

# NRAO Science Helpdesk

Knowledgebase > General > ssh login fails and gives Bad server host key: Invalid key length

---

## ssh login fails and gives Bad server host key: Invalid key length

Drew Medlin - 2023-01-24 - General

Symptom: ssh login to the DSOC/NMASC login machine (= login.aoc.nrao.edu, ssh.aoc.nrao.edu, or gygax.aoc.nrao.edu) fails with "Bad server host key: Invalid key length"

Cause: Your machine no longer trusts the oldest host key on the NRAO server, and rejects the connection instead of switching to one of the newer host keys being offered.

Solution: edit your .ssh/config file on your local machine:

In a terminal:

1. `cd ~/.ssh`
2. `ls` to see if you have a config file already. If you have a config file already, continue to step 4.
3. Create a text file called "config" using your preferred text editor
4. Edit your config file to add the following:  

```
Host gygax.aoc.nrao.edu login.aoc.nrao.edu ssh.aoc.nrao.edu
    HostKeyAlgorithms ecdsa-sha2-nistp256
```
5. Save your edit.

This should solve your login issues: if not, please submit a new helpdesk ticket.