

# Extracting Certificate and Private Key Files from a .pfx File

## Purpose

Customers sometimes have a need to export a certificate and private key from a Windows computer to separate certificate and key files for use elsewhere. Windows doesn't provide the means to complete this process.

[Exporting Certificates from the Windows Certificate Store](#) describes how to export a certificate and private key into a single .pfx file. Follow the procedure below to extract separate certificate and private key files from the .pfx file.

## Procedure

1. Take the file you exported (e.g. certname.pfx) and copy it to a system where you have OpenSSL installed. Note: the \*.pfx file is in PKCS#12 format and includes both the certificate and the private key.
2. Run the following command to export the private key: `openssl pkcs12 -in certname.pfx -nocerts -out key.pem -nodes`
3. Run the following command to export the certificate: `openssl pkcs12 -in certname.pfx -nokeys -out cert.pem`
4. Run the following command to remove the passphrase from the private key: `openssl rsa -in key.pem -out server.key`

## Reference

[Open SSL pkcs#12 Commands](#)