



# Tectia<sup>®</sup> SSH Client/Server vs OpenSSH

Comparison sheet

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## Summary

**Tectia is the original SSH Client/Server** with almost 30-year-long history. It is a commercially maintained product supported by an in-house team of experts.

Over the years, Tectia has been developed into a future-proof solution offered also in a [Quantum-Safe Edition](#) and [Zero Trust Edition](#).

[OpenSSH is an open-source product](#) based on the original Tectia SSH Client/Server.

In a fashion that is typical for open-source products, it is managed and maintained by volunteers only. Despite that, OpenSSH is incorporated into many commercial products.

	TECTIA		OPENSSH	
<b>Costs</b>	<b>\$\$</b>	Subscription costs based on the size of the IT environment	-	No initial costs (open-source software)
<b>Software management</b>	-	No management costs (included in the subscription costs)	<b>\$\$\$</b>	Requires in-house expertise (integration, salaries, open-source licence management)
<b>Authentication integration</b>	-	None, is bundled along with the product	<b>\$\$</b>	Requires in-house expertise (maintenance, salaries)
<b>Support</b>	<b>\$\$</b>	Expert support based on customer requirements	<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	No expert support/limited support
<b>Compliance</b>	-	Guaranteed by SSH	<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	Cannot be guaranteed (risk of non-compliance and potential fines)
<b>Post-quantum cryptography (PQC) risks</b>	-	Tectia is offered as Tectia Quantum-Safe Edition	<b>\$\$\$\$\$</b>	Unclear path to PQC (data isn't protected, it can be captured and decrypted later)
<b>Back-door entry</b>	-	Tectia narrows down the possibility of back-door entry	<b>\$\$\$</b>	Potential back-door entry

Note: Dashes and dollar signs represent a scale from - (no attached costs) to **\$\$\$\$\$** (the highest attached costs).

## Detailed overview

		TECTIA	OPENSSH
<b>Costs</b>	<b>Initial purchase costs</b>	Relatively large, depending on the size of server estate and other factors	No initial costs for the software itself, but need to allocate in-house experts' time for installation and configuration
	<b>Maintenance costs</b>	Distribution packages ensure no need for in-house maintenance	Need to allocate in-house experts' time for maintenance, potential training costs
	<b>Costs to accommodate X.509*</b>	Supported without any additional costs	Another CA that can handle SSH certificate signing and issuance
<b>Software management</b>	<b>Platform updates</b>	Compiled and tested packages for all key platforms, centralized distribution of updates	Updates from multiple sources and patches separately for each platform can add administrative costs
	<b>New software release</b>	Consistent release cycle covering all separate platforms	Release cycles and policies are different for each source which multiplies maintenance
	<b>Compatibility and integration</b>	No compatibility and integration risks	Need to document all steps involved in deployment and maintenance
	<b>Technology expertise</b>	No need for in-house expertise	Need to maintain expensive in-house expertise, or alternatively use professional support (e. g. <a href="#">OpenSSH by SSH</a> )

\* X.509 is a widely supported protocol, so chances are that your organization already maintains trust with an internal or external X.509 CA, which can be utilized without any modification with Tectia.

		<b>TECTIA</b>	<b>OPENSSH</b>
<b>Authentication integration</b>	<b>Authentication integration needs</b>	Incorporates broad, tested, and documented authentication integration	Requires in-house development (requirement specification, development, testing, documentation, and maintenance)
	<b>Needed in-house resources</b>	Minimizes in-house engineering and other integration costs	Need for in-house project management and software engineering resources, need to rely on third-party patches with limited support
<b>Support</b>	<b>General support</b>	Dedicated professional support up to 24/7, R&D in the same organization	Support available from platform vendors, R&D are unpaid volunteers
	<b>Support requests</b>	Single point of contact for all Secure Shell related support requests	Multiple points of contact in Secure Shell related inquiries, inconsistent support and maintenance policies between different platforms
	<b>Platform support</b>	Extensive, consistent support packages available for all platforms	Limited support for Unix bundled OpenSSH packages, no support for in-house OpenSSH compilations
<b>Compliance</b>	<b>General compliance</b>	Enterprise-class feature set specifically created to address regulatory demand	Risk of non-compliance
	<b>FIPS</b>	Compliant	Compliance dependent on a platform vendor / non-compliant
<b>Other</b>	<b>Path to post-quantum cryptography (PQC)</b>	Supports post-quantum encryption algorithms recommended by NIST/BSI, protection against quantum attacks	Unclear path toward post-quantum cryptography
	<b>IPR risks</b>	In-house developed implementation means no IPR risks for customers	IPR infringement risks
	<b>Future of the software</b>	Extensive product roadmap developed and reviewed with customers	Uncertain future product roadmap

Looking for more information?

Interested in seeing Tectia in action?

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