GnuPG Encrypt and sign

CONCEPTS

Others encrypt to your public key and verify your signatures; only your secret key decrypts and signs. Guard the secret key.

Plaintext your file
↓ encrypt: recipient public key
Ciphertext .gpg / .asc
↓ decrypt: recipient secret key
Plaintext restored

A key ID can be an email, a name part, a long key ID or a full fingerprint. Prefer the fingerprint when it must be unambiguous.

KEYS

`gpg --full-generate-key`
Create a key pair interactively

`gpg --quick-generate-key <email> default default 2y`
Create a key with defaults, 2y expiry

`gpg -k [<id>]`
List public keys

`gpg -K [<id>]`
List secret keys

`gpg --fingerprint <id>`
Show the fingerprint

`gpg --list-keys --keyid-format long`
Show long key IDs

`gpg --edit-key <id>`
Edit a key in the key shell

`gpg --delete-keys <id>`
Remove a public key

`gpg --delete-secret-keys <id>`
Remove a secret key

`gpg --quick-set-expire <fpr> 1y`
Change the expiry date

IMPORT AND EXPORT

`gpg --armor --export <id>`
Print public key as text

`gpg --export -o <file>.gpg <id>`
Export public key as binary

IMPORT AND EXPORT (cont.)

`gpg --import <file>`
Import a key file

`gpg --armor --export-secret-keys <id> > <file>.asc`
Export the secret key

ENCRYPT AND DECRYPT

`gpg -e -r <id> <file>`
Encrypt to a recipient

`gpg -ea -r <id> <file>`
Encrypt as ASCII text (.asc)

`gpg -c <file>`
Encrypt with a passphrase only

`gpg -d <file>.gpg`
Decrypt to stdout

`gpg -o <out> -d <file>.gpg`
Decrypt into a file

`gpg -e -r <id1> -r <id2> <file>`
Encrypt to several recipients

`gpg -e -r <id> --output - < <file>`
Encrypt stdin to stdout

SIGN AND VERIFY

`gpg --detach-sign <file>`
Write a separate .sig

`gpg -ab <file>`
Detached ASCII signature (.asc)

`gpg --verify <file>.sig <file>`
Verify a detached signature

`gpg --clearsign <file>`
Sign text, keep it readable

`gpg -s <file>`
Sign and wrap the file

`gpg --verify <file>.asc`
Verify a signed or clearsigned file

`gpg -se -r <id> <file>`
Sign and encrypt in one step

`gpg -u <id> --detach-sign <file>`
Sign with a specific key

`gpg --sign-key <id>`
Certify someone's key

KEYSERVERS AND TRUST

`gpg --keyserver <server> --send-keys <fpr>`
Upload your public key

`gpg --keyserver <server> --recv-keys <fpr>`
Fetch a key by fingerprint

`gpg --search-keys <email>`
Search keyservers

`gpg --locate-keys <email>`
Find a key via WKD/DANE

`gpg --edit-key <id> trust`
Set owner trust

BACKUP AND REVOCATION

`gpg --gen-revoke <id>`
Create a revocation certificate

`gpg -o <file>.rev --gen-revoke <id>`
Write the certificate to a file

`gpg --import <file>.rev`
Revoke a key with the certificate

`gpg --export-ownertrust > <file>`
Back up trust settings

`gpg --export-secret-keys --armor > <file>.asc`
Back up all secret keys

Keep an offline copy of the secret key and the revocation certificate; losing both means you cannot decrypt or retire the key.

AGENT AND CONFIG

`gpgconf --kill gpg-agent`
Stop the agent (restart on next use)

`gpgconf --launch gpg-agent`
Start the agent

`gpg-connect-agent reloadagent /bye`
Reload agent config

`export GPG_TTY=$(tty)`
Let pinentry find your terminal