

InCommon SSL Intermediate Certificates

Intermediate certificates

Intermediate certificates provide a way for the browser to link your SSL certificate (which it doesn't trust by default) up to a root certificate that it does trust. Certificate Authorities (CA) often delegate some functions to an intermediate CA, which can in turn further delegate to another intermediate CA. Each CA in the chain must have its own certificate issued by its parent. The information in each certificate allows the browser to build a chain of trust from your certificate to the trusted root CA.

Your web server must provide the intermediate certificates to the browser. If you are using IIS you would normally download your certificate in the PKCS7 format, which will automatically include the InCommon intermediate certificates. If you are using Apache and downloading your certificate in PEM format, you will need to follow the instructions below.

Apache configuration

Apache (version < 2.4.8) users configure intermediate certificates via the `SSLCertificateChainFile` directive.

Apache (version >= 2.4.8) users configure intermediate certificates via multiple `SSLCertificateFile` directives.

In either case you must provide:

- The *InCommon Server CA* intermediate if you use an older, SHA-1 certificate.
- The *InCommon RSA Server CA* and the *USERTrust RSA Certification Authority* if you use a SHA-2 certificate.

You can add all the intermediates to your certificate chain file without harm.

Java keystores or other special cases

Certain applications, such as java keystores, may require you to provide the root certificate in addition to the intermediate certificates. You should obtain these from a trusted source like the certificate store on your local computer, or [directly from the CA](#) (the link to the certificate bundle is the last link at the bottom of the page).

Archived Certificate Chains

Intermediate certificate chains for InCommon certificates issued before or on October 5, 2014 are [preserved here](#).

InCommon intermediate certificates for sha-2 certificates signed after October 5, 2014

Note you can usually leave out the second intermediate certificate here (*USERTrust RSA Certification Authority*) if your certificate was issued on or after May 31, 2017. Recent operating systems include a root certificate with the same DN as this cert, and will automatically find the new trust chain. Omitting this certificate has the potential to cause problems with older clients that don't receive regular root certificate updates.

This new bundle has the correct certificates for post May30, 2020.

InCommon intermediate certificates for sha-2 certificates signed after October 5, 2014.

USERTrust Intermediate Expiration in 2020

The USERTrust RSA Certification Authority intermediate certificate expired on May 30, 2020 at 03:48 Pacific Daylight Time. This was an old intermediate certificate and modern operating systems have a new version available and weren't affected. When this certificate expires, operating systems without a new version of it will consider all InCommon certificates as "untrusted." **We did not expect very many people to be affected by this.**

A list of exactly which operating systems and devices will be affected is not available. We've been able to make some educated guesses about what might be affected, but this information is **not** exhaustive or verified. If you have critical systems you should not rely on this information--check with the manufacturer or check yourself (if possible). Instructions on how to do this are at the end of this section.

Based on what we know, equipment released or receiving security updates after June 2010 will most likely **not** be affected. Specific examples include:

- Windows XP and later (XP was released in 2001 but received security updates through 2014)
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and later (Snow Leopard was released in 2009 but received security updates through 2013)
- All iPhones

The following equipment *may* stop recognizing InCommon certificates after May 30, 2020:

- Android or other phones made before 2010
- Mac OS Leopard or earlier
- Embedded devices (especially copy machines) made before June 2010.

Checking if you're affected

If your equipment trusts a root certificate with a subject CN of "USERTrust RSA Certification Authority" and an expiration date of January 18, 2038, it is not affected. If you can't view the root certificates on your equipment, contact the manufacturer and see if they can provide you a list of trusted root certificates.