

# Package ‘openssl’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Toolkit for Encryption, Signatures and Certificates Based on  
OpenSSL

**Version** 1.3

**Description** Bindings to OpenSSL libssl and libcrypto, plus custom SSH key parsers. Supports RSA, DSA and EC curves P-256, P-384 and P-521. Cryptographic signatures can either be created and verified manually or via x509 certificates. AES can be used in cbc, ctr or gcm mode for symmetric encryption; RSA for asymmetric (public key) encryption or EC for Diffie Hellman. High-level envelope functions combine RSA and AES for encrypting arbitrary sized data. Other utilities include key generators, hash functions (md5, sha1, sha256, etc), base64 encoder, a secure random number generator, and 'bignum' math methods for manually performing crypto calculations on large multibyte integers.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://github.com/jeroen/openssl#readme>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/jeroen/openssl/issues>

**SystemRequirements** OpenSSL >= 1.0.1

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**R topics documented:**

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aes_cbc	<i>Symmetric AES encryption</i>
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**Description**

Low-level symmetric encryption/decryption using the AES block cipher in CBC mode. The key is a raw vector, for example a hash of some secret. When no shared secret is available, a random key can be used which is exchanged via an asymmetric protocol such as RSA. See [rsa\\_encrypt](#) for a worked example or [encrypt\\_envelope](#) for a high-level wrapper combining AES and RSA.

**Usage**

```

aes_ctr_encrypt(data, key, iv = rand_bytes(16))

aes_ctr_decrypt(data, key, iv = attr(data, "iv"))

aes_cbc_encrypt(data, key, iv = rand_bytes(16))

aes_cbc_decrypt(data, key, iv = attr(data, "iv"))

aes_gcm_encrypt(data, key, iv = rand_bytes(12))

aes_gcm_decrypt(data, key, iv = attr(data, "iv"))

aes_keygen(length = 16)

```

**Arguments**

data	raw vector or path to file with data to encrypt or decrypt
key	raw vector of length 16, 24 or 32, e.g. the hash of a shared secret
iv	raw vector of length 16 (aes block size) or NULL. The initialization vector is not secret but should be random
length	how many bytes to generate. Usually 16 (128-bit) or 12 (92-bit) for aes_gcm

**Examples**

```
# aes-256 requires 32 byte key
passphrase <- charToRaw("This is super secret")
key <- sha256(passphrase)

# symmetric encryption uses same key for decryption
x <- serialize(iris, NULL)
y <- aes_cbc_encrypt(x, key = key)
x2 <- aes_cbc_decrypt(y, key = key)
stopifnot(identical(x, x2))
```

---

base64_encode	<i>Encode and decode base64</i>
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---

**Description**

Encode and decode binary data into a base64 string. Character vectors are automatically collapsed into a single string.

**Usage**

```
base64_encode(bin, linebreaks = FALSE)
```

```
base64_decode(text)
```

**Arguments**

bin	raw or character vector with data to encode into base64
linebreaks	insert linebreaks in the base64 message to make it more readable
text	string with base64 data to decode

**Examples**

```
input <- charToRaw("foo = bar + 5")
message <- base64_encode(input)
output <- base64_decode(message)
identical(output, input)
```

---

bcrypt_pbkdf	<i>Bcrypt PWKDF</i>
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### Description

Password based key derivation function with bcrypt. This is not part of openssl. It is needed to parse private key files which are encoded in the [new openssh format](#).

### Usage

```
bcrypt_pbkdf(password, salt, rounds = 16L, size = 32L)
```

### Arguments

password	string or raw vector with password
salt	raw vector with (usually 16) bytes
rounds	number of hashing rounds
size	desired length of the output key

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bignum	<i>Big number arithmetic</i>
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### Description

Basic operations for working with large integers. The bignum function converts a positive integer, string or raw vector into a bignum type. All basic [Arithmetic](#) and [Comparison](#) operators such as +, -, \*, ^, %, %/, ==, !=, <, <=, > and >= are implemented for bignum objects. The [Modular exponent](#) ( $a^b \% m$ ) can be calculated using [bignum\\_mod\\_exp](#) when b is too large for calculating  $a^b$  directly.

### Usage

```
bignum(x, hex = FALSE)
```

```
bignum_mod_exp(a, b, m)
```

```
bignum_mod_inv(a, m)
```

### Arguments

x	an integer, string (hex or dec) or raw vector
hex	set to TRUE to parse strings as hex rather than decimal notation
a	bignum value for ( $a^b \% m$ )
b	bignum value for ( $a^b \% m$ )
m	bignum value for ( $a^b \% m$ )

**Examples**

```
# create a bignum
x <- bignum(123L)
y <- bignum("123456789123456789")
z <- bignum("D41D8CD98F00B204E9800998ECF8427E", hex = TRUE)

# Basic arithmetic
div <- z %/% y
mod <- z %% y
z2 <- div * y + mod
stopifnot(z2 == z)
stopifnot(div < z)
```

---

cert\_verify

*X509 certificates*

---

**Description**

Read, download, analyze and verify X.509 certificates.

**Usage**

```
cert_verify(cert, root = ca_bundle())

download_ssl_cert(host = "localhost", port = 443, ipv4_only = FALSE)

ca_bundle()
```

**Arguments**

cert	certificate (or certificate-chain) to be verified. Must be cert or list or path.
root	trusted pubkey or certificate(s) e.g. CA bundle.
host	string: hostname of the server to connect to
port	string or integer: port or protocol to use, e.g: 443 or "https"
ipv4_only	do not use IPv6 connections

**Details**

If https verification fails and you can't figure out why, have a look at <https://ssldecoder.org>.

**See Also**

[read\\_cert](#)

## Examples

```
# Verify the r-project HTTPS cert
chain <- download_ssl_cert("cloud.r-project.org", 443)
print(chain)
cert_data <- as.list(chain[[1]])
print(cert_data$pubkey)
print(cert_data$alt_names)
cert_verify(chain, ca_bundle())

# Write cert in PEM format
cat(write_pem(chain[[1]]))
```

---

ec\_dh

*Diffie-Hellman Key Agreement*

---

## Description

Key agreement is one-step method of creating a shared secret between two peers. Both peers can independently derive the joined secret by combining his or her private key with the public key from the peer.

## Usage

```
ec_dh(key = my_key(), peerkey, password = askpass)
```

## Arguments

key	your own private key
peerkey	the public key from your peer
password	passed to <a href="#">read_key</a> for reading protected private keys

## Details

Currently only Elliptic Curve Diffie Hellman (ECDH) is implemented.

## References

[https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/EVP\\_Key\\_Agreement](https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/EVP_Key_Agreement), [https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/Elliptic\\_Curve\\_Diffie\\_Hellman](https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/Elliptic_Curve_Diffie_Hellman)

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Need two EC keypairs from the same curve
alice_key <- ec_keygen("P-521")
bob_key <- ec_keygen("P-521")

# Derive public keys
```

```
alice_pub <- as.list(alice_key)$pubkey
bob_pub <- as.list(bob_key)$pubkey

# Both peers can derive the (same) shared secret via each other's pubkey
ec_dh(alice_key, bob_pub)
ec_dh(bob_key, alice_pub)

## End(Not run)
```

---

encrypt\_envelope      *Envelope encryption*

---

### Description

An **envelope** contains ciphertext along with an encrypted session key and optionally an initialization vector. The `encrypt_envelope` generates a random IV and session-key which is used to encrypt the data with AES stream cipher. The session key itself is encrypted using the given RSA key (see `rsa_encrypt`) and stored or sent along with the encrypted data. Each of these outputs is required to decrypt the data with the corresponding private key.

### Usage

```
encrypt_envelope(data, pubkey = my_pubkey())

decrypt_envelope(data, iv, session, key = my_key(), password)
```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	raw data vector or file path for message to be signed. If <code>hash == NULL</code> then data must be a hash string or raw vector.
<code>pubkey</code>	public key or file path. See <code>read_pubkey</code> .
<code>iv</code>	16 byte raw vector returned by <code>encrypt_envelope</code> .
<code>session</code>	raw vector with encrypted session key as returned by <code>encrypt_envelope</code> .
<code>key</code>	private key or file path. See <code>read_key</code> .
<code>password</code>	string or a function to read protected keys. See <code>read_key</code> .

### References

[https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/EVP\\_Asymmetric\\_Encryption\\_and\\_Decryption\\_of\\_an\\_Envelope](https://wiki.openssl.org/index.php/EVP_Asymmetric_Encryption_and_Decryption_of_an_Envelope)

### Examples

```
# Requires RSA key
key <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- key$pubkey
msg <- serialize(iris, NULL)

# Encrypt
out <- encrypt_envelope(msg, pubkey)
str(out)

# Decrypt
orig <- decrypt_envelope(out$data, out$iv, out$session, key)
stopifnot(identical(msg, orig))
```

---

fingerprint

*OpenSSH fingerprint*

---

### Description

Calculates the OpenSSH fingerprint of a public key. This value should match what you get to see when connecting with SSH to a server. Note that some other systems might use a different algorithm to derive a (different) fingerprint for the same keypair.

### Usage

```
fingerprint(key, hashfun = md5)
```

### Arguments

key	a public or private key
hashfun	which hash function to use to calculate the fingerprint

### Examples

```
mykey <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- as.list(mykey)$pubkey
fingerprint(mykey)
fingerprint(pubkey)

# Some systems use other hash functions
fingerprint(pubkey, sha1)
fingerprint(pubkey, sha256)

# Other key types
fingerprint(dsa_keygen())
```



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hashing	<i>Vectorized hash/hmac functions</i>
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**Description**

All hash functions either calculate a hash-digest for key == NULL or HMAC (hashed message authentication code) when key is not NULL. Supported inputs are binary (raw vector), strings (character vector) or a connection object.

**Usage**

```
sha1(x, key = NULL)
sha224(x, key = NULL)
sha256(x, key = NULL)
sha384(x, key = NULL)
sha512(x, key = NULL)
sha2(x, size = 256, key = NULL)
md4(x, key = NULL)
md5(x, key = NULL)
blake2b(x, key = NULL)
blake2s(x, key = NULL)
ripemd160(x, key = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	character vector, raw vector or connection object.
key	string or raw vector used as the key for HMAC hashing
size	must be equal to 224 256 384 or 512

**Details**

Functions are vectorized for the case of character vectors: a vector with n strings returns n hashes. When passing a connection object, the contents will be stream-hashed which minimizes the amount of required memory. This is recommended for hashing files from disk or network.

The sha2 family of algorithms (sha224, sha256, sha384 and sha512) is generally recommended for sensitive information. While sha1 and md5 are usually sufficient for collision-resistant identifiers, they are no longer considered secure for cryptographic purposes.

In applications where hashes should be irreversible (such as names or passwords) it is often recommended to use a random *key* for HMAC hashing. This prevents attacks where we can lookup hashes of common and/or short strings. See examples. A common special case is adding a random salt to a large number of records to test for uniqueness within the dataset, while simultaneously rendering the results incomparable to other datasets.

The blake2b and blake2s algorithms are only available if your system has libssl 1.1 or newer.

## References

Digest types: <https://www.openssl.org/docs/manmaster/man1/dgst.html>

## Examples

```
# Support both strings and binary
md5(c("foo", "bar"))
md5("foo", key = "secret")

hash <- md5(charToRaw("foo"))
as.character(hash, sep = ":")

# Compare to digest
digest::digest("foo", "md5", serialize = FALSE)

# Other way around
digest::digest(cars, skip = 0)
md5(serialize(cars, NULL))

# Stream-verify from connections (including files)
myfile <- system.file("CITATION")
md5(file(myfile))
md5(file(myfile), key = "secret")

## Not run: check md5 from: http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/old/3.1.1/md5sum.txt
md5(url("http://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/old/3.1.1/R-3.1.1-win.exe"))
## End(Not run)

# Use a salt to prevent dictionary attacks
sha1("admin") # googleable
sha1("admin", key = "random_salt_value") #not googleable

# Use a random salt to identify duplicates while anonymizing values
sha256("john") # googleable
sha256(c("john", "mary", "john"), key = "random_salt_value")
```

**Description**

The keygen functions generate a random private key. Use `as.list(key)$pubkey` to derive the corresponding public key. Use [write\\_pem](#) to save a private key to a file, optionally with a password.

**Usage**

```
rsa_keygen(bits = 2048)

dsa_keygen(bits = 1024)

ec_keygen(curve = c("P-256", "P-384", "P-521"))
```

**Arguments**

<code>bits</code>	bitsize of the generated RSA/DSA key
<code>curve</code>	which NIST curve to use

**Examples**

```
# Generate keypair
key <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- as.list(key)$pubkey

# Write/read the key with a passphrase
write_pem(key, "id_rsa", password = "supersecret")
read_key("id_rsa", password = "supersecret")
```

---

<code>my_key</code>	<i>Default key</i>
---------------------	--------------------

---

**Description**

The default user key can be set in the `USER_KEY` variable and otherwise is `~/.ssh/id_rsa`. Note that on Windows we treat `'~'` as the windows user home (and not the documents folder).

**Usage**

```
my_key()

my_pubkey()
```

**Details**

The `my_pubkey()` function looks for the public key by appending `.pub` to the above key path. If this file does not exist, it reads the private key file and automatically derives the corresponding pubkey. In the latter case the user may be prompted for a passphrase if the private key is protected.

**Examples**

```
# Set random RSA key as default
key <- rsa_keygen()
write_pem(key, tmp <- tempfile(), password = "")
rm(key)
Sys.setenv("USER_KEY" = tmp)

# Check the new keys
print(my_key())
print(my_pubkey())
```

---

 openssl

*Toolkit for Encryption, Signatures and Certificates based on OpenSSL*


---

**Description**

Bindings to OpenSSL libssl and libcrypto, plus custom SSH [pubkey](#) parsers. Supports RSA, DSA and NIST curves P-256, P-384 and P-521. Cryptographic [signatures](#) can either be created and verified manually or via x509 [certificates](#). The [AES block cipher](#) is used in CBC mode for symmetric encryption; RSA for [asymmetric \(public key\)](#) encryption. High-level [envelope](#) methods combine RSA and AES for encrypting arbitrary sized data. Other utilities include [key generators](#), hash functions ([md5](#), [sha1](#), [sha256](#), etc), [base64](#) encoder, a secure [random number generator](#), and [bignum](#) math methods for manually performing crypto calculations on large multibyte integers.

**Author(s)**

Jeroen Ooms, Oliver Keyes

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 openssl\_config

*OpenSSL Configuration Info*


---

**Description**

Shows libssl version and configuration information.

**Usage**

```
openssl_config()
```

---

`rand_bytes`*Generate random bytes and numbers with OpenSSL*

---

**Description**

this set of functions generates random bytes or numbers from OpenSSL. This provides a cryptographically secure alternative to R's default random number generator. `rand_bytes` generates `n` random cryptographically secure bytes

**Usage**

```
rand_bytes(n = 1)
```

```
rand_num(n = 1)
```

**Arguments**

`n` number of random bytes or numbers to generate

**References**

OpenSSL manual: [https://www.openssl.org/docs/manmaster/man3/RAND\\_bytes.html](https://www.openssl.org/docs/manmaster/man3/RAND_bytes.html)

**Examples**

```
rnd <- rand_bytes(10)
as.numeric(rnd)
as.character(rnd)
as.logical(rawToBits(rnd))

# bytes range from 0 to 255
rnd <- rand_bytes(100000)
hist(as.numeric(rnd), breaks=-1:255)

# Generate random doubles between 0 and 1
rand_num(5)

# Use CDF to map [0,1] into random draws from a distribution
x <- qnorm(rand_num(1000), mean=100, sd=15)
hist(x)

y <- qbinom(rand_num(1000), size=10, prob=0.3)
hist(y)
```

---

read_key	<i>Parsing keys and certificates</i>
----------	--------------------------------------

---

### Description

The `read_key` function (private keys) and `read_pubkey` (public keys) support both SSH pubkey format and OpenSSL PEM format (base64 data with a `--BEGIN` and `---END` header), and automatically convert where necessary. The functions assume a single key per file except for `read_cert_bundle` which supports PEM files with multiple certificates.

### Usage

```
read_key(file, password = askpass, der = is.raw(file))

read_pubkey(file, der = is.raw(file))

read_cert(file, der = is.raw(file))

read_cert_bundle(file)

read_pem(file)
```

### Arguments

<code>file</code>	Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (a string for pem/ssh format, or a raw vector in der format)
<code>password</code>	A string or callback function to read protected keys
<code>der</code>	set to TRUE if <code>file</code> is in binary DER format

### Details

Most versions of OpenSSL support at least RSA, DSA and ECDSA keys. Certificates must conform to the X509 standard.

The `password` argument is needed when reading keys that are protected with a passphrase. It can either be a string containing the passphrase, or a custom callback function that will be called by OpenSSL to read the passphrase. The function should take one argument (a string with a message) and return a string. The default is to use `readline` which will prompt the user in an interactive R session.

### Value

An object of class `cert`, `key` or `pubkey` which holds the data in binary DER format and can be decomposed using `as.list`.

### See Also

[download\\_ssl\\_cert](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run: # Read private key
key <- read_key("~/ssh/id_rsa")
str(key)

# Read public key
pubkey <- read_pubkey("~/ssh/id_rsa.pub")
str(pubkey)

# Read certificates
txt <- readLines("https://curl.haxx.se/ca/cacert.pem")
bundle <- read_cert_bundle(txt)
print(bundle)

## End(Not run)
```

---

rsa\_encrypt

*Low-level RSA encryption*

---

## Description

Asymmetric encryption and decryption with RSA. Because RSA can only encrypt messages smaller than the size of the key, it is typically used only for exchanging a random session-key. This session key is used to encipher arbitrary sized data via a stream cipher such as [aes\\_cbc](#). See [encrypt\\_envelope](#) for a high-level wrappers combining RSA and AES in this way.

## Usage

```
rsa_encrypt(data, pubkey = my_pubkey())

rsa_decrypt(data, key = my_key(), password = askpass)
```

## Arguments

data	raw vector of max 245 bytes (for 2048 bit keys) with data to encrypt/decrypt
pubkey	public key or file path. See <a href="#">read_pubkey</a> .
key	private key or file path. See <a href="#">read_key</a> .
password	string or a function to read protected keys. See <a href="#">read_key</a> .

## Examples

```
# Generate test keys
key <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- key$pubkey

# Encrypt data with AES
tempkey <- rand_bytes(32)
iv <- rand_bytes(16)
```

```

blob <- aes_cbc_encrypt(system.file("CITATION"), tempkey, iv = iv)

# Encrypt tempkey using receivers public RSA key
ciphertext <- rsa_encrypt(tempkey, pubkey)

# Receiver decrypts tempkey from private RSA key
tempkey <- rsa_decrypt(ciphertext, key)
message <- aes_cbc_decrypt(blob, tempkey, iv)
out <- rawToChar(message)

```

---

signature\_create      *Signatures*

---

### Description

Sign and verify a message digest. RSA supports both MD5 and SHA signatures whereas DSA and EC keys only support SHA.

### Usage

```

signature_create(data, hash = sha1, key = my_key(),
  password = askpass)

signature_verify(data, sig, hash = sha1, pubkey = my_pubkey())

ecdsa_parse(sig)

ecdsa_write(r, s)

```

### Arguments

data	raw data vector or file path for message to be signed. If hash == NULL then data must be a hash string or raw vector.
hash	the digest function to use. Must be one of <a href="#">md5</a> , <a href="#">sha1</a> , <a href="#">sha256</a> , <a href="#">sha512</a> or NULL.
key	private key or file path. See <a href="#">read_key</a> .
password	string or a function to read protected keys. See <a href="#">read_key</a> .
sig	raw vector or file path for the signature data.
pubkey	public key or file path. See <a href="#">read_pubkey</a> .
r	bignum value for r parameter
s	bignum value for s parameter

### Details

The `ecdsa_parse` and `ecdsa_write` functions convert (EC)DSA signatures between the conventional DER format and the raw (`r`, `s`) bignum pair. Most users won't need this, it is mostly here to support the JWT format (which does not use DER).



**Examples**

```

# Generate a keypair
key <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- key$pubkey

# Sign a file
data <- system.file("DESCRIPTION")
sig <- signature_create(data, key = key)
stopifnot(signature_verify(data, sig, pubkey = pubkey))

# Sign raw data
data <- serialize(iris, NULL)
sig <- signature_create(data, sha256, key = key)
stopifnot(signature_verify(data, sig, sha256, pubkey = pubkey))

# Sign a hash
md <- md5(data)
sig <- signature_create(md, hash = NULL, key = key)
stopifnot(signature_verify(md, sig, hash = NULL, pubkey = pubkey))
#
# ECDSA example
data <- serialize(iris, NULL)
key <- ec_keygen()
pubkey <- key$pubkey
sig <- signature_create(data, sha256, key = key)
stopifnot(signature_verify(data, sig, sha256, pubkey = pubkey))

# Convert signature to (r, s) parameters and then back
params <- ecdsa_parse(sig)
out <- ecdsa_write(params$r, params$s)
identical(sig, out)

```

---

write\_p12

*PKCS7 / PKCS12 bundles*


---

**Description**

PKCS7 and PKCS12 are container formats for storing multiple certificates and/or keys.

**Usage**

```
write_p12(key = NULL, cert = NULL, ca = NULL, name = NULL,
          password = NULL, path = NULL)
```

```
write_p7b(ca, path = NULL)
```

```
read_p12(file, password = askpass)
```

```
read_p7b(file, der = is.raw(file))
```

**Arguments**

key	a private key
cert	certificate that matches 'key'
ca	a list of certificates (the CA chain)
name	a friendly title for the bundle
password	string or function to set/get the password.
path	a file where to write the output to. If 'NULL' the output is returned as a raw vector.
file	path or raw vector with binary PKCS12 data to parse
der	set to TRUE for binary files and FALSE for PEM files

**Details**

The PKCS#7 or P7B format is a container for one or more certificates. It can either be stored in binary form or in a PEM file. P7B files are typically used to import and export public certificates.

The PKCS#12 or PFX format is a binary-only format for storing the server certificate, any intermediate certificates, and the private key into a single encryptable file. PFX files are usually found with the extensions .pfx and .p12. PFX files are typically used to import and export certificates with their private keys.

The PKCS formats also allow for including signatures and CRLs but this is quite rare and these are currently ignored.

---

write_pem	<i>Export key or certificate</i>
-----------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

The write\_pem functions exports a key or certificate to the standard base64 PEM format. For private keys it is possible to set a password.

**Usage**

```
write_pem(x, path = NULL, password = NULL)

write_der(x, path = NULL)

write_pkcs1(x, path = NULL, password = NULL)

write_ssh(pubkey, path = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a public/private key or certificate object
path	file to write to. If NULL it returns the output as a string.
password	string or callback function to set password (only applicable for private keys).
pubkey	a public key

**Details**

The pkcs1 format is a legacy format which only supports RSA keys and should not be used anymore. It is only provided for compatibility with some old SSH clients. Simply use `write_pem` to export keys and certs to the recommended format.

**Examples**

```
# Generate RSA keypair
key <- rsa_keygen()
pubkey <- key$pubkey

# Write to output formats
write_ssh(pubkey)
write_pem(pubkey)
write_pem(key, password = "super secret")
```

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