

SSH public key

OpenSSH format public key — ssh-rsa, ssh-ed25519, etc.

```
^(ssh-rsa|ssh-ed25519|ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+|ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=*(\s+[\s])?$$
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
^	start of string (or line in multiline mode)
(	start of a capturing group
ssh-rsa	literal text "ssh-rsa"
	OR — try the alternative
ssh-ed25519	literal text "ssh-ed25519"
	OR — try the alternative
ecdsa-sha2-nistp	literal text "ecdsa-sha2-nistp"
\d+	one or more: digit (0–9)
	OR — try the alternative
ssh-dss	literal text "ssh-dss"
)	end of group
\s+	one or more: whitespace
[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=	one or more: any of: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, digits, "+", "/"
*	zero or more: the literal "="
(	start of a capturing group
\s+	one or more: whitespace
[^\s]+	one or more: any character except whitespace
)?	end of group, optional (zero or one)
\$	end of string (or line in multiline mode)

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=*(\s+[\s])?\$/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r"^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=*(\s+[\s])?\$", value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=*(\\s+[^\\s])?\$").matcher(value).matches();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+=*(\\s+[^\\s])?\$");</pre>

Go	<pre>regexp.MustCompile(`^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+\s*(\s+[^\\s]+)?\$`).MatchString(value)</pre>
Ruby	<pre>/^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+\/]+\s*(\s+[^\\s]+)?\$/ .match?(value)</pre>
PHP	<pre>preg_match('~^(ssh-rsa ssh-ed25519 ecdsa-sha2-nistp\d+ ssh-dss)\s+[A-Za-z0-9+/]+\s*(\s+[^\\s]+)?\$', \$value);</pre>

Common pitfalls

- **Anchored to the whole string.** This pattern uses `^` and `$`, so it requires the entire input to match. To find it inside a longer text, drop the anchors and use the global (`g`) flag.
- **ASCII letters only.** `[a-zA-Z]` excludes accented and non-Latin letters (é, ü, ß, ñ, and non-Latin scripts). For international input use Unicode properties like `\p{L}` with the `u` flag.
- **Escape it correctly per language.** In Java and JavaScript strings each backslash must be doubled (`\\d`); in Python, Go, and C# use raw/verbatim strings so the backslashes survive.
- **Validate beyond format.** Matching the format doesn't guarantee the value is real. Confirm the ssh public key against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.