

Recommendations for Browser Root Certificate Programs

Below are five recommendations designed to introduce uniformity and consistency to the various Browser Root Certificate Programs. The objectives to be achieved through the Browser members' adoption of these recommendations are to:

- Manage the expectations of the Certificate Authorities
 - Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Programs
 - Provide a means for managing and resolving disputes
1. **Policies and Procedures.** Publicly post a document that outlines policies and procedures for Root Program participation by CA's including the requirements for submission, review, and acceptance by the Browser for all Root types. This document should include:
 - a. An explanation of the Root program
 - b. Details of the Root distribution process by Browser version
 - c. General CA requirements for participation
 - d. Technical CA requirements for acceptance
 - e. The CA application process
 - f. Requirements for renewing submitted Roots (if applicable)
 - g. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

An example of such a document is posted at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/archive/security/news/rootcert.mspix?mfr=true>

2. **Communications.** Publicly post the contact information for all relevant Points of Contact for the Browser's Root Certificate Program. Explain what sort of communications the applicant should expect to receive and how those communications will be conducted (for example, receipt confirmation, status updates, requests for additional information, etc. will be communicated by e-mail, by online forum, or bulletin board, etc.).
3. **Schedules.** Provide a general schedule, time frame, and deadlines for the Root submission and acceptance process. This does not require the posting of established dates but rather some indication of the following:
 - a. When are Root applications accepted (monthly, on-going basis, etc.)?
 - b. How long does the review process typically take (two weeks, etc.)?
 - c. What submission deadlines exist (code freezes prior to release, etc.)?
 - d. When acceptance decisions made (two weeks before update, etc.)?
 - e. When do Root updates take place (monthly, with new releases, etc.)?
4. **Agreements.** Provide an agreement to be signed by the Browser and the CA prior to Root acceptance to formalize the requirements of the Program, to protect the rights of both parties, and to dictate the governing law and jurisdiction for dispute resolution.
5. **Membership.** Publicly post a definitive list of current Certificate Authorities participating in the Browser's Root Certificate Program (i.e., organizations whose Roots have been accepted and are or will be embedded). An example of such a list can be found here: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/archive/security/news/rootcert.mspix?mfr=true>