Lab Exercise 4- Signed Commits in Git and GitHub

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**Objective:**

To configure Git to sign commits with GPG, push them to GitHub, and verify commit authenticity for secure code contribution.

**Prerequisites:**

* Git installed on your system
* GPG (GNU Privacy Guard) installed and configured
* GitHub account with a repository (you own or have write access to)
* Basic knowledge of Git commands

**Step 1 – Generate or Use an Existing GPG Key**

1. **Check for existing keys**

gpg --list-secret-keys --keyid-format=long

1. **If no key exists, generate a new one**

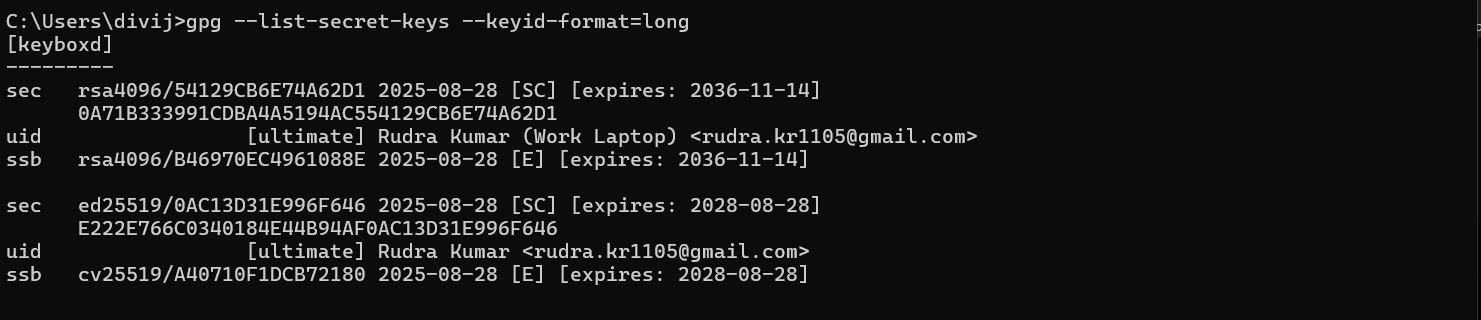
gpg --full-generate-key

* + Select **RSA and RSA**
  + Key size: **4096**
  + Expiration: **0** (never) or a fixed date
  + Enter your **GitHub-registered name and email**

1. **Get your key ID**

gpg --list-secret-keys --keyid-format=long

Output:



**Step 2 – Add GPG Key to GitHub**

1. Export your public key:

gpg --armor --export YOUR\_KEY\_ID

1. Copy the output.
2. Go to **GitHub → Settings → SSH and GPG Keys → New GPG Key**.
3. Paste your key and save.

**Step 3 – Configure Git for Signed Commits**

1. Tell Git which key to use:

git config --global user.signingkey YOUR\_KEY\_ID

1. Enable signing for all commits:

git config --global commit.gpgsign true

**Step 4 – Make a Signed Commit**

1. Clone your repo (or use an existing one):

git clone https://github.com/<username>/<repository>.git

cd <repository>

1. Edit or create a file:

echo "Secure commit test" >> secure.txt

git add secure.txt

1. Commit with signing:

git commit -S -m "Add secure commit test file"

1. Enter your GPG passphrase when prompted.

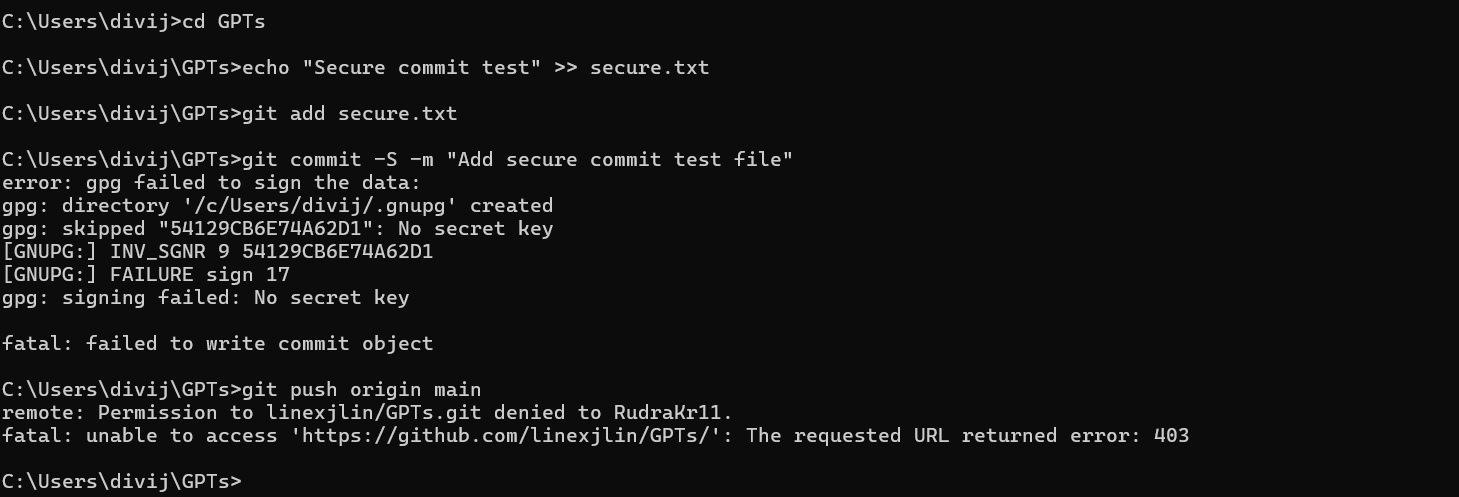
**Step 5 – Push and Verify on GitHub**

1. Push the commit:

git push origin main

1. Go to your repository on GitHub → Click the commit → You should see a **green**

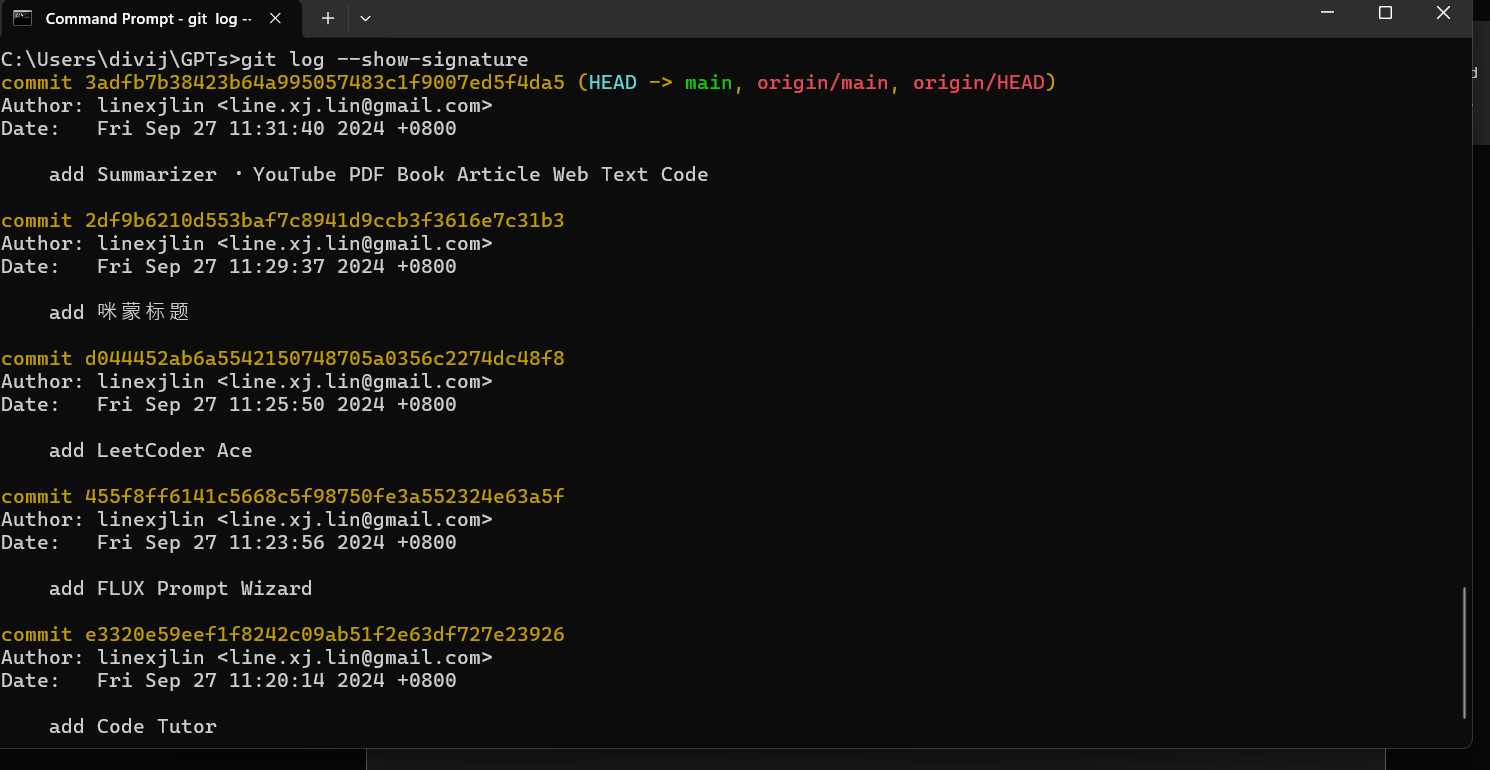
**“Verified” badge**.



**Step 6 – Local Verification of Commit**

git log --show-signature

This will display the GPG verification details locally.



**Use Case**

Signed commits prevent identity spoofing in collaborative projects, ensuring only verified authors can make trusted changes in critical codebases.