

# GPG generate key

## Create key

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --full-generate-key --expert
gpg (GnuPG) 2.4.5; Copyright (C) 2024 g10 Code GmbH
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

Please **select** what kind of key you want:

- (1) RSA and RSA
- (2) DSA and Elgamal
- (3) DSA (sign only)
- (4) RSA (sign only)
- (7) DSA (**set** your own capabilities)
- (8) RSA (**set** your own capabilities)
- (9) ECC (sign and encrypt) *\*default\**
- (10) ECC (sign only)
- (11) ECC (**set** your own capabilities)
- (13) Existing key
- (14) Existing key from card

Your selection? 8

Possible actions **for** this RSA key: Sign Certify Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Sign Certify Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? s

Possible actions **for** this RSA key: Sign Certify Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Certify Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? e

Possible actions **for** this RSA key: Sign Certify Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Certify

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability

- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? q  
 RSA keys may be between 1024 and 4096 bits long.  
 What keysize do you want? (3072) 4096  
 Requested keysize is 4096 bits  
 Please specify how long the key should be valid.  
 0 = key does not expire  
 <n> = key expires in n days  
 <n>w = key expires in n weeks  
 <n>m = key expires in n months  
 <n>y = key expires in n years  
 Key is valid for? (0) 1y  
 Key expires at Di 15 Apr 2025 12:30:36 CEST  
 Is this correct? (y/N) y

GnuPG needs to construct a user ID to identify your key.

Real name: clerie  
 Email address: clerie@clerie.de  
 Comment: test 2024-04-15  
 You selected this USER-ID:  
 "clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>"

Change (N)ame, (C)omment, (E)mail or (O)kay/(Q)uit? o  
 We need to generate a lot of random bytes. It is a good idea to perform some other action (type on the keyboard, move the mouse, utilize the disks) during the prime generation; this gives the random number generator a better chance to gain enough entropy.  
 gpg: directory '/home/clerie/.gnupg/openpgp-revocs.d' created  
 gpg: revocation certificate stored as '/home/clerie/.gnupg/openpgp-revocs.d/A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562.rev'  
 public and secret key created and signed.

```
pub  rsa4096 2024-04-15 [C] [expires: 2025-04-15]
    A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562
uid                               clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>
```

### Add subkeys

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --expert --edit-key
A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562
gpg (GnuPG) 2.4.5; Copyright (C) 2024 g10 Code GmbH
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.

Secret key is available.

gpg: checking the trustdb
```

```
gpg: marginals needed: 3 completes needed: 1 trust model: pgp
gpg: depth: 0 valid: 8 signed: 0 trust: 0-, 0q, 0n, 0m, 0f, 8u
gpg: next trustdb check due at 2025-04-15
sec rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
    created: 2024-04-15 expires: 2025-04-15 usage: C
    trust: ultimate validity: ultimate
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>
```

```
gpg> addkey
```

```
Please select what kind of key you want:
```

- (3) DSA (sign only)
- (4) RSA (sign only)
- (5) Elgamal (encrypt only)
- (6) RSA (encrypt only)
- (7) DSA (set your own capabilities)
- (8) RSA (set your own capabilities)
- (10) ECC (sign only)
- (11) ECC (set your own capabilities)
- (12) ECC (encrypt only)
- (13) Existing key
- (14) Existing key from card

```
Your selection? 8
```

```
Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate
```

```
Current allowed actions: Sign Encrypt
```

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

```
Your selection? ea
```

```
Invalid selection.
```

```
Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate
```

```
Current allowed actions: Sign Encrypt
```

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

```
Your selection? e
```

```
Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate
```

```
Current allowed actions: Sign
```

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? q  
RSA keys may be between 1024 and 4096 bits long.  
What keysize do you want? (3072) 4096  
Requested keysize is 4096 bits  
Please specify how long the key should be valid.  
    0 = key does not expire  
    <n> = key expires in n days  
    <n>w = key expires in n weeks  
    <n>m = key expires in n months  
    <n>y = key expires in n years  
Key is valid for? (0) 1y  
Key expires at Di 15 Apr 2025 12:37:46 CEST  
Is this correct? (y/N) y  
Really create? (y/N) y  
We need to generate a lot of random bytes. It is a good idea to perform some other action (type on the keyboard, move the mouse, utilize the disks) during the prime generation; this gives the random number generator a better chance to gain enough entropy.

```
sec  rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
      created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: C
      trust: ultimate  validity: ultimate
ssb  rsa4096/0E6F5B37473B0B62
      created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: SR
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>
```

```
gpg> addkey
Please select what kind of key you want:
(3) DSA (sign only)
(4) RSA (sign only)
(5) Elgamal (encrypt only)
(6) RSA (encrypt only)
(7) DSA (set your own capabilities)
(8) RSA (set your own capabilities)
(10) ECC (sign only)
(11) ECC (set your own capabilities)
(12) ECC (encrypt only)
(13) Existing key
(14) Existing key from card
Your selection? 8
```

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Sign Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? s

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? q

RSA keys may be between 1024 and 4096 bits long.

What keysize do you want? (3072) 4096

Requested keysize is 4096 bits

Please specify how long the key should be valid.

0 = key does not expire

<n> = key expires in n days

<n>w = key expires in n weeks

<n>m = key expires in n months

<n>y = key expires in n years

Key is valid for? (0) 1y

Key expires at Di 15 Apr 2025 12:39:00 CEST

Is this correct? (y/N) y

Really create? (y/N) y

We need to generate a lot of random bytes. It is a good idea to perform some other action (type on the keyboard, move the mouse, utilize the disks) during the prime generation; this gives the random number generator a better chance to gain enough entropy.

```
sec  rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
    created: 2024-04-15 expires: 2025-04-15 usage: C
    trust: ultimate validity: ultimate
ssb  rsa4096/0E6F5B37473B0B62
    created: 2024-04-15 expires: 2025-04-15 usage: SR
ssb  rsa4096/D6F5B508A50B13E3
    created: 2024-04-15 expires: 2025-04-15 usage: ER
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>
```

gpg> addkey

Please select what kind of key you want:

- (3) DSA (sign only)
- (4) RSA (sign only)
- (5) Elgamal (encrypt only)
- (6) RSA (encrypt only)
- (7) DSA (set your own capabilities)
- (8) RSA (set your own capabilities)
- (10) ECC (sign only)
- (11) ECC (set your own capabilities)
- (12) ECC (encrypt only)
- (13) Existing key
- (14) Existing key from card

Your selection? 8

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Sign Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? s

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Encrypt

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? e

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions:

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection? a

Possible actions for this RSA key: Sign Encrypt Authenticate  
Current allowed actions: Authenticate

- (S) Toggle the sign capability
- (E) Toggle the encrypt capability
- (A) Toggle the authenticate capability
- (Q) Finished

Your selection?

RSA keys may be between 1024 and 4096 bits long.

What keysize do you want? (3072) 4096

Requested keysize is 4096 bits

Please specify how long the key should be valid.

0 = key does not expire

<n> = key expires in n days

<n>w = key expires in n weeks

<n>m = key expires in n months

<n>y = key expires in n years

Key is valid for? (0) 1y

Key expires at Di 15 Apr 2025 12:39:33 CEST

```
Is this correct? (y/N) y
Really create? (y/N) y
We need to generate a lot of random bytes. It is a good idea to perform
some other action (type on the keyboard, move the mouse, utilize the
disks) during the prime generation; this gives the random number
generator a better chance to gain enough entropy.

sec  rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
    created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: C
    trust: ultimate      validity: ultimate
ssb  rsa4096/0E6F5B37473B0B62
    created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: SR
ssb  rsa4096/D6F5B508A50B13E3
    created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: ER
ssb  rsa4096/E1832F5AAE448C84
    created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: AR
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>

gpg> save
```

## Update expiration date

GPG keys should expire in not later than two years. The expiration dates can be changed any time, receivers of the public key just have to update it as soon it expires.

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --edit-key A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562
gpg (GnuPG) 2.4.5; Copyright (C) 2024 g10 Code GmbH
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.

Secret key is available.

gpg: checking the trustdb
gpg: marginals needed: 3  completes needed: 1  trust model: pgp
gpg: depth: 0  valid: 8  signed: 0  trust: 0-, 0q, 0n, 0m, 0f, 8u
gpg: next trustdb check due at 2025-04-15
sec  rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
    created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2025-04-15  usage: C
    trust: ultimate      validity: ultimate
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>

gpg> expire
Changing expiration time for the primary key.
Please specify how long the key should be valid.
    0 = key does not expire
    <n> = key expires in n days
    <n>w = key expires in n weeks
    <n>m = key expires in n months
    <n>y = key expires in n years
```

```
Key is valid for? (0) 1w
Key expires at Mo 22 Apr 2024 12:34:35 CEST
Is this correct? (y/N) y

sec  rsa4096/EB93D1E94EF29562
     created: 2024-04-15  expires: 2024-04-22  usage: C
     trust: ultimate      validity: ultimate
[ultimate] (1). clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>

gpg> save
```

## Show keys

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --list-keys A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562
pub  rsa4096 2024-04-15 [C] [expires: 2025-04-15]
     A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562
uid  [ultimate] clerie (test 2024-04-15) <clerie@clerie.de>
sub  rsa4096 2024-04-15 [SR] [expires: 2025-04-15]
sub  rsa4096 2024-04-15 [ER] [expires: 2025-04-15]
sub  rsa4096 2024-04-15 [AR] [expires: 2025-04-15]
```

## Export keys

### Export secret key with subkeys

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --export-secret-keys --armor
A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562 > secret-key.asc
```

### Export secret subkeys only

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --export-secret-subkeys --armor
A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562 > secret-subkeys.asc
```

### Export public key

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --export --armor
A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562 > public-key.asc
```

## Import keys

Public as well as private keys

```
gpg2 --import file.asc
```

## SSH

### Export SSH public key

```
[clerie@krypton ~]$ gpg --export-ssh-key  
A1EF35BC29E3A6E55F3CFBDCEB93D1E94EF29562  
ssh-rsa  
AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQCAQC3VDWw6oCPS+ztxJ4R0wnWqDrVkhlmVl8ycRXbIT+/pWeb  
DX+z0eqYddSyMIKv3lPMw0qeZCERTp/vDfrWVbSJ+65E2MrGJyy0icBezT9qQBG/WaR/ESZpfckr  
ZBlE9SkXe1Ftxvl/RsrZz2p9+Xnzz3ZI5gh2tFTThEVJKPKypZuofPSzazDP+iDni7MXr9l5Heey4  
5t6GZB8RY5+JMxGL7/AE8c+I6+Y7fe7crdDGT0AD0wxyHcD02GaM3SPtawt0jYjbTkiNI0IiHlAp  
S+u8cm0pXTrqIupt6/w5a7Aq9Hua3rPk2w5oWvX9a8Jve69s16ohpHDBYyZ3w0L67XHd7/g00C1K  
8bP8jI05D7DhgPZR71SCJ5tv0GHhctjjUDxZIZnzI+3/2tvyvmes0JjGX2uMA36WkEZ01L8mfFYI  
0cFa0NqJoyGrHZRFZ3vto9SrpmABe/gtRi7v9Hh5AnW9uVGMVdywapSJ0LTEGzxD9aPxYyiYcr08  
QR32wVfGdV2d0fkEoo8/1308byvlnq0V1kZT+G0cHC/tSKjMZSk1FyJgD5WcSS90oVHjQc+j9xGC  
o/LhFI/ALNE5ZbrijEguoXaDjw8PKgGS6V5UWFeFtHkFMZWSjo2k0FuhpydwIrsiWNPEkG70HRjt  
q24RHp5Y5bPFW0AUfnv/0T2yj/otlw== openpgp:0xAE448C84
```

## Links

- <https://riseup.net/en/security/message-security/openpgp/best-practices>

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