

# Private Key

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A **Private Key**, also known as a secret key, is a variable in [cryptography](#) that is used with an algorithm to encrypt and decrypt code. Secret keys are only shared with the key's generator, making it highly secure. **Private Keys** play an important role in symmetric cryptography, asymmetric cryptography, and cryptocurrencies.

The complexity and length of the private key determine how feasible it is for an interloper to carry out a brute force attack and try out different keys until the right one is found.

[Public Key](#) are for encrypting data by anyone with access to the Public Key. The **Private Key** is required to decrypt the data, which is why the Private key needs to be kept secret.

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