

SAFE Certificate Management Design Guide

Domain: Management

January 2023

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Overview

In Cisco SAFE, the Management domain includes the management of devices and systems using centralized services for consistent policy deployment, workflow change management and the ability to keep systems patched. The Management coordinates policies, objects, and alerting.

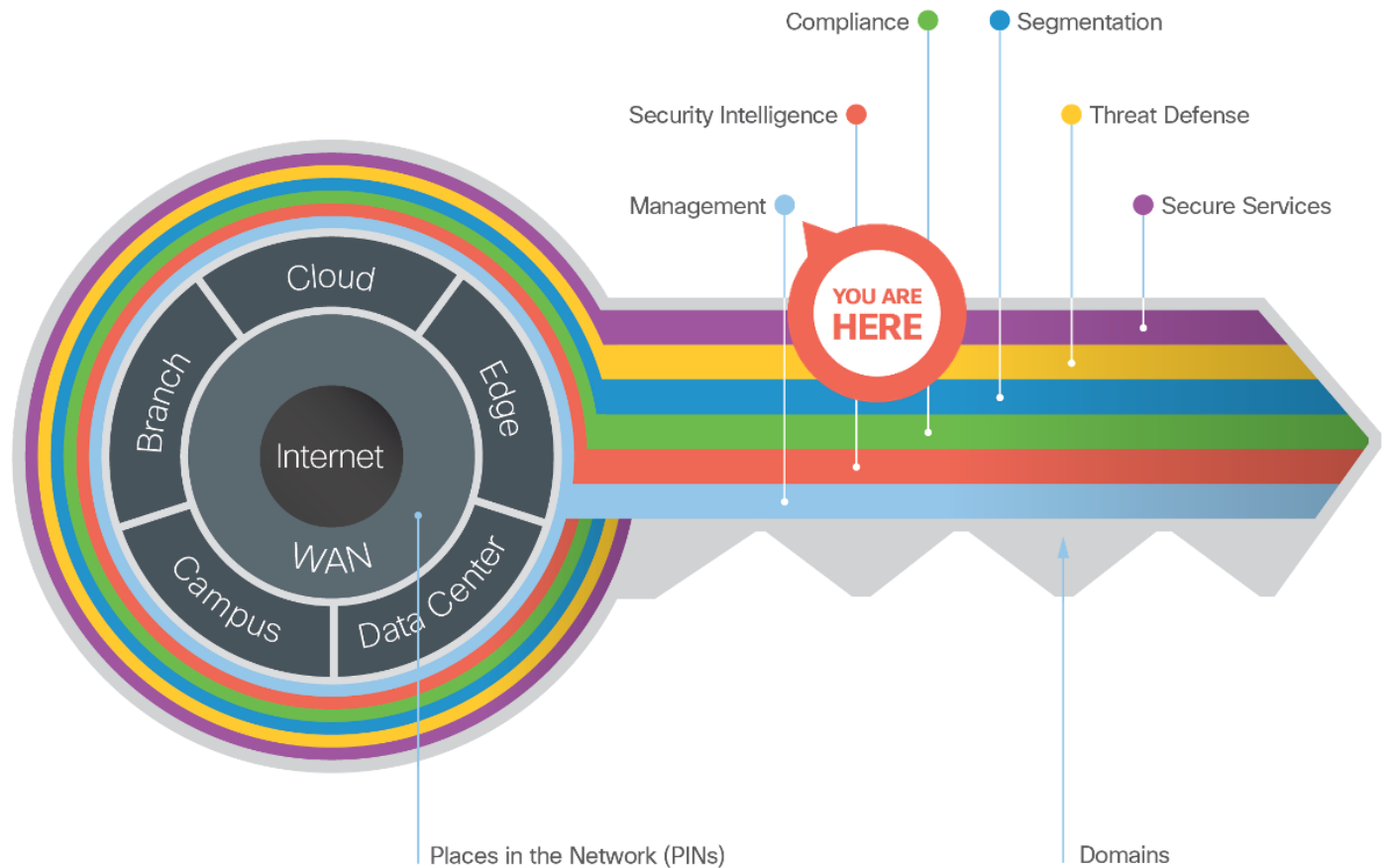


Figure 1.

SAFE provides the Key to simplify cybersecurity into Secure Places in the Network (PINs) for infrastructure and Secure Domains for operational guidance.

SAFE simplifies security by starting with business flows, then addressing their respective threats with corresponding security capabilities, architectures, and designs. SAFE provides guidance that is holistic and understandable.

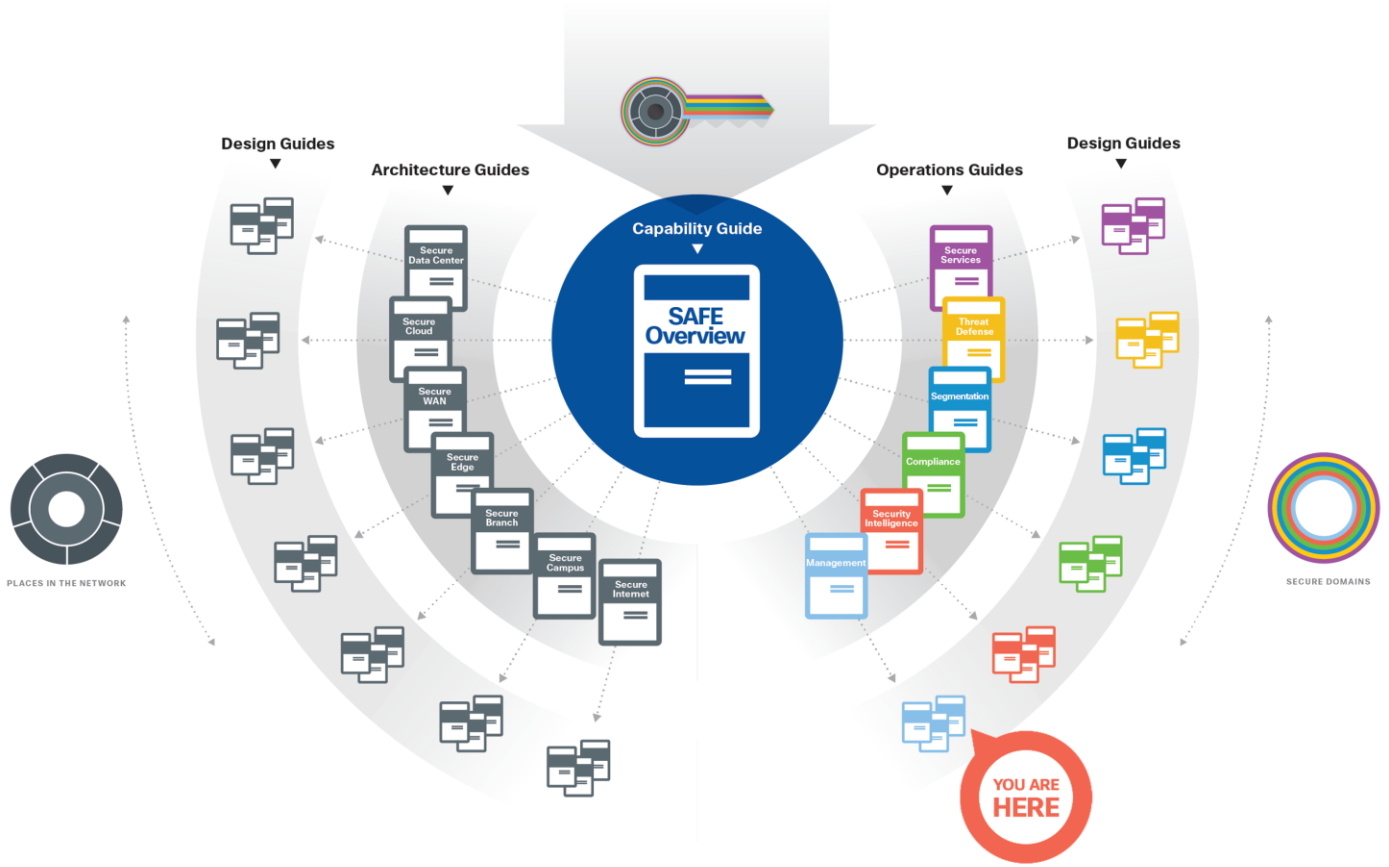


Figure 2. SAFE Guidance Hierarchy

This operations design guide contains instructions for certificate management required by the Zero Trust: Network and Cloud Security design guide.

This guide is focused on Active Directory (AD) as an external certificate authority (CA). The guidance is provided for configuring certificates on security components that integrate with the Platform Exchange Grid (pxGrid) provided by Identity Services Engine (ISE). Guidance is also provided on how to setup Administrator certificates.

Certificate Management

Create Externally Signed ISE Certificates for pxGrid and Admin Services

Integrating Secure Firewall with pxGrid requires that the Firewall Management Center (FMC) trust the root CA used to sign the ISE MNT server Admin certificate and the ISE pxGrid certificate.

This section will cover

- how to use ISE to generate Certificate Signing Requests (CSRs) for the pxGrid and Admin certificates
- the process of creating a template for the CSRs in AD
- the process for generating certificates from the CSRs in AD

- the process for adding the CA root certificate as a trusted CA in ISE.

Active Directory Certificate Authority: Export a Root Certificate

The external CA root certificate should be trusted in ISE before importing any certificates signed by the external CA.

Step 1. To export a root certificate from an Active Directory CA, Access the CA server by appending /certsrv/ to the AD server hostname, e.g.

- **adserver.example.com**
- **adserver.example.com/certsrv/**

Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services – lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2

Welcome

Use this Web site to request a certificate for your Web browser, e-mail client, or other program. By using a certificate, you can, and, depending upon the type of certificate you request, perform other security tasks.

You can also use this Web site to download a certificate authority (CA) certificate, certificate chain, or certificate revocation

For more information about Active Directory Certificate Services, see [Active Directory Certificate Services Documentation](#).

Select a task:

[Request a certificate](#)

[View the status of a pending certificate request](#)

[Download a CA certificate, certificate chain, or CRL](#)

Step 2. Click the Download a CA certificate, certificate chain, or CRL option.

Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services – lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2

Welcome

Use this Web site to request a certificate for your Web browser, e-mail client, or other program. By using a certificate, you can, and, depending upon the type of certificate you request, perform other security tasks.

You can also use this Web site to download a certificate authority (CA) certificate, certificate chain, or certificate revocation

For more information about Active Directory Certificate Services, see [Active Directory Certificate Services Documentation](#).

Select a task:

[Request a certificate](#)

[View the status of a pending certificate request](#)

[Download a CA certificate, certificate chain, or CRL](#)

Step 3. Set the encoding method if desired, then click Download CA certificate.

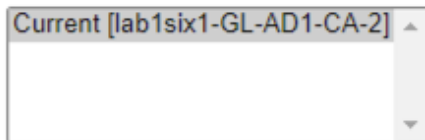
Download a CA Certificate, Certificate Chain, or CRL

To trust certificates issued from this certification authority, [install this CA certificate](#).

To download a CA certificate, certificate chain, or CRL, select the certificate and encoding method.

CA certificate:

Current [lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2] ▲



Encoding method:

- DER
- Base 64

[Install CA certificate](#)

[Download CA certificate](#)

[Download CA certificate chain](#)

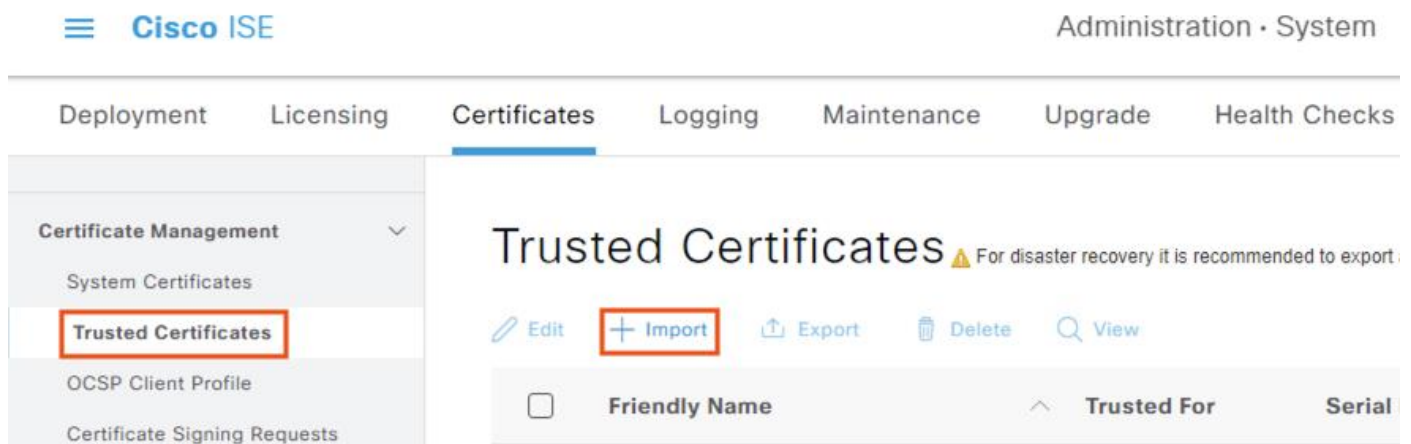
[Download latest base CRL](#)

[Download latest delta CRL](#)

ISE: Add an External Certificate to the Trusted Certificate Store

Step 1. Within ISE, click the Menu icon (☰) and navigate to Administration → System → Certificates.

Step 2. Click on Trusted Certificates, then click Import.



The screenshot shows the Cisco ISE Administration console. The top navigation bar includes the Cisco ISE logo and the path Administration > System. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs for Deployment, Licensing, Certificates (which is selected), Logging, Maintenance, Upgrade, and Health Checks. On the left, a sidebar menu under Certificate Management shows System Certificates, Trusted Certificates (highlighted with a red box), OCSP Client Profile, and Certificate Signing Requests. The main content area is titled 'Trusted Certificates' with a warning icon and text: 'For disaster recovery it is recommended to export...'. Below the title are action buttons: Edit, Import (highlighted with a red box), Export, Delete, and View. At the bottom, a table header is visible with columns: Friendly Name, Trusted For, and Serial.

Step 3. Select Choose File and upload the root certificate collected previously. Enter a Friendly Name, Description, and set the Trusted For fields for the certificate (this example uses the default setting for authentication within ISE, but more options can be checked). Click Submit.

Cisco ISE Administration - System

Deployment Licensing **Certificates** Logging Maintenance Upgrade Health Checks Backup & Restore Admin Access Settings

Certificate Management

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates**
- OCSP Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests
- Certificate Periodic Check Se...

Certificate Authority

Import a new Certificate into the Certificate Store

* Certificate File root.cer

Friendly Name

Trusted For:

- Trust for authentication within ISE
- Trust for client authentication and Syslog
- Trust for certificate based admin authentication
- Trust for authentication of Cisco Services
- Validate Certificate Extensions

Description

Step 4. Use the filter option to search for the friendly name and verify that the certificate has been imported.

Cisco ISE Administration - System

Deployment Licensing **Certificates** Logging Maintenance Upgrade Health Checks Backup & Restore Admin Access Settings

Certificate Management

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates**
- OCSP Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests
- Certificate Periodic Check Se...

Certificate Authority

Trusted Certificates

For disaster recovery it is recommended to export and backup all your trusted certificates.

[Edit](#) [+ Import](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [View](#) Quick Filter

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly Name	Trusted For	Serial Number	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Stat
<input type="checkbox"/>	lab							
<input type="checkbox"/>	lab1six1 Root CA	Infrastructure	70 35 DC AE ...	lab1six1-GL-AD1...	lab1six1-GL-AD1...	Fri, 4 Mar 2022	Tue, 4 Mar 20...	E

Additionally, the View and Export options can be used to check hash and certificate details for any uploaded certificate.

The screenshot shows the Cisco ISE Administration console. The top navigation bar includes 'Administration · S'. Below it, a secondary navigation bar contains 'Deployment', 'Licensing', 'Certificates', 'Logging', 'Maintenance', 'Upgrade', and 'Health'. The 'Certificates' tab is active. On the left, a sidebar menu shows 'Certificate Management' expanded, with 'Trusted Certificates' selected. The main content area is titled 'Trusted Certificates' with a warning icon and text: 'For disaster recovery it is recommend'. Below the title are action buttons: 'Edit', 'Import', 'Export' (highlighted with a red box), 'Delete', and 'View' (highlighted with a red box). A table below shows a list of certificates. The first row is 'lab' with a 'Trusted For' value of 'Infrastructure'. The second row is 'lab1six1 Root CA' with a 'Trusted For' value of 'Infrastructure' and a checked checkbox (highlighted with a red box).

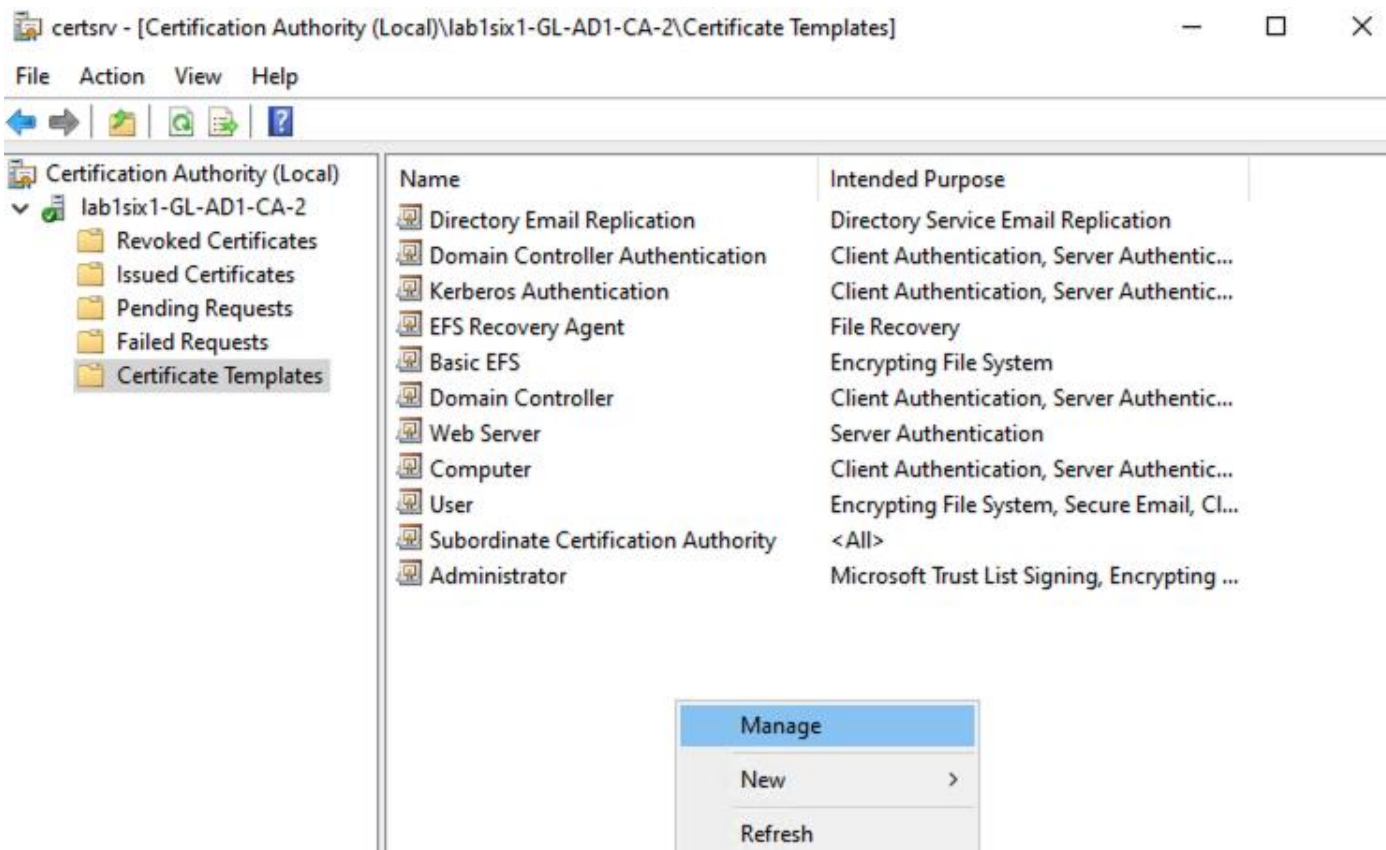
Active Directory: Create a Client and Server Authentication Template

The default ISE certificates for pxGrid and Admin are configured for both Client Authentication and Server Authentication. However, Active Directory does not have a default template to create certs with both Client and Server Authentication. This section covers how to create a CA template that will produce certificates with the Client Auth and Server Auth fields.

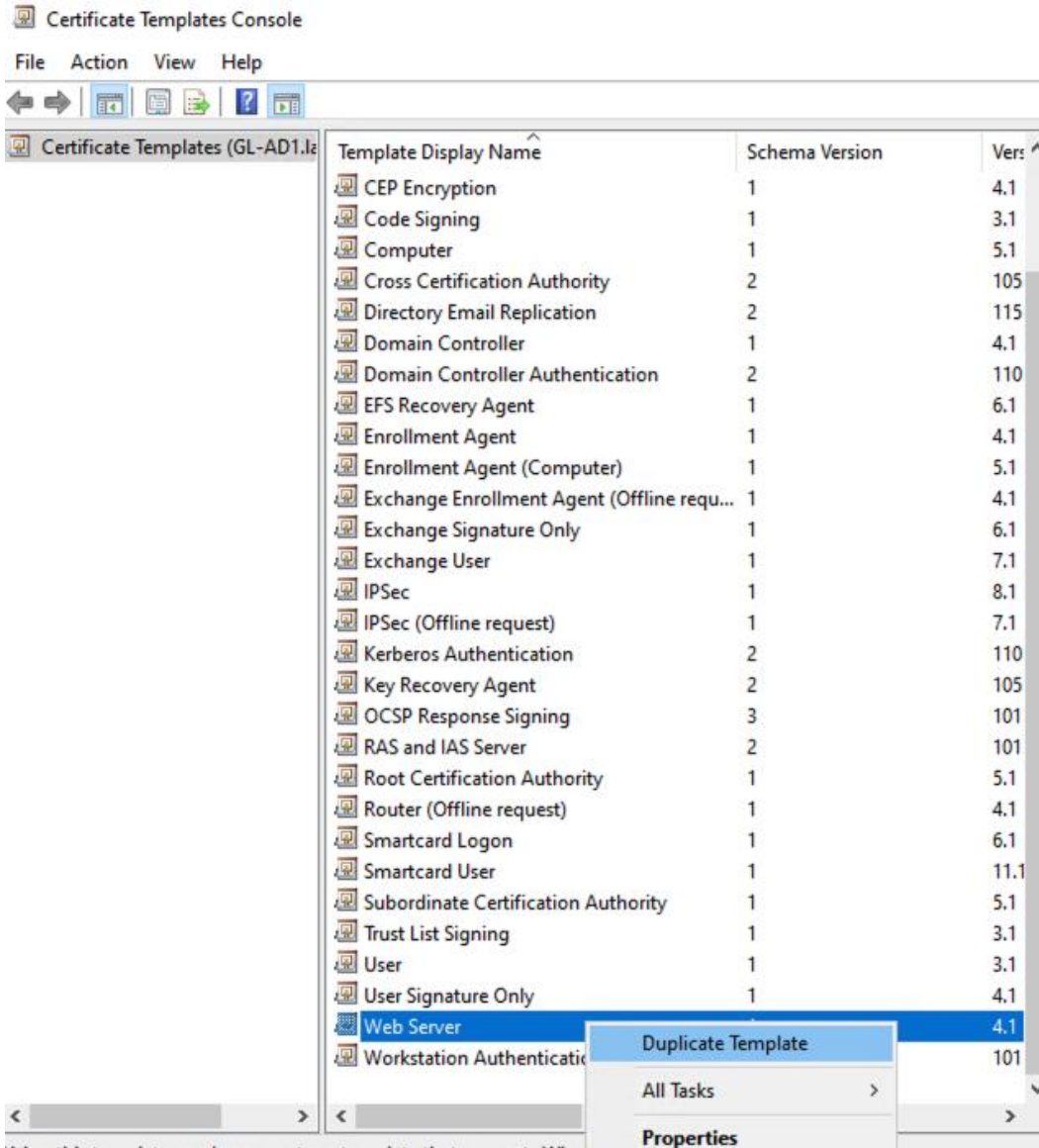
Step 1. Access Active Directory, open Server Manager, then select Tools → Certificate Authority.

The screenshot shows the Windows Server Manager interface. The title bar reads 'Server Manager'. The main window title is 'Server Manager Dashboard'. The left sidebar shows a navigation menu with 'Dashboard', 'Local Server', 'All Servers', 'AD CS', and 'AD DS'. The main content area displays 'WELCOME TO SERVER MANAGER' and a 'QUICK START' button. A red circle with the number '1' highlights the text 'Configure this local server'. The 'Tools' menu is open, showing options: 'Active Directory Administrative Center', 'Active Directory Domains and Trusts', 'Active Directory Module for Windows PowerShell', 'Active Directory Sites and Services', 'Active Directory Users and Computers', 'ADSI Edit', and 'Certification Authority' (highlighted).

Step 2. Expand the CA server dropdown on the left menu, select Certificate Templates, right-click the empty space in the right side of the window, then select Manage.



Step 3. Select the Web Server template, right-click it, then click Duplicate Template.



Step 4. Certification Authority and Certificate Recipient can be changed if desired or left at the default of 2003 for greatest compatibility. Click Apply if changes were made.

Properties of New Template



Subject Name	Server	Issuance Requirements		
Superseded Templates	Extensions	Security		
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation

The template options available are based on the earliest operating system versions set in Compatibility Settings.

Show resulting changes

Compatibility Settings

Certification Authority
Windows Server 2003

Certificate recipient
Windows XP / Server 2003

These settings may not prevent earlier operating systems from using this template.

OK Cancel Apply Help

Step 5. Click on the Extensions tab, leave Application Policies selected, then click the Edit button.

Properties of New Template



Subject Name	Server	Issuance Requirements		
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation
Superseded Templates	Extensions	Security		

To modify an extension, select it, and then click Edit.

Extensions included in this template:

- Application Policies
- Basic Constraints
- Certificate Template Information
- Issuance Policies
- Key Usage

Edit...

Description of Application Policies:

Server Authentication

OK Cancel Apply Help

Step 6. Click the Add button.

Note: Server Authentication is added by default.

Edit Application Policies Extension



An application policy defines how a certificate can be used.

Application policies:

Server Authentication

Add...

Edit...

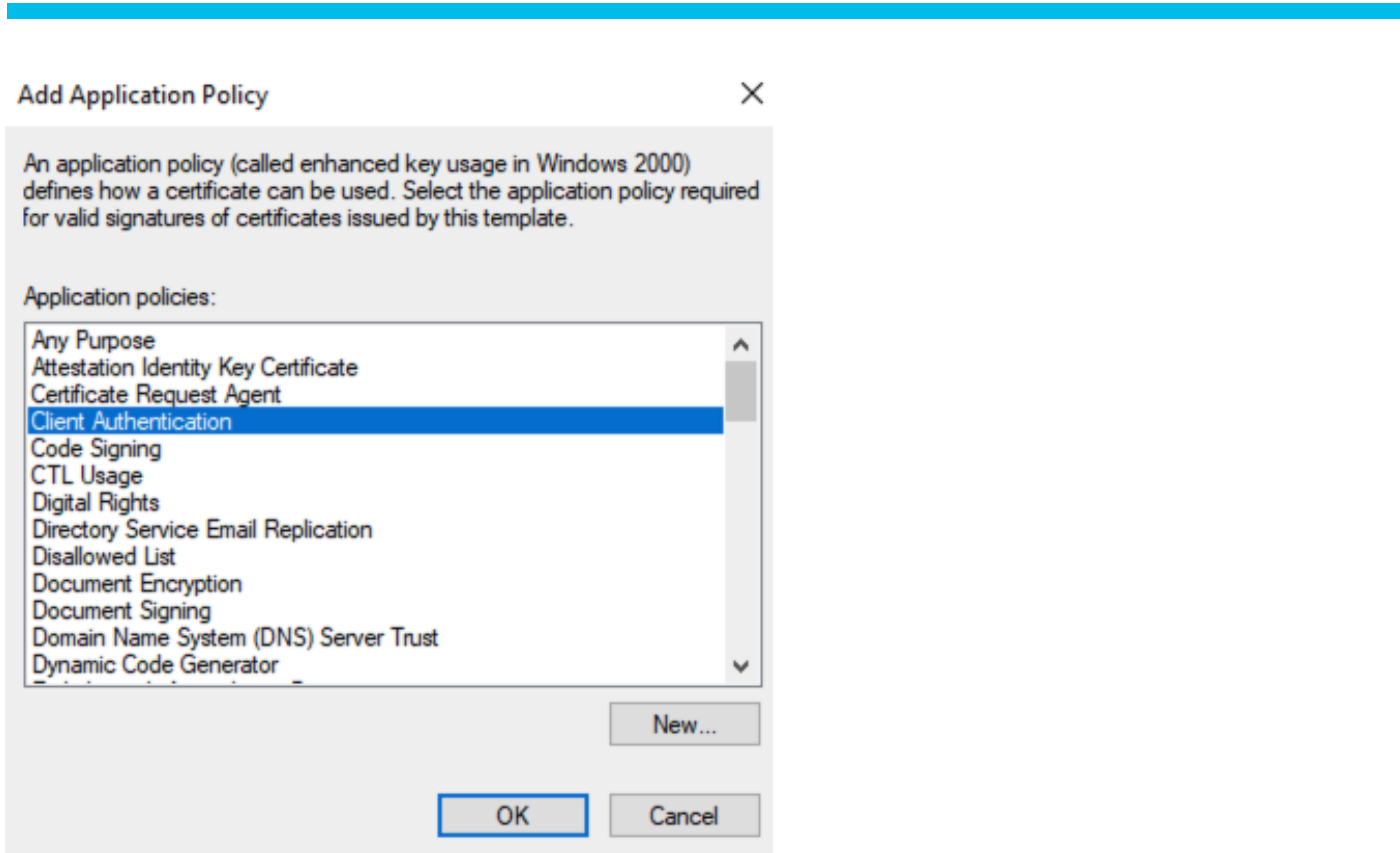
Remove

Make this extension critical

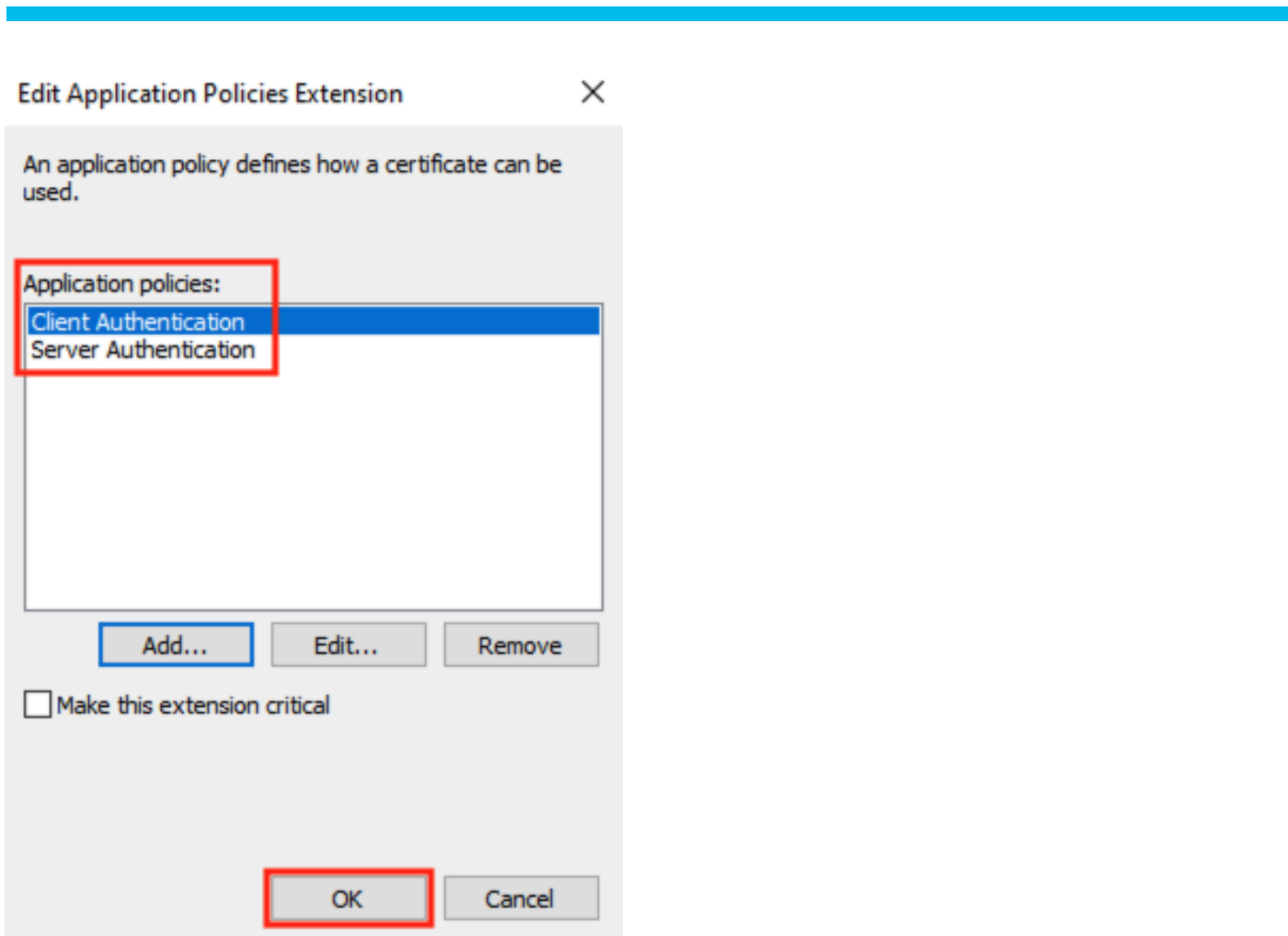
OK

Cancel

Step 7. Select Client Authentication and click OK.



Step 8. Confirm that both Client Authentication and Server Authentication are now listed. Click OK.



Step 9. Optional: while still on the Extensions tab, select Key Usage and click Edit.

Properties of New Template



Subject Name		Server		Issuance Requirements	
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation	
Superseded Templates			Extensions		Security

To modify an extension, select it, and then click Edit.

Extensions included in this template:

- Application Policies
- Basic Constraints
- Certificate Template Information
- Issuance Policies
- Key Usage**

Edit...

Description of Key Usage:

Signature requirements:
Digital signature

Allow key exchange only with key encryption
Critical extension.

OK **Cancel** Apply Help

Step 10. Enable nonrepudiation and encryption of user data. Click OK.

Subject Name	Server	Issuance Requirements		
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation
Superseded Templates	Extensions	Security		

Edit Key Usage Extension

Specify the required signature and security options for a key usage extension.

Signature

- Digital signature
- Signature is proof of origin (nonrepudiation)
- Certificate signing
- CRL signing

Encryption

- Allow key exchange without key encryption (key agreement)
- Allow key exchange only with key encryption (key encipherment)
- Allow encryption of user data

Make this extension critical

OK Cancel

OK Cancel Apply Help

Step 11. Click Apply.

Properties of New Template



Subject Name		Server		Issuance Requirements	
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation	
Superseded Templates			Extensions		Security

To modify an extension, select it, and then click Edit.

Extensions included in this template:

- Application Policies
- Basic Constraints
- Certificate Template Information
- Issuance Policies
- Key Usage

Edit...

Description of Key Usage:

Signature requirements:
Digital signature
Signature is proof of origin (nonrepudiation)

Allow key exchange only with key encryption
Allow encryption of user data
Critical extensions

OK Cancel **Apply** Help

Step 12. Click on the Subject Name tab and verify that 'Supply in the request' is selected. If it is not, select it. Click OK.

Properties of New Template



Superseded Templates		Extensions		Security	
Compatibility	General	Request Handling	Cryptography	Key Attestation	
Subject Name		Server	Issuance Requirements		

Supply in the request

Use subject information from existing certificates for autoenrollment renewal requests

Build from this Active Directory information

Select this option to enforce consistency among subject names and to simplify certificate administration.

Subject name format:

None

Include e-mail name in subject name

Include this information in alternate subject name:

E-mail name

DNS name

User principal name (UPN)

Service principal name (SPN)

OK Cancel Apply Help

Step 13. Right click on the newly created copy and select Change Names.

Certificate Templates Console

File Action View Help

Certificate Templates (GL-AD1.la)

Template Display Name	Schema Version	Ver:
Code Signing	1	3.1
Computer	1	5.1
Cross Certification Authority	2	105
Directory Email Replication	2	115
Domain Controller	1	4.1
Domain Controller Authentication	2	110
EFS Recovery Agent	1	6.1
Enrollment Agent	1	4.1
Enrollment Agent (Computer)	1	5.1
Exchange Enrollment Agent (Offline requ...	1	4.1
Exchange Signature Only	1	6.1
Exchange User	1	7.1
IPSec	1	8.1
IPSec (Offline request)	1	7.1
Kerberos Authentication	2	110
Key Recovery Agent	2	105
OCSP Response Signing	3	101
RAS and IAS Server	2	101
Root Certification Authority	1	5.1
Router (Offline request)	1	4.1
Smartcard Logon	1	6.1
Smartcard User	1	11.1
Subordinate Certification Authority	1	5.1
Trust List Signing	1	3.1
User	1	3.1
User Signature Only	1	4.1
Web Server	1	4.1
Workstation Authentication	2	101
Copy of Web Server		100

Change the template display name or the template name of this

Duplicate Template
 Reenroll All Certificate Holders
 Change Names

Step 14. Set a name, then click OK.

Change Template names

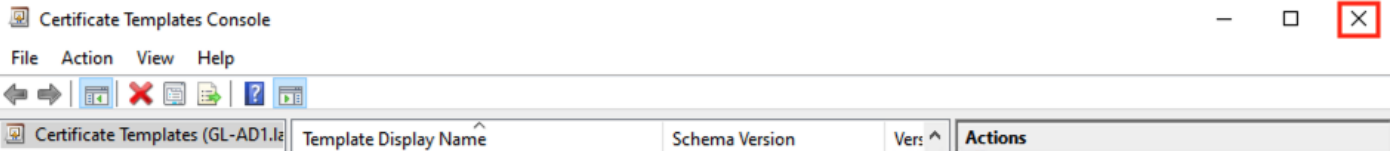
Note: Ensure that the template name is also updated on each issuing CA and in superseding templates. For more information, see [Rename a Certificate Template](#)

Template Name:

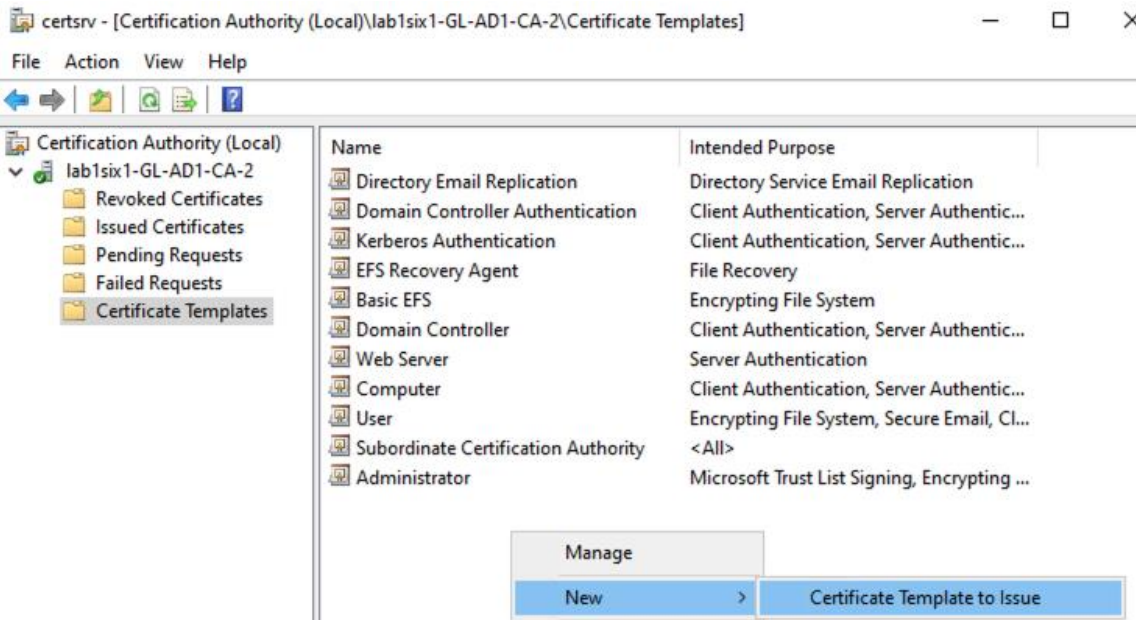
Template display Name:

Ok Cancel

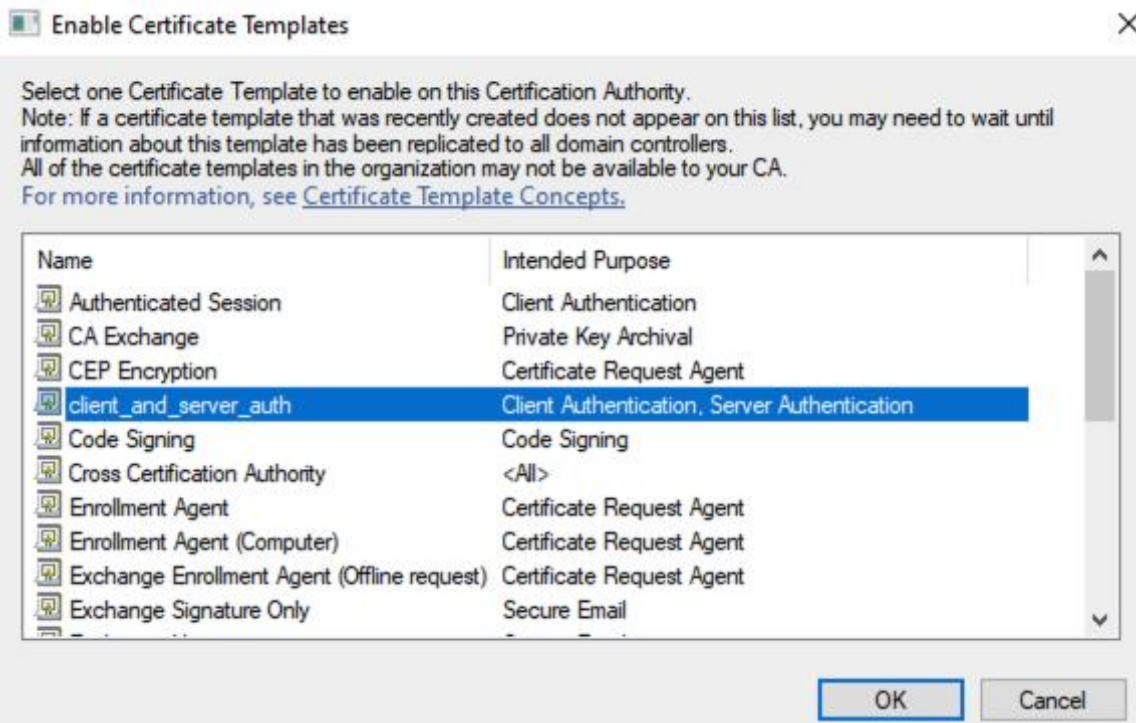
Step 15. Close the Certificate Templates Console.



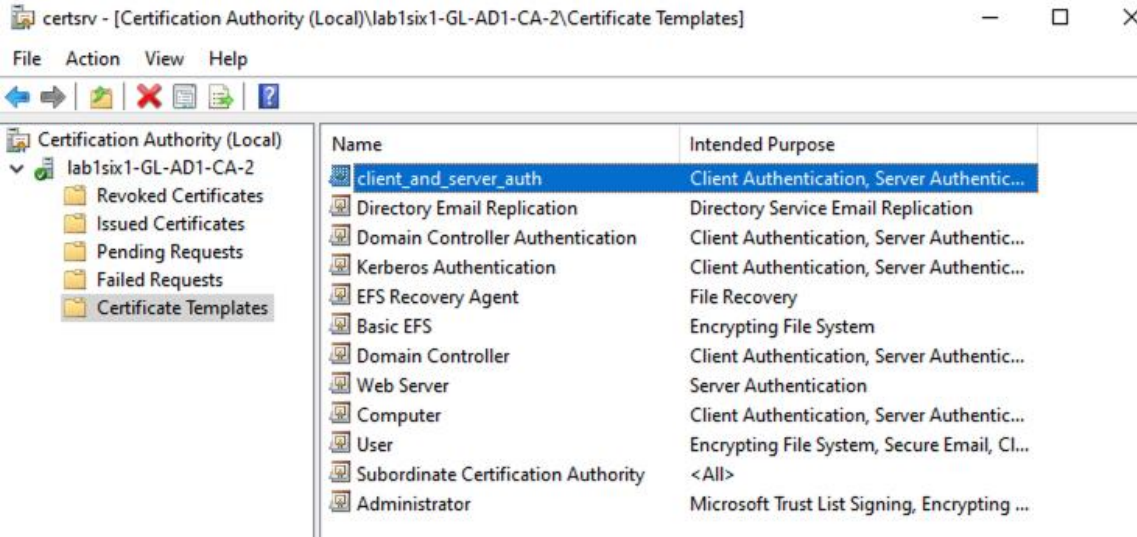
Step 16. Back on the Certificate Templates page, right-click the empty space in the right window and select New → Certificate Template to Issue.



Step 17. Select the template created previously and click OK.



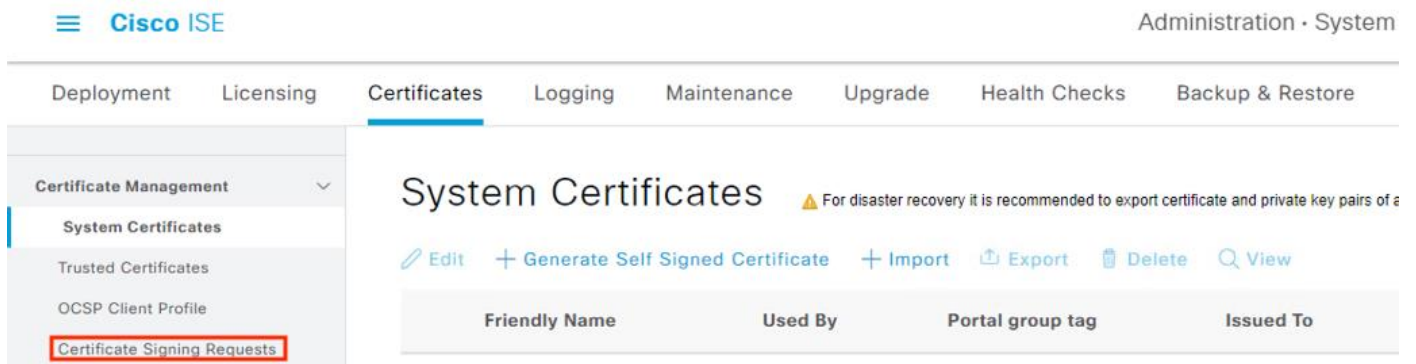
Step 18. Verify the new template now appears in the list of Certificate Templates.



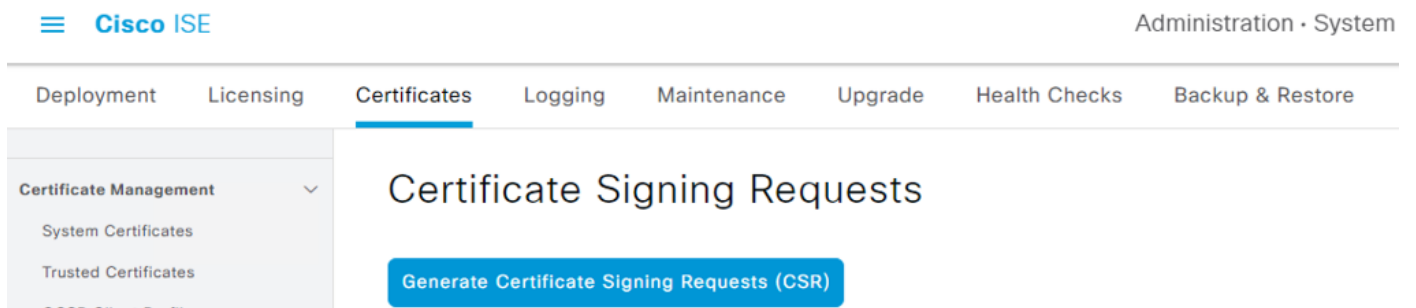
ISE: Generate Certificate Signing Request for the pxGrid Role

Step 1. In the Cisco ISE Graphical User Interface (GUI), click the Menu icon (☰) and choose Administration → System → Certificates.

Step 2. Click on Certificate Signing Requests in the left menu.



Step 2. Click the Generate Certificate Signing Requests button.



Step 3. Set the Certificate Usage to pxGrid, fill in Subject information, set SAN fields, and review Key Type, Length, and Digest. Click Generate when finished.

Note: ISE does not allow multiple certificates with the same Subject fields. In the example below, pxGrid is set as the OU to create a unique Subject combination.

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates
- OCSP Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests**
- Certificate Periodic Check Settin...
- Overview
- Issued Certificates
- Certificate Authority Certificates
- Internal CA Settings
- Certificate Templates

Usage

Certificate(s) will be used for **pxGrid** ▼
 Allow Wildcard Certificates ⓘ

Node(s)

Generate CSR's for these Nodes:

Node	CSR Friendly Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gl-ise1	gl-ise1#pxGrid

Subject

Common Name (CN) ⓘ
 \$FQDNS

Organizational Unit (OU) ⓘ
 pxGrid

Organization (O) ⓘ
 Cisco

City (L)
 San Jose

State (ST)
 CA

Country (C)
 US

Subject Alternative Name (SAN)

⋮ DNS Name	gl-ise1.lab1six1.com	-	+
⋮ IP Address	10.0.4.17	-	+

* Key type ⓘ
 RSA

* Key Length ⓘ
 4096

* Digest to Sign With
 SHA-512

Certificate Policies

Generate

Step 4. Export the CSR file.

×

Successfully generated CSR(s)

Certificate Signing request(s) generated:

gl-ise1#pxGrid

Click Export to download CSR(s) or OK to return to list of CSR(s) screen

OK

Export

ISE: Generate Certificate Signing Request for the Admin Role

Step 1. Continuing from the prior section (Administration → System → Certificates → Certificate Signing Requests) click the Generate Certificate Signing Requests button.

☰ Cisco ISE

Administration · System

Deployment

Licensing

Certificates

Logging

Maintenance

Upgrade

Health Checks

Backup & Restore

Certificate Management

System Certificates

Trusted Certificates

Certificate Signing Requests

Generate Certificate Signing Requests (CSR)

Step 2. Set the Certificate Usage to pxGrid, fill in Subject information, set SAN fields, and review Key Type, Length, and Digest. Click Generate when finished.

Note: ISE does not allow multiple certificates with the same Subject fields. In the example below, Admin is set as the OU to create a unique Subject combination.

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates
- OCSP Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests**
- Certificate Periodic Check Sett...
- Overview
- Issued Certificates
- Certificate Authority Certificates
- Internal CA Settings
- Certificate Templates

- Internal CA Settings
- Certificate Templates

Usage

Certificate(s) will be used for **Admin** ▼

Allow Wildcard Certificates ⓘ

Node(s)

Generate CSR's for these Nodes:

Node	CSR Friendly Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gl-ise1	gl-ise1#Admin

Subject

Common Name (CN)
 ⓘ

Organizational Unit (OU)
 ⓘ

Organization (O)
 ⓘ

City (L)

State (ST)

Country (C)

Subject Alternative Name (SAN)

⋮ DNS Name - +

⋮ IP Address - + ⓘ

* Key type
 ⓘ

* Key Length
 ⓘ

* Digest to Sign With

Certificate Policies

Generate

Step 3. Export the file.



Successfully generated CSR(s)

Certificate Signing request(s) generated:

gl-ise1#Admin

Click Export to download CSR(s) or OK to return to list of CSR(s) screen

OK

Export

Active Directory: Create Certificates from Certificate Signing Requests

Before starting this section, generate CSRs using the steps in the [prior section](#) (or other methods such as OpenSSL, if preferred).

Step 1. Access the CA server by appending /certsrv/ to the AD server hostname, e.g.

- [adserver.example.com](#)
- [adserver.example.com/certsrv/](#)

Step 2. From the CA server, click the Request a certificate link.

Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services – lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2

Welcome

Use this Web site to request a certificate for your Web browser, e-mail client, or other program. By using a certificate, you can, depending upon the type of certificate you request, perform other security tasks.

You can also use this Web site to download a certificate authority (CA) certificate, certificate chain, or certificate revocation

For more information about Active Directory Certificate Services, see [Active Directory Certificate Services Documentation](#).

Select a task:

[Request a certificate](#)

[View the status of a pending certificate request](#)

[Download a CA certificate, certificate chain, or CRL](#)

Step 3. Select the advanced certificate request option.

Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services – lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2

Request a Certificate

Select the certificate type:

[User Certificate](#)

Or, submit an [advanced certificate request](#).

The advanced certificate request page prompts for entry of a CSR in text format.

Submit a Certificate Request or Renewal Request

To submit a saved request to the CA, paste a base-64-encoded

Saved Request:

Base-64-encoded certificate request (CMC or PKCS #10 or PKCS #7):

Certificate Template:

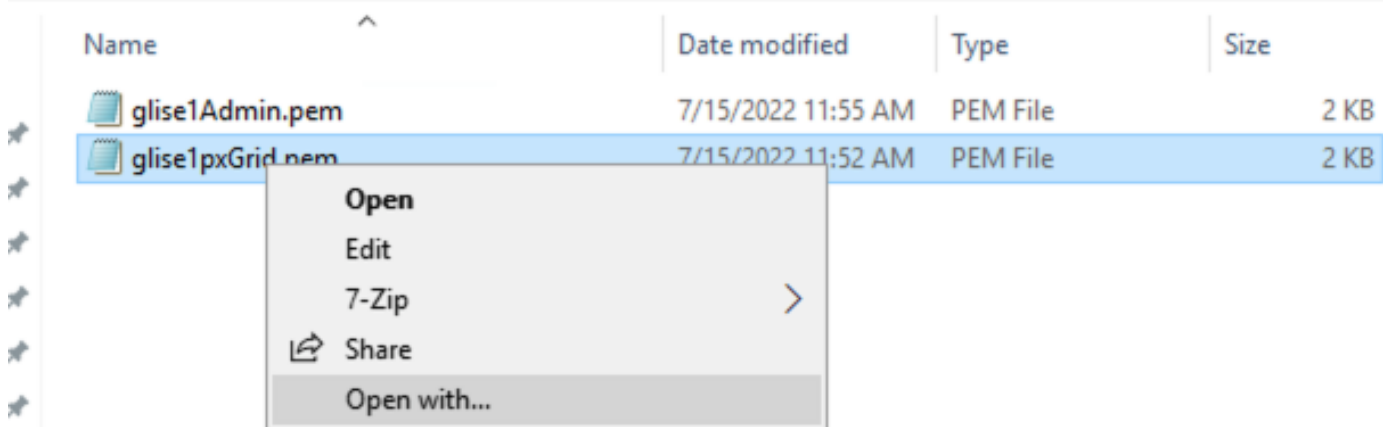
Additional Attributes:

Attributes:

Submit >

Step 4. Locate the CSR file to upload and open with a text editor (right-click the CSR file and select 'Open with...' if the CSR is not associated with a text editor by default).

This PC > Documents > CA Example



Step 5. Copy the entire block of text starting with the BEGIN line and ending with the END line.

glise1pxGrid.pem - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

```
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
MIIFNzCCAxBQAwBTEdMBsGA1UEAxMUZ2wtaXN1MS5sYWlxc214MS5jb20xDzAN
BgNVBAsTBnB4R3JpZDE0MAAwGA1UEChMFQ21zY28xETAPBgNVBACTCFhbiBkb3N1
MQswCQYDVQQIEwJDQTElMAkGA1UEBhMCVWggIiMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4IC
DwAwggIKAoICAQDM08DvbETU7sJsd1+j8Fwhw9aPB+u0mhh9XQ+UodAhwcDwq8bk
eiiKsp2yACtnx1JqrOJ/aRmXJI5NU4xvjcAQoyxIBGxJb1GHXdKHjhehQMjDRmV
nFU+I+g/3Q51nUkgGbcEeTYcJTcg9QVcmvrt0kiwszWiHzQz0uSufg8nn/ugHA1T
klwB4Lq0rVIZhLHtKvjoucP7ytwo23rpxQbljf8a3JoILYt+kj84Cs/Td2rB4a0S
CvJsc2jRS2KnW60vxLLMiXx6aJ/hdCwK03jM9aSeCrj5tXwBmpqTBTZ8hmYq0g2l
0N6FpjZVIlgwNjF849/0BX1J08yBFitlba0HPyatu03Tq8jZ2MaR+G73W/sVpam
7Sqw/E1MZuDG/h4avnyg2fi3lvzq6/MkhsffXQusED2Lr124Wls8e1+kOXGDgxcB
KZhb9A5wGhgYXJeoXxd6K2tw5g2RE15sTsVNrj+yQmu1fL7amNLayH+XNFkmaKQm
nQDY7ZvWVyXaefphqf00v4Mm4vK6WR9m9oS/kaZ/IRJSZu2Qa5Hpnbgz80I/x91g
ZG2dkS/WCSNAi1AMVfh1Kfv3tRUJScB5IGLzC4C0StX6JoEIIowo8Ec8JQcUSoK
foUS89o6thjGYOdyhDpJs7hbuSEbtCQvbnUpYkQD4ePzNeqbX2p3swuZ7wIDAQAB
oIGEMIGBBgkqhkiG9w0BCQ4xddbYMCUGA1UdEQQeMByCFGdsLW1zZTEubGFIMXNp
eDEuY29tHwQAAQRMA5GA1UdDwQEAwIF4DAdBgNVHQ4EFgQU2jmj715rSw0yVb/v
lWAYkK/YBwkWHDYDVR01BBYwFAYIKwYBBQUHAwEGCCsGAQUFBwMCMA0GCSqGSIb3
DQEBDQUAA4ICAQCoC2ZUuvHN8vWsdm6pjEiQ/jp8iJe8VbzQ4r06gv8RZwDAuZnk
88Yk4L5uLVS/Ku50Ph/Cq1/SHjboNpLNik6fx6oNL7QtJwawAXhjN1mPWP6NSHfx
9h1/JRAUblFVPU46p81x6EYM7HNX0zTTWnWrupxCqU10+1Q66HPp8MuIfpAk/8/2
9TaPPQaJqRsca4NIFyPmsyI0gUZgUSvzJ8EV+ia0L1wU/zXPb1GUxoC1BuUth1M1
K1ep0JXalbZ+5z1unvPpeyudmD669XFVSBZxq4Q1YxF4g3mpD1vfI7x5/7Y4ax9p
s3ZBiyuK3XFjEP8M3awp8gnP5rB1/0Y4uPh+4tYn6MwWqFQXXBjXInpnIvQ97ZSd
6ZHUj99Zws3+ZZf4keh/sbyTnaVqFn+huus5spqjNI70M9xEQDIDiqhWoOLGRpZ8
TwD2xPw7SR1uXD3sXMNukRJsCaR2tYzKjko1LNNtbT3eHzmCorK6LUOUMl8wn/1r
43xhmRuoqbz1juLDsWSDhk11pvUvGnCURgJBbSU7tVt8esra8Rk7BILzXSX/CFp+
8GerJA2HYUK/4u7exSCC/OuQE3dguPy9wfqLnviavWE25QDRrITITITYTfoHkfwYv
Xn9VRUDQnteZwhYyf+eNoUZn354Y119fnMdx8sQxXQfvVyJZn2wtRcqvNQ==
-----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
```

Step 6. Return to the CA server and paste the copied text into the Request field. Set the Certificate Template to the one configured in the prior [Create a Client and Server Authentication Template](#) section. Click Submit.

Submit a Certificate Request or Renewal Request

To submit a saved request to the CA, paste a base-64-encoded CMC or

Saved Request:

Base-64-encoded certificate request (CMC or PKCS #10 or PKCS #7):

```
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
6ZHUj99Zws3+ZZf4keh/sbyTnaVqFn+huus5spqjI
TwD2xPw7SR1uXD3sXMNukRJsCaR2tYzKjko1LNNtl
43xhmRuoqbz1juLDsWSDhk11pvUvGnCURgJBbSU7I
8GerJA2HYUK/4u7exSCC/OuQE3dguPy9wFqLnvia\
Xn9VRUDQntezwhYyf+eNoUZn354Y119fnMdx8sQx\
-----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
```

Certificate Template:

client_and_server_auth

Additional Attributes:

Attributes:


Submit >

Step 7. Select Base 64 encoded and click either the Download certificate or Download certificate chain option. It is recommended to rename the file to denote the certificate type (in this case, the Admin certificate). This example uses the ‘Download certificate’ option for simplicity, as AD generates the certificate in .cer format, which can be imported directly into ISE. The chain option generates the certificate in .p7b format, which requires conversion to an ISE compatible format via OpenSSL.

Certificate Issued

The certificate you requested was issued to you.

DER encoded or Base 64 encoded

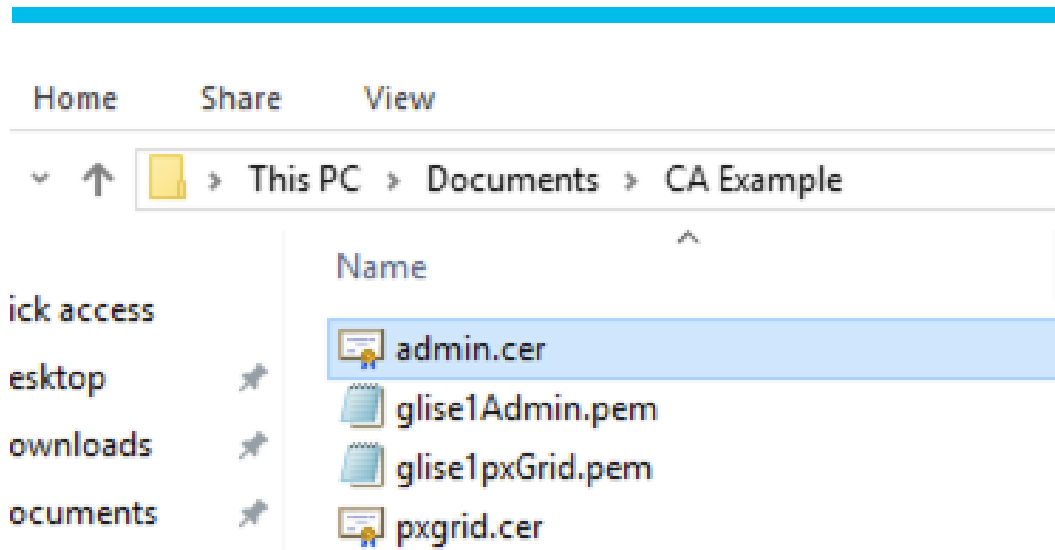
 [Download certificate](#)
[Download certificate chain](#)

Step 8. Repeat the above steps to generate the pxGrid certificate, which also uses the client_and_server_auth template.

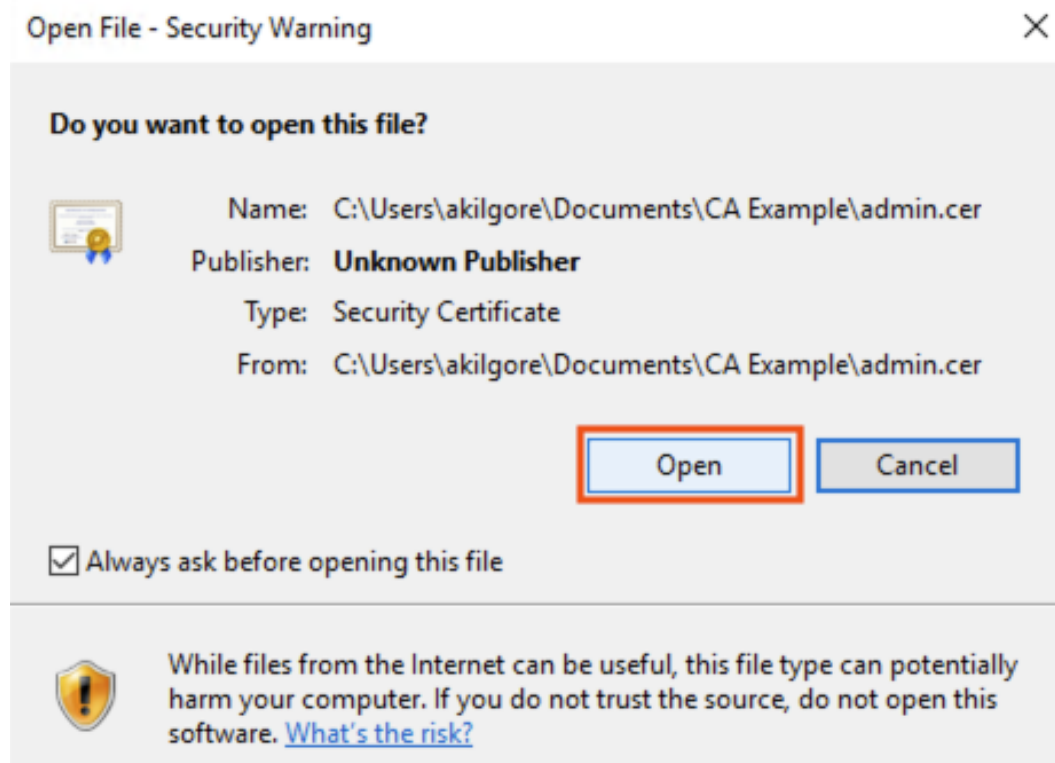
Windows: Verify Certificate Details

Step 1. Double click the newly created certificate to open it.

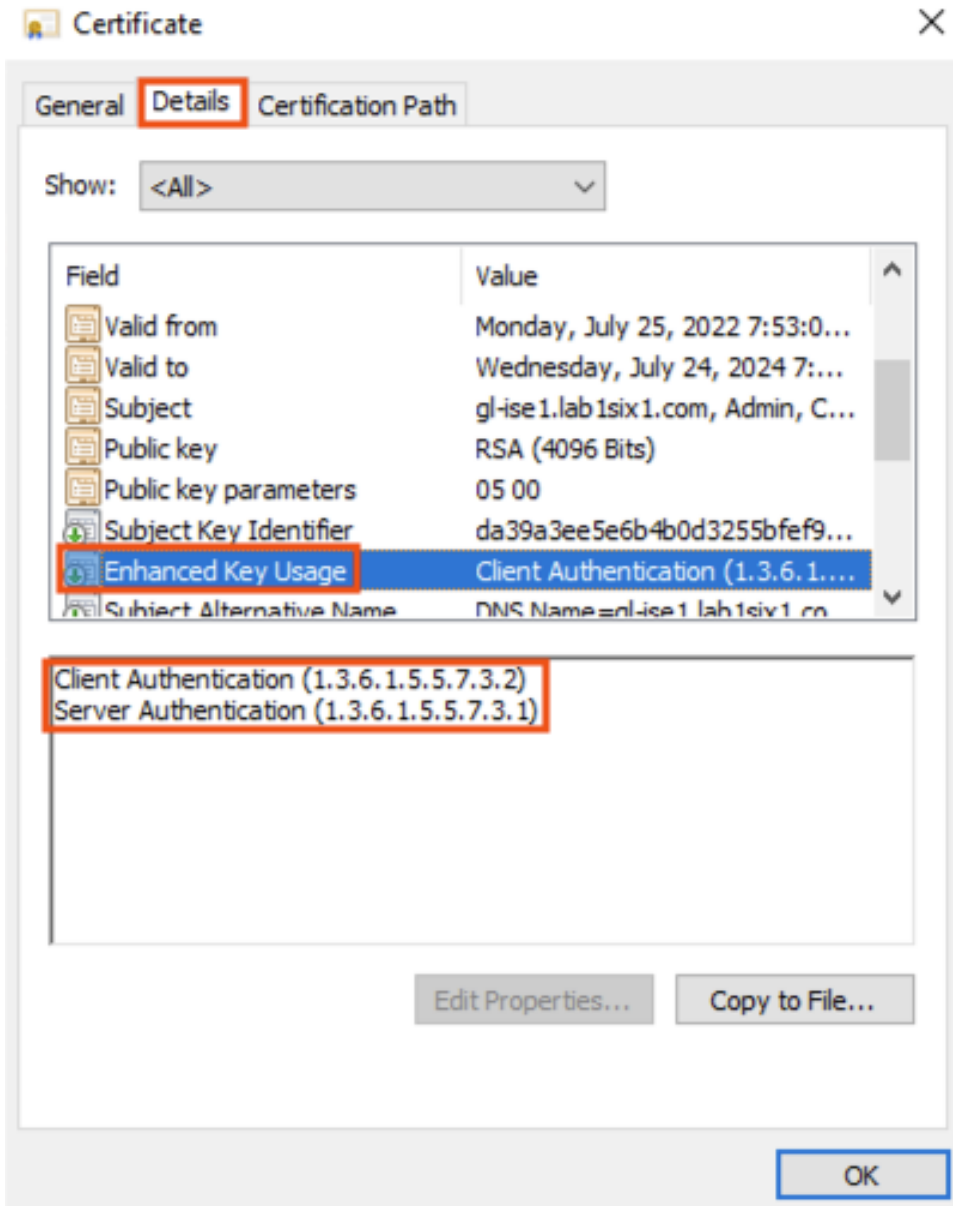
Note: Only the .cer format will open using this method; the .p7b format created from the chain option will not.



Step 2. If a Security Warning prompt appears, click Open.



Step 3. Click the Details tab and select Enhanced Key Usage. Verify that both Client Authentication and Server Authentication are available. Click OK to close.



ISE: Bind Certificates to CSR Requests and Assign Certs to Roles

Before starting, note that changing the Admin certificate will cause the application server to restart.

- Step 1.** Click the Menu icon (☰) and navigate to Administration → System → Certificates.
- Step 2.** Click on Certificate Signing Requests.

- Certificate Management
 - System Certificates**
 - Trusted Certificates
 - OCSF Client Profile
 - Certificate Signing Requests

System Certificates

For disaster recovery it is recommended to export certificate and private key pairs of a

Edit + Generate Self Signed Certificate + Import Export Delete View

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To
---------------	---------	------------------	-----------

Step 3. Locate the CSRs created in the [Generate Certificate Signing Requests](#) step. Check the box next to the Admin entry, then click Bind Certificate (the bind action will bind the generated certificate to the private key ISE created when the CSR was made).

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates
- OCSF Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests**
- Certificate Periodic Check Settin...
- Overview
- Issued Certificates
- Certificate Authority Certificates
- Internal CA Settings
- Certificate Templates

Certificate Signing Requests

Generate Certificate Signing Requests (CSR)

A Certificate Signing Requests (CSRs) must be sent to and signed by an external authority. Click "export" to download one or "bind" to bind the request to the signed certificate issued by that authority. Once a CSR is bound, it will be removed from this li

View Export Delete Bind Certificate

<input type="checkbox"/>	Friendly Name	Certificate Subject	Key Length
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	gl-ise1#Admin	CN=gl-ise1.lab1six1.co...	4096
<input type="checkbox"/>	gl-ise1#pxGrid	CN=gl-ise1.lab1six1.co...	4096

Step 4. Click the Choose File button and upload the Admin Certificate created in the [Create Certificates from CSRs](#) step. Enter a Friendly Name for the certificate and check the Validate Certificate Extensions box. Click Submit.

- System Certificates
- Trusted Certificates
- OCSF Client Profile
- Certificate Signing Requests**
- Certificate Periodic Check Settin...
- Overview
- Issued Certificates
- Certificate Authority Certificates
- Internal CA Settings
- Certificate Templates

Bind CA Signed Certificate

* Certificate File admin.cer

Friendly Name Admin CA Signed

Validate Certificate Extensions

Usage

Admin: Use certificate to authenticate the ISE Admin Portal

Submit

Step 5. An alert will appear stating that changing the Admin certificate will restart the application server. If a service outage is currently acceptable for the node, select Yes. If not, click No and reschedule for a change window.



Warning

Enabling Admin role for this certificate will cause an application server restart on the selected node.

Note: Make sure required Certificate Chain is imported under Trusted Certificates

No

Yes

Step 6. To verify when the Application Server is up, access the ISE node Command Line Interface (CLI) and run the command 'show application status ise'. The screenshot below shows output for the Application Server in an Initializing state.

```
gl-ise1/admin# show application status ise
```

ISE PROCESS NAME	STATE	PROCESS ID
Database Listener	running	11902
Database Server	running	125 PROCESSES
Application Server	initializing	
Profiler Database	running	19780
ISE Indexing Engine	running	4122176
AD Connector	running	45133
M&T Session Database	running	19561
M&T Log Processor	running	27609
Certificate Authority Service	running	36491
EST Service	running	1452592
SXP Engine Service	running	37483
TC-NAC Service	disabled	
PassiveID WMI Service	running	38239
PassiveID Syslog Service	running	40605
PassiveID API Service	running	1436196
PassiveID Agent Service	running	1434418
PassiveID Endpoint Service	running	44070
PassiveID SPAN Service	running	44826
DHCP Server (dhcpd)	disabled	
DNS Server (named)	disabled	

Once the Application Server has fully restarted, the State will change to running.

```

gl-ise1/admin# show application status ise

ISE PROCESS NAME                STATE                PROCESS ID
-----
Database Listener                running             11902
Database Server                  running             134 PROCESSES
Application Server                running             4119410
Profiler Database                 running             19780

```

Step 7. Repeat the steps above to import the pxGrid certificate, which does not require a restart of the Application Server.

Step 8. Verify the uploaded certificates by clicking on the System Certificates link and confirming the Friendly Name and certificate details of the uploaded certificates.

System Certificates ⚠ For disaster recovery it is recommended to export certificate and private key pairs of all system certificates.

[Edit](#) [+ Generate Self Signed Certificate](#) [+ Import](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [View](#)

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To	Issued By	Valid From	Expiration Date	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Admin CA Signed	Admin		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com	lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2	Mon, 25 Jul 2022	Wed, 24 Jul 2024	Active
<input type="checkbox"/> CN=gl-ise1.lab1six1.com, OU=ISE Messaging Service#Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - gl-ise1#00001	ISE Messaging Service		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com	Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - gl-ise1	Wed, 13 Apr 2022	Wed, 14 Apr 2027	Active
<input type="checkbox"/> pxGrid CA Signed	pxGrid		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com	lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2	Mon, 25 Jul 2022	Wed, 24 Jul 2024	Active

ISE: Export an ISE Root Certificate

While using an external CA is recommended, ISE does have CA capability that can be used in the absence of an outside CA. This section details how to locate and export the ISE root certificate.

Step 1. Click the Menu icon (☰) and navigate to Administration → System → Certificates.

Step 2. Expand Certificate Authority, then select Certificate Authority Certificates on the left menu.

System Certificates ⚠ For disaster recovery it is recommended to export certificate and private key pairs of a

[Edit](#) [+ Generate Self Signed Certificate](#) [+ Import](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [View](#)

Friendly Name	Used By	Portal group tag	Issued To
<input type="checkbox"/> Admin CA Signed	Admin		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com
<input type="checkbox"/> CN=gl-ise1.lab1six1.com, OU=ISE Messaging Service#Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - gl-ise1#00001	ISE Messaging Service		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com
<input type="checkbox"/> pxGrid CA Signed	pxGrid		gl-ise1.lab1six1.com

Step 3. Check the box next to the Certificate Services Root CA, click Export, and download the file.

CA Certificates

[Edit](#)
[+ Import](#)
[Export](#)
[Delete](#)
[View](#)
[Refresh](#)

Friendly Name	Status	Trusted For	Serial Number	Issued To	Issued By
gl-ise1					
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - gl-ise1#00003	Enabled	Infrastructure,Endpoints	39 02 08 56 66 4B 4B 40 8C 1B 3E CD CE 6E E2 97	Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - gl-ise1	Certificate Services Node CA - gl-ise1
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate Services OCSP Responder - gl-ise1#00004	Enabled	Infrastructure,Endpoints	42 E1 21 E7 86 DB 4C D5 9F 3F CC 65 4E 0B 01 FF	Certificate Services OCSP Responder - gl-ise1	Certificate Services Node CA - gl-ise1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate Services Root CA - gl-ise1#00001	Enabled	Infrastructure,Endpoints	39 AB 00 55 5D 23 47 E7 B7 C1 22 10 49 C2 BF 71	Certificate Services Root CA - gl-ise1	Certificate Services Root CA - gl-ise1
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate Services Node CA - gl-ise1#00002	Enabled	Infrastructure,Endpoints	4F 9D 17 7E 18 A1 41 F5 8E BE F6 1D 61 32 B1 A9	Certificate Services Node CA - gl-ise1	Certificate Services Root CA - gl-ise1

Active Directory: Distribute Machine Certificates via Group Policy Object

The certificates created and distributed in this step can be used for a machine authorization check in ISE. The AD Certificate Authority has a preconfigured certificate template labelled 'Computer' that creates certificates with client and server authentication. However, since we will only be using these certificates for client authentication, we will first create a new template that only has client auth set.

Step 1. Configure Group Policy

Step 2. Click on Tools → Group Policy Management.

Server Manager

Server Manager ▶ Dashboard

Dashboard

- Local Server
- All Servers
- AD CS
- AD DS
- DNS
- File and Storage Services ▶
- IIS

QUICK START

- 1 Configure this local server
- 2 Add roles and features
- 3 Add other servers to manage
- 4 Create a server group
- 5 Connect this server to cloud services

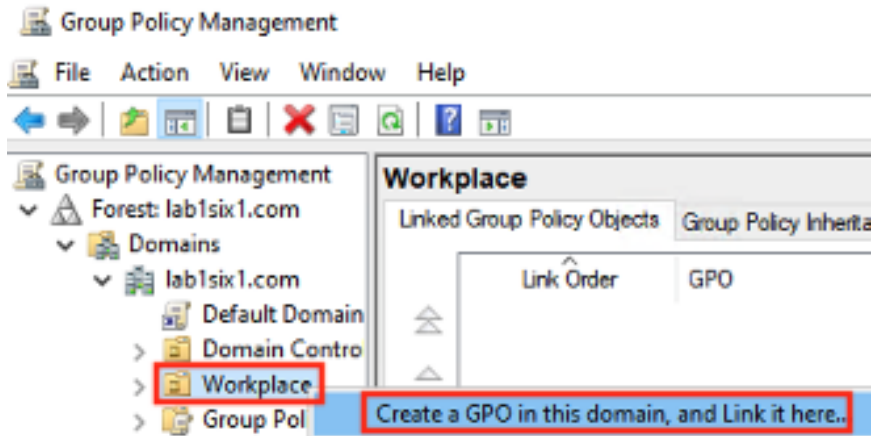
WHAT'S NEW

LEARN MORE

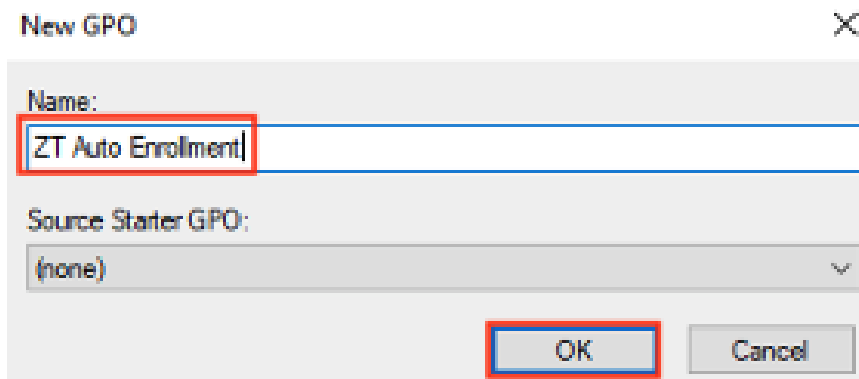
Tools

- Active Directory Administrative Center
- Active Directory Domains and Trusts
- Active Directory Module for PowerShell
- Active Directory Sites and Services
- Active Directory Users and Groups
- ADSI Edit
- Certification Authority
- Component Services
- Computer Management
- Defragment and Optimize Drives
- Disk Cleanup
- DNS
- Event Viewer
- Group Policy Management

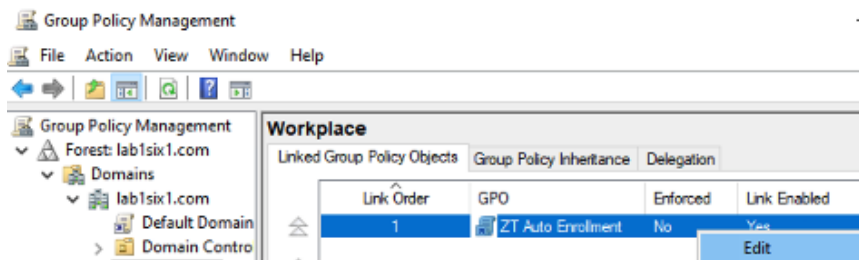
Step 3. Right click on the target domain and click 'Create a GPO in this domain'.



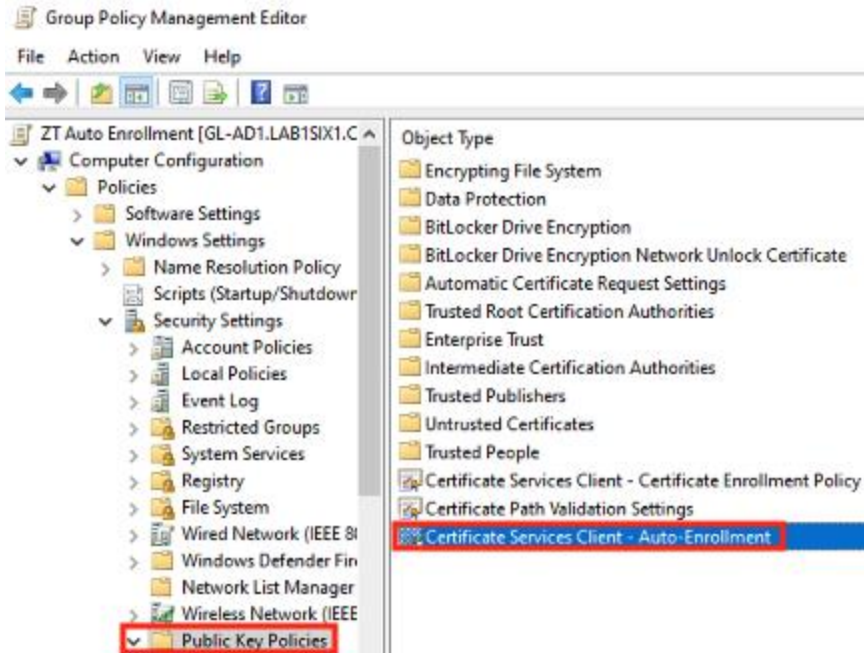
Step 4. Enter a name and click OK.



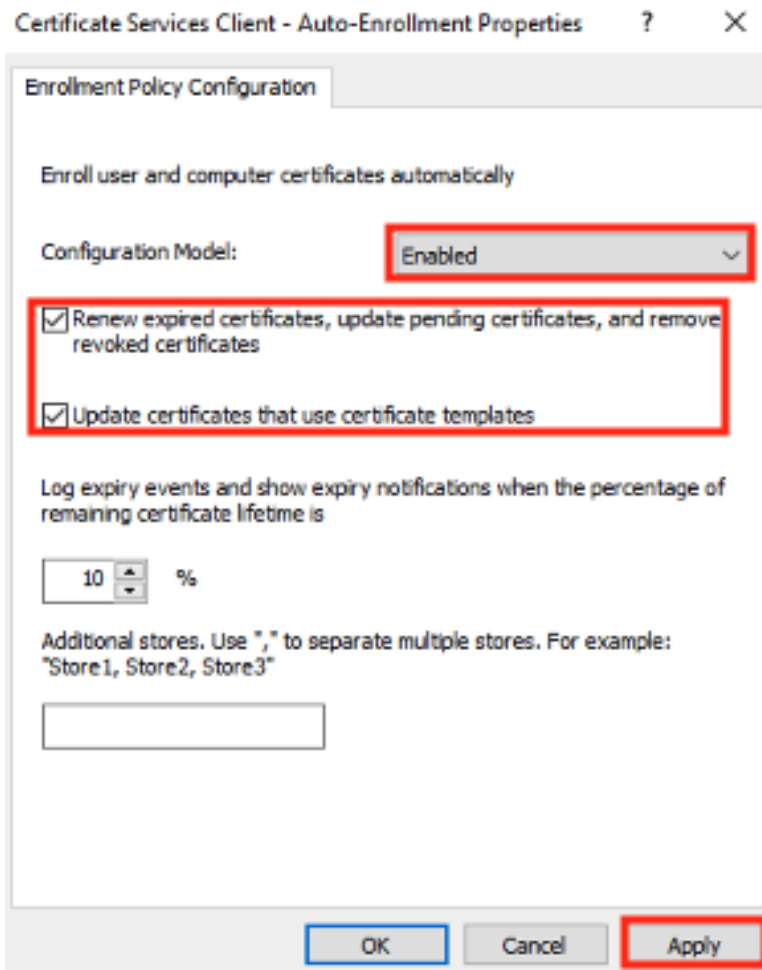
Step 5. Right click on the newly created GPO and click edit.



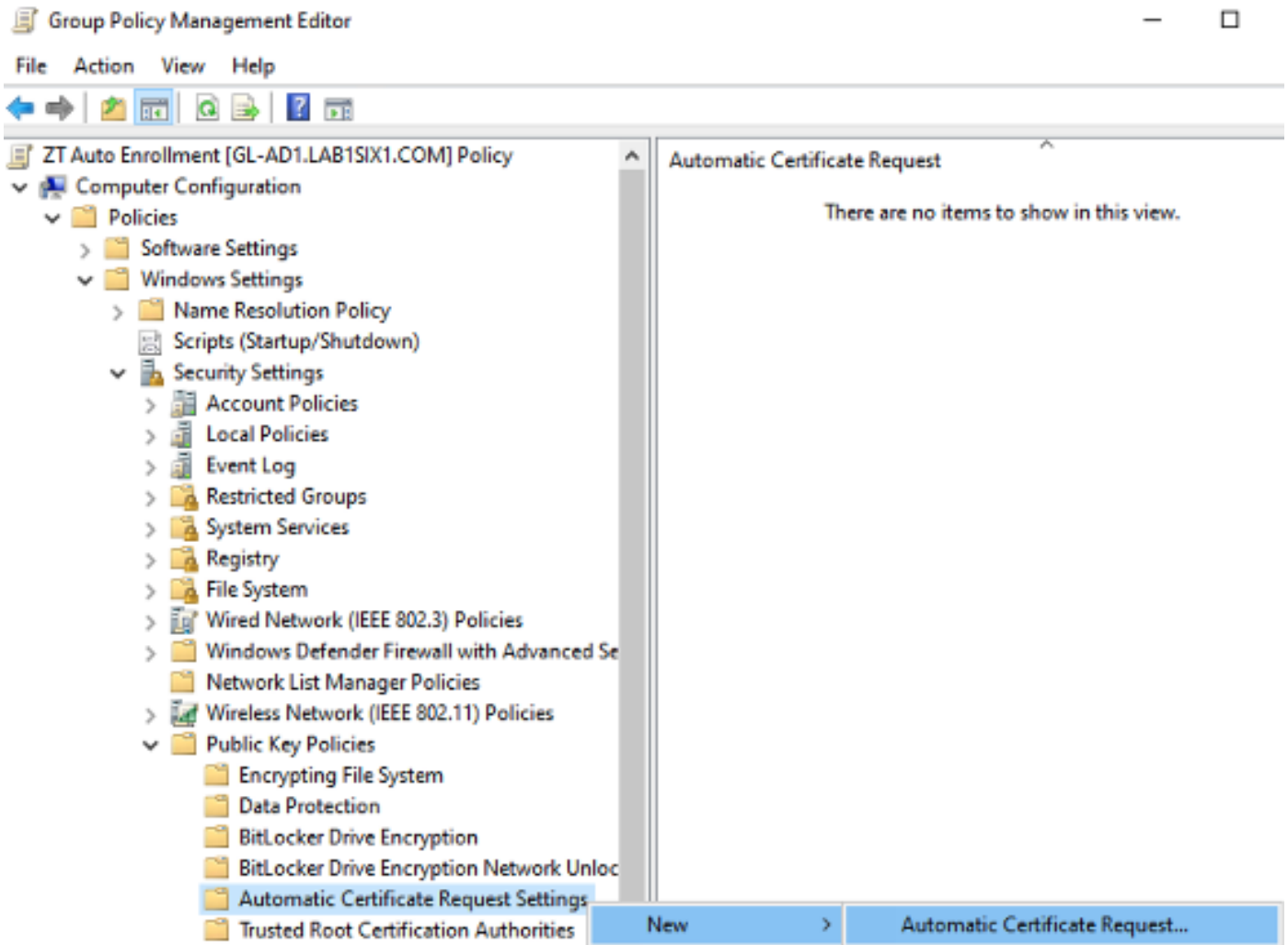
Step 6. Expand the tree to Computer Configuration → Policies → Windows Settings → Security Settings then click Public Key Policies. Double click on Certificate Services Client - Auto-Enrollment.



Step 7. Set Configuration Model to Enabled and check the boxes to renew and update certificates. Click Apply, then click OK.



Step 8. Right click on Automatic Certificate Request Settings, select New, then select Automatic Certificate Request.



Step 9. Click Next.



Welcome to the Automatic Certificate Request Setup Wizard

This wizard helps you set up automatic certificate requests for computers.

Using automatic certificate requests, an administrator can specify which types of certificate can be automatically requested by a computer.

To continue, click Next.

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Step 10. Select the Computer template, then click Next.

Certificate Template

The next time a computer logs on, a certificate based on the template you select is provided.



A certificate template is a set of predefined properties for certificates issued to computers. Select a template from the following list.

Certificate templates:

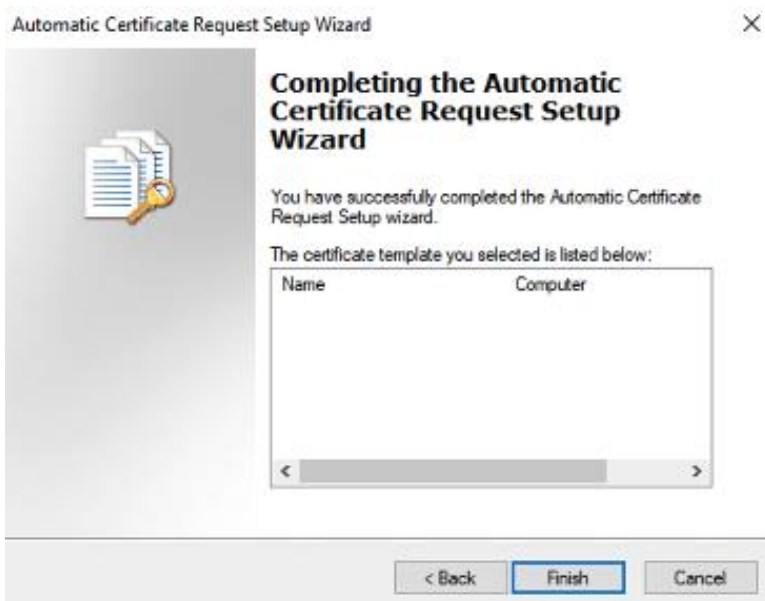
Name	Intended Purposes
Computer	Client Authentication, Server Authentication
Domain Controller	Client Authentication, Server Authentication
Enrollment Agent (Computer)	Certificate Request Agent
IPSec	IP security IKE intermediate

< Back

Next >

Cancel

Step 11. Click Finish.



Step 12. Close the Group Policy windows. From the AD CS, launch a command line and run `gpupdate /force`.

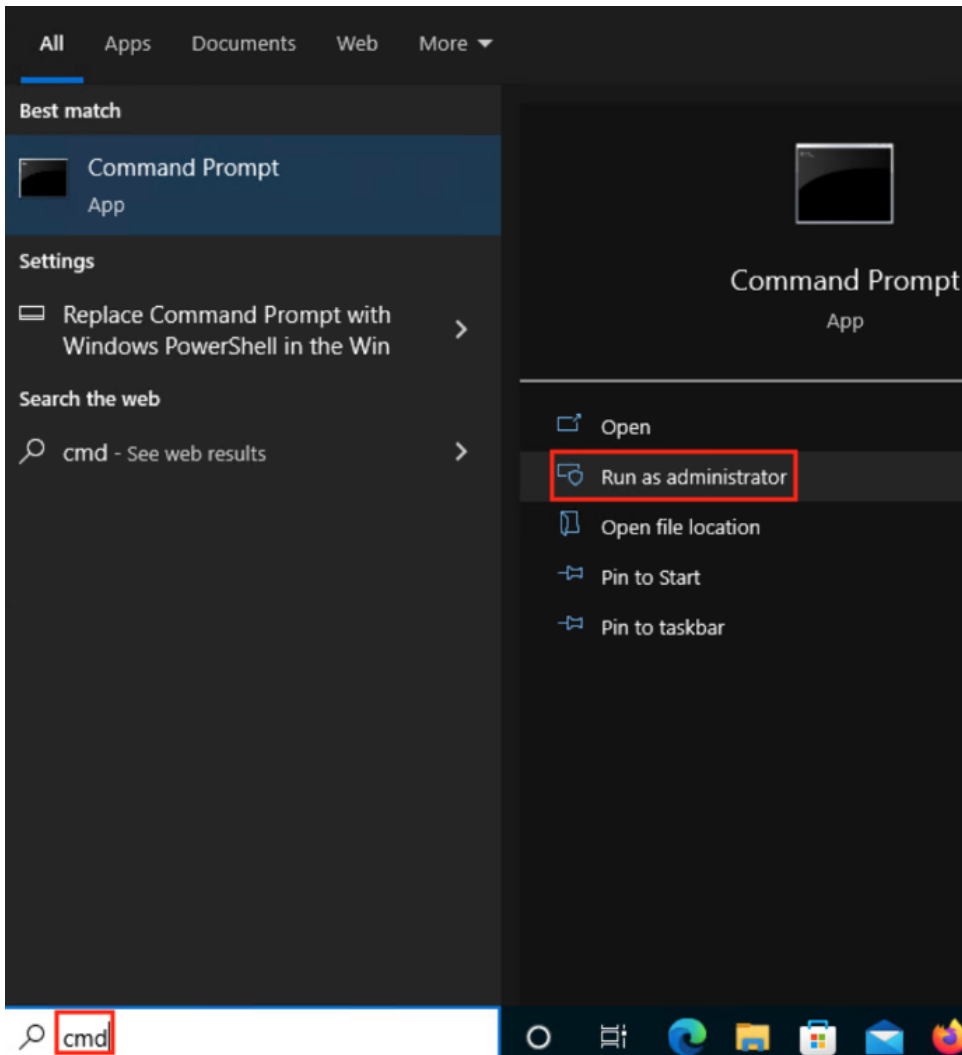
```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.20348.558]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>gpupdate /force
Updating policy...

Computer Policy update has completed successfully.
User Policy update has completed successfully.

C:\Users\Administrator>
```

Step 13. Access the Windows workstation that is to receive the certificate and run command line as administrator, entering the same `gpupdate /force` command as above.



```
C:\> Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19044.2251]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

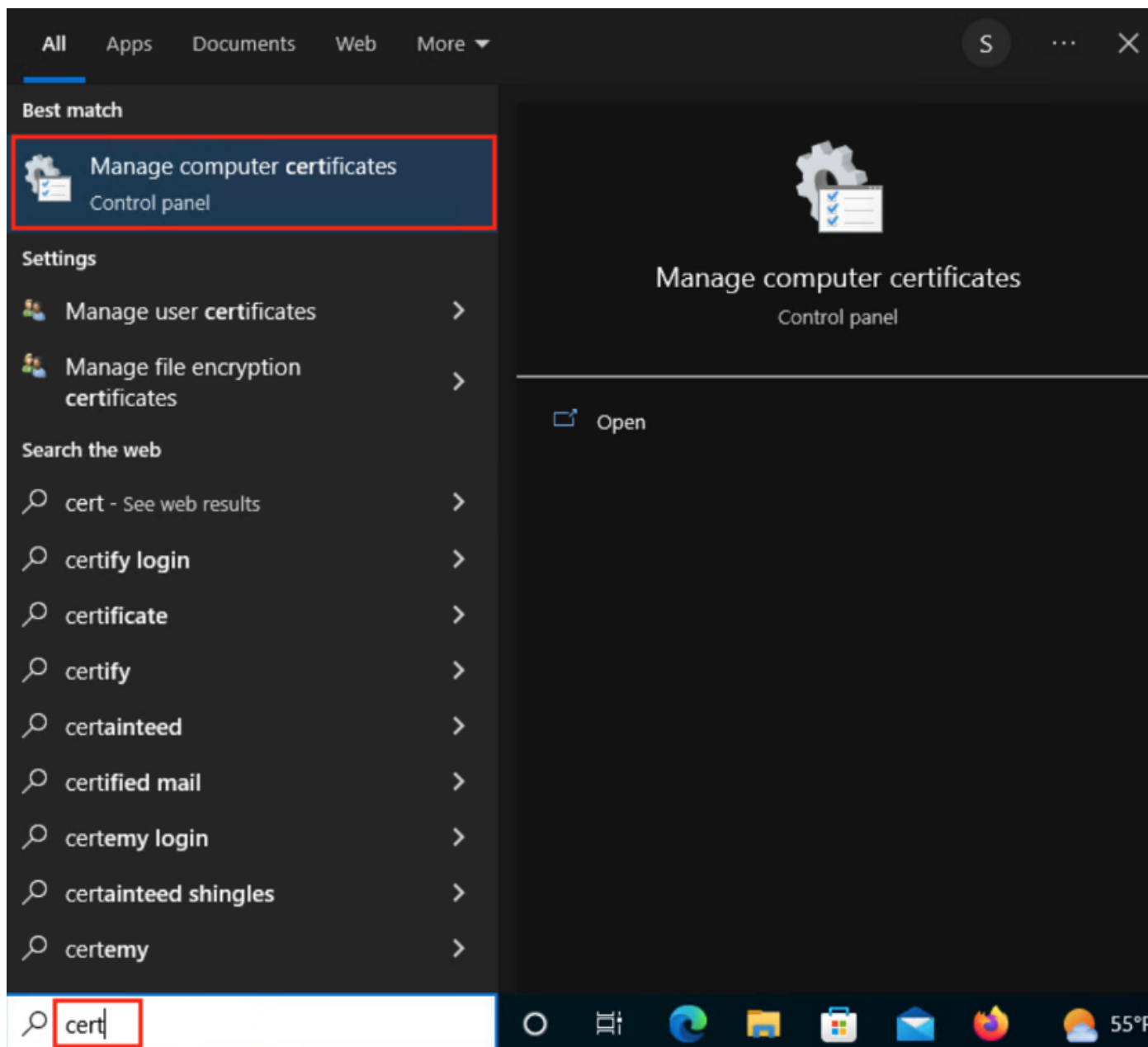
C:\Windows\system32>gpupdate /force
Updating policy...

Computer Policy update has completed successfully.
User Policy update has completed successfully.

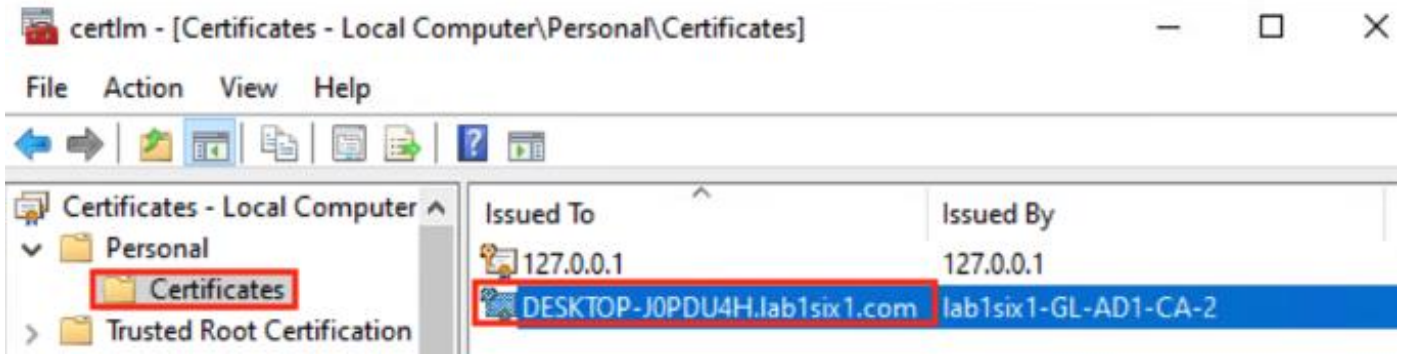
C:\Windows\system32>
```

Verify Certificate Install

Step 1. From the Windows host, type 'cert' into the search bar and select 'Manage computer certificates'.



Step 2. Expand the dropdown on the Personal folder and click on Certificates. Identify the machine certificate in the right pane and double click on it.



Step 3. The certificate should have a name that corresponds to the device name and a local private key.



General Details Certification Path



Certificate Information

This certificate is intended for the following purpose(s):

- Proves your identity to a remote computer
- Ensures the identity of a remote computer

Issued to: DESKTOP-J0PDU4H.lab1six1.com

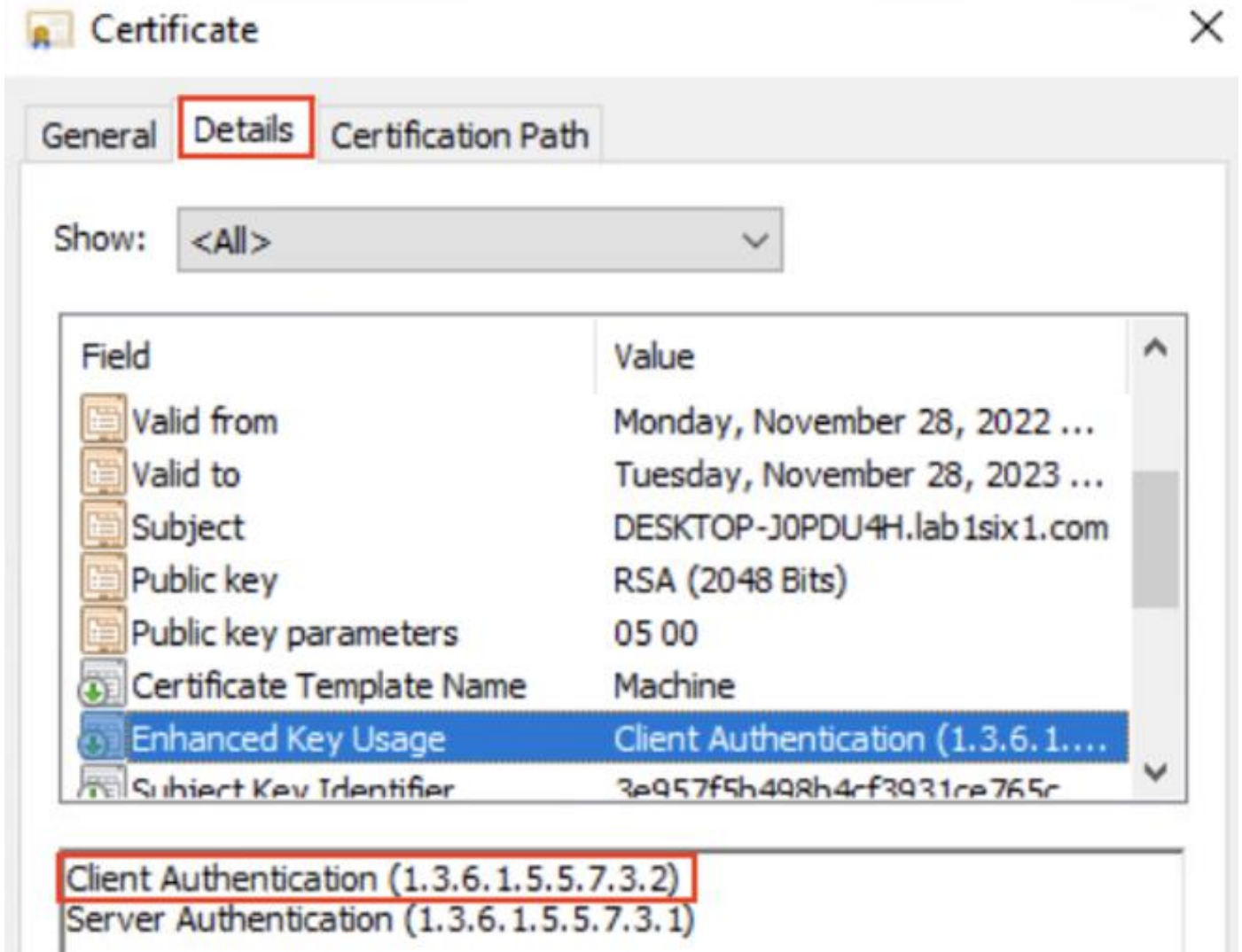
Issued by: lab1six1-GL-AD1-CA-2

Valid from 11/28/2022 **to** 11/28/2023



You have a private key that corresponds to this certificate.

Step 4. Click on the Details tab and scroll down to Enhanced Key Usage. Verify that the certificate has Client Authentication.



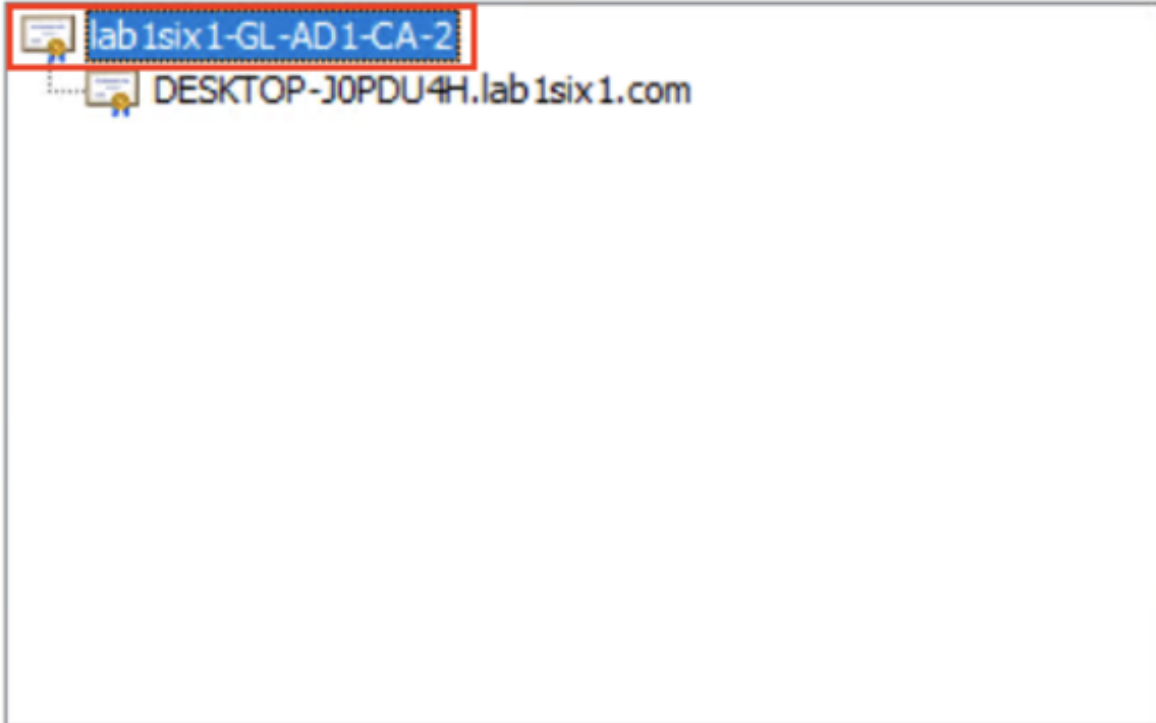
Step 5. Click on the Certification Path tab and verify the certificate chain. The root certificate and any intermediate certificates need to be trusted in ISE. Click OK.

Certificate



General Details Certification Path

Certification path



View Certificate

Certificate status:

This certificate is OK.

OK

Appendix

Appendix A - Acronyms Defined

Acronym	Definition
CA	Certificate Authority
CSR	Certificate Service Request
GPO	Group Policy Object
GUI	Graphical User Interface
ISE	Identity Services Engine
pxGrid	Cisco Platform Exchange Grid

Appendix B - References

- [Cisco Zero Trust Architecture Guide](#)
- [Zero Trust Frameworks Guide](#)
- [Cisco Zero Trust: User and Device Security Design Guide](#)
- [Cisco SAFE](#)
- [Cisco pxGrid](#)

Appendix C - Feedback

If you have feedback on this design guide or any of the Cisco Security design guides, please send an email to ask-security-cvd@cisco.com.

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