cryptsetup Disk encryption

START HERE

`cryptsetup luksFormat` *`<device>`*
Encrypt a device (erases it)

`cryptsetup luksDump` *`<device>`*
Inspect header and slots

`cryptsetup open` *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Unlock to /dev/mapper/<name>

`cryptsetup luksHeaderBackup` *`<device>`* **`--header-backup-file`** *`<file>`*
Back up the header

`mkfs.ext4 /dev/mapper/` *`<name>`*
Make a filesystem inside

`mount /dev/mapper/`*`<name>`* *`<dir>`*
Use the unlocked volume

`umount` *`<dir>`*
Unmount before locking

`cryptsetup close` *`<name>`*
Lock it again

Block device /dev/sdb1 → `open` → **Mapping** /dev/mapper/<name> → `mount` → **Filesystem** readable data

CONCEPTS

luksFormat destroys all data on the device. Double-check the device name with lsblk first.

Without the LUKS header the data is gone for good. Keep a header backup somewhere safe, off the disk itself.

New volumes default to LUKS2. Use --type luks1 only for old tools, such as some bootloaders.

CREATE

`cryptsetup luksFormat` *`<device>`*
Encrypt a device with LUKS
Destroys existing data. Asks you to type YES in capitals, then sets the passphrase in slot 0.

`cryptsetup luksFormat --type luks1` *`<device>`*
Use the older LUKS1 format

`cryptsetup luksFormat --cipher` *`<cipher>`* **`--key-size`** *`<bits>`* *`<device>`*
Choose cipher and key size

`cryptsetup luksFormat --pbkdf argon2id` *`<device>`*
Choose the key derivation function

CREATE (cont.)

`cryptsetup benchmark`
Measure cipher speed

`cryptsetup isLuks` *`<device>`*
Exit status 0 if it is LUKS

OPEN AND CLOSE

`cryptsetup open` *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Unlock and map a device
Result appears as /dev/mapper/<name>. luksOpen is the old spelling of the same action.

`cryptsetup close` *`<name>`*
Remove the mapping and wipe the key
Fails with exit 5 while the volume is still mounted.

`cryptsetup status` *`<name>`*
Show an active mapping

`cryptsetup open --key-file` *`<file>`* *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Unlock with a key file

`cryptsetup open --readonly` *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Unlock read-only

`cryptsetup open --allow-discards` *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Pass TRIM through to the disk
Speeds up SSDs but reveals which blocks are unused.

OPEN AND CLOSE (cont.)

`cryptsetup open --header` *`<file>`* *`<device>`* *`<name>`*
Use a detached header

`cryptsetup open --test-passphrase` *`<device>`*
Check a passphrase only

`cryptsetup luksSuspend` *`<name>`*
Freeze I/O and wipe the key

`cryptsetup luksResume` *`<name>`*
Unlock a suspended volume

KEY SLOTS

`cryptsetup luksAddKey` *`<device>`*
Add another passphrase
Asks for an existing passphrase first, then the new one.

`cryptsetup luksAddKey` *`<device>`* *`<keyfile>`*
Add a key file

`cryptsetup luksChangeKey` *`<device>`*
Change a passphrase

`cryptsetup luksRemoveKey` *`<device>`*
Remove the passphrase you type

KEY SLOTS (cont.)

`cryptsetup luksKillSlot` *`<device>`* *`<slot>`*
Remove a slot by number
Needs another valid passphrase. Removing the last slot loses the data.

`dd if=/dev/urandom of=`*`<keyfile>`* **`bs=512 count=8`**
Make a random key file

INSPECT AND HEADER

`cryptsetup luksDump` *`<device>`*
Show header, slots and digests

`cryptsetup luksUUID` *`<device>`*
Print the UUID

`cryptsetup luksHeaderBackup` *`<device>`* **`--header-backup-file`** *`<file>`*
Save the header to a file
Anyone with the backup and an old passphrase can unlock the data, so store it securely.

`cryptsetup luksHeaderRestore` *`<device>`* **`--header-backup-file`** *`<file>`*
Restore a saved header
Overwrites the current header.

INSPECT AND HEADER (cont.)

`cryptsetup erase` *`<device>`*
Remove all key slots
Irreversible without a header backup.

`cryptsetup repair` *`<device>`*
Try to repair a LUKS header

`blkid` *`<device>`*
Show type crypto_LUKS and UUID

RESIZE

`cryptsetup resize` *`<name>`*
Grow mapping to fill the device
Grow the partition or LV first, then resize, then the filesystem.

`resize2fs /dev/mapper/` *`<name>`*
Grow an ext4 filesystem

BOOT AND FSTAB

`echo "`*`<name>`*** **`UUID=`***`<uuid>`*** **`none luks" >> /etc/crypttab`**
Unlock at boot
Third field is a key file or none to prompt for the passphrase.

`echo "/dev/mapper/`*`<name>`* *`<dir>`* **`ext4 defaults 0 2" >> /etc/fstab`**
Mount after unlock

BOOT AND FSTAB (cont.)

Common exit codes

Code	Meaning
0	success
1	wrong parameters
2	bad passphrase or no permission
4	wrong device
5	device exists or busy

RECIPES

Encrypt a new USB stick

```
# find the device first
lsblk
cryptsetup luksFormat /dev/sdX1
cryptsetup open /dev/sdX1 usb
mkfs.ext4 /dev/mapper/usb
mount /dev/mapper/usb /mnt
```

Unlock, use, lock

```
cryptsetup open /dev/sdX1 usb
mount /dev/mapper/usb /mnt
# work
umount /mnt
cryptsetup close usb
```

Back up the header

```
cryptsetup luksHeaderBackup /dev/sdX1 \
  --header-backup-file usb-header.img
cryptsetup luksDump /dev/sdX1
```

Rotate a passphrase

```
cryptsetup luksAddKey /dev/sdX1
cryptsetup luksRemoveKey /dev/sdX1
# type the old passphrase to remove it
```