

Cryptographic Applications:PGP

Network Startup Resource Center
<http://www.nsrc.org/>

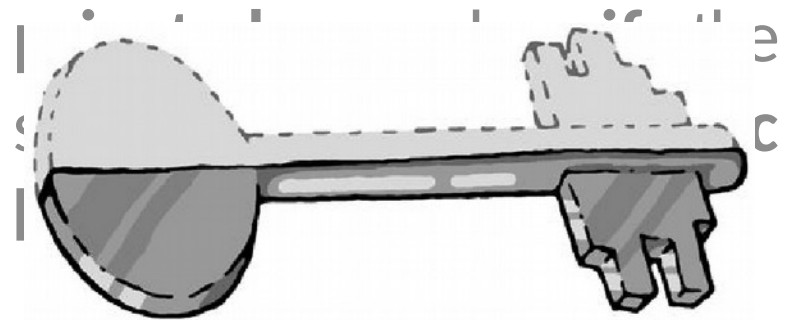


These materials are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

Asymmetric encryption refresher:

- One key mathematically related to the other.
- Public key can be generated from private key. But NOT vice versa.
- If you **encrypt** data with the **public** key, you need to **private** key to **decrypt**

- You can **sign** data with the



Keys

- Private key is kept SECRET.
- You **should** encrypt your private key with a **symmetric** passphrase.
- Public key is distributed.
- Anyone who needs to send you confidential data can use your public key



Keyrings

- Keys are stored in encrypted form
- PGP stores the keys in two files on your hard disk; one for public keys and one for private keys
- These files are called keyrings. As you use PGP, you will typically add the public keys of your recipients to your public keyring.
- Your private keys are stored on your private keyring. If you lose your private keyring, you will be unable to decrypt any information encrypted to keys on that ring.

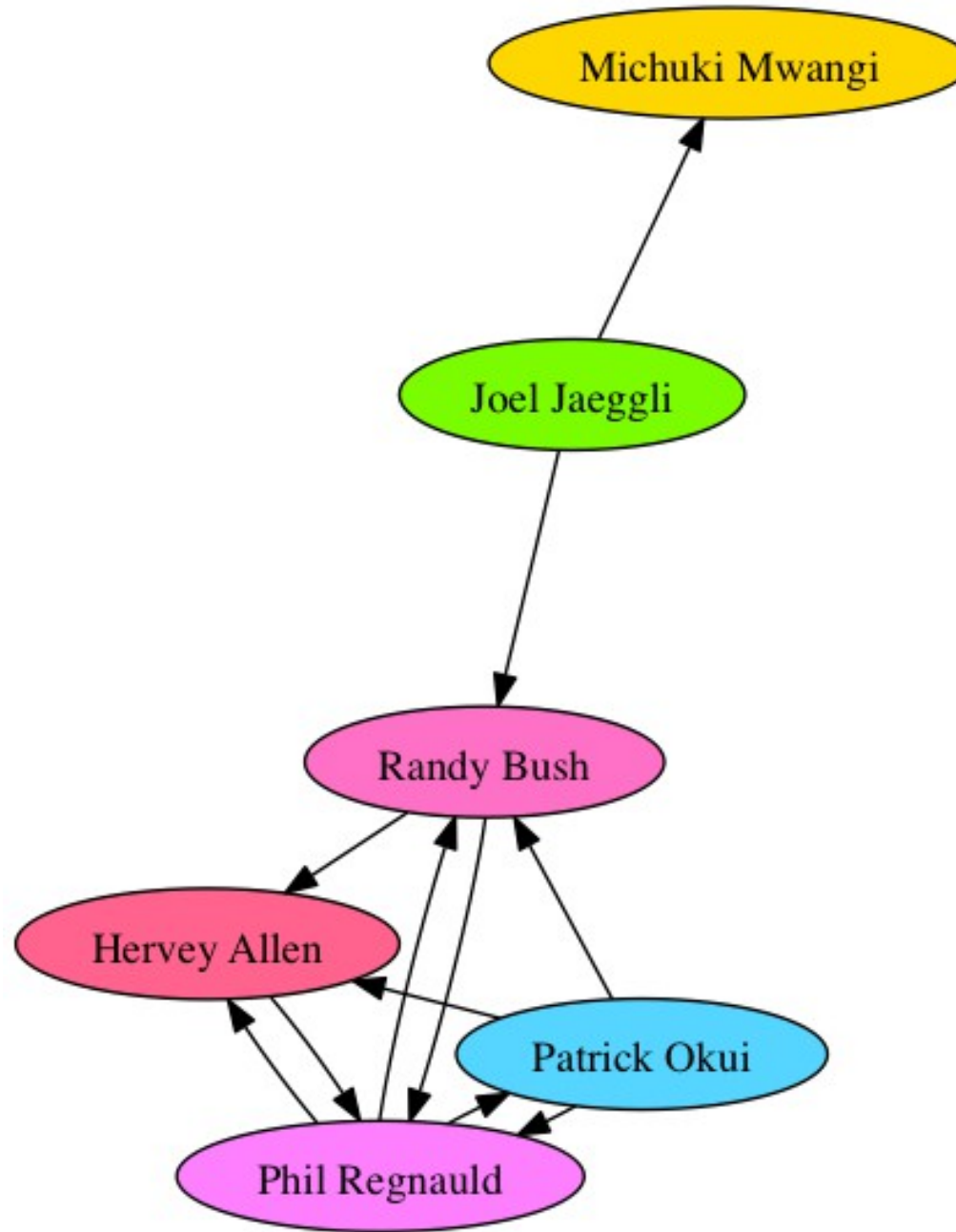
Signing & Encrypting

- Data is encrypted with a public key to be decrypted with the corresponding private key.
- Data can be signed with the private key to be verified by anyone who has the corresponding public key.
- Since public keys are data they can be signed too.

Trust

- Centralized / hierarchal trust – where certain globally trusted bodies sign keys for every one else.
- Decentralized webs of trust – where you pick who you trust yourself, and decide if you trust who those people trust in turn.
- Which works better for what reasons?

Sample web of trust.



Installing GnuPG Software

- Core software either commercial from pgp or opensource from gnupg.
- <https://www.gpg4win.org/> for windows
- <https://www.gpgtools.org/> for OS X
- Your package manager for Linux/UNIX
- Source code from <https://www.gnupg.org/>
- Do this now.

Key management: generation

- Using graphical tools based on what you installed above:
 - GPG Keychain Access for OS X
 - Kleopatra or GPA for windows
- Using the command line:
 - `gpg --gen-key`
- Generate a key – use your email address. The comment field can be left blank.

Key management: distribution

- On printed media: published book or business cards:
- Digitally in email or using sneaker-net
- Online using the openpgp key servers.
- Still does not tell you if you trust the key.

Key management: rollover

- Expiry dates ensure that if your private key is compromised they can only be used till they expire.
- Can be changed after creating the key.
- Before expiry, you need to create a new key, sign it with the old one, send the signed new one to everyone in your web of trust asking them to sign your new key.

Key management: revocation

- Used to mark a key as invalid before its expiry date.
- Always generate a revocation certificate as soon as you create your key.
- Do not keep your revocation certificate with your private key.
 - `gpg --gen-revoke IDENTITY`

Key management: partying

- Key signing parties are ways to build webs of trust.
- Each participant carries identification, as well as a copy of their key fingerprint. (maybe some \$ as well 😊)
- Each participant decides if they're going to sign another key based on their personal policy.
- Keys are easiest kept in a keyring on an openpgp keyserver in the aftermath of the party.

Interesting gpg commands

- Get help for gpg options
 - `gpg --help` AND `man gpg`
- Print the fingerprint of a particular key
 - `gpg --fingerprint IDENTITY`
- `IDENTITY` = email or PGP key ID
- Export a public key to an ASCII armored file.
 - `gpg -a --output my-public-key.asc --export IDENTITY`

Interesting gpg commands

- Import a key from a file into your keyring
 - `gpg --import public.asc`
- Import a key from a keyserver
 - `gpg --recv-keys --keyserver hkp://keys.gnupg.net`
- Send your key to a keyserver
 - `gpg --send-keys --keyserver hkp://keys.gnupg.net`
- Sign a key
 - `gpg --sign-key IDENTITY`