

How to SSH to nice.fas.harvard.edu from Mac OS

Recall that nice.fas.harvard.edu refers to a cluster of computers running Linux on which you have an account (your so-called FAS account). Even though those computers are locked away in the basement of the Science Center (and might not even have monitors or keyboards), you can still “open a shell” on them in order to execute commands remotely via a protocol called SSH.¹ On this cluster you have several megabytes of storage space (your so-called home directory). To SSH to nice.fas.harvard.edu, then, is to access your account and, in turn, home directory on this cluster remotely. All you need is an SSH client, a program that “speaks” SSH.

You’re welcome to use any SSH client for CSCI E-259. This document explains how to use Terminal, software for Mac OS that comes with Mac OS itself; it should thus be installed on all Macs around campus as well as on yours.

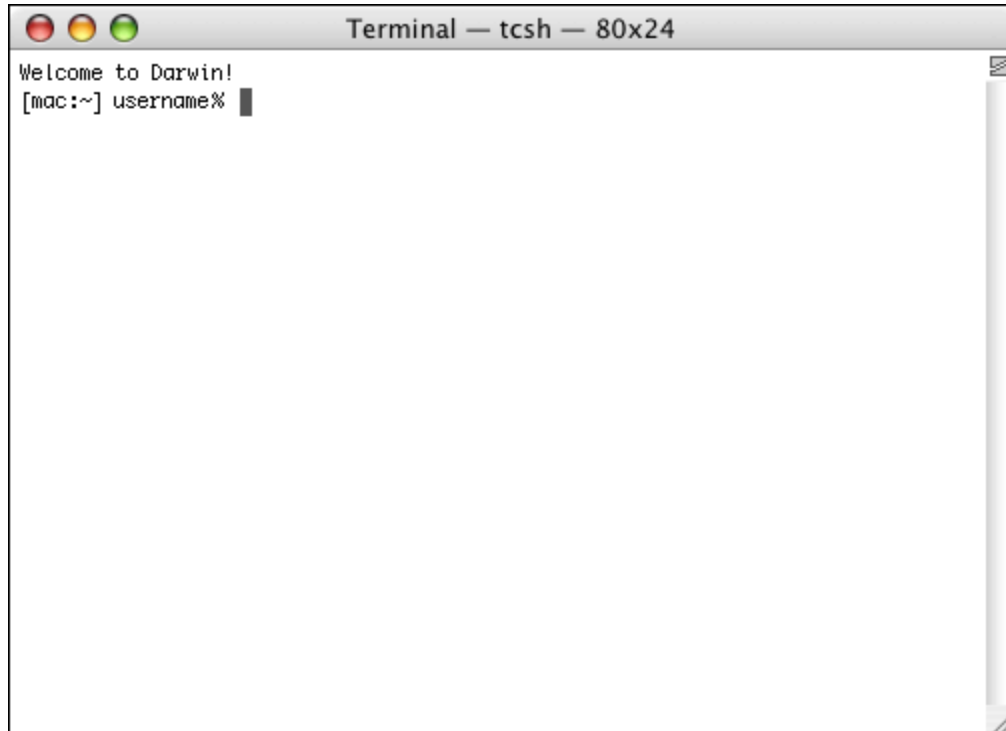
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¹ A “protocol” is essentially a language that computers speak in order to communicate.

Launching Terminal

Launch Terminal via its icon, which should be under **Macintosh HD** → **Applications** → **Utilities**.² You should see a window like the below.



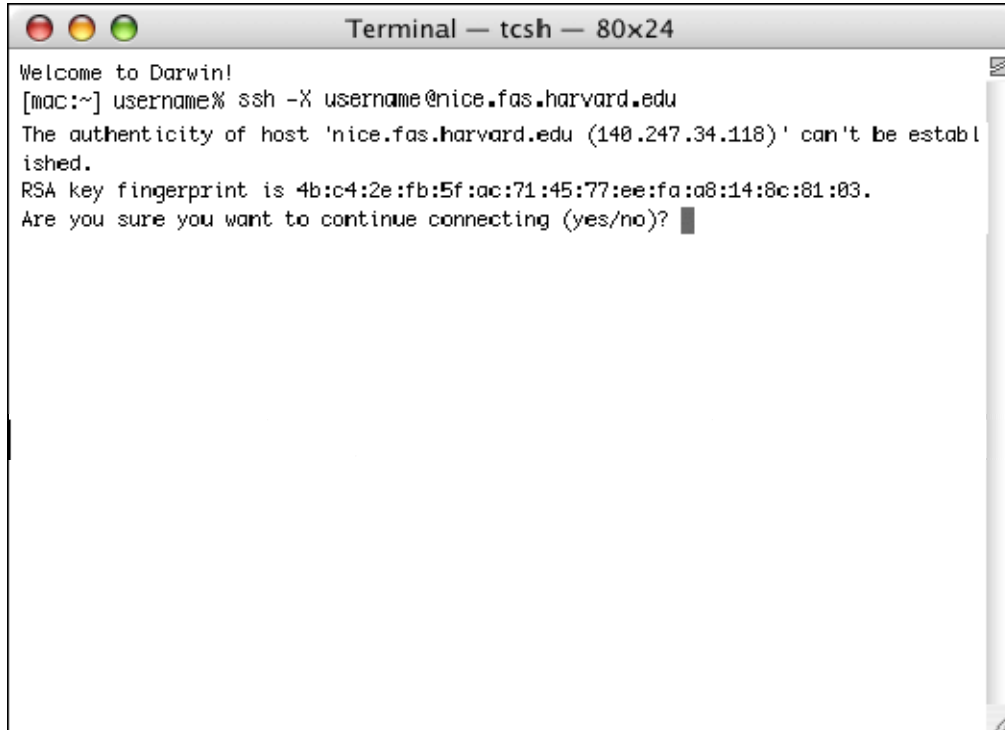
² It's possible your hard drive is called something other than "Macintosh HD."

Using Terminal

At the prompt, type

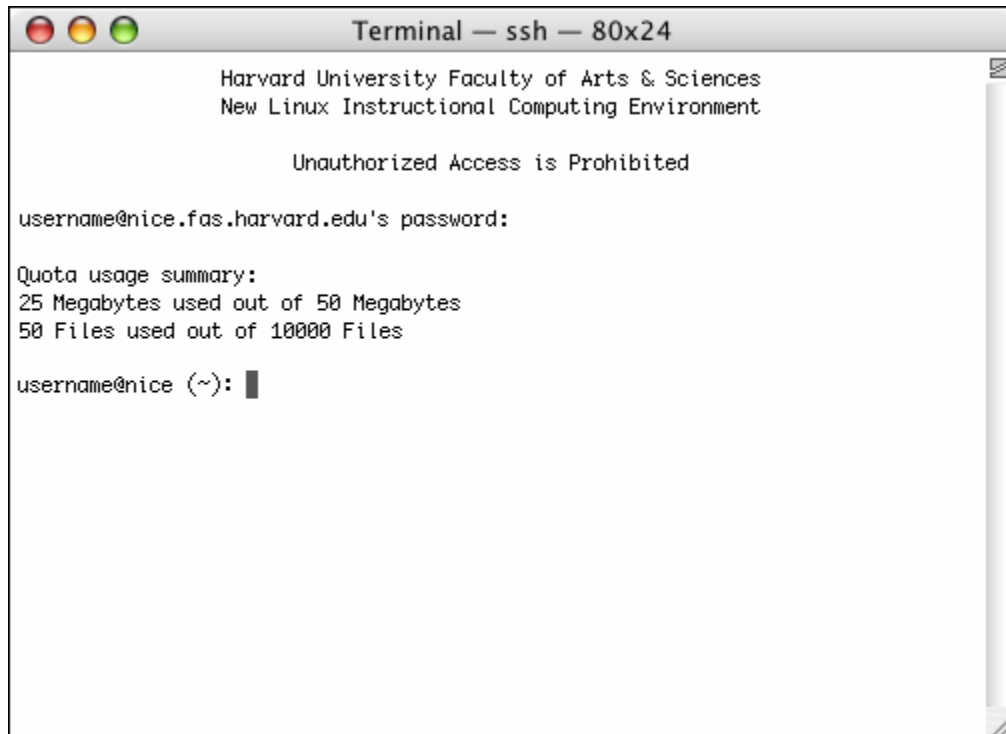
```
ssh username@nice.fas.harvard.edu
```

followed by **Enter**, where username is your FAS username. If you see a response like the below, type **yes** at the prompt followed by **Enter**.



```
Terminal — tcsh — 80x24
Welcome to Darwin!
[mac:~] username% ssh -X username@nice.fas.harvard.edu
The authenticity of host 'nice.fas.harvard.edu (140.247.34.118)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is 4b:c4:2e:fb:5f:ac:71:45:77:ee:fa:a8:14:8c:81:03.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? █
```

Provide your password when prompted. You should then see a response like the below.



```
Terminal — ssh — 80x24
Harvard University Faculty of Arts & Sciences
New Linux Instructional Computing Environment

Unauthorized Access is Prohibited

username@nice.fas.harvard.edu's password:

Quota usage summary:
25 Megabytes used out of 50 Megabytes
50 Files used out of 10000 Files

username@nice (~): █
```

At this point, you have successfully SSHed to `nice.fas.harvard.edu` and are thus in control of your account! To execute a command, type it (*e.g.*, `nano questions.txt`), then hit **Enter**.

May that you never have to read these directions again!