

# Managing SSH keys with Kanidm

“ For lab members who joined before 2026-05-22. orca's logins are now managed centrally through Kanidm for new members. If you already had an orca account before that date, your existing access still works and you don't need to follow this.

This page covers SSH access to **orca**, whose logins are managed through the lab's identity server, [Kanidm](#). You register your SSH **public key** with Kanidm once, then you can log in. (For web services and passwords, see [Accounts](#).) Other lab machines are still being migrated — ask Adarsh for access to those.

## 1. Make sure you have an SSH key

On your laptop:

```
ls ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
```

If that file exists, skip to step 2. Otherwise create one:

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "your-name@arizona.edu"
```

Press Enter for the default location; a passphrase is recommended. This creates a **private** key (`~/.ssh/id_ed25519` — never share it) and a **public** key (`~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub` — safe to share).

## 2. Copy your public key

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub
```

Copy the whole line — it starts with `ssh-ed25519`.

# 3. Register it with Kanidm

You have two options for doing this: via the web (easier) or via the command line.

## 3.1 Web (easier)

Sign in at [idm.lab.pyarelal.xyz](http://idm.lab.pyarelal.xyz) → Profile → Credentials -> **SSH Keys** → **Add SSH Key**, paste the public key from step 2, and give it a Title (e.g. `my-macbook-pro`).

## 3.2 Command line

If you have the `kanidm` [client tools](#):

```
kanidm login -D <your-username>
kanidm person ssh add-publickey <your-username> <label> "ssh-ed25519 AAAA... your-name@arizona.edu"
```

(The label, e.g. `my-macbook-pro`, just lets you tell keys apart — use one per device.)

# 4. Log into orca

```
ssh <your-username>@orca.infosci.arizona.edu
```

The first time, your shell may take a moment while your home directory is created.

# Troubleshooting

- **Permission denied (publickey)** — the key registered in Kanidm doesn't match the one your laptop is offering. Recheck steps 2-3, or run `ssh -v <your-username>@orca.infosci.arizona.edu` to see which key is being tried.
- **Asked for a password** — your key isn't being found; confirm it's added in Kanidm and that you're connecting as the right username.
- Still stuck? Contact **Adarsh**.

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