

# What is the difference between GPG and OpenSSH? [closed]

Asked 6 years ago   Active 5 years, 10 months ago   Viewed 862 times



0



What is the difference between the GNU Privacy Guard and Open SSH?

I'm pretty new to these things and I AFAIK you can use both for encryption and both are [free](#). Can anyone explain what one offers and the other doesn't? And why was there a need for GPG if OpenPGP was already free software?

[encryption](#)[openssh](#)[gnupg](#)

edited Oct 10 '13 at 18:31



[Jens Erat](#)

30k 15 66 84

asked Aug 6 '13 at 16:56



[Jacob Krieg](#)

1,152 8 53 102

**closed** as off-topic by [Duncan Jones](#), [Jens Erat](#), [James K Polk](#), [Jens Mühlenhoff](#), [Shog9](#) ♦ Mar 8 '14 at 18:48

This question appears to be off-topic. The users who voted to close gave this specific reason:

- "Questions about **general computing hardware and software** are off-topic for Stack Overflow unless they directly involve tools used primarily for programming. You may be able to get help on [Super User](#)." – [Duncan Jones](#), [Jens Erat](#), [James K Polk](#), [Jens Mühlenhoff](#), [Shog9](#)

If this question can be reworded to fit the rules in the [help center](#), please [edit the question](#).

## 1 Answer



2



GnuPG (the GNU Privacy Guard) is a software for signing and encrypting messages. OpenSSH is for secure remote console access (and can do some more stuff like port forwarding). These are two totally different tools solving totally different problems.

OpenPGP is the standard GnuPG (and others) implements. OpenPGP is not a software, but a file format and protocol! Symantec PGP (after being sold and renamed a few times) was the first software to implement OpenPGP (actually the standard only got published some years after PGP was released).

answered Aug 6 '13 at 21:02

**Jens Erat****30k** 15 66 84

---

Can't you also encrypt data using OpenSSH? AFAIK you can? Am I wrong? – [Jacob Krieg](#) Aug 7 '13 at 6:37

- 
- 2 I guess you're confusing OpenSSH and OpenSSL, is that possible? OpenSSH is for stream encryption of connections, OpenSSL can also do message encryption, but is not compatible with OpenPGP. You're confusing very basic techniques, but you really should be able to sort that out by only reading parts of their wikipedia articles (or whatever resource you prefer) in very short time. – [Jens Erat](#) Aug 7 '13 at 8:44
- 

Got a question that you can't ask on public Stack Overflow? [Learn more](#) about sharing private information with Stack Overflow for Teams.

