



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'gpg-connect-agent.1'

\$ man gpg-connect-agent.1

GPG-CONNECT-AGENT(1)

GNU Privacy Guard 2.4

GPG-CONNECT-AGENT(1)

NAME

gpg-connect-agent - Communicate with a running agent

SYNOPSIS

gpg-connect-agent [options][commands]

DESCRIPTION

The gpg-connect-agent is a utility to communicate with a running gpg-agent. It is useful to check out the commands gpg-agent provides using the Assuan interface. It might also be useful for scripting simple applications. Input is expected at stdin and output gets printed to stdout.

It is very similar to running gpg-agent in server mode; but here we connect to a running instance.

The following options may be used:

--dirmngr

Connect to a running directory manager (keyserver client) instead of to the gpg-agent. If a dirmngr is not running, start it.

--keyboxd

Connect to a running keybox daemon instead of to the gpg-agent. If a keyboxd is not running, start it.

-S

--raw-socket name

Connect to socket name assuming this is an Assuan style server. Do not run any special initializations or environment checks. This may be used to directly connect to

any Assuan style socket server.

-E

--exec Take the rest of the command line as a program and its arguments and execute it as an Assuan server. Here is how you would run gpgsm:

gpg-connect-agent --exec gpgsm --server

Note that you may not use options on the command line in this case.

-v

--verbose

Output additional information while running.

-q

--quiet

Try to be as quiet as possible.

--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 Windows systems) by means of the Registry entry HKCU\Software\GNU\GnuPG:HomeDir.

On Windows systems it is possible to install GnuPG as a portable application. In this case only this command line option is considered, all other ways to set a home directory are ignored.

--chuid uid

Change the current user to uid which may either be a number or a name. This can be used from the root account to run gpg-connect-agent for another user. If uid is not the current UID a standard PATH is set and the envvar GNUPGHOME is unset. To override the latter the option --homedir can be used. This option has only an effect when used on the command line. This option has currently no effect at all on Windows.

--no-ext-connect

When using -S or --exec, gpg-connect-agent connects to the Assuan server in extended mode to allow descriptor passing. This option makes it use the old mode.

--no-autostart

Do not start the gpg-agent or the dirmngr if it has not yet been started.

--no-history

In interactive mode the command line history is usually saved and restored to and from a file below the GnuPG home directory. This option inhibits the use of that file.

--agent-program file

Specify the agent program to be started if none is running. The default value is determined by running `gpgconf` with the option `--list-dirs`. Note that the pipe symbol (`|`) is used for a regression test suite hack and may thus not be used in the file name.

--dirmngr-program file

Specify the directory manager (keyserver client) program to be started if none is running. This has only an effect if used together with the option `--dirmngr`.

--keyboxd-program file

Specify the keybox daemon program to be started if none is running. This has only an effect if used together with the option `--keyboxd`.

-r file

--run file

Run the commands from file at startup and then continue with the regular input method. Note, that commands given on the command line are executed after this file.

-s

--subst

Run the command `/subst` at startup.

--hex Print data lines in a hex format and the ASCII representation of non-control characters.

--decode

Decode data lines. That is to remove percent escapes but make sure that a new line always starts with a D and a space.

-u

--unbuffered

Set stdin and stdout into unbuffered I/O mode. This is sometimes useful for scripting.

CONTROL COMMANDS

While reading Assuan commands, `gpg-agent` also allows a few special commands to control its

operation. These control commands all start with a slash (/).

`/echo args`

Just print args.

`/let name value`

Set the variable name to value. Variables are only substituted on the input if the `/subst` has been used. Variables are referenced by prefixing the name with a dollar sign and optionally include the name in curly braces. The rules for a valid name are identically to those of the standard bourne shell. This is not yet enforced but may be in the future. When used with curly braces no leading or trailing white space is allowed.

If a variable is not found, it is searched in the environment and if found copied to the table of variables.

Variable functions are available: The name of the function must be followed by at least one space and the at least one argument. The following functions are available:

`get` Return a value described by the argument. Available arguments are:

`cwd` The current working directory.

`homedir`

The gnupg homedir.

`sysconfdir`

GnuPG's system configuration directory.

`bindir` GnuPG's binary directory.

`libdir` GnuPG's library directory.

`libexecdir`

GnuPG's library directory for executable files.

`datadir`

GnuPG's data directory.

`serverpid`

The PID of the current server. Command `/serverpid` must have been given to return a useful value.

`unescape args`

Remove C-style escapes from args. Note that `\0` and `\x00` terminate the returned string implicitly. The string to be converted are the entire arguments

right behind the delimiting space of the function name.

unpercent args

unpercent+ args

Remove percent style escaping from args. Note that %00 terminates the string implicitly. The string to be converted are the entire arguments right behind the delimiting space of the function name. unpercent+ also maps plus signs to a spaces.

percent args

percent+ args

Escape the args using percent style escaping. Tabs, formfeeds, linefeeds, carriage returns and colons are escaped. percent+ also maps spaces to plus signs.

errcode arg

errsource arg

errstring arg

Assume arg is an integer and evaluate it using strtol. Return the gpg-error error code, error source or a formatted string with the error code and error source.

+

-

*

/

% Evaluate all arguments as long integers using strtol and apply this operator.

A division by zero yields an empty string.

!

|

& Evaluate all arguments as long integers using strtol and apply the logical operators NOT, OR or AND. The NOT operator works on the last argument only.

/definq name var

Use content of the variable var for inquiries with name. name may be an asterisk (*) to match any inquiry.

/definqfile name file

Use content of file for inquiries with name. name may be an asterisk (*) to match

any inquiry.

`/definqprog name prog`

Run `prog` for inquiries matching `name` and pass the entire line to it as command line arguments.

`/datafile name`

Write all data lines from the server to the file `name`. The file is opened for writing

and created if it does not exist. An existing file is first truncated to 0.

The data written to the file fully decoded. Using a single dash for `name` writes to

stdout. The file is kept open until a new file is set using this command or this

command is used without an argument.

`/showdef`

Print all definitions

`/cleardef`

Delete all definitions

`/sendfd file mode`

Open file in `mode` (which needs to be a valid `fopen` mode string) and send the file de-

scriptor to the server. This is usually followed by a command like `INPUT FD` to set

the input source for other commands.

`/recvfd`

Not yet implemented.

`/open var file [mode]`

Open file and assign the file descriptor to `var`. Warning: This command is experimen-

tal and might change in future versions.

`/close fd`

Close the file descriptor `fd`. Warning: This command is experimental and might change

in future versions.

`/showopen`

Show a list of open files.

`/serverpid`

Send the Assuan command `GETINFO pid` to the server and store the returned PID for in-

ternal purposes.

`/sleep` Sleep for a second.

`/hex`

`/nohex` Same as the command line option `--hex`.

`/decode`

`/nodecode`

Same as the command line option `--decode`.

`/subst`

`/nosubst`

Enable and disable variable substitution. It defaults to disabled unless the command line option `--subst` has been used. If `/subst` has been enabled once, leading white space is removed from input lines which makes scripts easier to read.

`/while condition`

`/end` These commands provide a way for executing loops. All lines between the `while` and the corresponding `end` are executed as long as the evaluation of `condition` yields a non-zero value or is the string `true` or `yes`. The evaluation is done by passing `condition` to the `strtol` function. Example:

```
/subst
```

```
/let i 3
```

```
/while $i
```

```
  /echo loop counter is $i
```

```
  /let i ${i- 1}
```

```
/end
```

`/if condition`

`/end` These commands provide a way for conditional execution. All lines between the `if` and the corresponding `end` are executed only if the evaluation of `condition` yields a non-zero value or is the string `true` or `yes`. The evaluation is done by passing `condition` to the `strtol` function.

`/run file`

Run commands from file.

`/history --clear`

Clear the command history.

`/bye` Terminate the connection and the program.

`/help` Print a list of available control commands.

SEE ALSO

`gpg-agent(1)`, `scdaemon(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 2.4.8

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