

## Windows Enterprise Announcement

### June 10, 2010 – Changes Coming in Digital Certificates

This email post was made to the CCSG mailing list by Bill Frazier [ITSYS] on June 8, 2010. Since this will impact the LDAPS certificates used on the Windows Enterprise domain controllers it is important everyone understands the implications of this eventual change.

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From: Frazier, William S [ITSYS] [frazier@iastate.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 1:49 PM  
To: ccs@iastate.edu  
Subject: Changes Coming in Digital Certificates

You may recall that I mentioned that a national group was considering a digital certificate service geared to the needs of higher education. That effort is coming to fruition under the aegis of the InCommon Federation. InCommon is an LLC, wholly owned by Internet2. (For more information about InCommon, go to About InCommon <<http://www.incommonfederation.org/about.cfm>> .) Iowa State University is a member both of Internet2 and of InCommon.

This week, InCommon announced the signing of contracts which establish the InCommon Certificate Service. The press release may be found at Press Release <<https://spaces.internet2.edu/display/InCCollaborate/2010/06/07>> . Certificates will be provided by a commercial contractor, Comodo, with which some of you are familiar. By using a commercial provider, problems with recognition of the signing authority are minimized.

ITS plans to move to this service for our campus offering as quickly as we can, once it is available. The InCommon announcement targets late summer for general availability.

Obviously, the details of certificate acquisition will change. We will get information to you as quickly as we can. Right now, we know nothing about the service beyond what can be found on the InCommon and Internet2 web sites. One major difference is that the cost structure will move from a per certificate basis to flat rate. The annual fee will allow the issuing of unlimited certificates. We expect that the fee will be treated as a “common good” for the institution and that there will be no per certificate charge.

This service will begin with SSL certificates. Code signing, personal signature, and encryption certificate will follow at some later time. Multi-year and wild card certificates are covered under the service. **Please note that Extended Validation certificates are not.** If you need EV certificate, they are available but there will be a separate charge.

Until we are able to offer this service, ITS will continue to provide certificates from Thawte. The transition from one provider to another should be smooth. Certificates issued by Thawte will continue to be valid until they expire. They can be replaced by certificates

from the new service. Client software (e.g., browsers) should already be well aware of Comodo.

The one caveat is if you have an application (most likely a service) that requires that you explicitly install the Comodo root certificate, you will need to do so.

We in ITS hope that this new service will make the management of certificates easier and will encourage use of elevated security in case where cost might have been a discouraging factor. The availability of not only SSL credentials but personal identity documents as well will help in efforts to meet requirements for improved identity verification in university business transactions. As promised above, when we know more about this new service, we will pass that information on.

Bill

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