

Lab 4 ; OpenPGP

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Q1.

- a. Write a brief report of what you have done. In the report, include your OpenPGP key ID and signature (Your public key will be downloaded from the key servers and checked for signatures.) Also, answer the question below

Answer:

Being a Windows user, I installed Gpg4win, which is a freely available software package encompassing various essential tools for secure communication.

1. **GnuPG Encryption Software**

This tool empowers users to encrypt their emails, thereby bolstering the security of their communication.

2. **Kleopatra**

I utilized Kleopatra to create both my public and private keys. Additionally, it simplified the process of adding public keys from other users, along with their key identifiers and email addresses.

3. **GnuPG for Outlook (GpgOL)**

I incorporated the GpgOL extension into Microsoft Outlook, enabling me to send emails with digital signatures and encryption, thus assuring the privacy and integrity of my messages.

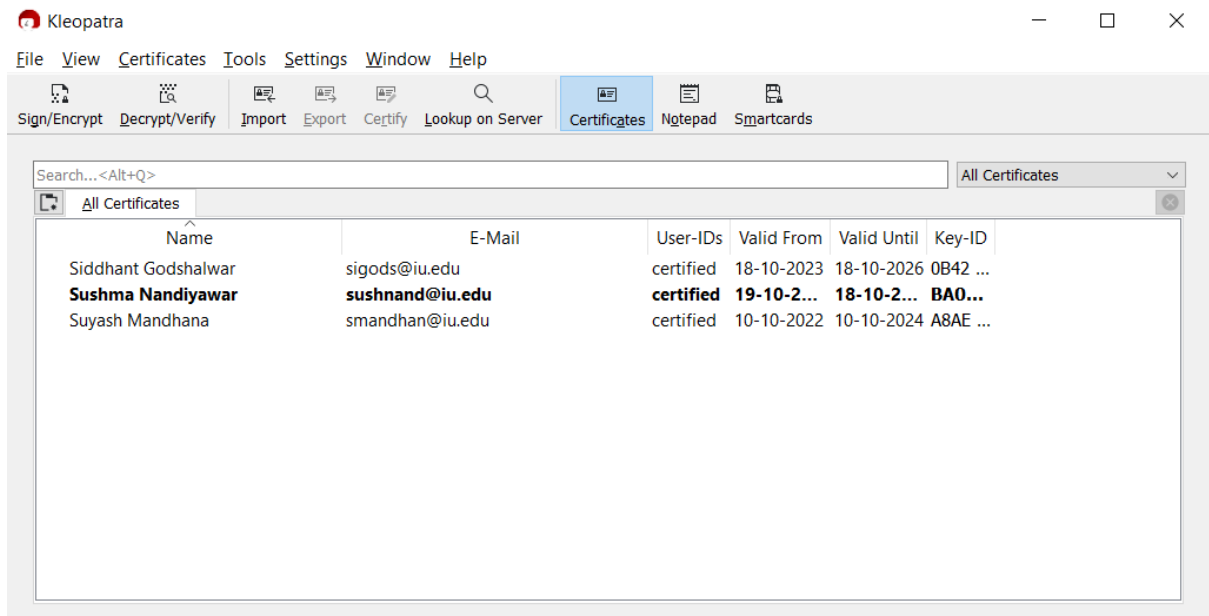
For ensuring secure communication, Gpg4win relies on two essential elements: public and private keys. I generated my own set of public and private keys using Kleopatra. To increase the availability of my public keys, I uploaded them to the designated servers as instructed in the assignment. Furthermore, I bolstered the reliability of my public keys by obtaining signatures from other users' private keys. In return, I provided signatures for their private keys. These mutually signed public keys were subsequently made available on the servers for others to utilize.

I additionally brought in Suyush's public keys, following the fingerprint verification procedure as outlined in the assignment, with the assistance of Kleopatra. To conclude, I utilized the GpgOL extension integrated into Outlook to send Suyush emails with either digital signatures, encryption, or both, thereby ensuring the utmost level of security in our communication.

My Finger Print: 543B 964A 9654 6244 A632 057D BA0C F6DB E29C 07B5

Key ID: BA0C F6DB E29C 07B5

Imported Suyash's (smandhan@iu.edu) Public key and sent email to him.

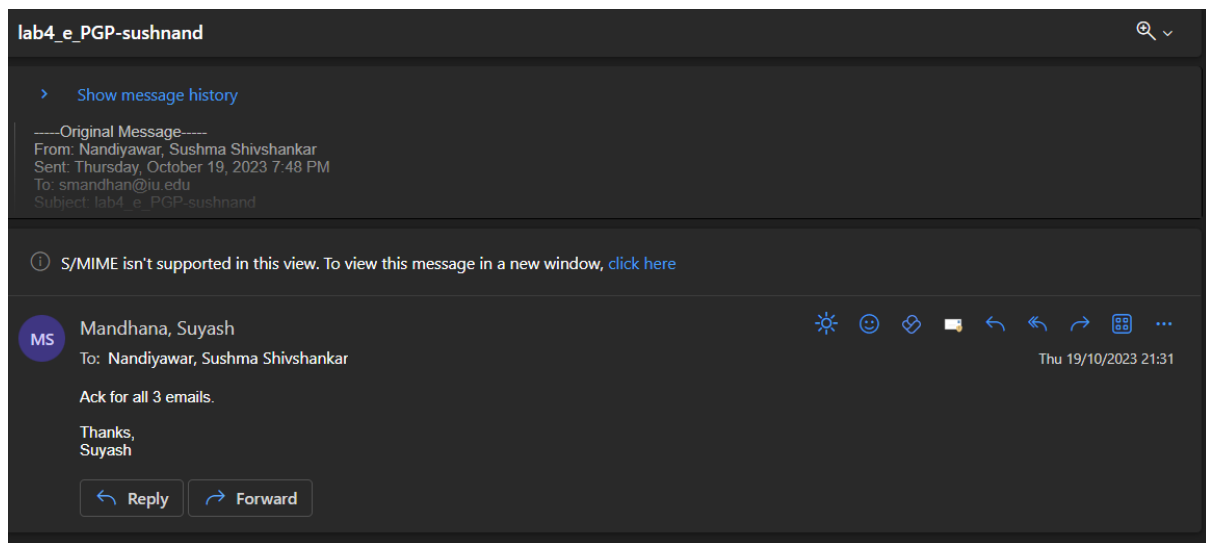


Siddhanth Godshalwar signed my key

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C:\Users\Sushma Nandiyawar\Desktop\Lab4>gpg --decrypt BA0CF6DBE29C07B5.asc.gpg
gpg: encrypted with rsa3072 key, ID F4B81D1F5881C432, created 2023-10-19
"Sushma Nandiyawar <sushnand@iu.edu>"
-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

mQGNBGUxr5YBDACqDe9ndnUagIpJxeXLZaXvkR9YKBorpMKcvQ9MdLqM7dnCLaZk
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w9NrKXyoQlFJlIT5yfnJ2eHwym7mdFCdANCaJaqZxUwLT15RDopdvkxVNW==
=mSJP
-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----
gpg: Signature made 20-10-2023 18:37:29 US Eastern Daylight Time
gpg: using EDDSA key 901727C5B71625F19B6CAA600B424CC070EF894C
gpg: Good signature from "Siddhant Godshalwar <sigods@iu.edu>" [full]
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Sent the 3 different mails signed, encrypted, signed&encrypted:



b. Can you send signed/encrypted email using webmail such as Gmail? Why, or why not? What are the challenges?

Answer:

Indeed, sending emails with digital signatures and encryption using Gmail is possible, thanks to its incorporation of S/MIME features. Nevertheless, there are some difficulties connected to this procedure:

Activation Requirement:

Both the sender and receiver need to enable S/MIME for encrypted and signed email communication. This activation is attainable through G Suite, but it's important to highlight that this feature is exclusively accessible for users with paid Google accounts.

Reliance on External Solutions

Gmail lacks built-in support for digital signatures or email encryption.

Consequently, users frequently turn to external solutions to incorporate these security features.

1. Compatibility Issues

Ensuring that both the sender and recipient employ encryption techniques and keys that are compatible can pose a challenge.

2. Usability Challenges

Everyday users might encounter difficulties when attempting to set up email encryption, which could result in adoption problems.

3. Key Handling

Handling public and private keys, verifying their reliability, and securely exchanging keys are three vital yet intricate components of email encryption.

4. Limited Endorsement

Some email clients do not offer complete support for encrypted emails, potentially requiring the utilization of third-party apps for decryption.

Q2. Given fingerprint of the key, why are you convinced that the key file you downloaded must not have been-tampered with? (Answer in one sentence)

Answer:

I would trust the downloaded key file because each key has a unique fingerprint, which functions as a cryptographic checksum. Any changes to this fingerprint would result in a completely different key.