

Purging and Reinstalling Beszel Agent (Linux)

This Knowledge Base (KB) article documents the "**Nuke and Pave**" method. This is the most reliable way to resolve "Invalid SSH Key" errors, service crashes, or corrupted configurations on your Ubuntu Server instances.

Scenario: Use this procedure if the Beszel Hub shows a red "Offline" dot despite the service running, or if `journalctl` reports *failed to parse key* or *illegal base64 data*.

Logic: This method forcefully terminates lingering processes, clears the systemd memory cache, and deletes the unprivileged user to ensure the new installation starts from a completely "zeroed" state.

Phase 1: The "Nuke" (Complete Removal)

Run this block to obliterate the existing installation. This is safe to run even if some files are already missing.

```
# 1. Force kill any hung agent processes
sudo killall -9 beszel-agent 2>/dev/null

# 2. Stop and disable the service unit
sudo systemctl stop beszel-agent.service 2>/dev/null
sudo systemctl disable beszel-agent.service 2>/dev/null

# 3. Delete the service configuration and binary files
sudo rm -f /etc/systemd/system/beszel-agent.service
sudo rm -rf /opt/beszel-agent

# 4. Remove the dedicated agent user
sudo userdel beszel 2>/dev/null

# 5. Flush the systemd daemon cache
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
```

Phase 2: The "Pave" (Clean Reinstall)

Execute the master installation command. This uses your verified Public Key to ensure an immediate handshake with the CasaOS Hub.

```
curl -sL https://get.beszel.dev -o /tmp/install-agent.sh && \  
chmod +x /tmp/install-agent.sh && \  
sudo /tmp/install-agent.sh -p 45876 -k "ssh-ed25519  
AAAAC3NzaC1lZDI1NTE5AAAAICJ7lFlWxcv1b25gymPNRAvp0ptAJChTuNYvmnomZpFW"
```

Phase 3: Post-Flight Verification

After the script reports success, verify that the service is active and that the connection is established.

1. Check Service Heartbeat

```
sudo systemctl status beszel-agent.service
```

Target: Active: active (running)

2. Verify Hub Communication

```
sudo journalctl -u beszel-agent.service -n 20 --no-pager
```

- **Target:** You should see `INFO Starting SSH server addr=:45876`.
- **Target:** You should **not** see any `WARN` messages regarding "Invalid SSH key."

Admin Tips for the Micro PC Environment

- **Hostname Resolution:** If you see `sudo: unable to resolve host`, ensure your `/etc/hosts` file matches your hostname:

```
echo "127.0.1.1 $(hostname)" | sudo tee -a /etc/hosts
```
- **NVMe Lifespan:** By using the "Nuke and Pave" method only when troubleshooting, you avoid unnecessary write cycles on your 512GB NVMe SSD. The agent itself runs primarily in RAM (approx. 6-10MB).
- **Remote Management:** If a server becomes unreachable during this process, use your **JetKVM** to access the tty console directly and verify the network interface with `ip a`.

Next Step: Your Linux recovery documentation is complete. Shall we proceed with the Windows 11 agent installation using the NSSM service manager method?

Revision #3

Created 2026-03-18 03:23:55 UTC by Francis

Updated 2026-03-26 12:59:48 UTC by Francis