GPG Cheatsheet

Create a key:

gpg --gen-key

You may either select the defaults (RSA and RSA with GPG2) or use the more widespread DSA and Elgamal.

List private keys:

gpg --list-secret-keys

List public keys:

gpg --list-keys

Delete an private key:

gpg --delete-secret-key "username"

This deletes the secret key from your secret key ring.

Delete a public key:

gpg --delete-key "username"

Removes the public key associated with 'username' from your public key ring, but only if there is no associated private key.

Export a private key into file:

gpg -a --export-secret-keys XXXXXXXXX | gpg
-aco privatekey.pgp.asc

Creates a file called 'privatekey.pgp.asc' with the encrypted and ASCII armored representation of the private key for the entered ID (XXXXXXXXX).

Export a public key into file:

gpg -ao publickey.asc --export name@domain.com

Outputs your public key as an ASCII armored file 'publickey. asc' (replacing 'name@domain.com' with the email address for your key).

Import a private key:

gpg --allow-secret-key-import --import private.key

Adds the private key in the file 'private.key' to your private key ring.

Import a public key:

gpg --import public.key

Adds the public key in the file 'public.key' to your public key ring.

Encrypt data:

gpg -e -u "sender username" -r "receiver username" somefile

Options:

-u

Specifies the secret key to be used.

-r

Specifies the public key of the recipient.

Example:

gpg -e -u "yourname" -r "receivername" yourfile. zip

Creates a file called 'yourfile.zip.gpg' that contains the encrypted data.

Decrypt data:

gpg -d yourfile.zip.gpg

You will be asked to enter your passphrase.

Generate a revocation certificate:

gpg -ao certificate.asc --gen-revoke XXXXXXXX

Starts the process for creating a revocation certificate for the entered ID (XXXXXXXX).

Send public key to a keyserver:

gpg --keyserver serverurl --send-keys XXXXXXXX

Sends a key with the ID 'XXXXXXXX' to a keyserver with the optional URL 'serverurl' (for example hkp://pool.sks-keyservers.net).

Get public key from a keyserver:

gpg --keyserver serverurl --recv-key XXXXXXXX

Gets a key with the ID 'XXXXXXXX' from a keyserver with the URL 'serverurl' (for example hkp://pool.sks-keyservers.net).

