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1 VolaPG (vpg) Specification

1.1 TODO

• cache already decrypted messages

• decrypt links from registered users only by default; can be turned on for anonymous users (WARNING: they can change nicknames)

1.2 Conventions used in this document

- ? zero or one, i.e. optional
- * zero or more
- + one or more
- [a-z] character set (i.e. "any of these characters")
- <expr>{n,m} minimum of n expr, maximum of m expr

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 user

- represents a volafile user, registered or not
- the user's name mustn't contain spaces and must be at least 3 and at most 12 characters long

1.3.1.1 Grammar

• user_name := $[a-zA-Z0-9]{3,12}$

1.3.2 alias

- usually, users will only have one public key but this doesn't have to be the case that's why aliases are necessary
- an alias is a name for one of the public keys a user uses it's not easy to remember a hexstring with 1000 characters
- no spaces are allowed in the alias' name
- it's a string produced by concatenating a user's name, : character and the alias' name
- a user's name can be an alias too (alias with the name default is special)
 this is discussed later on in alias list

1.3.2.1 Grammar

- alias := <user_name> | <user_name> ":" <alias_name>
- alias name := [a-zA-z0-9]+
- user_name given above

1.3.2.2 Examples

#	alias
1.	alice:default
2.	alice:work
3.	joe:home
4.	joe
5.	bob:shitposting

1.3.3 alias table

- stores the public keys of a user along with their aliases
- a hash table with (key, value) being (alias_name, pubkey)
 - alias_name name of the alias that's assigned to a specific public key
 - pubkey the public key

1.3.3.1 Examples

#	user's name	aliases & public keys	
1.	bob	default: 135, shitposting:	246
2.	joe	home: 987	

1.3.4 user table

- stores other users' public keys used for encryption
- a table of users' names and their alias tables
- a hash table with (key, value) being (user_name, alias_table)
 - user_name the name of the user
 - alias_table the alias table of user

1.3.4.1 Examples

#	user's name	aliases & public keys
1.1	alice	default: 123, work: 456, private: 789
1.2	bob	default: 135, shitposting: 246
1.3	joe	home: 987

1.3.5 key pair list

- TODO: fingerprints
- the user running vpg can have multiple key pairs (identities) (analagous to other users having multiple public keys (identities))
- it is a list of (pubkey, privkey) pairs, each representing a key pair
 - pubkey the public key of the key pair
 - private the private key of the key pair

1.3.6 key list

- a list of public keys that will be used to encrypt a message
- it is generated from an alias list

1.3.7 alias list

- an alias list is used to define which public keys to use when encrypting a
 message, i.e. it is used to generate a key list from a user table
- it's a string of aliases concatenated with a + character
- aliases which don't exist won't be included in the key list
- the alias with the name default is special if a user's name is given instead of an alias, the user's alias table is looked up for an alias with the name default
 - i.e. when specifying an alias, bob is the same as bob:default
 - it is merely a convenience and was introduced because most users
 will have only one public key and in that case typing out aliases isn't really useful (they're still used under the hood, however)
 - NOTE: the default alias is not required to exist

•

- TODO: addkey from registered users only by default
- TODO: renamekey
- TODO: filename length for ciphertext files
- TODO: key pair -> key pair

1.3.7.1 Grammar

- alias_list := <alias> ("+" <alias>)*
- alias given above

1.3.7.2 Examples (using the user table given in example 1. of user table)

#	alias list	same as	key list
1.	alice	alice:default	123
2.	alice+bob	alice:default+bob:default	123, 135
3.	bob:shitposting+joe:home	n/a	246, 987
4.	alice+joe	alice:default+joe:default	123
5.	joe	joe:default	(empty)

1.3.8 vpg room

• a room to which the files containing ciphertext will be uploaded to

1.3.9 ciphertext file

- contains the ciphertext
- its filename is derived from
 - the users whose public keys were used to encrypt the message
 - time when the file was made (when the ciphertext was produced)

1.3.9.1 Grammar

- filename := "~VPG~" " -- " <user_list> " -- " <unix_timestamp> ".asc"
- user_list := <user_name> (", " <user_name>)*
- unix_timestamp UNIX time
- \bullet user_name given above

1.4 How it works

- 1. a user encrypts a piece of text with the recipient's public key
- 2. the ciphertext is put into a file and uploaded to volafile
- 3. the file has a special name and can be identified by the recipient as a vpg ciphertext file
- 4. the recipient downloads the file, gets the ciphertext and decrypts it using his private key
- 5. the recipient can now see the message the user sent him

1.5 Procedures

1.5.1 General

- encryption is triggered by the user via a command
- · decryption is triggered automatically when a ciphertext file is identified

1.5.2 Decryption (triggered automatically)

- 1. the script detects that a ciphertext file was linked in the chat (via the filename)
- 2. if the filename contains our username
 - 1. if the ciphertext file hasn't been decrypted before (i.e. if it's not cached)
 - 1. the ciphertext file is downloaded if its size doesn't exceed 5 KiB
 - 2. the ciphertext file's content is decrypted with the user's private kev
 - 3. the ciphertext file's filename and the plaintext are cached
 - 2. the file link in the chat is replaced by the plaintext

1.6 Commands

- commands are invoked with /vpg <command> <param>*
- parameters listed for each of the commands below appear in the order they're expected by the command
- TODO: move the description of commands somewhere else? section Command explanation?

1.6.1 encrypt

• encrypts a message with the specified keys

1.6.1.1 Parameters

- alias_list defines which keys the message will be encrypted with
- text the text to encrypt; quoted if it has spaces

1.6.1.2 Procedure

- 1. user runs the encryption command
- 2. the text is encrypted with the specified public keys
- 3. a ciphertext file is made
- 4. the ciphertext file is uploaded to the vpg room
- 5. a text message containing the link of the ciphertext file is output in the current room

1.6.2 addkey

• adds or updates a user's key in the user table

1.6.2.1 Parameters

- file the file that contains the public key of the user (TODO: define what a file is, a full link or just an id like #fhsfhsd)
- user the name of the user
- alias? (default by default) the alias to use for this key

1.6.2.2 Procedure

- 1. the public key is extracted from the specified file
- 2. if the specified user already exists in our user table
 - 1. if the specified alias already exists in the specified user's alias table
 - 1. replace the existing alias with the new alias alias
 - 2. otherwise
 - 1. create a new alias alias
- 3. otherwise
 - 1. create a new user user and create a new alias alias for him

1.6.3 rmkey

• removes either a user's key or the whole user from the user table

1.6.3.1 Parameters

- user the name of the user
- alias? (no default) alias of the public key to remove

1.6.3.2 Procedure

- 1. if the user user exists
 - 1. if alias was specified
 - 1. if alias alias exists
 - 1. remove alias alias from user user's alias table
 - 2. otherwise
 - 1. remove the whole user from the user table (TODO: confirmation maybe?)

1.6.4 newkeypair

• creates a new key pair (this is so users don't have to download a pgp implementation and do it themselves)

1.6.4.1 Parameters

- name name assigned to the key pair
- email email assigned to the key pair (TODO: is email required?)
- passphrase passphrase used for the private key
- comment? ("" by default) comment assigned to the key pair

1.6.4.2 Procedure

- 1. a new key pair is created with the specified parameters
- 2.

1.6.5 room

• sets a new vpg room

1.6.5.1 Parameters

• room - ID of the room that will be set as the vpg room

1.7 Possible implementation

1.7.1 Settings

- \bullet whitenames allowed
- vpg room
- user table
- self table
- encrypt with self key by default
- passphrase popup should give info about cert