window should now look like the next figure:



That's all you have to do on this screen. In the Putty navigation tree on the left click on the Session node (at the top of the tree), and then click the Save button on the right side of the screen to save this configuration.

Congratulations -- that's all you had to do to configure Putty. Now all you have to do is login to your remote server. To do this, just click the Open button at the bottom of this window. You should see a Putty login shell open up to your remote server. Just login to your remote server with your username and password, and you're done. That's all you need to do to open the tunnel. Now you're ready to configure Firefox.

### **Alternative Connection with Putty for Windows:**

Alternatively, rename PuTTY.exe to ssh.exe. Move the newly renamed file to c:\windows\. Then click 'Start --> Run...' to open the command prompt and then type:

```
ssh -P 443 -D 8080 username@SSH_Server_IP
```

and press Enter. Replace username with your SSH Tunnel account username and SSH\_Server\_IP with the IP address of the SSH server. After logging in, you will automatically be asked for your password. Once the password is accepted, the encrypted tunnel is automatically created on port 8080 on your computer.

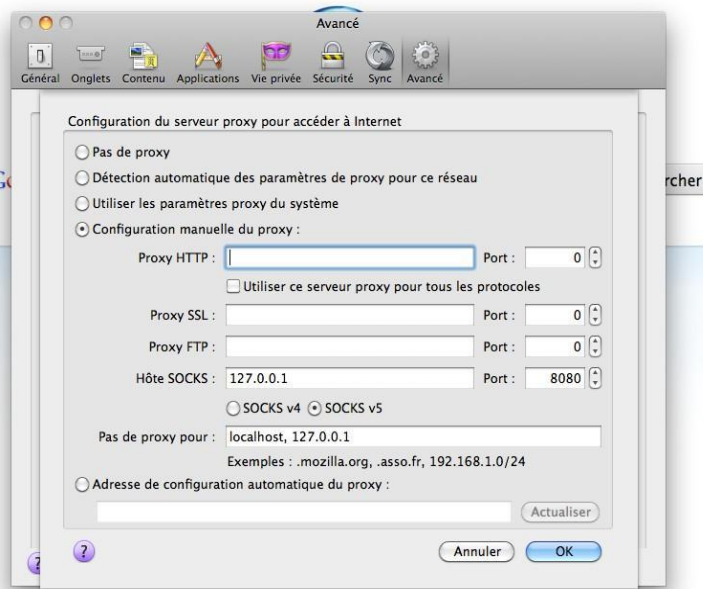
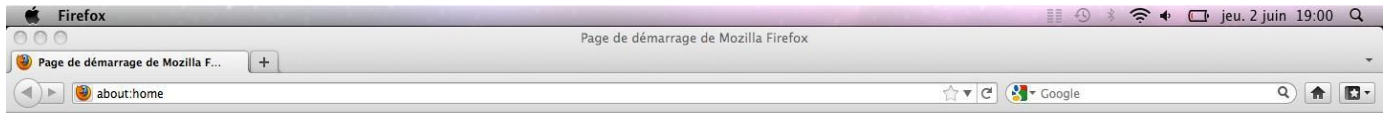
### **Configure Firefox to use the SSH Socks Proxy**

After connecting to the SSH server and creating the secure tunnel, you will need to configure your applications to use the secure tunnel. We will use Firefox for our example. You can grab Firefox from the developers website at: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/new/>

Connecting through the tunnel with Firefox (or any other program) only works while the tunnel is actively open. This means you must stay logged in for the entire time you are browsing.

To configure Firefox to work with the proxy follow these instructions:

1. Open FireFox.
2. Click 'Tools' at the top to pull down the Tools Menu.
3. From the menu, select 'Options...' at the very bottom. This opens the Options window.
4. Click 'Advanced' at the top right corner of the window.
5. Click the 'Network' tab.
6. In the 'Configure how Firefox connects to the Internet' field click the 'Settings...' button. This opens the Connection Settings window.
7. Select 'Manual proxy configuration.'
8. In the 'SOCKS Host' field enter **localhost** into the box.
9. In the 'Port' field enter **8080** into the box.
10. Click the 'OK' button.
11. Click the 'OK' button on the previous window.
12. Close Firefox and restart it.
13. Go to a site like [www.myiptest.com](http://www.myiptest.com) to check and make sure your IP address shows up as the proxy address and not your real IP.



À propos de Mozilla

