



Certificate creation and use with Cisco VCS

Deployment Guide

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Document revision history

The following table summarizes the changes that have been applied to this document.

Revision	Date	Description
1	November 2009	Initial release.
2	October 2010	New document styles applied. New appendices added for decoding certificates and guidance on generating certificates for use with Microsoft Office Communications Server (OCS).
3	September 2011	Updated for Microsoft Lync 2010 (Lync).
4	December 2011	Minor updates for clarification.
5	February 2012	Major clarifications and updates, including OpenSSL-specific section.

Introduction

Objectives and intended audience

This deployment guide provides instructions on how to create X.509 cryptographic certificates for use with the Cisco TelePresence Video Communication Server (Cisco VCS), and how to load them into Cisco VCS.

PKI Introduction

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) provides the mechanisms through which communications can be secured (encrypted and integrity protected) and identities can be verified. Underlying PKI is:

- **A public/private key pair**

A public key is used to encrypt data sent to a server, but only the private key (kept secret by the server) can be used to decrypt it.

- **Signatures of data**

Data can be “signed” by a server, by using a combination of a cryptographic hash of the data and the server’s private key. A client can verify the signature by using the server’s public key and verifying the same hash. This ensures the data has been sent from the expected server, and has not been tampered with.

- **Certificates**

A certificate is a wrapper around a public key, and provides information about the owner of the key. This metadata is provided in X.509 format, and typically includes the server name and contact details for the owner.

- **A certificate chain**

A certificate can be signed by a Certificate Authority (CA) using its own private key. In turn, therefore, a certificate can be verified as being signed by a CA by checking the signature against the CA’s certificate (public key). Web browsers and other clients have a list of CA certificates that they trust, and can thus verify the certificates of individual servers.

Transport Layer Security (TLS) is the standard mechanism for securing a TCP connection between hosts on a TCP/IP network. For example, secure HTTP (HTTPS) uses TLS to encrypt and verify traffic. The following is an overview of certificate use with TLS:

1. An initial TCP connection is made, and the client sends its capabilities (including cipher suites) and a random number.
2. The sever responds with its choice of those capabilities, another random number, and its certificate.
3. The client verifies that the server certificate was issued (signed) by a CA that it trusts.
4. The client sends a “pre-master secret”, encrypted with the server’s public key.
5. This pre-master secret, combined with the exchanged random numbers (to prevent replay attacks), is used to generate a “master secret”, with which the remaining communications of this TLS session are encrypted between the client and server.

The following sections provide a brief overview of how these PKI components can be used with the Cisco VCS.

Overview of certificate use on the Cisco VCS

Cisco VCS needs certificates for:

- Secure HTTP with TLS (HTTPS) connectivity

- TLS connectivity for SIP signaling, for endpoints and neighbor zones
- LDAP authentication

The Cisco VCS can use its list of trusted Certificate Authority (CA) certificates to validate other devices connecting to it.

The Cisco VCS can use the Server Certificate and the Private key to provide a signed certificate to provide evidence that the Cisco VCS is the device it says it is. This can be used with neighboring devices such as Microsoft Lync or Cisco Unified Communications Manager, as well as administrators using the web interface.

A certificate is the identifier of Cisco VCS, and it contains names by which it is known and to which traffic is routed. If a VCS is known by multiple names for these purposes, such as if it is part of a cluster, this must be represented in the X.509 subject data, according to the guidance of RFC5922. Therefore, the certificate should contain both the FQDN of the VCS itself, and of the cluster. If a certificate is shared across cluster peers, it must list all possible peer FQDNs. The following lists show what should be included in the X.509 subject, depending on the deployment model chosen.

If the VCS is not clustered:

- Subject Common Name = FQDN of VCS
- Subject Alternate Names = Blank

If the VCS is clustered, with individual certificates per VCS:

- Subject Common Name = FQDN of VCS
- Subject Alternate Names = FQDN of VCS, FQDN of cluster

If the VCS is clustered, with a single certificate per cluster:

- Subject Common Name = FQDN of cluster
- Subject Alternate Names = FQDN of cluster, FQDN of VCS peer 1, FQDN of VCS peer n

Certificate generation overview

X.509 certificates may be supplied from a third party, or may be generated by, for instance, a certificate generator such as OpenSSL or a tool available in applications like Microsoft Office Communications Server (OCS). Third-party certificates supplied by recognized certificate authorities are recommended, although VCS deployments in controlled or test environments can use internally generated certificates.

This document presents three methods of generating the root certificate, client/server certificate for the VCS, and private key:

- “Certificate Generation Process using Microsoft Certification Authority and OpenSSL” on page 7 documents the process using OpenSSL to generate the private key and certificate request, which can be signed by a CA, and documents how to do the signing with the Microsoft Certification Authority on Microsoft Lync.
- “Certificate Generation Process using OpenSSL” on page 11 documents the OpenSSL-only process, which could be used with a third party or internally managed CA.
- “Certificate generation process using Microsoft OCS” on page 15 documents the process of using Microsoft Office Communications Server (OCS).

If third party certificates are used, for mutual TLS authentication the **Server** certificate must be capable of being used as a **Client** certificate as well, thus allowing the VCS to authenticate as a client device to a neighboring server.

Certificate generation is usually a 3-stage process:

- Stage 1 – generation of a private key
- Stage 2 – creation of a certificate request.
- Stage 3 – authorization and creation of the certificate.

Loading certificates onto Cisco VCS

The Cisco VCS uses standard X.509 certificates. The certificate information must be supplied to the VCS in PEM format. Typically 3 elements are loaded:

- A list of certificates of trusted certificate authorities.
- The server certificate (which is generated by the certificate authority, identifying the ID of the certificate holder, and should be able to act as both a client and server certificate).
- The private key (used to sign data sent to the client, and decrypt data sent from the client, encrypted with the public key in the server certificate). This must only be kept on the VCS and backed up in a safe place – security of the TLS communications relies upon this being kept secret.

This process is documented in “Load certificates and private key onto Cisco VCS” on page 25.

Certificate generation process using Microsoft Certification Authority and OpenSSL

This procedure uses OpenSSL to create a certificate request, and uses the Microsoft Certification Authority application to generate the signed server certificate.

Create a certificate request using OpenSSL

From a command prompt:

1. For Windows: change to the directory where OpenSSL is installed (typically a 'bin' directory)
For Mac OS X: stay in the root of the user's directory.
2. For Windows: copy openssl.cfg to openssl_vcs.cfg
For Mac OS X: copy /system/library/openssl/openssl.cnf to the root of the user's directory as openssl_vcs.cfg
3. If the certificate is for a cluster of VCSs:
 - a. Use a text editor to edit the openssl_vcs.cfg file that was created by the above copy command, and ensure that the line:
`"req_extensions = v3_req # The extensions to add to a certificate request"`
has no # at the beginning of the line – delete the # if it is there.
 - b. Scroll down to the "[v3_req]" section and below this section title add:
`subjectAltName="DNS:<FQDN of VCS cluster>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer 1>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer 2>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer n>"`
as the bottom line of this section (before) "[v3_ca]", filling in the details for the VCS deployment as appropriate (cluster FQDN and FQDNs of all peers).
 - c. Save the file.

No changes need to be made to the openssl_vcs.cfg file if the certificate is for a single VCS.
4. Generate a private key by running the following command:
`openssl genrsa -out privatekey.pem 2048`
The `privatekey.pem` file will be used to create the certificate request and will also be required for loading into the VCS. The file is created in the directory that the `openssl` command is run from.
5. Generate a certificate request (suitable for use with Microsoft Certification Authority) by running the following command:
`openssl req -new -key privatekey.pem -config openssl_vcs.cfg -out certcsr.der -outform DER`
6. Enter the data requested, including:
 - Country
 - State or province
 - Locality name
 - Organization name
 - Organizational unit
 - Common name – this is the VCS cluster FQDN if the certificate is for a cluster of VCSs or it is the FQDN of the VCS if the certificate is for a single VCS
 - Email address – optional, can leave blank
 - A challenge password – optional, can leave blank
 - An optional company name – optional, can leave blank

After entering the requested data, the certificate request file `certcsr.der` is now available.

To validate that DNS entries have been entered correctly into the request, the `certcsr.der` file can be decoded using the command:

```
openssl req -text -noout -in certcsr.der -inform DER
```

The certificate request has now been generated.

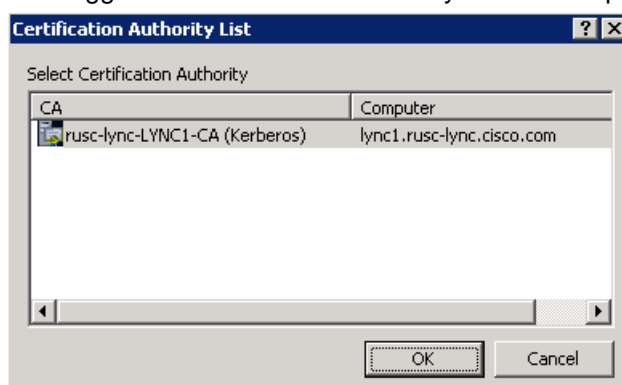
Authorize certificate request and generate a PEM certificate file using Microsoft Certification Authority

The Microsoft Certification Authority application may be installed on the Lync server, or another server in the network.

1. Copy `certcsr.der` to the server where the Microsoft Certification Authority application is installed (e.g. copy to the desktop).
2. Submit the certificate request from a command prompt by typing:

```
certreq -submit -attrib "CertificateTemplate:WebServer"  
C:\Users\<user>\Desktop\certcsr.der
```

This triggers the Certification Authority window to open:

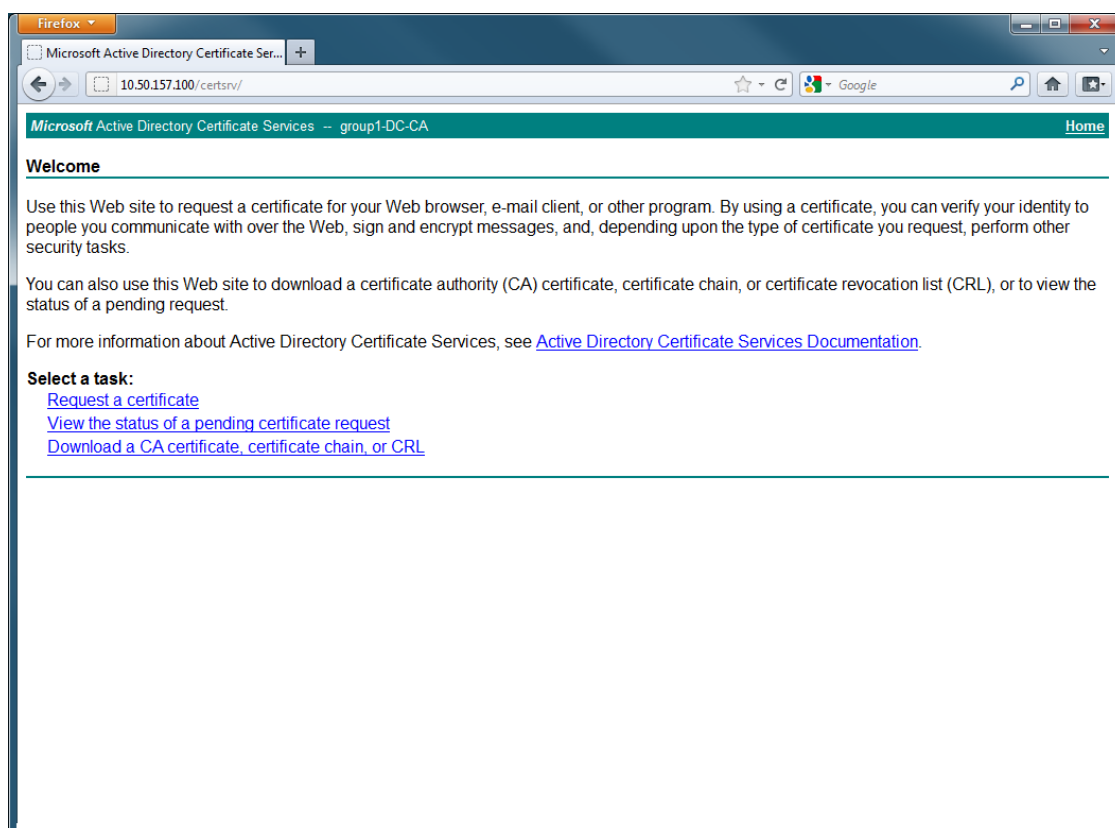


Note that this must be run as the administrator user.

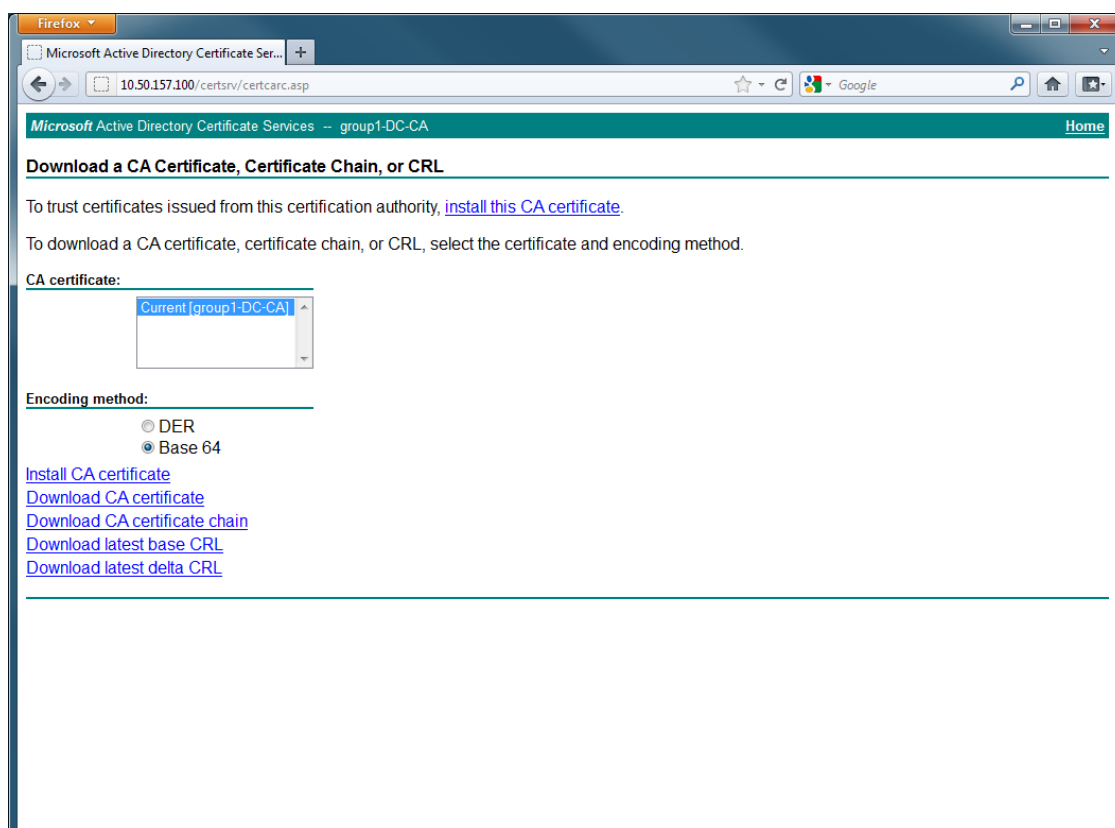
3. Select the Authority to use (typically only one offered) and click OK.
4. When requested, save the certificate, (browse to the required folder if the default Libraries>Documents folder is not to be used) calling it `server.cer` for example.
5. Rename `server.cer` to `server.pem` for use with the Cisco VCS.

Get the Microsoft CA certificate

1. Web browse to <IP or URL of the Microsoft Certificate Server>/certsrv and log in

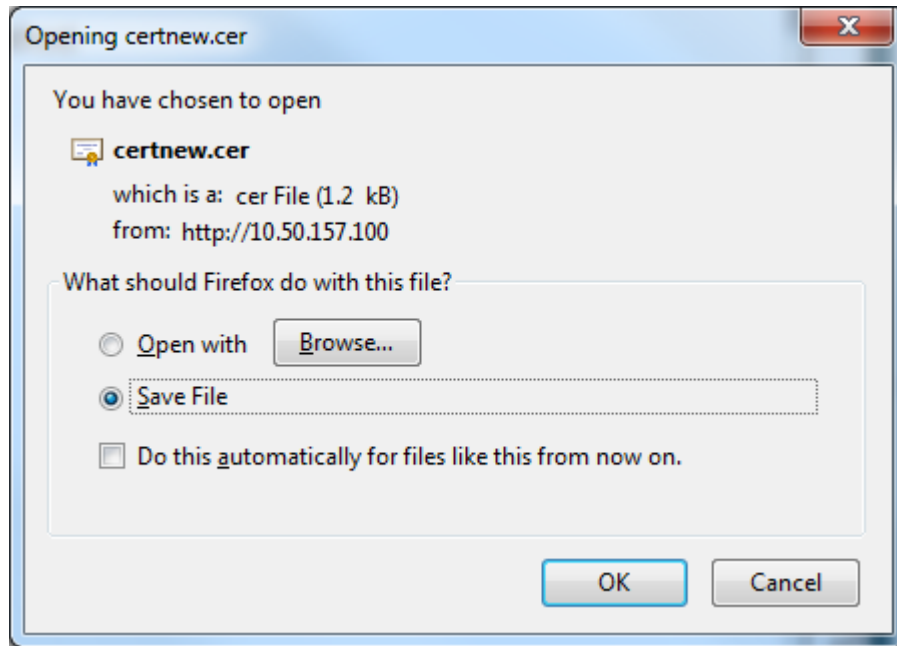


2. Select Download a CA certificate, certificate chain or CRL



3. Select Base 64

4. Select Download CA certificate



5. Choose **Save file** and click **OK**.
6. Rename `certnew.cer` to `certnew.pem`.

Files `privatekey.pem`, `server.pem` and `certnew.pem` are now available

Go to the "Load certificates and private key onto Cisco VCS" section in this document and upload `certnew.pem`, `privatekey.pem` and `server.pem` to VCS.

Certificate generation process using OpenSSL

This section describes first the process for generating a private key and certificate request for the Cisco VCS using OpenSSL. This is a generic process that only relies on the free OpenSSL package and not on any other software. It is appropriate when certificates are required for interfacing with neighboring devices where the Microsoft Lync and OCS tools are not available, for test purposes, and for providing output to interact with Certificate Authorities.

The output for the certificate request generation process can be given to a Certificate Authority that may be internal or external to the organization, and which can be used to produce the X.509 certificates that can be used to authenticate the Cisco VCS to neighboring devices.

This section also briefly describes how OpenSSL could be used to manage a private Certificate Authority, but does not intend to be comprehensive. Various components of these processes can be used when interfacing with third party CAs.

OpenSSL and Mac OS X or Linux

OpenSSL is already installed on Mac OS X, and is usually installed on Linux.

OpenSSL and Windows

If you do not have OpenSSL already installed, this is available as a free download from <http://www.openssl.org/related/binaries.html>.

- Choose the relevant 32 bit or 64 bit OpenSSL – the ‘Light’ version is all that is needed.

If you receive a warning while installing OpenSSL that C++ files cannot be found, load the “Visual C++ Redistributables” also available on this site and then re-load the OpenSSL software.

Create a certificate request using OpenSSL

This process will create a private key and certificate request for the server that can then be validated by a CA. This could be a CA that has been created and managed locally, or a third-party CA.

From a command prompt:

1. For Windows: change to the directory where OpenSSL is installed (typically a ‘bin’ directory)
For Mac OS X or Linux: stay in the root of the user’s directory.
2. For Windows: copy openssl.cfg to openssl_vcs.cfg
For Mac OS X: copy /System/Library/OpenSSL/openssl.cnf to the user’s current directory as openssl_vcs.cfg
For Linux: copy /etc/ssl/openssl.cnf to the user’s current directory as openssl_vcs.cfg
3. If the certificate is for a cluster of VCSs:
 - a. Use a text editor to edit the openssl_vcs.cfg file that was created by the above copy command, and ensure that the line:
`"req_extensions = v3_req # The extensions to add to a certificate request"`
has no # at the beginning of the line – delete the # if it is there.
 - b. Scroll down to the “[v3_req]” section and below this section title add:
`subjectAltName="DNS:<FQDN of VCS cluster>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer 1>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer 2>,DNS:<FQDN of VCS peer n>"`
as the bottom line of this section (before) “[v3_ca]”, filling in the details for the VCS deployment as appropriate.
 - c. Save the file.No changes need to be made to the openssl_vcs.cfg file if the certificate is for a single VCS.
4. Generate a private key by running the following command:
`openssl genrsa -out privatekey.pem 2048`

The `privatekey.pem` file will be used to create the certificate request and will also be required for loading into the VCS. The file is created in the directory that the `openssl` command is run from.

5. Generate a certificate request by running the following command:

```
openssl req -new -key privatekey.pem -config openssl_vcs.cfg -out certcsr.pem
-outform PEM
```

6. Enter the data requested, including:

- Country
- State or province
- Locality name
- Organization name
- Organizational unit
- Common name – this is the VCS cluster FQDN if the certificate is for a cluster of VCSs or it is the FQDN of the VCS if the certificate is for a single VCS
- Email address – optional, can leave blank
- A challenge password – optional, can leave blank
- An optional company name – optional, can leave blank

After entering the requested data, the operation completes and the certificate request file `certcsr.pem` is now available.

This certificate request file can be passed to an internal or third-party Certificate Authority for generating the X.509 certificate. OpenSSL can be used to operate a private CA, and this process is documented in the following section.

Operating as a Certificate Authority using OpenSSL

A major deployment will likely make use of a third-party certificate authority, or already have one internal to an organization's IT department; it is possible to use OpenSSL to manage certificates in a private certificate authority. This process is outlined below.

Configuring OpenSSL to act as a CA

OpenSSL is powerful software, and when operating as a CA, requires a number of directories and databases to be configured for tracking issued certificates.

The list of directories and files can be found in the `openssl` configuration file under the section `[CA_default]`. By default, the three files/directories required to be created are:

- A `demoCA` directory in the current directory.
- An empty file called `index.txt` in the `demoCA` directory.
- A file called `serial` in the `demoCA` directory, storing the current serial number of an issued certificate. This should contain a 4-digit hexadecimal number, such as "1000".

Create a Certificate Authority using OpenSSL

This process will create a private key and certificate of a Certificate Authority (CA), which can then be used to validate other certificates. Note that this will not be trusted by devices outside of those on which it is explicitly installed.

From a command prompt:

1. For Windows: change to the directory where OpenSSL is installed (typically a 'bin' directory)
For Mac OS X: stay in the root of the user's directory.
2. Generate a private key for the CA by running the following command:

```
openssl genrsa -des3 -out ca.key 2048
```

This will prompt for a password with which to encrypt the private key: choose a strong password and record it in a safe place. The `ca.key` file will be used to create the CA certificate and to sign other certificates.

3. Generate the CA certificate by running the following command.

For Windows:

```
openssl req -new -x509 -key ca.key -config openssl.cfg -extensions v3_ca -out ca.crt
```

For OS X:

```
openssl req -new -x509 -key ca.key -extensions v3_ca -out ca.crt
```

4. Enter passphrase for the key, and then enter the data requested, including:

- Country
- State or province
- Locality name
- Organization name
- Organizational unit
- Common name – this is typically the name of a contact person for this CA
- Email address – optional, can leave blank

After entering the requested data, the operation completes and the certificate authority certificate `ca.crt` is now available.

Create a signed certificate using OpenSSL

This process will sign the server certificate with the generated CA key, using the previously generated certificate request.

From a command prompt:

1. Generate a signed server certificate by running the following command.

```
openssl ca -outdir . -cert ca.crt -keyfile ca.key -infiles certcsr.pem -out server.pem
```

2. You will be prompted to enter the password for the CA's private key.

The signed certificate for the server is now available as `server.pem`.

Creating self-signed certificates using OpenSSL

A self-signed certificate does not use a CA, and therefore there is no chain of trust behind it. However, a self-signed certificate can be a quick way of deploying a certificate for encryption and, if it can be exchanged securely to the client, can be used for individual identity verification. Self-signed certificates are not appropriate for production deployments but may be useful in a test deployment, and thus instructions on their generation are provided below.

A CA certificate is essentially a self-signed certificate, since it is the root of the chain of trust (there is no other authority to verify it). For a self-signed certificate, however, no passkey is required when creating the key, since the server requires access to the key for communications.

From a command prompt:

1. For Windows: change to the directory where OpenSSL is installed (typically a 'bin' directory)
For Mac OS X: stay in the root of the user's directory.
2. Generate a private key by running the following command:

```
openssl genrsa -out privatekey.pem 2048
```

The `server.pem` encrypt communications and will need to be copied onto the VCS. The file is created in the directory that the `openssl` command is run from.

3. Generate the CA certificate by running the following command.

For Windows:

```
openssl req -new -x509 -key privatekey.pem -config openssl.cfg -out server.pem
```

For OS X:

```
openssl req -new -x509 -key privatekey.pem -out server.pem
```

4. Enter passphrase for the key, and then enter the data requested, including:

- Country
- State or province
- Locality name
- Organization name
- Organizational unit
- Common name – this is typically the name of a contact person for this CA
- Email address – optional, can leave blank

After entering the requested data, the operation completes and the server certificate `server.pem` is now available. The private key is stored in `privatekey.pem`.

Certificate generation process using Microsoft OCS

Generate a certificate request

To obtain a private key, root (CA) certificate and the server / client certificate using OCS:

1. On OCS select **Start > Administrative Tools > Office Communications Server 2007**.
2. Expand **Enterprise pools**, if available, otherwise expand **Standard Edition Servers**.
3. Expand **OCS Pool**.
4. Select the specific OCS.
5. Click **Certificates** and follow the wizard, as described in the following steps.
6. On the **Name and Security Settings** page:
 - a. For the Name, select the relevant pool (usually default value).
 - b. Select a **Bit length** of 2048.
 - c. Select **Mark cert as exportable**.
 - d. Do not include ECU in the certificate request.

The screenshot shows the 'Office Communications Server Certificate Wizard' window, specifically the 'Name and Security Settings' page. The window has a title bar with the text 'Office Communications Server Certificate Wizard'. Below the title bar, the page is titled 'Name and Security Settings' with a subtitle 'Your new certificate must have a name and a specific bit length.' and an icon of a server and a key. The main content area contains instructions: 'Type a name for the new certificate. The name should be easy for you to refer to and remember.' followed by a 'Name:' label and a text box containing 'POOL02-FE01'. Below this, another instruction reads: 'The bit length of the encryption key determines the certificate's encryption strength. The greater the bit length, the stronger the security. However, a greater bit length may decrease performance.' followed by a 'Bit length:' label and a dropdown menu showing '1024'. At the bottom of the main area, there are two checkboxes: 'Mark cert as exportable' (checked) and 'Include client ECU in the certificate request' (unchecked). The bottom of the window features three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

7. Leave Organization Information entries as default.

Office Communications Server Certificate Wizard

Organization Information
Your certificate must include information about your organization that distinguishes it from other organizations.

Select or type your organization's name and your organizational unit. This is typically the legal name of your organization and the name of your division or department.

For further information, consult the CA web site.

Organization:
R2 Customer

Organizational unit:
R2 OCS Servers

< Back Next > Cancel

8. Specify Subject Name details.

If the certificate is for a VCS in a cluster, either:

- Create a certificate that can be loaded onto every peer of the cluster.
- Create individual certificates for each VCS peer.

If creating a certificate that can be loaded onto every peer of the cluster:

- Subject name = VCS cluster's FQDN, e.g. vcscluster1.test-customer.com
- Subject Alternate Name = a comma separated list of the VCS cluster's FQDN and the VCS peers' FQDNs (DNS Local hostname concatenated with DNS Domain)
e.g. vcscluster1.test-customer.com,vcspeer1.test-customer.com,vcspeer2.test-customer.com

If creating individual certificates for each VCS peer:

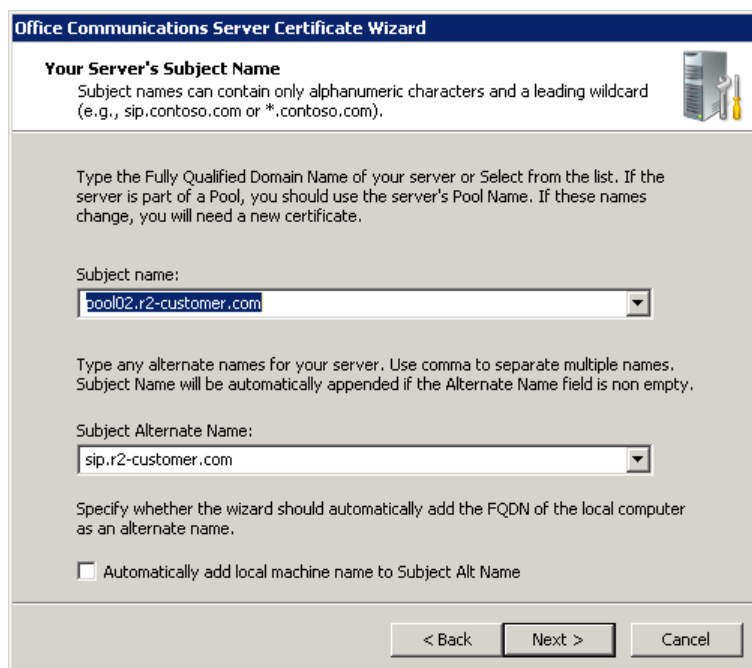
- Subject name = VCS peer's FQDN (DNS Local hostname concatenated with DNS Domain)
e.g. vcspeer1.test-customer.com
- Subject Alternate Name = a comma separated list of the VCS cluster's FQDN and the VCS peer's FQDN, e.g. vcscluster1.test-customer.com,vcscluster1.test-customer.com

If the certificate is for a standalone VCS:

- Subject name = VCS's FQDN (DNS Local hostname concatenated with DNS Domain)
e.g. vcs.test-customer.com
- Subject Alternate Name = blank

Do not select **Automatically add local machine name to Subject Alt Name** (this is for the Cisco VCS, not the OCS PC).

- When prompted that "Subject name does not match pool name ... continue?". Click **Yes**.



Office Communications Server Certificate Wizard

Your Server's Subject Name
Subject names can contain only alphanumeric characters and a leading wildcard (e.g., sip.contoso.com or *.contoso.com).

Type the Fully Qualified Domain Name of your server or Select from the list. If the server is part of a Pool, you should use the server's Pool Name. If these names change, you will need a new certificate.

Subject name:

Type any alternate names for your server. Use comma to separate multiple names. Subject Name will be automatically appended if the Alternate Name field is non empty.

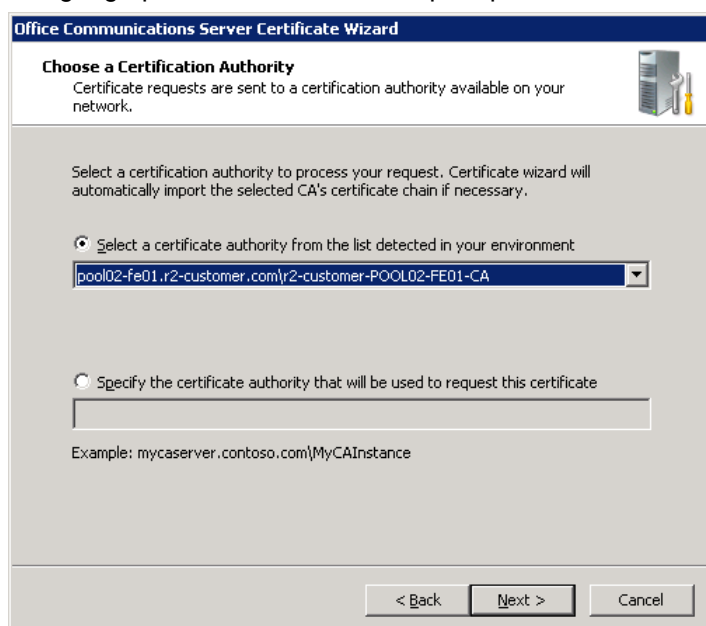
Subject Alternate Name:

Specify whether the wizard should automatically add the FQDN of the local computer as an alternate name.

☐ Automatically add local machine name to Subject Alt Name

< Back Next > Cancel

9. Add geographical information when prompted.



Office Communications Server Certificate Wizard

Choose a Certification Authority
Certificate requests are sent to a certification authority available on your network.

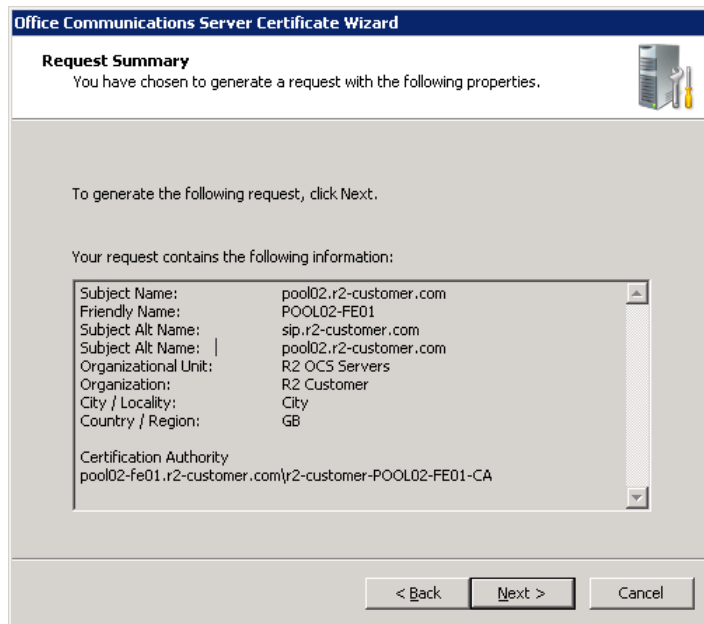
Select a certification authority to process your request. Certificate wizard will automatically import the selected CA's certificate chain if necessary.

☒ Select a certificate authority from the list detected in your environment

☐ Specify the certificate authority that will be used to request this certificate

Example: mycaserver.contoso.com\MyCAInstance

< Back Next > Cancel



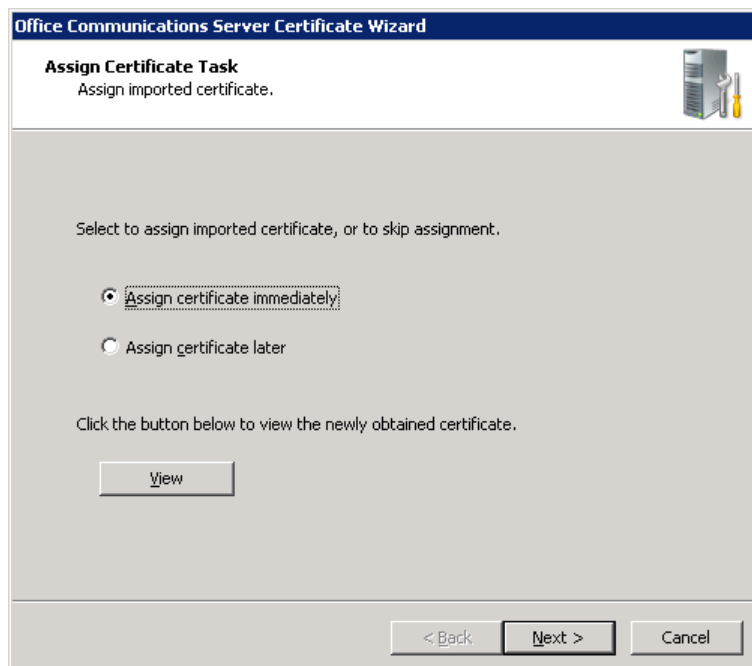
10. Stop at 'Assign certificate immediately'.

The certificate request has now been generated. The next stage is to authorize the request.

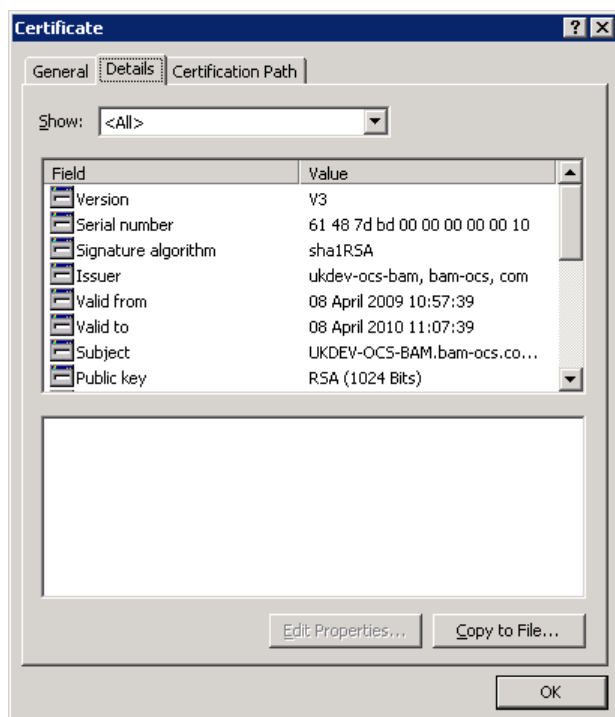
Authorize certificate request and generate a PEM certificate file using OCS

The certificate can be created on OCS:

1. Select **Start > All Programs > Administrative Tools > Certification Authority**.
2. Choose the relevant Local Certification Authority and select **Pending Requests**.
3. Right-click on the certificate request generated above, select **All tasks**.
4. Follow the wizard until you get to the **Assign imported certificate** step.
5. Click **View**.



6. Select the **Details** tab, then click **Copy to File**.



The Certificate Export Wizard opens.

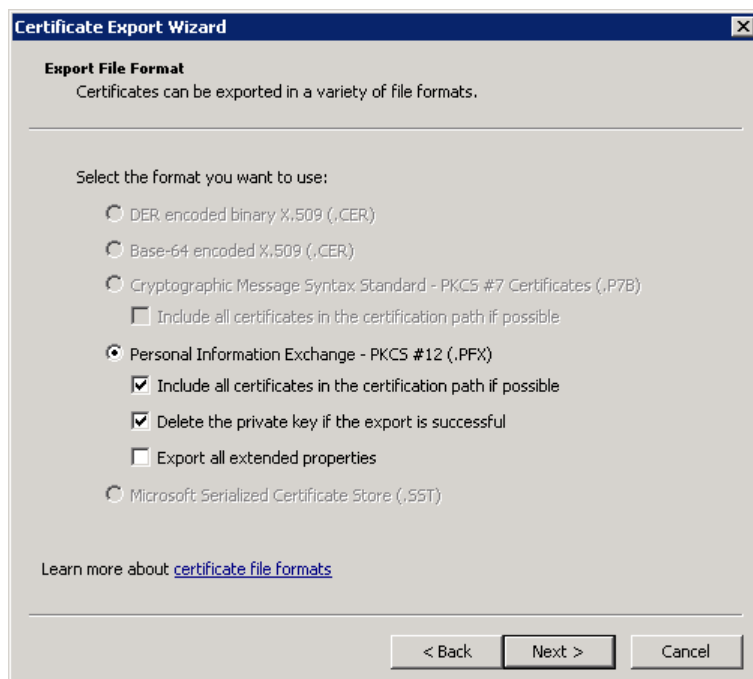
7. Click **Next**.



8. Ensure that **Yes, export the private key** is selected and click **Next**.



9. Ensure that the selections are as shown below (Note that the order of the tick boxes may differ in different versions of Windows), then click **Next**.

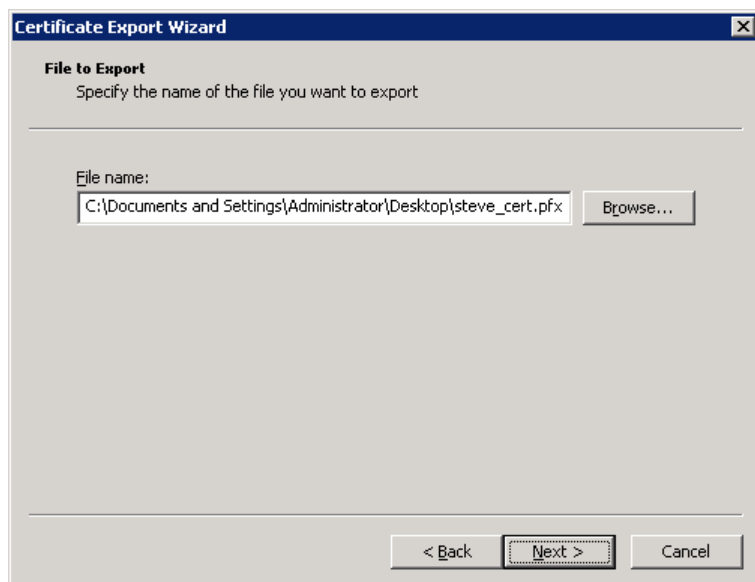


10. Enter a **Password** that will be used to encrypt the private key (remember this as it will be needed to decrypt the private key certificate later) and click **Next**.



The screenshot shows the 'Certificate Export Wizard' window with the 'Password' tab selected. The window title is 'Certificate Export Wizard'. Below the title bar, the text 'Password' is displayed, followed by the instruction 'To maintain security, you must protect the private key by using a password.' Below this, the text 'Type and confirm a password.' is shown. There are two text input fields: 'Password:' and 'Confirm password:'. Both fields contain three dots, indicating masked input. At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

11. Enter the path and **File name** to save the certificates file (the file should have the extension .pfx) and click **Next**.

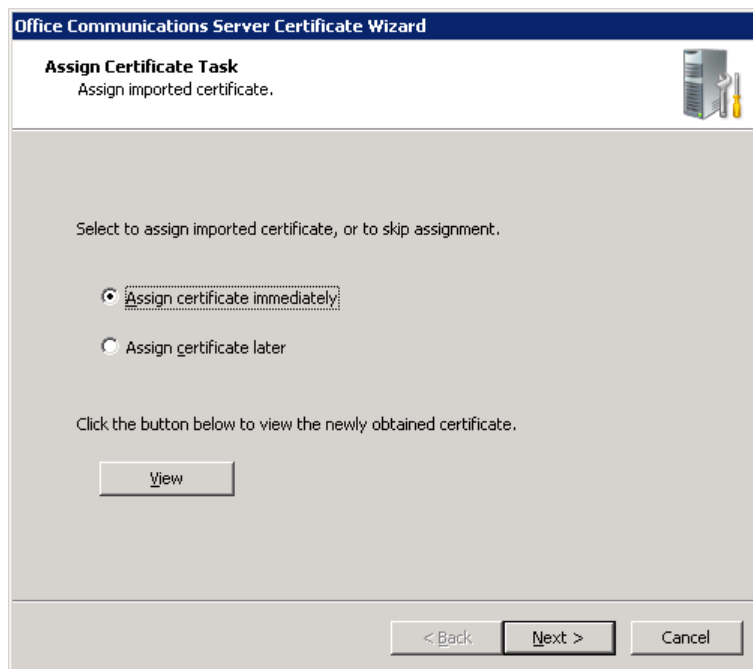


The screenshot shows the 'Certificate Export Wizard' window with the 'File to Export' tab selected. The window title is 'Certificate Export Wizard'. Below the title bar, the text 'File to Export' is displayed, followed by the instruction 'Specify the name of the file you want to export'. Below this, the text 'File name:' is shown. There is a text input field containing the path 'C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Desktop\steve_cert.pfx'. To the right of the input field is a 'Browse...' button. At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

12. Click **Finish**.



13. Certificate export was successful – click **OK**.
You are returned to the Certificate Details page.
14. Click **OK** to close.
You are returned to the Assign Certificate wizard:



15. Click **Cancel**.

Note: Do not assign the certificate.

The certificate has now been generated and exported as a .pfx file, for example cert_inf.pfx (the .pfx contains the private key, the server certificate and root (CA) certificate in pkcs12 format).

On a Linux (Windows or other) system running openssl:

1. Copy the .pfx file to the system where openssl can be run.
2. Execute the command line:
`openssl pkcs12 -in cert_inf.pfx -out cert_inf.pem`
3. Type in the password that was used during the cert_inf.pfx generation.
4. Enter and verify a PEM pass phrase (to be used in the next stage – removing the password from the private key).

- Go to "Process the 'cert_inf.pem' file into server certificate, CA certificate and private key".

Process the 'cert_inf.pem' file into server certificate, CA certificate and private key

The '.pem' file contains 3 sections:

- Private key section:

```
Bag Attributes
...
Key Attributes
  X509v3 Key Usage: 10
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
Proc-Type: 4,ENCRYPTED
DEK-Info: DES-EDE3-CBC,CAD24BC3A702A939
I5JTMK+lrjx2ptUWXbqEgaGwOE6UiXJE+x4Ga7sc9MXB2fvzHNehiyFHS+FoqFZK
...
7vGI/4Ezt5Stajm/p+ENGd+jMstT3a3Q85SnfvwBGVtdleKFUZ0E4Q==
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
```

- Server certificate:

```
Bag Attributes
  localKeyID: 01 00 00 00
  friendlyName: VCS-certificate
subject=/C=NO/L=Oslo/O=net2/OU=ast/CN=vcs.net2.int
issuer=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIE3DCCA8SgAwIBAgIKI/Co1QAAAAAADzANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFADA9MRMwEQYK
...
6aRy7KXfeBLN/pqBEVSjjlCljmXa5hc5AGmzyTfrSRXviHE3qpmT0Lnld31f6qGK
-----END CERTIFICATE-----
```

- Note: the issuer specifies the issuer that approves this Server certificate.
- Note: the server certificate typically has a 'friendlyName' in the header.

- CA certificate:

```
Bag Attributes: <Empty Attributes>
subject=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA
issuer=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDVTCCAj2gAwIBAgIQQwRnazGMG5JGOacRYvwNITANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFADA9
...
tQy4Hfj50yemURZ7mFCXGapcegsOC5/WDhOcIrlkcDJ2lcvBgUj4rbl=
-----END CERTIFICATE-----
```

The root CA certificate is a self signed certificate; the subject and issuer of the certificate are the same. Where there is an external certificate authority, the root CA certificate can be used from the external certificate authority.

Certificates can have hierarchical trust.

- The server certificate is trusted by (created using) a secondary certificate.
- The secondary certificate is trusted by (created using) the root CA certificate.
- The root CA certificate is self signed.

In this case, 4 entries will be found in the created PEM file.

The CA file loaded onto the Cisco VCS should consist of the full CA chain between the root CA and the server certificate (concatenated in a single file) – because to keep the hierarchy and be able to authenticate the server certificate, both of these certificates are needed. (See Appendix 3 - Example certificate with a root CA and secondary CA.)

1. Using a text editor, edit the 3 sections of the PEM file into separate files:
 - The private key section: - to a file, for example, `priv_e.pem`
 - Server certificate section: - to a file, for example, `server.pem`
 - CA certificate section: - to a file, for example, `root_ca.pem`
2. Decrypt the private key using the command line:
`openssl rsa -in priv_e.pem -out priv.pem`
3. Enter the PEM pass phrase.
4. Copy the three files to the PC which is going to be used to configure the VCS Control.

Load certificates and private key onto VCS

1. On the VCS Control, go to the **Security** page (**Maintenance > Certificate management > Security certificates**) or (**Maintenance > Security**) depending on VCS version.

The screenshot shows the VCS Control interface for managing security certificates. The top navigation bar includes 'Status', 'System', 'VCS configuration', 'Applications', and 'Maintenance'. The 'Maintenance' tab is selected. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Security certificates'. There are two main sections: 'Trusted CA certificate' and 'Server certificate data'. The 'Trusted CA certificate' section has a text input for 'Select the file containing trusted CA certificates', a 'Browse...' button, and a 'Show CA certificate' button. Below this are 'Upload CA certificate' and 'Reset to default CA certificate' buttons. The 'Server certificate data' section has two text inputs for 'Select the server private key file' and 'Select the server certificate file', each with a 'Browse...' button. Below these are 'Show server certificate' and 'Show CA certificate' buttons. At the bottom, it shows 'Currently loaded certificate expires on Aug 28 2029' and 'Upload server certificate data' and 'Reset to default server certificate' buttons.

2. For the **Trusted CA certificate**, click **Browse (Choose file** if using Chrome) and select the Root (CA) certificate file, for example `root_ca.pem`, or `certnew.pem` and click **Upload CA certificate**.
3. For the **Server certificate data** browse to the two files: **private key file**, for example `priv.pem`, or `privatekey.pem` and then browse to the (decrypted) **server certificate file**, for example `server.pem` and click **Upload server certificate data**.

The certificates are now loaded onto the Cisco VCS.

Appendix 1 – Converting a DER certificate file to PEM format

A private key, root (CA) certificate and the server / client certificate can be generated using 3rd party tools (or purchased from a certificate authority), and may be generated as PEM (required format, extension .pem) or DER (extension .cer) format files.

Certificates must be in PEM format for use on the Cisco VCS. Conversion from DER to PEM format can be done in one of two ways, either using OpenSSL or Windows, as documented in the following sections.

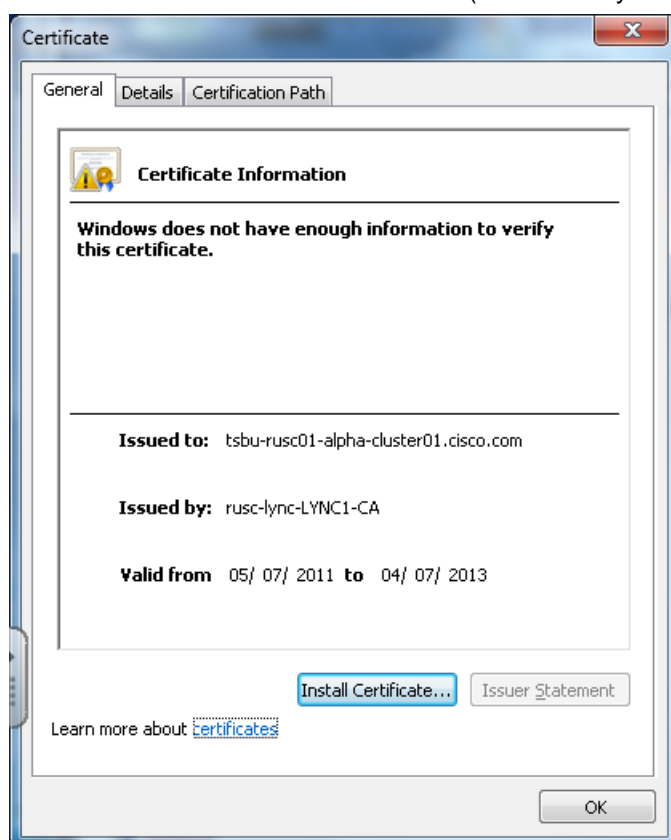
Converting a DER certificate file to a PEM file using OpenSSL

To convert from DER to PEM format, on a system running openssl, execute the command line:

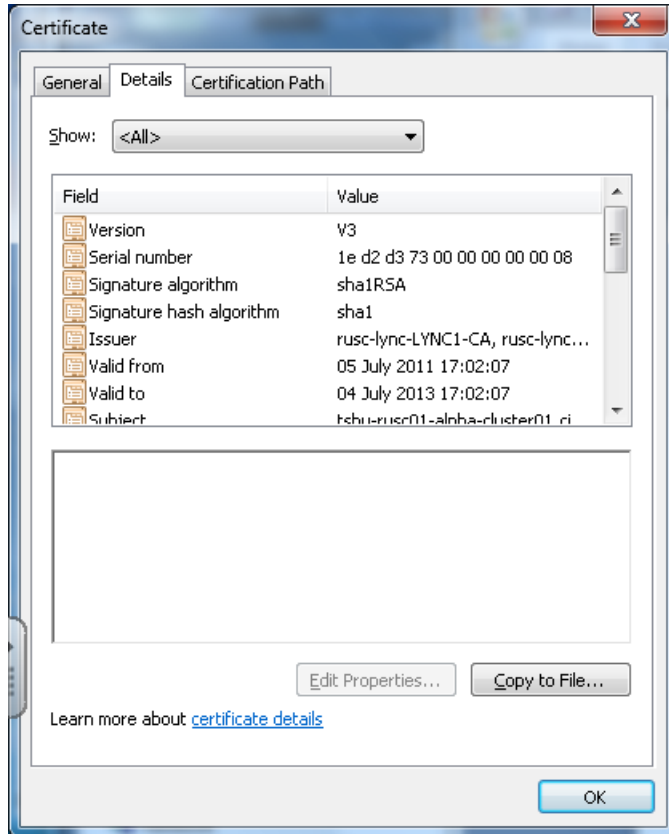
```
openssl x509 -in <filename>.cer -inform DER -out <filename>.pem -outform PEM
```

Converting a DER certificate file to a PEM file using Microsoft Windows

1. Double click on the DER file to convert (this will likely have a '.cer' extension).



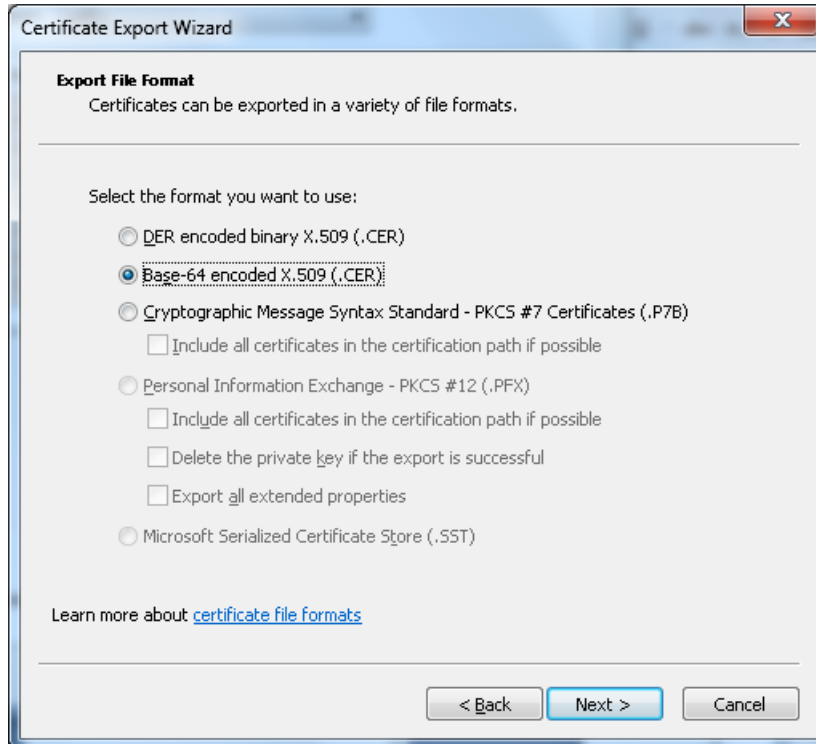
2. Select the **Details** tab.



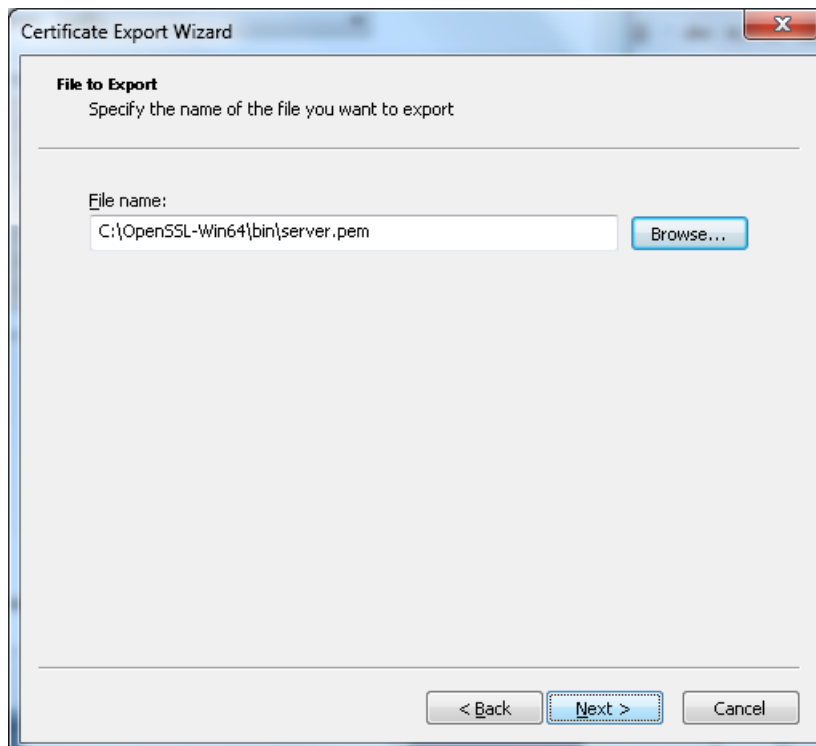
3. Click **Copy to File...**
4. On the Welcome page, click **Next**.



5. Select Base-64 encoded X.509 (.CER) and click **Next**.



6. Click **Browse** and select required destination for file (e.g. `server.pem`) and then click **Next**.



7. Click **Finish**.
8. Change the filename from `server.pem.cer` to `server.pem`
9. This will be used in the "Load certificates and private key onto Cisco VCS" section of this document

Appendix 2 - Example certificate

This certificate contains:

- Private key
- Server certificate
- Root CA (self signed)

Bag Attributes

Microsoft Local Key set: <No Values>
 localKeyID: 01 00 00 00
 friendlyName: le-d2c14df5-fb1f-459e-a269-dee27900c015
 Microsoft CSP Name: Microsoft RSA SChannel Cryptographic Provider

Key Attributes

X509v3 Key Usage: 10
 -----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
 Proc-Type: 4,ENCRYPTED
 DEK-Info: DES-EDE3-CBC,CAD24BC3A702A939

I5JTMK+lrjx2ptUWXbqEgaGwOE6UiXJE+x4Ga7sc9MXB2fvzHNehiyFHS+FoqFZK
 6XrvdcB4vUrUC/PEhiBfdezVYqiYfEZRdtiFTKL9xJZ6TNo5qOcXo9kXE2gut/uc

...

8sIBOWKErI1LQBJFhaZl117KiC1j4vy+9sFyUtm+CVw72CU4HBYIv2wJM169m0FK
 7vGl/4Ezt5Stajm/p+ENGd+jMstT3a3Q85SnfvwBGVtdleKFUZ0E4Q==

-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----

Bag Attributes

localKeyID: 01 00 00 00
 friendlyName: VCS-certificate
 subject=/C=NO/L=Oslo/O=net2/OU=ast/CN=vcs.net2.int

issuer=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIE3DCCA8SgAwIBAgIKI/Co1QAAAAAADzANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFADA9MRMwEQYK
 CZImiZPyLQQBGRYDaW50MRQwEgYKCZImiZPyLQQBGRYEBmV0MjEQMA4GA1UEAxMH

...

wtkRwhL8xcuMHQybEDRcPZlhxDNBS9oORSCVnnpqZkbbh6fmRJNqYGjk6hM9dgMW
 6aRy7KXfeBLN/pqBEVSjjlCljmXa5hc5AGmzyTfrSRXviHE3qpmT0Lnd31f6qGK

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Bag Attributes: <Empty Attributes>

subject=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA

issuer=/DC=int/DC=net2/CN=net2-CA

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIDVTCCAj2gAwIBAgIQQwRnazGMG5JGOacRYvwNITANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFADA9
 MRMwEQYKCZImiZPyLQQBGRYDaW50MRQwEgYKCZImiZPyLQQBGRYEBmV0MjEQMA4...
 EGGKPlsJjToyU2E9s2yZHU1XJ7QEGDqUETmeqL3I5Bk9hXE2SotJQ1OQaYwA07MY
 tQy4Hfj50yemURZ7mFCXGapcegsOC5/WDhOclrlkcDJ2lcvBgUj4rbl=

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Appendix 3 - Example certificate with a root CA and secondary CA

This certificate contains:

- Private key
- Server certificate
- Root CA (self signed)
- Secondary root certificate (signed by Root CA)

Bag Attributes

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.2: <No Values>

localKeyID: 01 00 00 00

friendlyName: le-7430b4bb-13af-45c5-832d-067edcee82f3

Microsoft CSP Name: Microsoft RSA SChannel Cryptographic Provider

Key Attributes

X509v3 Key Usage: 10

-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----

Proc-Type: 4, ENCRYPTED

DEK-Info: DES-EDE3-CBC,6C4F771351A95DA5

eqFef6VcBEUeD3LxeyHgFyW2nOqXnbTyEldT5FswlxAadFRFFqE2xsozVSaaEX
/SQ3FF6lcZeW6uKTYm4lmyFKc/RNFGZv0dXEnVsVia0HWbkDeDJ8ZbyFRqKEEJaJ

...

bHlPbVYITKHmASDs0RyybY9U8y4WE6N+6F2PJWKEIW04oeKO0vyCfQAS+q3bb8LL
Sj5XaxFzd15XDmNrkwIUNumM5LxHhAUvmo7oiiqdRTyB+57p0+rjg==

-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----

Bag Attributes

localKeyID: 01 00 00 00

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.20: B0 D2 22 E9 68 FC 0F A3 CE 17 54 95 DB 9C 65 F9 67 FF C4 69

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.71: 4A 00 54 00 53 00 58 00 57 00 30 00 32 00 32 00 2E 00 61 00 75 00 73 00
74 00 72 00 69 00 61 00 2E 00 6C 00 6F 00 63 00 61 00 6C 00 00 00

friendlyName: vcsctelepresence.myco.local

subject=/C=AT/ST=Vienna/L=Vienna/O=Myco TA AG/OU=ICT/CN=vcsctelepresence.myco.local

issuer=/serialNumber=35126/CN=Myco TA local 01/emailAddress=pki@email.com/O=Myco TA
AG/C=AT

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIGAjCCBOqgAwIBAgIKJfZWrwAAAAC6hjANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFADCBgjEOMAwG
A1UEBRMFmZUxMjYxJDAiBgNVBAMTG1RlbGVrb20gQXVzdHJpYSBUQSBSb2NhbnCAw

...

UAzGHbbLvX1T6kVLRTJ7heXz0BhX5ar3pWP6D7lUhgKQB+hfluUdzuePMoQaNIAG
H/LV1efZ

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Bag Attributes

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.20: 24 7D 5D 14 7E 6D 8D B0 88 24 9E DD 77 CF 77 C7 20 06 06 94

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.75: 36 00 42 00 43 00 43 00 45 00 43 00 38 00 43 00 39 00 31 00 30 00 44 00
41 00 46 00 35 00 31 00 31 00 31 00 34 00 43 00 44 00 43 00 38 00 36 00 44 00 37 00 31 00 41 00 37
00 34 00 31 00 36 00 5F 00 00 00

subject=/serialNumber=32618/CN=eSignature TA Basic/OU=eSignature TA Basic/O=Myco TA
AG/C=AT

issuer=/serialNumber=32618/CN=eSignature TA Basic/OU=eSignature TA Basic/O=Myco TA AG/C=AT

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIftTCCBJ2gAwIBAgICf2owDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEFBQAweTEOMAwGA1UEBRMFMzI2
MTgxHDAaBgNVBAMTE2VTaWduYXR1cmUgVEEgQmFzaWMxHDAaBgNVBAsTE2VTaWdu

...

b1RT/9LLr+7ly7kC2EmCYTEXTgakin1Rx+cLA7YtT62WVFGSISP06INQ7HXEuc

dxxKC8ccBZSlSV6eRUE5ZVSn3jlv1ALzRA==

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Bag Attributes

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.20: 3B AE F1 8D F2 9D 61 53 40 78 F9 81 00 F7 A7 B4 CB 27 53 1B

1.3.6.1.4.1.311.17.3.75: 36 00 42 00 43 00 43 00 45 00 43 00 38 00 43 00 39 00 31 00 30 00 44 00
41 00 46 00 35 00 31 00 31 00 31 00 34 00 43 00 44 00 43 00 38 00 36 00 44 00 37 00 31 00 41 00 37
00 34 00 31 00 36 00 5F 00 00 00

subject=/serialNumber=35126/CN=Myco TA local 01/emailAddress=pki@telekom.at/O=Myco TA AG/C=AT

issuer=/serialNumber=32618/CN=eSignature TA Basic/OU=eSignature TA Basic/O=Myco TA AG/C=AT

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

MIIIGSDCCBTCgAwIBAgIDAk2MA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBBQUAMHkxDjAMBgNVBAUTBTMy
NjE4MRwwGgYDVQQDEExNIU2lnbmF0dXJlIHRBIEJhc2ljMRwwGgYDVQQLEExNIU2ln

...

xYSc88bZVf5JooXMImP5kPFVgLSPW5BuWgC6VldTnopSJrYYCD65oxy/rwL+00G9

XK9EL6BuFqa7+4MZlyEVxJspqCZOThr86IEHg==

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

Appendix 4 – Decoding certificates

Decoding certificates using OpenSSL

A PEM file (e.g. “`cert.pem`”) can be decoded by issuing the following command:

```
openssl x509 -text -in cert.pem
```

A DER file (e.g. “`cert.cer`”) can be decoded by issuing the following command:

```
openssl x509 -text -inform DER -in cert.cer
```

Decoding certificates using Firefox

The certificate in use for a website being visited can be viewed in Firefox by clicking on the security information button on the address bar, and then selecting “More Information”.

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