age Simple file encryption

START HERE

age-keygen -o key.txt
Make a key pair

age -R *<recipients.txt>* *<file>*
Encrypt to many keys

age -r *<recipient>* **-o** *<out>* *<file>*
Encrypt to a public key

age -a -r *<recipient>* *<file>*
Text-safe armored output

age -d -i key.txt *<file>***.age**
Decrypt with your key

age -R ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub *<file>*
Encrypt to an SSH key

age -p *<file>*
Encrypt with a passphrase

age-keygen -y key.txt
Show the public key

Plaintext stdin or file → **age -r / -p** → **Encrypted** .age file → **age -d -i** → **Plaintext** stdout or -o

CONCEPTS

Encrypt with the public key (recipient, age1...); decrypt with the secret key in an identity file.

age reads stdin and writes stdout by default, so it slots into pipes.

Keep the identity file secret and backed up: without it the files cannot be decrypted.

KEYS

age-keygen -o *<file>*
Generate a key pair into a file
The public key is printed to the terminal and kept in the file as a comment.

age-keygen -y *<file>*
Print the public key of an identity
Redirect to a file to build a recipients list.

age-keygen -pq -o *<file>*
Generate a post-quantum key
Needs age 1.3 or later; recipients are about 2000 characters long.

age-keygen | age -p > key.age
Generate a key, protect it with a passphrase

age-inspect *<file>*
Show recipient types without decrypting

age-inspect --json *<file>*
Machine-readable inspection

ENCRYPT

age -r *<recipient>* **-o** *<out>* *<file>*
Encrypt to a public key

age -r *<recipient>* **<** *<file>* **>** *<out>*
Encrypt stdin to stdout

age -r *<r1>* **-r** *<r2>* *<file>*
Encrypt to several recipients
Any one of the listed keys can decrypt.

age -R *<recipients.txt>* *<file>*
Encrypt to recipients from a file
One recipient per line; blank lines and # comments are ignored.

age -a -r *<recipient>* *<file>*
Armored (PEM text) output

age -p *<file>*
Encrypt with a passphrase
Leave the prompt empty and age generates a strong passphrase.

age -e -i *<identity>* *<file>*
Encrypt to an identity file
Needs the explicit -e flag.

age -R - *<file>*
Read recipients from stdin

DECRYPT

age -d -i *<identity>* *<file>***.age**
Decrypt with an identity file

age -d -i *<identity>* **-o** *<out>* *<file>***.age**
Decrypt to a named file

DECRYPT (cont.)

age -d *<file>***.age**
Decrypt a passphrase file
age detects passphrase files and prompts.

age -d -i *<id1>* **-i** *<id2>* *<file>***.age**
Try several identity files
Unused identities are ignored.

age -d -i - *<file>***.age**
Read the identity from stdin

age -d -i *<key.age>* *<file>***.age**
Use a passphrase-protected identity
age asks for the passphrase while decrypting.

SSH KEYS

age -R *<id_ed25519.pub>* *<file>*
Encrypt to an SSH public key
ssh-ed25519 and ssh-rsa keys work.

age -d -i *<id_ed25519>* *<file>***.age**
Decrypt with the SSH private key
ssh-agent is not supported; keys on YubiKeys cannot decrypt.

age -r "ssh-ed25519 AAAA..." *<file>*
Give an SSH key inline

curl *<url>***/***<user>***.keys | age -R -** *<file>*
Encrypt to a GitHub user's keys
Use https://github.com/<user>.keys as the URL.

PIPELINES

tar cz *<dir>* **| age -r** *<recipient>* **>** *<out>***.tar.gz.age**
Archive and encrypt in one go

age -d -i *<identity>* *<f>***.tar.gz.age | tar xz**
Decrypt and unpack

age -p < *<file>* **| base64**
Passphrase-encrypt to pasteable text

age -d -i *<identity>* *<file>***.age | less**
Read an encrypted file without saving it

RECIPES

Set up and round-trip

```
age-keygen -o key.txt
# note the printed age1...
public key
age -r age1... -o notes.txt.age
notes.txt
age -d -i key.txt -o notes.txt
notes.txt.age
```

Encrypted backup to two people

```
tar cz ~/data | age -R team.txt
> data.tar.gz.age
age -d -i key.txt
data.tar.gz.age | tar xz
```

Send a file to a GitHub user

```
curl https://github.com/
<user>.keys | age -R - -a
report.pdf > report.pdf.age
```

Passphrase-protected secret key

```
age-keygen | age -p > key.age
age -d key.age | grep 'public
key'
age -d -i key.age secrets.age
```