OPENSSL AND ITS APPLICATIONS

PROJECT REPORT

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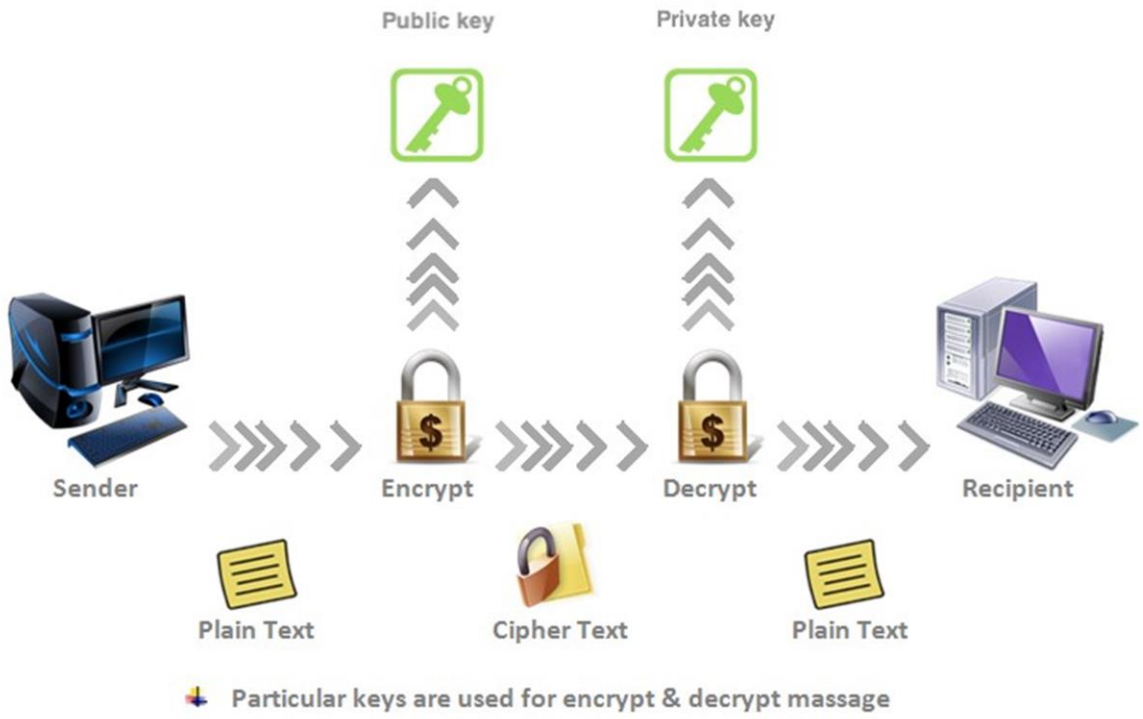
OPENSSL

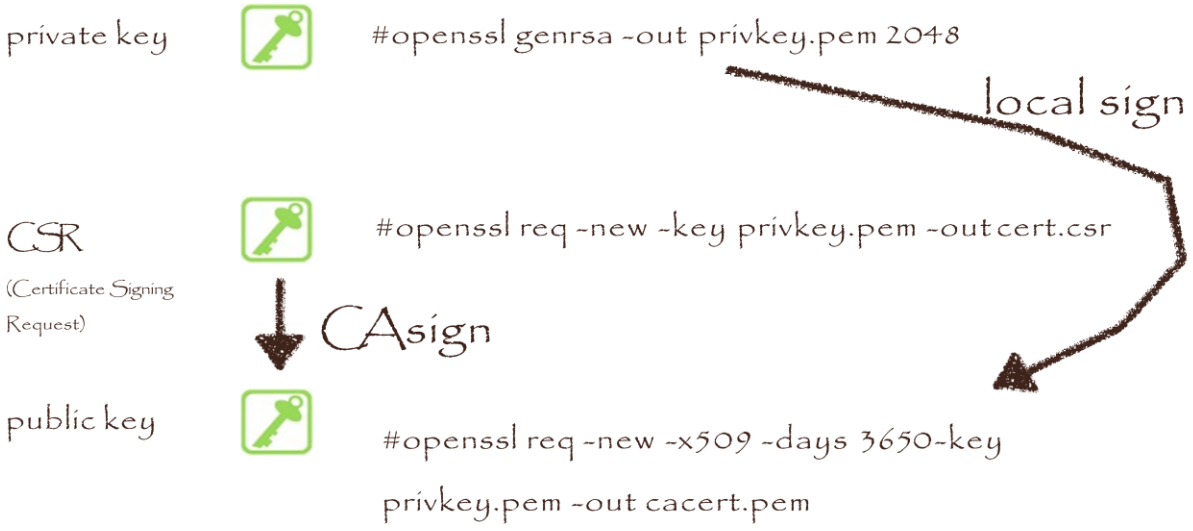
OpenSSL is a software library for applications that secure communications over computer networks against eavesdropping or need to identify the party at the other end. It is widely used in internet web servers, serving a majority of all web sites.

OpenSSL contains an open-source implementation of the SSL and TLS protocols. The core library, written in the C programming language, implements basic cryptographic functions and provides various utility functions. Wrappers allowing the use of the OpenSSL library in a variety of computer languages are available.

Versions are available for most Unix and Unix-like operating systems (including Solaris, Linux, macOS, QNX, and the various open-source BSD operating systems), OpenVMS and Microsoft Windows. IBM provides a port for the System i (OS/400).

THE BASIC OF OPENSSL



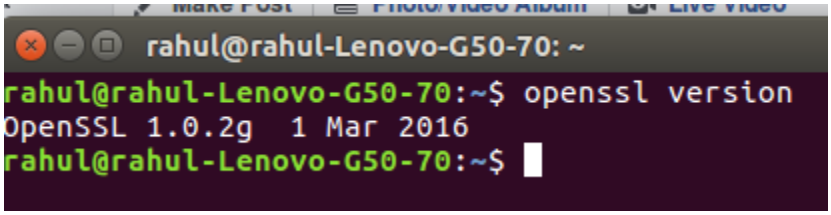


Installing OpenSSL Toolkit

wget http://www.openssl.org/source/openssl-1.0.1g.tar.gz
tar -xvzf openssl-1.0.1g.tar.gz
cd openssl-1.0.1g
./config --prefix=/usr/
make
sudo make install

Checking the version of OpenSSL

$openssl version

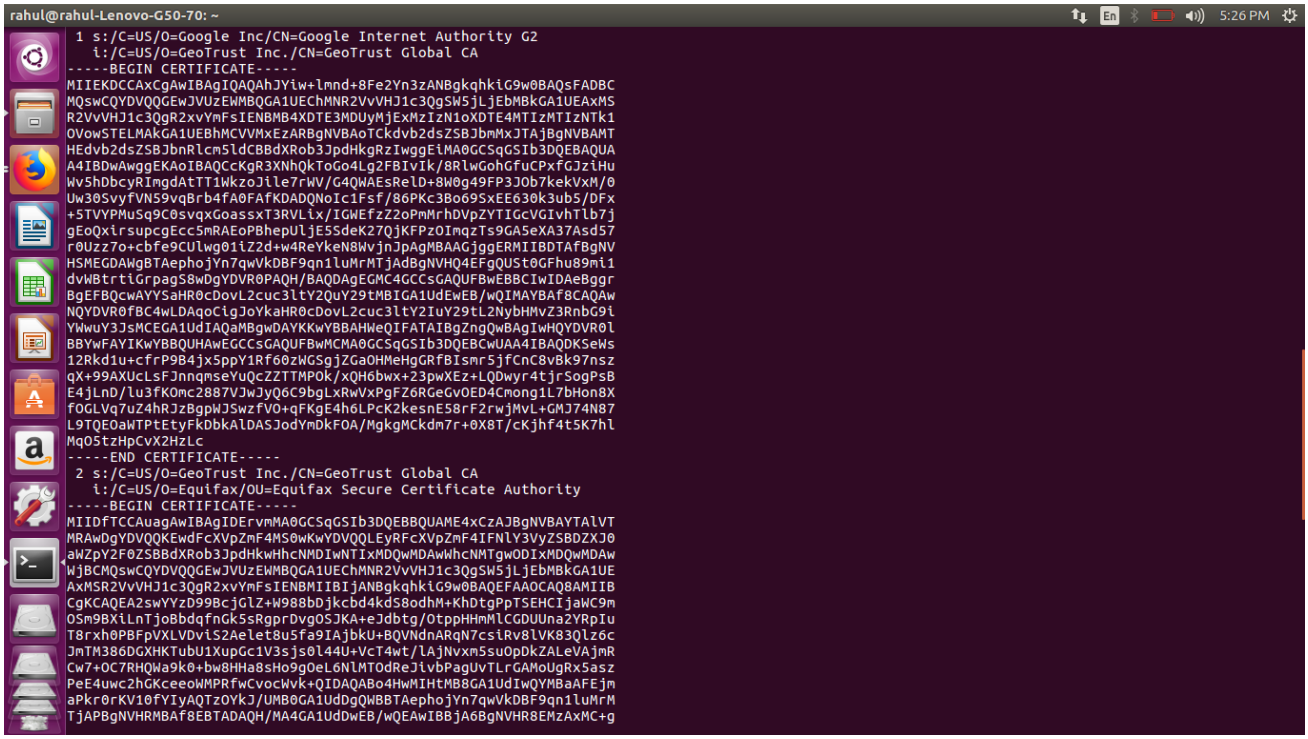


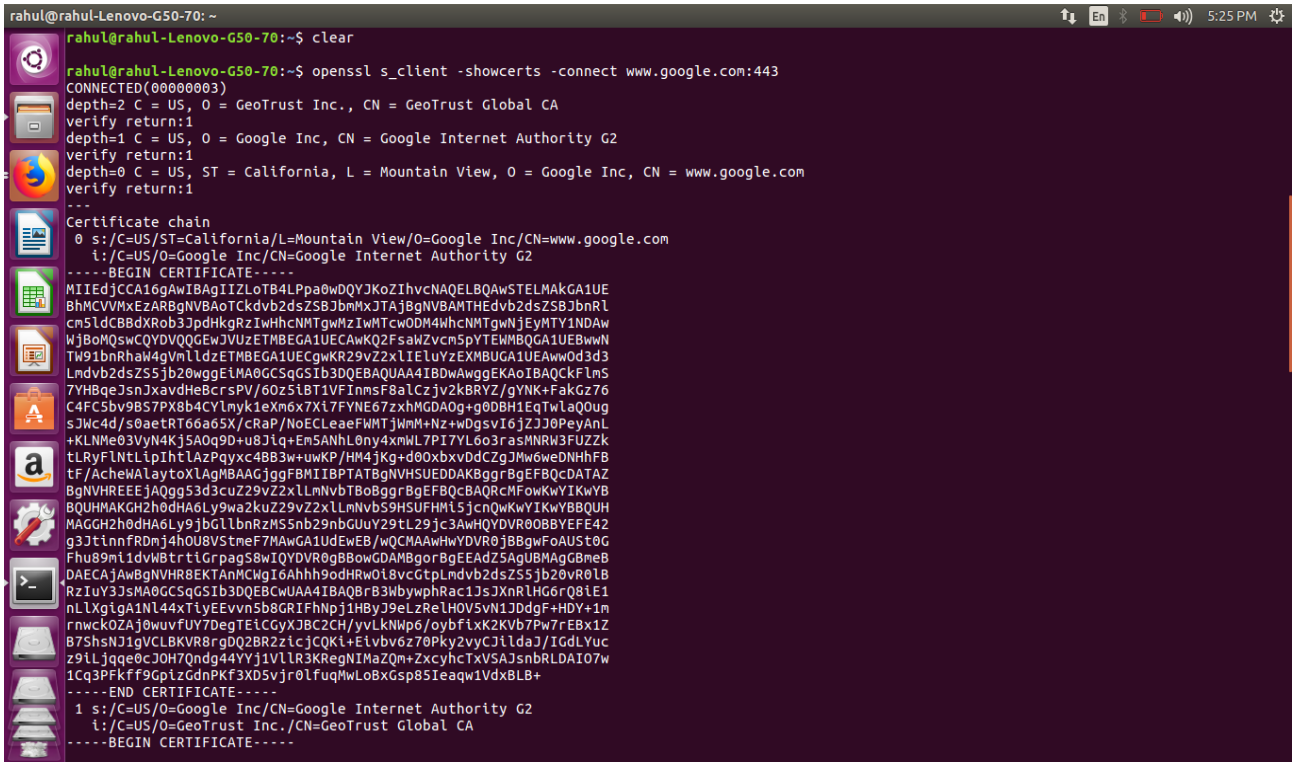
APPLICATIONS OF Openssl

Checking A Remote Certificate Chain With OpenSSL

If we deal with SSL/TLS long enough we will run into situations where we need to examine what certificates are being presented by a server to the client. The best way to examine the raw output is via OpenSSL.

$openssl s_client -showcerts -connect www.google.com:443





The following points can be observed by checking a remote certificate chain with OpenSsl:

1. The certificate chain consists of two certificates. At level 0 there is the server certificate with some parsed information. s: is the subject line of the certificate and i: contains information about the issuing CA.
2. This particular server (www.woot.com) has sent an intermediate certificate as well. Subject and issuer information is provided for each certificate in the presented chain. Chains can be much longer than 2 certificates in length.
3. The server certificate section is a duplicate of level 0 in the chain. If you're only looking for the end entity certificate then you can rapidly find it by looking for this section.
4. No client certificate CAs were sent. If the server was configured to potentially accept client certs the returned data would include a list of "acceptable client CAs".
5. Connection was made via TLSv1/SSLv3 and the chosen cipher was RC4-MD5. Incidentally, this typically means that the server you're connecting to is IIS.

Encryption Techniques

Symmetric Encryption

Asymmetric Encryption

Symmetric Encryption

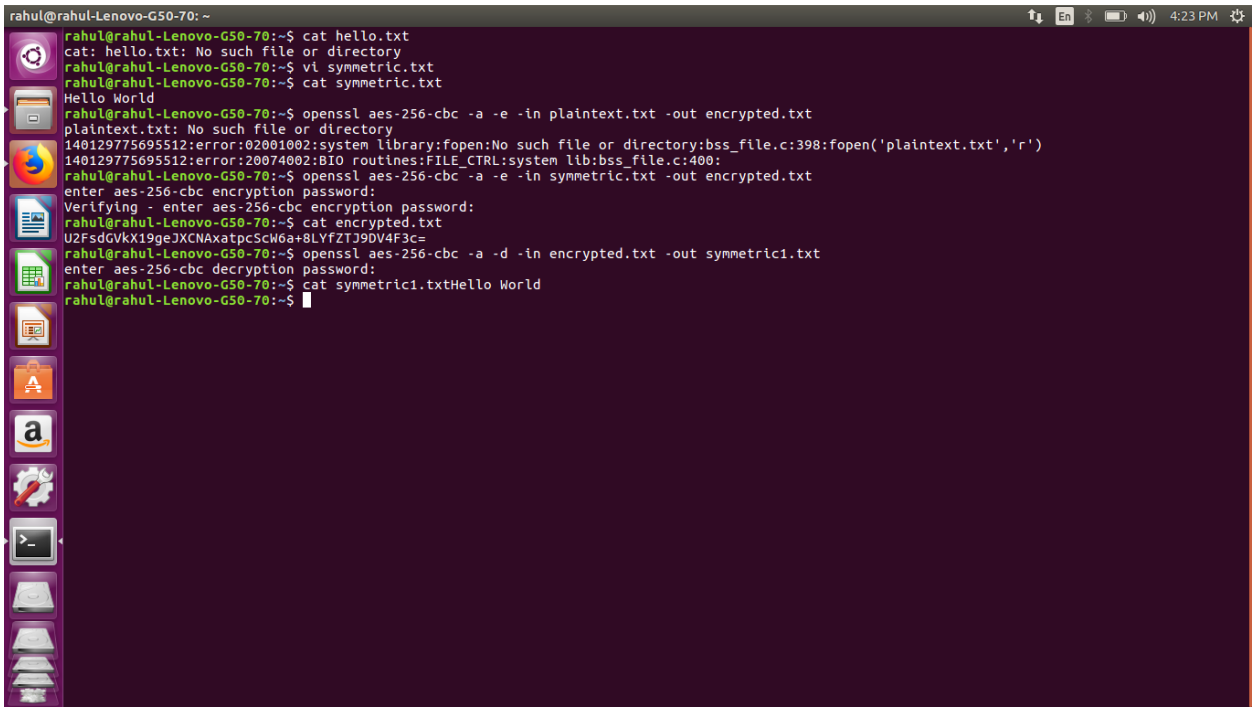
Symmetric Encryption are algorithms for cryptography that use the same cryptographic keys for both encryption of plaintext and decryption of ciphertext. The keys may be identical or there may be a simple transformation to go between the two keys. The keys, in practice, represent a shared secret between two or more parties that can be used to maintain a private information link. This requirement that both parties have access to the secret key is one of the main drawbacks of symmetric key encryption, in comparison to public-key encryption (also known as asymmetric key encryption).

To encrypt:

$openssl aes-256-cbc -a -e -in plaintext.txt -out encrypted.txt

To decrypt:

$openssl aes-256-cbc -a -d -in encrypted.txt -out plaintext.txt



Asymmetric Encryption

Asymmetric cryptography, also known as public key cryptography, uses public and private keys to encrypt and decrypt data. The keys are simply large numbers that have been paired together but are not identical (asymmetric). One key in the pair can be shared with everyone; it is called the public key. The other key in the pair is kept secret; it is called the private key. Either of the keys can be used to encrypt a message; the opposite key from the one used to encrypt the message is used for decryption.

For Asymmetric encryption we must first generate private key and extract the public key.

$openssl genrsa -aes256 -out private.key 8912

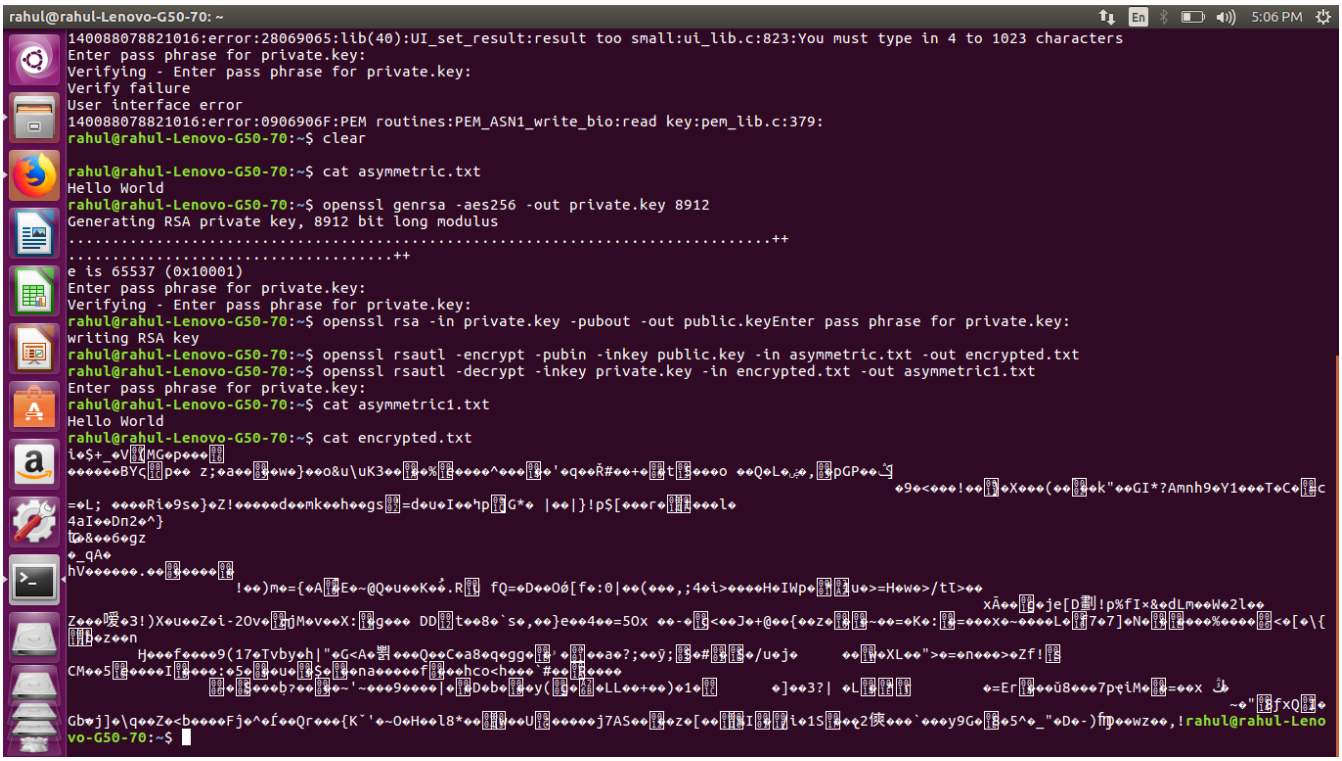
$openssl rsa -in private.key -pubout -out public.key

To encrypt:

openssl rsautl -encrypt -pubin -inkey public.key -in plaintext.txt -out encrypted.txt

To decrypt:

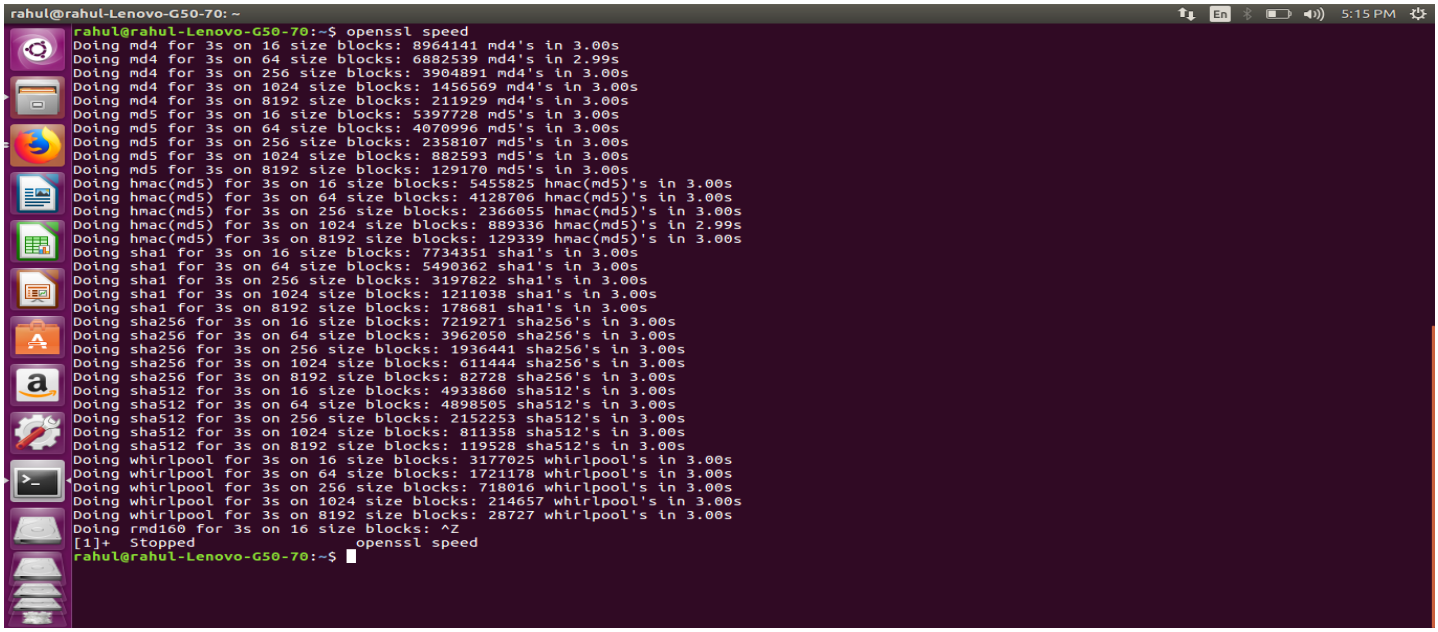
openssl rsautl -decrypt -inkey private.key -in encrypted.txt -out plaintext.txt



To check the speed of system using Openssl benchmarking option

OpenSSL comes with an in-built benchmarking option called ‘speed’. It tells us how many operations it can perform in a given time.

$openssl speed



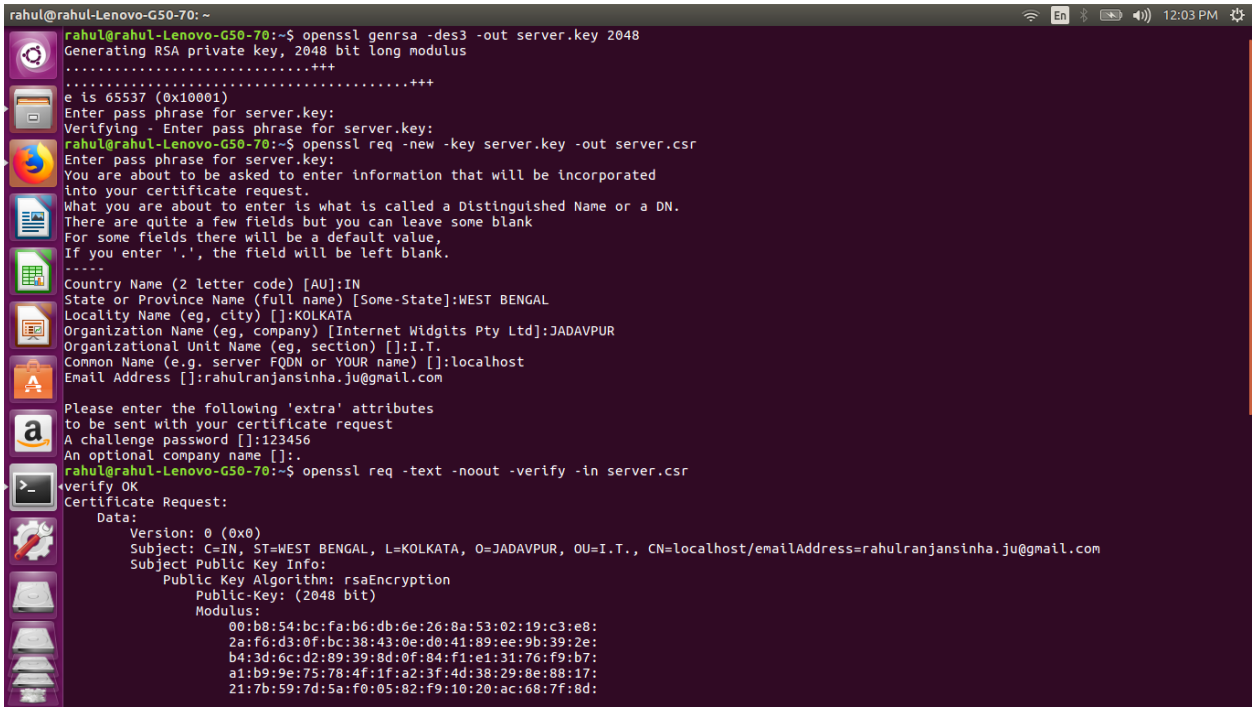
Generate CSR (Certificate Signing Request)

In public key infrastructure (PKI) systems, a **certificate signing request** (also **CSR** or **certification request**) is a message sent from an applicant to a certificate authority in order to apply for a digital identity certificate. It usually contains the public key for which the certificate should be issued, identifying information (such as a domain name) and integrity protection (e.g., a digital signature).

1. **openssl genrsa -des3 -out server.key 2048**
2. **openssl req -new -key server.key -out server.csr**

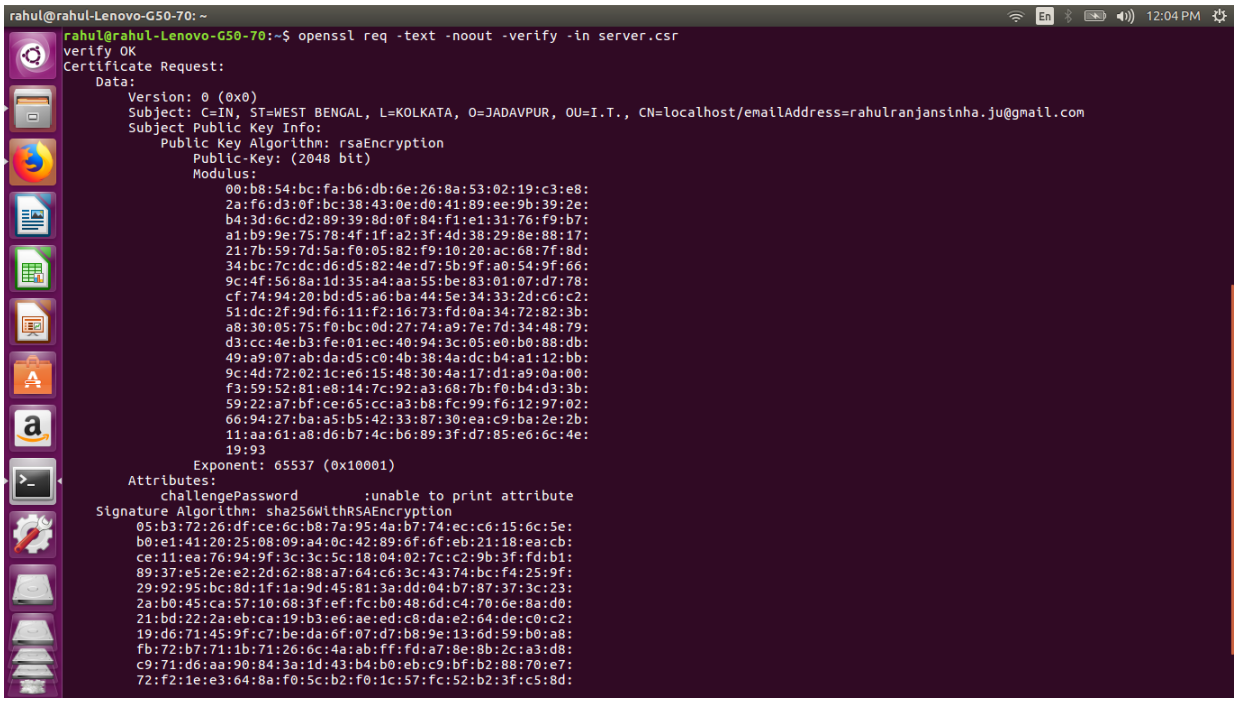
The first command will generate a 2048 bit (recommended) RSA private key. After running the command it will ask for the passphrase. If we want to create a key without the passphrase we can remove the **(-des3)** from the command.

The second command generates a **CSR** (Certificate Signing Request). The CA will use the .csr file and issue the certificate, but in our case, we can use this .csr file to create our self-signed certificate. Once we run the command, it will prompt us to enter our country, company name, etc.



Checking CSR (Certificate Signing Request)

openssl req -text -noout -verify -in CSR.csr



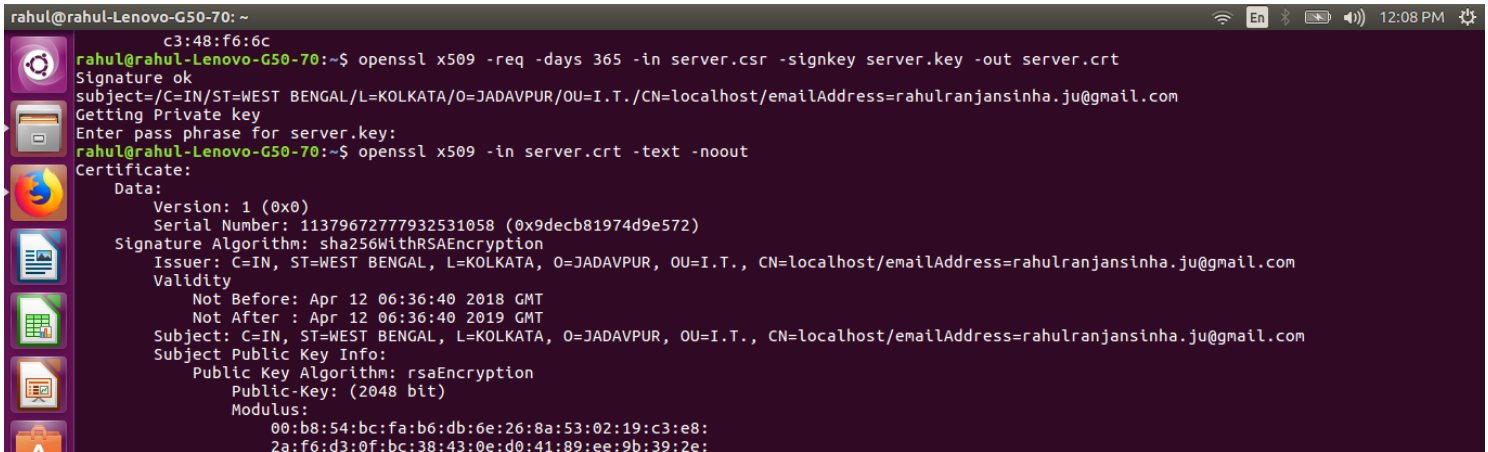
Create a Self-Signed SSL Certificate Using OpenSSL

To create this secure connection an SSL Certificate is used, which is installed on the web server. So, an SSL Certificate is a bit of code on your web server that provides security for your online communications. SSL certificates also contain identification information (i.e your organizational information).

A self-signed certificate is a certificate that is signed by its own creator rather than a trusted authority. Self-signed certificates are less trustworthy since any attacker can create a self-signed certificate and launch a **man in the middle attack.**

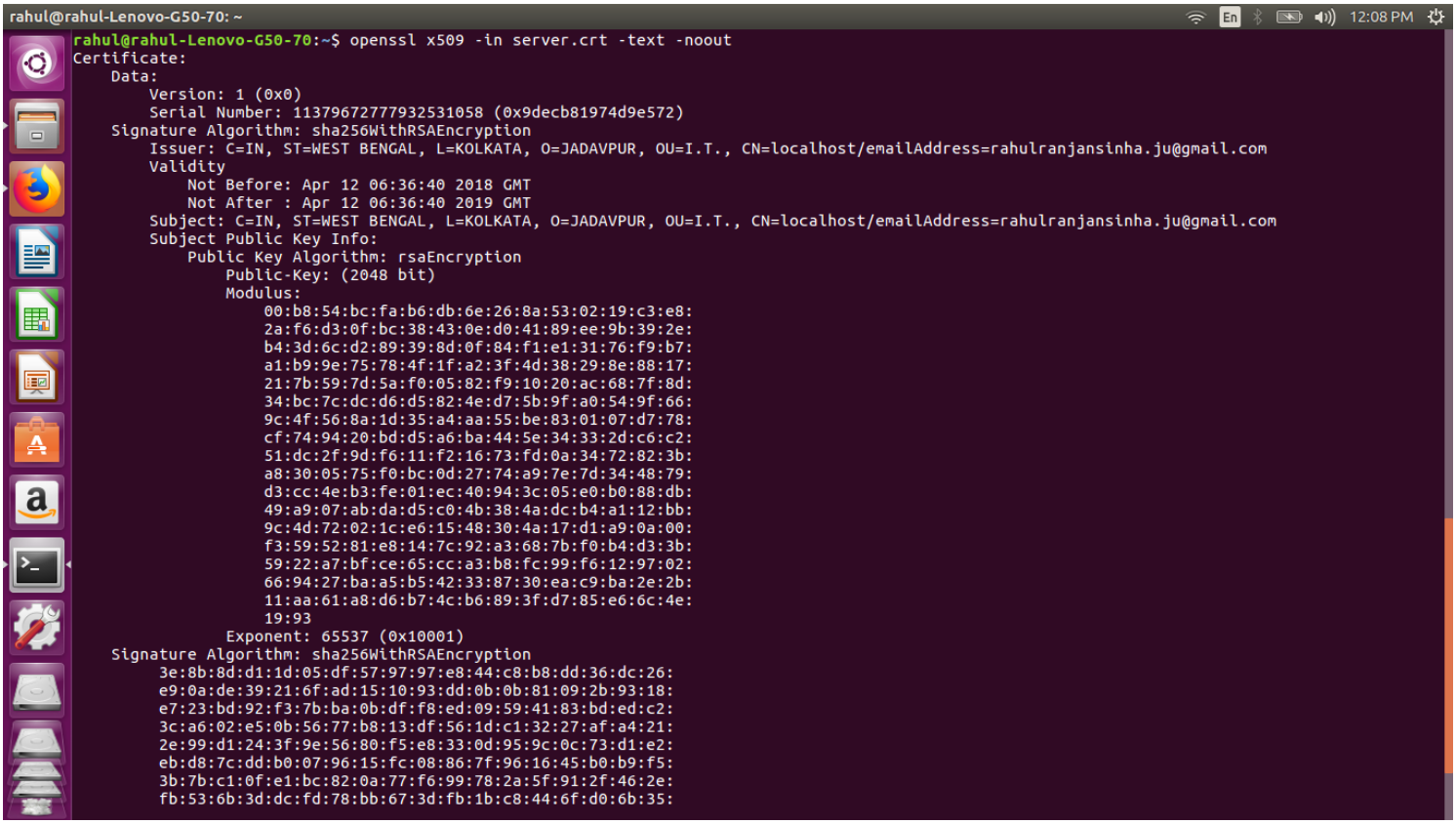
openssl x509 -req -days 365 -in server.csr -signkey server.key -out server.crt

It creates the self-signed x509 certificate with 365 days validity, suitable for use on a web server.



Checking the Certificate

openssl x509 -in certificate.crt -text -noout



Create https localhost (ssl) on ubuntu 16.04

Step 1: Generating the certificate

First, let's create a place to store the file.

mkdir ~/certificates

cd ~/certificates

Generate CSR and private key.

openssl req -x509 -newkey rsa:4096 -keyout apache.key -out apache.crt -days 365 -nodes

It will ask for information for the certificate request. Complete with the appropriate information.

Country Name (2 letter code) [AU]: IN

State or Province Name (full name) [Some-State]: WEST BENGAL

Locality Name (eg, city) []: KOLKATA

Organization Name (eg, company) [My Company]: JADAVPUR

Organizational Unit Name (eg, section) []: I.T.

Common Name (e.g. server FQDN or YOUR name) []: localhost

Email Address []:rahulranjansinha.ju@gmail.com

Now, move the certificate to Apache configuration folder.

mkdir /etc/apache2/ssl

mv ~/certificates/* /etc/apache2/ssl/.

The certificate is ready! Next, we will prepare Apache to work with the certificate.

Step 2: Firewall configuration

We have to make sure TCP port 443 is open. This port is used in SSL connections instead of port 80. In this tutorial, we will be using UFW.

Make sure UFW is enabled.

sudo ufw enable

Now allow the predefined Apache settings for the firewall.

sudo ufw allow 'Apache Full'

By typing "sudo ufw status", we can see a list of the current rules. Our configuration should resemble this:

```
To                         Action      From
--                         ------      ----
Apache Full                ALLOW       Anywhere
OpenSSH                    ALLOW       Anywhere
Apache Full (v6)           ALLOW       Anywhere (v6)
OpenSSH (v6)               ALLOW       Anywhere (v6)
```

We should also allow OpenSSH here for future connections.

sudo ufw allow 'OpenSSH'

Step 3: Apache virtual host configuration

Navigate to the default Apache site config directory.

sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/default-ssl.conf

This file tells the server where to look for the SSL certificate. With the comments removed, it should look like the following config.

```
<IfModule mod_ssl.c>
  <VirtualHost _default_:443>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@localhost

    DocumentRoot /var/www/html

    ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log
    CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined

    SSLEngine on

    SSLCertificateFile    /etc/ssl/certs/ssl-cert-snakeoil.pem
    SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/ssl/private/ssl-cert-snakeoil.key
```

```
  <FilesMatch "\.(cgi|shtml|phtml|php)$">
   SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
  </FilesMatch>
  <Directory /usr/lib/cgi-bin>
   SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
  </Directory>

 </VirtualHost>
</IfModule>
```

Edit this line:

```
ServerAdmin email@example.net
```

Add this right below the ServerAdmin line:

```
ServerName ADD_YOUR_IP_OR_DOMAIN_NAME_HERE
```

Now, edit these lines with our certificate location:

```
SSLCertificateFile    /etc/apache2/ssl/apache.crt
SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/apache2/ssl/apache.key
```

Our final file should resemble this:

```
<IfModule mod_ssl.c>
 <VirtualHost _default_:443>
  ServerAdmin email@example.net
  ServerName 203.0.113.122

  DocumentRoot /var/www/html

  ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log
  CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined

  SSLEngine on
```

```
 SSLCertificateFile    /etc/apache2/ssl/apache.crt
 SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/apache2/ssl/apache.key

 <FilesMatch "\.(cgi|shtml|phtml|php)$">
  SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
 </FilesMatch>
 <Directory /usr/lib/cgi-bin>
  SSLOptions +StdEnvVars
 </Directory>

 </VirtualHost>
</IfModule>
```

Save and close the file.

Step 4: Enabling Apache SSL module

Enable the SSL module by typing:

```
sudo a2enmod ssl
```

Now enable the site we have just edited:

```
sudo a2ensite default-ssl.conf
```

Restart Apache:

```
sudo service apache2 restart
```

Let's access the new secure website! Open it in our browser (make sure you type https://).

https://localhost

Your browser will warn you that the certificate is invalid, as we expected. This happens because the certificate is not signed. Follow the steps offered by your browser to proceed to your site.

Step 5: Redirect all HTTP traffic to HTTPS (Optional)

Open the Apache default virtual host file:

```
nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/000-default.conf
```

Add this line inside the <VirtualHost *:80> tag:

Redirect / https://localhost/

Reload Apache configuration:

sudo service apache2 reload

All website traffic will now automatically redirect to HTTPS.