



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

UPLOADING ENCRYPTED FORMS
FROM AN OMNIUPDATE WEB SITE
USING GPG4WIN

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

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I. Introduction

On occasion, University departments are required to provide their constituents with a facility to send scanned images of completed, physical forms to department personnel.

Note – the form documents to which we refer are not web forms where data is manually entered by the user field-by-field directly into a web page. Rather, we are referring to standard Microsoft Word or Adobe .pdf document files that are filled in by the user within the Word or Adobe environment, printed, signed, scanned and uploaded.

In a typical web-based, “document upload” implementation, a user clicks a button on the page to indicate that one or more documents are to be uploaded. After the button is clicked, the user is presented with a file selection window to pick the file(s) to be uploaded. Once the file or files have been selected, the user clicks a button to begin the document transfer. The documents often are transmitted via an e-mail to a predefined departmental e-mail box where departmental personnel can pick up the documents.

Unfortunately, when an uploaded documents contains information that is sensitive in nature, this method cannot be used, since e-mail is not a secure method of exchanging sensitive information, and the use of e-mail in this case would not be consistent with University policy.

To overcome the security issues associated with an e-mail-based approach, UCT has developed a mechanism for uploading sensitive documents from within a UHCL web page that combines the simplicity of an e-mail-based solution with the security of modern encryption techniques. The key to this solution is the implementation of software, called “Gpg4win”, that allows users and applications to exchange data in a secure manner using encryption technology. With Gpg4win installed, files holding sensitive data can be encrypted and decrypted where necessary throughout the business process in the following ways:

- Transparently from within Microsoft Outlook, or
- Manually, using Gpg4win commands either entered through a command line interface or coded into an application program or web page.

Gpg4win also performs other encryption-based functions, such as the digital signing of documents, and the verification of those signatures that can be useful, but are not integral parts of the web-based, document upload process.

II. How Gpg4win is integrated into your department's web site

If you need to allow users to securely send scanned documents to your department, contact the OU Support team to review your form upload requirements and to help you integrate the encrypted upload function into your web content.

The team will set up your web page so that the web page content is downloaded to the browser of any of your users carries the Gpg4win software and your department's generated encryption key. When the user selects the documents to be transmitted and clicks the upload button, the document will be encrypted automatically before it is sent. Thanks to Gpg4win's integration with Microsoft Outlook, the departmental staff who receive encrypted document(s) can decrypt the uploaded document by clicking a button that Gpg4win installs in his or her e-mail client.

If the encrypted document will be delivered to department personnel, typically via e-mail, the individuals who will receive the forms will need to have Gpg4win installed on the workstations they may use to receive the forms. Instructions for installing Gpg4win can be found in the section entitled **IV. Installing Gpg4win.**

Once Gpg4win is installed, the receiving department will need to create a set of encryption keys for the department. The key generation process generates two keys, called a "key pair". One key, called the "public key" can be freely shared with anyone in the world who needs to send the key owner any encrypted data. The second key is called the "private key" that is only used by authorized recipients to decrypt the encrypted, incoming files. Whenever the private key is used, it must be "unlocked" by the user who must enter in the "passphrase" that the person who generates the key pair supplies when the key pair was generated. Instructions for creating a key pair or certificate, as it can also be called, can be found in the section entitled **V. Creating your public and private keys.**

Since, in most cases there will be more than one individual in a department who may receive the uploaded form, the same key pair can be used by all authorized department personnel who know the private key passphrase.

As mentioned earlier, anyone needing to upload a form to your department will need to obtain your public key to encrypt the file they wish to upload. Fortunately, the OmniUpdate implementation that we have developed simplifies this task. If you need your web page to contain a function to securely upload a document, OU Support will set up your web content so that, when the web page is downloaded to the browser of any of your users, the page will carry the Gpg4win software and your department's "public key" that was generated. When the user clicks the upload button, the document will be encrypted automatically before it is transmitted.

You will need to provide your generated public key to OU Support for the web page setup step. Instructions for exporting your public key certificate to OU Support or anyone who needs to send you encrypted files or messages can be found in the section entitled **VI. Exporting your public key to another GPG user.**

Once the software and keys have been installed, you can begin to receive and decrypt the messages uploaded via your web site. When you receive the encrypted form in your e-mail, all you need to do is to follow the procedure contained in the sections entitled **VII. Decrypting an encrypted e-mail message that has been sent to you** or **VIII. Decrypting an encrypted e-mail attachment** depending on the implementation design.

III. Other Gpg4win functions that enable users to securely exchange documents and files via e-mail

It is worth noting that Gpg4win provides additional functions that are not part of our document upload mechanism but that enable individual users to encrypt, decrypt, sign and verify the signature on e-mail messages and files exchanged with other Gpg4win users.

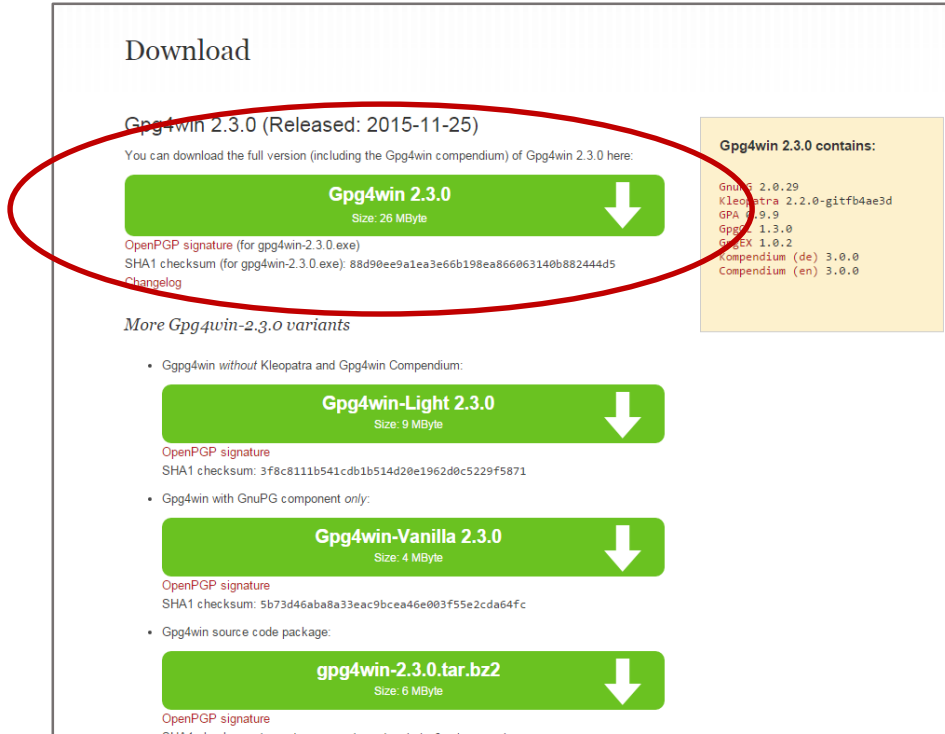
To use these functions, each user who will exchange encrypted and/or signed e-mail messages with others must set up his or her computer by performing the following steps:

- Install Gpg4win on his or her computer using the instructions that can be found in the section entitled **IV. Installing Gpg4win**. The installation process will add the following functions into your Microsoft Outlook client: Encrypt, Decrypt, Sign and Verify (signature).
- Create a personal key pair or certificate using the instructions that can be found in the section entitled **V. Creating your public and private keys**.
- Export his or her public key certificate to anyone who will send the user an encrypted document or file using the instructions that can be found in the section entitled **VI. Exporting your public key to another GPG user**.
- Import into his or her key file or “key ring” the public key certificates received from other users using the instructions that can be found in the section entitled **VII. Importing another user’s public key into your GPG key file**

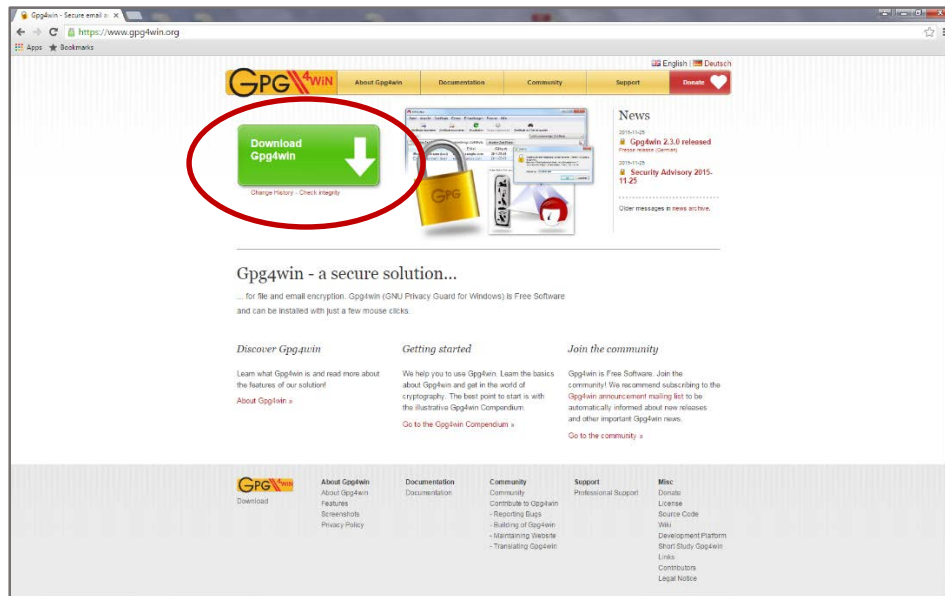
A description of the individual e-mail-based functions that Gpg4win provides can be found in sections VIII through XIII of this document.

IV. Installing Gpg4win

1. Visit www.gpg4win.org. Click on the “Gpg4win 2.3.0” button.



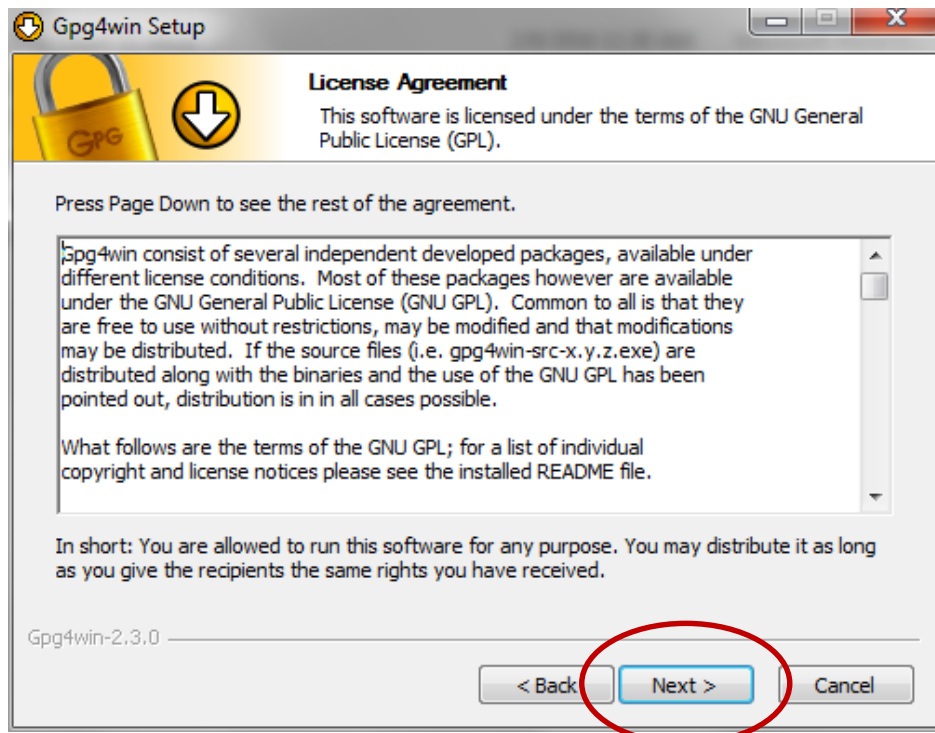
2. On the following screen, click the “Download Gpg4win” button.



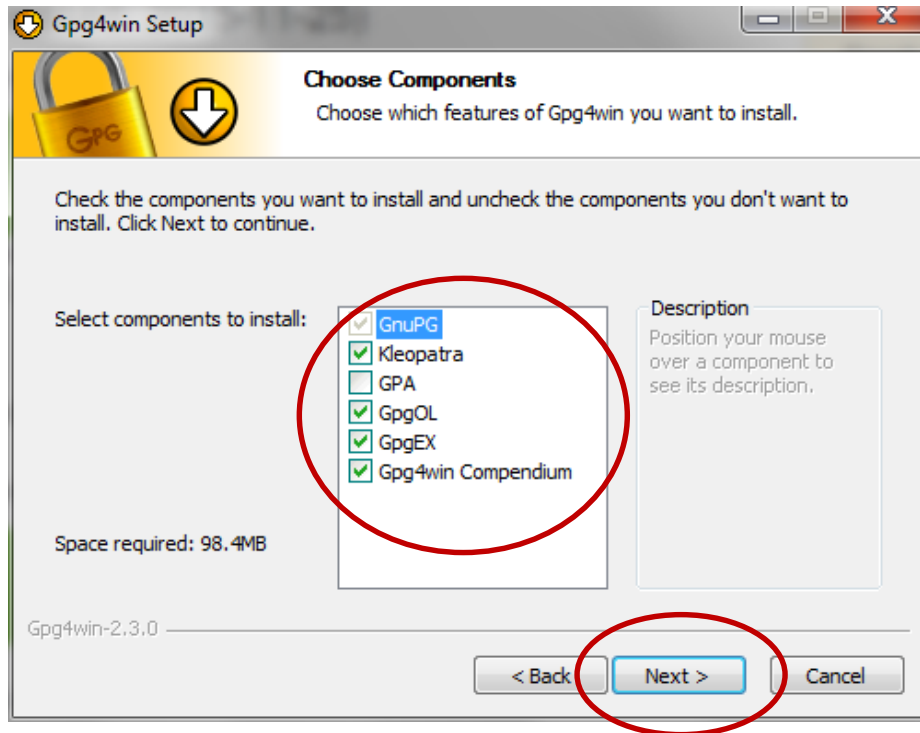
3. When the “Welcome” screen is displayed, click the “Next” button.



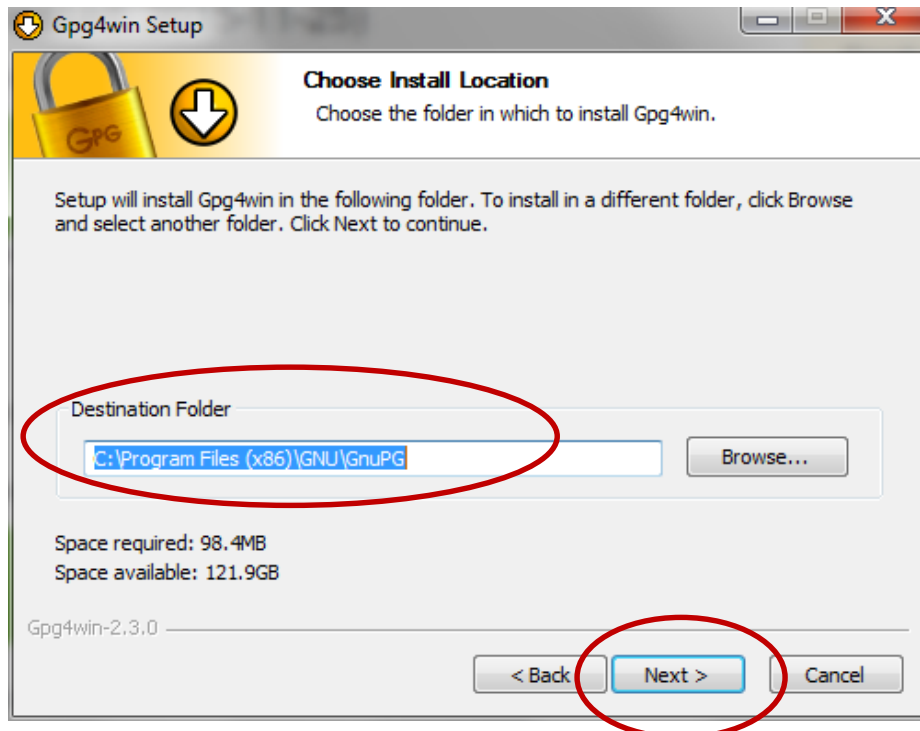
4. When the “License Agreement” page is displayed, click the “Next” button.



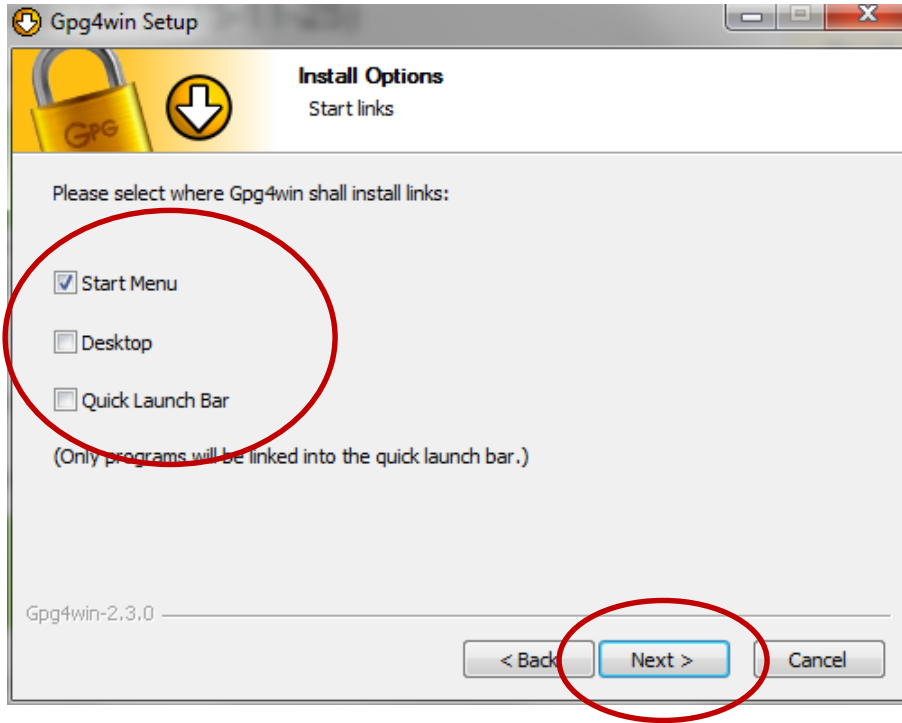
- Set the check box values as specified below, then click the “Next” button.



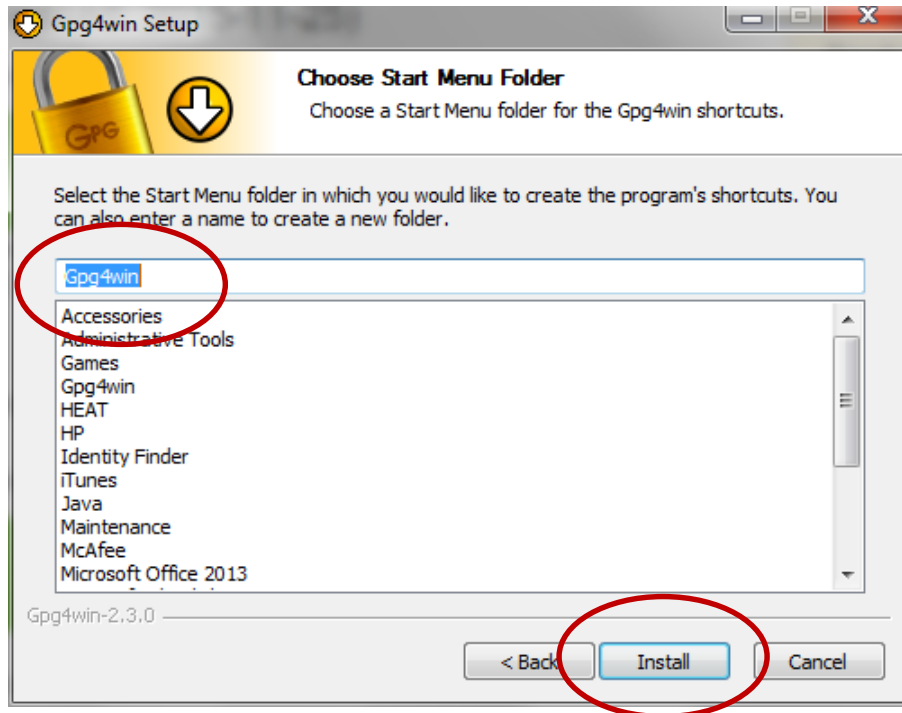
- Set the location where you want the software to be installed. The default location is fine. Then, click the “Next” button.



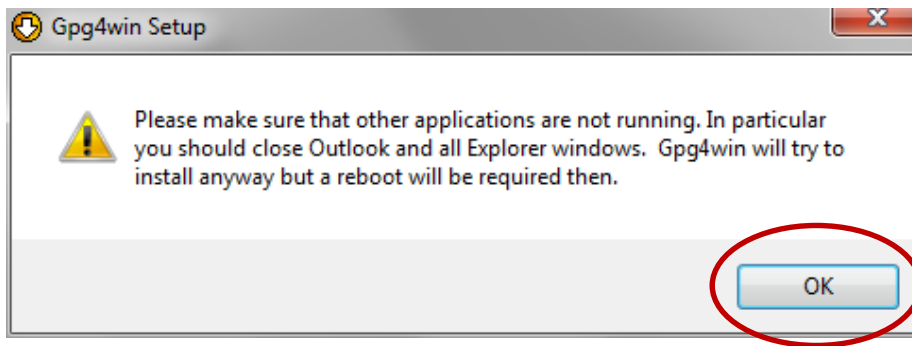
7. Specify where you want shortcuts to the software placed, then click the “Next” button.



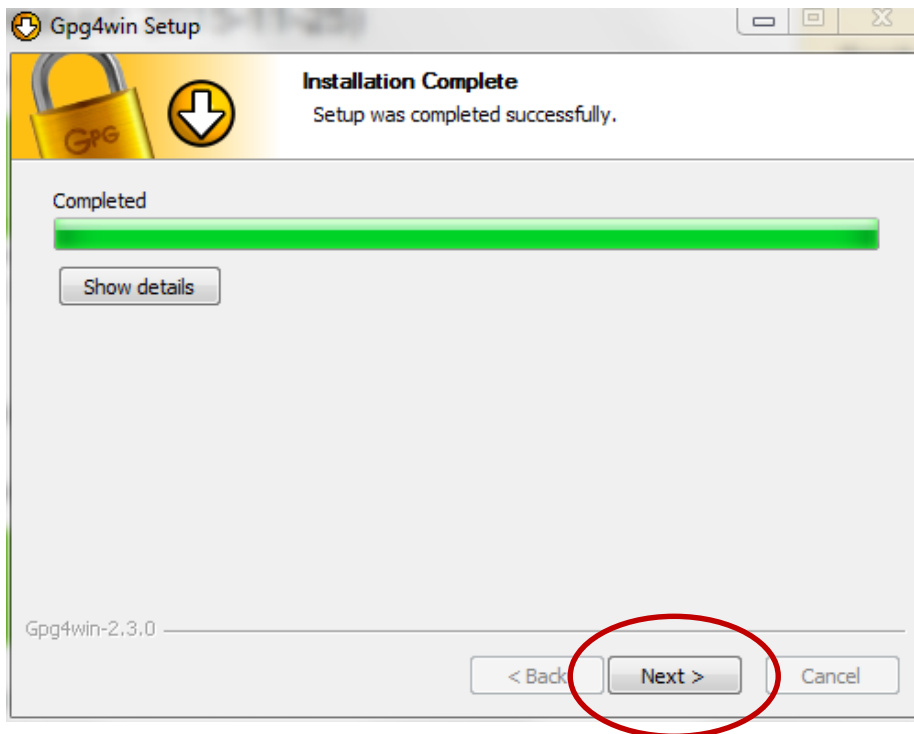
8. If you selected to have a GPG shortcut in your Start Menu, specify the folder in which it will be placed. The default “Gpg4win” is OK. Click the “Install” button to continue.



9. A warning will be displayed if you have Outlook or Explorer opened. If this occurs, click the “OK” button.



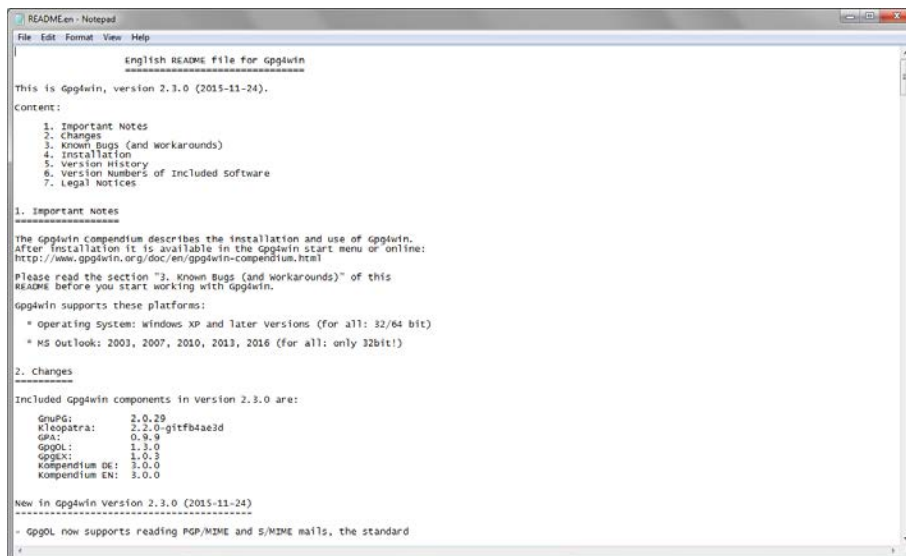
10. The installation process will tell you when it is complete. Click the “Next” button.



11. Once the Gpg4win setup wizard is complete, the following screen will be displayed. Click the “Finish” button.



12. If you do not uncheck the “Show the README file” check box, the README file will be displayed. The window can be closed after you’ve reviewed it.

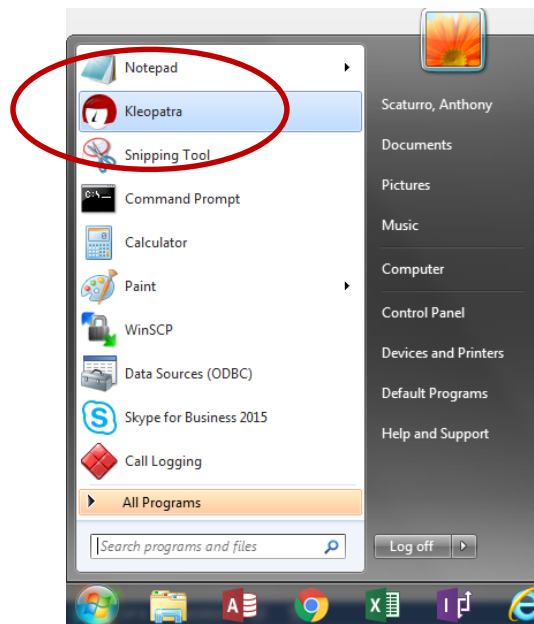


V. Creating your public and private keys

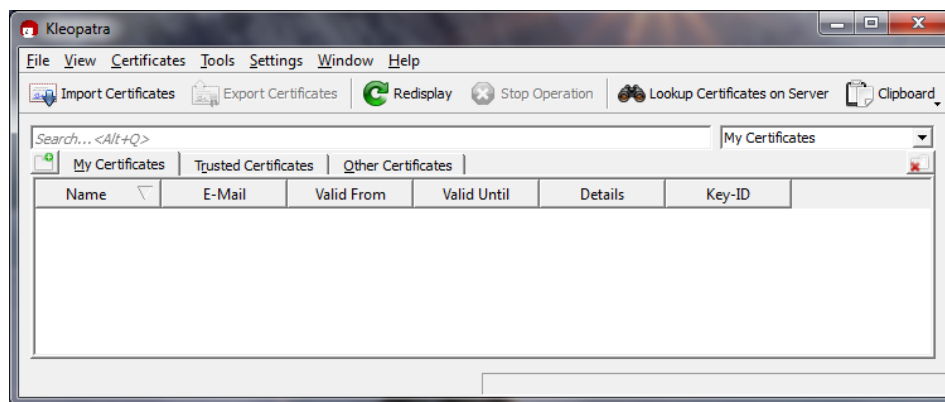
GPG encryption and decryption is based upon the keys of the person who will be receiving the encrypted file or message. Any individual who wants to send the person an encrypted file or message must possess the recipient's public key certificate to encrypt the message. The recipient must have the associated private key, which is different than the public key, to be able to decrypt the file.

The public and private key pair for an individual is usually generated by the individual on his or her computer using the installed GPG program, called "Kleopatra" and the following procedure:

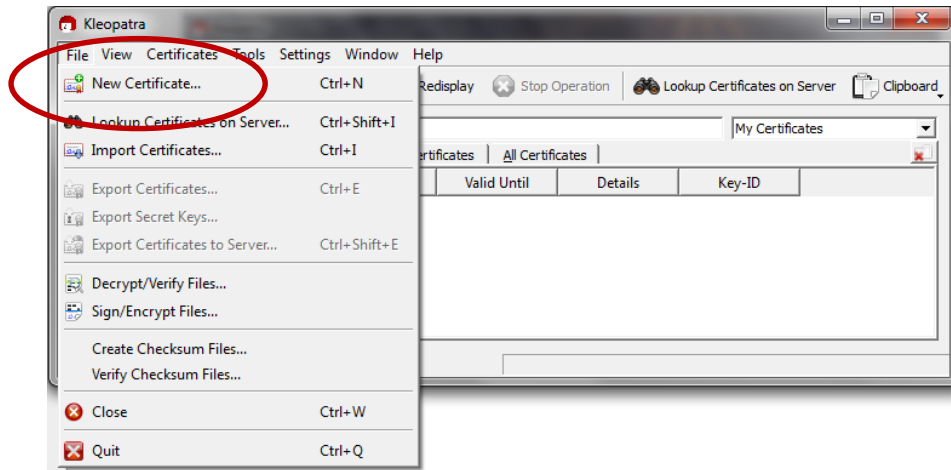
1. From your start bar, select the "Kleopatra" icon to start the Kleopatra certificate management software.



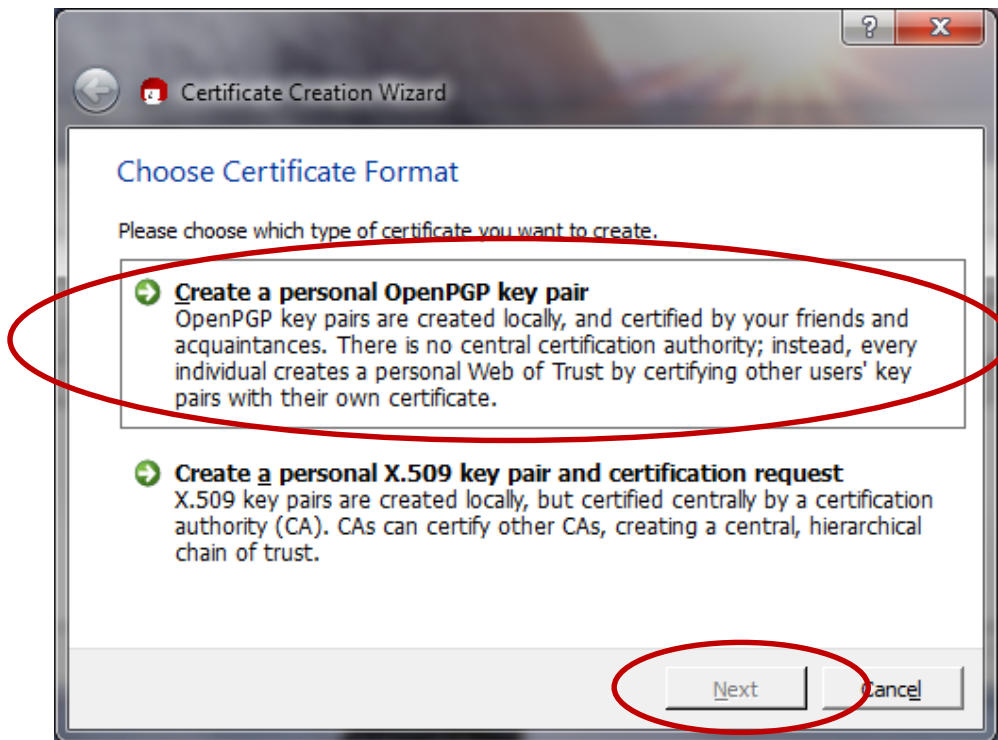
2. The following screen will be displayed



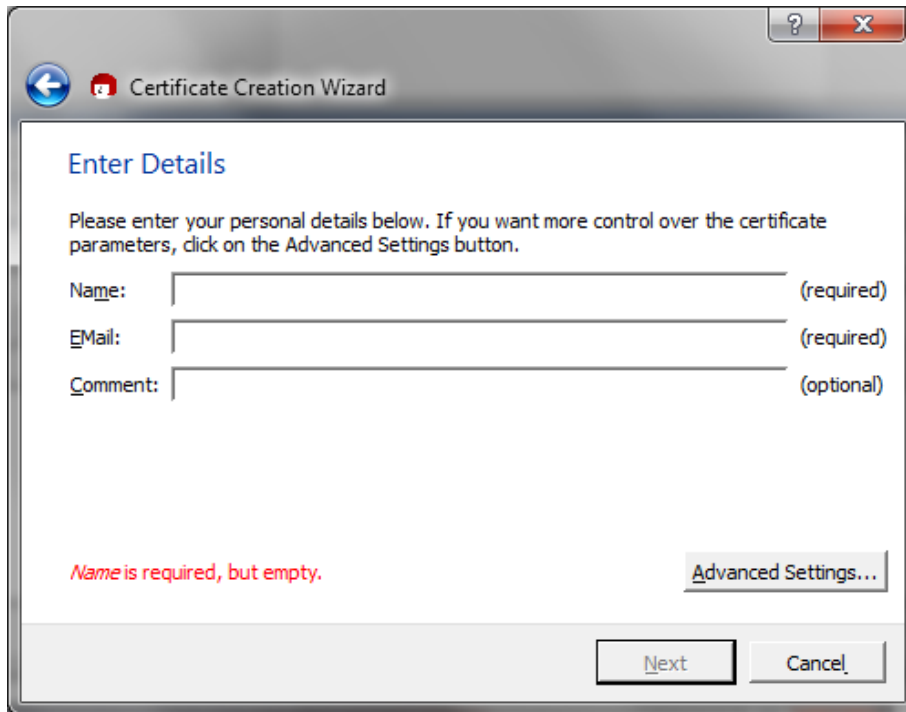
- From the “File” dropdown, click on the “New Certificate” option.



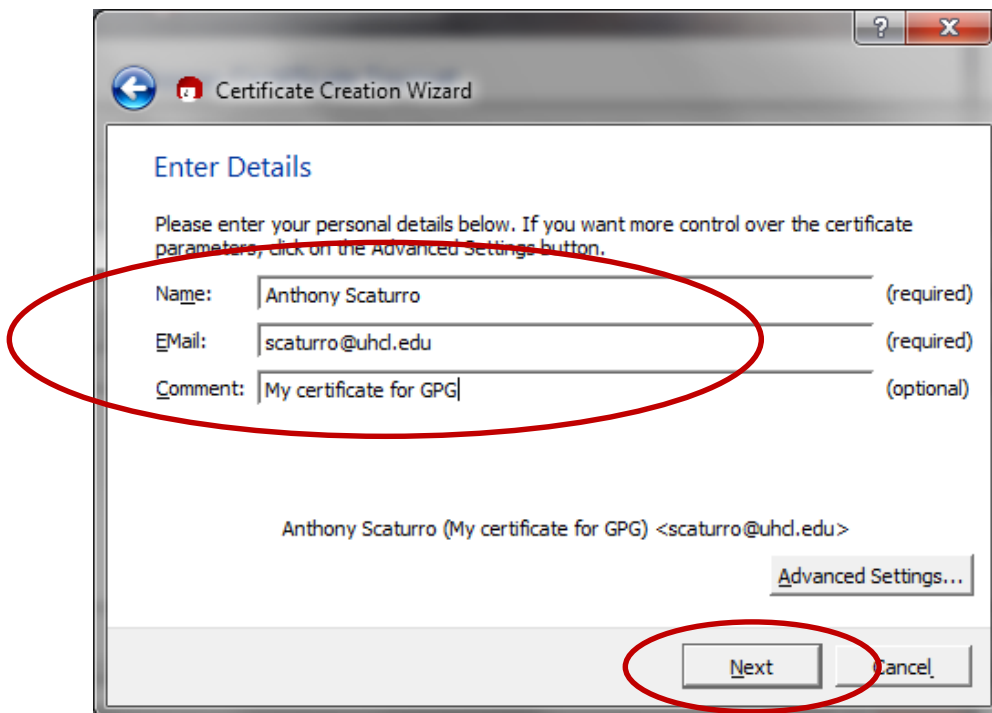
- The following screen will be displayed. Click on “Create a personal OpenPGP key pair” and the “Next” button.



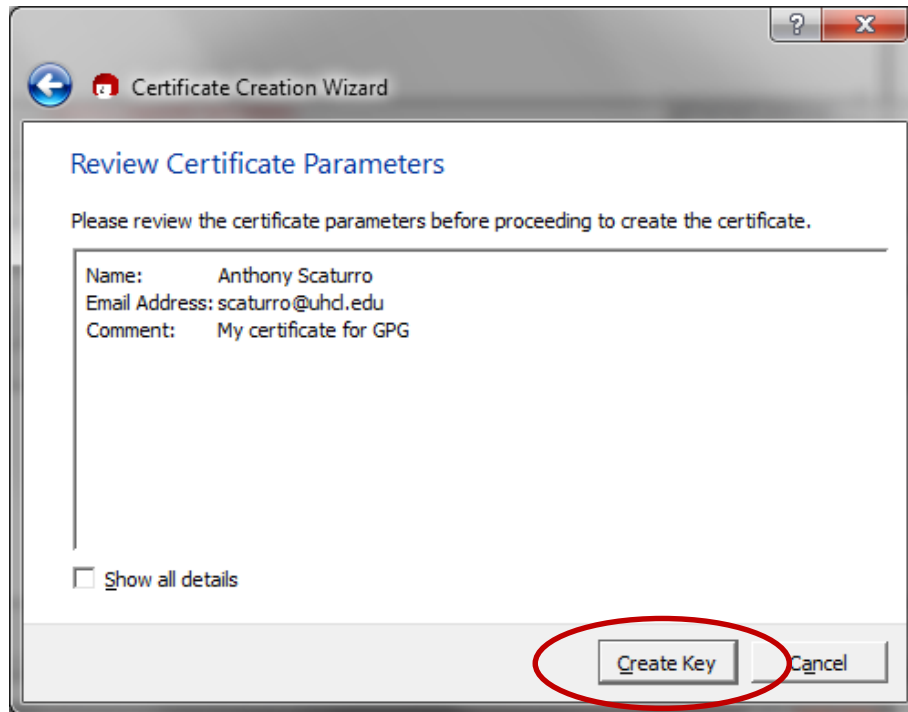
5. The Certificate Creation Wizard will start and display the following:



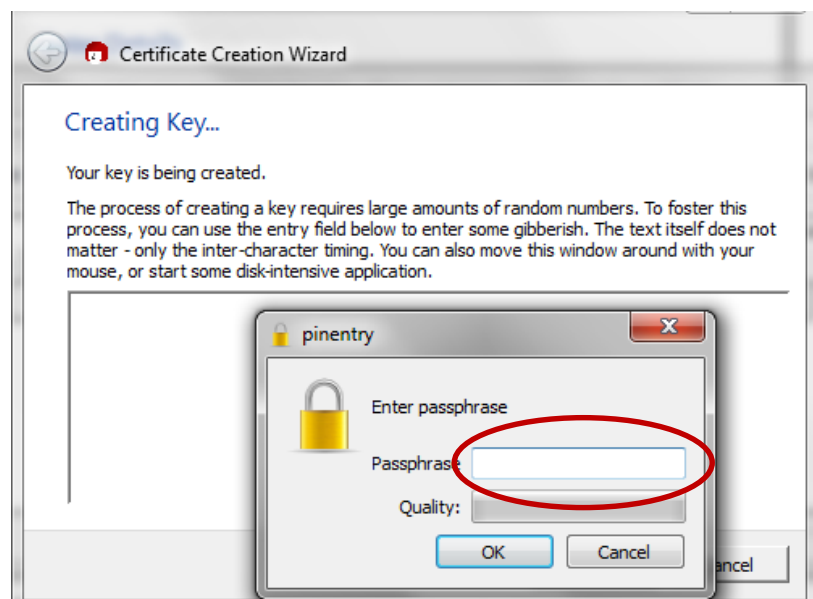
6. Enter your name and e-mail address. You may also enter an optional comment. Then, click the "Next" button



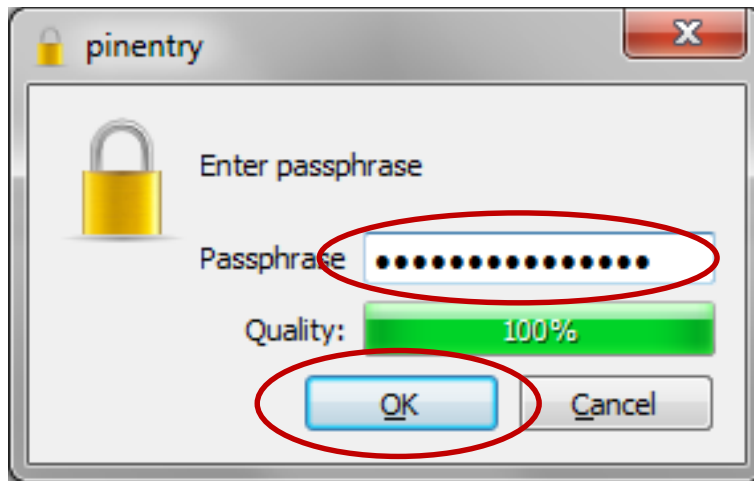
7. Review your entered values. If OK, click the “Create Key” button.



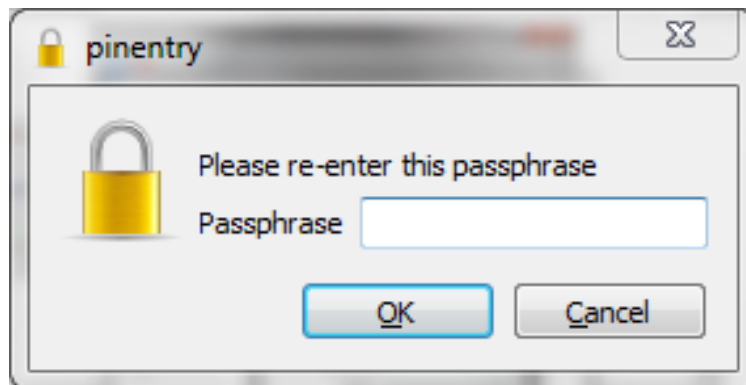
8. You will be asked to enter a passphrase.



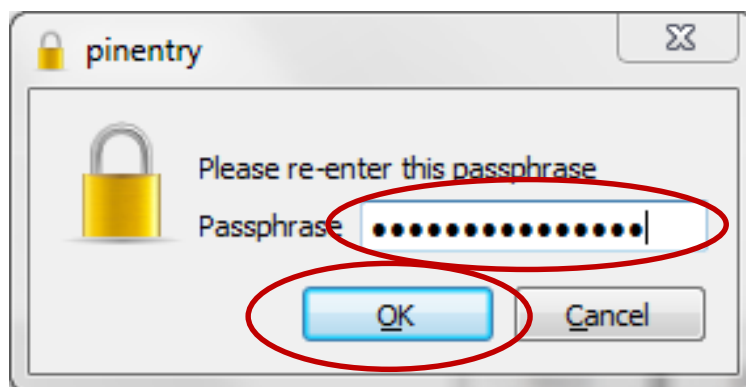
9. The passphrase should follow strong password standards. After you've entered your passphrase, click the "OK" button.



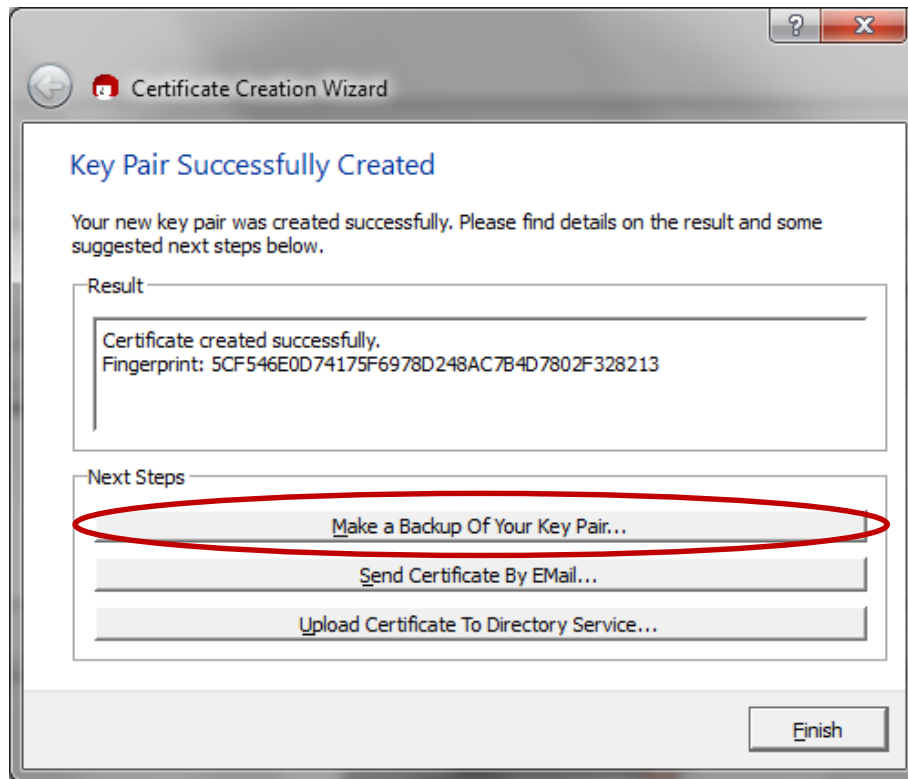
10. You will be asked to re-enter the passphrase



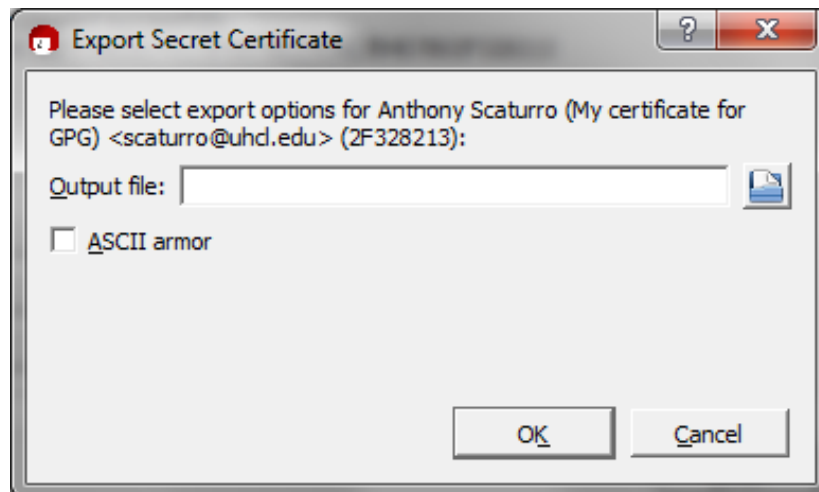
11. Re-enter the passphrase value. Then click the "OK" button. If the passphrases match, the certificate will be created.



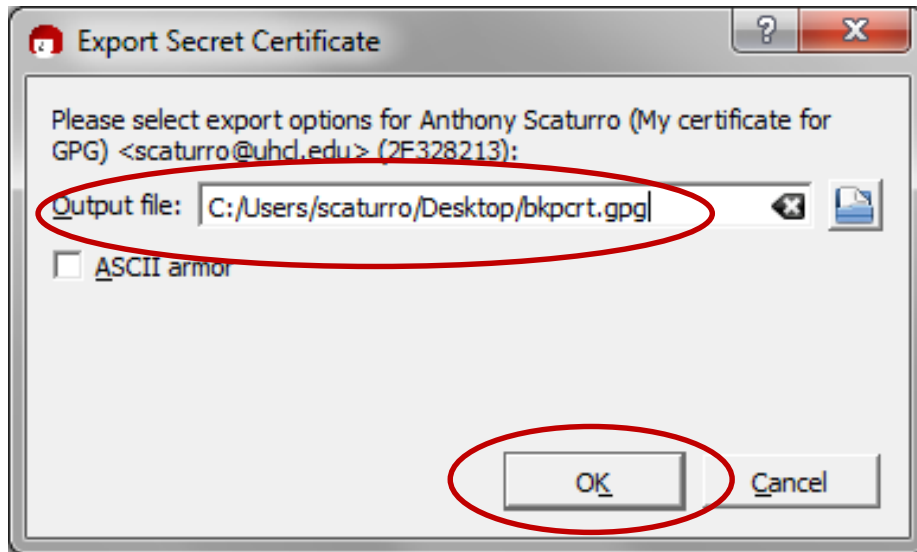
12. Once the certificate is created, the following screen will be displayed. You can save a backup of your public and private keys by clicking the “Make a backup Of Your Key Pair” button. This backup can be used to copy certificates onto other authorized computers.



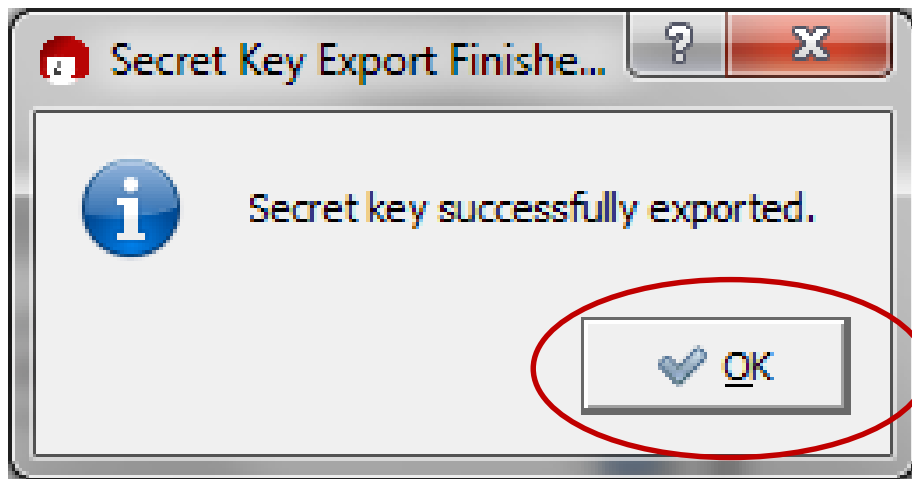
13. If you choose to backup your key pair, you will be presented with the following screen:



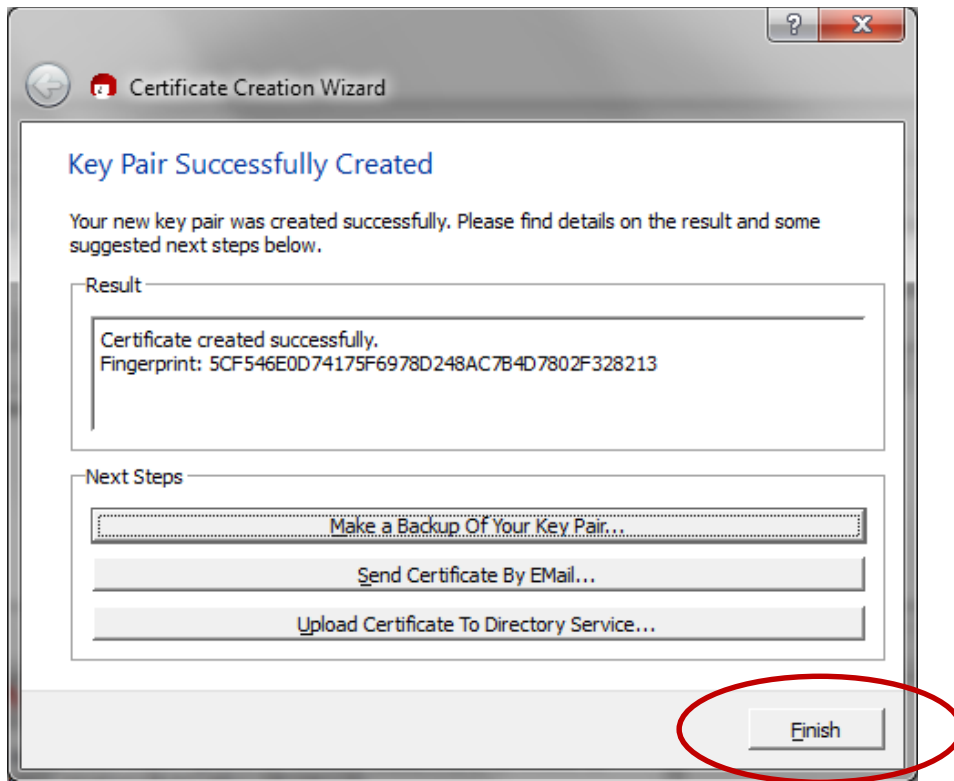
14. Specify the folder and name the file. Then click the “OK” button.



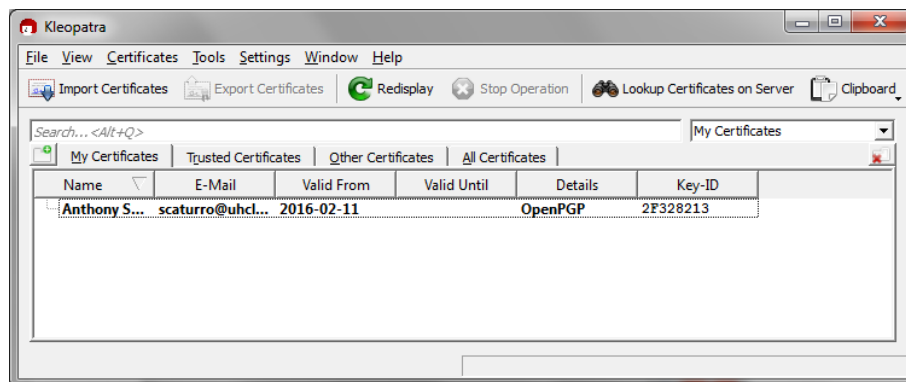
15. After the key is exported, the following will be displayed. Click the “OK” button.



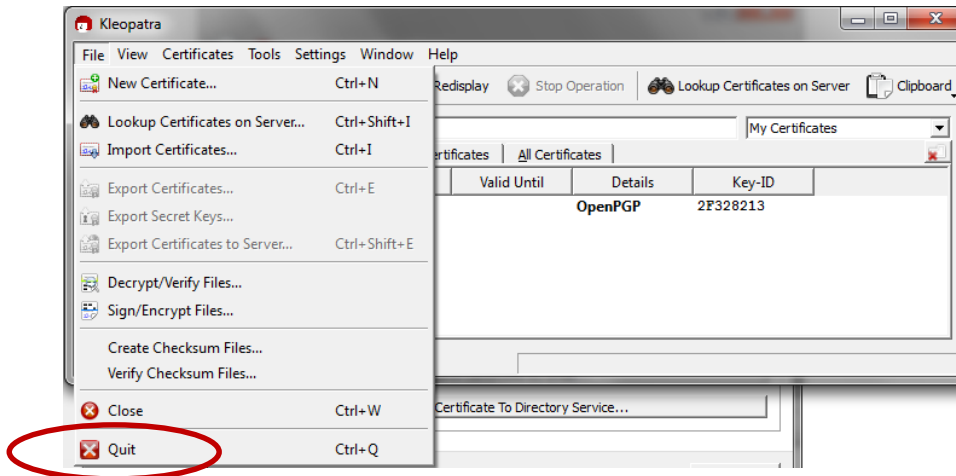
16. You will be returned to the “Key Pair Successfully Created” screen. Click the “Finish” button.



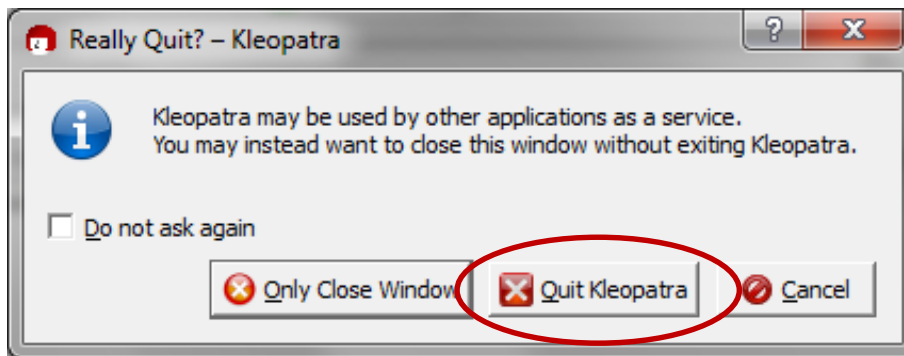
17. The wizard will end and you will be back to the Kleopatra main screen.



18. To exit, click in the “Quit” entry in the “File” menu.



19. Before the program closes, you will need to confirm that you want to close the program by clicking on the “Quit Kleopatra” button.

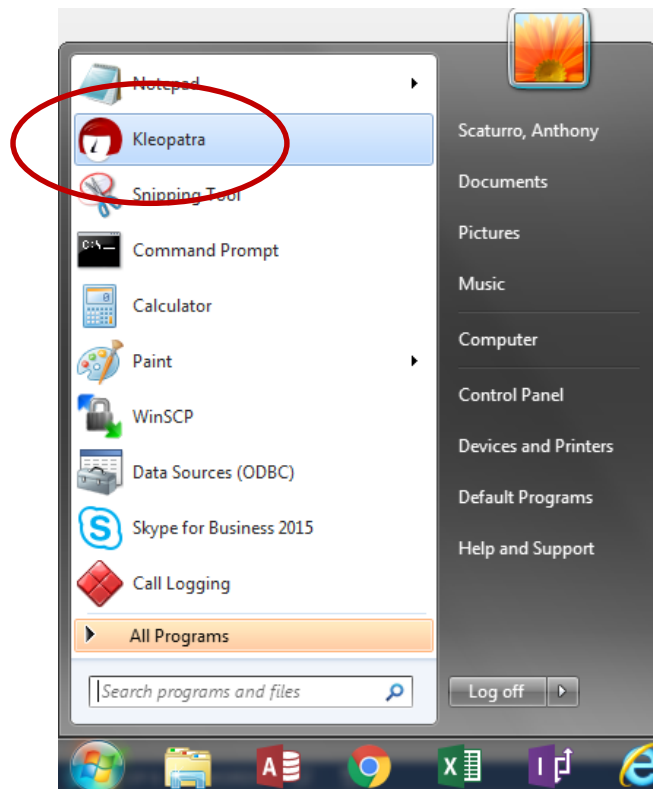


VI. Exporting your public key to another GPG user

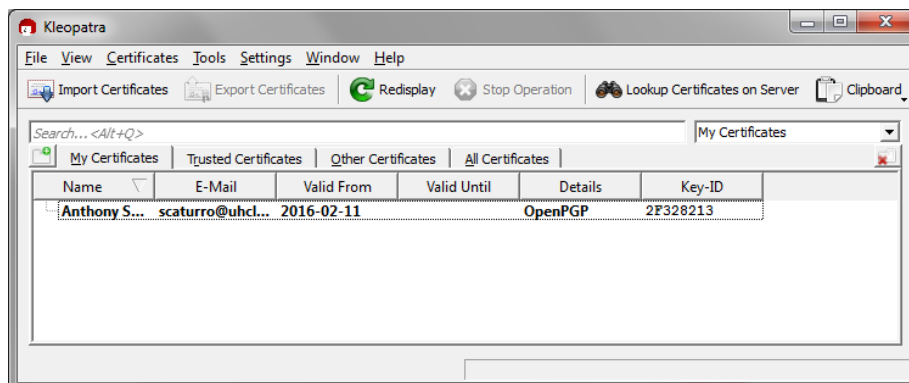
To allow someone to send you encrypted files and messages, you must export your public key certificate that is stored in your GPG environment and send it to them using the following procedure. Any prospective sender to whom you send your public key certificate, must add your certificate into their key file or “key ring” following the procedure in the section entitled VI.

Importing another user’s public key into your GPG key file.

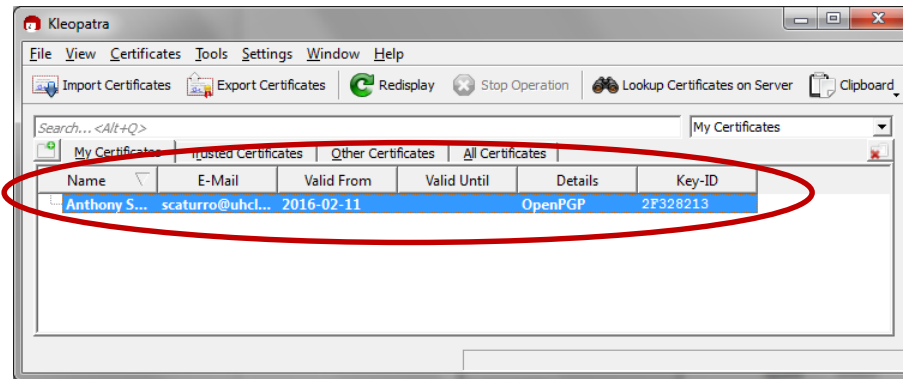
1. From your start bar, select the “Kleopatra” icon to start the Kleopatra certificate management software.



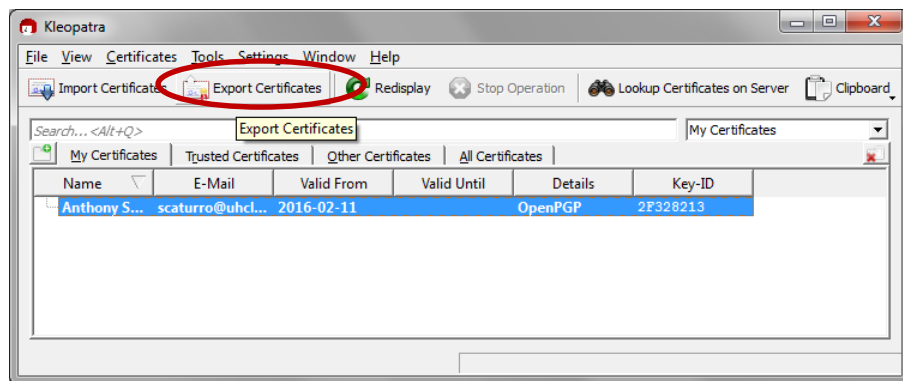
2. The following screen will be displayed with your key information.



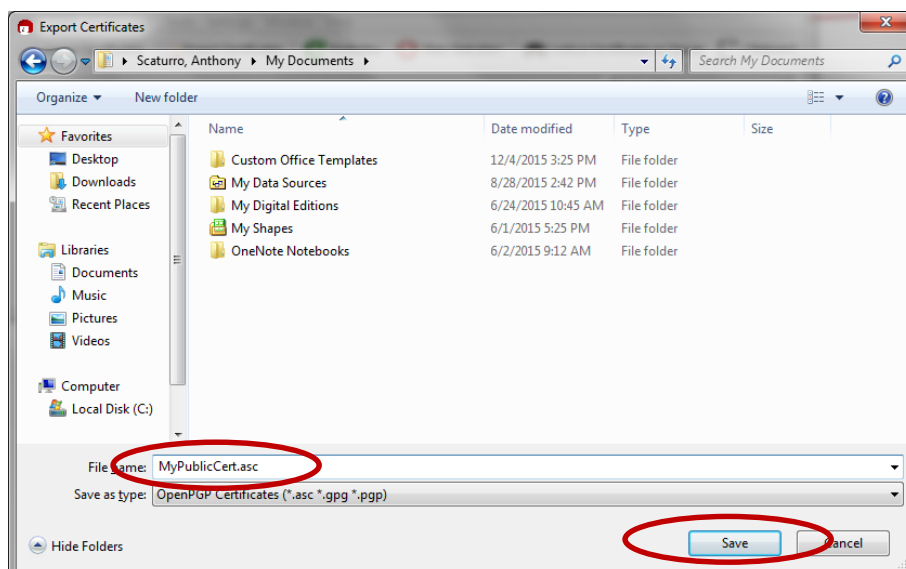
3. Select the key that you wish to export.



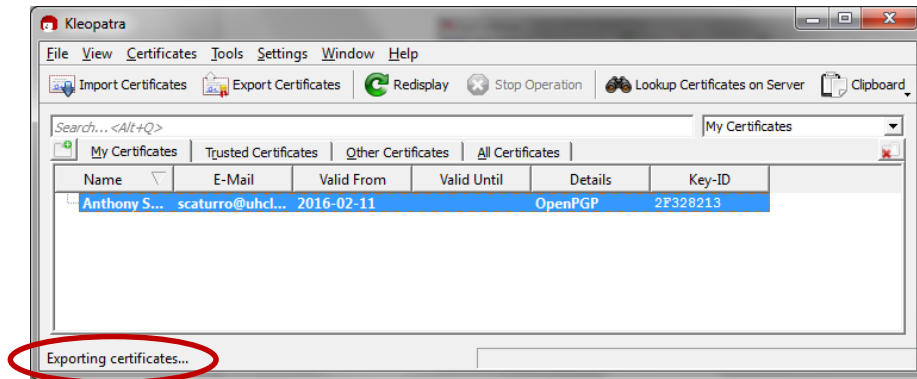
4. Click the “Export Certificates” button.



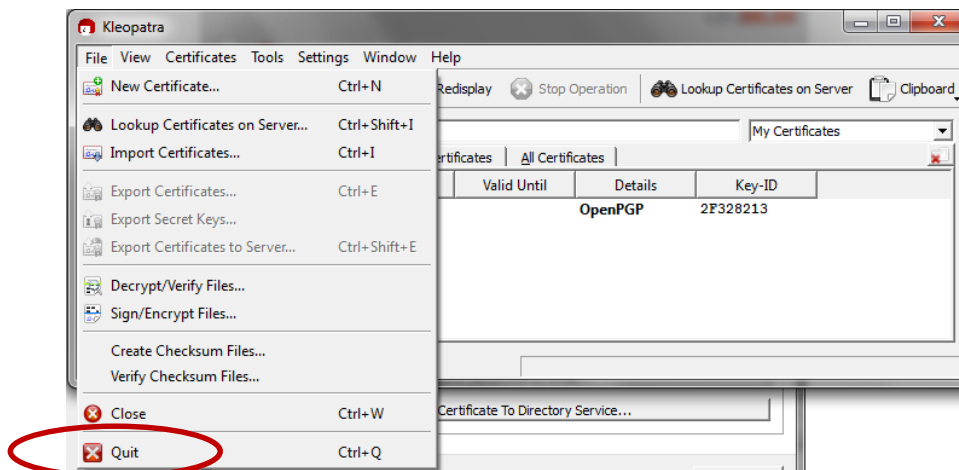
5. Browse to the folder into which the public key certificate will be exported, give the file a name, and click the “Save” button.



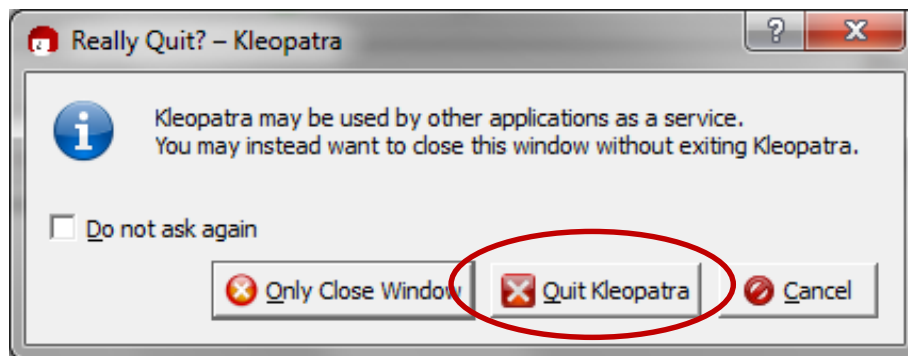
6. The status line on the bottom left of the window will display the status.



7. To exit, click in the "Quit" entry in the "File" menu.



8. Before the program closes, you will need to confirm that you want to close the program by clicking on the "Quit Kleopatra" button.

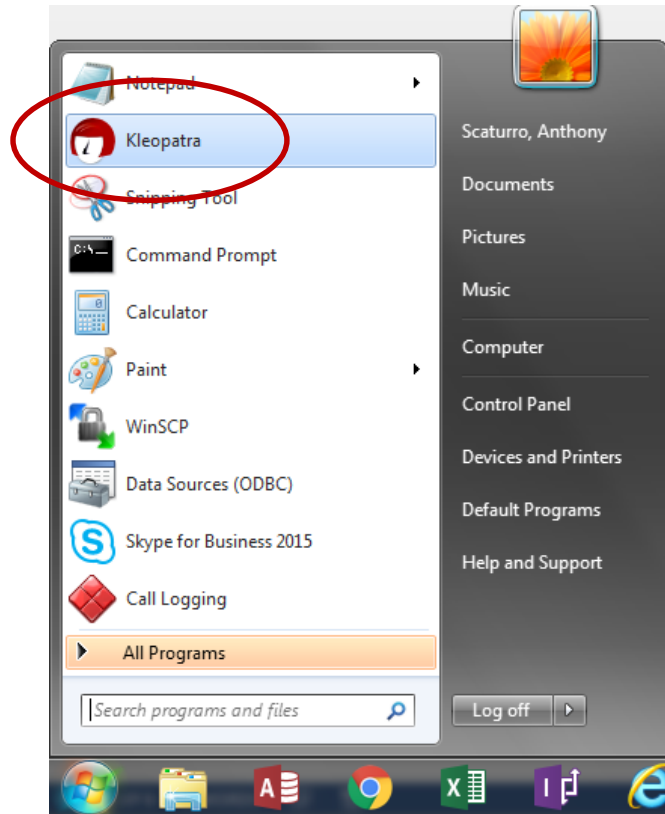


9. The exported certificate may be sent via e-mail or can be copied onto a USB key and passed to whomever needs to send you encrypted files. In the case of the sender being a UHCL web site, the exported certificate should be sent to Kurt Lund at lund@uhcl.edu.

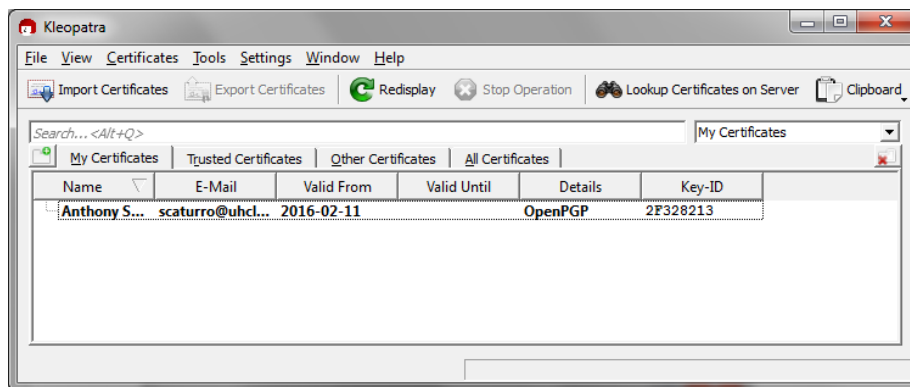
VII. Importing another user's public key into your GPG key file

If someone sends you their public key so that you can send that person an encrypted file or message, you must import their public key certificate into your GPG key file or “key ring”. To import the certificate into your GPG environment, perform the following steps:

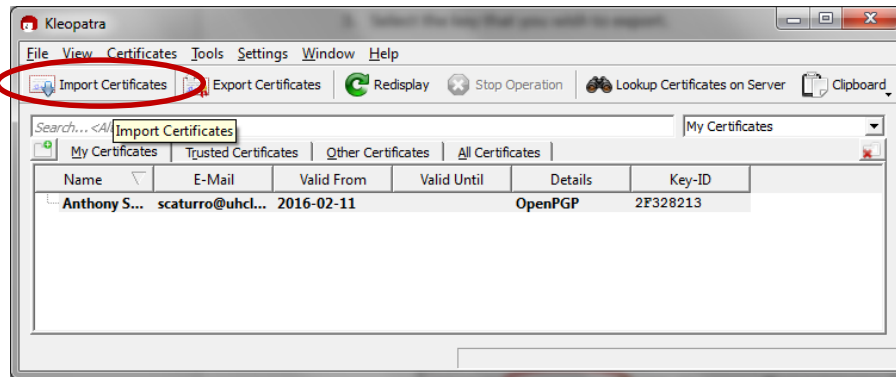
1. From your start bar, select the “Kleopatra” icon to start the Kleopatra certificate management software.



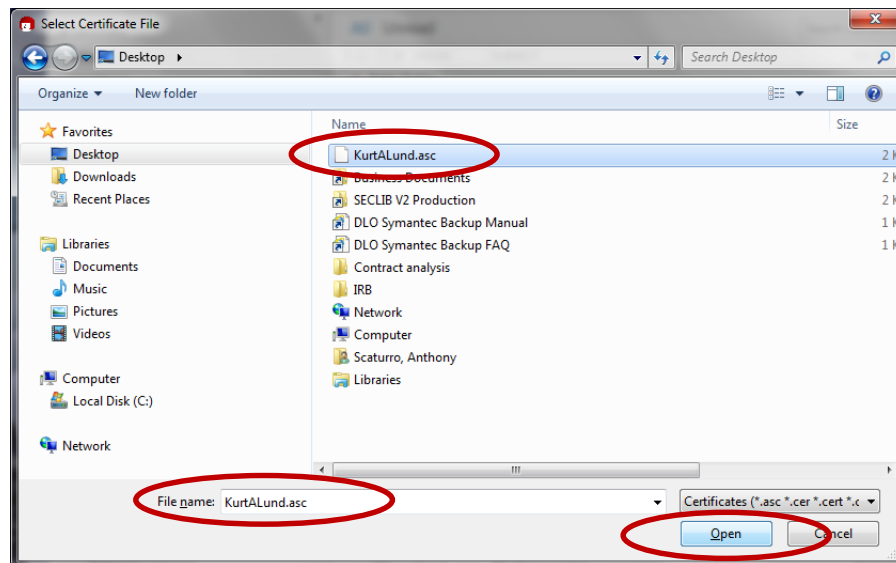
2. The following screen will be displayed with your key information.



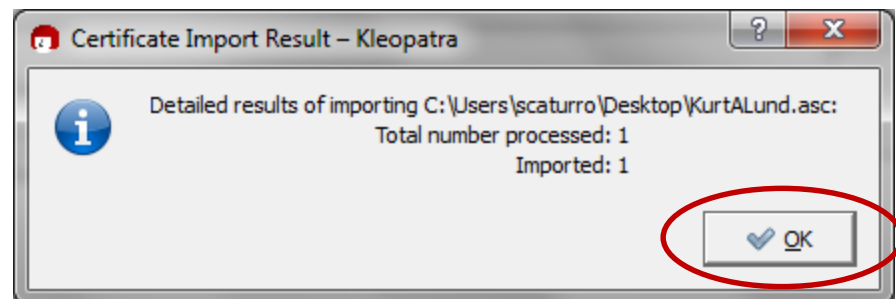
3. Click the “Import Certificates” button.



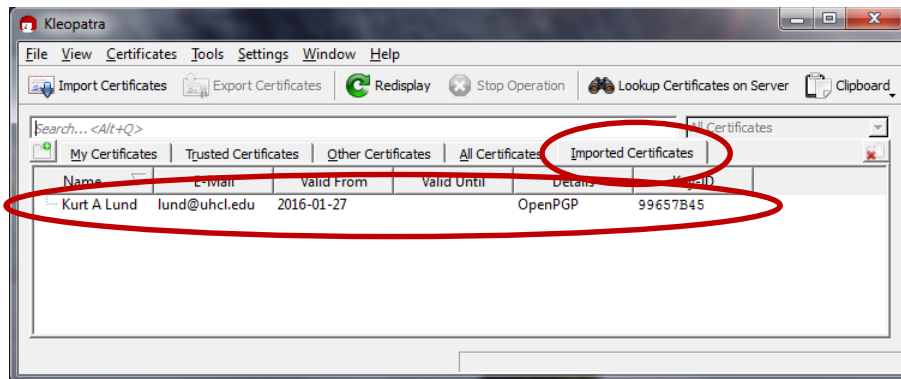
4. Browse to the folder from where the public key certificate will be imported and click the “Open” button.



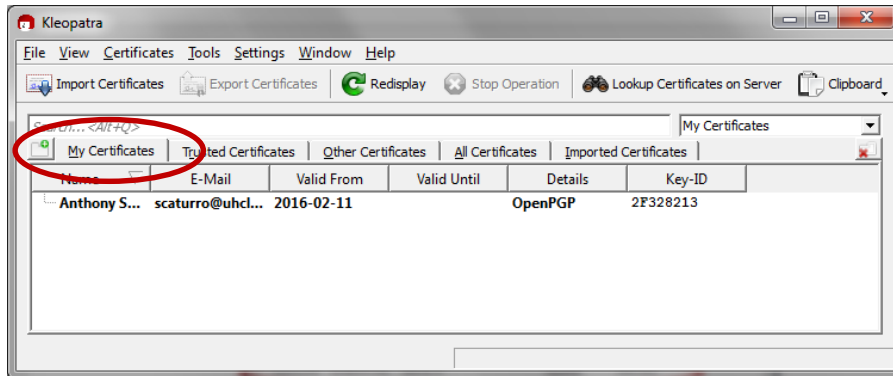
5. The following status window will be displayed indicating the certificate was imported.



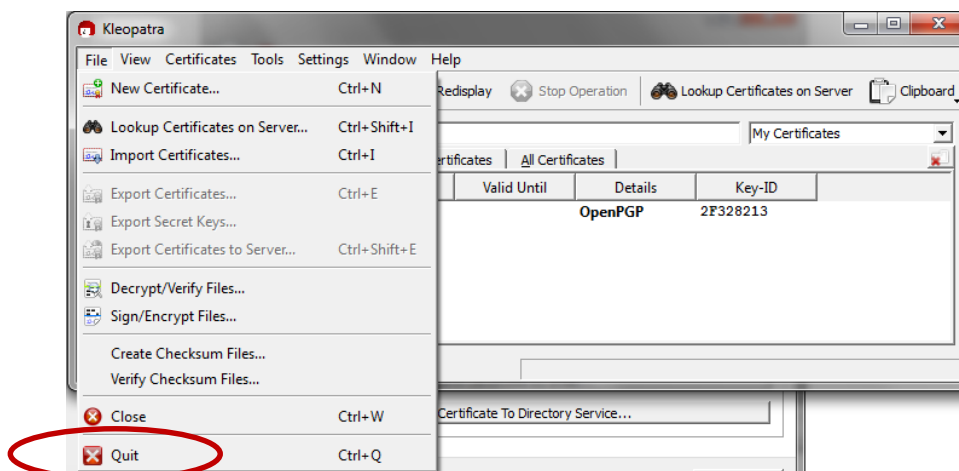
- Click the “OK” button and the Kleopatra window will switch to the “Imported Certificates” tab, showing the newly imported certificate.



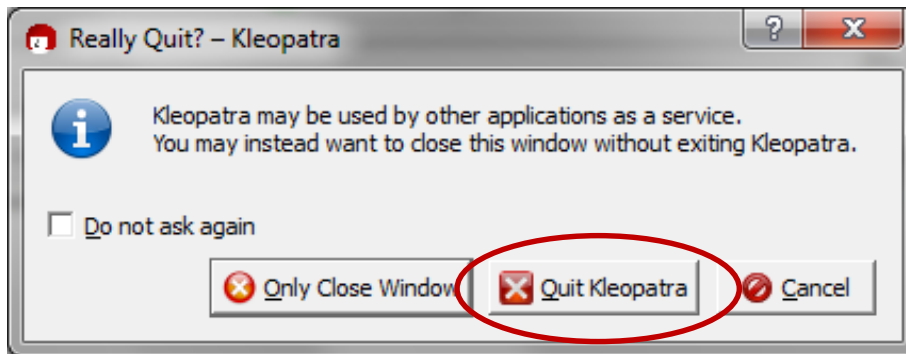
- Clicking the “My Certificates” tab will bring you back to the original tab.



- To exit, click in the “Quit” entry in the “File” menu.

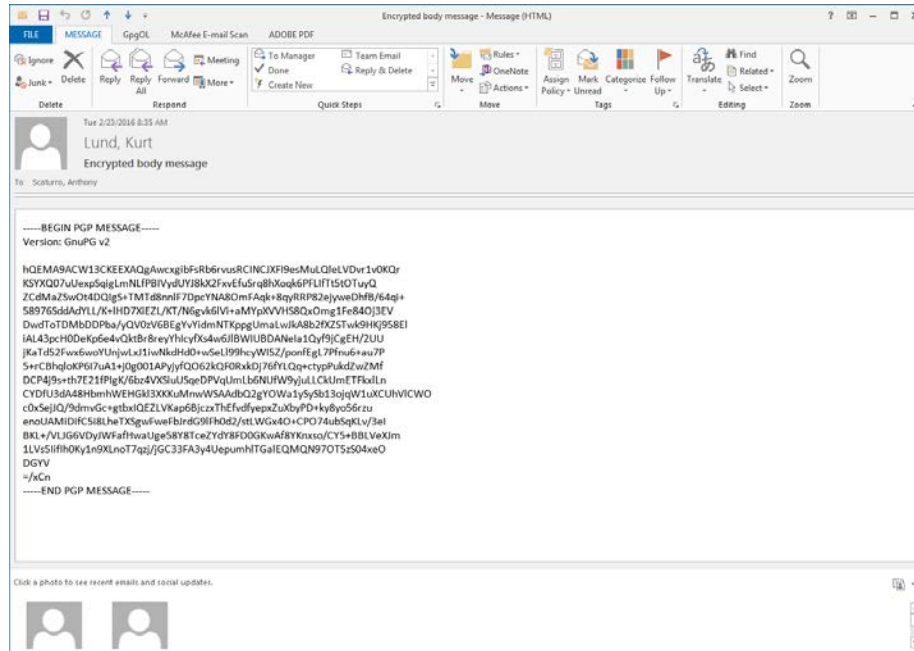


9. Before the program closes, you will need to confirm that you want to close the program by clicking on the “Quit Kleopatra” button.

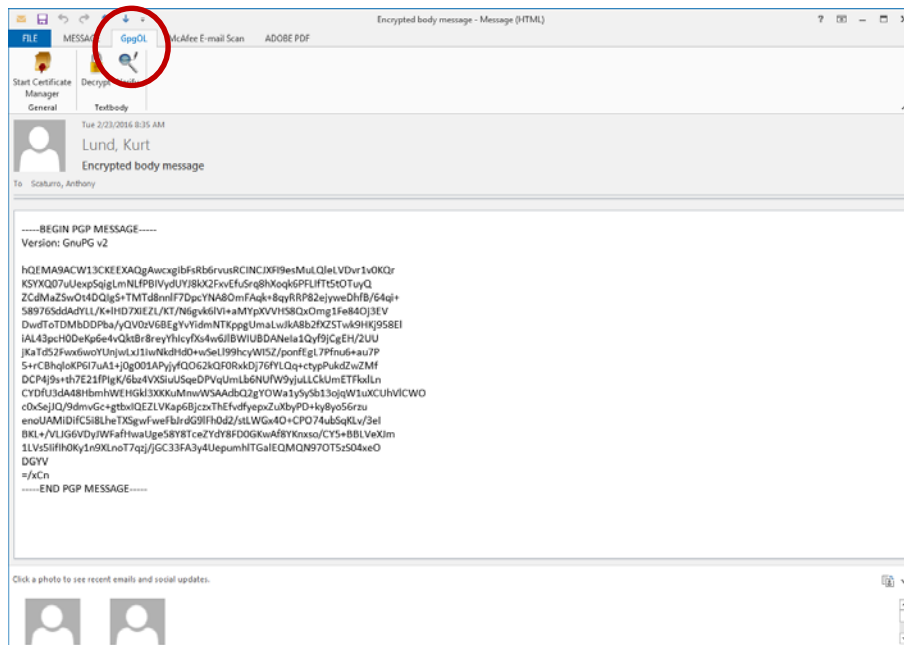


VIII. Decrypting an encrypted e-mail that has been sent to you

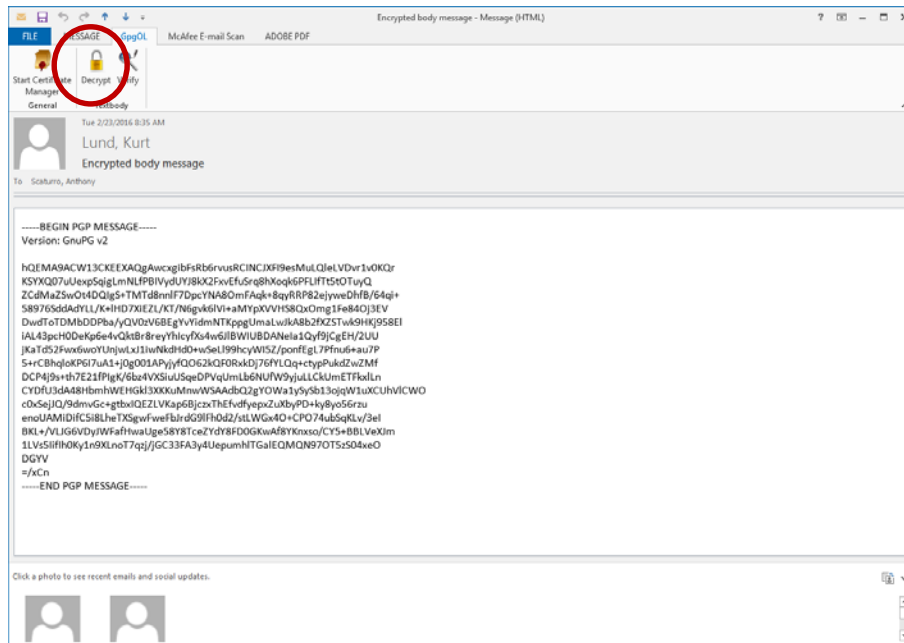
1. Open the e-mail message.



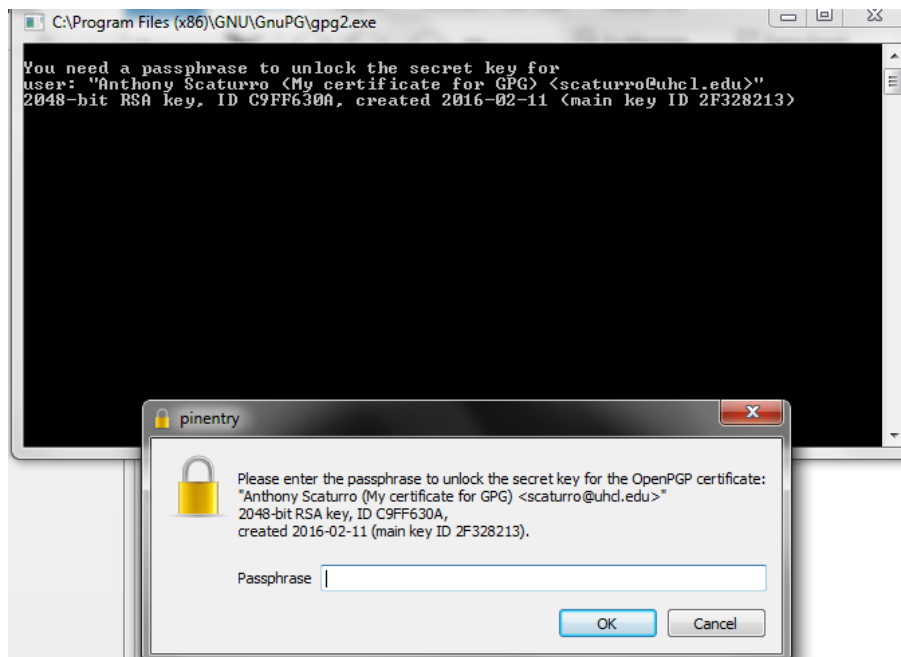
2. Select the GpgOL tab.



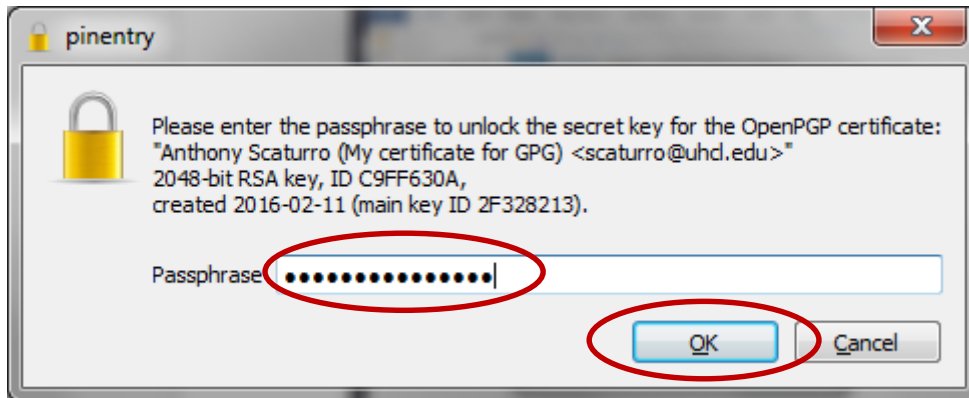
3. Click the "Decrypt" button.



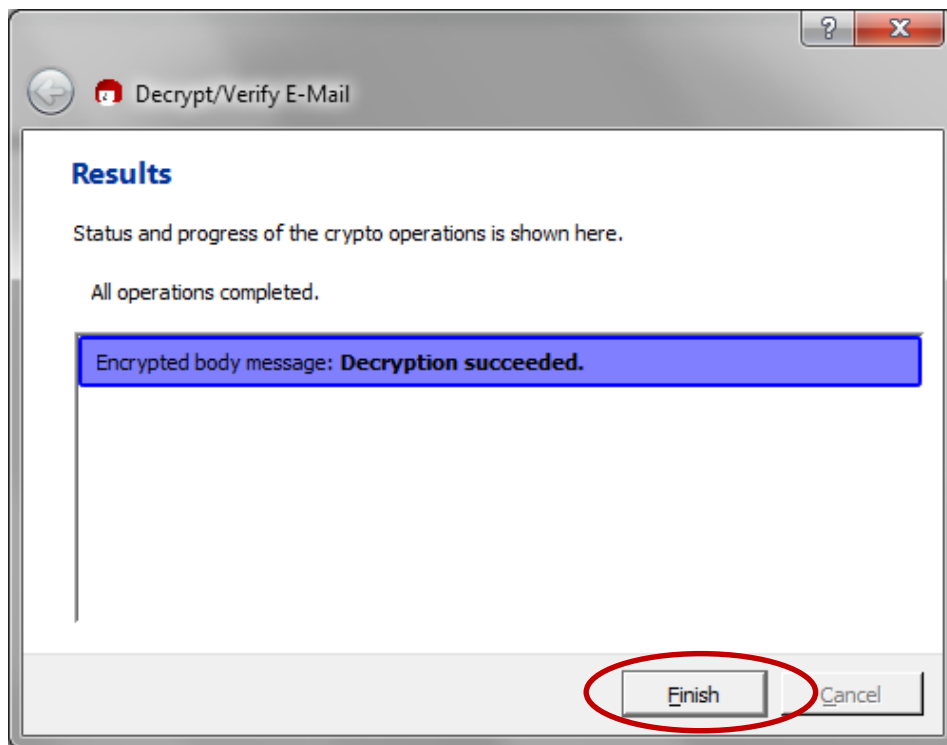
4. A command window will open along with a window that asks for the Passphrase to your private key that will be used to decrypt the incoming message.



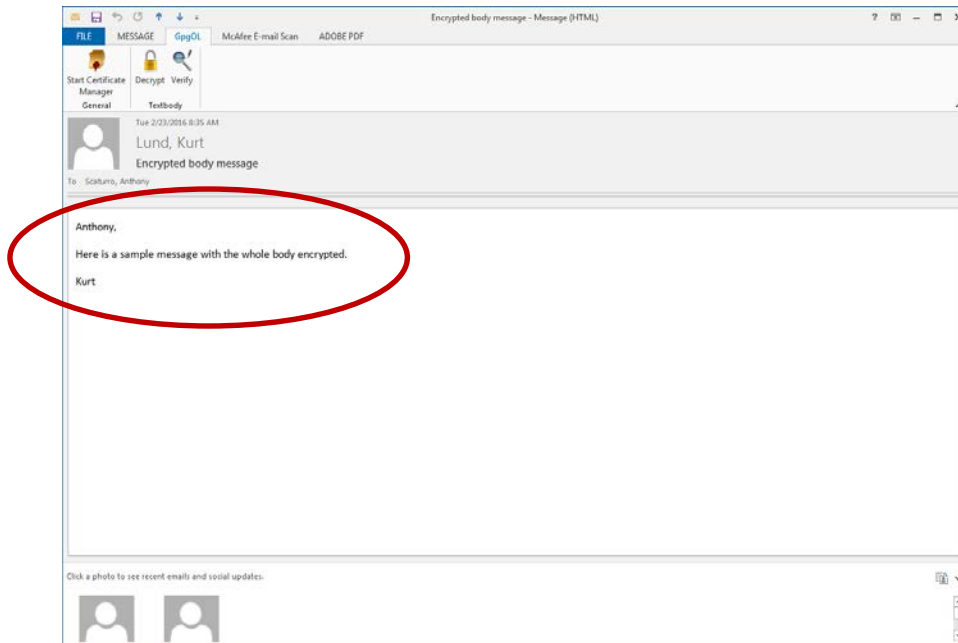
5. Enter your passphrase and click the “OK” button.



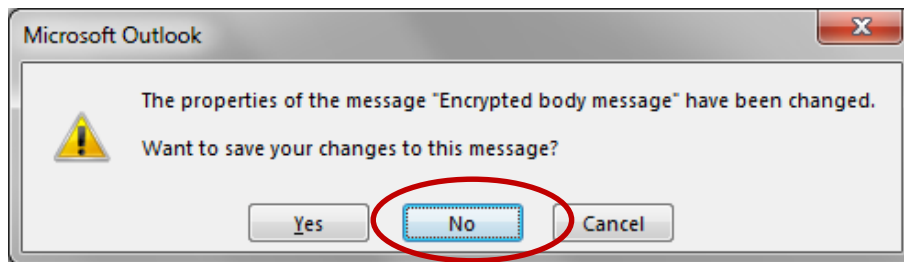
6. The results window will tell you if the decryption succeeded. Click the “Finish” button top close the window.



7. Your unencrypted e-mail message body will be displayed.

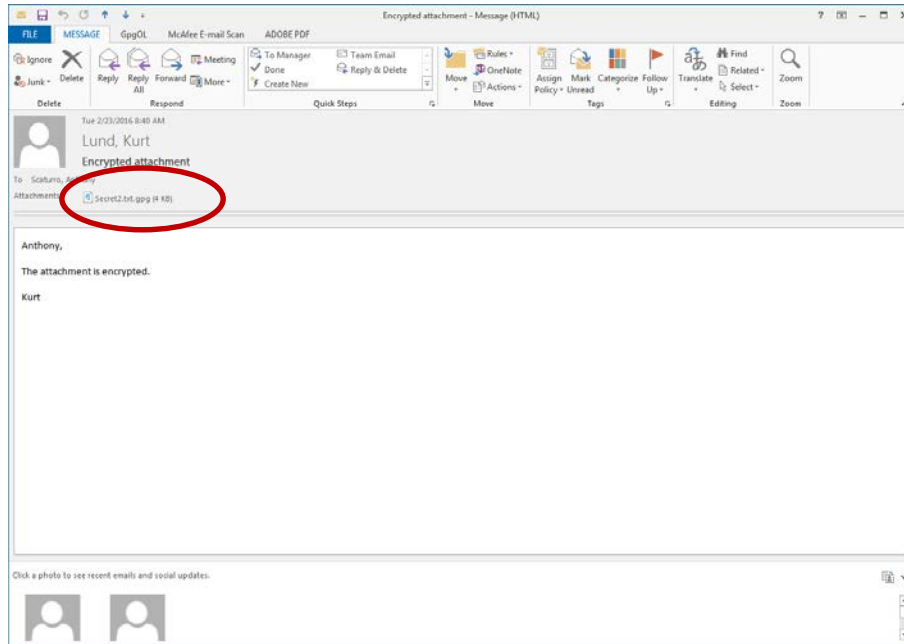


8. When you close the e-mail you will be asked if you want to save the e-mail message in its unencrypted form. For maximum security, click the "No" button. This will keep the message encrypted within the e-mail system and will require you to enter your passphrase each time you reopen the e-mail message.

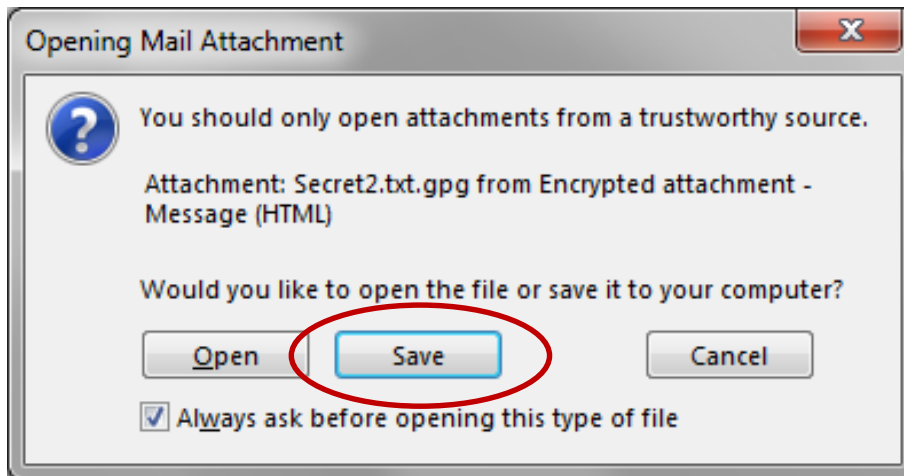


IX. Decrypting an encrypted e-mail attachment

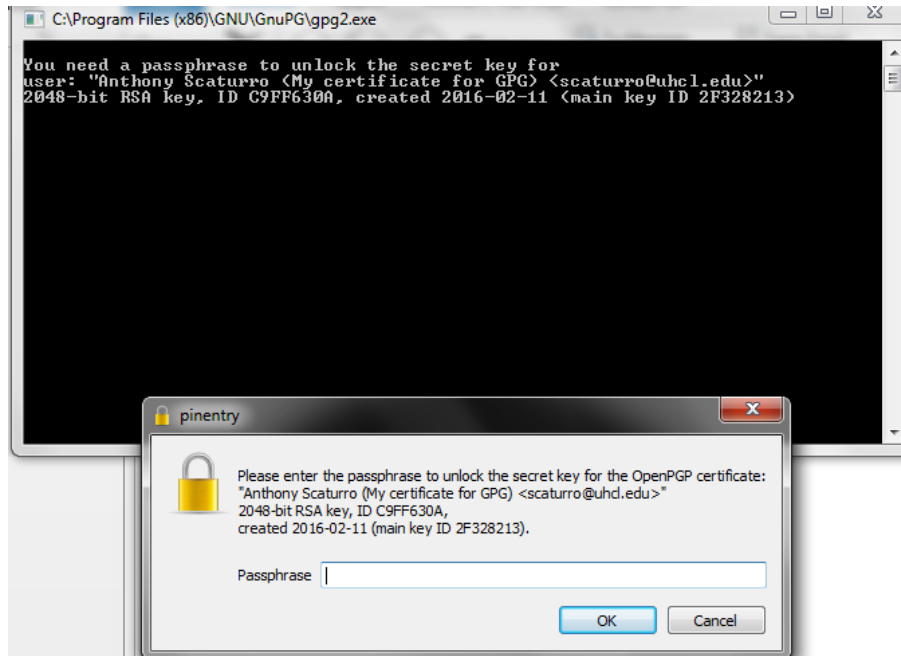
1. Open the e-mail message and double click the attachment.



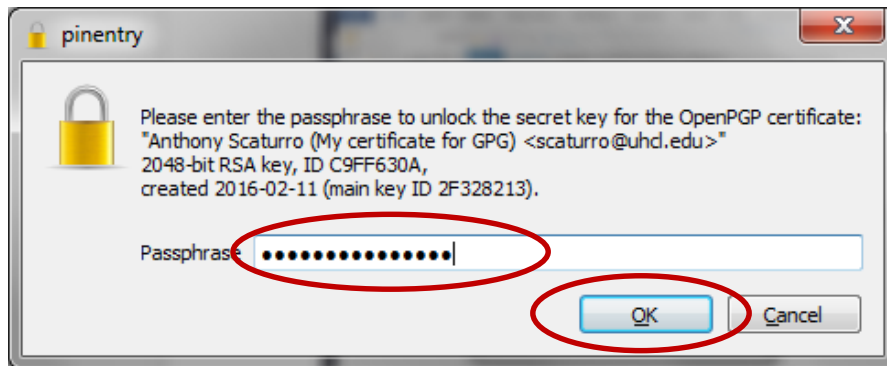
2. You will be asked whether you want to open or save the attachment. Click the "Save" button to store the encrypted file.



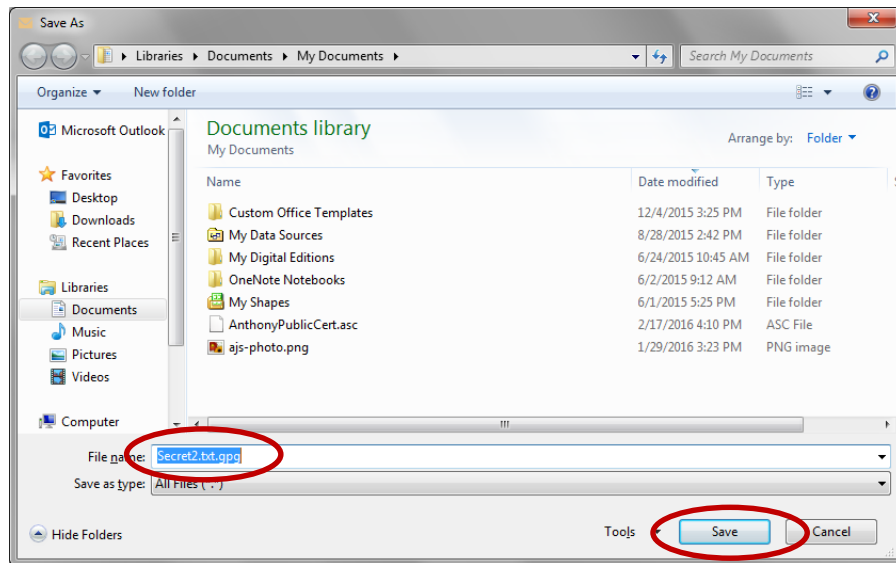
3. A command window will open along with a window prompting you for your passphrase.



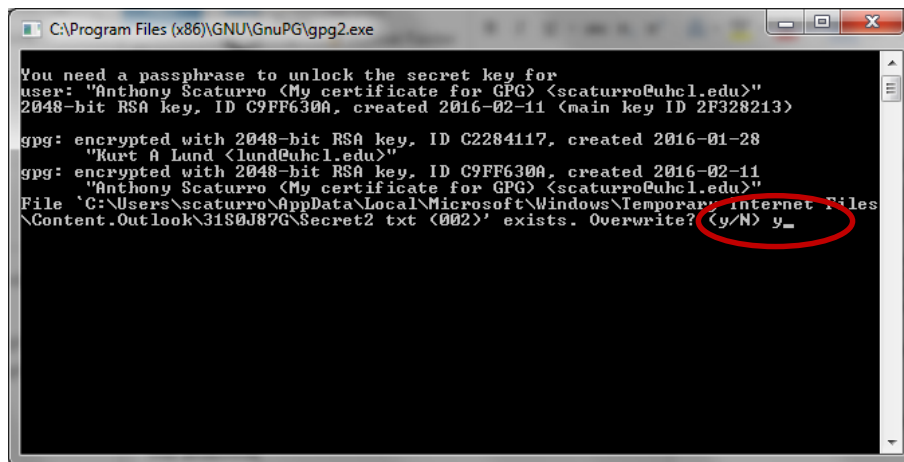
4. Enter your passphrase and click the "OK" button.



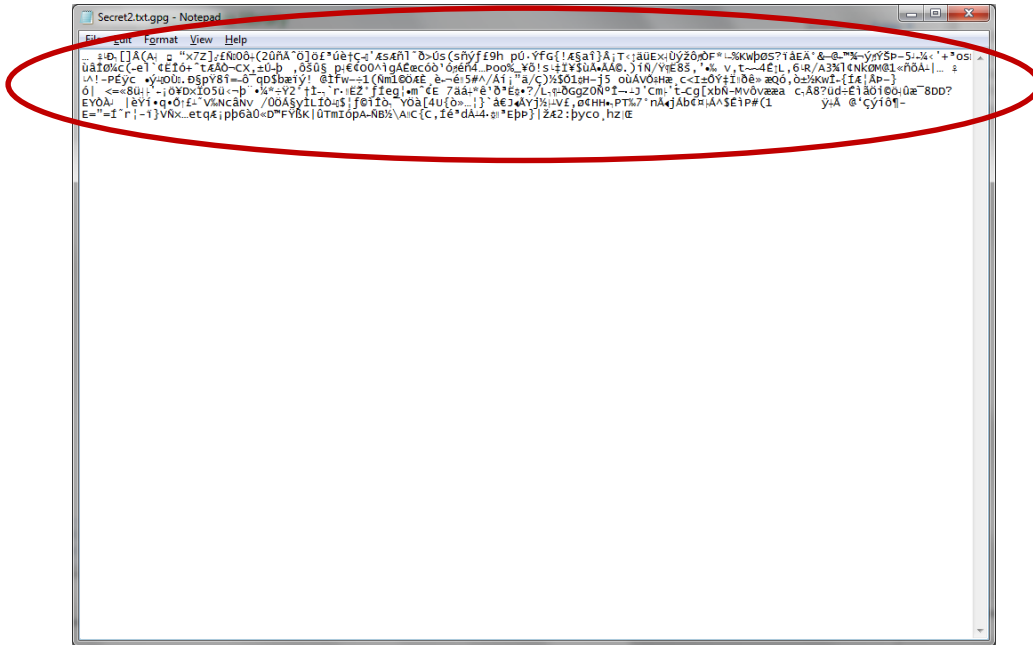
5. Select the appropriate folder and enter the name that you want the file stored as. Then, click the “Save” button.



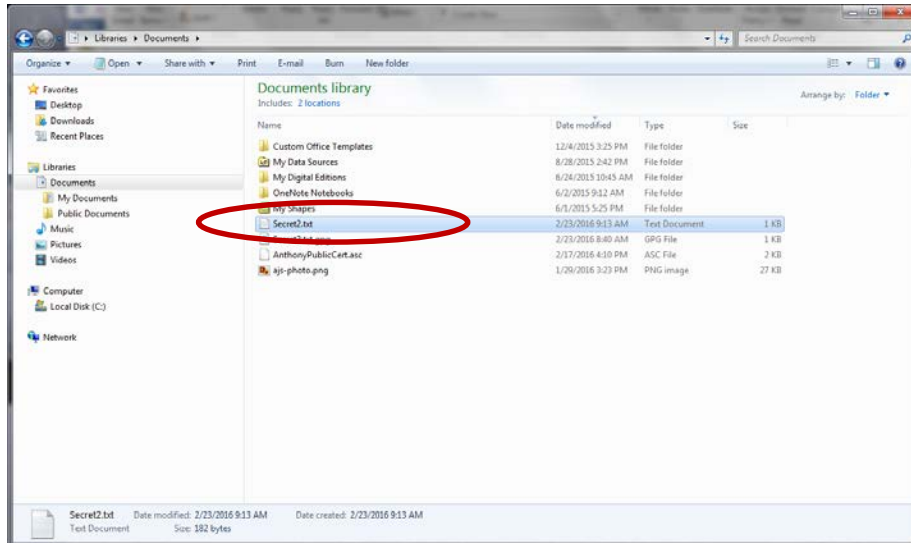
6. If the file name already exists in the folder you have selected, enter a “y” into the command window to replace the old file.



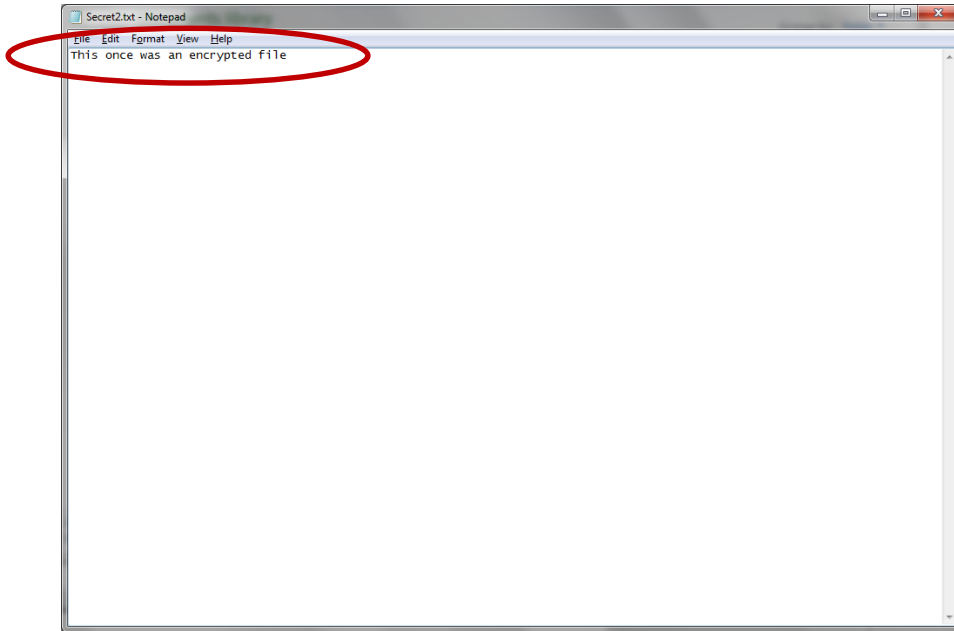
7. The file should be unreadable.



8. Open Windows Explorer and click the decrypted file to open it.

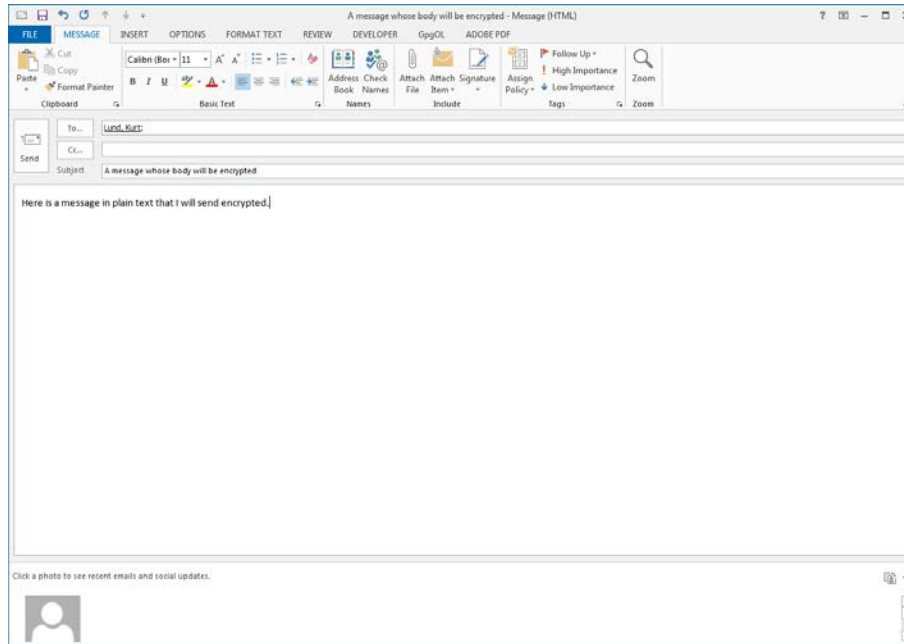


9. The file should be readable.

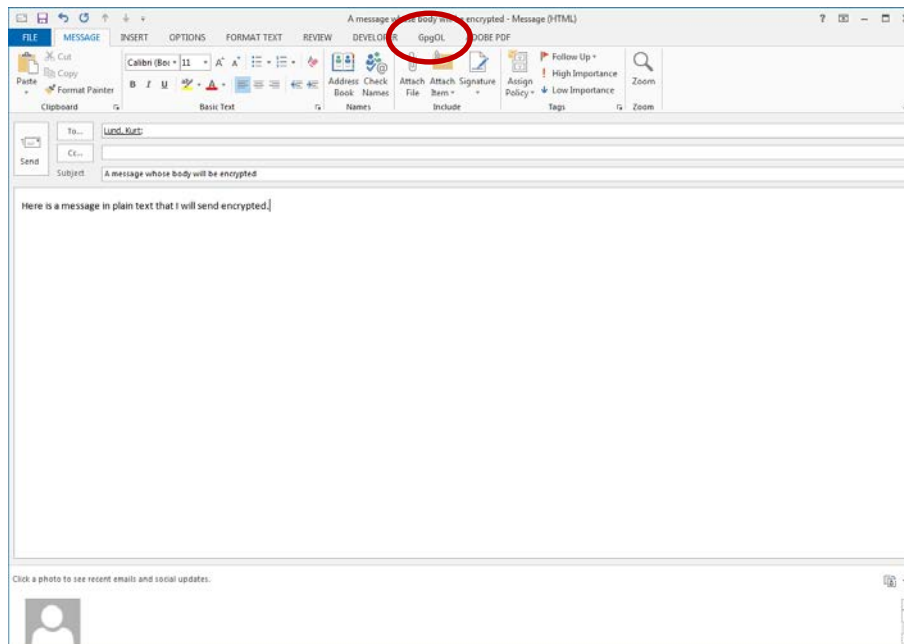


X. Sending an e-mail message with an encrypted body

1. Type the message body as you usually do.

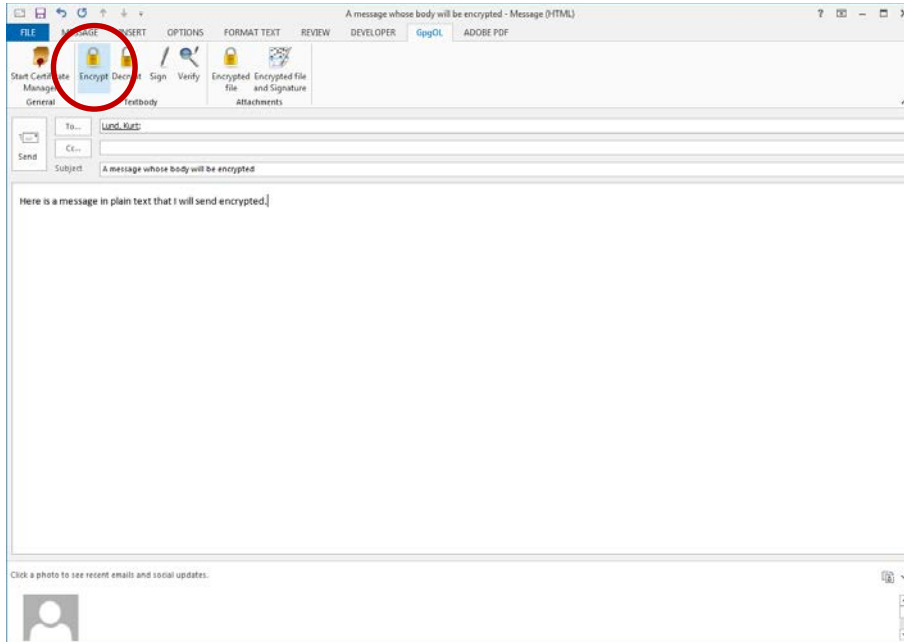


2. Select the GpgOL tab.

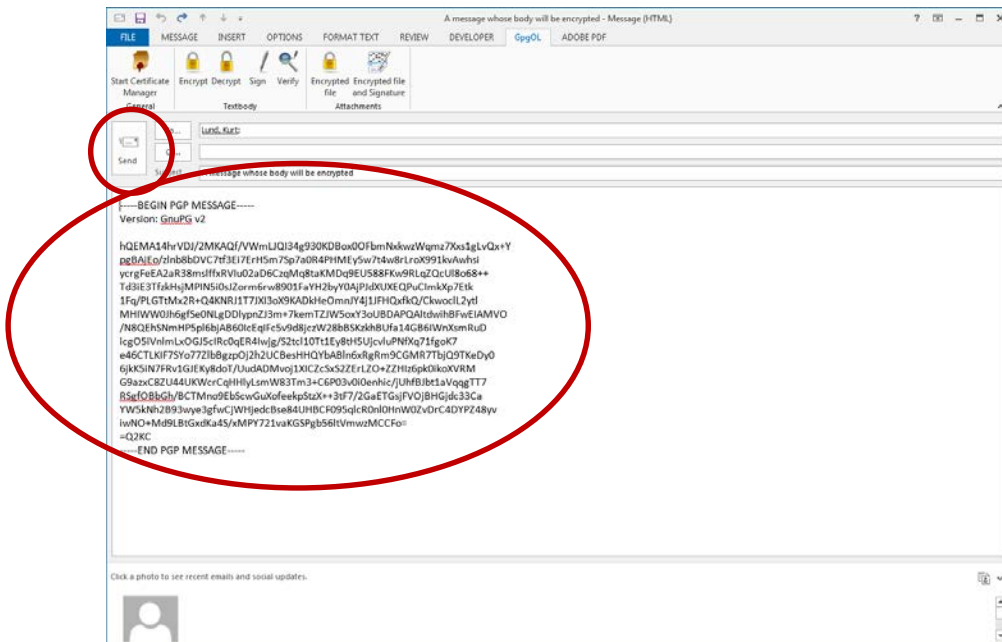


3. Click the "Encrypt" button.

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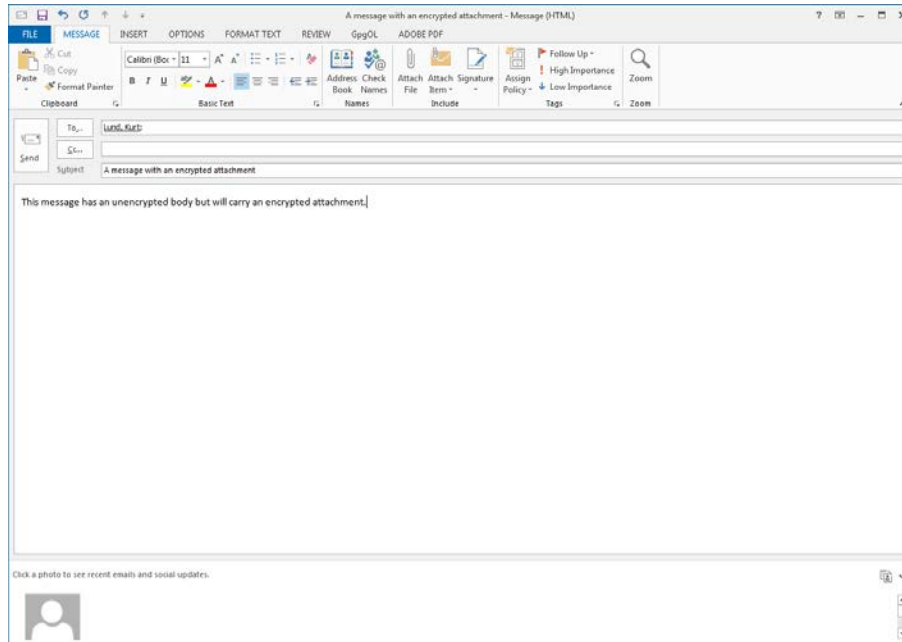


4. The message text will be encrypted and become unreadable. Click the normal "Send" button to send the message to the intended recipients.

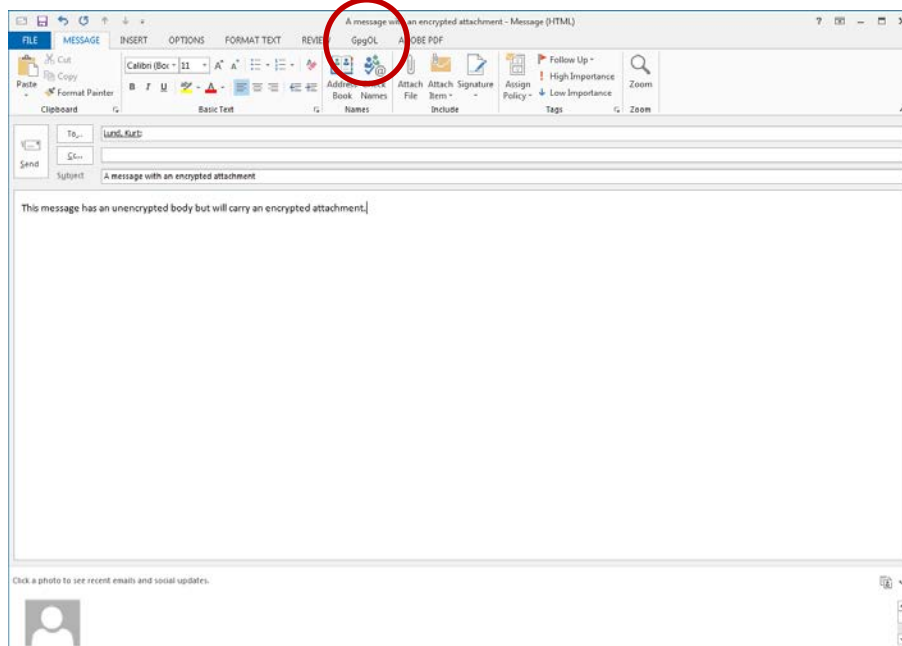


XI. Sending an e-mail message with an encrypted attachment

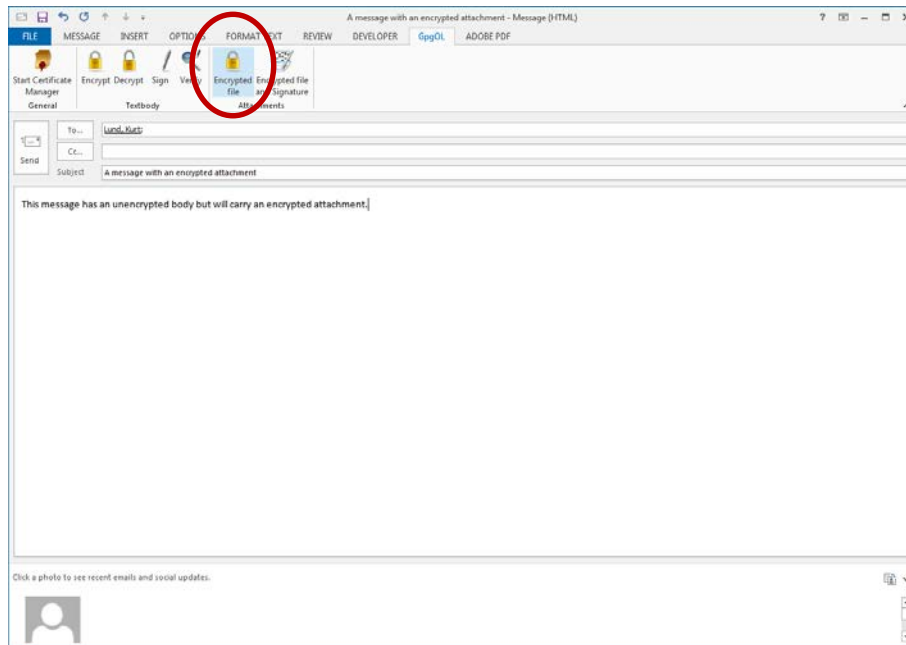
1. Type the message body as you usually do but do not add the attachment yet.



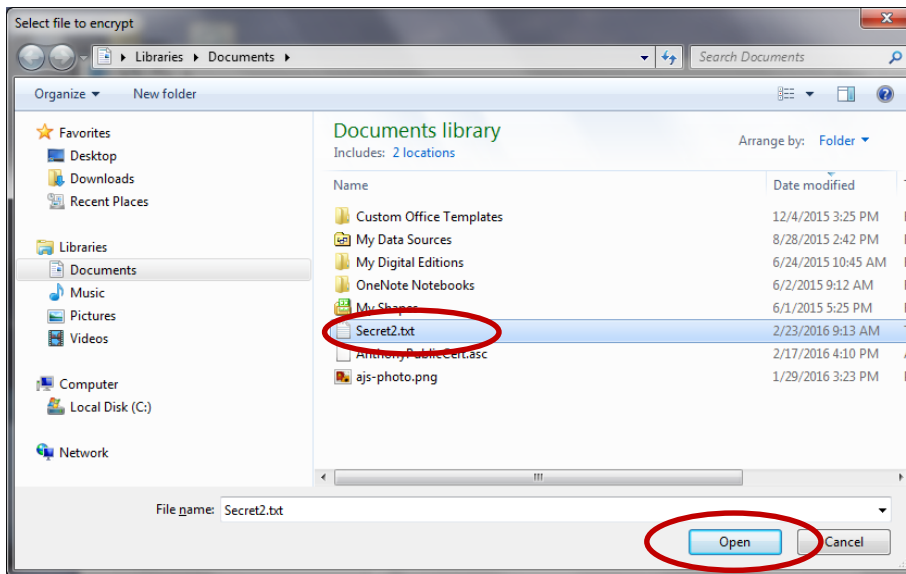
2. Select the GpgOL tab.



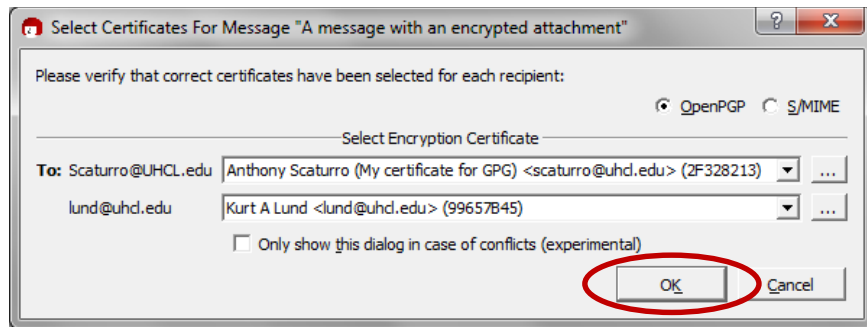
3. Click the “Encrypted File” button.



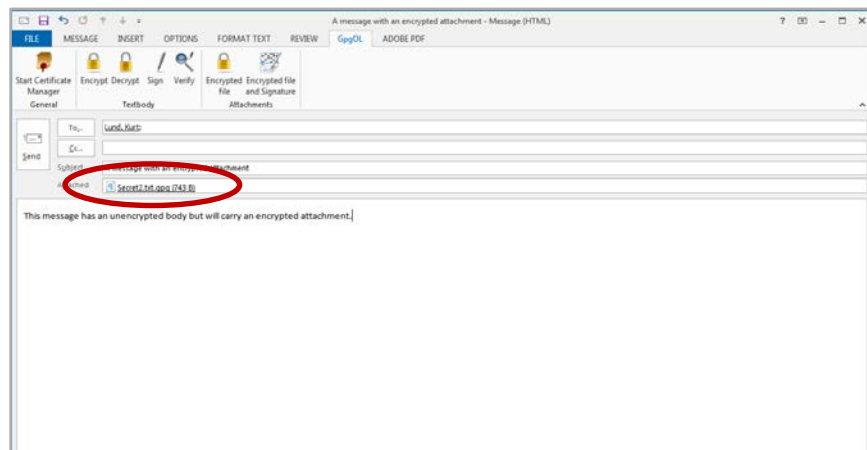
4. A file selection box will be presented. Navigate to and select the file to be encrypted.



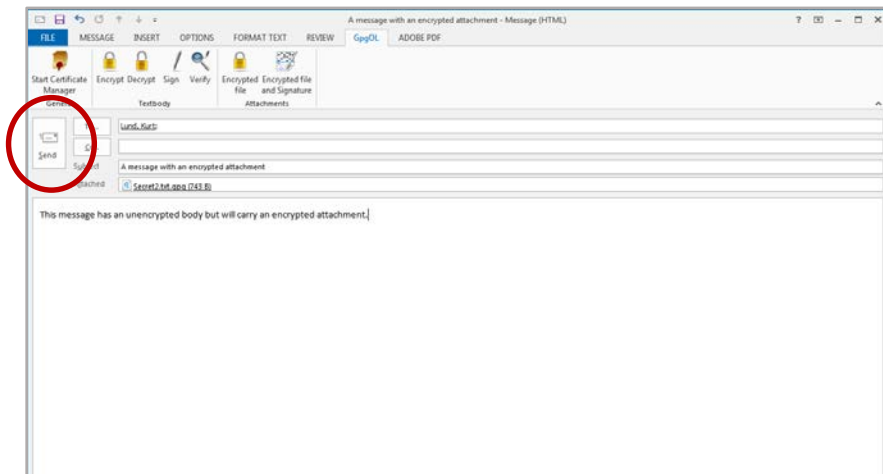
5. A window will pop up asking you to verify the certificates that will be used. Click the “OK” button to confirm.



6. The file with an extra extension of .gpg will be added to the e-mail message.

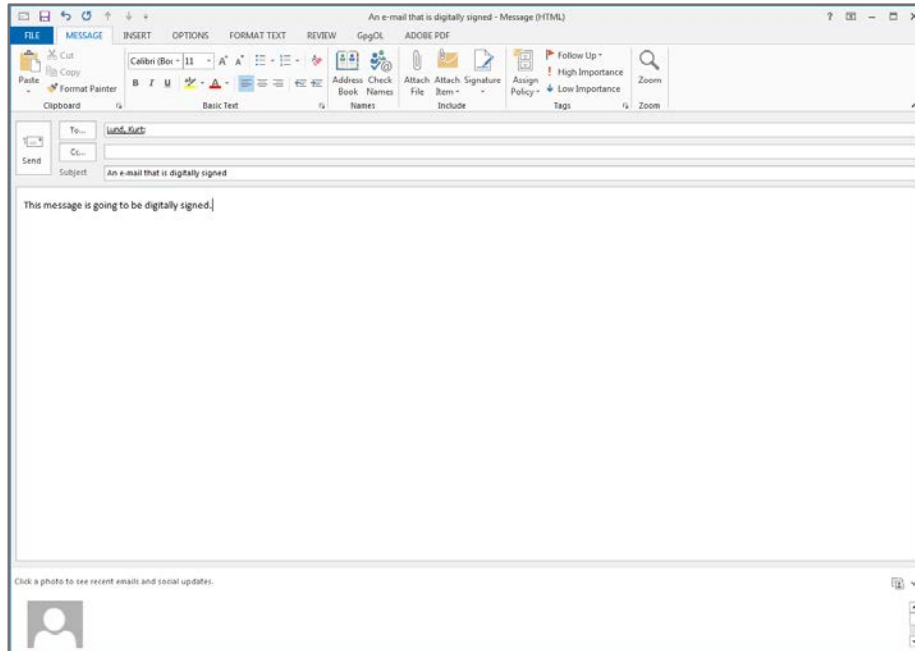


7. Click the “Send” button to send the message.

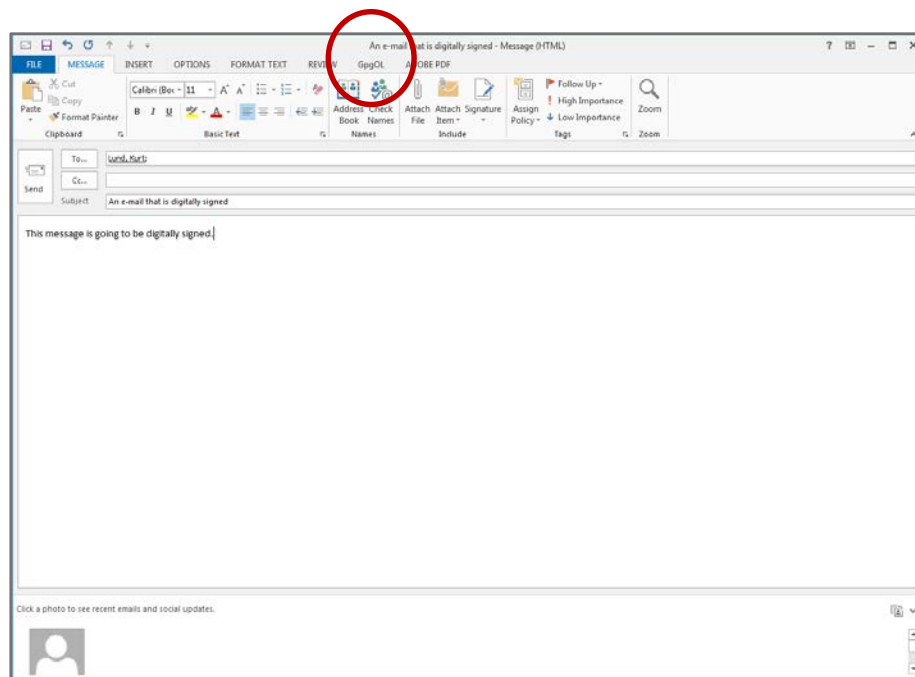


XII. Digitally signing an e-mail message

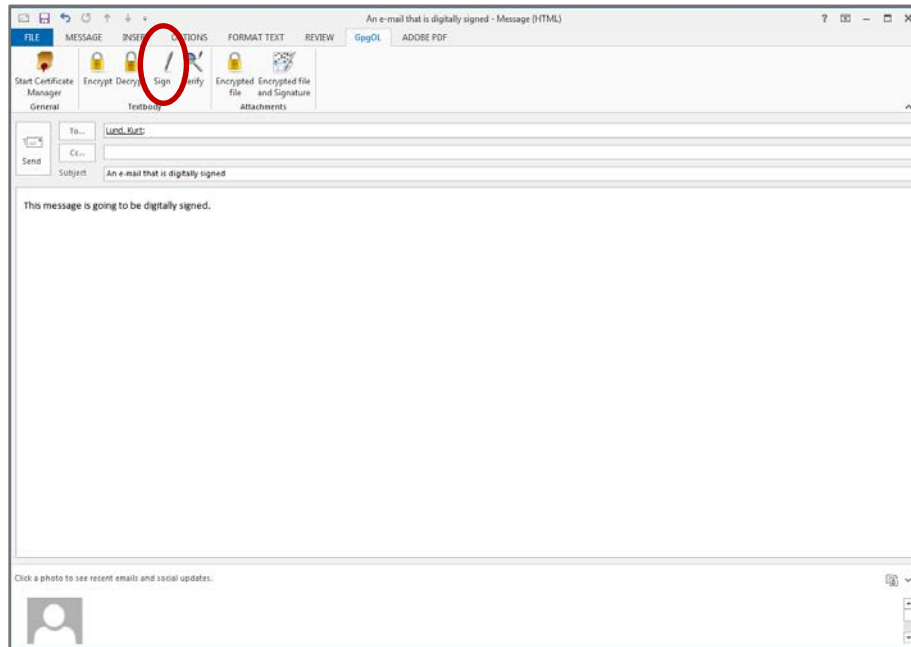
1. Open a “Compose” window in Outlook and type in your message content as you usually do.



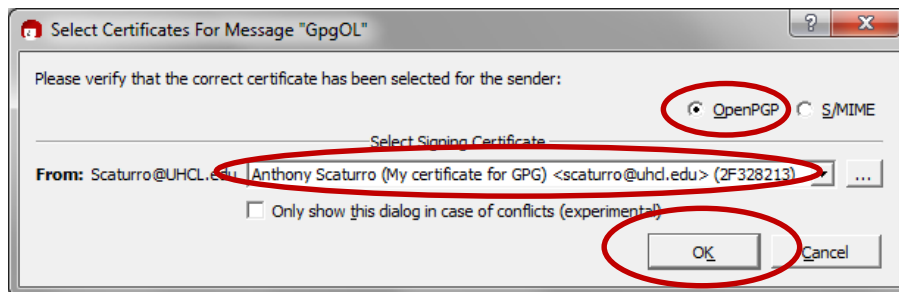
2. Select the “GpgOL” tab.



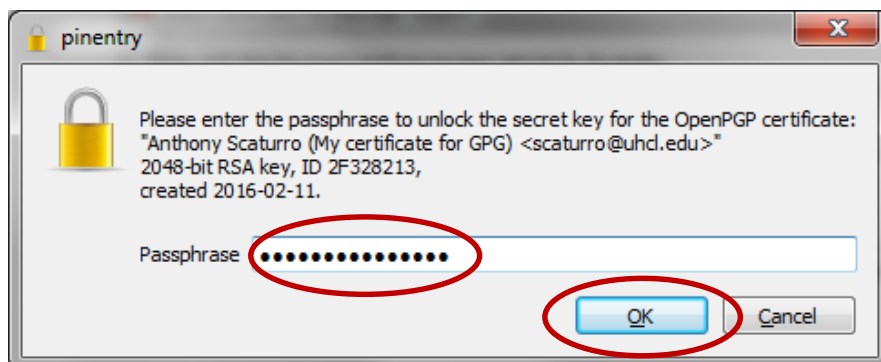
3. Click the “Sign” button.



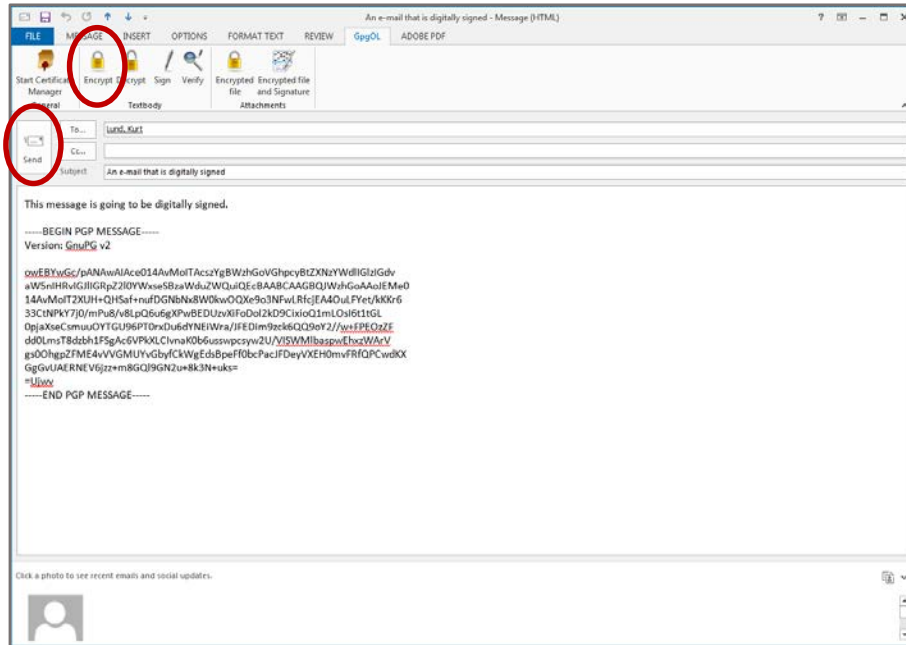
4. You will be asked to verify that the correct private key certificate is being used. Check that the certificate is the one expected and the OpenPGP radio button is selected. Click the “OK” button to confirm.



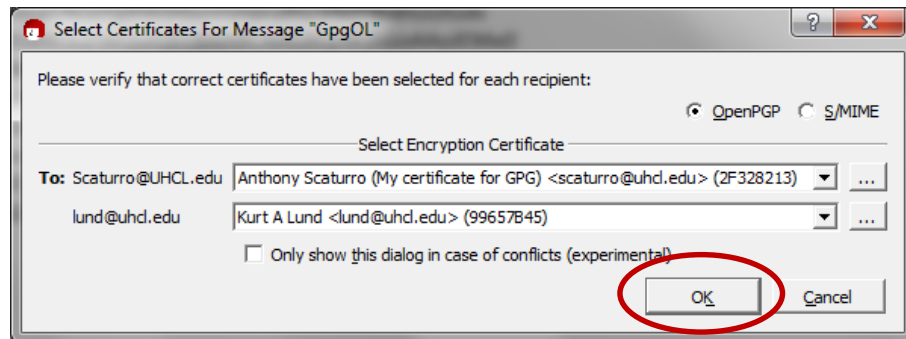
5. You will be prompted to enter your passphrase to unlock your private key. Enter your passphrase and click the “OK” button.



- The digital signature will be added to the end of your message. If you do not wish to encrypt the message, click the “Send” button to send the e-mail and to end the process. Otherwise click the “Encrypt” button and continue to step 7.

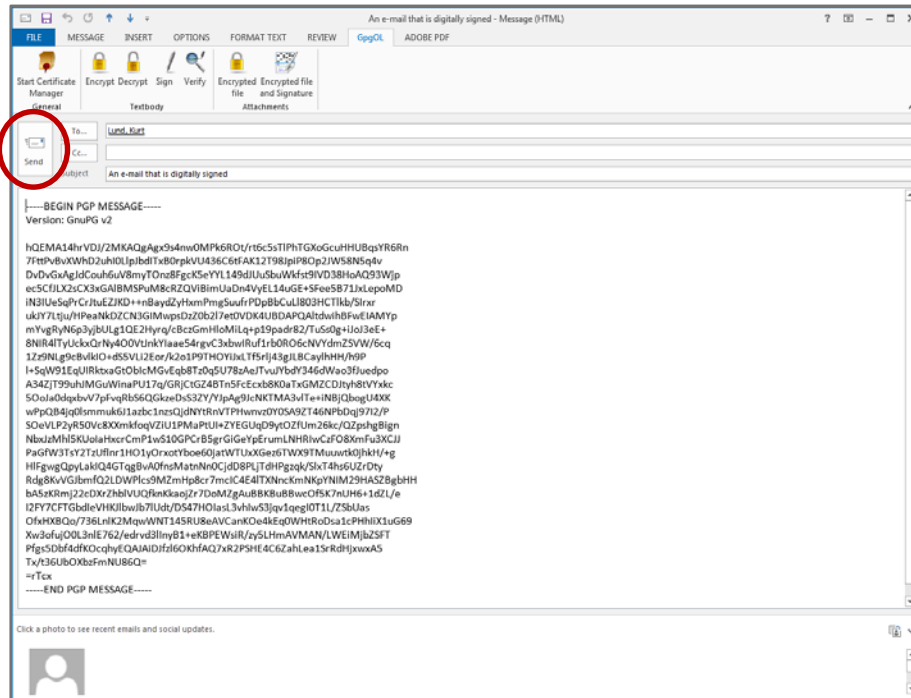


- If you choose to encrypt, you must verify that the correct recipient public keys are selected. Click the “OK” button if the correct certificates are chosen.



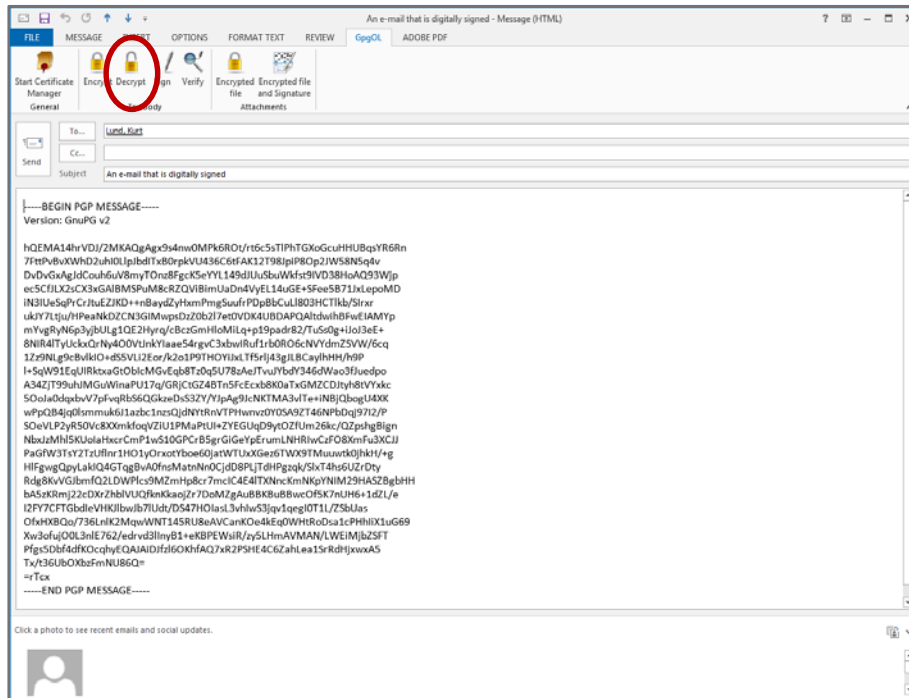
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8. The entire message will be encrypted. Click the “Send” button to complete the process.

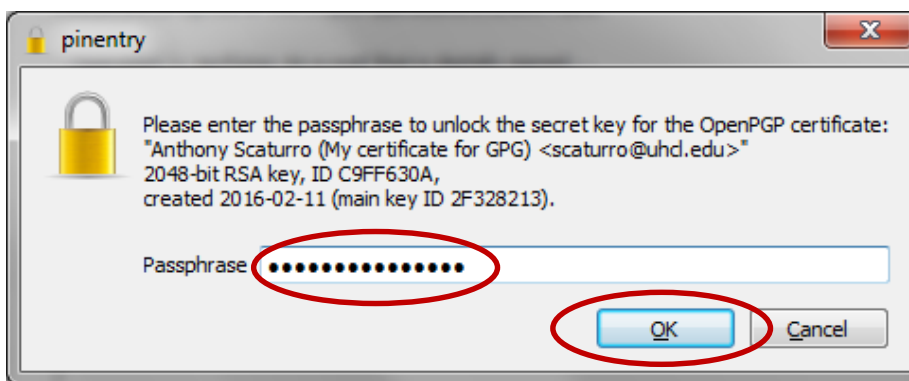


XIII. Verifying the digital signature on a signed e-mail

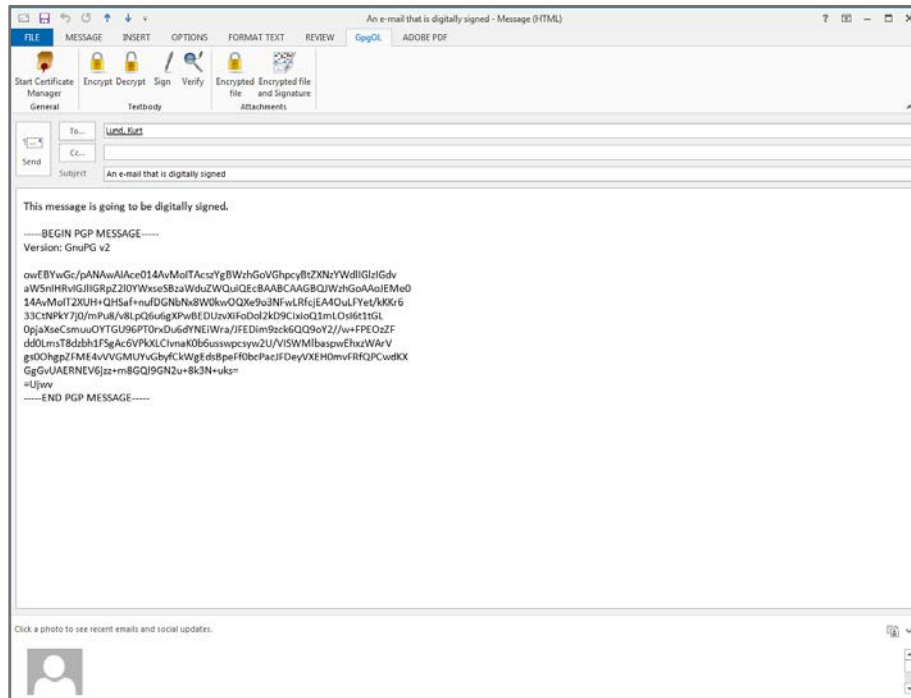
1. Open the signed e-mail message that you received and select the “GpgOL” tab. If the message is not encrypted, proceed to step 3. If it is, click the “Decrypt” button to decrypt the message.



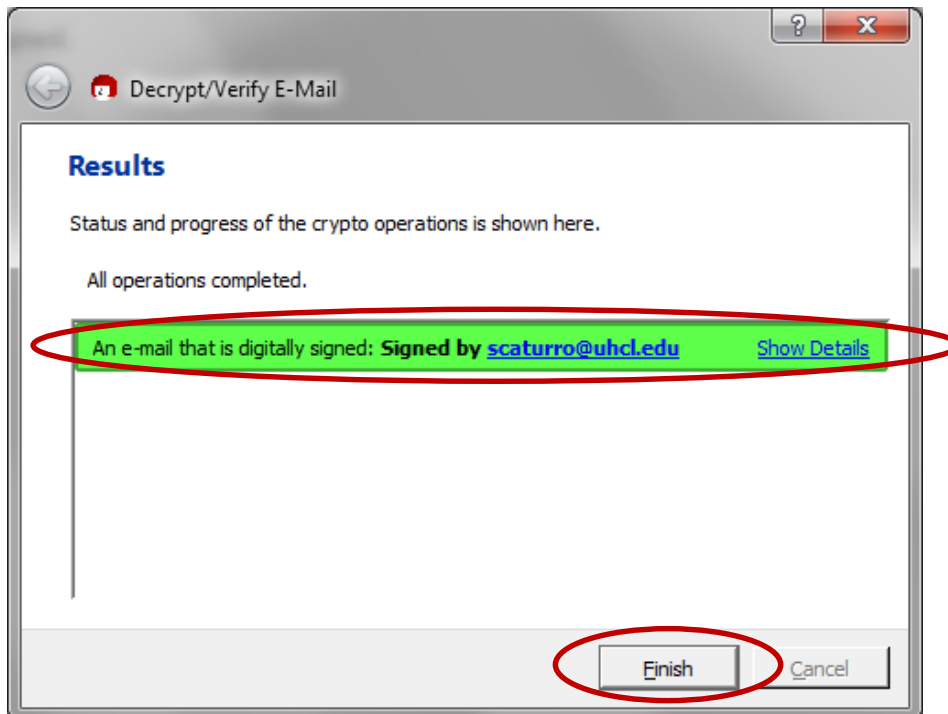
2. A window will be displayed asking for your passphrase. Enter your passphrase to unlock your private key, and click the “OK” button.



- The encryption block will be at the end of the message should be the digital signature of the sender. Click the “Verify” button to ensure that the digital signature is valid.



- A popup widow will be displayed indicating whether or not the digital signature is valid. If the signature is invalid, do not trust the message. Click the “Finish” button to close the popup window.



5. The “Verify” process removes the digital signature from the message.

