

TITLE:

Activity 1:

Install and send a message using PGP. <http://openpgp.org/> There are many options for using PGP, try different ones and see how they work together.

Activity 2:

Send email using Python. Look at your email server settings. Update the info in the Python file. Python file: (download link) (<https://gist.github.com/anir0y/be6d613dd3d793e54f3e6d2be1dd0f65>)

- **Can you email multiple people?**
- **Could you pull the list of people to email from an external file?**
- **How can you personalize the email for the recipient?**

Discussion:

- (1)What could you do to ensure privacy when sending email?**
- (2)What expectation of privacy do you have when sending e-mail?**
- (3)If you had a secret message to send, how would you do it?**
- (4) How could you automate e-mailing many people?**

Assessment Questions:

- (5)Why do email services "read" your email? What is their goal?**
- (6)How does PGP secure email differently than GMAIL?**
- (7)Why don't people use services like PGP more often?**
- (8)What is phishing?**
- (9)What is spear-phishing?**

COURSE NAME: CYBER SECURITY (MAJOR PROJECT)

DUE DATE: 2/06/2020

CLASSROOM NAME: CS04B4

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main objective of this major project was to be able to understand and explore the security of e-mail, disposable email accounts and use a secure email

system. As we all know email is one of the most-used forms of communication, be it an IT employee or a college student, most of the important messages or announcements are communicated by the company or universities through these emails. Since these emails play a crucial role in communication, major questions arise in everyone's mind as to whether these emails or email service providers are safe enough? Does anybody see my emails? How secure are they, if not what are the consequences? All these major questions are being discussed in the assignment. Are there any alternative solutions for these problems? Yes there are solutions for that and we have discussed one such solution i.e., sending email using PGP which is a more secure form of email communication and performed few activities related to that.

We have also discussed sending automated mails using python and also performed a few activities under this section too.

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AN INTRODUCTION

PGP (**P**retty **G**ood **P**rivacy) encryption has become a mainstay of internet privacy and security for one main reason: it allows you to send a coded message to someone without having to share the code beforehand. There's a lot more to it, but this is the fundamental aspect that has made it so useful. It's a conundrum that PGP has managed to solve with something called public-key encryption (don't worry, we'll cover what this is later), which allows its users to send secure and encrypted messages to people even if they've never met before, let alone had a chance to prearrange a code.

PGP's core function is to enable its users to send secure messages without needing a prior introduction, but that's not all it does. It also allows recipients to verify whether a message is authentic or if it has been tampered with. It does this by using something called digital signatures, which we will cover later in the article. On top of this, PGP can be used to encrypt other things besides email. You can use it to encrypt your hard drive, instant messages, files and more. While these are all important features, this article will mainly focus on using PGP encryption for email, PGP's most widespread use. Despite the name—which was inspired by a radio program's fictional shop called Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery—PGP is a form of encryption that does not have any publicly known ways of being broken. This means that as long as it is used properly, you can be confident in the security, privacy and integrity of your messages and files.

Once data has been encrypted with the recipient's public key, it can only be decrypted by their private key. This is why public keys are freely handed out, but private keys need to be guarded carefully. If your private key is compromised by an attacker, it enables them to access all of your PGP encrypted emails. In PGP, public-key encryption isn't used to encrypt the message, just the one-off session key that was generated to encrypt it. Why? Because public-key encryption is simply too inefficient. It would take too long and use a larger amount of computational resources. Since the body of the message usually contains the bulk of the data, PGP uses the more economical symmetric-key encryption for this. It reserves the lumbering public-key encryption for the session key, making the whole process more efficient. The process makes digital signatures essentially impossible to forge unless the private key has been compromised. The message digest is then encrypted with the sender's private key.

Python comes with the built-in `smtplib` module for sending emails using the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP). `smtplib` uses the RFC 821 protocol for SMTP. The examples in this tutorial will use the Gmail SMTP server to send emails, but the same principles apply to other email services.

There are two ways to start a secure connection with your email server:

Start an SMTP connection that is secured from the beginning using `SMTP_SSL()`.

Start an unsecured SMTP connection that can then be encrypted using `.starttls()`.

In both instances, Gmail will encrypt emails using TLS, as this is the more secure successor of SSL. As per Python's Security considerations, it is highly recommended that you use `create_default_context()` from the `ssl` module. This will load the system's trusted CA certificates, enable host name checking and certificate validation, and try to choose reasonably secure protocol and cipher settings.

If you want to check the encryption for an email in your Gmail inbox, go to More → Show original to see the encryption type listed under the Received header.

`smtplib` is Python's built-in module for sending emails to any Internet machine with an SMTP or ESMTP listener daemon.

Using `.starttls()`

Instead of using `.SMTP_SSL()` to create a connection that is secure from the outset, we can create an unsecured SMTP connection and encrypt it using `.starttls()`.

To do this, create an instance of `smtplib.SMTP`, which encapsulates an SMTP connection and allows you access to its methods. I recommend defining your SMTP server and port at the beginning of your script to configure them easily.

The code snippet below uses the construction `server = SMTP()`, rather than the format with `SMTP()` as server: which we used in the previous example. To make sure that your code doesn't crash when something goes wrong, put your main code in a try block, and let an except block print any error messages to stdout.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

On 15/05/2020, we got this assignment from our mentor. We all are very excited about learning more facts about cybersecurity in the future from him. It was a great opportunity that we got to learn so many new things from him.

This project is basically a method to explore the security of e-mail, disposable email accounts and use a secure email system. Email is one of the most-used forms of communication. How secure are the systems that we use daily and what are the implications of insecure systems? We will also look at alternatives that would ensure security. To determine whether the message is authentic and hasn't been tampered with, all the recipient's program has to do is compare the message digest from the email they received against the message digest that they derived from the digital signature. Sometimes it can be difficult for new users to find someone to sign their certificates and verify the relationship between themselves and their public key. It can be particularly challenging if they don't know other PGP users in real life.

The due date of our report is 2nd June, 2020. We got enough time to complete and it was a great opportunity to work under such a great mentor. This project let us know about so many new things. We feel glad to be a part of this. We put all our efforts to make this project wonderful. We all decided to be a part of this because we are having a great interest in cybersecurity and cybercrimes and also it was offering a certificate from Verzeo and Microsoft so it was great for us to do this.

ACTIVITY 1

Install and send a message using PGP. <http://openpgp.org/> There are many options for using PGP, try different ones and see how they work together.

PROCEDURE:

You'll have to reboot (restart) your system after the PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) software has been downloaded and installed, so save any work on your computer and quit any open programs other than your web browser before you proceed. This tutorial has been designed for users of Windows PCs. A version of the tutorial for the Mac platform is in the works and will be ready soon. The tutorial describes the basics of the PGP software in order to help beginners get up and running using encryption.

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Step 1: Downloading PGP

1. In your browser, go to the download center at the PGP International Homepage
2. Click on the PGP Freeware link where it says: "Here you may download the latest freeware PGP version for your platform."
3. On the next web page, you'll be asked to answer a few simple questions. You have to answer Yes to all the questions as a way for you to declare that you won't misuse the software once you've downloaded it. Read each of the questions carefully before selecting Yes as your answer. Then click on the Submit button.
4. On the next web page, click on the first download link under PGP Freeware v6.5.8 (Windows 95/98/NT/2000). You'll be prompted now to decide if you want to open the software right away or download it (Save it) to your computer hard drive. You want to Save this file to disk, so make sure this option is selected in the File Download dialog box, then click on OK.
5. Now you have to tell your browser where you want to save the PGP program. Be sure to select a location on your hard drive where later you'll be able to easily find the zip file of the PGP software, then click on the Save button. The download will take a while, depending on the speed of your connection to the web.

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While you're waiting.... Where did PGP come from and how does it work?

Where did PGP come from?

Rarely does anything of significance arise out of the blue. PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) is the culmination of a long history of cryptographic discoveries. Cryptography is the science of writing messages in secret codes. It is nothing new. Since the human race became a species of its own, we have pondered the challenge of concealing our communications from others. Secrecy--stealth--is not a preserve of the human species. It is a matter of survival for all our brothers, sisters and cousins in the animal world from which we have evolved. Whether in times of peace or in times of war, we all harbor secret thoughts, feelings, desires, objectives, and so forth that we want to share only with those we absolutely trust, and that we want to carefully conceal from those who would take advantage of us if they knew what we had in mind. Encryption makes this possible, and one of the strongest encryption tools available to us today is PGP.

Phil Zimmermann invented PGP because he recognized that cryptography "is about the right to privacy, freedom of speech, freedom of political association, freedom of the press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, freedom to be left alone." You can read Phil Zimmermann's fuller explanation as to why you need PGP. In the development of PGP, Zimmermann was greatly assisted by his knowledge of the long history of cryptography. Like Sir Isaac Newton, Zimmermann was able to achieve what he achieved because he "stood on the shoulders of giants" who went before him.

How does PGP work?

OK, here goes; put your thinking cap on... If this gets overly technical for you, and your eyes start to glaze over, don't worry about it. It's nice if you can understand what's going on with Public and Private Key encryption, but it's not necessary right away. You'll understand it better as you start to use it and as you interact with others who use it and can explain what's going on. For now, it's sufficient to just follow the sets of numbered steps carefully in order to learn the skills required to use PGP. But read over what follows and understand it as best you can.

When you have successfully completed Step 3 of this tutorial, you'll have created two keys to lock and unlock the secrets of your encoded information. A key is a block or string of alphanumeric text (letters and numbers and other characters such as !, ?, or %) that is generated by PGP at your request using special encryption algorithms.

The first of the two keys you'll create is your Public Key, which you'll share with anyone you wish (the tutorial also will show you how you can put your Public Key on an international server so that even strangers could send you encrypted data if they wanted). Your Public Key is used to encrypt--put into secret code--a message so that its meaning is concealed to everyone except you

Then there is your Private Key, which you'll jealously guard by not sharing with anyone. The Private Key is used to decrypt--decode--the data (messages and so forth) that have been encrypted using your Public Key. This means that the message encrypted (encoded) using your Public Key can only be decrypted (decoded) by you, the owner of the corresponding Private Key.

The designation of one of the two keys (Key1, say) as Public and the other (Key2) as Private is purely arbitrary since there is no functional difference between the two. PGP chooses one to act as the Public Key and designates the other as the Private Key. If it chooses to designate them in the other order (Public=Key2 and Private=Key1), it would make no difference. This is because when either key is used to encrypt something, the other will act as the corresponding decrypting key to convert the encrypted data back into its original form. This capability is at the heart of the "Signing" process mentioned in Steps 8 through 10 below.

Public and Private Key encryption solves one of two major problems with older methods of encryption, namely that you had to somehow share the key with anyone you wanted to be able to read (decrypt) your secret message. The very act of sharing the key meant that some untrustworthy so-and-so could intercept it--and frequently did. Which meant your code was practically useless.

The second major problem with older methods of encryption was the relative ease with which the code could be broken. Codes have to be incredibly complex if they're to foil the attempts of astute humans to crack them. This is all the more the case today when we have increasingly powerful computers to do the dirty, "brute force," work of trying every conceivable combination of key possibilities for us. PGP, and other similar encryption systems, use a key that is really--well--astronomically large, meaning that the number of binary bits (1s and 0s) used to create it has an astronomically large number of possible combinations and the actual decimal (base 10) value they represent is--well--huge. Unlike earlier encryption methods, the security of PGP encryption lies entirely with the key. Earlier encryption methods relied on "security through obscurity" (ie: keeping secret the method used to do the encryption). The methods used to do PGP encryption are known and documented. It is PGP's selection of the complex keys used to do an encryption that makes it next to impossible to crack.

The size of the key can be increased whenever necessary to stay one step ahead of advances in technology. Time alone will tell if PGP can stand the test of time, but for now it's one of the best encryption technologies you'll find.

If you would like to read the history of encryption and understand the origins of Zimmermann's PGP program, an excellent account is given in Simon Singh's CODE BOOK (Doubleday, New York, NY, 1999). Find out more about PGP at the International PGP home page. The CryptoRights Foundation is another good website for information regarding privacy issues. You might also like to join the PGP-BASICS User group where you can find speedy and informed answers to questions that might arise as you get started using PGP. Once you're more

experienced with the program, you can join the PGP Users Mailing List so you can keep in touch with issues related to privacy.

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Step 2: Unzipping and installing the PGP software

Once the download is complete, you'll have the zipped version of the PGP program on your hard drive. Now you have to unzip it. For this, your best bet is to use the shareware WinZip which you'll need to have installed on your computer. You may already have this program from when you had to install other software. You can check if you have the WinZip program by simply double clicking on the file you just downloaded (PGPFW658Win32.zip). If you don't have WinZip installed on your computer, or if you're in doubt, you can go get it (download it) from the web. The best place to do this is at <http://www.winzip.com/ddchomea.htm>. Follow the directions to install the WinZip software on your computer. With a program such as WinZip installed on your computer, you are now ready to unzip and install



PGP. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Now locate the PGP zip file PGPFW658Win32.zip wherever you downloaded it on your computer and double click on it to unzip it.
2. Next you'll be prompted to run the PGP Setup program, which will begin immediately. You'll be presented right away with the PGP Freeware 6.5.8 Setup Wizard.
3. Follow the Wizard's step-by-step directions, clicking on the Next button as you go along. The first three screens contain info about PGP (licensing, etc.). Read them before clicking on the Next button.
4. The 4th screen asks you to enter your name and the name of the company you work for. Next you're asked to confirm the folder where you want the PGP Wizard to install the program. Unless you have other ideas, accept the default for this item.
5. Keep your wits about you on the next screen, which asks you which PGP components you want to install. You do NOT need to install PGPnet Virtual Private Networking, since for most people it's unnecessary and, as Steve Kinney points out, can create nasty network configuration problems. So Deselect this item by removing the check mark next to it before clicking on the Next button.
6. On each of the ensuing screens, read what the Wizard has to say. When asked, accept the defaults and let the Wizard do all the setup for you.
7. Once the PGP software is installed, you will have to reboot your system. PGP will prompt you to go ahead and Restart.
8. After your system has been restarted, you are ready to create your Public and Private Keys.

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Step 3: Setting up (Creating) your Public and Private PGP keys

Now that you have the PGP software installed on your computer, you need to create a Public and Private Key pair. This you can do at any time. Remember as you complete the steps that follow that your Public Key is so-called because you will willingly share it with others so that they can use it to send you secret information. Your Private Key is so-called because it alone will decode any information encoded with your Public Key. As long as you alone have knowledge of your Private Key, your privacy is assured. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Open PGPkeys by selecting Start/Programs/PGP/PGPkeys or by clicking on the PGPtray icon  in the lower right corner of your screen and selecting PGPkeys in the pop up menu.
2. The PGPkeys window opens up, listing various people's Public Keys, among which in a short while will be yours and any others (your correspondents) that you choose to add to the list.
3. In the PGPkeys menu bar, click on the Generate New Keypair icon  to bring up the PGP Key Generation Wizard. Read the introductory dialog, then click on Next.
4. The PGP Key Generation Wizard now asks you to enter your name and e-mail address. Do this now. You can use any name you like and it's a good idea to use a genuine e-mail address so you can take advantage of the PGP feature which will look up the correct key for you when you are writing to a particular correspondent. Click Next when you're done entering your name and e-mail address.
5. Now the PGP Key Generation Wizard asks you to select a key type. Accept the default (Diffie-Hellman/DSS) and click Next.
6. The PGP Key Generation Wizard next asks you to specify a size for your new keys. Again accept the default (2048 bits, which will give you a key so large that it would be well nigh impossible to figure out even by the most powerful computer in the world) and click Next.
7. Now the PGP Key Generation Wizard asks you when you want your key pair to expire. Accept the default (Key pair never expires) and click Next again.
8. The PGP Key Generation Wizard now asks you to enter a passphrase. Think about this before you proceed. Choose a passphrase that has at least eight (8) characters (that's a minimum of 8 characters as a requirement), with a mix of upper and lowercase letters or other characters. The greater the mix of characters and the longer the passphrase, the better. As Herb Kanner explains, "The size of the passphrase, and the inclusion of mixed case and non-alphabets is to increase the difficulty of a brute force attack on your passphrase." So, if you use a longer passphrase (Herb's is 15 characters long, and Bernie's is 33!!) even if someone used a supercomputer, it would take an intolerably long time for it to try all combinations till it hit on your passphrase. If you'd like to read more about this important subject of Passphrases, take a look at The Passphrase FAQ. Arnold G. Reinhold's DiceWare Passphrase HomePage is another excellent resource.
9. Enter your passphrase once you've decided what it will be, hit Tab, and re-enter it for confirmation. Then click Next again.
10. If you have entered an inadequate passphrase, the PGP Wizard will warn you and ask you to go back and re-enter another passphrase. But if all is

well, the PGP Key Generation Wizard will now go ahead and generate your key pair. You may be prompted to move your mouse around or hit random keys on the keyboard to help the Wizard create a more secure key. Click Next when the Wizard has finished generating your key.

11. You'll now be asked if you want to send your new Public Key to a server where others around the globe can find it and use it when they want to encrypt data they wish to send you. This is optional, so click in the box only if you wish to do this, then click on Next once more.


That's it! You're done creating your PGP Public and Private Keys. Now all you have to do is share your Public Key with anyone with whom you wish to exchange secure information. The next sections tell you how to do this, and how to use your key and those of your correspondents to encrypt and decrypt the data that you exchange.

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Step 4: Changing your Passphrase

After a while, as you become more accustomed to using PGP, you may well want to change your passphrase, especially if the one you first chose is not complex enough for your liking, or if it has become compromised by someone else discovering what it is. Changing your Passphrase is a simple process.

To change your Passphrase, here's all you do:

1. Open PGPkeys by selecting Start/Programs/PGP/PGPkeys or by clicking again on the PGPtray icon  in the lower right corner of your screen and selecting PGPkeys in the pop up menu.
2. Highlight the key you want to change the passphrase for, then from the Keys menu select Properties.
3. In the dialog box that pops up on the screen, you'll see the button to Change Passphrase. Click on Change Passphrase, and in the next dialog box, as you might expect, you're asked to enter your current Passphrase. Go ahead and do this, then click on OK.
4. Now all you have to do is decide on a new Passphrase, write it down if necessary so you don't forget it, then in large letters write on the note the word "DESTROY" or "BURN" to remind yourself to do this once you've used the new Passphrase often enough to know it by heart.
5. When you're ready, enter it in the New Passphrase dialog box, and Confirm the New Passphrase by entering it again, then click on OK.

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Step 5: Distributing your Public Key


When you want to exchange Public Keys with a particular individual or group of individuals with whom you intend to exchange encrypted information, the best way to do this is to send it as an e-mail to whoever you want to have it. Read what follows carefully, however, so you understand how PGP works.

The recipient of your Public Key will have to have PGP installed on their own computer if they want to be able to add your Public Key to their keyring and use it to encrypt the data they want to send you. Likewise, you must have anyone else's Public Key on your keyring in PGPKeys if you want to send them encrypted

data. This is a bit tricky to understand at first, but think about it. Anyone who uses PGP has two keys, a Public Key and a Private Key. Your Public Key is used by other people to encrypt information they want to send you so no one else but you can know what the information contains. When you receive an encrypted message from someone (could be any kind of data, not just text), you use your Private Key to decrypt it. The neat thing is that you're the only person who can decrypt the secret message because you're the only person who has the Private Key, with the passphrase that unlocks it (unless you share your Passphrase and Private Key with someone else, which would defeat the purpose of PGP!).

If you want to, you can put your Public Key on one or more servers that form an international server chain. Effectively, this makes your Public Key available to anyone anywhere who would like to exchange secure communications with you. Step 6 below explains how to do this.

To include your Public Key in an e-mail message, here's all you do:


1. Open PGPkeys by selecting Start/Programs/PGP/PGPkeys or by clicking again on the PGPtray icon  in the lower right corner of your screen and selecting PGPkeys in the pop up menu.
2. Locate your keypair among the list of keys in the dialog box and select it (by clicking once on it). Then copy it (Edit/Copy or control-C)
3. Start a new message in your e-mail editor, in the To: box enter the e-mail address of the recipient, and type a subject header such as "My Public Key"
4. Now click to put the cursor in the body of the e-mail, Paste your Public Key (Edit/Paste or control-V) into the body of the e-mail, and send it.

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Step 6: Making your Public Key available through a certificate server

It's a good idea eventually to place your Public Key(s) on what's called a public certificate server. This is a server where anyone can access your Public Key and use it to send you encrypted messages. You'll still be the only one who can decrypt the message because you alone have the Private Key, so you never need worry that your privacy will be compromised just because you made your Public Key public. After all, that's why it's called a Public Key. However, as a beginner to PGP, you may not want to do this right away, since you may well decide to change your Public Key at a later date for one reason or another. The thing is that, once you put your Public Key on a certificate server, you can't remove it--ever, and there's no point littering the server with keys that are never going to be used. So keep this section of the tutorial in mind for later, after you've got used to using the program and have settled into using a particular Public Key.

Here, then, are the simple steps to make your Public Key available through the certificate server at MIT. It doesn't matter which server you post your Public Key to, by the way, since they are all interlinked. Wherever you post your Public Key, it will be available worldwide.

1. Start by connecting to the internet, so that PGP can access the web site (in our case a server at MIT) where your Public Key can be sent and included in the database of Public Keys.
2. Open PGPkeys by selecting Start/Programs/PGP/PGPkeys or by clicking on the PGPtray icon  in the lower right corner of your screen and selecting PGPkeys in the pop up menu.
3. In the PGPkeys window, among the list of keys you see there, click on the icon representing your Public Key. This is the key you want to post to the certificate server at MIT.
4. Now pull down the Server menu, select Send to and then select the link to the MIT server at <http://pgpkeys.mit.edu:11371>.
5. PGP will now access the server for you and post your Public Key there. When it's done, it'll inform you that the key was posted successfully.

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Step 7: Obtaining and Adding someone else's Public Key to your keyring

Once again this is simple enough. There are two ways to do this. You can either have someone send you their key in an e-mail and then paste it into your keyring from their e-mail or, if they have their key already posted to a certificate server, you can go get it yourself. Here is all you do if you get someone's public key in an e-mail:

1. First you tell your friend or friends to follow Step 5 above to send you their Public Key in an e-mail message.
2. Open the e-mail message containing the Public Key you wish to add to your keyring.
3. Drag to select from -----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK----- all the way down to -----END PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----.
4. Then copy it (Edit/Copy or control-C)
5. Open PGPkeys by selecting Start/Programs/PGP/PGPkeys or by clicking again on the PGPtray icon in the lower right corner of your screen and selecting PGPkeys in the pop up menu.
6. In the PGPkeys window, paste the Public Key you wish to add to your keyring (Edit/Paste or control-V).

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Version: PGP Personal Privacy 6.5.8

```
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n6vQC1CbAkbtCD1mpF1Bn5x8vY1LlIhkmuquiXsNV6UwybwACAgwAyBlC3K4DLlAq
Kof/gzd0YoazkUyx6qte4IF/wTw/wg9wK7mDqab75zANlDxcsmPJLaPmWAFu2rWd
U1UqeB5+hnpnrYhFkxzL+TnOa9ckI9S33iLjFPCU185FZJN1VlCgclLeog5DSzCV
TjgUeOEMSsUn5d4a7DSkHPft8TBM1NPQBTuJGGC15H8cCC+2QmWUuLNkq90z6MR+
E5JOajj6z/7qOvfl4SOVptQxvF5iz2zduapxGgTz4UqeVwAlX7HkXx7Cumdipg0S
Wn63j4IiHHOu4hDyanEkLX3215PfhaQ8zfzptcy1TxaKXPPtgOGFNDCMo+dG6HfQ
AO2qsL5rDdvgu9hLeCkHaxVDgCKZ4XZ5T9Sg18v3UKep8JomEFtlkdq4KCBJ/gS/
EvXEbnj6Vs63pYtrKgoWxGCCqva8/fqUafvsX+1lGDLBCWLreMTDPisj4fXmJS7h
Cbdg4bSMbVzRUWLNQ/wJbRhR7eeMcP7vrT/q6rx3eL3QCD5cIOCiQBGBBgRagAG
BQI2HoQLAAoJEKexToEmyL9hzEIAoLlBDnbaEbsiFPdGsIOz302dNRNCAKCPB9tr
K5MB6twgr+Ww52xyQf6xww==
=BBVS
```

-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Step 8: Using the PGP encryption software to send (encrypt and sign) and receive (decrypt) secure e-mails

You are ready now to start using the PGP program to generate secure, encrypted digital information. In this section you'll learn how to encrypt messages or other data before you send them, and how to decrypt messages or other data that you have received.

First, the encryption process.

1. Compose the e-mail you want to send in whatever natural language you want to use (French, English, Spanish, German, etc.).
2. When you have finished composing the e-mail, make sure the cursor is still somewhere in the body of your message, and click on the PGPtray icon in the lower right corner of your screen.
3. In the PGPtray pop-up menu, select Current Window, then in the Current Window sub menu, select Encrypt & Sign. This will bring up the PGPtray Key Selection dialog box where you should see the list of Public Keys including that of the person or persons to whom you wish to send your message. Note: The Private Key is kept in a file called the Private Keyring. It is encrypted with your selected passphrase so even if, somehow, someone gets access to your Private Keyring, it will be unusable without access to the

Passphrase to decrypt the Key for use. Every time PGP needs access to the Private Key (to Decrypt an Encrypted Message or to Sign an Outgoing Message or someone's Public Key) the Passphrase will need to be re-entered. By default, PGP will remember [cache] your Passphrase for two Minutes so that you do not have to re-enter it if needed more than once within this time frame. However, two minutes isn't much time and the odds are you'll need to re-enter your passphrase every time unless you change this default. Step 14 explains how to do this, along with warnings about how to use the cache wisely and without risk.

4. Double click on the Public Key of the person to whom you wish to send your message (this selects the key and moves it to the recipients box just below). When you have made your selection, click on OK.
5. You will be prompted to enter your passphrase. Type it in carefully, then hit OK. If you did everything correctly, the message will be converted to unintelligible gobbledygook (aka "ciphertext", as it's called in the world of cryptography). The ciphertext will look like the following:

-----BEGIN PGP MESSAGE-----

Version: PGP Personal Security 7.0.3

```
qANQR1DBwk4DepqGz+tv7awQC/sGOyvgkqLDEz3QOc4AkDuoTVI9O2y7X260NR47
w77OngPn3z/01yEpVDMkfrpdXKYmVhylICPg1yvNYTyx6EW5LIOYt1yuxLc+bjKS
piwrBdCxz5+VT8z9IQz7BNu75GBP5YMJyhZUgwFRDahPITz0ziqL9nBZeUX27PGL
ZIC32bm/18zLwbLUZi4CSPInc9PzXTeubwnsaC0ZU1PT+WokkhPRxPrgBHLU/rMj
zqOoh2/dXGMUFY7F0zitGw1jcj+jIf49hpzPZ5oWChZQjnQdREZgaRenx3jRomol
BnT0KgGk+cBp8BIM65DyoYdMKE878n+ngTgIYUYkBLnYXfQv9pgagPIQUgmMWSK/
zRkLS3PpKJFTv629iBXKKDeCteqD4668TRty3N1sEXaFbpMZtaNWJvqIXpbbrAkO
rvKAXmQ9gpA+asf641NSX29FT4uv4D7FWF3fp2e9it8c30//9yKXQ8pJb0vzf8B
vZCwIO1me371DScIwI2D8/8EHZQMALxye7O/tpDW3BEU+NEqSHM2nXdebKI7mPk8
5voUyYZb3vz3PQHJN+Jg14KybK8Jn7KGji19nHFgFtHN0Qoz4e5aTIZtMksWDaX+
dT6xfrKBo5wOaQHGX3NHBAMTCqUoZajsGxsc+dQ/WB7Qw4qdZjmLtzj35HcF7s0
5RwOWZ2F9cqSj0b994llaT9zo2jXs5ZM/fAZUBPsCp55EFpe52NFKJgyJY92mYi0
1SK26VMNMdHdp4zHWZdNkhPPG0EgDsz1g+EtY6YXWQYwIKPnQUivf5mhDdhPmWK
6
sAR4D7s2Vgqs2gQnvuFxpKDMc5I2rMTAE5+x228SpMPau27BDxBDKLw1i6ak23C+
l2qmiqQg0qeSFy2o7+HmyKWCENI2V84N8eLhoE+iyXj5fL2UvMlqVJePTT76Rz6p
+tD/15JYZo/8uAxIBivaB7P7k2Bqu0bmrCD4wdSKOLzhScxAj15Dtu0kWgEKGs80
VgTMu2iQLtphN7oObhWzUIf9O3MIqMnBCiOp4VFGebnJcDvullUB4OYZD6ZLIecN
8BsqsVlqawJbtWpmRf8973Yg2bicP0ISCwFaoDvR8C+wb3h9nJ9EZeO/mZGjJweR
A6yXK7wyp6JHnvACwFhUkTno7nrdq8cDaG4ssolsUSKnON87ycLFWq/mNs9fhqzF
Y3y7Q4f7hA4EL83+bxc4YGqzirWHeVXetZdft018+0Oz2Au8gRG5AVd+DX+xlR56
mJlkrizYWG7HuEI8CRS7rAZHgRAIV3I7WDeNEYyBQnt/MfzUQY9+BmbtCsTlOnda
j8IkiL0QIW/9ZyvfpxvzKGKhdXoqJWVSXKLGK1qvY9epgw7QWk15crlti0Q4+
aDXvNieN9imk3UNQe2rncqzIKlboxasjparCKXiErQGFjldtTLrZcf7KjNOJuVG9J
HoOZC39ur8rkVrgWuSszrvzhpeQl0VlmdviZpocErZYPtnDQGgA3TbXX4IXoMiM1a
bOxTskUcgIBzN2L9nNfIhVaxJxMd3260SpJxElJ27V6Be97Q+YX4TF9xIH4zWFM3
NpGg1iXWNRb4VSwPE2+ZEiKirrIMsgXxfZNVaY3bAuSm0b1u7Isa/Jjab96DHff6
5g5K
=WRFH
```


-----END PGP MESSAGE-----

Now send the message just as you would normally do.

Next, the decryption process.

1. Open the e-mail containing the encrypted message. All you'll see is unintelligible ciphertext (as shown in the examples above).
2. Drag to select the block of ciphertext.
3. Click once more on the PGPTray icon in the lower right corner of your screen.
4. In the PGPTray pop-up menu, select Current Window, then in the Current Window sub menu, select Decrypt & Verify. This will bring up the dialog box asking you to enter your passphrase.
5. Type your passphrase into the PGP Enter Passphrase dialog box that pops up on the screen, and hit OK. The decrypted message will come up in a new window for you to read. If you wish to keep the decrypted version, you can copy it and paste it into a word processor of your choice before saving it to disk. The decrypted message will look like the following (Note that the message is now readable and the signature has been verified):

*** PGP Signature Status: good

*** Signer: Robert A. Rosenberg <bob.rosenberg@digitcorp.com>

*** Signed: 06/30/2001 at 00:51

*** Verified: 06/30/2001 at 00:52

*** BEGIN PGP DECRYPTED/VERIFIED MESSAGE ***

This is a sample of what the above Encrypted&Signed message looks like after it has been decrypted and the signature has been successfully verified. Since the Public Key that was used to encrypt this text belongs to Robert Rosenberg, only he can decrypt the message to extract this message. An Encrypted&Signed message is a Clear Signed Message (such as the sample in Step 10 below) prior to the Encrypt Stage and after the Decrypt Stage. While it is possible to just Encrypt a message, it is usual to also sign it to prove its origin.

*** END PGP DECRYPTED/VERIFIED MESSAGE ***

That's all there is to it. To find out about the many other features of the PGP program, check out the Manual that was originally downloaded with the software. It's a .pdf file which will print out beautifully on your printer so you can read it at your leisure over a nice cup of tea :) Well, maybe you'll need something a bit stiffer to help you figure it all out...

On a technical note: The actual encryption/decryption is NOT being done with the Public/Private keys of your recipient(s) but with a special one-time key that is generated for use in this specific encrypt&sign operation. Every time you do an encrypt&sign, a new one-time key is generated. Unlike the Public/Private key pairs where anything encrypted with one key needs the other key to do the decrypt, these one-time keys have the ability to decrypt anything that they encrypt (hence its being known as a Symmetric Key). When you encrypt any data, this one-time key is used to do the actual encryption. The Public key of each recipient is then used to

encrypt the one-time key and added to the encrypted text created with the one-time key. Thus what results is a list of recipients with the one-time key supplied encrypted with each person's Public Key along with the common copy of the one-time key encrypted ciphertext. This format allows a message to be sent to multiple people at the same time yet allow each to use his or her own Private Key to read it. The decrypting process involves the recipient's PGP Program scanning the list of encrypted one-time keys looking for the copy that was encrypted with their Public Key. This copy is then decrypted with the Private key to recover the one-time key which then can be used to do the actual decrypting. The Signing/Verification actions that occur during an encrypt&sign and decrypt&verify are covered in Step 10 below and occur prior to the encryption itself and after the corresponding decrypting of the data.

Step 9: Using your Default Public Key to save a backup, encrypted, decipherable copy of all your e-mail messages

There's something you need to know right away about PGP encryption: once you encrypt a message using the Public Key of the person to whom you're sending it, you won't be able subsequently to decrypt it and read it yourself since you don't have your correspondent's Private Key. Most of the time this doesn't matter because you may not need to keep a copy of every message you sent. But sometimes (maybe often, if you consider it necessary) you want to keep your own encrypted copy of a message for the record and you need to be able to decrypt it, if and when you want to read it at a later date. The best thing to do is tell PGP to encrypt all your messages using your correspondent's Public Key as well as one of your own Public Keys (called the Default Public Key).

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

This is a sample of a clear signed message. Note that it can be read even if you do not have PGP or verify the signature. Doing the Verify is only needed if you want to verify that it was written by who it claims to be from and/or that it has not been altered after being signed.

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----

Version: PGP Personal Privacy 6.5.8

iQA/AwUBOzJwnqexToEmyL9hEQLPACePdnPEau8VKKcxsD78ysTlWbgHFUAmwZe
mx/Q+qWDRsftiGGjeImc4tjL
=cFLq

-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

And this is what the clear signed message looks like after being verified:

*** PGP Signature Status: good

*** Signer: Robert A. Rosenberg <bob.rosenberg@digitscorp.com>

*** Signed: 6/21/01 at 18:09

*** Verified: 6/21/01 at 18:11

*** BEGIN PGP VERIFIED MESSAGE ***

This is a sample of a clear signed message. Note that it can be read even if you do not have PGP or verify the signature. Doing the Verify is only needed if you want to verify that it was written by who it claims to be from and/or that it has not been altered after being signed.

*** END PGP VERIFIED MESSAGE ***

Step 11: Weaving the Web of Trust--Signing someone else's Public Key

Here is a comment from a respected member of the Public Key Encryption community (Nick Andriash) in response to a request he received to sign a cyberfriend's Public Key. "With respect to signing each other's Public Keys," Nick replied, "I have already done so with a non-exportable signature, because we have been in constant communication, and I obtained your Public Key from your web site; I am confident enough in knowing the messages are coming from the same person at the same address... I just don't know who that person is, and that is why I cannot sign your Public Key with an exportable signature, where it will always travel with the Public Key. For that, I insist on face to face meetings, along with an exchange of photo ID, etc., as this is the only way to maintain the integrity of one's own Web of Trust. All of the people who have signed my Key, I have met personally, and that is as it should always be, unless we are introduced to each other by a Trusted Introducer whose signature appears on both our Public Keys."

Step 12: Using the PGP encryption software to protect (encrypt) your personal documents

On your computer in the office or at home, you may well have private documents that you do not want others to be able to read. You can use your own Public Key to encrypt these documents. You can easily and quickly encrypt a single file or a set of files. To decrypt the files, you simply reverse the process that follows by selecting the option to Decrypt instead of Encrypt from the PGP menu. Here are the steps to follow to encrypt a single file or document:

1. Right click on the Start menu in the lower left corner of your Windows screen, select the Explore option in the pop-up menu, then in the left hand column of the Explore window select the C drive, for example, and you'll see the contents of your C drive listed in the right hand side of the Exploring window.
2. Right click on any document you have listed there (in the right hand side of the Exploring window) and you'll see a new item (PGP) in the pop-up menu.
3. Select PGP in the pop-up menu and then you'll see the sub-menu option to Encrypt the document you've highlighted. Click on Encrypt.
4. Now you're presented with the Key Selection dialog box. Double click on your own Public Key (or drag it down to the Recipients box below) and click on OK. PGP has now created a second, encrypted, version of the document with a .pgp extension.
5. All you need do now is delete the original, non-encrypted document, so that all you have left on your disk is the encrypted file which only you can read. Do this right away by right clicking on the original and selecting Delete from the pop-up menu.

Step 13: Using PGP to Wipe files from your disks

When you delete a file, is the data it contains removed from your disk? Answer: No! You may not be able to see the name of the file anymore if you list the contents of your disk, but someone who knows what they're doing can easily resurrect it and, if it's not encrypted, read it. When you delete a file, all you're doing is removing the link to it from the disk's index of files. It's like a card catalog in a library. Every book in the library has a card in the catalog which helps you find it on the shelves. If you remove the card from the catalog, you'll have a problem finding the book--but it's still out there on the shelves. When you delete a file on your disk, it's like removing the card from the catalog. The file's still there on the disk, even though you can't easily get to it. To remove it completely, you must Wipe that part of the disk clean, and this is what the PGP Wipe function does for you. Let's try it for practice.

- Use your word processor to create a dummy file and save it with the name Dummy. Put any old garbage in it, since you're going to Wipe it off your disk in a minute.
- Now locate the Dummy document using the Explore option in the Start menu (as you did just now in Step 12).
- Right click on the Dummy document and select the option in the pop-up menu to Wipe the file. Simple as that. PGP writes a bunch of random data to the place on your disk where the Dummy file was saved, effectively removing all trace of the original data. Neat, huh?

Step 14: Useful PGP Options you should know about

We'll be adding explanations for more PGP Options over the next few weeks. For now, here is an explanation of how you can tweak the time frame of the cache that PGP uses to remember your Passphrase. You'll also find out here how to Purge your Passphrase cache, a simple task which is very important to remember to do when you leave your computer unattended. Finally, for your convenience, we've added a table listing the hotkeys available in PGP.

FINDINGS:

There's been a lot of discussion of the problems with PGP, how it uses ancient crypto, etc. Unfortunately, I don't think a lot of the discussed replacements actually meet the same use cases. I've read the PGP Problem but am unsatisfied with the suggestions. Maybe I'm just being cranky, but I'd love some feedback on the problems I see with the suggested alternatives.

I currently use PGP for 4 use cases:

1. Occasional encrypted email, usually for vulnerability reports or discussing undisclosed bugs.
2. Encrypting files to others. Usually associated with 1) above.
3. Encrypting files to myself (in the future -- ooh, time travel). More seriously, backups using duplicity.
4. Signing git tags and the encrypted backups in 3. Oh and some email, because I can.

Are there modern replacements for all of these use cases?

Signal is often touted as the replacement for (1), but that requires giving my phone number to anyone I want to communicate with (associating my communications with my real-world identity) and also precludes having multiple identities. Signal also doesn't have a way to easily archive my communications (in fact, it seems bound and determined to avoid that) as well as an inability to run on multiple mobile devices. It makes it very hard for multiple individuals to receive the same messages (e.g., for receiving bug bounty reports, as suggested in the Latacora blog post). Signal also seems vulnerable to SIM porting attacks if users ignore the "key has changed" message. (Also, Signal is not decentralized, but I guess that is a preference more than a technical objection.)

For (2), magic wormhole is mentioned, but this seems to be encryption in transit and not encryption at rest? I guess that meets some of the needs of encrypting to others, but it seems I need to keep my machine available to them, so it makes it hard for transferring files from, say, my laptop, if the other user is not currently available. What are good options for encrypting a file that I can just drop into Dropbox, Google Drive, or even (shudder) email?

For (3), tarsnap is suggested, but that ties you to a particular service provider. Is there a modern alternative where I can store the backups on external hard drives or machines of my choice? I don't want to depend on just the tarsnap service in the case that it goes under or suffers a technical failure of its own.

For (4), signify/minisign is mentioned, but it's not clear to me how one gets the original key, other than mentioning posting it in a bunch of places. Seems like it basically depends on https at best.

Original need: Linux distributions and many other software update mechanisms use PGP signatures to prevent malicious mirrors or network attackers from altering the contents of their packages.

Modern alternative: a lightweight signing tool like OpenBSD's signify or minisign, either of which you could quickly build in Go using x/crypto/ed25519. I wrote one as a party trick last month – it's less than 200 lines of code and that includes some silly key parsing tricks.

These tools are extremely simple and robust because they only support one algorithm, lack state or any notion of a keyring, and are usually decoupled from complex messaging formats (which should be a separate concern from your signature cryptography). As a bonus they're mostly compatible with each other because the keys are all EdDSA keys. Need I even mention that EdDSA is much, much faster than RSA?

If you're a maintainer of self-serve packaging infrastructure or otherwise have more complex needs, you should take a look at TUF. It's a modern toolkit meant to resist all kinds of update-related attacks that PGP signatures simply don't address. For an idea of how it works in practice, check out the designs for Python's package infrastructure (PEP 458, PEP 480). The Notary project is a productionized and audited implementation.

CONCLUSION:

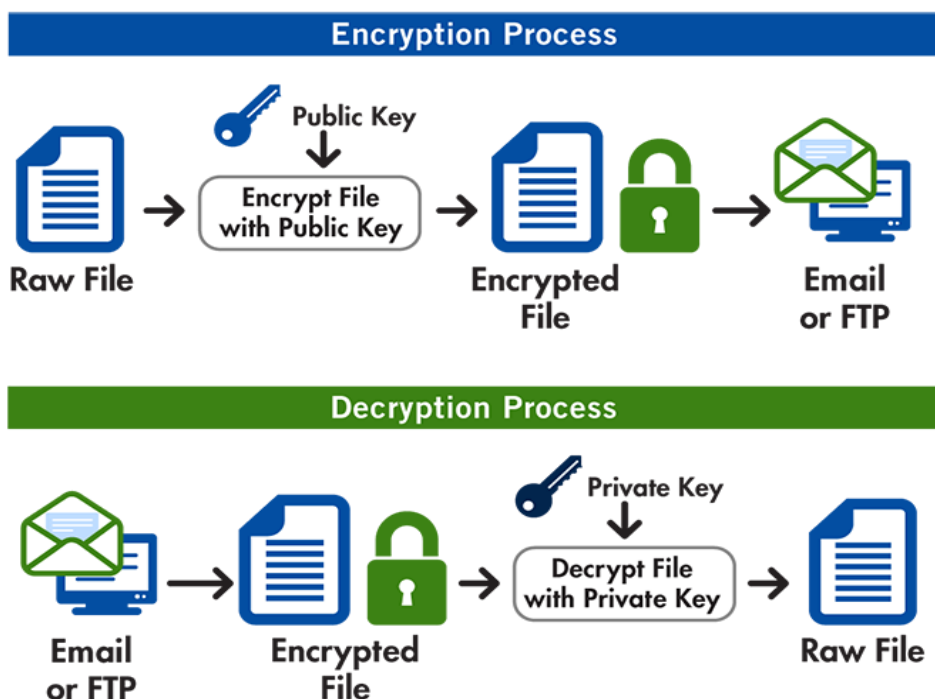
PGP is very easy to understand, on the surface. Imagine you want to send your credit card information to a friend and you write it on a piece of paper. You then put the paper in a box and send it by mail.

A thief can easily steal the box and look at the paper that contains your credit card information. What could you do instead? You decide to put a key lock on the box, but you realize that you have to send the key along with the box. That's no good.

What if you meet your friend in person to share the key beforehand? That could work, right? It could, but then both of you have a key that allows to unlock the box. You, as the sender, will never need to open the box again after closing it. By keeping a copy of a key that can unlock the box, you are creating a vulnerability.

Finally, you found just the right solution: you'll have two keys. The first key will only be able to lock the box. The second key will only be able to open the box. That way, only the person who needs to get the content of the box has the key that allows them to unlock it.

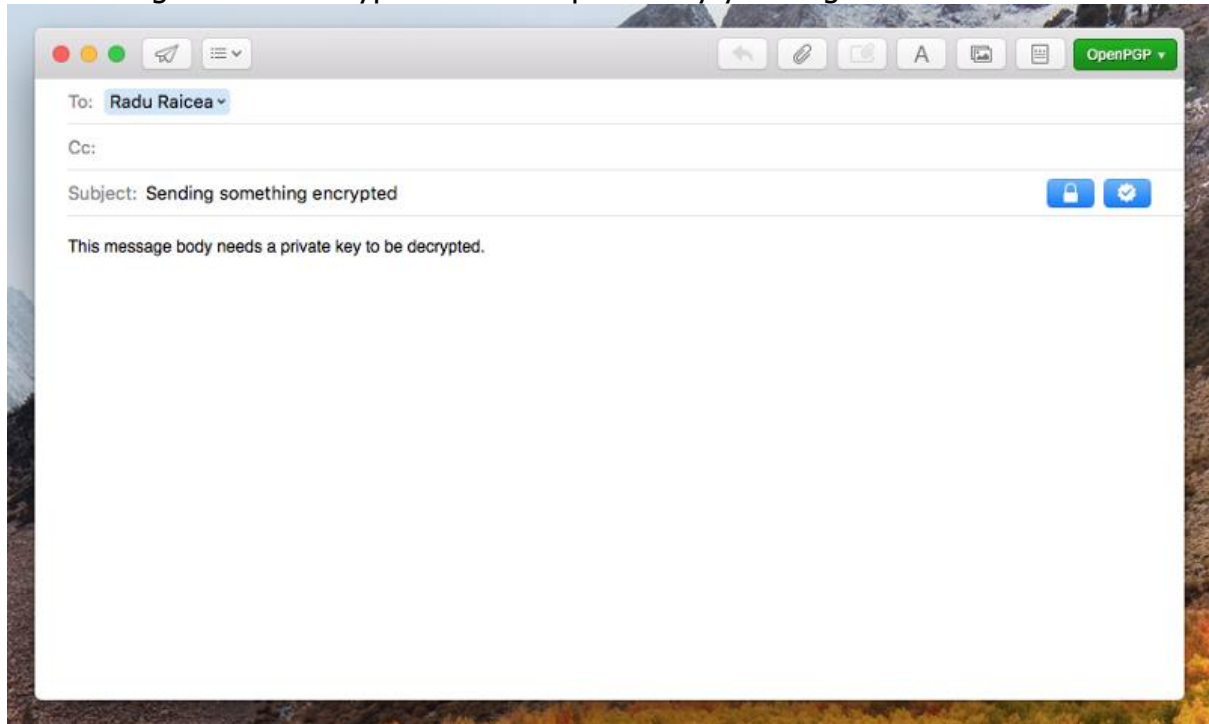
This is how PGP works. You have a **public key** (to lock/encrypt the message) and a **private key** (to unlock/decrypt the message). You would send the public key to all your friends so that they can encrypt sensitive messages that they want to send to you. Once you receive an encrypted message, you use your private key to decrypt it.



A Brief Example

There are plenty of software tools that implement the OpenPGP standard. They all have different ways of setting up PGP encryption. One particular tool that works very well is Apple Mail.

If you are using a Mac computer, you can download the GPGTools. This application will generate and manage your public and private keys. It also integrates automatically with Apple Mail. Once the keys are generated, you will see a lock icon in the subject line, when composing a new message in Apple Mail. This means that the message will be encrypted with the public key you've generated.



Composing a PGP encrypted e-mail using Apple Mail

After sending the e-mail to someone, it will look like this. They will not be able to see the content of the e-mail until they decrypt it using the private key.

Note that PGP encryption does not encrypt the subject line of an e-mail. Never put any sensitive information in the subject line.

Sending something encrypted Inbox x



Radu Raicea <radu@raicea.com>

to me ▾

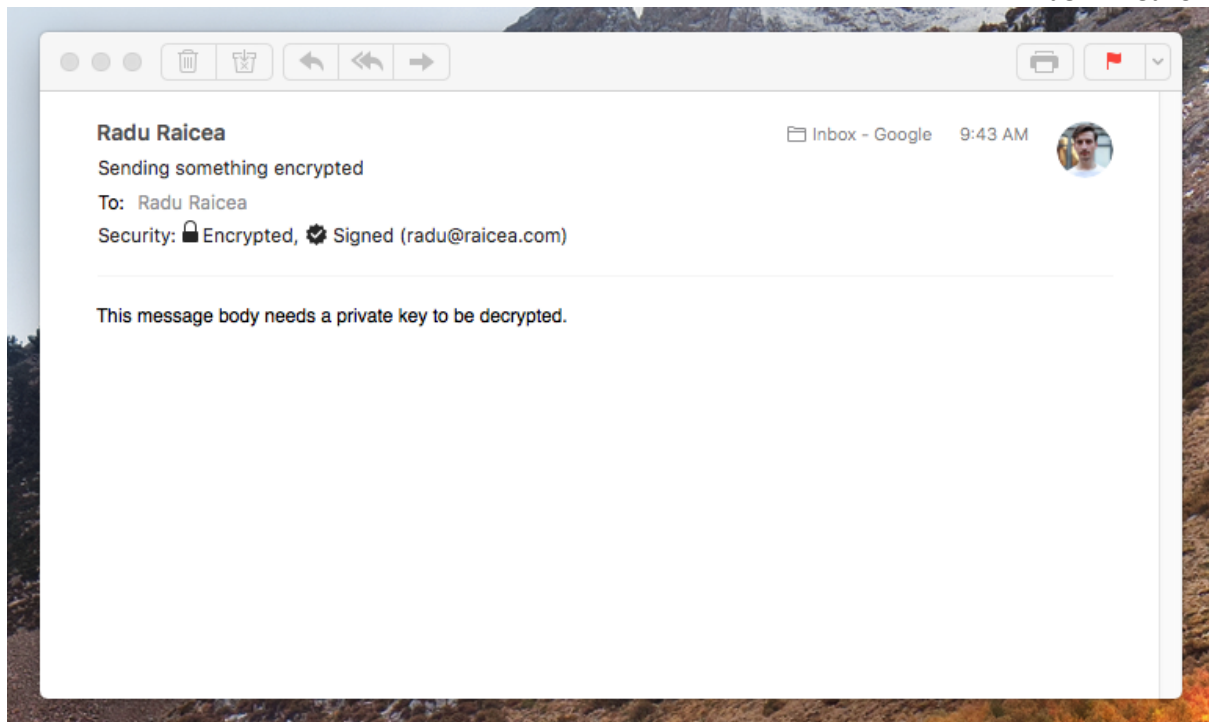
-----BEGIN PGP MESSAGE-----

```
hQIMA1qZXaLFmwVyAQ/9GhIsI3kSeBotXN7BgFo/XqHbZSbYVmuVeFmnwAM/CLMr
Sf11GintsnwvQUB0iZfUvNj+7QE0IJcl8e9fxuG9MbdyMX7zQBcPzc16G6nL2DiG
0FbOuqVb3m8rSWQE7ea4hCOlkiaZYPXvdCRf9S5EpQSImf+FQZrfzlqya6EBIf
ChOcnmoh9YEr76NjwLhNxWiaiWmTuxb5/1PKVTNw5WXliMKMLmWsd135GbgUSm4V
sVINV1iu2HNkOCjZopp4Z+dHLpwnwQadVailaKwQ8rCmV+OkwJ90q1hcjdj7LV7k
uVNRV+0Te+9dSkcPK/wvmXJn6alC2ILCG6bxbIMm/rymvm7/UDdT/9jK3vdvGs6b
q6EWjmaB0GMeWnU6BdcV5xSWViel72eW7wLy6DoqDeZLnTKmdrYWJvXicGcJtWGR
oA+6KUj2W8lIgiVd9dBW71+tyw+QeehSsVUSzIAkaHQyyxgpDBUDu7+GLbaLWI9C
hzSZ5gVDri8+vvbVuJC9ejg7A9QVvk3QRsU9EitrOZwWi0f5S9Eyp6z1TO1EqQE+e
VZpKHxHnhqDBejBEu/Z3My+2qN263PiBlzMDzorsy+3taz+tYm2RijqFZQX7RpGq
Qr01vuxBERIdsmQvnC3LtCaXA6X9R1zURQeJInt1PbflVCr/lea+/D77/ly+b3vS
6gFi5l0exH7flh5MAB0VmPYUyWp58OIhCbba5cmQIX/2kBbGkjpqEXmOMDjM8nq
SYyrCnO5ELxE3OPRVX2hzgaPrz8LBh84wi5mT4QggiZkXt3KMI+XH5RBjzv1//dx
GuzREyP53/k9VRr2z9e9UDsztwPpTFFvnnmuRvWAXcMxu++gfh7dxJfDZFRITs3t
x9LvnGtbYxcBdg9U1bmrmGj0Dg0y02c/tWRjqnj/jr8uuk3ekzsv8jKm1w6jVTPm
6myEnl799EBpJRAqh9kFiaUki4iavNm/ErvJ1jq6DM+3DDiZGmv/kRnckRURIYv
DYPWdETGAT+SN04JWyb3ACaehJmnp/1Rr5kVYROf4MuBteZSZUZUqfSrXjuM71J
p8k8uK+Wra7Q9KGB5pugLiCktMOlbcnQUFNthOtG9HgmVTd+9RNSzT5NgSxxwmYR
gKDdaGute9KTS7xD9EF6s++Xuvn+LOdNRAdmWLzSfbK0ptDX8hqGihT5GEVBgdS8
oCFLDC6DChWEFJ7H4cPC0ZnYC5kMNJBq+IC/I2NiWtsDzSA9uX8/717zOFOjEXZS
43fIL1p//N2+rR11UTGg08U3PXOhEUwkXvBdnx6VjhdXysSZSk52/6NCEaGTa8qd
H1Dd5l4eBXlpBN8dTegEPBT5WBYaO3SqEo+ZNBuflWsrzZIXy5omM4n+1hfdGWU
crhNStFyQrX/ayHdp/k/qNPOIP+q75APT8oDMVAb/oyayOvc8C5Bwg90qRpbHhww
ox3GF2KAYhiljgswWczoLqcLKIX4vBC6LMMXNAtX7SdKNDX1ol2We1WocFiLnZt9
lb6Bt6yLaB59eAMhfqA5r/2+6B9MQCY/X4/0TREasdrVEsa+Z+VjJlQgkPJThUHa
j62Rs4hQLblJtJGS9x/A0hTB3ccwXhBIXZ5Z4zJMPmm04JHYNEIZxwv1QD5ovqWu
TF7m6dL+tzthY01ZHAtdel5FWGZ+RuFYYSUysRADLJuLFAK0oe2tlgstNRQ7Emu
31XdqR/ypcUpiZS+C0ZIKMF6vO6nNGSsev6ad83oySZt4ElbabevHHjpsydF4KXQ
rRS4Jp9ZTcJ8oRLqW/ugLLI0ICLCYEBVJYaqTUOqBIfuulhTtoM0UdeG/cl6W5I1
Y8b67iAz27eLq9GI+GTt+L9T5jdY7F2U5IDJobAGxvGYQKyE8hF77uSMCIDBXL RJ
YOGaoYZFwbKuGNJJWmfFP7PzTmYY4lvi10UEnl1eqHws63I2PmWkH7bGd8oUzEgB
GiG5ndzF4ib6r33aDsyWNu4FhDNVZrBZNyHTJrLWsqDGnQ0JPoyvyY15G/OVsmNT
DrPOIB7WrNDC27MsZS53CiENBv6ne+4gvxTB5Ng3Xg==
=bdLv
```

-----END PGP MESSAGE-----

Receiving a PGP encrypted e-mail

If you are using software that automatically decrypts the message using your private key, like Apple Mail, it will look something like this:



Decrypted PGP e-mail

--paw

----- Forwarded Messages

From: Ruth Milner <rmilner@aoc.nrao.edu>

Are they compatible? I.e. can they understand each other's keys?
If not, then I'd stick with PGP for broader interchange with other sites.

We chose PGP (6.5.2) with RSA support, largely because we weren't sure about PGP/GPG compatibility when we gave encryption software some attention a little over a year ago. So far nobody here has encountered a need to revisit that choice. We don't have any real infrastructure in place yet, though; just made sure that all sites had the capability and that key security folks had keys.

Ruth.

REFERENCES :

- (1) <https://www.howtogeek.com/187961/why-no-one-uses-encrypted-email-messages/>
- (2) <http://philzimmermann.com/EN/background/index.html>
- (3) <https://www.goanywhere.com/managed-file-transfer/encryption/open-pgp>
- (4) <http://www.pitt.edu/~poole/PGP.htm>

ACTIVITY 2

PROCEDURE:

Some of the major security issues that the most commonly used email services include :

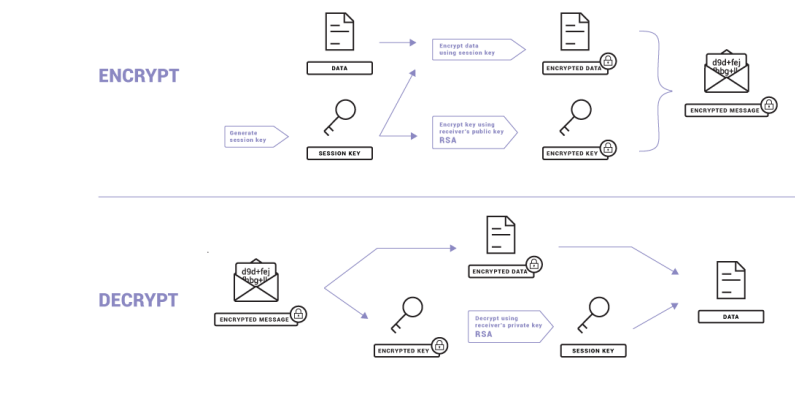
- 1.Sending Confidential Data-When essential data is not encrypted it acts like an open ground for hackers to feed upon.
- 2.Malware-The one place where malwares can be found the most are in emails where in they easily trace their way in and cause destruction.as long as an email looks legitimate no one will suspect it
3. Phishing -one of the biggest email security threats are phishing scams .Links in emails that look harmless could be scams only for users to loose data because of one click.
- 4.Stolen Devices-This does not point straight as an email threat but when a phone or any device is stolen everything that device hold is compromised
5. Weak Passwords-In order to avoid remembering huge complicated passwords people choose to keep simple passwords they avoid two factor authentication, which definitely adds to our bigger problem.

What is PGP?

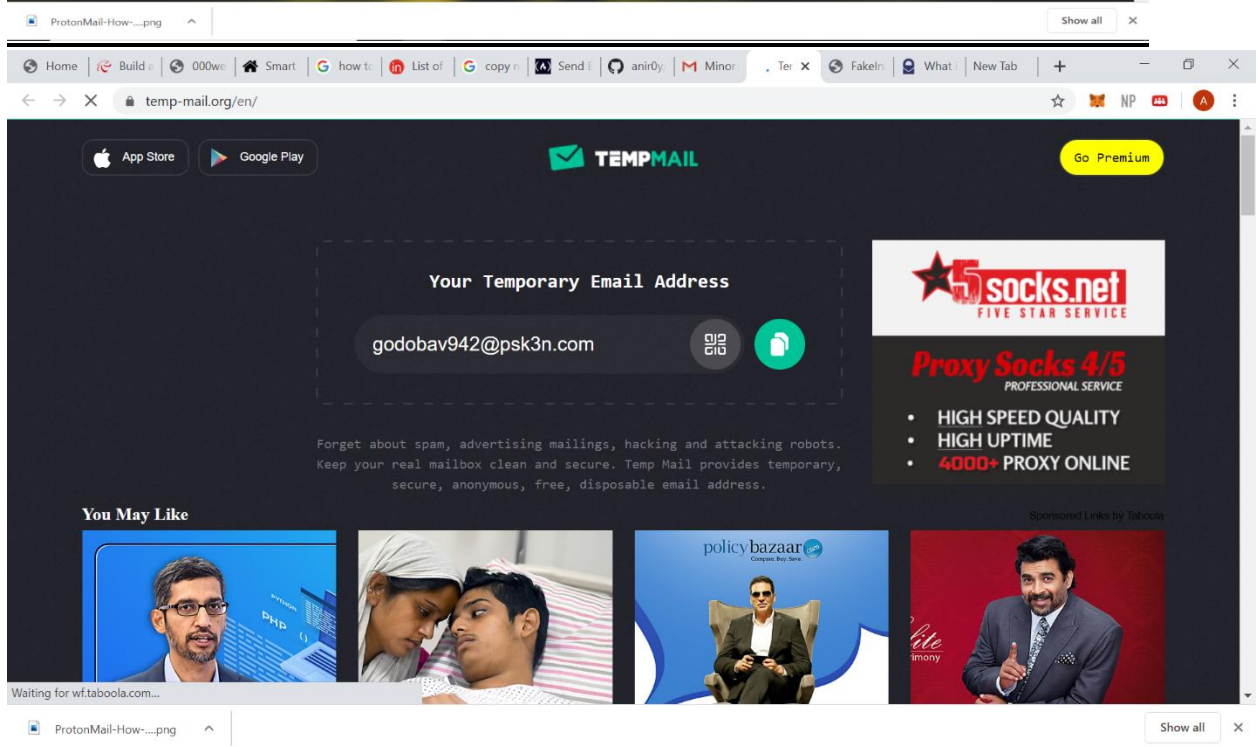
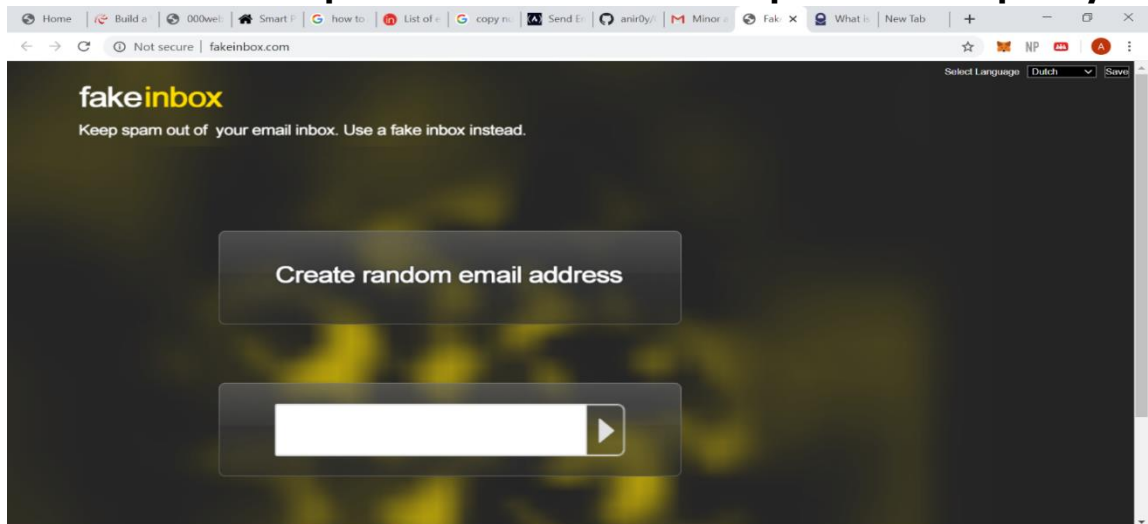
PGP is a cryptographic method that lets people communicate privately online. When a mail is sent using PGP, the message is converted into unreadable ciphertext on the device before it passes over the Internet. Here only the recipient has the key to convert the text back into the readable message on their device, it also authenticates the identity of the sender and verifies that the message was not tampered with in transit. Before PGP, a lot of people could read your emails. PGP was developed in the 1990s to allow email and other types of messages to be exchanged privately. Today, PGP has been standardized into OpenPGP, enabling anyone to write PGP software that is compatible and interoperable with other implementations.

Working of PGP?

It's useful to see a diagram to understand how PGP encryption works. PGP uses a combination of symmetric key encryption and public key encryption.



Sites such as tempmail and fake inbox help create temporary mails



How to send email using python ?

Here are four basic steps for sending emails using Python:

1. Set up the SMTP server and log into your account.
2. Create the MIMEMultipart message object and load it with appropriate headers for From, To, and Subject fields.
3. Add your message body.
4. Send the message using the SMTP server object.

What is mail merge in Python?

Mail merge is a mechanism for integrating information from a database to an email template with placeholders, in order to add personalization to the multiple emails. To put it simply, if you need to target a list of users by email, and address them by name, you can do it with a simple table and script using mail merge.

How to use mail merge?

We can look at the following example we took from the mailmerge page on pypi.org.

I. Installation:

First, we need to install mail merge into our systems using the following Pip command:

```
$ pip install mailmerge
```

II. Create a sample template email, database, and config:

Use the following code:

```
$ mailmerge --sample
```

This will result in the following:

- Created sample template email "mailmerge_template.txt"
- Created sample database "mailmerge_database.csv"
- Created sample config file "mailmerge_server.conf"

Edit these files, then run mailmerge again.

III. Edit the SMTP server config:

The defaults are set up for gmail. Be sure to change your username. Use the following format:

```
[smtp_server]  
host = smtp.gmail.com  
port = 465  
security = SSL/TLS  
username = YOUR_USERNAME_HERE
```

IV. Edit the template email message:

The TO, SUBJECT, and FROM fields are required. The remainder is the body of the message. Use {{ }} to indicate customized parameters that will be read from the database. For example, {{email}} will be filled in from the email column of mailmerge_database.csv.

Use the following format:

```
TO: {{email}}  
SUBJECT: Testing mailmerge  
FROM: My Self <myself@mydomain.com>  
Hi, {{name}},  
Your number is {{number}}.
```

V. Edit the database mailmerge_database.csv:

Notice that the first line is a header that matches the parameters in the template example, for example, {{email}}.

Use the following format:

```
email,name,number  
myself@mydomain.com,"Myself",17  
bob@bobdomain.com,"Bob",42
```

VI. Run the python code and send all the emails.

Can you email multiple people?

Yes, we can email multiple people using python. We can use mail merge to achieve this. When we want to send the same invitations to many people, the body of the mail does not change. Only the name (and maybe address) needs to be changed.

Mail merge is a process of doing this. Instead of writing each mail separately, we have a template for body of the mail and a list of names that we merge together to form all the mails.

Could you pull the list of people to email from an external file?

Yes, we used an external file named emailids.txt which stored the addresses of the recipients. We extracted the different email ids using the following code:

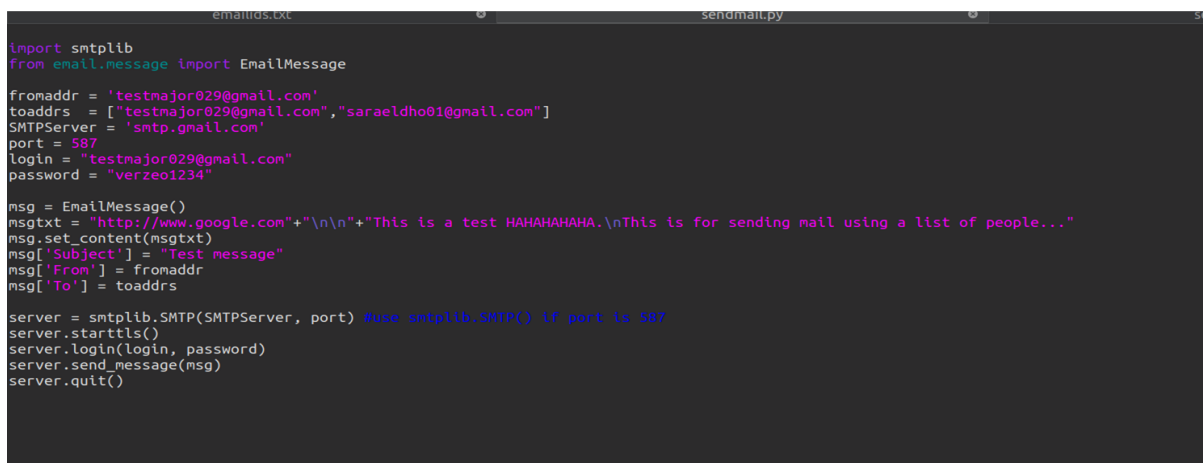
```
my_file = open("emailids.txt", "r")
content = my_file.read()
print(content)
content_list = content.split()
print(content_list)
```

This way it's easier to store the data in an organized way and helps in better functioning of the program.

How can you personalize the email for the recipient?

If you would like to send a personalized email to each person, and do not want to type each one by hand, python can automate this for you. All you need is the mailing list in some kind of structured format, and then you can go through it line by line to create and send emails.

You can use a csv file to store your data in a structured format and then use it to send personalized emails to your recipients. You can access the data from the python code and use placeholders in your emails to substitute the personalized texts in the emails.



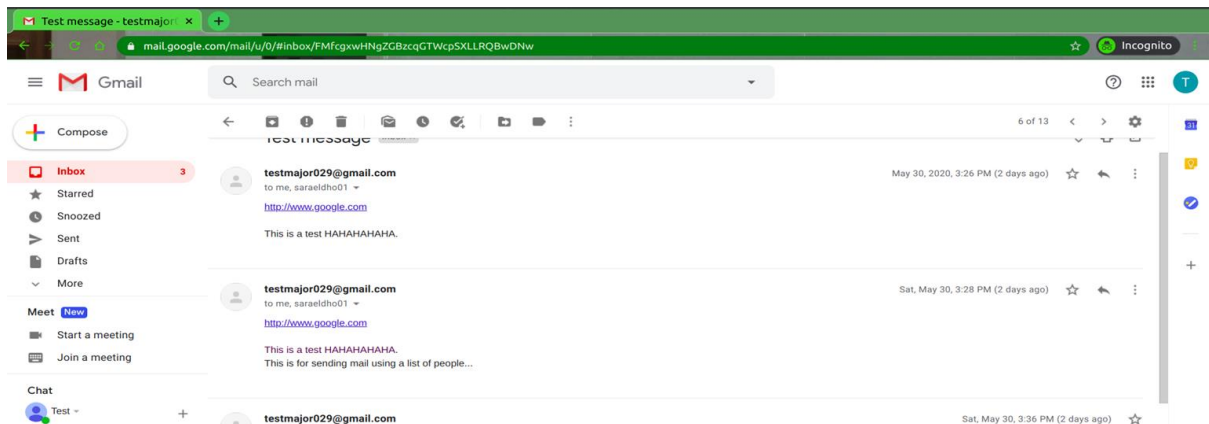
```
import smtplib
from email.message import EmailMessage

fromaddr = 'testmajor029@gmail.com'
toaddrs = ['testmajor029@gmail.com', 'saraeldho01@gmail.com']
SMTPServer = 'smtp.gmail.com'
port = 587
login = 'testmajor029@gmail.com'
password = 'Verzeo1234'

msg = EmailMessage()
msgtxt = "http://www.google.com"+"\\n\\n"+"This is a test HAHAAHAHAHA.\\nThis is for sending mail using a list of people..."
msg.set_content(msgtxt)
msg['Subject'] = "Test message"
msg['From'] = fromaddr
msg['To'] = toaddrs

server = smtplib.SMTP(SMTPServer, port) #use smtplib.SMTP() if port is 587
server.starttls()
server.login(login, password)
server.send_message(msg)
server.quit()
```


FINDINGS:



```
File Actions Edit View Help
root@kali:~# mailmerge --no-limit
>>> message 1
TO: testmajor029@gmail.com
SUBJECT: Testing mailmerge
FROM: My Self <testmajoe029@gmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 12:35:14 -0000

Hi, Myself,

Your number is 029.

>>> message 1 sent
>>> message 2
TO: saraeldho01@gmail.com
SUBJECT: Testing mailmerge
FROM: My Self <testmajoe029@gmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 12:35:14 -0000

Hi, Sara,

Your number is 42.

>>> message 2 sent
>>> This was a dry run. To send messages, use the --no-dry-run option.
root@kali:~# mailmerge --no-dry-run --no-limit
>>> password for testmajor029@gmail.com on smtp.gmail.com:
>>> message 1
TO: testmajor029@gmail.com
SUBJECT: Testing mailmerge
FROM: My Self <testmajoe029@gmail.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Date: Sun, 31 May 2020 12:35:25 -0000

Hi, Myself,

Your number is 029.

>>> message 1 sent
>>> message 2
TO: saraeldho01@gmail.com
SUBJECT: Testing mailmerge
FROM: My Self <testmajoe029@gmail.com>
```

CONCLUSION:

The SMTPlib module defines an SMTP client session object that can be used to send mail to any Internet machine with an SMTP or ESMTP listener daemon. For details of SMTP and ESMTP operation, consult RFC 821 (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) and RFC 1869 (SMTP Service Extensions).

*Class smtpplib.**SMTP**(host="", port=0, local_hostname=None, [timeout,]source_address=None)*

An SMTP instance encapsulates an SMTP connection. It has methods that support a full repertoire of SMTP and ESMTP operations. If the optional host and port parameters are given, the SMTP connect() method is called with those parameters during initialization. If specified, *local_hostname* is used as the FQDN of the local host in the HELO/EHLO command. Otherwise, the local hostname is found using socket.fqdn(). If the connect() call returns anything other than a success code, an SMTPConnectError is raised. The optional *timeout* parameter specifies a timeout in seconds for blocking operations like the connection attempt (if not specified, the global default timeout setting will be used). If the timeout expires, socket.timeout is raised. The optional *source_address* parameter allows binding to some specific source address in a machine with multiple network interfaces, and/or to some specific source TCP port. It takes a 2-tuple (host, port), for the socket to bind to as its source address before connecting. If omitted (or if host or port are "" and/or 0 respectively) the OS default behavior will be used.

For normal use, you should only require the initialization/connect, sendmail(), and SMTP.quit() methods. An example is included below.

The SMTP class supports the with statement. When used like this, the SMTPQUIT command is issued automatically when the with statement exits. E.g.:

```
>>> from smtpplib import SMTP
>>> with SMTP("domain.org") as smtp:
...     smtp.noop()
...
(250, b'Ok')
>>>
```

REFERENCES:

(1) <https://gist.github.com/anir0y/be6d613dd3d793e54f3e6d2be1dd0f65>

(2) <https://realpython.com/python-send-email/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(1) What could you do to ensure privacy when sending email?

Ans: Of course, that doesn't mean that secure, private email isn't possible. It's just up to you to take a few precautions to keep your email safe:

1. Use two-factor authentication

The basic principle of two-factor authentication is simple: combine something you know with something you have. One example is a debit card, which requires you to have both your physical card and your PIN to verify your identity. By enabling two-factor authentication (or two-step verification), you aren't putting all of your faith in a password. That's a good thing, considering how weak many of our passwords are. For Gmail, setting up two-step verification is as simple as clicking a button and entering in your mobile number. For Windows Mail, or Outlook, it's a similar process. Just log in, go to your "Password and security" tab and click "Set up two-step verification." Now that you've enabled two-factor authentication, a hacker with your password is out of luck — unless they've also managed to steal your cell phone.

2. Limit forwarding

When we're sent a message we want to share, we often click "Forward" without thinking about the consequences. Where is the message going? Who will see it? Where will it be stored? If your email is hosted on a corporate server, it is likely there are certain security measures in place to protect any sensitive information contained in your private email. When someone forwards an internal email to a recipient outside of your company, however, you are exposing that data (as well as any other emails in the forwarded chain) to potentially unsecured, unencrypted servers. Similarly, if you're a covered entity sending email containing protected health information (PHI) to a business associate, all it takes is one employee to forward that email to an unauthorized recipient to violate HIPAA.

3. Set expiration dates on your messages

While some of us can't stand a messy inbox, the average user doesn't bother cleaning up their private email, often seeing deleting email as a waste of time. Considering more than 50 percent of us receive at least 11 emails a day, can you blame them? That means that any sensitive information you send to a client could very well be sitting there months later. At that point, you no longer control the fate of your data. Luckily, Virtru lets you set an expiration date on your email, so that after a certain date, it will no longer be readable by the recipient (or anyone else, for that matter).

4. Understand your service provider's TOS

Your email provider's terms of service can tell you a lot more than their media interviews and advertisements can. For starters, it'll let you know what kind of security they are offering you. Are they encrypting messages on their server? Do they have protections against brute-force attacks? Is there any guarantee that your data is being protected? While you might think your email provider has your best interests in mind, there's a good chance that they don't have the same expectations you do. Take Google for example, which openly passes private email through automated scanning. After reading your email provider's TOS, you'll likely realize that keeping your private email secure isn't their first priority — that's entirely up to you.

5. Encrypt your email

The best way to keep your private email away from prying eyes and hackers is to use encryption. Encryption protects your private email by jumbling up your messages, making them impossible to decipher unless you explicitly authorize someone to read them. If you are using a client-side encryption service like Virtru, even if your inbox is compromised, the contents of your message will be unreadable. Likewise, you don't have to worry about your messages being intercepted after you send them, either by hackers or nosey service providers. As an added bonus, if your email ends up getting stored on a server outside of your control, you still have power over who gets to see it — and you can revoke that permission at any time.

(2) What expectation of privacy do you have when sending e-mail?

Ans: People continue to rely on their belief that the contents of e-mails, like phone calls, are sacrosanct and what is "said" in e-mail communication remains "confidential" to everyone other than the parties to them. However, that expectation of privacy is breaking down by the day. E-mails should more properly be viewed as a "postcard" or a conversation over a speakerphone,

both open and available to a passerby to hear or see, than like a private "confidential," "sealed" letter.¹

Seeking to ensure that e-mails remain confidential, however, does not take much effort on the part of the sender or recipient. That, no doubt, is why courts are increasingly rejecting arguments seeking to prevent the disclosure and use of putatively confidential e-mails in court proceedings where the e-mail user has done little to maintain its alleged confidentiality.

Reasonable Expectation of Privacy in Text Messages

In reaching the determination that text messages can attract a reasonable expectation of privacy, the SCC considered whether there was an expectation of privacy in the text messages and if so, whether this subjective expectation was objectively reasonable.

In evaluating the reasonableness, the SCC looked at three factors further discussed below: (i) the place of the search, (ii) the private nature of the subject matter, and (iii) control over the subject matter.

i. Place of the Search What is the place of an electronic text message conversation? The SCC determined that, unlike traditional methods of communication involving physical documents, electronic conversations such as text messages do not occupy a physical place; rather, they create "private chat rooms" between individuals. These rooms, although electronic, are the place of the search and this suggests there would be a reasonable expectation of privacy in text messages.

ii. Private Nature of Text Messages

The SCC concluded that given the intrinsic private nature of texting wherein individuals specifically choose the recipient of their texts and are more inclined to discuss personal matters, it is reasonable to expect these private interactions to remain private.

iii. Control over Text Messages

Finally, and most importantly, the SCC analyzed the notion of control over text messages once they are sent. Both the prosecution and the dissenting judges believed that once control over a message is lost – when it is received by another party capable of disclosing it — the reasonable expectation of privacy of the message is also lost. The majority of the SCC disagreed and stated that the risk that the contents of a text message can be disclosed does not negate a reasonable expectation of privacy in such an electronic conversation. In essence, a person does not lose control over the information simply because another person possesses it or can access it.

(3) If you had a secret message to send, how would you do it?

Ans: Cryptography is the science of using codes and ciphers to protect messages, at its most basic level. Encryption is encoding messages with the intent of only allowing the intended recipient to understand the meaning of the message. It is a two way function (you need to be able to undo whatever scrambling you've done to the message). This is designed to protect data in transit. One of the earliest ciphers involved a simple shift. For example, if you just shift all the letters in the alphabet by a few, the alphabet might look like the following:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

NOPQRSTUVWXYZABCDEFGHIJKLM

Then, each letter of the alphabet corresponds to a different letter, but it is difficult to figure out which one, if you don't already know. Using this cipher, the message, 'Hello' translates to 'Uryyb'. Unfortunately, advances in analysis, particularly pattern analysis driven by very powerful computers, made these types of cyphers very easy to break. In response to that, we've developed very strong, complex algorithms. These can be broken down into two basic types of encryptions—symmetric algorithms and asymmetric algorithms.

Symmetric algorithms are also known as 'secret key' algorithms, and asymmetric algorithms are known as 'public key' algorithms. The key difference between the two is that symmetric algorithms use the same key to encode and decode (see the first figure below), while asymmetric algorithms use different keys for encryption and decryption (see the second figure below).



As you can see in the above figure, with symmetric encryption, if Bob and Midge want to communicate, Bob first encrypts his message with the secret key (the encrypted message is called ciphertext). Then he sends it to Midge. Midge then decrypts the message with the same secret key and is able to read the message. To send a message back, the process is reversed. This process is fast, scalable, and very secure. The problem with it is that it requires both parties to already have the same secret key. If they don't, they need to pass it along insecure channels, which essentially removes the security of the encryption. With Asymmetric encryption, as in the above figure, if Bob and Midge want to communicate, Bob encrypts his message with Midge's public key and sends it to her. She then decrypts the message with her private key to read it. To send a message back, the process is reversed.

In this way, anyone can send Midge a message, as she can make her public key available to anyone, but only she can decrypt a message (as she keeps her private key secret). It also solves the need to pass a secret key along insecure channels, because there is no need to pass a secret at all. The disadvantage is that it requires everyone who wants to communicate to have two different keys (not scalable), and it is relatively slow.



(4)How could you automate e-mailing many people?

Ans: Start from scanning your inbox and exploring which repetitive actions you recently made.

Combining Gmail + Tasks

Take advantage of other Google services like Google Tasks. This simple-to-use tool comes integrated with Gmail so you can easily add emails to your to-do lists if you want to read them later. You can set up a due date and link it to your Calendar, add some notes, and define subtasks.

What is more, you can use built-in filters to automate tasks right within Gmail, mark and sort emails, and improve your overall productivity.

Ways to Automate Email Tasks in Gmail

You may not know it yet, but Gmail offers a built-in functionality to manage your inbox. Let's look into some of the tasks you can automate.

Use Labels to Automatically Sort Incoming Messages

You are receiving tons of emails and they all have different level of importance. To manage them properly, you can create several categories and then sort messages manually, but it can take a lot of time. Luckily, there is a way automatically sort emails into folders in Gmail. Right in the search bar, there is a dropdown menu that allows you to sort messages by subject, sender, or date. What is more, you can also set up certain terms as labels for more specific filtering. Gmail can automatically label incoming messages so you can just click on this mark and read all related emails.

Moreover, you're free to set up as many labels as you need to organize your inbox as precisely as possible.

Step-by-step guide

Click on the dropdown arrow next to the search bar;

Type the label word into the subject line and use "Create filter" command;

Check the "Apply the label:" box, open the dropdown menu and click "New label...";

Type in your label, click "Create" and "Create filter";

Now you can see the label next to all incoming messages with subjects that contain the respective search criteria.

Use Filters to Automatically Forward and Mark Emails

Another trick to keep your inbox organized is to deal with irrelevant messages or requests that can be completed by your assistants. For example, if someone sends you an email and mentions a meeting in a subject line, you might want to forward it to your secretary and don't worry about scheduling.

You can sort Gmail emails by sender or subject and automatically forward them to your assistant or relevant department. You can also mark emails as read or important, move them to another folder, etc.

Step-by-step guide

At the top of the screen find the search bar and click the dropdown button;

Type in the keyword in the "Subject" field and use "Create filter" command;

Find the "Forward it" box and fill in the address of your choice;

Also, you can click "Mark as read" so the messages won't be displayed as unread;

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS:

(1) Why do email services "read" your email? What is their goal?

Ans: -> To answer this question first we need to go deep in the history and the answer lies under it. One of the early email services which were quite safe was Gmail which was started in 2004 which was free to use for everyone.

Free email services are usually paid for by showing you advertisements. Some email services scan your emails in order to show you personalised or targeted ads. You could argue that that's a benefit, because you'll see ads in which you might have some interest. You could also argue that your emails are private, so it's an invasion of privacy. Either way, it's different from scanning your emails to stop viruses and phishing attempts, which nobody wants to stop.

There are several options, but the problem is bigger than you may think, and likely to get worse. When Google launched Gmail in 2004, it did indeed scan your emails for advertising purposes. You could only avoid it by using a paid-for version of the service. That changed last summer, when Google announced that it would no longer scan emails to tailor adverts. That didn't mean you would get adverts picked at random. As Alex Hern explained here, "the adverts will now be targeted in the same way as other Google services, based on information gleaned from other activity on users' profiles, such as their searches, browsing activity, and even physical locations".

Google has the world's largest known tracking system, thanks partly to Google Analytics – which is used on far more websites than any Facebook tracker – and its DoubleClick advertising business. Add Google Search and it already knows so much about you that scanning your emails may well be superfluous. The good news is that you can delete a lot of it, with the help of a Guardian article by Dylan Curran: Here is all the data Facebook and Google have on you.

The goal behind reading your emails-

The problem is that Google has lots of other reasons to read your email, and you may find some of them useful. For example, Google might tell you about traffic jams or flight delays, put appointments in your calendar, or offer to write quick email replies for you. These features involve AI software reading your emails, tracking your website visits, and your location. In the future, it may include information from home speakers (Google Home etc), household gadgets (Nest etc), fitness bands, smartwatches, cars (Waymo) and other connected devices.

(2) How does PGP secure email differently than Gmail?

Ans: PGP ("Pretty Good Privacy") is a powerful, free cryptography package that lets people exchange files in a private, encrypted format, and also provides message authentication. PGP is called a public key system. Each person using PGP has both a public and a private key. Each key is actually a digital signature (a small file with a stream of uniquely generated characters). The public key is widely distributed to any correspondents, while the private key is guarded with secrecy. An encrypted message in PGP is scrambled in a complex way to make it unreadable to anyone other than the intended recipient. You can use your private key and the recipient's public key to generate a message that can be unscrambled only by the recipient who has your public key as well as a personal private key, allowing you to easily exchange encrypted messages with anyone with whom you have exchanged public keys.

Conventionally, a single-key system is used to encrypt files; the same key used to encrypt a file is also used to decrypt it. The key thus must be carefully transferred from person to person, since if it were found, anyone could decode messages. This type of keying is known as symmetric.

PGP is also used for authentication. A private key generates a unique digital signature attached to a message. Anyone holding the creator's public key can verify that the message was generated by the person holding a genuine private key, and whether the message was altered in transit or not.

PGP secure differently than Gmail because in Gmail your mail are been read by the Gmail service provider for their benefits for an extent. Whereas PGP only the person whom the mail is been send can access it and even the Gmail service provider's can't even see.

(3) why dont people use services like PGP more often?

PGP is pretty good privacy. It is an encrypted email solution that masks your messages before you send them. PGP works using public-key cryptography, meaning that every user has their own key pair — one private key, and one public key. The private key is used to decrypt messages, while the public key is used to encrypt them.

Your public key can be openly shared with just about anyone without incurring any risk. Even if a potential bad guy were to obtain your public key, they wouldn't be able to decrypt your messages. For that, they would need to access the private key, which only you have. While PGP is very secure, it's also a huge hassle. If you're going to send someone an encrypted message, not only do they have to be using PGP, but you also have to exchange keys first. Likewise, once you have a collection of keys, it's up to you to hold on to them. If they get corrupted, or if your computer goes up in smoke, you have to repeat the process. Because in the modern world,

PGP is only necessary if you don't trust your email provider, and basically everyone does. Assuming you and the person you're emailing both use a reasonably mainstream provider, your connection to the email website or email server is encrypted by SSL, and the connection between the two email servers is encrypted. Your email provider can access your email, but most people simply aren't worried about that. This also means that such a service would only really be useful to businesses, and only inter-business communication, at that. The services that do offer encryption that works past their servers often simply use various forms of PGP, meaning that the same hurdles present with that system are present here.

(4)What is Phishing?

Phishing is a cyber-attack that uses disguised email as a weapon. The goal is to trick the email recipient into believing that the message is something they want or need — a request from their bank, for instance, or a note from someone in their company — and to click a link or download an attachment. If users take the bait and click the link, they're sent to an imitation of a legitimate website. From here, they're asked to log in with their username and password credentials. If they are gullible enough to comply, the sign-on information goes to the attacker, who uses it to steal identities, pilfer bank accounts, and sell personal information on the black market. Phishing is the simplest kind of cyberattack and at the same time , the most dangerous and effective.

Types of phishing:-

(1)SPEAR PHISHING

(2)CLONE PHISHING

(3)PHONE PHISHING

FEW SIGNS TO IDENTIFY PHISHING

The email makes an offer that sounds too good to be true. It might say you've won the lottery, an expensive prize, or some other over-the-top item.

- You recognize the sender, but it's someone you don't talk to. Even if the sender's name is known to you, be suspicious if it's someone you don't normally communicate with, especially if the email's content has nothing to do with your normal job responsibilities. Same goes if you're cc'd in an email to folks you don't even know, or perhaps a group of colleagues from unrelated business units.
- The message sounds scary. Beware if the email has charged or alarmist language to create a sense of urgency, exhorting you to click and “act now”

before your account is terminated. Remember, responsible organizations do not ask for personal details over the Internet.

- The message contains unexpected or unusual attachments. These attachments may contain malware, ransomware, or another online threat.

(5)What is spear phishing?

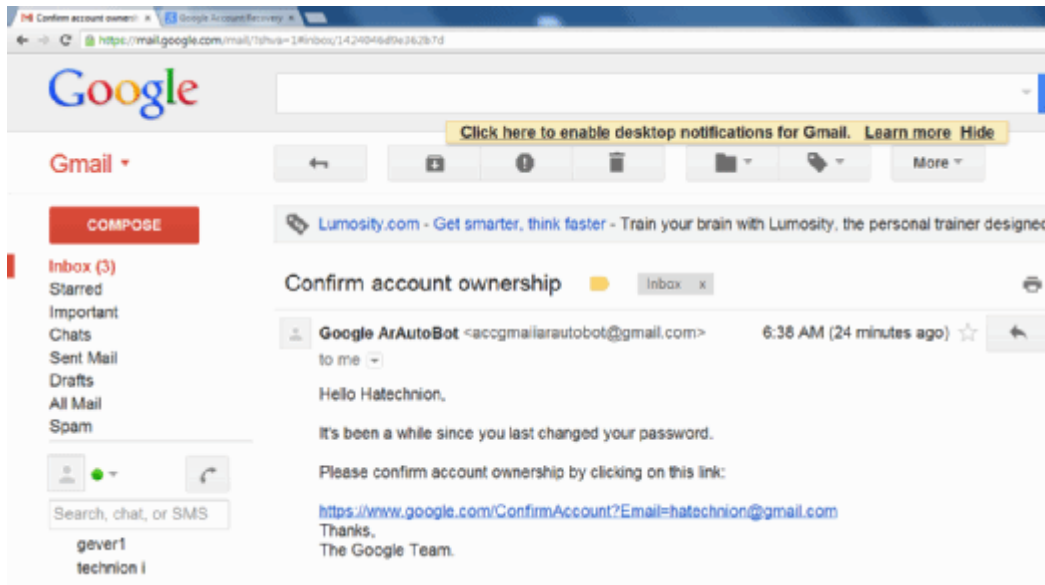
Spear phishing is a type of Phishing. While most phishing campaigns send mass emails to as many people as possible, spear phishing is targeted. Spear phishing attacks a specific person or organization, often with content that is tailor made for the victim or victims. It requires pre-attack reconnaissance to uncover names, job titles, email addresses, and the like. The hackers scour the Internet to match up this information with other researched knowledge about the target's colleagues, along with the names and professional relationships of key employees in their organizations. With this, the phisher crafts a believable email.

For instance, a fraudster might spear phish an employee whose responsibilities include the ability to authorize payments. The email purports to be from an executive in the organization, commanding the employee to send a substantial payment either to the exec or to a company vendor (when in fact, the malicious payment link sends it to the attacker). The sender may request that the user reply directly to the email, or the message may include a malicious link or attachment that installs malware on the target's device, or directs the target to a malicious website that is set up to trick them into giving sensitive information like passwords, account information or credit card information.

Spear phishing can be more difficult to identify than phishing attacks due to the personal details that give the messages an air of validity. However, some of the characteristics that are common to phishing emails are also common to spear phishing emails:

- The sender's email address is spoofed. The email address looks like it's from a trusted individual and/or domain, but closer inspection reveals a typographical error or the exchange of one alphanumeric character for another that closely resembles it.
- A sense of urgency, particularly as it relates to performing a task that goes against company policy. Attackers evoke a sense of urgency to exploit the recipient's desire to do good or to simply be helpful.

- Poor grammar, typographical errors or unlikely language within the body of the message. The body of the email does not sound like other messages from the supposed sender. Perhaps the tone is too informal or the jargon is incorrect for the recipient's geographic location or industry.



APPENDICES:

Table of Contents

D.1. Officers

The OpenPGP keys of the FreeBSD.org officers are shown here. These keys can be used to verify a signature or send encrypted email to one of the officers. A full list of FreeBSD OpenPGP keys is available in the PGP Keys article. The complete keyring can be downloaded at <https://www.FreeBSD.org/doc/pgpkeyring.txt>.

D.1. Officers

D.1.1. Security Officer Team <security-officer@FreeBSD.org>

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     Key fingerprint = FC0E 878A E5AF E788 028D 6355 D397 92F4 9EA7 E5C2
uid                               FreeBSD Security Officer <security-officer@FreeBSD.org>
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D.1.2. Security Team Secretary <secteam-secretary@FreeBSD.org>

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D.1.3. Core Team Secretary <core-secretary@FreeBSD.org>

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D.1.4. Ports Management Team Secretary <portmgr-secretary@FreeBSD.org>

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D.1.1.5. <doceng-secretary@FreeBSD.org>

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