

How to Create Valid SSL in localhost for XAMPP

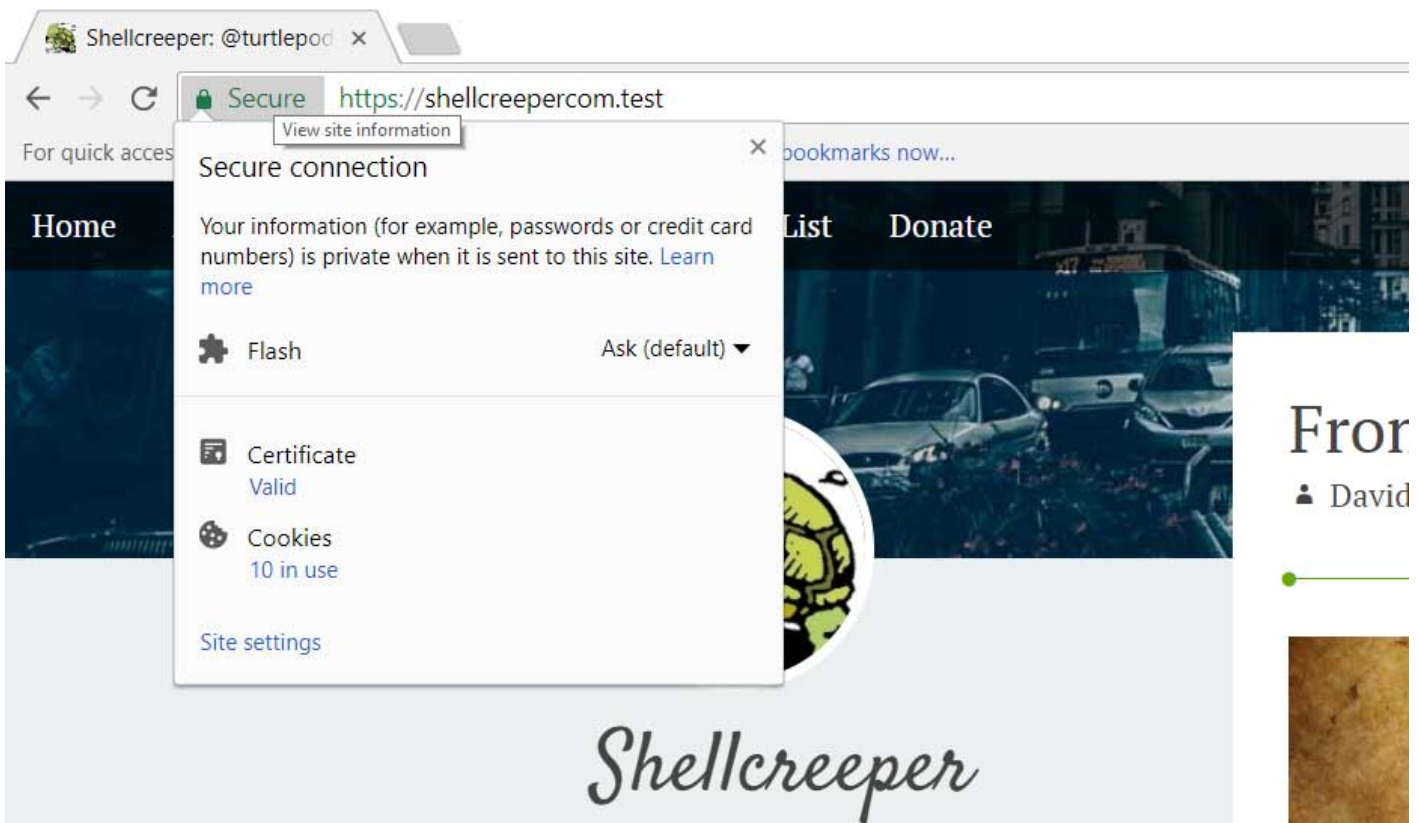
David 223 Mar 21, 2018



Chrome browser updates has become a burden for local development. Not only they decided to disable .dev domain for local development, they also really have specific configuration in SSL Cert to show the site as secure.

In this step by step tutorial I will try to explain the walk-through to create SSL cert locally to be used in XAMPP in Windows.

In my XAMPP install I basically have a clone to all the site that I managed. And All of them (of course) use SSL/HTTPS.



Here's the step by step guide:

In this step we are going to create SSL and setup "site.test" website.

1. Navigate to Apache directory in XAMPP.

In regular install it's in **C:\xampp\apache**.

2. Create a folder in that page.

This is where we will store our cert. In this example I will create "cert" folder. So we will have **C:\xampp\apache\cert**

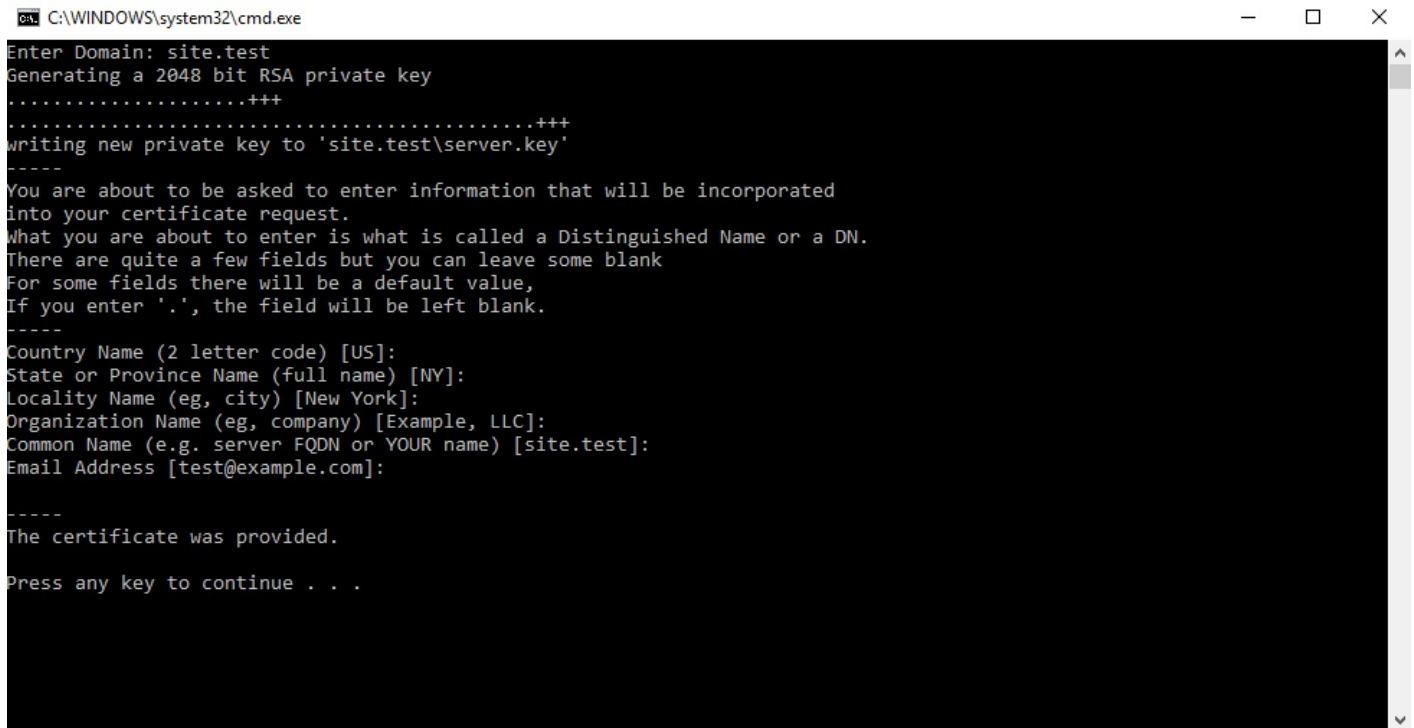
3. Add this files.

- **cert.conf**
- **make-cert.bat**

4. Edit cert.conf and Run make-cert.bat

Change `{{DOMAIN}}` text using the domain we want to use, in this case **site.test** and save.

Double click the make-cert.bat and input the domain **site.test** when prompted. And just do enter in other question since we already set the default from cert.conf.



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
Enter Domain: site.test
Generating a 2048 bit RSA private key
.....+++
.....+++
writing new private key to 'site.test\server.key'
-----
You are about to be asked to enter information that will be incorporated
into your certificate request.
What you are about to enter is what is called a Distinguished Name or a DN.
There are quite a few fields but you can leave some blank
For some fields there will be a default value,
If you enter '.', the field will be left blank.
-----
Country Name (2 letter code) [US]:
State or Province Name (full name) [NY]:
Locality Name (eg, city) [New York]:
Organization Name (eg, company) [Example, LLC]:
Common Name (e.g. server FQDN or YOUR name) [site.test]:
Email Address [test@example.com]:
-----
The certificate was provided.
Press any key to continue . . .
```

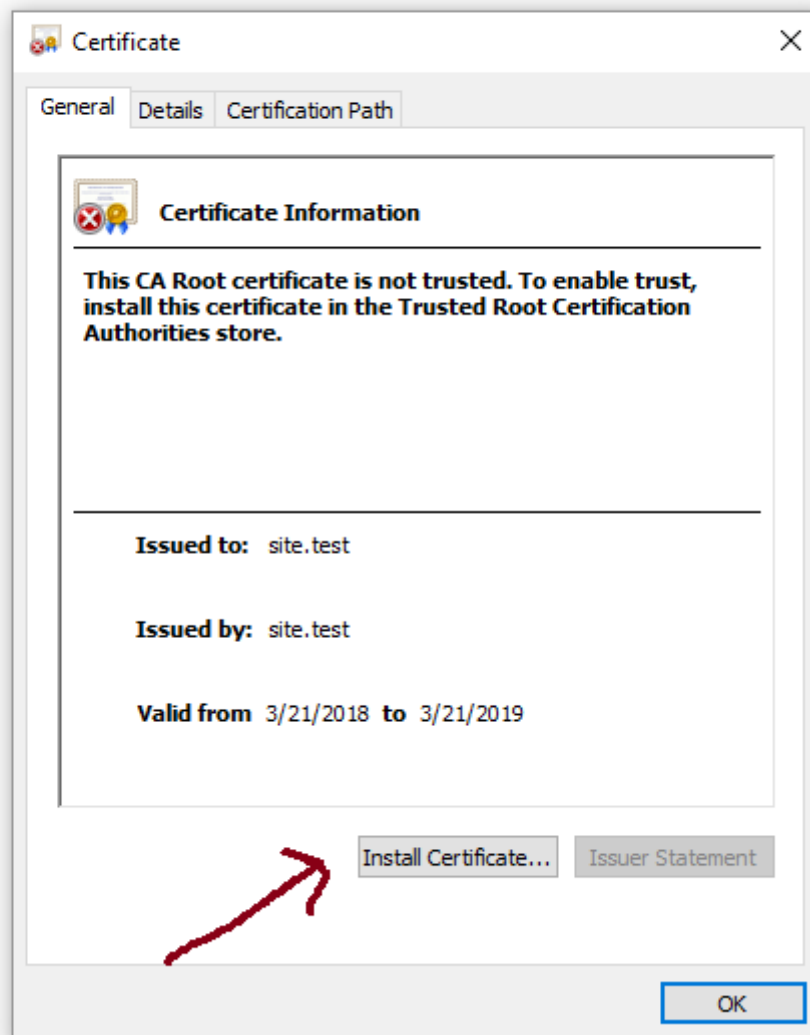
Note: I don't know how to text replace in .bat script, if you do, let me know in the comment how to do it and I will update make-cert.bat to automatically replace the `{{DOMAIN}}` with the domain input.

5. Install the cert in windows.

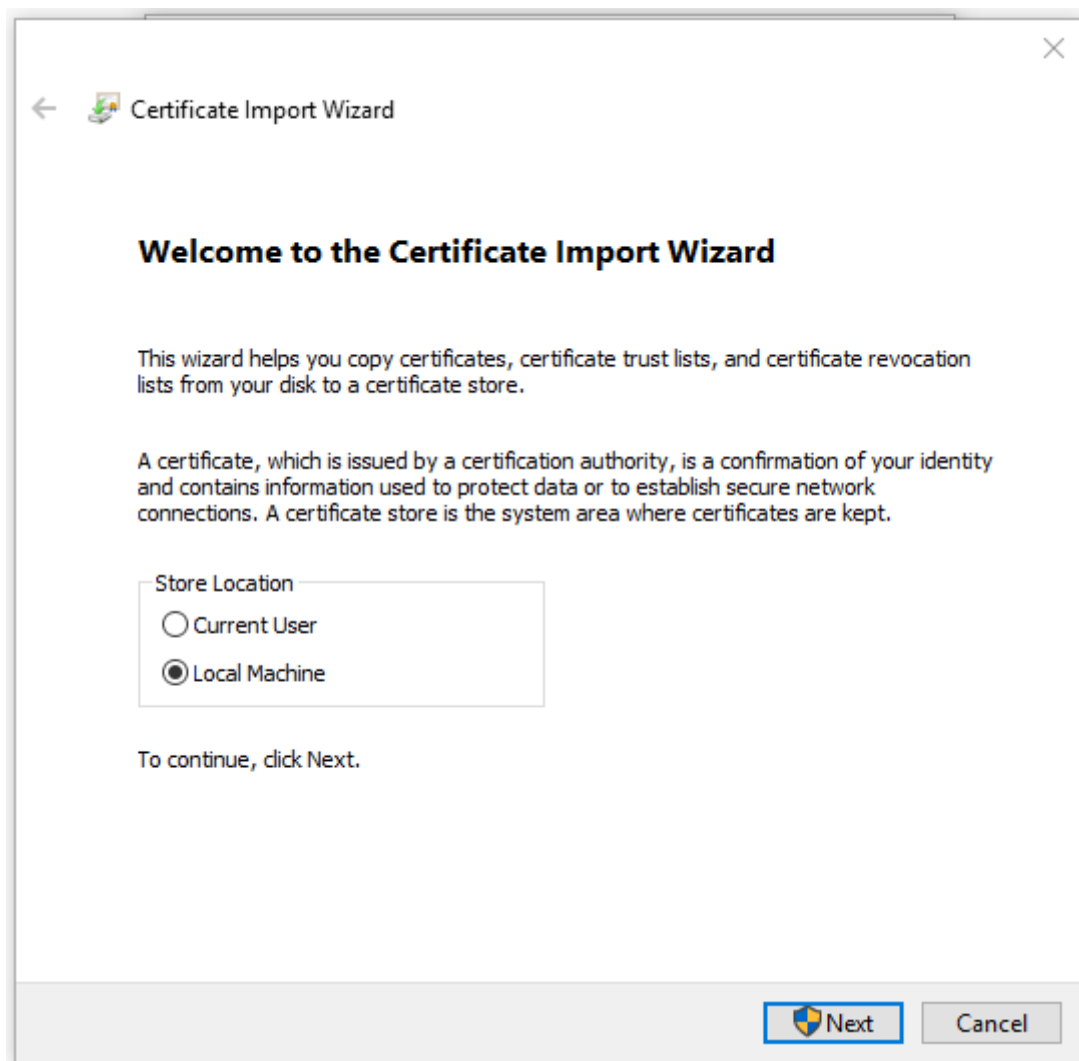
After that, you will see site.test folder created. In that folder we will have **server.crt** and **server.key**. This is our SSL certificate.

Double click on the server.crt to install it on Windows so Windows can trust it.

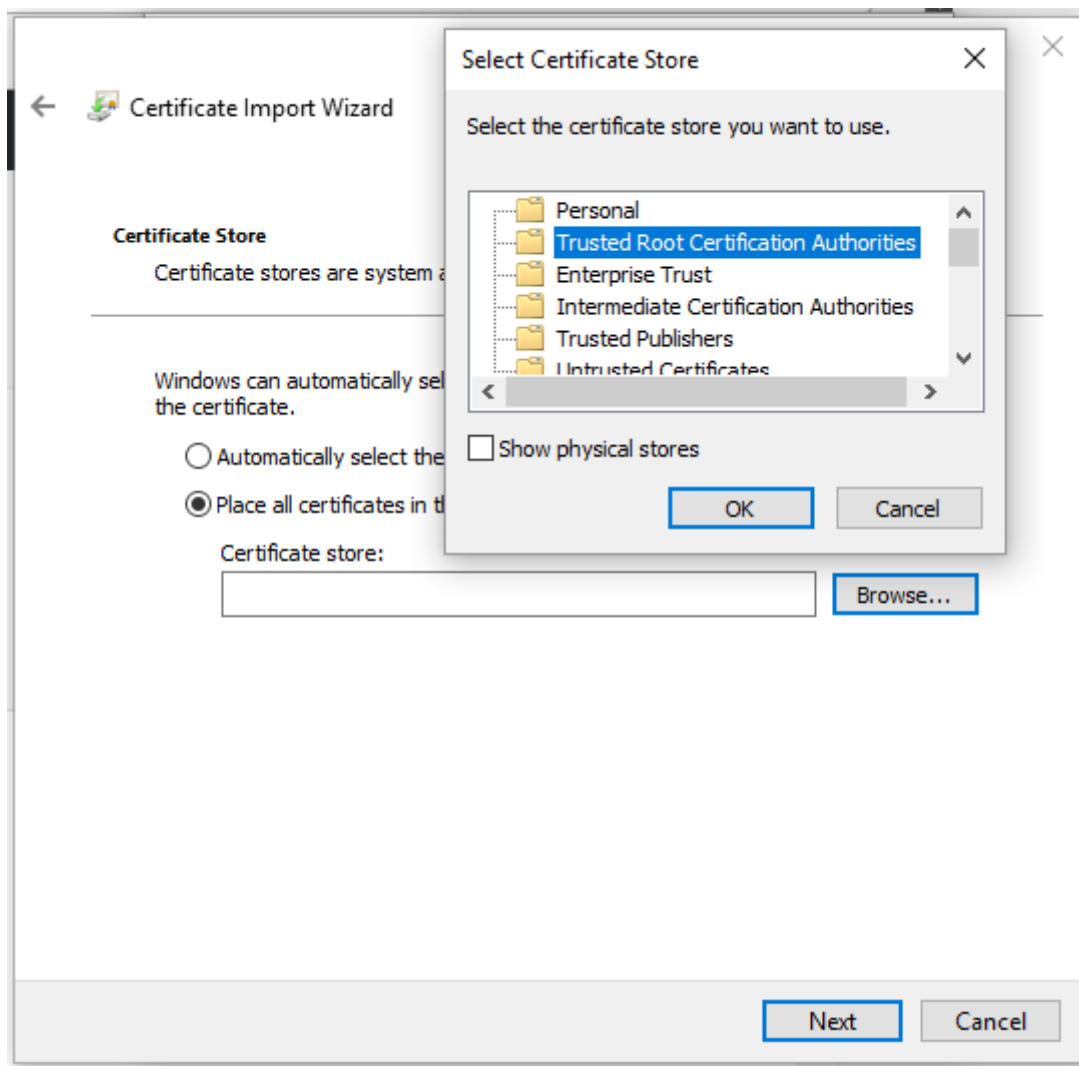
server.crt	3/21/2018 8:52 PM	Security Certificate
server.key	3/21/2018 8:51 PM	KEY File



And then select **Local Machine** as Store Location.



And then Select “**Place all certificate in the following store**” and click **browse** and select Trusted Root Certification Authorities.



Click **Next** and **Finish**.

And now this cert is installed and trusted in Windows. Next is how to use this cert in XAMPP.

6. Add the site in Windows hosts

1. Open notepad as administrator.
2. Edit C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts (the file have no ext)
3. Add this in a new line:

```
1. | 127.0.0.1 site.test
```

This will tell windows to load XAMPP when we visit <http://site.test> You can try and it will show XAMPP dashboard page.

7. Add the site in XAMPP conf.

We need to enable SSL for this domain and let XAMPP know where we store the SSL Cert. So we need to edit **C:\xampp\apache\conf\extra\httpd-xampp.conf**

And add this code at the bottom:

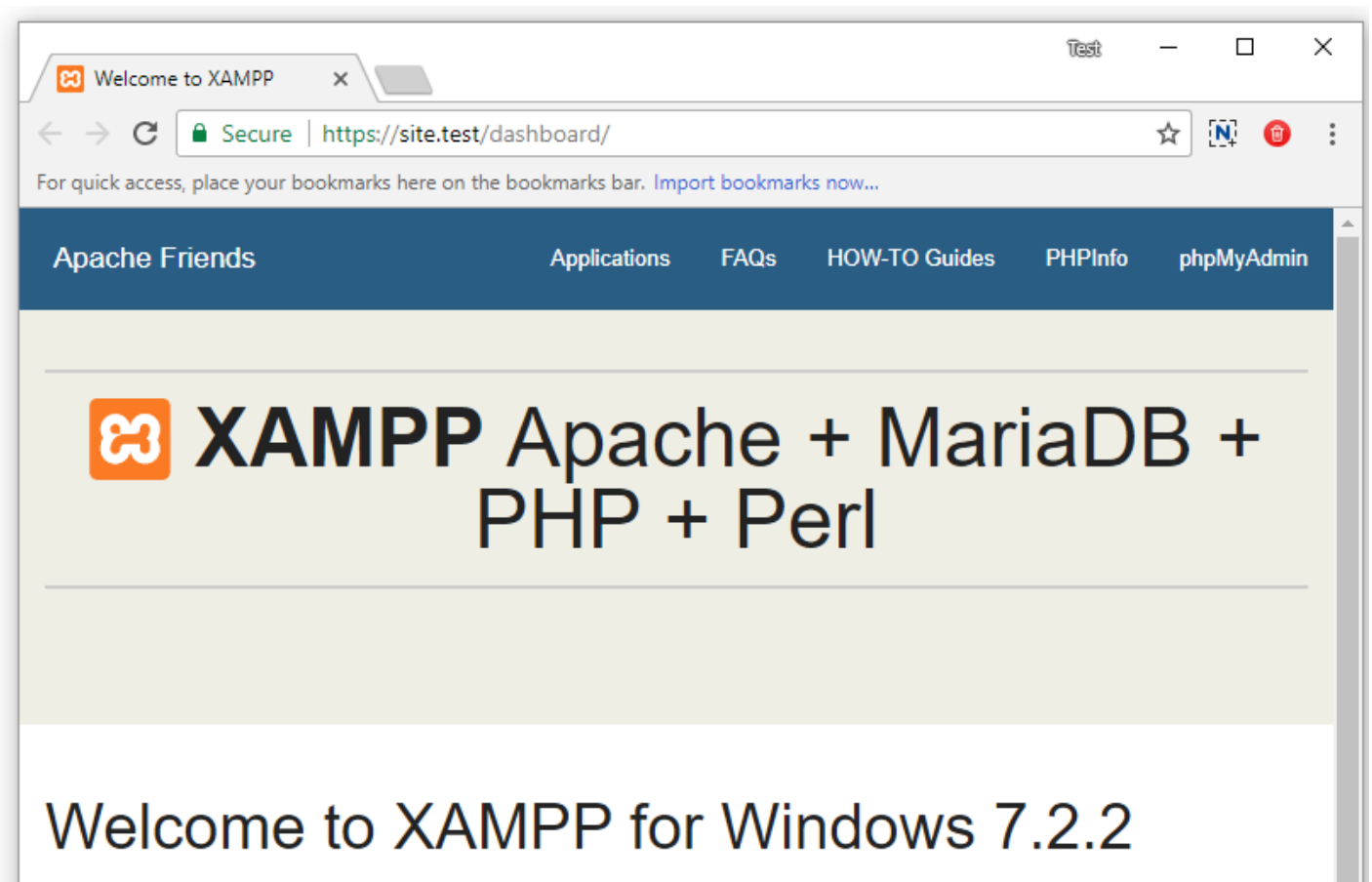
```
1.  ## site.test
2.  <VirtualHost *:80>
3.      DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs"
4.      ServerName site.test
5.      ServerAlias *.site.test
6.  </VirtualHost>
7.  <VirtualHost *:443>
8.      DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs"
9.      ServerName site.test
10.     ServerAlias *.site.test
11.     SSLEngine on
12.     SSLCertificateFile "crt/site.test/server.crt"
13.     SSLCertificateKeyFile "crt/site.test/server.key"
14. </VirtualHost>
```

After that, you will need to restart Apache in XAMPP. It's very simple, simply open XAMPP Control Panel and **Stop** and re-**Start** Apache Module.

Tips: In XAMPP conf, as you can see you can change the domain root directory if needed. Eg. as sub-dir in htdocs.

8. Restart your browser and Done!

This is required to load the certificate. And visit the domain on your browser, and you will see green lock!



I hope this tutorial is useful!

If you already use other method, let me know in the comment 😊