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The Procedure of Obtaining an SSL Certificate

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Article published on December 30th 2011 | Web Hosting

SSL provides visitors to your website with the confidence to communicate securely via an encrypted session. For companies wishing to conduct secure e-commerce, such as receiving credit card numbers or other sensitive information online, SSL is essential.

The key elements of an SSL Certificate are: SSL (Secure Sockets Layer): Creates an encrypted link between a web server and a browser. CSR (Certificate Signing Request): A certificate file generated by the webhost. CA (Certificate Authority): The vendors from whom a certificate is brought.

You can get a distributed ssl certificate or you can buy one for your class. If you decide to get your own SSL credentials, this is the general process.

You should decide on the ssl certificate issuer. One should always look for the established issuer. Some of the certificate authority vendors are RapidSSL, GeoTrust and Verisign.

Before getting your own SSL certificate, you should study on the need for the ssl certificate. Documentation is necessary in such situation. Once you have decided on the need, you can then go for the appropriate vendor. RapidSSL provides certificates which are cheap and reliable. Verisign can be used by the high end business firms. GeoTrust provides certificates for both.

This is just an overview. Every vendor provides different services. Check on the documentation of each of the vendor.

All certification that is requested must match exactly. Secure certificate authorities testament will verify whether your business exists or not, so they know they are issuing to the proper company. You will need to prove that the Organization Name and the Domain name are, in fact, yours to use.

The required steps:

â€¢ Prepare the documentation

â€¢ Get the csr generated from the web host

â€¢ Apply for the ssl certificate, after which the CA will process the application

â€¢ A url will be received to download and install the ssl certificate

â€¢ Send the certificate to the vendor for installation on server

Upon sending the required information to the web host, they will generate the CSR file and will send to you in plain text. You then send this file to certificate authorities like Verisign or Thawte. They will generate the SSL Certificate for you which should be sent to the web host for installation.

How to check the security of a website?

You should see the â€œhttpsâ€• protocol instead of the regular â€œhttpâ€•. Also a golden padlock symbo appear on the browser. These are the signs of a secure web site.

Article Source:
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Article Keywords:
EV SSL, Extended Validation SSL, Renew EV SSL

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