



# What is GPG?

**GNU Privacy Guard (GnuPG o GPG)** is an encryption and digital signature tool that implements the **OpenPGP standard**. GnuGPG allows you to encrypt and sign both data and communications (emails for example). It has a versatile key management system, along with access modules for all types of public key directories. Also known as GPG, it is a command line tool with functions for easy integration with other applications.

GPG encrypts messages using user-generated asymmetric individual key pairs. Public keys can be shared with other users in many ways, an example of this is by depositing them on key servers.

***IMPORTANT: NEVER SHARE YOUR PRIVATE KEY, KEEP IT SECURELY AND ONLY FORWARD OR PUBLISH THE PUBLIC KEYS ON A SERVER.***

## Generating gpg key-pair for Linux users

### Generate user key-pair

```
gpg --gen-key
```

Some questions must be answered in order to generate the key pair:

- Key type. RSA-RSA is the default.
- Expiration time: How long the key should be valid.
- User data (Real name, email, comment) . This data is used to identify the key in public key servers and when it's sent to other users.
- Password: It is possible to protect the key file with a password.

### Export public key

```
gpg --armor --output myname_public_key.asc --export 'Name Surname'
```

### Import public key

```
gpg --import johndoe.asc
```

We can check the list of public key in our databases with this command:

```
gpg --list-keys
```

## Encrypt files

```
gpg --encrypt --recipient 'Name Surname' file.txt
```

## Decrypt files

```
gpg --output file.txt --decrypt file.txt.gpg
```

## Usefull links

- <<https://www.madboa.com/geek/gpg-quickstart/>>