SETTING UP MAILVELOPE

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Introduction to Cyber Security

Setting up Mailvelope

You have learned that using cryptographic tools for email is not particularly straightforward and there is no single tool that works across all computer systems.

In the following steps you will download and install the Mailvelope software that will allow you to send an encrypted email through existing web-based email accounts such as Gmail or Yahoo mail. The video shows how to use Mailvelope.

To send the encrypted email, you'll need to be able to install software on the computer you are using for this course. If you're not able to do this then please read through the steps so that you understand the process.

You'll also need Chrome web browser and a web-based email account. If you don't have Chrome already installed on your computer, you can download it from Google Chrome. Most email accounts are accessible via the web even if your email comes to your computer.
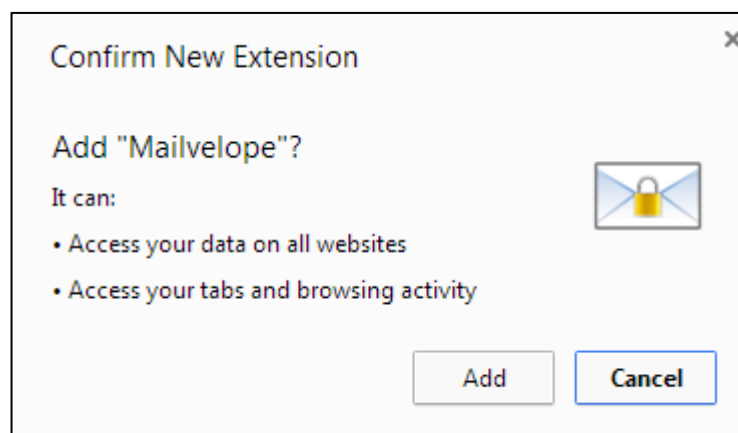
The tool you will be using is called Mailvelope.

Installing Mailvelope

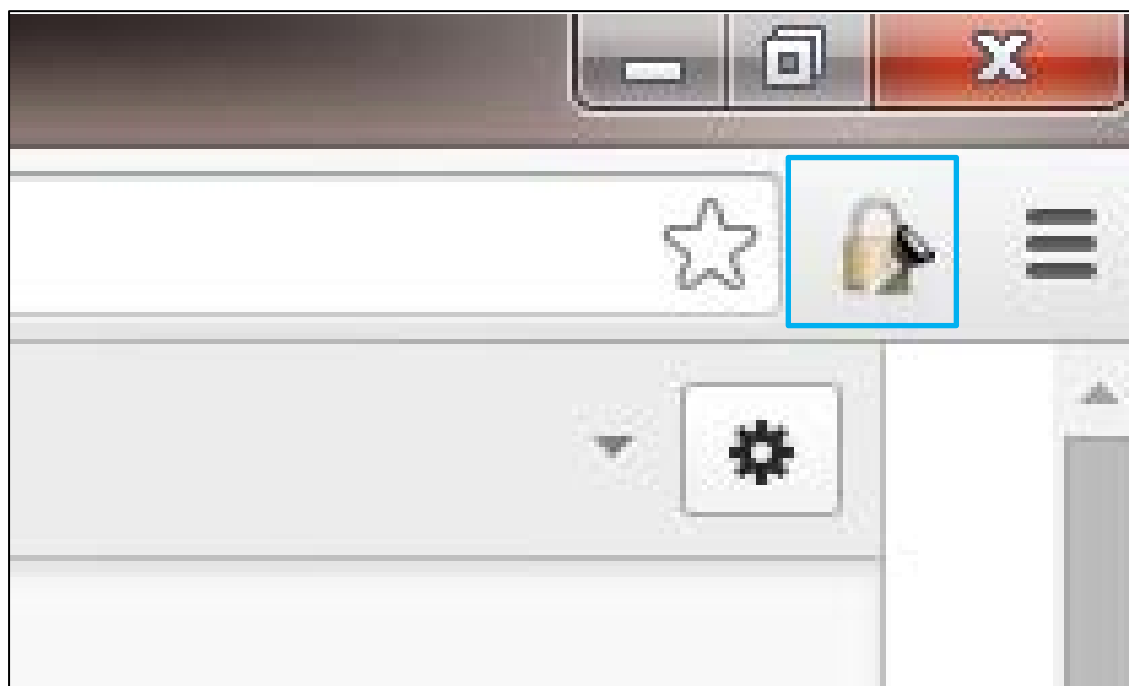Firstly, you will download and install Mailvelope as an extension to your browser.

1. Find Mailvelope in the Chrome Webstore (if this link doesn't work for you, visit **http://goo.gl/DDgvi8**)
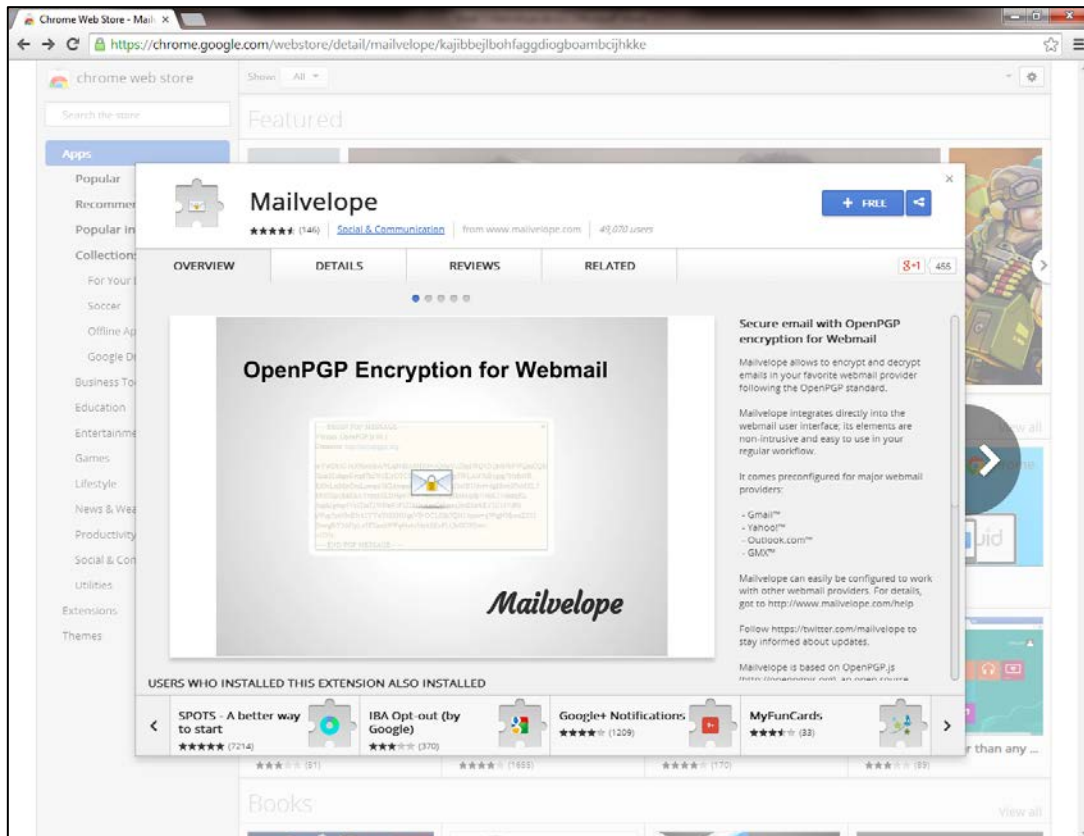
2. Click '+ FREE' and select 'Add'.

3. You should now see the Mailvelope icon appear in the Chrome toolbar, at the far right hand side


To exchange signed and encrypted email you will need to generate a public and private key for yourself and tell Mailvelope about the public keys of the people you plan to communicate with.
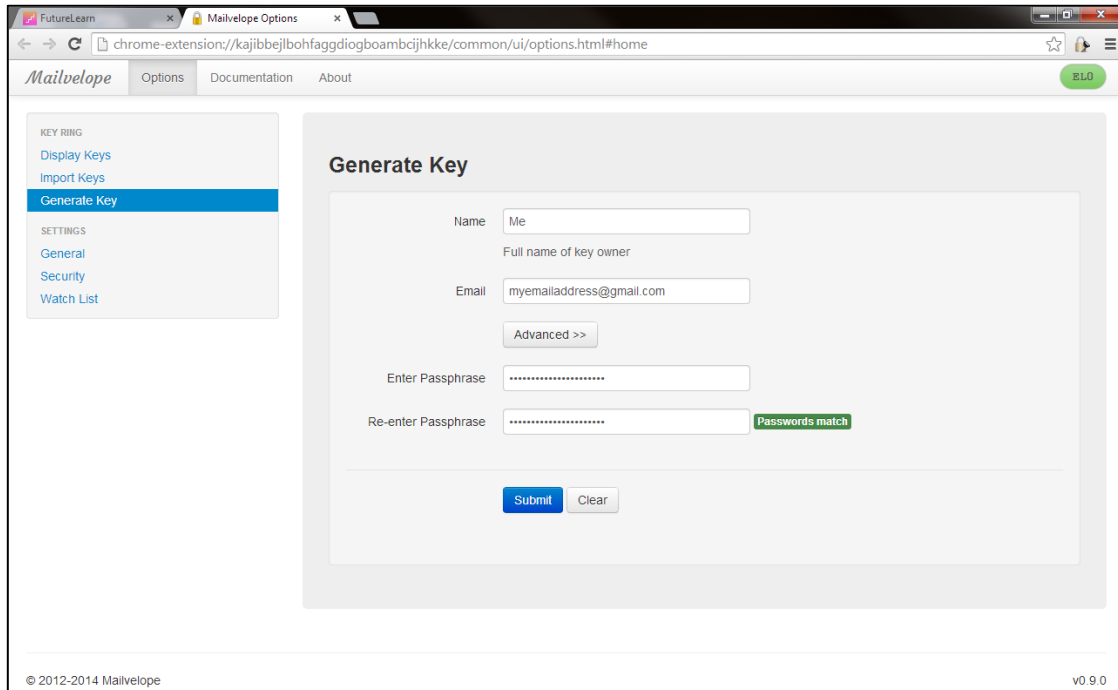
Generating Keys

Now let's generate your keys.

1. Click the Mailvelope icon in your Chrome toolbar and select 'Options'. This will show your 'Key Ring' – the set of keys that Mailvelope knows about. At the moment there are no keys listed:
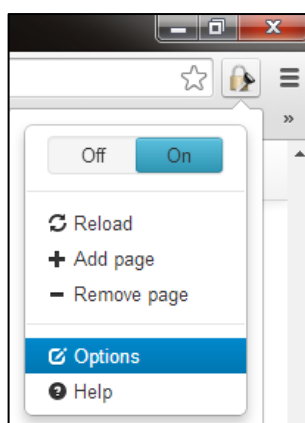
2. Click the menu option 'Generate Key' from the list at the left of the screen. You will be presented with a form asking for the name, email address and pass phrase that will be associated with the generated key:

3. Fill in the information, making sure to use a strong and memorable pass phrase – as you learned in Week 2. Mailvelope will ask for this pass phrase when you try to use this key to sign or decrypt a message. Clicking submit will show a progress indicator and a message that the key is being generated. Once this is complete you will see the message: 'Success! New key generated and imported into key ring' at the bottom of the form.
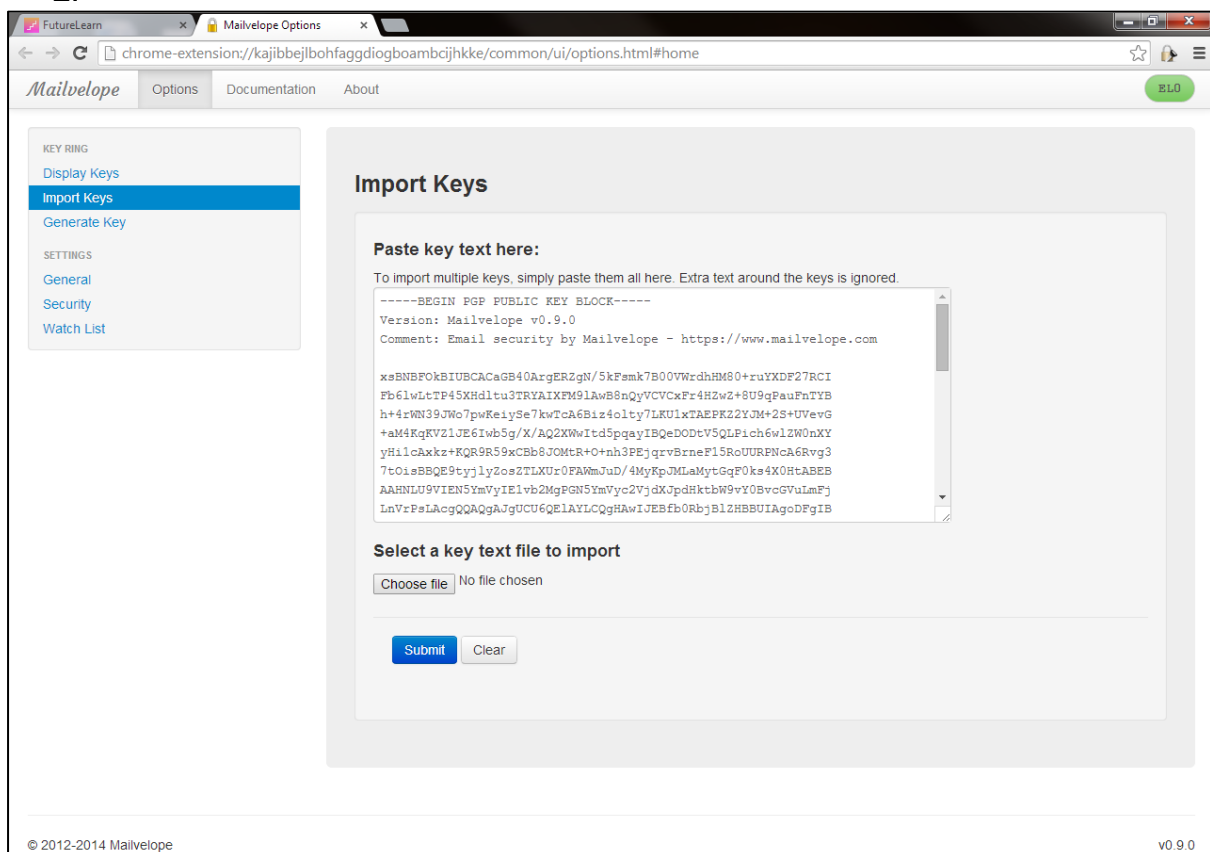
Importing Keys

The final part of configuring Mailvelope is to import a public key for someone you want exchange messages with. We've set up a special email address up for this task – cybersecurity-mooc@open.ac.uk.

1. Get started by clicking the menu option 'Import key' from the list at the left of the screen:
2.

Public keys can be provided as plain text. Copy the one for our email address below, include the lines with '--- BEGIN …' and '--- END …' Paste it into the text area of the Mailvelope key import screen.

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----
Version: Mailvelope v0.10.2
Comment: Email security by Mailvelope - https://www.mailvelope.com

xsBNBFRTk80BCACZvweJjzZdkQMGukYklmKC+57ER4d8WG0lYz4x7DX+4ZZn
NCMMPIWTi3f4dXJ8IJLsgNuksFOqdGVSqFWPNwDuAx+cKgKIzdMfUTqaUkwG
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QAbFlDORGdx9/rkjhtrPyl1YtMeuVNAHflA=
=RTLt
-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

3. Click 'Submit'.

You are now ready to send a signed and encrypted email with Mailvelope. You'll do this in the next step.

Disclaimer: The Open University and partners associated with this course have found this software to be robust at the time of checking. However, installing software is done at your own risk and The Open University and their partners cannot be held responsible for any resulting damage to your computer.