

# **TI Fuel Gauge Authentication Key Packager and Programmer Tools**

Several TI Fuel Gauge products support authentication for anti-counterfeit protection of battery packs. The selection of the battery authentication scheme between SHA and ECC is left to the user to decide. This user guide describes the function and use of the tools provided by Texas Instruments to package the key (bqKeyPackager), and program the key onto the selected gauge (bqKeyProgrammer).

The purpose of these two standalone tools is to allow an OEM to encrypt authentication keys in a file and send to a packmaker. The packmaker can then use this file as the data source for bqKeyProgrammer. bqKeyProgrammer will program the key(s) within the file into a gauge. The key will not be visible to the packmaker.

The tools are available on the [Battery Fuel Gauge Tools and Software](#) page.

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### **1 bqKeyPackager**

bqKeyPackager is intended only for an OEM to allow packaging of the authentication key. The authentication key is entered along with a password that is used in an algorithm to encrypt the file. After testing using bqKeyProgrammer or other tools, OEM will send the created file and password to the packmaker. The packmaker will use this bqkey file and password in bqKeyProgrammer to program the information into a gauge.

The type of Authentication supported depends on the device selected. Version 1.0.9 supports SHA1, SHA256, and ECC. The information needed from the battery pack designer is different depending on the authentication chosen, and is shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

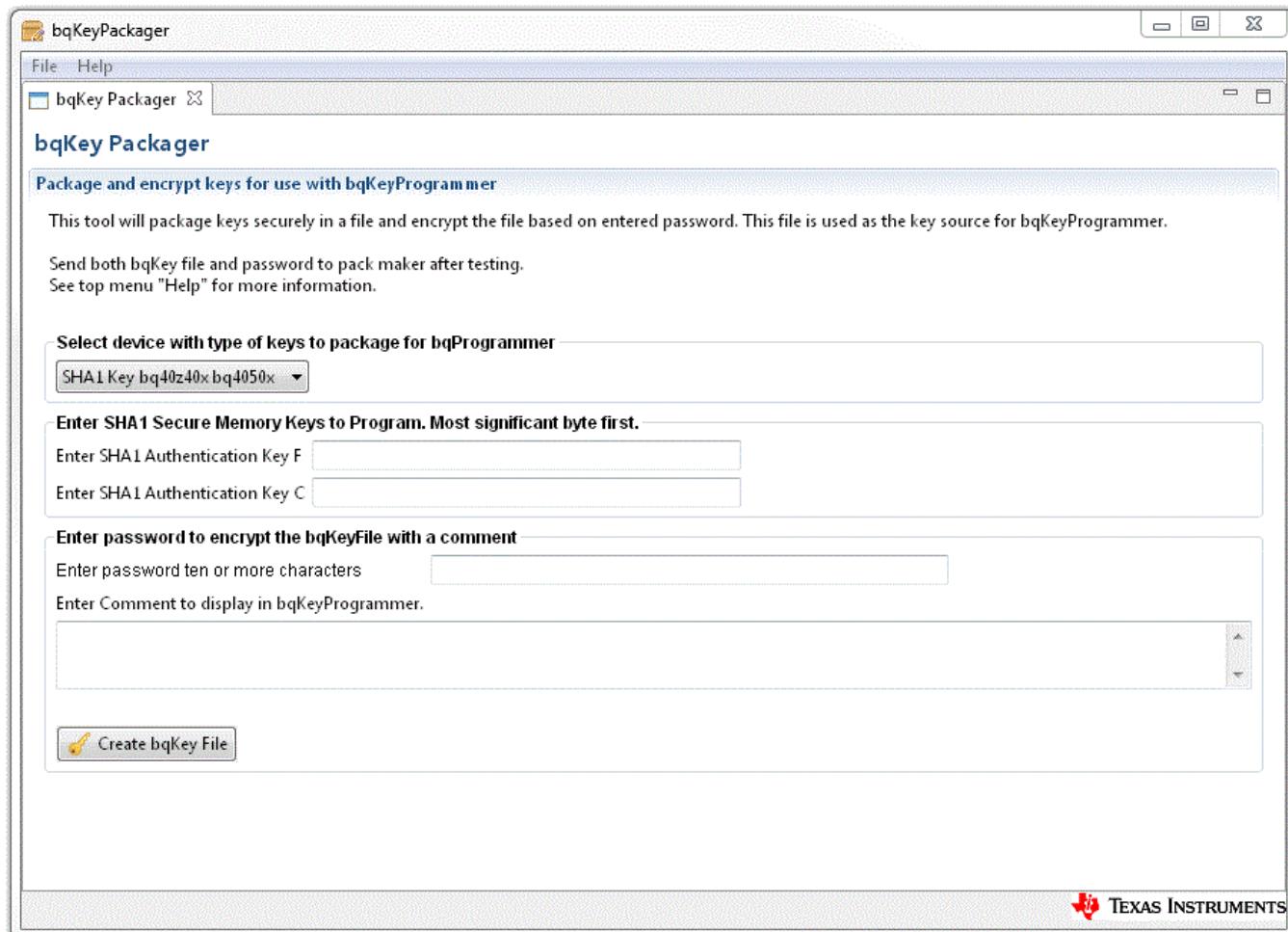
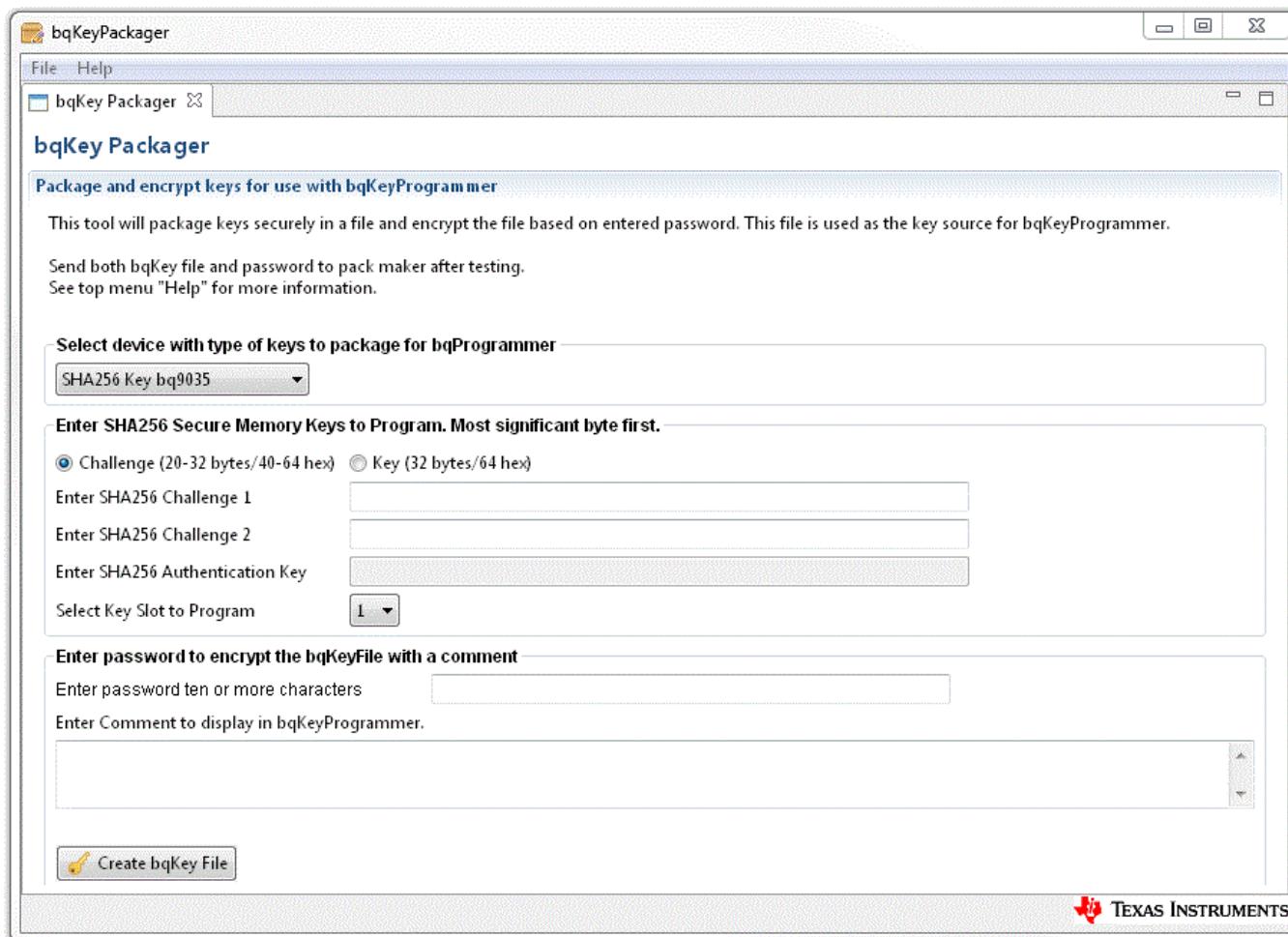
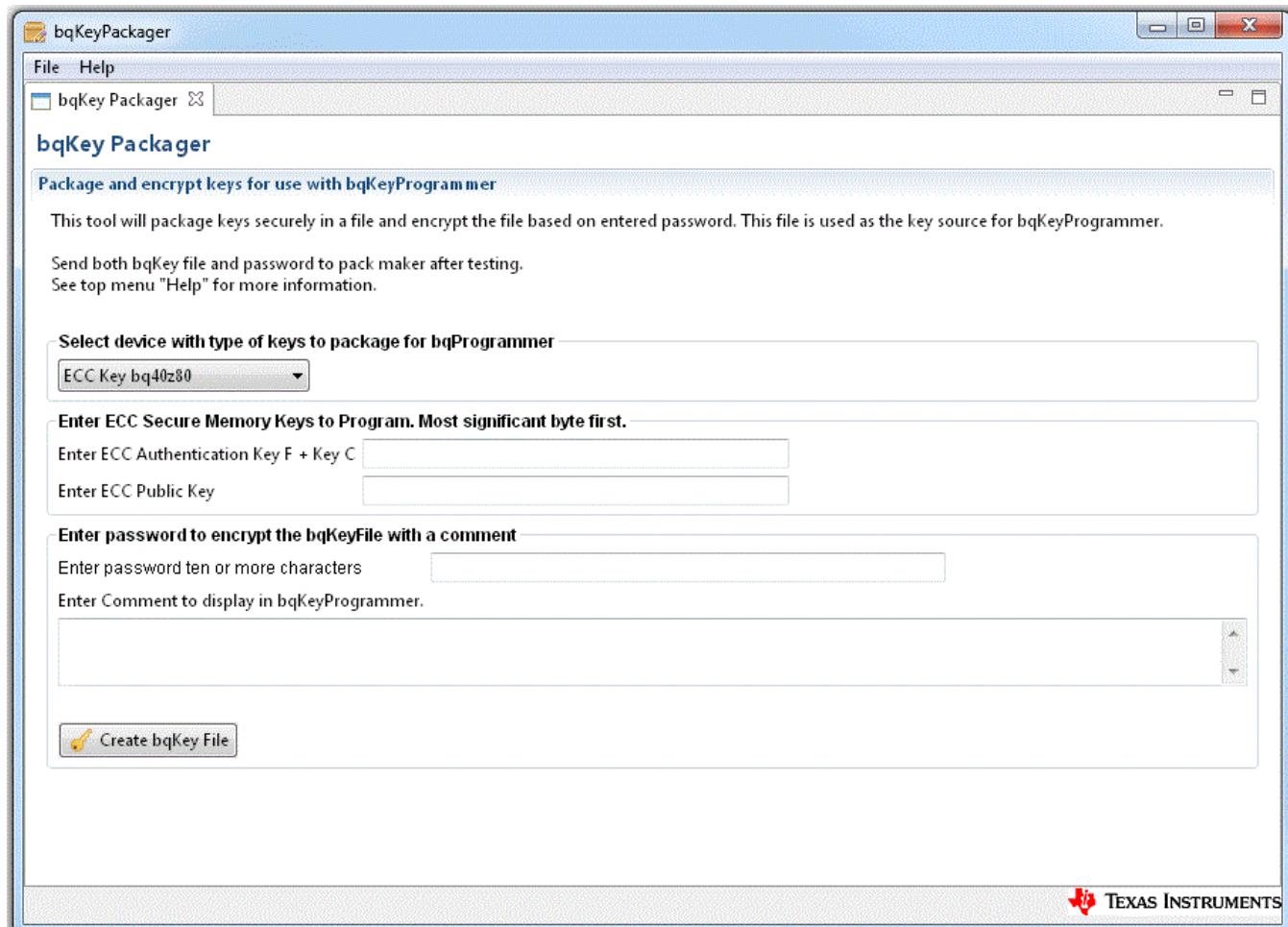


Figure 1. bqKeyPackager for SHA1 Device



**Figure 2. bqKeyPackager Screen for SHA256 Device**



**Figure 3. bqKeyPackager Screen for ECC Device**

## 2 bqKeyProgrammer

bqKeyProgrammer programs the packaged information in the bqkey file supplied by an OEM into the secure one time programmable memory in the supported gauge. The bqKey file and password are supplied as inputs. The bqKey file is the source data of the key(s) to program. This tool requires a working EV2300/EV2400 communications adapter with drivers and compatible gauge connected to SMB port of adapter. This tool will “Program Key” and verify the key was programmed correctly using the content of the key file as the reference. The “Verify Key” will verify gauge key match the key contained in the bqKey file. The following steps are used to program the key on the device:

- Connect the computer running bqKeyProgrammer to the EV2300/2400 using the USB Cable.
- Connect the EV2300/2400 to the target gauge using the appropriate communication port for the device (SMBus, I2C, and so forth), making sure the target gauge is powered.
- Open bqKeyProgrammer.
- Select the bqKey file to use and enter the password for the file.
- Select "Load File" to load the bqKey file. Any comments in the bqKey file will be visible in the comments text display. It is important to ensure that the bqKey file is correct for the device.  
**Programming is one time only and can not be reversed.**
- Select "Program Key" to program the key into the device. The hot key is Alt + P. The status is located to the right of the button. Green is passed. Red is failure.
- Select "Verify Key" to verify a challenge sent to the device matches the expected response based on

information in the bqKey file. The hot key is Alt + V.

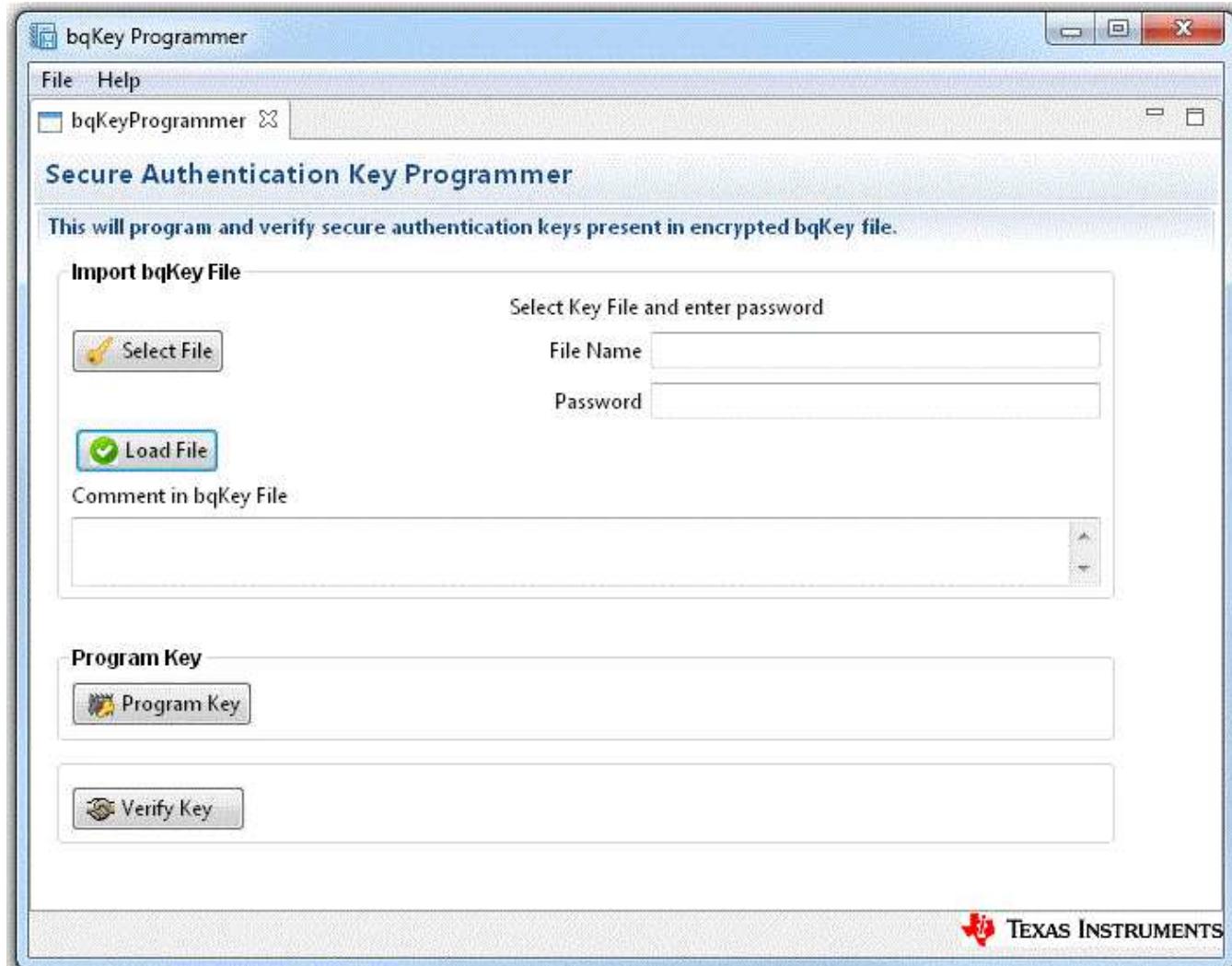


Figure 4. bqKeyProgrammer Screen

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**NOTE:** bqKeyProgrammer programs the one time program memory. If communication is lost or the incorrect bqKey file is used, the device will not be useable for authentication. Check the comments in the bqKey file to ensure the correct file is selected. Ensure the programmer is finished before disconnecting communications and power. A complete power on reset is needed after programming to lock memory.

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