

Internet Explorer 7 on Windows Vista: Obtaining MIT Certificates

Overview

In order to use secure web services at MIT with IE7 on Windows Vista, three types of MIT web certificates are needed:

- MIT Certification Authority (MIT CA), which confirms that the Web servers to which you are connecting are valid MIT servers
- MIT Client Certificate, needed in IE7 on Vista to generate the personal certificate
- MIT Personal Certificate, which authenticates you to MIT's secure servers

First-Time Installation of Certificates

If you are installing certificates for the first time in IE7 on a Windows Vista system, either as administrator or on an individual user account, you must run the [Certificate Installer Tool for Windows Vista](#) before getting the personal certificate.

Users of win.mit.edu

Users of win.mit.edu are not required to perform any additional steps over the current IE6 requirements to obtain certificates for IE7. This applies to both Windows XP and Vista.

Note: The MIT Client Certificate is necessary only with IE7 on Vista; it does not apply to IE on Windows XP or Firefox, or to other browsers (such as Firefox).

Get the MIT Personal Certificate

The MIT personal certificate authenticates the user to MIT's secure servers.

Note: A separate certificate password is not necessary for IE7 on Vista; the certificate is protected by your Window user account password.

1. In IE7 go to [Certificates at MIT](#) and click on **Get MIT Personal Certificate**.
2. On the page Get an MIT Certificate, under **I identify myself**, enter your Kerberos username and password, and your MIT identification number. Click **Submit**.
3. The Web Access Confirmation window appears, asking if you want to request the certificate; click **Yes**.
4. The Web Access Confirmation window appears again, asking if you want to add the certificate; click **Yes**.
5. On the page Generate a Private Key, leave the Key Size at the highest grade for your browser. The Certificate Lifetime gives the default number of days until this personal certificate expires. Click **Next** to accept the defaults.

Note: You may set the certificate lifetime to a lower number, especially if you are getting a personal certificate on a computer which you will be using only a short amount of time. Setting the lifetime to zero (0) means the certificate expires after three hours.

6. A new page is displayed with confirmation that the certificate is installed.