# SCP Tutorial

SCP stands for secure copy and it is a useful tool to retrieve remote documents securely. This tutorial instructs you in basic methods of retrieving remote files using linux, mac, and Windows tools.

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1. Linux and Mac

   (a) As a slight aside, you may find that the command **pwd** is useful at times. **pwd** can give you your current directory.

   (b) Determine the location of the file on the remote server. For example, if the file is called **filename** and is stored on sampson in your class directory. I will call this **directory** in the examples below. As always, you will also need your **username** and **password** to log into the remote server.

   (c) Open a terminal

   (d) Type the following on a prompt in the terminal:

   ```
   scp username@sampson.washcoll.edu:directory/filename  .
   ```

   (e) Do not forget the trailing dot as it is necessary and very important. Also do not forget to replace username, diretory and filename with their proper counterparts. When prompted for the password, type in your password and the file will be copied to your local machine in the current directory of your terminal.

   (f) Type **ls** in the window to see a listing of the files in your current directory. You should notice that the new file has appeared.

2. Windows

   (a) First you must download WinSCP. This is a free program that can be obtained from:

   `http://winscp.net/eng/download.php`

   (b) Open WinSCP

   (c) For hostname put in your server name. For example: sampson.washcoll.edu

   (d) Click the Login button

   (e) You will be prompted for username, enter it

   (f) You will be prompted for your password, enter it

   (g) Find the file you would like to copy to your local machine in the right pane. The right-pane shows your files and directory structure on the remote machine (sampson). The left-pane is your local directory structure.

   (h) Press the left mouse button down on the filename and drag the filename to the left-pane and let go of the mouse button.

   (i) Select Copy.

   (j) The file will now be on your local machine in whichever directory you have placed it.

   (k) If you would like to open the file, then you may double click on the right-pane. Experiment with this method before using it on important files.