

# GPG2

Dieses Dokument mit den Parametern ist Bestandteil des Softwarepaketes [Gpg4win](#).  
Dateiname „gpg2.man“

GPG2(1) GNU Privacy Guard  
GPG2(1)

## NAME

gpg2 - OpenPGP encryption and signing tool

## SYNOPSIS

gpg2 [--homedir dir] [--options file] [options] command [args]

## DESCRIPTION

gpg2 is the OpenPGP part of the GNU Privacy Guard (GnuPG). It is a tool to provide digital encryption and signing services using the OpenPGP standard. gpg2 features complete key management and all bells and whistles you can expect from a decent OpenPGP implementation.

In contrast to the standalone version gpg, which is more suited for server and embedded platforms, this version is commonly installed under the name gpg2 and more targeted to the desktop as it requires several other modules to be installed. The standalone version will be kept maintained and it is possible to install both versions on the same system. If you need to use different configuration files, you should make use of something like 'gpg.conf-2' instead of just 'gpg.conf'.

## RETURN VALUE

The program returns 0 if everything was fine, 1 if at least a signature was bad, and other error codes for fatal errors.

## WARNINGS

Use a *\*good\** password for your user account and a *\*good\** passphrase to protect your secret key. This passphrase is the weakest part of the whole system. Programs to do dictionary attacks on your secret keyring are very easy to write and so you should protect your "`~/.gnupg/`" directory very well.

Keep in mind that, if this program is used over a network (telnet), it is *\*very\** easy to spy out your passphrase!

If you are going to verify detached signatures, make sure that the program knows about it; either give both filenames on the command line or use `'-'` to specify STDIN.

## INTEROPERABILITY

GnuPG tries to be a very flexible implementation of the OpenPGP standard. In particular, GnuPG implements many of the optional parts of the standard, such as the SHA-512 hash, and the ZLIB and BZIP2 compression algorithms. It is important to be aware that not all OpenPGP programs implement these optional algorithms and that by forcing their use via the `--cipher-algo`, `--digest-algo`, `--cert-digest-algo`, or `--compress-algo` options in GnuPG, it is possible to create a perfectly valid OpenPGP message, but one that cannot be read by the intended recipient.

There are dozens of variations of OpenPGP programs available, and each supports a slightly different subset of these optional algorithms. For example, until recently, no (unhacked) version of PGP supported the BLOWFISH cipher algorithm. A message using BLOWFISH simply could not be read by a PGP user. By default, GnuPG uses the standard OpenPGP preferences system that will always do the right thing and create

messages

that are usable by all recipients, regardless of which OpenPGP program they use. Only override this safe default if you really know what you are doing.

If you absolutely must override the safe default, or if the preferences on a given key are invalid for some reason, you are far better off using the `--pgp6`, `--pgp7`, or `--pgp8` options. These options are safe as they do not force any particular algorithms in violation of OpenPGP, but rather reduce the available algorithms to a "PGP-safe" list.

## COMMANDS

Commands are not distinguished from options except for the fact that only one command is allowed.

`gpg2` may be run with no commands, in which case it will perform a reasonable action depending on the type of file it is given as input (an encrypted message is decrypted, a signature is verified, a file containing keys is listed).

Please remember that option as well as command parsing stops as soon as a non-option is encountered, you can explicitly stop parsing by using the special option `--`.

Commands not specific to the function

`--version`

Print the program version and licensing information.

Note that

you cannot abbreviate this command.

--help

line     -h       Print a usage message summarizing the most useful command options. Note that you cannot abbreviate this command.

--warranty

Print warranty information.

--dump-options

Print a list of all available options and commands.

Note that

you cannot abbreviate this command.

Commands to select the type of operation

--sign

encrypt     -s       Make a signature. This command may be combined with --  
signed       (for a signed and encrypted message), --symmetric (for a  
symmet-      and symmetrically encrypted message), or --encrypt and --  
via a        ric together (for a signed message that may be decrypted  
signing is   secret key or a passphrase). The key to be used for  
user and     chosen by default or can be set with the --local-  
             --default-key options.

--clearsign

signa-      Make a clear text signature. The content in a clear text  
software     ture is readable without any special software. OpenPGP  
signatures   is only needed to verify the signature. Clear text  
independence and may modify end-of-line whitespace for platform

are not intended to be reversible. The key to be used for signing is chosen by default or can be set with the `--local-user` and `--default-key` options.

`--detach-sign`

`-b` Make a detached signature.

`--encrypt`

`-e` Encrypt data. This option may be combined with `--sign` (for a signed and encrypted message), `--symmetric` (for a message that may be decrypted via a secret key or a passphrase), or `--sign` and `--symmetric` together (for a signed message that may be decrypted via a secret key or a passphrase).

`--symmetric`

`-c` Encrypt with a symmetric cipher using a passphrase. The default symmetric cipher used is CAST5, but may be chosen with the `--cipher-algo` option. This option may be combined with `--sign` (for a signed and symmetrically encrypted message), `--encrypt` (for a message that may be decrypted via a secret key or a passphrase), or `--sign` and `--encrypt` together (for a signed message that may be decrypted via a secret key or a passphrase).

`--store`

Store only (make a simple RFC1991 literal data packet).

`--decrypt`

`-d` Decrypt the file given on the command line (or STDIN if no

file is specified) and write it to STDOUT (or the file specified with `--output`). If the decrypted file is signed, the signature is also verified. This command differs from the default operation, as it never writes to the filename which is included in the file and it rejects files which don't begin with an encrypted message.

`--verify`  
Assume that the first argument is a signed file or a detached signature and verify it without generating any output. With no arguments, the signature packet is read from STDIN. If only a sigfile is given, it may be a complete signature or a detached signature, in which case the signed stuff is expected in a file without the ".sig" or ".asc" extension. With more than 1 argument, the first should be a detached signature and the remaining files are the signed stuff. To read the signed stuff from STDIN, use '-' as the second filename. For security reasons a detached signature cannot read the signed material from STDIN without denoting it in the above way.

Note: When verifying a cleartext signature, `gpg` verifies only what makes up the cleartext signed data and not any extra data outside of the cleartext signature or header lines following directly the dash marker line. The option `--output` may be used to write out the actual signed data; but there are other pitfalls with this format as well. It is suggested to avoid clear-text signatures in favor of detached signatures.

`--multifile`  
This modifies certain other commands to accept multiple files for processing on the command line or read from STDIN with each filename on a separate line. This allows for many files to be processed at once. `--multifile` may currently be used along with `--verify`, `--encrypt`, and `--decrypt`. Note that `--multifile` `--verify` may not be used with detached signatures.

`--verify-files`  
Identical to `--multifile --verify`.

`--encrypt-files`  
Identical to `--multifile --encrypt`.

`--decrypt-files`  
Identical to `--multifile --decrypt`.

`--list-keys`  
`-k`

`--list-public-keys`  
List all keys from the public keyrings, or just the keys given on the command line.

Avoid using the output of this command in scripts or other programs as it is likely to change as GnuPG changes. See `-with-` colons for a machine-parseable key listing command that is appropriate for use in scripts and other programs.

`--list-secret-keys`  
`-K` List all keys from the secret keyrings, or just the ones given on the command line. A `#` after the letters `sec` means that the secret key is not usable (for example, if it was

created via

```
--export-secret-subkeys).
```

```
--list-sigs
```

Same as `--list-keys`, but the signatures are listed too.

This

command has the same effect as using `--list-keys` with `-`

`--with-`

```
sig-list.
```

between

information

numbers

"L" for

for a

"nrsign"),

cert-pol-

notation (see

`--ask-cert-`

indicate

"tsign").

For each signature listed, there are several flags in the "sig" tag and keyid. These flags give additional information about each signature. From left to right, they are the numbers 1-3 for certificate check level (see `--ask-cert-level`), "L" for a local or non-exportable signature (see `--lsign-key`), "R" for a nonRevocable signature (see the `--edit-key` command "nrsign"), "P" for a signature that contains a policy URL (see `--cert-policy-url`), "N" for a signature that contains a notation (see `--cert-notation`), "X" for an expired signature (see `--ask-cert-expire`), and the numbers 1-9 or "T" for 10 and above to indicate trust signature levels (see the `--edit-key` command "tsign").

```
--check-sigs
```

Same as `--list-sigs`, but the signatures are verified.

Note that

signing key

`--list-`

for performance reasons the revocation status of a key is not shown. This command has the same effect as using `--list-keys` with `--with-sig-check`.

directly

described

signature has

The status of the verification is indicated by a flag following the "sig" tag (and thus before the flags above for `--list-sigs`). A "!" indicates that the signature has been successfully verified, a "-" denotes a bad signature



and a  
signature  
"%" is used if an error occurred while checking the  
(e.g. a non supported algorithm).

--locate-keys  
Locate the keys given as arguments. This command  
basically uses  
the same algorithm as used when locating keys for  
encryption or  
signing and may thus be used to see what keys gpg2 might  
use.  
In particular external methods as defined by --auto-key-  
locate  
may be used to locate a key. Only public keys are listed.

--fingerprint  
List all keys (or the specified ones) along with their  
finger-  
prints. This is the same output as --list-keys but  
with the  
additional output of a line with the fingerprint. May  
also be  
combined with --list-sigs or --check-sigs. If this  
command is  
given twice, the fingerprints of all secondary keys are  
listed  
too.

--list-packets  
List only the sequence of packets. This is mainly  
useful for  
debugging.

--card-edit  
Present a menu to work with a smartcard. The subcommand  
"help"  
provides an overview on available commands. For a  
detailed  
description, please see the Card HOWTO at  
<https://gnupg.org/doc-umentation/howtos.html#GnuPG-cardHOWTO> .

--card-status

Show the content of the smart card.

**--change-pin**

Present a menu to allow changing the PIN of a smartcard. This functionality is also available as the subcommand "passwd" with the --card-edit command.

**--delete-key name**

Remove key from the public keyring. In batch mode either --yes is required or the key must be specified by fingerprint. This is a safeguard against accidental deletion of multiple keys.

**--delete-secret-key name**

Remove key from the secret keyring. In batch mode the key must be specified by fingerprint.

**--delete-secret-and-public-key name**

Same as --delete-key, but if a secret key exists, it will be removed first. In batch mode the key must be specified by fingerprint.

**--export**

Either export all keys from all keyrings (default keyrings and those registered via option --keyring), or if at least one name is given, those of the given name. The exported keys are written to STDOUT or to the file given with option --output. Use together with --armor to mail those keys.

**--send-keys key IDs**

Similar to --export but sends the keys to a keyserver. Fingerprints may be used instead of key IDs. Option --keyserver must be used to give the name of this keyserver. Don't send

your com-  
which  
does  
plete keyring to a keyserver --- select only those keys  
are new or changed by you. If no key IDs are given, gpg  
nothing.

--export-secret-keys

--export-secret-subkeys

Same as --export, but exports the secret keys  
instead. The  
with  
with the  
paper  
job for  
key can  
inse-  
exported keys are written to STDOUT or to the file given  
option --output. This command is often used along  
option --armor to allow easy printing of the key for  
backup; however the external tool paperkey does a better  
creating backups on paper. Note that exporting a secret  
be a security risk if the exported keys are send over an  
cure channel.

ren-  
a GNU  
not be  
use is  
on a  
the key  
The second form of the command has the special property to  
der the secret part of the primary key useless; this is  
extension to OpenPGP and other implementations can  
expected to successfully import such a key. Its intended  
to generated a full key with an additional signing subkey  
dedicated machine and then using this command to export  
without the primary key to the main machine.

import an  
See the option --simple-sk-checksum if you want to  
exported secret key into ancient OpenPGP implementations.

--import

--fast-import

Import/merge keys. This adds the given keys to the  
keyring. The

fast version is currently just a synonym.

command

There are a few other options which control how this

merge-only

works. Most notable here is the `--import-options`

merging

option which does not insert new keys but does only the

of new signatures, user-IDs and subkeys.

`--recv-keys` key IDs

Import the keys with the given key IDs from a keyserver.

Option

`--keyserver` must be used to give the name of this

keyserver.

`--refresh-keys`

Request updates from a keyserver for keys that already

exist on

the local keyring. This is useful for updating a key

with the

latest signatures, user IDs, etc. Calling this with no

arguments

will refresh the entire keyring. Option `--keyserver` must

be used

to give the name of the keyserver for all keys that do not

have

preferred keyservers set (see `--keyserver-options`

honor-key-

`server-url`).

`--search-keys` names

Search the keyserver for the given names. Multiple names

given

here will be joined together to create the search string

for the

keyserver. Option `--keyserver` must be used to give the

name of

this keyserver. Keyservers that support different search

meth-

ods allow using the syntax specified in "How to specify a

user

ID" below. Note that different keyserver types support

different

search methods. Currently only LDAP supports them all.

`--fetch-keys` URIs

different  
(HTTP,  
Retrieve keys located at the specified URIs. Note that  
installations of GnuPG may support different protocols  
FTP, LDAP, etc.)

`--update-trustdb`  
Do trust database maintenance. This command iterates  
over all  
keys and builds the Web of Trust. This is an interactive  
command  
because it may have to ask for the "ownertrust" values for  
keys.  
The user has to give an estimation of how far she  
trusts the  
owner of the displayed key to correctly certify (sign)  
other  
keys. GnuPG only asks for the ownertrust value if it has  
not yet  
been assigned to a key. Using the `--edit-key` menu, the  
assigned  
value can be changed at any time.

`--check-trustdb`  
Do trust database maintenance without user  
interaction. From  
time to time the trust database must be updated so that  
expired  
keys or signatures and the resulting changes in the Web of  
Trust  
can be tracked. Normally, GnuPG will calculate when  
this is  
required and do it automatically unless `--no-auto-check-`  
`trustdb`  
is set. This command can be used to force a trust database  
check  
at any time. The processing is identical to that of `--`  
`update-`  
`trustdb` but it skips keys with a not yet defined  
"ownertrust".

For use with cron jobs, this command can be used together  
with  
`--batch` in which case the trust database check is done  
only if a  
check is needed. To force a run even in batch mode  
add the  
option `--yes`.

`--export-ownertrust`  
Send the ownertrust values to STDOUT. This is useful for backup purposes as these values are the only ones which can't be re-created from a corrupted trustdb. Example:  
`gpg2 --export-ownertrust > otrust.txt`

`--import-ownertrust`  
Update the trustdb with the ownertrust values stored in files (or STDIN if not given); existing values will be overwritten. In case of a severely damaged trustdb and if you have a recent backup of the ownertrust values (e.g. in the file 'otrust.txt', you may re-create the trustdb using these commands:  
`cd ~/.gnupg`  
`rm trustdb.gpg`  
`gpg2 --import-ownertrust < otrust.txt`

`--rebuild-keydb-caches`  
When updating from version 1.0.6 to 1.0.7 this command should be used to create signature caches in the keyring. It might be handy in other situations too.

`--print-md algo`  
`--print-mds`  
Print message digest of algorithm ALGO for all given files or STDIN. With the second form (or a deprecated "\*" as algo) digests for all available algorithms are printed.

`--gen-random 0|1|2 count`  
Emit count random bytes of the given quality level 0, 1 or 2. If count is not given or zero, an endless sequence of random bytes will be emitted. If used with `--armor` the output will be base64

encoded. PLEASE, don't use this command unless you know what you are doing; it may remove precious entropy from the system!

--gen-prime mode bits  
Use the source, Luke :-). The output format is still subject to change.

--enarmor  
--dearmor  
Pack or unpack an arbitrary input into/from an OpenPGP ASCII armor. This is a GnuPG extension to OpenPGP and in general not very useful.

## How to manage your keys

This section explains the main commands for key management

--gen-key  
Generate a new key pair. This command is normally only used interactively.

There is an experimental feature which allows you to create keys in batch mode. See the file 'doc/DETAILS' in the source distribution on how to use this.

--gen-revoke name  
Generate a revocation certificate for the complete key. To revoke a subkey or a signature, use the --edit command.

**--desig-revoke name**

This allows a user (with the permission of the keyholder) to revoke someone else's key.

**--edit-key**

manage- Present a menu which enables you to do most of the key  
key on ment related tasks. It expects the specification of a  
the command line.

with uid n Toggle selection of user ID or photographic user ID  
all. index n. Use \* to select all and 0 to deselect

select key n Toggle selection of subkey with index n. Use \* to  
all and 0 to deselect all.

is not sign Make a signature on key of user name If the key  
given with yet signed by the default user (or the users  
the key -u), the program displays the information of  
whether it again, together with its fingerprint and asks  
users should be signed. This question is repeated for all  
specified with -u.

as non- lsign Same as "sign" but the signature is marked  
others. exportable and will therefore never be used by  
local This may be used to make keys valid only in the  
environment.



`nr``sign` Same as "`sign`" but the signature is marked as non-revocable and can therefore never be revoked.

`tsign` Make a trust signature. This is a signature that combines the notions of certification (like a regular signature), and trust (like the "`trust`" command). It is generally only useful in distinct communities or groups.

Note that "`l`" (for local / non-exportable), "`nr`" (for non-revocable, and "`t`" (for trust) may be freely mixed and prefixed to "`sign`" to create a signature of any type desired.

`delsig` Delete a signature. Note that it is not possible to retract a signature, once it has been send to the public (i.e. to a keyserver). In that case you better use `revsig`.

`revsig` Revoke a signature. For every signature which has been generated by one of the secret keys, GnuPG asks whether a revocation certificate should be generated.

`check` Check the signatures on all selected user IDs.

`adduid` Create an additional user ID.

`addphoto` Create a photographic user ID. This will prompt for a JPEG file that will be embedded into the user ID. Note that a very large JPEG will make for a very large key. Also note that some programs will display your

## JPEG

unchanged (GnuPG), and some programs will scale it to fit in a dialog box (PGP).

### showphoto

Display the selected photographic user ID.

deluid Delete a user ID or photographic user ID. Note

that it is not possible to retract a user id, once it has been send to the public (i.e. to a keyserver). In that case you better use revuid.

revuid Revoke a user ID or photographic user ID.

### primary

Flag the current user id as the primary one, removes the primary user id flag from all other user ids and sets the timestamp of all affected self-signatures one second ahead. Note that setting a photo user ID as primary makes it primary over other photo user IDs, and setting a regular user ID as primary makes it primary over other regular user IDs.

### keyserver

Set a preferred keyserver for the specified user ID(s). This allows other users to know where you prefer they get your key from. See --keyserver-options honor-url for more on how this works. Setting a value of "none" removes an existing preferred keyserver.

### notation

Set a name=value notation for the specified user ID(s). See --cert-notation for more on how this works. Setting a value of "none" removes all notations, setting a notation prefixed with a minus sign (-) removes that notation, and setting a notation name (without the =value) with a minus sign removes all notations with that name.

pref List preferences from the selected user ID. This shows the actual preferences, without including any implied preferences.

showpref More verbose preferences listing for the selected user ID. This shows the preferences in effect by including the implied preferences of 3DES (cipher), SHA-1 (digest), and Uncompressed (compression) if they are not already included in the preference list. In addition, the pre-ferred keyserver and signature notations (if any) are shown.

setpref string Set the list of user ID preferences to string for all (or just the selected) user IDs. Calling setpref with no arguments sets the preference list to the default (either built-in or set via --default-preference-list), and calling setpref with "none" as the argument sets an empty preference list. Use gpg2 --version to get a list of available algorithms. Note that while you can

change the  
ID"),  
IDs so

algorithms  
someone  
don't  
end.

choosing an  
only  
being  
exact cho-  
however, only  
preference  
INTEROPERABIL-

preferences on an attribute user ID (aka "photo  
ID"),  
GnuPG does not select keys via attribute user  
these preferences will not be used by GnuPG.

When setting preferences, you should list the  
in the order which you'd like to see them used by  
else when encrypting a message to your key. If you  
include 3DES, it will be automatically added at the  
Note that there are many factors that go into  
algorithm (for example, your key may not be the  
recipient), and so the remote OpenPGP application  
used to send to you may or may not follow your  
sen order for a given message. It will,  
choose an algorithm that is present on the  
list of every recipient key. See also the  
ITY WITH OTHER OPENPGP PROGRAMS section below.

addkey Add a subkey to this key.

addcardkey

Generate a subkey on a card and add it to this key.

keytocard

primary key  
smartcard. The  
stub if  
and you  
may be

Transfer the selected secret subkey (or the  
if no subkey has been selected) to a  
secret key in the keyring will be replaced by a  
the key could be stored successfully on the card  
use the save command later. Only certain key types  
transferred to the card. A sub menu allows you to

select  
possi-  
card gets  
have a  
on what card to store the key. Note that it is not  
ble to get that key back from the card - if the  
broken your secret key will be lost unless you  
backup somewhere.

bkuptocard file  
Restore the given file to a card. This command  
may be  
card  
cases this  
command  
sure that  
backup to  
encryp-  
the  
Admin PIN  
used to restore a backup key (as generated during  
initialization) to a new card. In almost all  
will be the encryption key. You should use this  
only with the corresponding public key and make  
the file given as argument is indeed the  
restore. You should then select 2 to restore as  
tion key. You will first be asked to enter  
passphrase of the backup key and then for the  
of the card.

delkey Remove a subkey (secondart key). Note that it is  
not pos-  
to the  
better  
sible to retract a subkey, once it has been send  
public (i.e. to a keyserver). In that case you  
use revkey.

revkey Revoke a subkey.

expire Change the key or subkey expiration time. If a  
subkey is  
will be  
of the  
selected, the expiration time of this subkey  
changed. With no selection, the key expiration  
primary key is changed.

updates trust Change the owner trust value for the key. This  
the trust-db immediately and no save is required.

disable

enable Disable or enable an entire key. A disabled key  
can not normally be used for encryption.

addrevoker  
takes one Add a designated revoker to the key. This  
revoker optional argument: "sensitive". If a designated  
is marked as sensitive, it will not be  
exported by default (see export-options).

passwd Change the passphrase of the secret key.

toggle Toggle between public and secret key listing.

selfsig) clean Compact (by removing all signatures except the  
any user ID that is no longer usable (e.g.  
revoked, or expired). Then, remove any signatures that are not  
usable by the trust calculations. Specifically, this  
removes any signature that does not validate, any  
signature that is superseded by a later signature, revoked  
signatures, and signatures issued by keys that are not present  
on the keyring.

minimize  
sig- Make the key as small as possible. This removes all  
recent natures from each user ID except for the most  
self-signature.

`cross-certify`  
Add cross-certification signatures to signing subkeys that may not currently have them. Cross-certification signatures protect against a subtle attack against signing subkeys. See `--require-cross-certification`. All new keys generated have this signature by default, so this option is only useful to bring older keys up to date.

`save` Save all changes to the key rings and quit.

`quit` Quit the program without updating the key rings.

The listing shows you the key with its secondary keys and all user ids. The primary user id is indicated by a dot, and selected keys or user ids are indicated by an asterisk. The trust value is displayed with the primary key: the first is the assigned owner trust and the second is the calculated trust value. Letters are used for the values:

- No ownertrust assigned / not yet calculated.

`e` Trust calculation has failed; probably due to an expired key.

`q` Not enough information for calculation.

`n` Never trust this key.

`m` Marginally trusted.

f Fully trusted.

u Ultimately trusted.

--sign-key name  
Signs a public key with your secret key. This is a  
shortcut ver-  
sion of the subcommand "sign" from --edit.

--lsign-key name  
Signs a public key with your secret key but marks it as  
non-  
exportable. This is a shortcut version of the subcommand  
"lsign"  
from --edit-key.

--passwd user\_id  
Change the passphrase of the secret key belonging to the  
cer-  
tificate specified as user\_id. This is a shortcut for  
the sub-  
command passwd of the edit key menu.

## OPTIONS

gpg2 features a bunch of options to control the exact behaviour  
and to  
change the default configuration.

Long options can be put in an options file  
(default  
"~/.gnupg/gpg.conf"). Short option names will not work - for  
example,  
"armor" is a valid option for the options file, while "a" is  
not. Do  
not write the 2 dashes, but simply the name of the option  
and any  
required arguments. Lines with a hash ('#') as the first non-  
white-  
space character are ignored. Commands may be put in this file  
too, but



that is not generally useful as the command will execute automatically with every execution of gpg.

Please remember that option parsing stops as soon as a non-option is encountered, you can explicitly stop parsing by using the special option --.

### How to change the configuration

These options are used to change the configuration and are usually found in the option file.

--default-key name  
Use name as the default key to sign with. If this option is not used, the default key is the first key found in the secret keyring. Note that -u or --local-user overrides this option.

--default-recipient name  
Use name as default recipient if option --recipient is not used and don't ask if this is a valid one. name must be non-empty.

--default-recipient-self  
Use the default key as default recipient if option --recipient is not used and don't ask if this is a valid one. The default key is the first one from the secret keyring or the one set with --default-key.

--no-default-recipient  
Reset --default-recipient and --default-recipient-self.

`-v, --verbose`  
Give more information during processing. If used twice, the input data is listed in detail.

`--no-verbose`  
Reset verbose level to 0.

`-q, --quiet`  
Try to be as quiet as possible.

`--batch`

`--no-batch`  
Use batch mode. Never ask, do not allow interactive commands.  
`--no-batch` disables this option. Note that even with a filename given on the command line, gpg might still need to read from STDIN (in particular if gpg figures that the input is a detached signature and no data file has been specified). Thus if you do not want to feed data via STDIN, you should connect STDIN to `'/dev/null'`.

`--no-tty`  
Make sure that the TTY (terminal) is never used for any output.  
This option is needed in some cases because GnuPG sometimes prints warnings to the TTY even if `--batch` is used.

`--yes` Assume "yes" on most questions.

`--no` Assume "no" on most questions.

`--list-options parameters`  
This is a space or comma delimited string that gives options used when listing keys and signatures (that is, --

list-keys,  
and the  
a no-  
The  
options are:

```
--list-sigs, --list-public-keys, --list-secret-keys,  
--edit-key functions). Options can be prepended with  
(after the two dashes) to give the opposite meaning.
```

show-photos  
keys, and  
attached to  
Does  
for the  
other

```
Causes --list-keys, --list-sigs, --list-public-  
--list-secret-keys to display any photo IDs  
the key. Defaults to no. See also --photo-viewer.  
not work with --with-colons: see --attribute-fd  
appropriate way to get photo data for scripts and  
frontends.
```

show-policy-urls  
list-  
ings. Defaults to no.

```
Show policy URLs in the --list-sigs or --check-sigs
```

show-notations

show-std-notations

show-user-notations  
nota-  
listings.  
Defaults to no.

```
Show all, IETF standard, or user-defined signature  
tions in the --list-sigs or --check-sigs
```

show-keyserver-urls  
sigs or  
--check-sigs listings. Defaults to no.

```
Show any preferred keyserver URL in the --list-
```

show-uid-validity  
Display the calculated validity of user IDs

during key listings. Defaults to no.

show-unusable-uids  
Show revoked and expired user IDs in key listings.  
Defaults to no.

show-unusable-subkeys  
Show revoked and expired subkeys in key listings.  
Defaults to no.

show-keyring  
Display the keyring name at the head of key listings to show which keyring a given key resides on.  
Defaults to no.

show-sig-expire  
Show signature expiration dates (if any) during -list-sigs or --check-sigs listings. Defaults to no.

show-sig-subpackets  
Include signature subpackets in the key listing.  
This option can take an optional argument list of the subpackets to list. If no argument is passed, list all subpackets. Defaults to no. This option is only meaningful when using --with-colons along with --list-sigs or --check-sigs.

--verify-options parameters  
This is a space or comma delimited string that gives options used when verifying signatures. Options can be prepended with a 'no-' to give the opposite meaning. The options are:

show-photos  
Display any photo IDs present on the key that issued the signature. Defaults to no. See also --photo-viewer.

show-policy-urls  
Show policy URLs in the signature being verified. Defaults to no.

show-notations  
show-std-notations  
show-user-notations  
Show all, IETF standard, or user-defined signature notations in the signature being verified. Defaults to IETF standard.

show-keyserver-urls  
Show any preferred keyserver URL in the signature being verified. Defaults to no.

show-uid-validity  
Display the calculated validity of the user IDs on the key that issued the signature. Defaults to no.

show-unusable-uids  
Show revoked and expired user IDs during signature verification. Defaults to no.

show-primary-uid-only  
Show only the primary user ID during signature verification. That is all the AKA lines as well as photo IDs are not shown with the signature verification status.

### pka-lookups

that  
may dis-  
veri-  
to the  
feature.

Enable PKA lookups to verify sender addresses. Note  
PKA is based on DNS, and so enabling this option  
close information on when and what signatures are  
fied or to whom data is encrypted. This is similar  
"web bug" described for the auto-key-retrieve

### pka-trust-increase

signature  
meaningful if

Raise the trust in a signature to full if the  
passes PKA validation. This option is only  
pka-lookups is set.

### --enable-large-rsa

larger RSA  
bits).  
signatures

--disable-large-rsa  
With --gen-key and --batch, enable the creation of  
secret keys than is generally recommended (up to 8192  
bits).  
These large keys are more expensive to use, and their  
and certifications are also larger.

### --enable-dsa2

Keys up  
Note  
allow

--disable-dsa2  
Enable hash truncation for all DSA keys even for old DSA  
to 1024 bit. This is also the default with --openpgp.  
that older versions of GnuPG also required this flag to  
the generation of DSA larger than 1024 bit.

### --photo-viewer string

photo ID.  
photo. "%I"

This is the command line that should be run to view a  
"%i" will be expanded to a filename containing the  
does the same, except the file will not be deleted

once the viewer exits. Other flags are "%k" for the key ID, "%K" for the long key ID, "%f" for the key fingerprint, "%t" for the extension of the image type (e.g. "jpg"), "%T" for the MIME type of the image (e.g. "image/jpeg"), "%v" for the single-character calculated validity of the image being viewed (e.g. "f"), "%V" for the calculated validity as a string (e.g. "full"), "%U" for a base32 encoded hash of the user ID, and "%%" for an actual percent sign. If neither %i or %I are present, then the photo will be supplied to the viewer on standard input.

The default viewer is "xloadimage -fork -quiet -title 'KeyID 0x%k' STDIN". Note that if your image viewer program is not secure, then executing it from GnuPG does not make it secure.

`--exec-path string`  
 Sets a list of directories to search for photo viewers and key-server helpers. If not provided, keyserver helpers use the compiled-in default directory, and photo viewers use the \$PATH environment variable. Note, that on W32 system this value is ignored when searching for keyserver helpers.

`--keyring file`  
 Add file to the current list of keyrings. If file begins with a tilde and a slash, these are replaced by the \$HOME directory. If the filename does not contain a slash, it is assumed to be in the GnuPG home directory ("~/.gnupg" if --homedir or \$GNUPGHOME is not used).

Note that this adds a keyring to the current list. If the

intent

is to use the specified keyring alone, use `--keyring` along with `--no-default-keyring`.

`--secret-keyring file`

Same as `--keyring` but for the secret keyrings.

`--primary-keyring file`

Designate `file` as the primary public keyring. This means that newly imported keys (via `--import` or `keyserver --recv-from`) will go to this keyring.

`--trustdb-name file`

Use `file` instead of the default `trustdb`. If `file` begins with a tilde and a slash, these are replaced by the `$HOME` directory. If the filename does not contain a slash, it is assumed to be in the GnuPG home directory (`'~/.gnupg'` if `--homedir` or `$GNUPGHOME` is not used).

`--homedir dir`

Set the name of the home directory to `dir`. If this option is not used, the home directory defaults to `'~/.gnupg'`. It is only recognized when given on the command line. It also overrides any home directory stated through the environment variable `'GNUPGHOME'` or (on W32 systems) by means of the Registry entry `HKCU\Software\GNU\GnuPG:HomeDir`.

`--display-charset name`

Set the name of the native character set. This is used to



con-  
proper  
char-  
does not  
used, the  
locale. A  
values for

vert some informational strings like user IDs to the UTF-8 encoding. Note that this has nothing to do with the character set of data to be encrypted or signed; GnuPG recode user-supplied data. If this option is not default character set is determined from the current verbosity level of 3 shows the chosen set. Valid name are:

iso-8859-1  
This is the Latin 1 set.

iso-8859-2  
The Latin 2 set.

iso-8859-15  
This is currently an alias for the Latin 1 set.

koi8-r The usual Russian set (rfc1489).

OS uses

utf-8 Bypass all translations and assume that the native UTF-8 encoding.

--utf8-strings

--no-utf8-strings  
Assume that command line arguments are given as UTF8 strings.  
The default (--no-utf8-strings) is to assume that arguments are encoded in the character set as specified by --display-charset.  
These options affect all following arguments. Both options may be used multiple times.

`--options file`  
Read options from file and do not try to read them from the default options file in the homedir (see `--homedir`). This option is ignored if used in an options file.

`--no-options`  
Shortcut for `--options /dev/null`. This option is detected before an attempt to open an option file. Using this option will also prevent the creation of a `'~/.gnupg'` homedir.

`-z n`

`--compress-level n`

`--bzip2-compress-level n`  
Set compression level to `n` for the ZIP and ZLIB compression algorithms. The default is to use the default compression level of zlib (normally 6). `--bzip2-compress-level` sets the compression level for the BZIP2 compression algorithm (defaulting to 6 as well). This is a different option from `--compress-level` since BZIP2 uses a significant amount of memory for each additional compression level. `-z` sets both. A value of 0 for `n` disables compression.

`--bzip2-decompress-lowmem`  
Use a different decompression method for BZIP2 compressed files. This alternate method uses a bit more than half the memory, but also runs at half the speed. This is useful under extreme low memory circumstances when the file was originally compressed at a high `--bzip2-compress-level`.

`--mangle-dos-filenames`

`--no-mangle-dos-filenames`

Older version of Windows cannot handle filenames with more than one dot. `--mangle-dos-filenames` causes GnuPG to replace (rather than add to) the extension of an output filename to avoid this problem. This option is off by default and has no effect on non-Windows platforms.

`--ask-cert-level`

`--no-ask-cert-level`

When making a key signature, prompt for a certification level. If this option is not specified, the certification level used is set via `--default-cert-level`. See `--default-cert-level` for information on the specific levels and how they are used. `--no-ask-cert-level` disables this option. This option defaults to no.

`--default-cert-level n`

The default to use for the check level when signing a key. 0 means you make no particular claim as to how carefully you verified the key.

1 means you believe the key is owned by the person who claims to own it but you could not, or did not verify the key at all. This is useful for a "persona" verification, where you sign the key of a pseudonymous user.

2 means you did casual verification of the key. For example, this could mean that you verified the key fingerprint and checked the user ID on the key against a photo ID.

3 means you did extensive verification of the key. For

example,  
 with the  
 means of a  
 passport) that  
 on the  
 that  
 are just  
 what

this could mean that you verified the key fingerprint  
 owner of the key in person, and that you checked, by  
 hard to forge document with a photo ID (such as a  
 the name of the key owner matches the name in the user ID  
 key, and finally that you verified (by exchange of email)  
 the email address on the key belongs to the key owner.

Note that the examples given above for levels 2 and 3  
 that: examples. In the end, it is up to you to decide just  
 "casual" and "extensive" mean to you.

This option defaults to 0 (no particular claim).

--min-cert-level  
 with a  
 which  
 particular

When building the trust database, treat any signatures  
 certification level below this as invalid. Defaults to 2,  
 disregards level 1 signatures. Note that level 0 "no  
 claim" signatures are always accepted.

--trusted-key long key ID  
 full 8  
 keys.  
 secret keys  
 check the

Assume that the specified key (which must be given as a  
 byte key ID) is as trustworthy as one of your own secret  
 keys.  
 This option is useful if you don't want to keep your  
 (or one of them) online but still want to be able to  
 validity of a given recipient's or signator's key.

--trust-model pgp|classic|direct|always|auto  
 Set what trust model GnuPG should follow. The models are:

pgp This is the Web of Trust combined with trust  
 signatures

trust as used in PGP 5.x and later. This is the default model when creating a new trust database.

classic  
2.x and This is the standard Web of Trust as used in PGP earlier.

calcu- direct Key validity is set directly by the user and not later via the Web of Trust.

always Skip key validation and assume that used keys are always fully trusted. You generally won't use this unless you are using some external validation scheme. This option also suppresses the "[uncertain]" tag printed with signature checks when there is no evidence that the user ID is bound to the key. Note that this trust model still does not allow the use of expired, revoked, or disabled keys.

internal auto Select the trust model depending on whatever the trust database says. This is the default model if such a database already exists.

--auto-key-locate parameters

--no-auto-key-locate

using GnuPG can automatically locate and retrieve keys as needed this option. This happens when encrypting to an email address (in the "user@example.com" form), and there are no user@example.com keys on the local keyring. This option takes any number of the following mechanisms, in the order they are to be

tried:

cert    Locate a key using DNS CERT, as specified in  
rfc4398.

pk      Locate a key using DNS PKA.

ldap    Using DNS Service Discovery, check the domain in  
question for any LDAP keyserver to use. If this fails,  
attempt to locate the key using the PGP Universal  
method of checking 'ldap://keys.(thedomain)'.

keyserver  
using    Locate a key using whatever keyserver is defined  
the --keyserver option.

keyserver-URL  
keyserver    In addition, a keyserver URL as used in the --  
particular key- option may be used here to query that  
server.

local    Locate the key using the local keyrings. This  
mechanism allows to select the order a local key lookup is  
done. Thus using '--auto-key-locate local' is  
identical to --no-auto-key-locate.

nodefault  
lookup, done    This flag disables the standard local key  
auto-key-locate before any of the mechanisms defined by the --  
in the locate are tried. The position of this mechanism  
list does not matter. It is not required if

`local` is also used.

`clear` Clear all defined mechanisms. This is useful to override mechanisms given in a config file.

`--keyid-format short|0xshort|long|0xlong`  
Select how to display key IDs. "short" is the traditional 8-character key ID. "long" is the more accurate (but less convenient) 16-character key ID. Add an "0x" to either to include an "0x" at the beginning of the key ID, as in 0x99242560. Note that this option is ignored if the option `--with-colons` is used.

`--keyserver name`  
Use name as your keyserver. This is the server that `--recv-keys`, `--send-keys`, and `--search-keys` will communicate with to receive keys from, send keys to, and search for keys on. The format of the name is a URI: ``scheme:[//]keyservername[:port]'` The scheme is the type of keyserver: "hkp" for the HTTP (or compatible) keyserver, "ldap" for the LDAP keyserver, or "mailto" for the Graff email keyserver. Note that your particular installation of GnuPG may have other keyserver types available as well. Keyserver schemes are case-insensitive. After the keyserver name, optional keyserver configuration options may be provided. These are the same as the global `--keyserver-options` from below, but apply only to this particular keyserver.

Most keyserver synchronize with each other, so there is generally no need to send keys to more than one server. The

## keyserver

different

hkp://keys.gnupg.net uses round robin DNS to give a keyserver each time you use it.

### --keyserver-options name=value1

options for

give the

may be

export-

options

are:

This is a space or comma delimited string that gives

the keyserver. Options can be prefixed with a 'no-' to

opposite meaning. Valid import-options or export-options

used here as well to apply to importing (--recv-key) or

ing (--send-key) a key from a keyserver. While not all

are available for all keyserver types, some common options

### include-revoked

include keys

that

revoked and

option is

not have

and so

keys that

When searching for a key with --search-keys, that are marked on the keyserver as revoked. Note not all keyserver differentiate between unrevoked keys, and for such keyserver this meaningless. Note also that most keyserver do cryptographic verification of key revocations, turning this option off may result in skipping are incorrectly marked as revoked.

### include-disabled

include keys

Note that

When searching for a key with --search-keys, that are marked on the keyserver as disabled. this option is not used with HKP keyserver.

### auto-key-retrieve

keys from

This option enables the automatic retrieving of



keys that a keyserver when verifying signatures made by are not on the local keyring.

behavior Note that this option makes a "web bug" like possible. Keyserver operators can see which keys you request, so by sending you a message signed by a brand new key (which you naturally will not have on your local keyring), the operator can tell both your IP address and the time when you verified the signature.

honor-keyserver-url

When using `--refresh-keys`, if the key in question has a preferred keyserver URL, then use that preferred keyserver to refresh the key from. In addition, if `auto-key-retrieve` is set, and the signature being verified has a preferred keyserver URL, then use that server to fetch the key from. Defaults to yes.

honor-pka-record

If `auto-key-retrieve` is set, and the signature being verified has a PKA record, then use the PKA information to fetch the key. Defaults to yes.

include-subkeys

When receiving a key, include subkeys as potential tar-gets. Note that this option is not used with HKP key-servers, as they do not support retrieving keys by subkey id.

use-temp-files

On most Unix-like platforms, GnuPG communicates

with the keyserver helper program via pipes, which is the most efficient method. This option forces GnuPG to use temporary files to communicate. On some platforms (such as Win32 and RISC OS), this option is always enabled.

**keep-temp-files**  
If using `'use-temp-files'`, do not delete the temporary files after using them. This option is useful to learn the keyserver communication protocol by reading the files.

**verbose**  
Tell the keyserver helper program to be more verbose. This option can be repeated multiple times to increase the verbosity level.

**timeout**  
Tell the keyserver helper program how long (in seconds) to try and perform a keyserver action before giving up. Note that performing multiple actions at the same time uses this timeout value per action. For example, when retrieving multiple keys via `--recv-keys`, the timeout applies separately to each key retrieval, and not to the `--recv-keys` command as a whole. Defaults to 30 seconds.

**http-proxy=value**  
Set the proxy to use for HTTP and HKP keyservers. This overrides the `"http_proxy"` environment variable, if any.

`max-cert-size`  
When retrieving a key via DNS CERT, only accept  
keys up to this size. Defaults to 16384 bytes.

`debug` Turn on debug output in the keyserver helper  
program.  
Note that the details of debug output depends on  
which keyserver helper program is being used, and in  
turn, on any libraries that the keyserver helper  
program uses internally (libcurl, openldap, etc).

`check-cert`  
Enable certificate checking if the keyserver  
presents one (for hkps or  
ldaps). Defaults to on.

`ca-cert-file`  
Provide a certificate store to override the  
system default. Only  
necessary if `check-cert` is enabled, and the  
keyserver is using a  
certificate that is not present in a system  
default certificate list.  
Note that depending on the SSL library that the  
key-server helper is  
built with, this may actually be a directory or a  
file.

`--completes-needed n`  
Number of completely trusted users to introduce a new key  
signer (defaults to 1).

`--marginals-needed n`  
Number of marginally trusted users to introduce a new key

signer

(defaults to 3)

--max-cert-depth n

Maximum depth of a certification chain (default is 5).

--simple-sk-checksum

Secret keys are integrity protected by using a SHA-1 checksum.

This method is part of the upcoming enhanced OpenPGP specification but GnuPG already uses it as a countermeasure against certain attacks. Old applications don't understand this new format, so this option may be used to switch back to the old behaviour. Using this option bears a security risk. Note that this option only takes effect when the secret key is encrypted - the simplest way to make this happen is to change the passphrase on the key (even changing it to the same value is acceptable).

--no-sig-cache

Do not cache the verification status of key signatures. Caching gives a much better performance in key listings. However, if you suspect that your public keyring is not save against write modifications, you can use this option to disable the caching. It probably does not make sense to disable it because all kind of damage can be done if someone else has write access to your public keyring.

--no-sig-create-check

GnuPG normally verifies each signature right after creation to protect against bugs and hardware malfunctions which could leak out bits from the secret key. This extra verification

needs some time (about 115% for DSA keys), and so this option can be used to disable it. However, due to the fact that the signature creation needs manual interaction, this performance penalty does not matter in most settings.

`--auto-check-trustdb`

`--no-auto-check-trustdb`

Trust has If GnuPG feels that its information about the Web of command to be updated, it automatically runs the `--check-trustdb` internally. This may be a time consuming process. `--no-auto-check-trustdb` disables this option.

`--use-agent`

`--no-use-agent`

This is dummy option. `gpg2` always requires the agent.

`--gpg-agent-info`

This is dummy option. It has no effect when used with `gpg2`.

`--agent-program file`

Specify an agent program to be used for secret key operations.

The default value is the `'/usr/bin/gpg-agent'`. This is only used as a fallback when the environment variable `GPG_AGENT_INFO` is not set or a running agent cannot be connected.

`--lock-once`

do not Lock the databases the first time a lock is requested and release the lock until the process terminates.

`--lock-multiple`  
Release the locks every time a lock is no longer needed. Use this to override a previous `--lock-once` from a config file.

`--lock-never`  
Disable locking entirely. This option should be used only in very special environments, where it can be assured that only one process is accessing those files. A bootable floppy with a stand-alone encryption system will probably use this. Improper usage of this option may lead to data and key corruption.

`--exit-on-status-write-error`  
This option will cause write errors on the status FD to immediately terminate the process. That should in fact be the default but it never worked this way and thus we need an option to enable this, so that the change won't break applications which close their end of a status fd connected pipe too early. Using this option along with `--enable-progress-filter` may be used to cleanly cancel long running gpg operations.

`--limit-card-insert-tries n`  
With `n` greater than 0 the number of prompts asking to insert a smartcard gets limited to `N-1`. Thus with a value of 1 gpg won't at all ask to insert a card if none has been inserted at startup. This option is useful in the configuration file in case an application does not know about the smartcard support and waits ad infinitum for an inserted card.

`--no-random-seed-file`  
GnuPG uses a file to store its internal random pool over

invoca-  
sometimes  
used to  
tions. This makes random generation faster; however  
write operations are not desired. This option can be  
achieve that with the cost of slower random generation.

--no-greeting  
Suppress the initial copyright message.

--no-secmem-warning  
Suppress the warning about "using insecure memory".

--no-permission-warning  
Suppress the warning about unsafe file and home  
directory  
that  
rather  
problems. Do  
system is  
cannot be  
attacker  
file to  
warn-  
Note that the warning for unsafe --homedir permissions  
suppressed in the gpg.conf file, as this would allow an  
to place an unsafe gpg.conf file in place, and use this  
suppress warnings about itself. The --homedir permissions  
ing may only be suppressed on the command line.

--no-mdc-warning  
Suppress the warning about missing MDC integrity  
protection.

--require-secmem

--no-require-secmem  
Refuse to run if GnuPG cannot get secure memory. Defaults  
to no  
(i.e. run, but give a warning).

`--require-cross-certification`

`--no-require-cross-certification`

When verifying a signature made from a subkey, ensure that the cross certification "back signature" on the subkey is present and valid. This protects against a subtle attack against subkeys that can sign. Defaults to `--require-cross-certification` for gpg2.

`--expert`

`--no-expert`

Allow the user to do certain nonsensical or "silly" things like signing an expired or revoked key, or certain potentially incompatible things like generating unusual key types. This also disables certain warning messages about potentially incompatible actions. As the name implies, this option is for experts only. If you don't fully understand the implications of what it allows you to do, leave this off. `--no-expert` disables this option.

## Key related options

`--recipient name`

`-r` Encrypt for user id name. If this option or `--hidden-recipient` is not specified, GnuPG asks for the user-id unless `--default-recipient` is given.

`--hidden-recipient name`



`-R` Encrypt for user ID name, but hide the key ID of this user's message and key. This option helps to hide the receiver of the message and is a limited countermeasure against traffic analysis. If this option or `--recipient` is not specified, GnuPG asks for the user ID unless `--default-recipient` is given.

`--encrypt-to name`  
Same as `--recipient` but this one is intended for use in the options file and may be used with your own user-id as an "encrypt-to-self". These keys are only used when there are other recipients given either by use of `--recipient` or by the asked user id. No trust checking is performed for these user ids and even disabled keys can be used.

`--hidden-encrypt-to name`  
Same as `--hidden-recipient` but this one is intended for use in the options file and may be used with your own user-id as a hidden "encrypt-to-self". These keys are only used when there are other recipients given either by use of `--recipient` or by the asked user id. No trust checking is performed for these user ids and even disabled keys can be used.

`--no-encrypt-to`  
Disable the use of all `--encrypt-to` and `--hidden-encrypt-to` keys.

`--group name=value1`  
Sets up a named group, which is similar to aliases in email programs. Any time the group name is a recipient (`-r` or `--recipient`), it will be expanded to the values specified.

## Multiple

### single

groups with the same name are automatically merged into a group.

### description

### treated

### level of

### another

### necessary to

### shell from

The values are key IDs or fingerprints, but any key is accepted. Note that a value with spaces in it will be treated as two different values. Note also there is only one expansion --- you cannot make a group that points to another group. When used from the command line, it may be necessary to quote the argument to this option to prevent the shell from treating it as multiple arguments.

### --ungroup name

Remove a given entry from the --group list.

### --no-groups

Remove all entries from the --group list.

### --local-user name

### over-

### -u

Use name as the key to sign with. Note that this option rides --default-key.

### --try-all-secrets

### try all

### This

### recipients

### recipient) and

### contains a

Don't look at the key ID as stored in the message but secret keys in turn to find the right decryption key. This option forces the behaviour as used by anonymous recipients (created by using --throw-keyids or --hidden-recipient) and might come handy in case where an encrypted message contains a bogus key ID.

### --skip-hidden-recipients

`--no-skip-hidden-recipients`  
During decryption skip all anonymous recipients. This option helps in the case that people use the hidden recipients feature to hide their own encrypt-to key from others. If oneself has many secret keys this may lead to a major annoyance because all keys are tried in turn to decrypt something which was not really intended for it. The drawback of this option is that it is currently not possible to decrypt a message which includes real anonymous recipients.

## Input and Output

`--armor`  
`-a` Create ASCII armored output. The default is to create the binary OpenPGP format.

`--no-armor`  
Assume the input data is not in ASCII armored format.

`--output file`  
`-o file` Write output to file.

`--max-output n`  
This option sets a limit on the number of bytes that will be generated when processing a file. Since OpenPGP supports various levels of compression, it is possible that the plaintext of a given message may be significantly larger than the

original

messages,

will be

limits.

OpenPGP message. While GnuPG works properly with such there is often a desire to set a maximum file size that generated before processing is forced to stop by the OS Defaults to 0, which means "no limit".

--import-options parameters

options for

give

This is a space or comma delimited string that gives importing keys. Options can be prepended with a `no-` to the opposite meaning. The options are:

import-local-sigs

This is

scheme is

Allow importing key signatures marked as "local". not generally useful unless a shared keyring being used. Defaults to no.

import-keep-ownertrust

values of a

general

auto-

import.

import

assigned

using this

Normally possible still existing ownertrust key are cleared if a key is imported. This is in desirable so that a formerly deleted key does not matically gain an ownertrust values merely due to On the other hand it is sometimes necessary to re-a trusted set of keys again but keeping already ownertrust values. This can be achived by option.

repair-pks-subkey-bug

by the

mangles keys

During import, attempt to repair the damage caused PKS keyserver bug (pre version 0.9.6) that with multiple subkeys. Note that this cannot

completely  
removed by  
back one  
to yes

repair the damaged key as some crucial data is  
the keyserver, but it does at least give you  
subkey. Defaults to no for regular `--import` and  
for keyserver `--recv-keys`.

merge-only  
but do  
no.

During import, allow key updates to existing keys,  
not allow any new keys to be imported. Defaults to  
no.

import-clean  
except the  
that are  
new key  
were  
keyring. This  
command

After import, compact (remove all signatures  
self-signature) any user IDs from the new key  
not usable. Then, remove any signatures from the  
that are not usable. This includes signatures that  
issued by keys that are not present on the  
option is the same as running the `--edit-key`  
"clean" after import. Defaults to no.

import-minimal  
signa-  
user  
edit-key

Import the smallest key possible. This removes all  
tures except the most recent self-signature on each  
ID. This option is the same as running the `--`  
command "minimize" after import. Defaults to no.

--export-options parameters  
options for  
to give

This is a space or comma delimited string that gives  
exporting keys. Options can be prepended with a ``no-'`  
the opposite meaning. The options are:

`export-local-sigs`

This is  
scheme is

Allow exporting key signatures marked as "local".  
not generally useful unless a shared keyring  
being used. Defaults to no.

`export-attributes`

exporting.  
to be  
attribute

Include attribute user IDs (photo IDs) while  
This is useful to export keys if they are going  
used by an OpenPGP program that does not accept  
user IDs. Defaults to yes.

`export-sensitive-revkeys`

marked as

Include designated revoker information that was  
"sensitive". Defaults to no.

`export-reset-subkey-passwd`

this  
subkeys to  
to be  
doesn't

When using the `--export-secret-subkeys` command,  
option resets the passphrases for all exported  
empty. This is useful when the exported subkey is  
used on an unattended machine where a passphrase  
necessarily make sense. Defaults to no.

`export-clean`

the key  
Also, do  
This  
are not  
run-  
except  
Defaults

Compact (remove all signatures from) user IDs on  
being exported if the user IDs are not usable.  
not export any signatures that are not usable.  
includes signatures that were issued by keys that  
present on the keyring. This option is the same as  
ning the `--edit-key` command "clean" before export  
that the local copy of the key is not modified.

to no.

#### export-minimal

Export the smallest key possible. This removes all signatures except the most recent self-signature on each user ID. This option is the same as running the `--edit-key` command "minimize" before export except that the local copy of the key is not modified. Defaults to no.

#### --with-colons

Print key listings delimited by colons. Note that the output will be encoded in UTF-8 regardless of any `--display-charset` setting. This format is useful when GnuPG is called from scripts and other programs as it is easily machine parsed. The details of this format are documented in the file 'doc/DETAILS', which is included in the GnuPG source distribution.

#### --fixed-list-mode

Do not merge primary user ID and primary key in `--with-colon` listing mode and print all timestamps as seconds since 1970-01-01. Since GnuPG 2.0.10, this mode is always used and thus this option is obsolete; it does not harm to use it though.

#### --with-fingerprint

Same as the command `--fingerprint` but changes only the format of the output and may be used together with another command.

OpenPGP protocol specific options.

`-t, --textmode`

`--no-textmode`

Treat input files as text and store them in the OpenPGP canonical text form with standard "CRLF" line endings. This also sets the necessary flags to inform the recipient that the encrypted or signed data is text and may need its line endings converted back to whatever the local system uses. This option is useful when communicating between two platforms that have different line ending conventions (UNIX-like to Mac, Mac to Windows, etc).

`--no-textmode` disables this option, and is the default.

`--force-v3-sigs`

`--no-force-v3-sigs`

OpenPGP states that an implementation should generate v4 signatures but PGP versions 5 through 7 only recognize v4 on key material. This option forces v3 signatures for signatures on data. Note that this option implies `--no-ask-sig-expire`, and unsets `--sig-policy-url`, `--sig-notation`, and `--sig-keyserver-url`, as these features cannot be used with v3 signatures.

`--no-force-v3-sigs` disables this option. Defaults to no.

`--force-v4-certs`

`--no-force-v4-certs`

Always use v4 key signatures even on v3 keys. This option also changes the default hash algorithm for v3 RSA keys from MD5 to SHA-1. `--no-force-v4-certs` disables this option.

`--force-mdc`

Force the use of encryption with a modification detection



code.

This is always used with the newer ciphers (those with a block-size greater than 64 bits), or if all of the recipient keys indicate MDC support in their feature flags.

`--disable-mdc`

Disable the use of the modification detection code. Note that by using this option, the encrypted message becomes vulnerable to a message modification attack.

`--personal-cipher-preferences string`

Set the list of personal cipher preferences to string.

Use `gpg2`

`--version` to get a list of available algorithms, and use `none` to set no preference at all. This allows the user to safely

over-

ride the algorithm chosen by the recipient key

preferences, as

GPG will only select an algorithm that is usable by all

recipi-

ents. The most highly ranked cipher in this list is

also used

for the `--symmetric` encryption command.

`--personal-digest-preferences string`

Set the list of personal digest preferences to string.

Use `gpg2`

`--version` to get a list of available algorithms, and use `none` to set no preference at all. This allows the user to safely

over-

ride the algorithm chosen by the recipient key

preferences, as

GPG will only select an algorithm that is usable by all

recipi-

ents. The most highly ranked digest algorithm in this

list is

also used when signing without encryption (e.g. `--`

`clearsign` or

`--sign`).

`--personal-compress-preferences string`

Set the list of personal compression preferences to string. Use `pgp2 --version` to get a list of available algorithms, and use `none` to set no preference at all. This allows the user to safely override the algorithm chosen by the recipient key preferences, as GPG will only select an algorithm that is usable by all recipients. The most highly ranked compression algorithm in this list is also used when there are no recipient keys to consider (e.g. `--symmetric`).

`--s2k-cipher-algo name`  
Use name as the cipher algorithm used to protect secret keys. The default cipher is CAST5. This cipher is also used for conventional encryption if `--personal-cipher-preferences` and `--cipher-algo` is not given.

`--s2k-digest-algo name`  
Use name as the digest algorithm used to mangle the passphrases. The default algorithm is SHA-1.

`--s2k-mode n`  
Selects how passphrases are mangled. If `n` is 0 a plain passphrase (which is not recommended) will be used, a 1 adds a salt to the passphrase and a 3 (the default) iterates the whole process a number of times (see `--s2k-count`). Unless `--rfc1991` is used, this mode is also used for conventional encryption.

`--s2k-count n`  
Specify how many times the passphrase mangling is repeated. This value may range between 1024 and 65011712 inclusive. The

values in the 1024-65011712 range are legal and if an illegal value is selected, GnuPG will round up to the nearest legal value. This option is only meaningful if --s2k-mode is 3.

### Compliance options

These options control what GnuPG is compliant to. Only one of these options may be active at a time. Note that the default setting of this is nearly always the correct one. See the INTEROPERABILITY WITH OTHER OPENPGP PROGRAMS section below before using one of these options.

**--gnupg**  
Use standard GnuPG behavior. This is essentially OpenPGP behavior (see --openpgp), but with some additional workarounds for common compatibility problems in different versions of PGP. This is the default option, so it is not generally needed, but it may be useful to override a different compliance option in the gpg.conf file.

**--openpgp**  
Reset all packet, cipher and digest options to strict OpenPGP behavior. Use this option to reset all previous options like --s2k-\*, --cipher-algo, --digest-algo and --compress-algo to OpenPGP compliant values. All PGP workarounds are disabled.

**--rfc4880**

RFC-4880      Reset all packet, cipher and digest options to strict behavior. Note that this is currently the same thing as --openpgp.

              --rfc2440      Reset all packet, cipher and digest options to strict behavior.

RFC-2440

              --rfc1991      Try to be more RFC-1991 (PGP 2.x) compliant.

              --pgp2      Set up all options to be as PGP 2.x compliant as possible, and warn if an action is taken (e.g. encrypting to a non-RSA key) that will create a message that PGP 2.x will not be able to handle. Note that 'PGP 2.x' here means 'MIT PGP 2.6.2'. There are other versions of PGP 2.x available, but the MIT release is a good common baseline.

v4-certs      This option implies --rfc1991 --disable-mdc --no-force-digest-algos --escape-from-lines --force-v3-sigs --allow-weak-cipher-algo IDEA --digest-algo MD5 --compress-algo ZIP. It also disables --textmode when encrypting.

              --pgp6      Set up all options to be as PGP 6 compliant as possible. This restricts you to the ciphers IDEA (if the IDEA plugin is installed), 3DES, and CAST5, the hashes MD5, SHA1 and RIPEMD160, and the compression algorithms none and ZIP. This also disables --throw-keyids, and making signatures with signing subkeys as PGP 6 does not understand signatures made by signing subkeys.

force- This option implies `--disable-mdc` `--escape-from-lines` `--v3-sigs`.

`--pgp7` Set up all options to be as PGP 7 compliant as possible. This is identical to `--pgp6` except that MDCs are not disabled, and the list of allowable ciphers is expanded to add AES128, AES192, AES256, and TWOFISH.

`--pgp8` Set up all options to be as PGP 8 compliant as possible. PGP 8 is a lot closer to the OpenPGP standard than previous versions of PGP, so all this does is disable `--throw-keyids` and set `--escape-from-lines`. All algorithms are allowed except for the SHA224, SHA384, and SHA512 digests.

Doing things one usually doesn't want to do.

`-n`

`--dry-run` Don't make any changes (this is not completely implemented).

`--list-only` Changes the behaviour of some commands. This is like `--dry-run` but different in some cases. The semantic of this command may be extended in the future. Currently it only skips the actual decryption pass and therefore enables a fast listing of the encryption keys.

-i

--interactive

Prompt before overwriting any files.

--debug-level level

Select the debug level for investigating problems. level

may be

a numeric value or by a keyword:

be used

none No debugging at all. A value of less than 1 may instead of the keyword.

2 may

basic Some basic debug messages. A value between 1 and be used instead of the keyword.

5 may

advanced

More verbose debug messages. A value between 3 and be used instead of the keyword.

8 may

expert Even more detailed messages. A value between 6 and be used instead of the keyword.

greater

guru All of the debug messages you can get. A value than 8 may be used instead of the keyword. The of hash tracing files is only enabled if the keyword is used.

creation

keyword is

is not  
specified and may change with newer releases of this program.  
They are  
however carefully selected to best aid in debugging.

--debug flags

Set debugging flags. All flags are or-ed and flags may be in C syntax (e.g. 0x0042).

given

--debug-all

Set all useful debugging flags.

`--faked-system-time epoch`

This option is only useful for testing; it sets the system time back or forth to epoch which is the number of seconds elapsed since the year 1970. Alternatively epoch may be given as a full ISO time string (e.g. "20070924T154812").

`--enable-progress-filter`

Enable certain PROGRESS status outputs. This option allows from- tends to display a progress indicator while gpg is processing larger files. There is a slight performance overhead using it.

`--status-fd n`

Write special status strings to the file descriptor n. See the file DETAILS in the documentation for a listing of them.

`--status-file file`

Same as `--status-fd`, except the status data is written to file file.

`--logger-fd n`

Write log output to file descriptor n and not to STDERR.

`--log-file file`

`--logger-file file`

Same as `--logger-fd`, except the logger data is written to file file. Note that `--log-file` is only implemented for GnuPG-2.

`--attribute-fd n`

Write attribute subpackets to the file descriptor n. This is

most useful for use with `--status-fd`, since the status messages are needed to separate out the various subpackets from the stream delivered to the file descriptor.

`--attribute-file file`  
Same as `--attribute-fd`, except the attribute data is written to file `file`.

`--comment string`

`--no-comments`  
Use `string` as a comment string in clear text signatures and ASCII armored messages or keys (see `--armor`). The default behavior is not to use a comment string. `--comment` may be repeated multiple times to get multiple comment strings. `--no-comments` removes all comments. It is a good idea to keep the length of a single comment below 60 characters to avoid problems with mail programs wrapping such lines. Note that comment lines, like all other header lines, are not protected by the signature.

`--emit-version`

`--no-emit-version`  
Force inclusion of the version string in ASCII armored output. If given once only the name of the program and the major number is emitted (default), given twice the minor is also emitted, given triple the micro is added, and given quad an operating system identification is also emitted. `--no-emit-version` disables the version line.

`--sig-notation name=value`



```
--cert-notation name=value
```

-N, --set-notation name=value  
Put the name value pair into the signature as notation data.  
name must consist only of printable characters or spaces, and must contain a '@' character in the form keyname@domain.example.com (substituting the appropriate keyname and domain name, of course). This is to help prevent pollution of the IETF reserved notation namespace. The --expert flag overrides the '@' check. value may be any printable string; it will be encoded in UTF8, so you should check that your --display-charset is set correctly. If you prefix name with an exclamation mark (!), the notation data will be flagged as critical (rfc4880:5.2.3.16).

```
--sig-notation sets a notation for data signatures. --
cert-nota-      tion sets a notation for key signatures (certifications).
--set-          notation sets both.
```

There are special codes that may be used in notation names. "%k" will be expanded into the key ID of the key being signed, "%K" into the long key ID of the key being signed, "%f" into the fingerprint of the key being signed, "%s" into the key ID of the key making the signature, "%S" into the long key ID of making the signature, "%g" into the fingerprint of the key making the signature (which might be a subkey), "%p" into the fingerprint of the primary key of the key making the signature, "%c" into the signature count from the OpenPGP smartcard, and "%%" results in a single "%". %k, %K, and %f are only meaningful when making a key signature (certification), and %c is only

meaningful when using the OpenPGP smartcard.

`--sig-policy-url string`

`--cert-policy-url string`

`--set-policy-url string`

Use string as a Policy URL for signatures (rfc4880:5.2.3.20).

If you prefix it with an exclamation mark (!), the policy URL

a pol-

policy url

both.

packet will be flagged as critical. `--sig-policy-url` sets

icy url for data signatures. `--cert-policy-url` sets a

for key signatures (certifications). `--set-policy-url` sets

here as The same %-expandos used for notation data are available well.

`--sig-keyserver-url string`

signatures. If Use string as a preferred keyserver URL for data

keyserver URL you prefix it with an exclamation mark (!), the

packet will be flagged as critical.

here as The same %-expandos used for notation data are available well.

`--set-filename string`

messages. Use string as the filename which is stored inside

filename

This overrides the default, which is to use the actual

of the file being encrypted.

`--for-your-eyes-only`

`--no-for-your-eyes-only`

causes Set the 'for your eyes only' flag in the message. This

option is GnuPG to refuse to save the file unless the `--output`

given, and PGP to use a "secure viewer" with a claimed  
Tempest-  
overrides  
option.  
--set-filename. --no-for-your-eyes-only disables this  
option.

--use-embedded-filename  
--no-use-embedded-filename  
Try to create a file with a name as embedded in the data.  
This  
files.  
can be a dangerous option as it allows to overwrite  
Defaults to no.

--cipher-algo name  
Use name as cipher algorithm. Running the program with the  
com-  
this is  
preferences  
use this  
--per-  
the same  
thing.  
sonal-cipher-preferences is the safe way to accomplish  
thing.

--digest-algo name  
Use name as the message digest algorithm. Running the  
program  
algo-  
as it  
digest-  
allows you to violate the OpenPGP standard. --personal-  
preferences is the safe way to accomplish the same thing.  
with the command --version yields a list of supported  
rithms. In general, you do not want to use this option

--compress-algo name  
Use compression algorithm name. "zlib" is RFC-1950 ZLIB  
compres-  
sion. "zip" is RFC-1951 ZIP compression which is used  
by PGP.

"bzip2" is a more modern compression scheme that can compress some things better than zip or zlib, but at the cost of more memory used during compression and decompression. "uncompressed" or "none" disables compression. If this option is not used, the default behavior is to examine the recipient key preferences to see which algorithms the recipient supports. If all else fails, ZIP is used for maximum compatibility.

ZLIB may give better compression results than ZIP, as the compression window size is not limited to 8k. BZIP2 may give even better compression results than that, but will use a significantly larger amount of memory while compressing and decompressing. This may be significant in low memory situations. Note, however, that PGP (all versions) only supports ZIP compression. Using any algorithm other than ZIP or "none" will make the message unreadable with PGP. In general, you do not want to use this option as it allows you to violate the OpenPGP standard. `--personal-compress-preferences` is the safe way to accomplish the same thing.

`--cert-digest-algo name`  
Use name as the message digest algorithm used when signing a key. Running the program with the command `--version` yields a list of supported algorithms. Be aware that if you choose an algorithm that GnuPG supports but other OpenPGP implementations do not, then some users will not be able to use the key signatures you make, or quite possibly your entire key.

`--disable-cipher-algo name`  
Never allow the use of name as cipher algorithm. The given name will not be checked so that a later loaded algorithm will still get disabled.

`--disable-pubkey-algo name`  
Never allow the use of name as public key algorithm. The given name will not be checked so that a later loaded algorithm will still get disabled.

`--throw-keyids`

`--no-throw-keyids`  
Do not put the recipient key IDs into encrypted messages. This helps to hide the receivers of the message and is a limited countermeasure against traffic analysis. ([Using a little social engineering anyone who is able to decrypt the message can check whether one of the other recipients is the one he suspects.]) On the receiving side, it may slow down the decryption process because all available secret keys must be tried. `--no-throw-keyids` disables this option. This option is essentially the same as using `--hidden-recipient` for all recipients.

`--not-dash-escaped`  
This option changes the behavior of cleartext signatures so that they can be used for patch files. You should not send such an armored file via email because all spaces and line endings are hashed too. You can not use this option for data which has 5 dashes at the beginning of a line, patch files don't have this. A special armor header line tells GnuPG about this cleartext

signature option.

--escape-from-lines

--no-escape-from-lines

Because some mailers change lines starting with "From " to ">From " it is good to handle such lines in a special way when creating cleartext signatures to prevent the mail system from breaking the signature. Note that all other PGP versions do it this way too. Enabled by default. --no-escape-from-lines disables this option.

--passphrase-repeat n

Specify how many times gpg2 will request a new passphrase be repeated. This is useful for helping memorize a passphrase. Defaults to 1 repetition.

--passphrase-fd n

Read the passphrase from file descriptor n. Only the first line will be read from file descriptor n. If you use 0 for n, the passphrase will be read from STDIN. This can only be used if only one passphrase is supplied. Note that this is only used if the option --batch has also been given. This is different from gpg.

--passphrase-file file

Read the passphrase from file file. Only the first line will be read from file file. This can only be used if only one passphrase is supplied. Obviously, a passphrase stored in a file is of questionable security if other users can read this file. Don't use this option if you can avoid it. Note

that this passphrase is only used if the option `--batch` has also been given. This is different from `gpg`.

`--passphrase string`  
Use `string` as the passphrase. This can only be used if only one passphrase is supplied. Obviously, this is of very questionable security on a multi-user system. Don't use this option if you can avoid it. Note that this passphrase is only used if the option `--batch` has also been given. This is different from `gpg`.

`--command-fd n`  
This is a replacement for the deprecated shared-memory IPC mode. If this option is enabled, user input on questions is not expected from the TTY but from the given file descriptor. It should be used together with `--status-fd`. See the file `doc/DETAILS` in the source distribution for details on how to use it.

`--command-file file`  
Same as `--command-fd`, except the commands are read out of file `file`.

`--allow-non-selfsigned-uid`

`--no-allow-non-selfsigned-uid`  
Allow the import and use of keys with user IDs which are not self-signed. This is not recommended, as a non self-signed user ID is trivial to forge. `--no-allow-non-selfsigned-uid` disables.

`--allow-freeform-uid`  
Disable all checks on the form of the user ID while generating a new one. This option should only be used in very special environments as it does not ensure the de-facto standard format of user IDs.

`--ignore-time-conflict`  
GnuPG normally checks that the timestamps associated with keys and signatures have plausible values. However, sometimes a signature seems to be older than the key due to clock problems. This option makes these checks just a warning. See also `--ignore-valid-from` for timestamp issues on subkeys.

`--ignore-valid-from`  
GnuPG normally does not select and use subkeys created in the future. This option allows the use of such keys and thus exhibits the pre-1.0.7 behaviour. You should not use this option unless there is some clock problem. See also `--ignore-time-conflict` for timestamp issues with signatures.

`--ignore-crc-error`  
The ASCII armor used by OpenPGP is protected by a CRC checksum against transmission errors. Occasionally the CRC gets mangled somewhere on the transmission channel but the actual content (which is protected by the OpenPGP protocol anyway) is still okay. This option allows GnuPG to ignore CRC errors.

`--ignore-mdc-error`  
This option changes a MDC integrity protection failure into a warning. This can be useful if a message is partially corrupt,



of the but it is necessary to get as much data as possible out  
fail- corrupt message. However, be aware that a MDC protection  
intention- ure may also mean that the message was tampered with  
ally by an attacker.

--allow-weak-digest-algos  
Signatures made with the broken MD5 algorithm are  
normally rejected with an ``invalid digest algorithm'' message.  
This option allows the verification of signatures made with  
such weak algorithms.

--no-default-keyring  
Do not add the default keyrings to the list of keyrings.  
Note that GnuPG will not operate without any keyrings, so if  
you use this option and do not provide alternate keyrings via --  
keyring or --secret-keyring, then GnuPG will still use the  
default public or secret keyrings.

--skip-verify  
Skip the signature verification step. This may be used to  
make the decryption faster if the signature verification  
is not needed.

--with-key-data  
Print key listings delimited by colons (like --with-  
colons) and print the public key data.

--fast-list-mode  
Changes the output of the list commands to work faster;  
this is achieved by leaving some parts empty. Some applications  
don't need the user ID and the trust information given in the

list-

ings. By using this options they can get a faster listing. The exact behaviour of this option may change in future versions. If you are missing some information, don't use this option.

--no-literal

what it This is not for normal use. Use the source to see for what it might be useful.

--set-filesize

what it This is not for normal use. Use the source to see for what it might be useful.

--show-session-key

override- Display the session key used for one message. See -- session-key for the counterpart of this option.

should We think that Key Escrow is a Bad Thing; however the user reveal have the freedom to decide whether to go to prison or to compromising all the content of one specific message without UNLESS messages ever encrypted for one secret key. DON'T USE IT YOU ARE REALLY FORCED TO DO SO.

--override-session-key string

format Don't use the public key but the session key string. The session- of this string is the same as the one printed by --show- in case key. This option is normally not used but comes handy mes- someone forces you to reveal the content of an encrypted out the sage; using this option you can do this without handing secret key.

`--ask-sig-expire`

`--no-ask-sig-expire`

When making a data signature, prompt for an expiration time. If this option is not specified, the expiration time set via `--default-sig-expire` is used. `--no-ask-sig-expire` disables this option.

`--default-sig-expire`

The default expiration time to use for signature expiration. Valid values are "0" for no expiration, a number followed by the letter d (for days), w (for weeks), m (for months), or y (for years) (for example "2m" for two months, or "5y" for five years), or an absolute date in the form YYYY-MM-DD. Defaults to "0".

`--ask-cert-expire`

`--no-ask-cert-expire`

When making a key signature, prompt for an expiration time. If this option is not specified, the expiration time set via `--default-cert-expire` is used. `--no-ask-cert-expire` disables this option.

`--default-cert-expire`

The default expiration time to use for key signature expiration. Valid values are "0" for no expiration, a number followed by the letter d (for days), w (for weeks), m (for months), or y (for years) (for example "2m" for two months, or "5y" for five years), or an absolute date in the form YYYY-MM-DD. Defaults to "0".

`--allow-secret-key-import`

This is an obsolete option and is not used anywhere.

`--allow-multiple-messages`

`--no-allow-multiple-messages`

in a  
not pre-  
together,  
prior

Allow processing of multiple OpenPGP messages contained in a single file or stream. Some programs that call GPG are prepared to deal with multiple messages being processed so this option defaults to no. Note that versions of GPG to 1.4.7 always allowed multiple messages.

Warning: Do not use this option unless you need it as a temporary workaround!

`--enable-special-filenames`

the form  
to the

This options enables a mode in which filenames of the form '-&n', where n is a non-negative decimal number, refer to the file descriptor n and not to a file with that name.

`--no-expensive-trust-checks`

Experimental use only.

`--preserve-permissions`

to user  
what

Don't change the permissions of a secret keyring back to read/write only. Use this option only if you really know what you are doing.

`--default-preference-list string`

preference  
"setpref"

Set the list of default preferences to string. This list is used for new keys and becomes the default for "setpref" in the edit menu.

`--default-keyserver-url name`  
Set the default keyserver URL to name. This keyserver will be used as the keyserver URL when writing a new self-signature on a key, which includes key generation and changing preferences.

`--list-config`  
Display various internal configuration parameters of GnuPG. This option is intended for external programs that call GnuPG to perform tasks, and is thus not generally useful. See the file 'doc/DETAILS' in the source distribution for the details of which configuration items may be listed. `--list-config` is only usable with `--with-colons` set.

`--gpgconf-list`  
This command is similar to `--list-config` but in general only internally used by the `gpgconf` tool.

`--gpgconf-test`  
This is more or less dummy action. However it parses the configuration file and returns with failure if the configuration file would prevent `gpg` from startup. Thus it may be used to run a syntax check on the configuration file.

### Deprecated options

`--show-photos`

`--no-show-photos`

Causes `--list-keys`, `--list-sigs`, `--list-public-keys`, -

`-list-`  
secret-keys, and verifying a signature to also display the  
photo  
ID attached to the key, if any. See also `--photo-viewer`.  
These  
options are deprecated. Use `--list-options [no-]show-`  
photos  
and/or `--verify-options [no-]show-photos` instead.

`--show-keyring`  
Display the keyring name at the head of key listings to  
show  
which keyring a given key resides on. This option is  
deprecated:  
use `--list-options [no-]show-keyring` instead.

`--always-trust`  
Identical to `--trust-model always`. This option is  
deprecated.

`--show-notation`

`--no-show-notation`  
Show signature notations in the `--list-sigs` or `--`  
check-sigs  
listings as well as when verifying a signature with a  
notation  
in it. These options are deprecated. Use `--list-`  
options  
`[no-]show-notation` and/or `--verify-options [no-]show-`  
notation  
instead.

`--show-policy-url`

`--no-show-policy-url`  
Show policy URLs in the `--list-sigs` or `--check-sigs`  
listings as  
well as when verifying a signature with a policy URL  
in it.  
These options are deprecated. Use `--list-options [no-]`  
]show-pol-  
icy-url and/or `--verify-options [no-]show-policy-url`  
instead.

## EXAMPLES

```
gpg -se -r Bob file
    sign and encrypt for user Bob
```

```
gpg --clearsign file
    make a clear text signature
```

```
gpg -sb file
    make a detached signature
```

```
gpg -u 0x12345678 -sb file
    make a detached signature with the key 0x12345678
```

```
gpg --list-keys user_ID
    show keys
```

```
gpg --fingerprint user_ID
    show fingerprint
```

```
gpg --verify pgpfile
```

```
gpg --verify sigfile
    Verify the signature of the file but do not output the
```

data. The

sigfile is

and are

file

exten-

for the

second form is used for detached signatures, where

the detached signature (either ASCII armored or binary)

the signed data; if this is not given, the name of the

holding the signed data is constructed by cutting off the

sion (".asc" or ".sig") of sigfile or by asking the user

filename.

## HOW TO SPECIFY A USER ID

There are different ways to specify a user ID to GnuPG. Some of them

are only valid for gpg others are only good for gpgsm. Here is the

entire list of ways to specify a key:

By key Id.

This format is deduced from the length of the string and its content or 0x prefix. The key Id of an X.509 certificate are the low 64 bits of its SHA-1 fingerprint. The use of key Ids is just a shortcut, for all automated processing the fingerprint should be used.

When using gpg an exclamation mark (!) may be appended to force using the specified primary or secondary key and not to try and calculate which primary or secondary key to use.

The last four lines of the example give the key ID in their long form as internally used by the OpenPGP protocol. You can see the long key ID using the option --with-colons.

```
234567C4
0F34E556E
01347A56A
0xAB123456
```

```
234AABBCC34567C4
0F323456784E56EAB
01AB3FED1347A5612
0x234AABBCC34567C4
```

By fingerprint.

This format is deduced from the length of the string and its content or the 0x prefix. Note, that only the 20 byte version of the fingerprint is available with gpgsm (i.e. the SHA-1 hash certificate).

When using gpg an exclamation mark (!) may be appended to force using the specified primary or secondary key and not to try and calculate which primary or secondary key to use.



The best way to specify a key Id is by using the fingerprint.  
This avoids any ambiguities in case that there are duplicated key IDs.

```
1234343434343434C434343434343434
1234343434343434C3434343434343734349A3434
0E12343434343434343434EAB3484343434343434
0xE12343434343434343434EAB3484343434343434
```

(gpgsm also accepts colons between each pair of hexadecimal digits because this is the de-facto standard on how to present X.509 fingerprints.)

By exact match on OpenPGP user ID.  
This is denoted by a leading equal sign. It does not make sense for X.509 certificates.

```
=Heinrich Heine <heinrichh@uni-duesseldorf.de>
```

By exact match on an email address.  
This is indicated by enclosing the email address in the usual way with left and right angles.

```
<heinrichh@uni-duesseldorf.de>
```

By word match.  
All words must match exactly (not case sensitive) but can appear in any order in the user ID or a subjects name. Words are any sequences of letters, digits, the underscore and all characters with bit 7 set.

```
+Heinrich Heine duesseldorf
```

By exact match on the subject's DN.  
This is indicated by a leading slash, directly followed by the

use the RFC-2253 encoded DN of the subject. Note that you can't  
as been string printed by "gpgsm --list-keys" because that one  
colons reordered and modified for better readability; use --with-  
to print the raw (but standard escaped) RFC-2253 string  
/CN=Heinrich Heine,O=Poets,L=Paris,C=FR

By exact match on the issuer's DN.  
This is indicated by a leading hash mark, directly  
followed by a slash and then directly followed by the rfc2253 encoded  
DN of the issuer. This should return the Root cert of the  
issuer.  
See note above.

```
#/CN=Root Cert,O=Poets,L=Paris,C=FR
```

By exact match on serial number and issuer's DN.  
This is indicated by a hash mark, followed by the  
hexadecimal representation of the serial number, then followed by a  
slash and the RFC-2253 encoded DN of the issuer. See note above.

```
#4F03/CN=Root Cert,O=Poets,L=Paris,C=FR
```

By keygrip  
This is indicated by an ampersand followed by the 40 hex  
digits of a keygrip. gpgsm prints the keygrip when using the  
command --dump-cert. It does not yet work for OpenPGP keys.

```
&D75F22C3F86E355877348498CDC92BD21010A480
```

By substring match.  
This is the default mode but applications may want to  
explicitly indicate this by putting the asterisk in front. Match  
is not case sensitive.

Heine  
\*Heine

Please note that we have reused the hash mark identifier which was used in old GnuPG versions to indicate the so called local-id. It is not anymore used and there should be no conflict when used with X.509 stuff.

Using the RFC-2253 format of DNs has the drawback that it is not possible to map them back to the original encoding, however we don't have to do this because our key database stores this encoding as meta data.

## FILES

There are a few configuration files to control certain aspects of gpg2's operation. Unless noted, they are expected in the current home directory (see: [option --homedir]).

### gpg.conf

This is the standard configuration file read by gpg2 on startup.

It may contain any valid long option; the leading two dashes may not be entered and the option may not be abbreviated. This default name may be changed on the command line (see: [gpg-option --options]). You should backup this file.

Note that on larger installations, it is useful to put predefined files into the directory '/etc/skel/.gnupg/' so that newly created users start up with a working configuration. For existing users the a small

helper script is provided to create these files (see: [addgnupghome]).

For internal purposes gpg2 creates and maintains a few other files;

They all live in the current home directory (see: [option -home-dir]). Only the gpg2 may modify these files.

~/.gnupg/pubring.gpg

The public keyring. You should backup this file.

~/.gnupg/pubring.gpg.lock

The lock file for the public keyring.

~/.gnupg/secring.gpg

The secret keyring. You should backup this file.

~/.gnupg/trustdb.gpg

The trust database. There is no need to backup this file; it is better to backup the ownertrust values (see: [option --export-ownertrust]).

~/.gnupg/trustdb.gpg.lock

The lock file for the trust database.

~/.gnupg/random\_seed

A file used to preserve the state of the internal random pool.

~/.gnupg/secring.gpg.lock

The lock file for the secret keyring.

/usr[//local]/share/gnupg/options.skel

The skeleton options file.

/usr[//local]/lib/gnupg/

Default location for extensions.

Operation is further controlled by a few environment variables:

**HOME** Used to locate the default home directory.

**GNUPGHOME**

If set directory used instead of "~/.gnupg".

**GPG\_AGENT\_INFO**

Used to locate the gpg-agent.

The value consists of 3 colon delimited fields: The first is the path to the Unix Domain Socket, the second the PID of the gpg-agent and the protocol version which should be set to 1. When starting the gpg-agent as described in its documentation, this variable is set to the correct value. The option --gpg-agent-info can be used to override it.

**PINENTRY\_USER\_DATA**

This value is passed via gpg-agent to pinentry. It is useful to convey extra information to a custom pinentry.

**COLUMNS**

**LINES** Used to size some displays to the full size of the screen.

**LANGUAGE**

Apart from its use by GNU, it is used in the W32 version to override the language selection done through the Registry. If used and set to a valid and available language name (langid), the file with the translation is loaded from gpgdir/gnupg.nls/langid.mo. Here gpgdir is the directory

out of

which the gpg binary has been loaded. If it can't be loaded the Registry is tried and as last resort the native Windows locale system is used.

## BUGS

On older systems this program should be installed as `setuid(root)`. This is necessary to lock memory pages. Locking memory pages prevents the operating system from writing memory pages (which may contain passphrases or other sensitive material) to disk. If you get no warning message about insecure memory your operating system supports locking without being root. The program drops root privileges as soon as locked memory is allocated.

Note also that some systems (especially laptops) have the ability to ``suspend to disk'' (also known as ``safe sleep'' or ``hibernate''). This writes all memory to disk before going into a low power or even powered off mode. Unless measures are taken in the operating system to protect the saved memory, passphrases or other sensitive material may be recoverable from it later.

Before you report a bug you should first search the mailing list archives for similar problems and second check whether such a bug has already been reported to our bug tracker at <http://bugs.gnupg.org>.

## SEE ALSO

`gpgv(1)`, `gpgsm(1)`, `gpg-agent(1)`

The full documentation for this tool is maintained as a Texinfo

manual.

If GnuPG and the info program are properly installed at your site, the command

```
info gnupg
```

should give you access to the complete manual including a menu structure and an index.

GnuPG 2.0.28  
GPG2(1)

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