Introduction to PGP

(June 20th, 2020) PGP stands for »Pretty Good Privacy«. Developed in 1991 by Phil Zimmermann, it is used to sign, encrypt and decrypt any sort of file, texts, mails, as well as whole disk partitions.

Originally Freeware, PGP became commercial proprietary software and is now developed by Symantec | Broadcom.

In 1997, GnuPG, or short GPG, has been introduced as Free Software. GPG works as a command line tool, but has a variety of front-end apps.

PGP, as well as GPG and all its front-end apps, follow the OpenPGP standard (RFC 4880). Software is compatible to each other.

OpenPGP uses asymmetric encryption with two parts of each key > one secret, Private Key for your eyes only, and one Public Key. If someone wants to send you encrypted data, e. g. an encrypted mail or a draft of contract, he|she needs your Public Key to do so.

Common software for Windows is Gpg4win, for MAC this is GPGTools.

As Alaman 3D Artworks uses Gpg4win together with Thunderbird as mail client, I explain its installation as follows: Thunderbird offers the Add On Enigmail. Its installation will provide Gpg4win automatically. Then, a Set Up wizard pops up for Enigmail, which you can follow with default settings. After finishing this wizard, two modules should be installed > Kleopatra for signing and encrypting and GPA as key manager. As first action you should create your first key pair related to a mail address, after that everything is ready and here we go > 'Action'!

Gpg4win comes in English, German and some other languages. It provides an Outlook plugin, and a well assorted help.

On my Android smartphone, K-9 Mail + OpenKeychain work very well.

For further information, here are some links:

PGP > https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pretty_Good_Privacy [available in other languages as well] | www.pgp.com.

GnuPG | Gpg4win > https://www.gnupg.org/index.html | https://www.gpg4win.org/.

OpenPGP + software for different platforms and applications https://www.openpgp.org/ | https://www.openpgp.org/software/

Please note: this is a short introduction to PGP written by an artist and no liability or responsibility can be taken whatsoever.

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