

**NAME**

**sftp-server** — OpenSSH SFTP server subsystem

**SYNOPSIS**

```
sftp-server [-ehR] [-d start_directory] [-f log_facility] [-l log_level]
               [-P blacklisted_requests] [-p whitelisted_requests] [-u umask]
sftp-server -Q protocol_feature
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**sftp-server** is a program that speaks the server side of SFTP protocol to stdout and expects client requests from stdin. **sftp-server** is not intended to be called directly, but from sshd(8) using the **Subsystem** option.

Command-line flags to **sftp-server** should be specified in the **Subsystem** declaration. See sshd\_config(5) for more information.

Valid options are:

- d** *start\_directory*  
specifies an alternate starting directory for users. The pathname may contain the following tokens that are expanded at runtime: %% is replaced by a literal '%', %d is replaced by the home directory of the user being authenticated, and %u is replaced by the username of that user. The default is to use the user's home directory. This option is useful in conjunction with the sshd\_config(5) **ChrootDirectory** option.
- e** Causes **sftp-server** to print logging information to stderr instead of syslog for debugging.
- f** *log\_facility*  
Specifies the facility code that is used when logging messages from **sftp-server**. The possible values are: DAEMON, USER, AUTH, LOCAL0, LOCAL1, LOCAL2, LOCAL3, LOCAL4, LOCAL5, LOCAL6, LOCAL7. The default is AUTH.
- h** Displays **sftp-server** usage information.
- l** *log\_level*  
Specifies which messages will be logged by **sftp-server**. The possible values are: QUIET, FATAL, ERROR, INFO, VERBOSE, DEBUG, DEBUG1, DEBUG2, and DEBUG3. INFO and VERBOSE log transactions that **sftp-server** performs on behalf of the client. DEBUG and DEBUG1 are equivalent. DEBUG2 and DEBUG3 each specify higher levels of debugging output. The default is ERROR.
- P** *blacklisted\_requests*  
Specify a comma-separated list of SFTP protocol requests that are banned by the server. **sftp-server** will reply to any blacklisted request with a failure. The **-Q** flag can be used to determine the supported request types. If both a blacklist and a whitelist are specified, then the blacklist is applied before the whitelist.
- p** *whitelisted\_requests*  
Specify a comma-separated list of SFTP protocol requests that are permitted by the server. All request types that are not on the whitelist will be logged and replied to with a failure message.  
  
Care must be taken when using this feature to ensure that requests made implicitly by SFTP clients are permitted.
- Q** *protocol\_feature*  
Query protocol features supported by **sftp-server**. At present the only feature that may be queried is "requests", which may be used for black or whitelisting (flags **-P** and **-p** respectively).

- R** Places this instance of **sftp-server** into a read-only mode. Attempts to open files for writing, as well as other operations that change the state of the filesystem, will be denied.
- u** *umask*  
Sets an explicit `umask(2)` to be applied to newly-created files and directories, instead of the user's default mask.

On some systems, **sftp-server** must be able to access `/dev/log` for logging to work, and use of **sftp-server** in a chroot configuration therefore requires that `syslogd(8)` establish a logging socket inside the chroot directory.

## SEE ALSO

`sftp(1)`, `ssh(1)`, `sshd_config(5)`, `sshd(8)`

T. Ylonen and S. Lehtinen, *SSH File Transfer Protocol*, draft-ietf-secsh-filexfer-02.txt, October 2001, work in progress material.

## HISTORY

**sftp-server** first appeared in OpenBSD 2.8.

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