

Symmetric Encryption Algorithm	Asymmetric Encryption Algorithm
Best known as shared-secret key algorithms.	Best known as public key algorithms.
The usual key length is 80 to 256 bits.	The usual key length is 512 to 4,096 bits.
A sender and receiver must share a secret key.	A sender and receiver do not share a secret key.
Algorithms are usually quite fast (wire speed) because they are based on simple mathematical operations.	Algorithms are relatively slow because they are based on difficult computational algorithms.
Examples include DES, 3DES, AES, IDEA, RC2/4/5/6, and Blowfish.	Examples include RSA, ElGamal, elliptic curves, and DH.