

# Security Groups and SSH keys

## Security Groups (The Firewall):

Think of a security group like a bouncer at a club who checks IDs. It controls what traffic can reach your EC2 instance and what traffic can leave it. For example:

- Want to allow SSH access (so you can connect to your instance)? You set a rule to allow traffic on port 22
- Need to host a website? Allow traffic on port 80 (HTTP) or 443 (HTTPS)
- By default, nothing is allowed in (inbound rules) - you have to explicitly permit it
- All traffic is allowed out (outbound rules) by default

## SSH Keys (Your Digital Key):

Just like you need a physical key to enter your house, you need a digital key to connect securely to your EC2 instance.

Windows: <https://www.purdue.edu/science/scienceit/ssh-keys-windows.html>

Linux/macOS: open the terminal and type "ssh-keygen -t ed25519", follow the prompts and it will tell you where it saved the keys.

The file ending in .pub is the publickey, and the other one is the private key.

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