**What was the earliest reason for the use of cryptography?**

**Step 1:**

The study of secure communications techniques that allow only the sender and intended recipient of a message to read its contents is known as cryptography. The word "kryptos" comes from the Greek word "kryptos," which meaning "hidden."

**Step 2:**

Prior to Second World War, the majority of cryptography research was focused on military applications, with the goal of concealing secret military information. Cryptography, on the other hand, drew economic interest after WWII, as companies sought to protect their data from competitors. Military and political secrets were kept hidden while being conveyed from one location to another.

**What is a cryptographic key, and what is it used for? What is a more formal name for a cryptographic key?**

**Step 1: cryptographic key**

A cryptographic key is a set of bits that a cryptographic algorithm uses to convert plain text to cypher text or vice versa. This key is kept confidential and guarantees that communication is secure. Cryptographic activities need the use of a cryptographic key.

**Step 2: use of cryptography key**

A cryptography key is a secret value used by a computer to encrypt and decrypt communications using a sophisticated algorithm.

In cryptography, a key is a string of characters that is used in an encryption technique to make data appear random. It locks (encrypts) data in the same way that a physical key does, so that only the appropriate key can unlock (decrypt) it.

**Step 3:  formal name for a cryptographic key**

Formal name: Cryptovariable