

What keyring? What certificates? All I know is TLS doesn't work!

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Agenda

- What is a digital certificate
- How to set up server and client keyrings for TLS
- Some tips on RACDCERT, keyring set up
- Steps to tackle a certificate related handshake problem in TLS



First encounter with digital certificate

- Do you know you come across it every day?
- Do you ever look at it?



1)The cert issued by the **Certificate Authority** vouches for BBC's identity
2)The cert is used in the process of encrypting the communication between your browser and the BBC site

The Papers

Newspaper headlines: 'No regrets' for Dominic Cummings and shops set to reopen

By BBC News
Staff

🕒 26 May 2020

🔗 Share

'People were like animals'
The supermarket workers on the frontline

The Guardian
Tuesday 26 May 2020 £2.20 From £1.75 for subscribers

'I don't regret what I did.'
Cummings refuses to quit

- Johnson's top adviser stages extraordinary press conference
- PM says he still backs aide amid ongoing anger over lockdown breach
- Second family trip 'necessary to check eyesight' after virus

Reviews Hester
Matthew Weaver

The crisis that has engulfed the government over the conduct of Dominic Cummings' travel resurfaced last night after an unprecedented press conference in which he repudiated

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BBC's certificate and its issuer

Left Window: Certificate Details

| Field | Value |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Version | V3 |
| Serial number | 71ac5771debc0fe2a... |
| Signature algorithm | sha256RSA |
| Signature hash alg... | sha256 |
| Issuer | GlobalSign RSA OV ... |
| Valid from | Wednesday, July 22... |
| Valid to | Sunday, September ... |
| Subject | www.bbc.com, Briti... |
| Public key | RSA (2048 Bits) |

Below the table, the following fields are listed:

- CN = www.bbc.com
- O = British Broadcasting Corporation
- L = London
- S = London
- C = GB

Right Window: Certificate Details

| Field | Value |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Version | V3 |
| Serial number | 094cd5a6b1d917f8... |
| Signature algorithm | sha256RSA |
| Signature hash alg... | sha256 |
| Issuer | GlobalSign RSA OV ... |
| Valid from | Tuesday, May 28, 2... |
| Valid to | Wednesday, August... |
| Subject | www.bbc.com, Briti... |
| Public key | RSA (2048 Bits) |

Below the table, the following fields are listed:

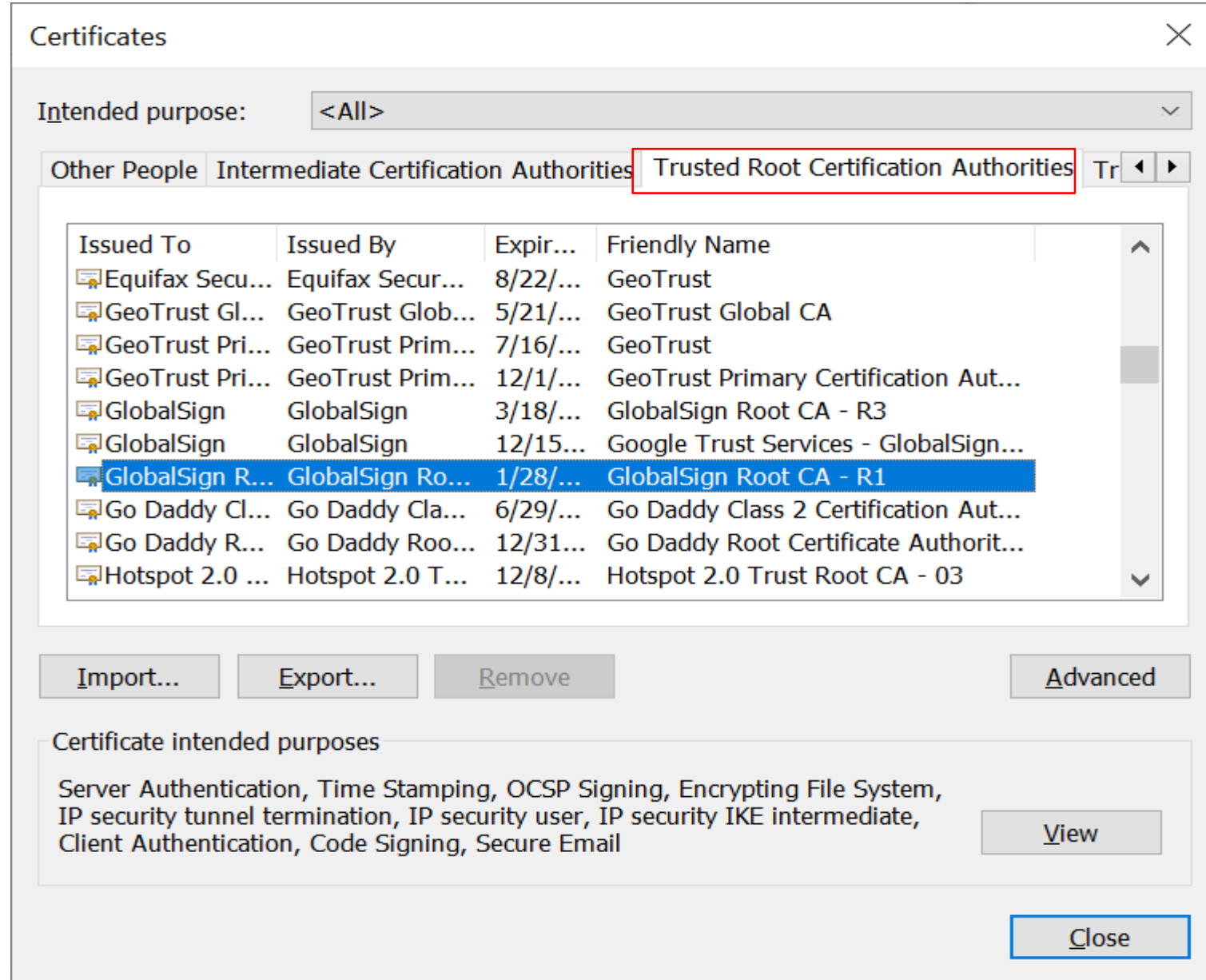
- CN = GlobalSign RSA OV SSL CA 2018
- O = GlobalSign nv-sa
- C = BE

Callout: The name matches that in the URL





Root CAs in browser's Certificate Store



A server wants to establish a secure session with a client using server authentication.

What are the steps?

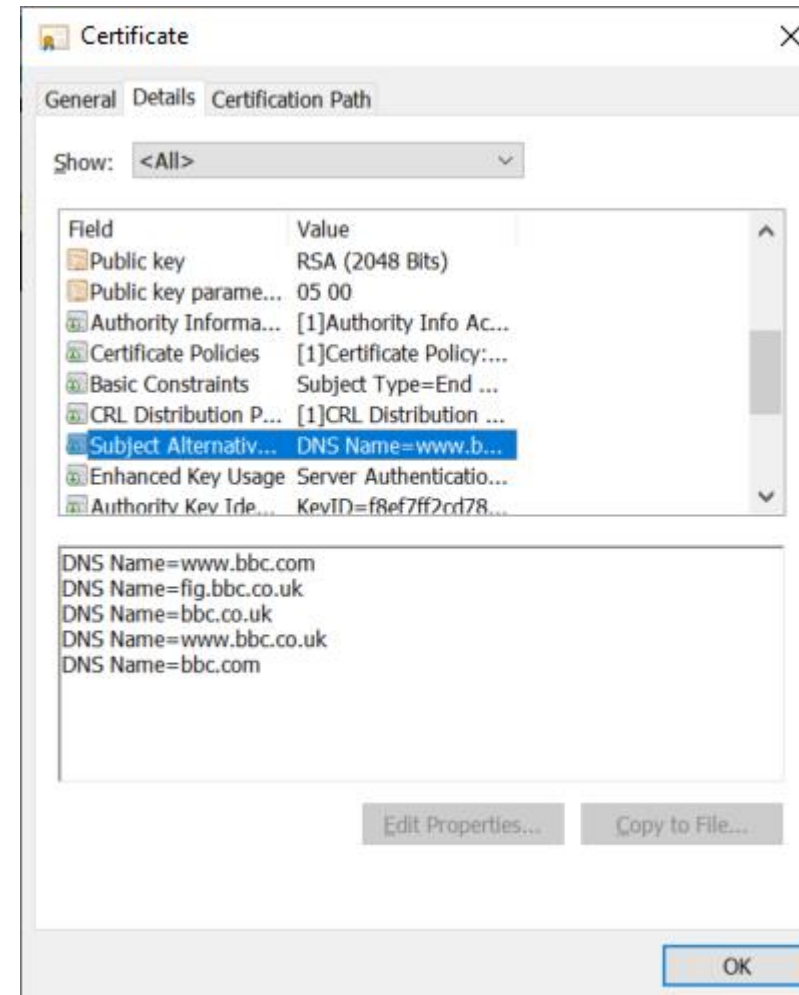
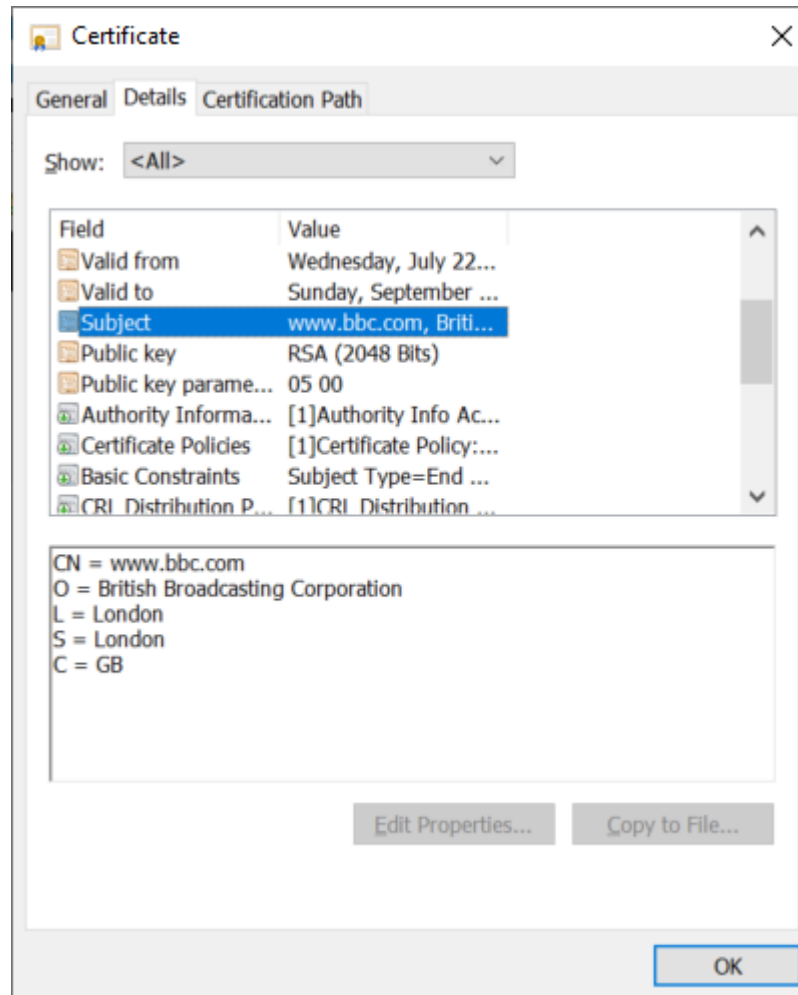


Step 1: Server needs a certificate

- The server needs to obtain a certificate to identify itself. There are different options:
 - a) Use utilities from z/OS or other platforms – RACF RACDCERT or System SSL gskkyman, openssl
 - Simple, but they do not provide any revocation status on the certificate
 - RACDCERT certificates do not have full support on certificate extensions
 - b) Buy one from some commercial CAs
 - Pretty expensive
 - Preferred choice if the server is to serve worldwide clients since the root CA is preloaded in most of the browsers
 - c) Request one from some internal CA, eg. z/OS PKI Services
 - Needs set up. But if a large number of certificates are needed, it is worth the effort
 - Full support on extensions like Subject Alternate Name



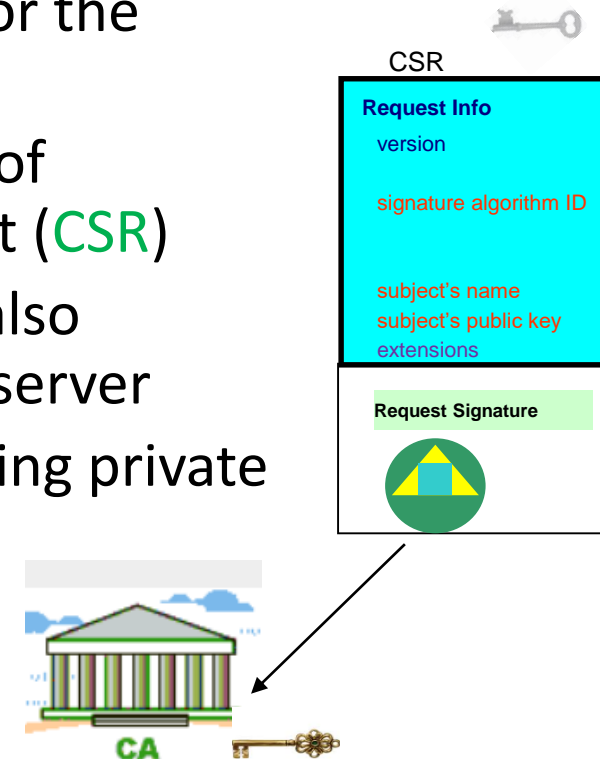
Two fields to match the URL: Common Name, Subject Alternate Name



Key pair -> CSR -> certificate

- Need to have a public private **key pair** first for the server
 - The key pair is generated in the process of generating the certificate signing request (**CSR**)
 - The public key is put on the CSR, which also contains identifying information for the server
 - CSR is signed by the server's corresponding private key
 - The private key is put in a safe place!!!
- The CSR is sent to the Certificate Authority

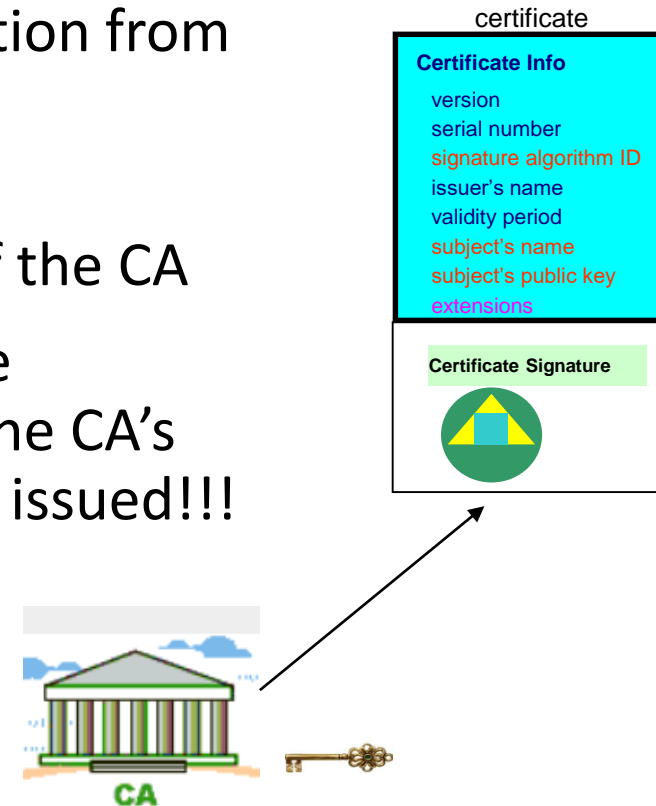
(For simplicity, I assume this CA is self-signed, ie. It is the root)



Key pair ->CSR->certificate

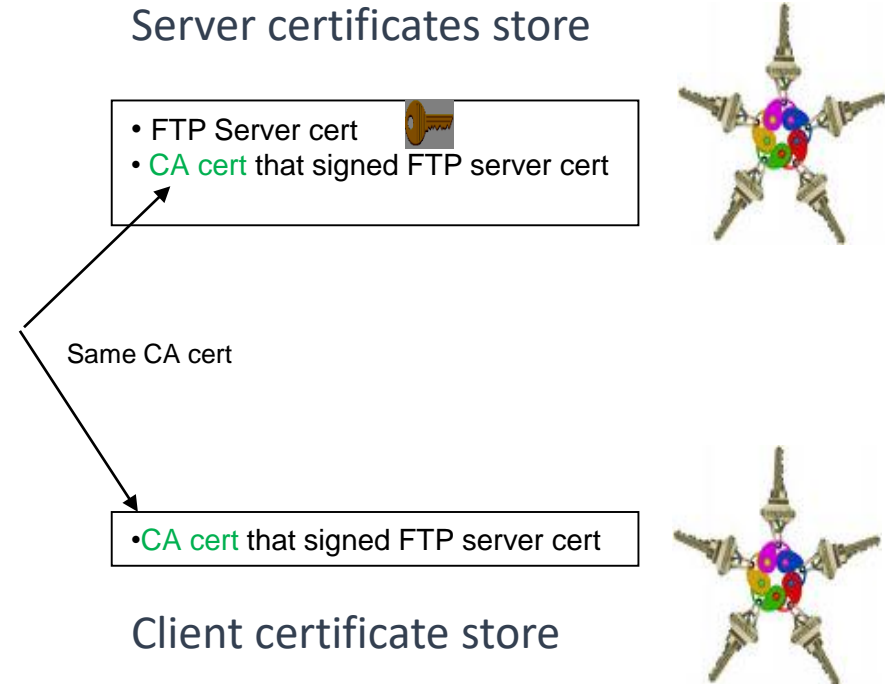
- After the CA validates the CSR, it returns a **certificate** that contains
 - the public key and the identifying information from the CSR
 - other content that the CA decides
 - the signature created by the private key of the CA

Note: Secure the private key associated with the certificate, especially the CA's. Compromise of the CA's private key invalidates ALL the certificates it has issued!!!



Step 2: Both server and client need certificate stores

- Certificate must be placed in a certificate store / key ring / key database before it can be used by an application to perform identification and validation
- The server admin
 - sets up a certificate store / key ring / key database with the **whole chain** (this is a chain of 2):
 - the server certificate
 - the issuer CA certificate (it is also the root in this case)
 - sends the **root CA certificate** to the client admin (not the server certificate !!!)
- The client admin
 - sets up a key ring / key database / certificate store with this root CA certificate:
 - the root CA certificate (this is also the issuer certificate in this case)
- Notice that in the case of a chain of N, the server keyring should contain N certificates, but the client keyring only needs the root CA certificate no matter how long the chain is.



Certificate verification

Client perform these checks on the **server** certificate: (for server authentication)

- **Validation checks**

- Check the certificate's integrity by verifying the signature on the certificate – is it really issued by the CA it claims?
- Check if the certificate is expired by verifying the expiration date on the certificate
- Check if the certificate has been revoked

Note: The validation checks apply to the issuer certificate(s) too. All the certificates in the chain have to pass the above checks

- **Trust check** - check if the root CA certificate is trusted
 - Is the root CA certificate of the server certificate in the client's keyring?



Types of z/OS certificate stores

- RACF Key Ring – real or virtual
- ICSF PKCS11 Token
- System SSL Key database
- PKCS12 package



RACF keyring is the most popular certificate store on z/OS

➤ Real keyring

- created by RACDCERT id(<ring owner>) ADDRING (<ring name>)
- specified its name on application configuration with
 - <ring owner>/<ring name>, eg. **FTPID/ftpRing**
- can be created before or after the certificates have been obtained

➤ Virtual keyring, no need to create, just a collection of certificates under the owner ID

- specified its name on application configuration with
 - <ring owner>/*, eg. ***AUTH*/***, CA's virtual key ring

➤ Key rings are protected by RACF resource profiles

- application ID needs read access to the profiles in the RDATA LIB or FACILITY class
 - **RDATA LIB**: <ring owner>.<ring name>.LST – Granular control (Since 2008)
 - RDATA LIB must be raclisted
 - **FACILITY**: IRR.DIGTCERT.LISTRING, IRR.DIGTCERT.GENCERT – Global control (Original support)



Some useful RACDCERT command tips

- RACDCERT <owner> <function> <other function specific sub keywords>
 - Owner: ID(RACF id), eg. ID(ftpserver), or predefined owner - CERTAUTH, SITE, MULTIID
 - Function: 26 functions - GENCERT, GENREQ, ADD, ADDRING, CONNECT, LISTCHAIN...
- If owner is not specified, it defaults to the command issuer. If Mary issues the commands:
 - RACDCERT ID(John) LISTCHAIN(LABEL('mycert'))
 - Display John's mycert and its issuer(s) cert(s)
 - RACDCERT LISTCHAIN(LABEL('mycert'))
 - Display Mary's mycert and its issuer(s) cert(s)
- Don't confuse RACDCERT ADD with RACDCERT IMPORT – ADD a cert in a dataset to RACF, IMPORT a cert from ICSF PKCS11 token to RACF



Certificate Formats

- X.509 certificates can be packaged differently
 - Single certificate (eg. .cer, .crt, .pem)
 - PKCS#7 certificate package (eg. .p7b)
 - Contains end entity certificate and its issuer(s)
 - PKCS#12 certificate package (eg. .p12, .pfx)
 - Similar to PKCS#7, but also contains the private key associated with the end-entity certificate.
 - Packaged protected by a password
- Package can be in binary or Base64 encoded format (containing Aa-Zz,0-9,/,+ (= is for padding) for easy cut and paste)

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

```
MIICPTCCAaagAwIBAgIIR49S4QANLvEwdQYJKoZIhvcNAQEFBQAwNzELMAkGA1UE
BhMCVVMxDTALBgNVBAoTBFRlc3QxGTAXBgNVBAMMEFRlc3Rfc2VsZ19zaWduZWQw
HhcNMDgwMTE3MTMwNjQxWhcNMDkwMTE2MTMwNjQxWjA3MQswCQYDVQGEwJVUzEN
MAwGA1UEChMEVGVzZdDEZMBcGA1UEAwwQVGVzZdF9zZWxmX3NpZ25lZDZCbzANBgkq
hkiG9w0BAQEFAAOBjQAwgYkCgYEA9tK0v5gLaceozMfMeVd891fCjBVoR+dpzhwK
R2B/QcQYBGLfqS4YM/wGSh6YrmVyg00VxocriySbcxRuBayw3pE4/3JI2myINmLp
bFIdPCnqk/qvFK+1N+nrEnBK9yls7NmxDIuQQfFsX/o/DpoxwzXf+JbWDwirQR
NyLiTGMCAwEAAaNSMFAwHQYDVR0OBBYEFawDFLjOUCRa62BV3jVyHewuOWEMB8G
A1UdIwQYMBaAFawDFLjOUCRa62BV3jVyHewuOWEMA4GA1UdDwEB/wQEAWIE8DAN
BgkqhkiG9w0BAQUFAAOBQAC5sW1f3EdE0k9zc8wKNT1sczWkQBrVy4Rdr17ERqN
D2OfkBJQuXiNwN18pF6WPwfYG80MNwhP4oJSVePnzElh4Wzi2w1/zI8rINSW7px3
w16lz+8jEI84q/N0q0toPTAtEb6fIzwjKtctt3oF+IjunvE5QoRsXRJbbTMD/EG
jw==
```

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



Using what you have learnt to solve a
handshake problem from a certificate
perspective



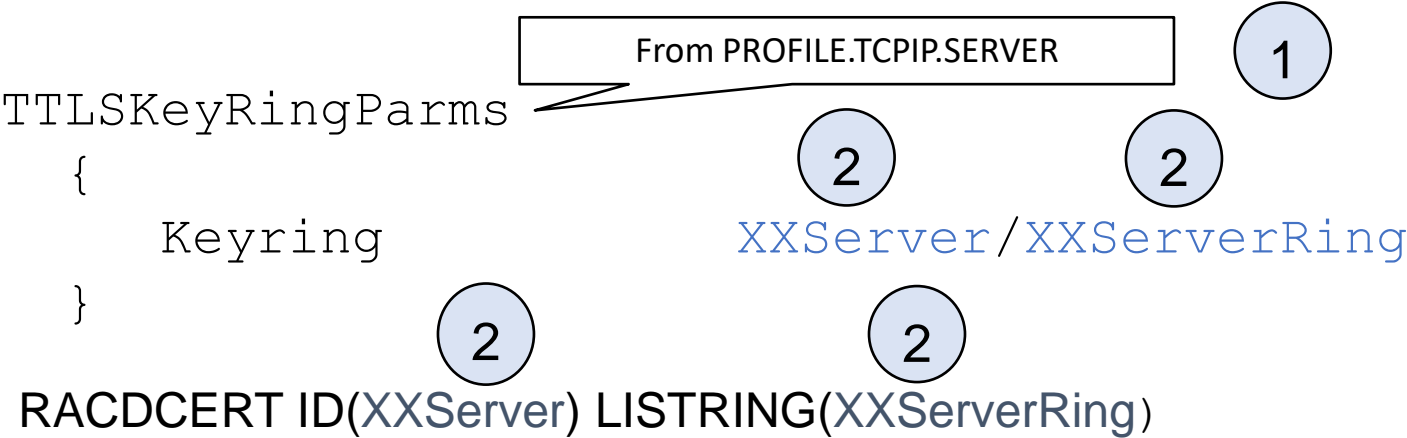
Steps to tackle from server side

- Find out which party is the **server**, which party is the **client**
- **Server side:**
 1. What is the configuration file which include the keyring / database information?
 2. What is the keyring name? Who is the keyring owner?
 3. Does the keyring contain all the needed certificates?
 4. Which one is the server certificate? Who owns it?
 - Usage is Personal
 - Marked as DEFAULT (the most popular setting)
 5. Does the server certificate have a private key associated with it and is its status TRUST?
 6. What ID will be using the keyring? Does it have access to the private key?
 - Access to keyring means access to certificates in the keyring, but not the access to their private keys
 - Simpler set up if the accessing ID is the owner of the certificate, and owner of the keyring
 - If the access control is through RDATA LIB, make sure it is active and raclisted



Example on tracing AT-TLS handshake problem based on RACF key ring

Server side:




Digital ring information for user **XXServer**:

Ring:

>XXServerRing<

| Certificate Label Name | Cert Owner | USAGE | DEFAULT |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| 4 SSL Cert | 4 ID (XXServer) | PERSONAL | YES |
| Local Intermediate CA | CERTAUTH | CERTAUTH | NO |
| Local Root CA | CERTAUTH | CERTAUTH | NO |






RACDCERT ID(XXServer) LISTCHAIN(LABEL('SSL Cert'))

Certificate 1:

Digital certificate information for user **XXServer**:

Label: SSL Cert

Certificate ID: 2Qbmxcli2eXi4tNAw4WZo0BA

5 Status: **TRUST** 

Start Date: 2020/04/17 01:00:00

End Date: 2021/04/16 00:59:59

...

5 Private Key: **YES** 

Ring Associations:

Ring Owner: XXServer

Ring:

>XXServerRing<

Certificate 2:

Digital certificate information for **CERTAUTH**:

Label: Local Intermediate CA

Certificate ID: 2QinxcLi2eYj4tMAw4WZo0BD

Status: **TRUST**

Start Date: 2015/02/17 01:00:00

End Date: 2025/12/31 00:59:59

...

Private Key: NO

Ring Associations:

Ring Owner: XXServer

Ring:

>XXServerRing<

Certificate 3:

Digital certificate information for

CERTAUTH:

Label: Local Root CA

Certificate ID: 2QkkxcLi2eZj4tMAw4WZo0BE

Status: **TRUST**

Start Date: 2015/01/01 01:00:00

End Date: 2035/12/31 00:59:59

...

Private Key: NO


Ring Associations:

Ring Owner: XXServer

Ring:

>XXServerRing<

Chain information:

Chain contains 3 certificate(s), **chain**
is complete 

Chain contains ring in common:
XXServer/XXServerRing 



RLIST RDATA LIB XXServer.XXServerRing.LST

6

```
CLASS      NAME
-----
RDATA LIB  XXSERVER.XXSERVERRING.LST
```

```
LEVEL  OWNER      UNIVERSAL ACCESS  YOUR ACCESS  WARNING
-----
```

...

```
USER      ACCESS
-----
```

```
XXSERVER  READ
YYSERVER  UPDATE
```



if YYSERVER accesses XXSERVER's keyring,
XXSERVER's private key is involved, need
UPDATE

...

**** Make sure the RDATA LIB class is active and raclisted!!!**

SETR LIST

...

ACTIVE CLASSES =.....RDATA LIB...



...

SETR RACLIST CLASSES = ... RDATA LIB...



SETR RACLIST(RDATA LIB) REFRESH



Steps to tackle from client side

- Client side:
 1. What is the configuration file which include the keyring / database information?
 2. What is the keyring name? Who is the keyring owner?
 3. Are the certificates CERTAUTH certificates?
 4. Which one is the root CA certificate of the server? Is its status TRUST?
 5. What ID will be using the keyring? Does it have access to the keyring?
 - Access to keyring means access to certificates in the keyring
 - If the access control is through RDATA LIB, make sure it is active and raclisted



Client uses a real RACF keyring

Client side:

TTLSTKeyRingParms

```
{
  Keyring
}
```

From PROFILE.TCPIP.CLIENT

XXClient/XXClientRing

RACDCERT ID(XXClient) LISTRING(XXClientRing)

Digital ring information for user XXClient:

Ring:

>XXClientRing<

| Certificate Label Name | Cert Owner | USAGE | DEFAULT |
|------------------------|------------|----------|---------|
| XXServer Root CA | CERTAUTH | CERTAUTH | NO |


4

3



RACDCERT CERTAUTH LIST(LABEL('XXServer Root CA'))

Digital certificate information for
CERTAUTH:

```
Label: XXServer Root CA
Certificate ID: 20kkxcLi2eZj4tMAw4WZo0BE
Status: TRUST 
Start Date: 2015/01/01 01:00:00
End Date: 2035/12/31 00:59:59
Serial Number:
...
Issuer's Name:
...
Subject's Name:
...
Private Key: NO
Ring Associations:
  Ring Owner: XXClient
Ring:
  >XXClientRing<
```

4

Make sure this is the server's root
CA sent by the server side by
checking fields like:

- serial number,
- issuer's name,
- subject's name



RLIST RDATA LIB XXClient.XXClientRing.LST 5

```
CLASS      NAME
-----
RDATA LIB  XXCLIENT.XXCLIENTRING.LST
```

```
LEVEL  OWNER      UNIVERSAL ACCESS  YOUR ACCESS  WARNING
-----
```

...

```
USER      ACCESS
-----
```


```
XXCLIENT  READ      
```

```
YYCLIENT  READ      ← if YYCLIENT accesses XXCLIENT's keyring,
                        also just need READ
```

...

**** Make sure the RDATA LIB class is active and raclisted!!!**

SETR LIST

```
...
ACTIVE CLASSES =.....RDATA LIB... 
```

...

```
SETR RACLIST CLASSES = ... RDATA LIB... 
```

SETR RACLIST(RDATA LIB) REFRESH 



Client uses a virtual RACF keyring

Client side:

```
TTLSTKeyRingParms
{
  Keyring
}
```

From PROFILE.TCPIP.CLIENT

1

AUTH / *

2

3

RACDCERT CERTAUTH LIST

Digital certificate information for CERTAUTH:

```
Label: Verisign Class 3 Primary CA
...
Label: XX Root CA
...
Label: YY Root CA
...
Label: XXServer Root CA
```

4

Make sure one of these CA certificates is the root CA certificate that the server side sent this by checking the fields like:

- serial number,
- issuer's name,
- subject's name



RLIST RDATA LIB CERTIFAUTH.IRR_VIRTUAL_KEYRING.LST

5

```

CLASS      NAME
-----
RDATA LIB  CERTIFAUTH.IRR_VIRTUAL_KEYRING.LST

LEVEL  OWNER      UNIVERSAL ACCESS  YOUR ACCESS  WARNING
-----
...
USER      ACCESS
-----
XXCLIENT  READ      👍
...
  
```

OR

*(*For the client side, use the old FACILITY class for control is fine)*

RLIST FACILITY IRR.DIGTCERT.LISTRING

5

```

CLASS      NAME
-----
FACILITY   IRR.DIGTCERT.LISTRING

LEVEL  OWNER      UNIVERSAL ACCESS  YOUR ACCESS  WARNING
-----
...
USER      ACCESS
-----
XXCLIENT  READ      👍
...
  
```



Some key points

- Keyring set up is the first area to debug in TLS problem
- Three IDs you need to find out for the server side
 - **Keyring owner**
 - from System SSL log
 - gsk_open_keyring: Keyring '<ring owner>/<ring name>' (if you include the ring owner in the configuration file)
 - gsk_dll_init_once(): Job name <jobname>. The owner is indirectly found from the job submitter based on the job name
 - **Certificate owner**
 - from RACDCERT LISTRING and LIST
 - **Access ID** that accesses the keyring and private key (ie the ID reads the configuration setup)
 - from TLS log: message EZD1286I USERID:<userid>

They don't need to be the same, but simpler if all of them are the same



Some key points

- Before adding certificate(s) to RACF, use RACDCERT **CHECKCERT** on the dataset containing the certificate(s) to check if they already exist
- Use RACDCERT **LISTCHAIN** to list the certificate chain. But if there are more than one chain, it may not display the one you expected. It uses the one exists earlier to form the chain
- Keep the minimum number of certificates in a keyring. Unnecessary certificates affect handshake performance and may even cause outage
- RACF provides the RACF_CERTIFICATE_EXPIRATION Health Check showing expiring and expired certificates
 - Don't wait till the last minute
 - Remove the expired one from the keyring, and:
 - Delete it from RACF DB if it is only used for TLS process, or
 - RACDCERT ALTER its status to NOTRUST if you want to keep it (for a while)



Some key points

- It is the responsibility of the server side to send the root certificate (in a file) to the client side **before** the communication occurs
- Once you are sure keyring is set up correctly, then you can proceed to debug the other areas like the cipher suite



How much do you remember?



1. Are there more certificates in the server keyring or the client keyring?

☐ A. client

☒ B. server

2. What information is the starting point to tackle a TLS problem?

☐ A. certificate content

☒ B. configuration with keyring specification

☐ C. keyring content

☐ D. authority of the ID that accessing the keyring

3. What is the logical order for the above information?

☐ A. ABCD

☒ B. BCAD

☐ C. BADC

☐ D. DBAC



References

- **Cryptographic Server Manual**

Cryptographic Services PKI Services Guide and Reference

[https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232286/\\$file/ikya100_v2r4.pdf](https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232286/$file/ikya100_v2r4.pdf)

Cryptographic Services System Secure Sockets Layer Programming

[https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sc147495/\\$file/gska100_v2r4.pdf](https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sc147495/$file/gska100_v2r4.pdf)

- **Security Server Manuals:**

RACF Command Language Reference

[https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232292/\\$file/icha400_v2r4.pdf](https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232292/$file/icha400_v2r4.pdf)

RACF Security Administrator's Guide

[https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232289/\\$file/icha700_v2r4.pdf](https://www-01.ibm.com/servers/resourcelink/svc00100.nsf/pages/zOSV2R4sa232289/$file/icha700_v2r4.pdf)

- **RFCs**

RFC5280 - Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5280>



References

- **IBM Enterprise Knights videos on digital certificates:**

<https://ek-ibmz.mybluemix.net/video/c57660745a547e504d54793083a97b0d>

<https://ek-ibmz.mybluemix.net/video/d399cee97db684bbf4f0f4e2b42cff15>

- **IBM Hot Topics**

Issue #29: Drowning in digital certificates? Here's a lifeline!

<http://publibfp.dhe.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/e0z3n110.pdf>

Issue #21: RACDCERT tipbits. x509 digital certificate technology

<http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/e0z2n1a0.pdf>

Issue #19: Grow your own. Using locally generated digital certificates

<http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/e0z2n190.pdf>

Issue #14: Security alert: Do you want to proceed?

<http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/e0z2n161.pdf>



- IBM PKI Redbooks

Managing Digital Certificates across the Enterprise

<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248336.html?Open>

z/OS PKI Services: Quick Set-up for Multiple CAs

<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248337.html?Open>



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💡 1 to 4 = "Too Short" 5 = "OK" 6-9 = "Too Long"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3. Did this presentation meet your requirements?

💡 1 to 4 = "No" 5 = "OK" 6-9 = "Yes"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4. Was the session content what you expected?

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐



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