# SSHChain

Initialize your SSH agent from the Apple Keychain
**Mothers Ruin Software**

The SSH package provided with Mac OS X includes a utility called `ssh-agent`. The purpose of `ssh-agent` is to hold your SSH identities in memory, so that you don't have to repeatedly enter your passphrase for every SSH-related command. You run `ssh-agent` once, enter your passphrase(s) once, and it takes care of the rest.

Unfortunately, the usual provisions for starting `ssh-agent` are designed for X11-based windowing systems, and don't integrate too well with Mac OS X. (In particular, they assume that you have a root session which can run user-specified programs, and from which all other processes will inherit their environment. There is also the problem of how to get your passphrases to `ssh-agent`.)

With the SSHChain utility, you can add your SSH identities and passphrases to the Apple Keychain, and have `ssh-agent` load automatically each time you log in. The agent will then be available to whatever processes you launch. SSHChain will also terminate the agent when you log out, so that unused agents are not left running.

To install SSHChain, simply drag it to your hard disk (e.g. to /Applications/Utilities). Double-click on the SSHChain icon to open the Preferences dialog, and click the help ? button to read the setup instructions.

More information about SSHChain is available from the Mothers Ruin Software site at http://www.mothersruin.com/software/SSHChain

SSHChain is free software, licensed under the GNU GPL. The source code and project files are available at the above web site.