Active Directory Certificate Services



Certificate Request Workflow- Quick Start Manual

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Prepared by

Bulgwei

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Configuration	3
Installation	4
Prerequisites	4
Computer hosting the Agents	4
Agent Account	4
Working Folder Structure	4
CA Permissions	5
How to configure the Automatic Request Processing Agents	6
Defining the Config.xml	6
Installing the Agents	8
Request Processing Workflow	g
Incoming Requests	9
Submitted Requests	10
Archiving the Requests	11
Request Clean Up	11
The Control File	12
Process Status Information	13
Retrieving the Enrolled Certificates	15
Uninstalling the Agents	16
Updating the Agents Configuration	16
Pre-validating incoming requests	17
Appendix	18
Arguments accepted by the installation script (Install-RequestAgnts.ps1)	18
Fixed event IDs of the agents	18
CSR structure for pre-validation	19

Introduction

Certificate Request Processing provides a secure way of submitting requests and and separately additional Subject Alternative Names (SANs) to the specified online CA. The workflow consists of two scripts that will run periodically as scheduled tasks, referred to as **Agents** in this document.

Submit Agent (SubmitAgnt.ps1)

The submit agent is looking into a filesystem (CIFs)-based inbox and submits the content including additional SANs to the CA. At the CA the requests stay pending and waiting for approval of a Certificate Manager. During the pending state, possible additional SANs will be securely added to the request (without having EDITF_ATTRIBUTESUBJECTALTNAME2 on the policy module enabled).

Enroll Agent (EnrollAgnt.ps)

The enroll agent verifies if a request has been issued/approved and exports the appropriate certificate onto a filesystem (CIFs)-based outbox.

The installation of the agents and their configuration is based on the XML-configuration file.

Configuration

Review the *config.xml* file to assign the necessary configuration that fits to the network and account requirements:

Note: You should use an XML editor with syntax highlighting to edit the configuration file.

Installation

Prerequisites

- You will need Windows **PowerShell Version 4.0** or newer installed on your machine.
- You need to be **local administrator** to run the installation of both agents.

Computer hosting the Agents

Best practice is to install the agents directly on the issuing CAs.

Agent Account

You need to define the account in which context the agents will run and the names for the tasks. A **Group managed** service account is recommended. The account to be used must be defined in the config.xml, details will be provided in the "Defining the config.xml" section of this document.

Ensure that if using a group managed service account, the account have been assigned to the systems where you want to install the agents on. Additionally, ensure that the used account have appropriate logon permissions.

The account needs the following logon permissions:

- Group managed service account Log on as a service
- "normal" user-based service account Log on as a batch job

Working Folder Structure

To make the process working, a special working folder structure is necessary in the network. The base folder is defined in the **BaseDir** node in the config.xml:

```
<!--
    Description:
        The BaseDir Node specifies the base folder in the network where
        the script is looking for incoming requests
-->
<BaseDir>\\san.fabrikam.com\sanshare\AutoReqCntl\FabIssuingCa1</BaseDir>
```

The sub folder structure must be created manually.

archive	8/2/2021 1:00 PM	File folder
failed	8/2/2021 5:26 PM	File folder
inbox	8/2/2021 1:00 PM	File folder
outbox	8/2/2021 4:30 PM	File folder
Rejected	7/30/2021 1:00 PM	File folder

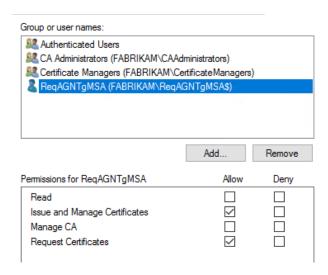
All folders should be owned by the account which runs the agents and only contributing accounts (sending request into the inbox) should have write permissions to the inbox folder. For the outbox folder, only read permission are acceptable for users. The folders "archive", "failed" and "rejected" should be prevented from user access

Page 4

CA Permissions

The agent account must have the following permissions on the submitting CA:

- Request Certificates
- Issue and Manage Certificates



How to configure the Automatic Request Processing Agents

Defining the Config.xml

Agent Account

You need to define the **account in which's context the agents** will run and the names for the Tasks. The created tasks will run with a timely offset of 30 minutes against each other with a defined repetition interval.

```
<Install>
    <!-- define the account that should be used for events (gMSA has to end with a "$") -->
    <AgentAccountName>fabrikam\ReqAGNTgMSA$</AgentAccountName>

    <!-- define the task name for the "Submit Agent" -->
    <SubmitTaskName>SubmitAgent</SubmitTaskName>

    <!-- define the task name for the "Enroll Agent" -->
    <EnrollTaskName>EnrollAgent</EnrollTaskName>

    <!-- define the task repetition intervals in hours -->
    <TaskRepetitionInterval>1</TaskRepetitionInterval>
</Install>
```

Eventlog and Event Source

You must define the **eventlog and event source** that should be used for status messages. It will be created as well during the installation.

Note: If you don't use a Group Managed Service Account, you might need to enter the account's password manually to the created tasks.

Certificate Templates

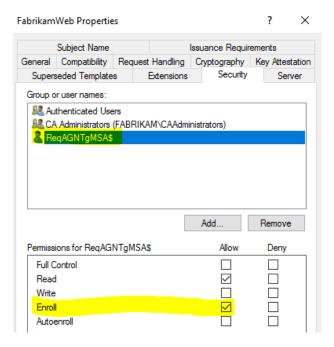
Each certificate template that can be used by the agents has to be added into the config XML file:

Additionally, a default certificate template must be configured. That is used in case no explicit template has been provided by an incoming request.

All templates that should be used for this workflow must be configured to pend the request on the CA:



The account who runs the agents, must have enroll permissions on the configured certificate templates:



Certification Authority

The CaName Node specifies the target CA for the request automation. The name must be provided in format "fqdn\CA name".

Mis. Settings

Also reviewing the other configuration nodes is highly recommended!

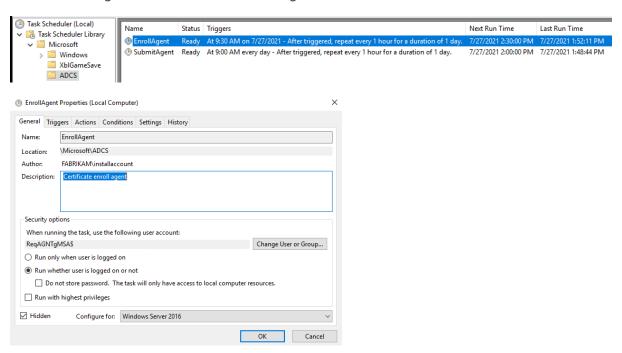
Installing the Agents

After the initial configuration has been defined, install the Agents by running:

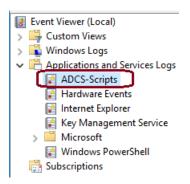
Install-RequestAgnts.ps1 -InstallAgents

The installation routine will

• create and configure scheduled tasks for each agent.



• Create a special event log to write status information into.



The installation routine will highlight additional manual tasks that need to be processed, such as working directory creation and structure and agent account permissions (see Introduction for more information).

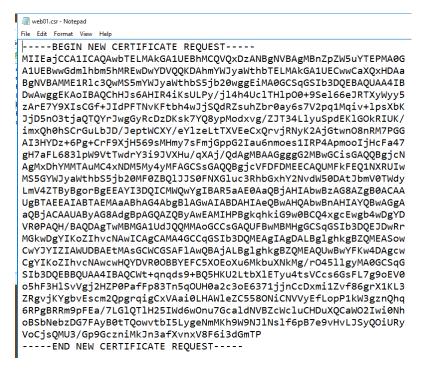
Request Processing Workflow

Incoming Requests

Incoming request can include three different parts:

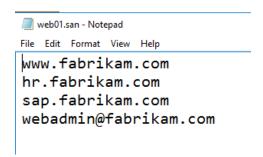
1. The certificate request (mandatory)

The certificate request must come in standard base64 encoding file with the file extension ".csr"



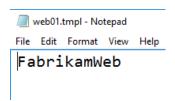
2. The SAN extension file (optional)

In case, the presented request is missing SAN extensions, the requestor can provide a textfile containing additional SANs as simple text list. The file name prefix must be identical to the request file name prefix; the file extension must be ".san" in this case.

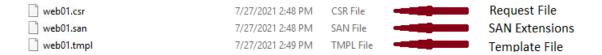


3. The certificate template file (optional)

If multiple certificate templates have been configured (and will be provided) for the usage together with the Automatic Request Processing Agents, the requestor can add a file which specify the certificate template to use. The specified template has to be allowed/configured in the config XML file (see section: Certificate Templates) and must have a file extension of ".tmpl". Again, the file name prefix must be identical to the request file name prefix- If no certificate template file has been provided, the configured default certificate template will be used (see section: Certificate Templates). The template file is in text format.



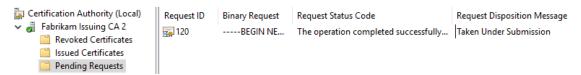
All three files must have the same filename prefix!



Submitted Requests

After the incoming requests have been processed and submitted to the CA that has been configured in the config XML file, the requests are pending on that CA, waiting for Certificate Manager approval.

This is necessary as only in pending state, additional SANs can be added to the request.



You can configure "AutoApproval" for specific templates in the config XML file. These templates must be part of the generally allowed/configured templates (see "*Certifcate Templates*" section earlier in this guide for more information).

```
Pescription:
    The AutoApprove Node specifies whether auto-approval for pending requests based on
    specific named templates are allowed
    NOTE: It is highle recommended to NOT enable this functionality for security reasons
-->

AutoApprove>
    <EnabledTemplate>FabrikamWeb3</EnabledTemplate>
</AutoApprove>
```

When "auto approval" is configured, the enrollment agents will automatically approve requests based on these templates.

Note: We strongly recommend to NOT enable this functionality. The Certificate Manager is ultimately responsible for compliance of the issued certificates. Enabling "auto approval" functionality violates this role definition!

When the request has been approved by a Certificate Manager, the workflow continues to enroll the appropriate certificates into the configured "outbox" folder in both, binary (DER) and P7B format. The enrolled files continue to have the same file name prefex as the incoming request file.



Archiving the Requests

After the incoming request have been processed, they will get moved into the configured archive folder with the request ID and an added timestamp of the processing.

Name	Date modified	Туре
web01-Reqld120-20210727-1700.csr	7/27/2021 2:48 PM	CSR File
web01-Reqld120-20210727-1700.san	7/27/2021 2:48 PM	SAN File
web01-Reqld120-20210727-1700.tmpl	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	TMPL File
web02-Reqld121-20210728-1202.csr	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	CSR File
web02-Reqld121-20210728-1202.san	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	SAN File
web02-Reqld121-20210728-1202.tmpl	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	TMPL File
web03-Reqld122-20210728-1202.csr	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	CSR File
web03-Reqld122-20210728-1202.san	7/27/2021 2:49 PM	SAN File
web03-Reqld122-20210728-1202.tmpl	7/27/2021 2:51 PM	TMPL File

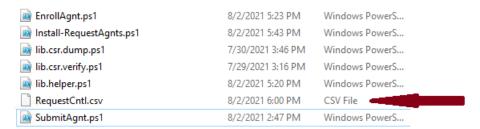
Request Clean Up

You can define a "CleanUp" duration that will be used to delete old entries from the configured outbox and archive folders that are older than the defined CleanUp duration.

```
<!--
Description:
The CleanUpDuration Node specifies time in days after that the files in folder will be deleted
-->
<CleanUpDuration>14</CleanUpDuration>
```

The Control File

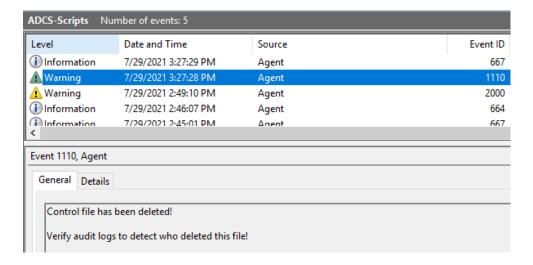
In the startup folder of the agent scripts, a control file will be created to track the status of the incoming requests. This file will never be automatically cleaned up and can be used for long term tracking of incoming requests.



The control file is in CSV format and contains the original request file name, the request ID at the CA database, the time stamp when the request has been submitted to the CA and the request owner email if one has been defined in the SAN file.



The control file is hashed evey time when it is written to the file system and this hash is verified when it is accessed. So, manual modifications or even file deletion is tracked and is reported.



Process Status Information

"The Automatic Request Processing workflow generates status information in the event log or via email. Administrative events will be written in any case into the defined eventlog. See Appendix for events and event IDs.

Status Information on local Event Log

However, to write enrollment status events into the defined eventlog, the config XML file needs to be prepared accordingly.

```
<Eventlog>
    <!-- write success events to the eventlog (true/false) -->
    <UseEventlog>True</UseEventlog>
```

Additionally, you can define, if you only want to generate events for occurring enrollment issues or if you want to get any status information.

```
<!-- write success events to the eventlog (true/false) --> 
<WriteSuccessEvents>True</WriteSuccessEvents>
```

You can as well define the event log to be used, the event source and the event ids that should be used for the different log entries.

```
<!-- define the event log that should be used for events -->
<EventLog>ADCS-Scripts</EventLog>
<!-- define the event source that should be used for events in the eventlog -->
<EventSource>ADCS-Enroll-Agent</EventSource>
<!-- define the event ID that should be used for failure events in the eventlog -->
<FailEventID>666</FailEventID>
<!-- define the event ID that should be used for submit events in the eventlog -->
<SubmitEventID>667</SubmitEventID>
<!-- define the event ID that should be used for issue events in the eventlog -->
<IssueEventID>665</IssueEventID>
<!-- define the event ID that should be used for enroll events in the eventlog -->
<EnrollEventID>664</EnrollEventID>
```

Independent messages can also be specified for each enrollment status of the workflow.

```
<!-- define the event msg for submit request events in the eventlog -->
<SubmitEventMsg>The request !REQName!, RequestID: !REQID! has been submitted and is waiting for formal approval.</SubmitEventMsg>
<!-- define the event msg for enroll events in the eventlog -->
<EnrollEventMsg>The request !REQName!, RequestID: !REQID! has been enrolled.</EnrollEventMsg>
<!-- define the event msg for enroll events in the eventlog -->
<FailedEventMsg>The request !REQName!, RequestID: !REQID! has been failed.</FailedEventMsg>
<!-- define the event msg for enroll events in the eventlog -->
<PeniedEventMsg>The request !REQName!, RequestID: !REQID! has been denied.</PeniedEventMsg>
```

Note: Terms enveloped by "!" are place holders and will be replaced during run time.

Status Information via Email

Email-based status information will only be sent, if the request associated SAN file does contain an email address-based SAN (RFC822-based SAN).

```
web01.san - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

www.fabrikam.com

hr.fabrikam.com

sap.fabrikam.com

webadmin@fabrikam.com
```

In such case, the email address will get interpreted as the requestor's (or requestors group) email address and will be used to automatically send information about the current status of the process. In this case, it is recommended to define the "Certificate Managers" or the "PKI Administrators" email address as CC address to have them informed about all communications.

To make email status information work, a couple of configuration items must be filled in the config XML file.

Additionally, individual messages can be defined for the different enrollment process states.

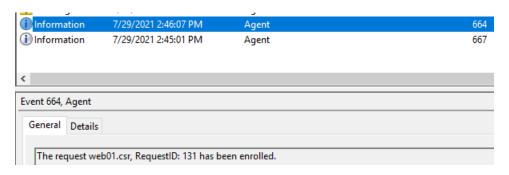
Note: Again, terms enveloped by "!" are place holders and will be replaced during run time.

Retrieving the Enrolled Certificates

Finally, the certificates will made available for retrieval in the configured outbox folder.



If event log status information has been enabled, an eventlog entry will get generated.

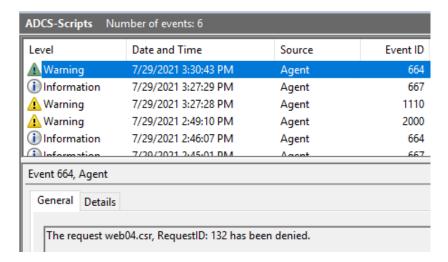


If an email-based SAN (RFC822) has been found in the SAN file, an email will be sent out to this email address with the configured "admin" email address on CC to inform where to fetch the enrolled certificate.

```
Hello,
your request web02.csr has been processed. You can download your certificates using the following link:
file://\san.fabrikam.com\sanshare\AutoReqCntl\outbox\web02.cer
file://\san.fabrikam.com\sanshare\AutoReqCntl\outbox\web02.p7b
Thank you!
```

Denied or Failed Requests

If a request has been denied by the approver, an eventlog entry will get generated if event log status information has been enabled. The same occurs when a request has been approved but failed the enrollment.



Again, if an email-based SAN has been found in the SAN file, an email will be sent out to this email address with the configured "admin" email address on CC.

```
Hello,
your request web01.csr has been denied. Please contact
PKIAdms@contoso.com
for further infomation.
Thank you!
```

Uninstalling the Agents

To remove the scheduled tasks and any configuration artefact from the system, run:

```
Install-RequestAgnts.ps1 -UninstallAgents
```

The eventlog and existing events will not be touched. Also, the working directory and all containing data will stay and must be removed manually.

Updating the Agents Configuration

The enrollment agent's running configuration is stored in a special registry hive:

```
HKLM:\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\CertSvc\EnrollAgents
```

It is strongly recommended that no modifications directly on the registry entries are performed. For all configuration changes modify the **config.xml** file and run:

Install-RequestAgnts.ps1 -UpdateConfig

This will update the running configuration for the agents.

The following configuration items can only be modified by uninstalling and reinstalling the enrollment agents:

- AgentAccountName
- SubmitTaskName
- EnrollTaskName
- TaskRepetitionInterval

When changing the following configuration items:

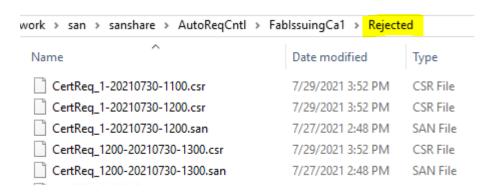
- Eventlog
- EventSource.

the old eventlog and event source will stay available and must be removed manually if not needed anymore.

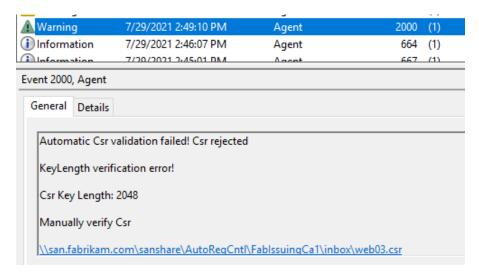
Pre-validating incoming requests

Before an incoming request will be processed, a pre-validation check can be enfored. The pre-validation check consists of several specially defined verification steps, ensuring that the request does not violate the compliance standards.

All verification steps must be wrapped into PowerShell functions and included in the lib.csr.verify.ps1 file. The prevalidation function (Pass-Csrverification) is returning the result to the agent's main function. Requests failing the pre-validation are moved into the "rejected" folder for further investigation.



In addition, an administrative event is generated.



Custom verification steps can be defined based on the following Csr items: (see *Appendix* for more information)

- SignatureMatch
- RequestAttributes
- Extensions
- SubjectName
- clientInfo
- CertTmpl
- EnrollmentCSP
- EnhancedKeyUsage
- KeyUsage
- SAN
- signAlgo
- KeyAlgo
- KeyLength

Appendix

Arguments accepted by the installation script (Install-RequestAgnts.ps1)

Argument	Required	Description
InstallAgents	optional	Define if the agents will be installed as scheduled task; configuration items are taken from the config.xml file Default value: false .
Uninstall Agents	optional	Remove the agent's scheduled tasks and all connected registry values Default value: false .
UpdateConfig	optional	Updates agent's configuration in registry from config XML file Default value: false .

Table 1: Arguments accepted by the Installation Script

Fixed event IDs of the agents

EventID	Description
1000	Active Directory Certificate Services is not running.
1001	Configured working directory is not accessible.
1002	Configured "inbox" folder is not accessible.
1003	Configured "outbox" folder is not accessible.
1004	Configured "archive" folder is not accessible.
1005	Configured "rejected" folder is not accessible.
1010	Move-Item failed! During request submission, the processed request will be moved into either the archive or rejected folder. This failed for the mentioned request files.
1020	Request not found in CA db
1050	Auto Approval error
1055	Auto Approval succeeded
1100	CleanUp failed. During the enrollment, the agents will clean up the output and archive folders based on the CleanUp configuration entry. This failed with the described error.
1110	Audit Failure. File hash of control file failed hash comparism. The file might have been modified offline.
1111	General Send-Mail failure.
2000	Automatic Csr validation error. Csr was rejected

Table 2: Arguments accepted by the Installation Script

CSR structure for pre-validation

```
TypeName: Selected.System.String
Name
                               Definition
                  MemberType
Equals
                  Method
                              bool Equals (System. Object obj)
GetHashCode
                  Method
                              int GetHashCode()
                  Method
                              type GetType()
GetType
ToString
                 Method
                               string ToString()
                  NoteProperty Object[] CertTmpl=System.Object[]
CertTmpl
                 NoteProperty object ClientInfo=null
ClientInfo
EnhancedKeyUsage NoteProperty Selected.System.String EnhancedKeyUsage=@{Name=Server
Authentication ; OID=1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.1}...
                 NoteProperty string EnrollmentCSP= Microsoft RSA SChannel Cryptographic Provider
EnrollmentCSP
                  NoteProperty Object[] Extensions=System.Object[]
Extensions
                  NoteProperty Selected.System.String KeyAlgo=@{AlgoOID=1.2.840.113549.1.1.1;
KeyAlgo
AlgoName=RSA}
                 NoteProperty int KeyLength=2048
KeyLength
                 NoteProperty string KeyUsage=Digital Signature, Key Encipherment (a0)...
KeyUsage
RequestAttributes NoteProperty Object[] RequestAttributes=System.Object[]
                 NoteProperty Object[] SAN=System.Object[]
SAN
                  NoteProperty Selected.System.String SignAlgo=@{AlgoOID=1.2.840.113549.1.1.5;
SignAlgo
AlgoName=sha1RSA}
                 NoteProperty bool SignatureMatch=True
SignatureMatch
                  NoteProperty Selected.System.String SubjectName=@{CN= hrweb01.fabrikam.com;
SubjectName
OU=HR-Ger; OHR; L=FFM; ST=; STREET=Dumm> Srteet; C=DE; E=Webadmin01@fabrikam.com}
```

Subject name

TypeName: Selected.System.String		
Name	MemberType	Definition
Equals GetHashCode GetType ToString	Method Method Method Method	bool Equals(System.Object obj) int GetHashCode() type GetType() string ToString()
С	NoteProperty	string C=DE
CN	NoteProperty	string CN=hrweb01.fabrikam.com
E	NoteProperty	<pre>string E=Webadmin01@fabrikam.com</pre>
L	NoteProperty	object L=FFM
0	NoteProperty	string O=HR
OU	NoteProperty	string OU=HR-Ger
S	NoteProperty	object S=Hessen
STREET	NoteProperty	object STREET=Irgendwostrasse

Example:

```
$Csr.SubjectName

CN : web01.fabrikam.com

OU : HR-DE

O : HR

L : FFM

S : Hessen

STREET : IrgendwoStrasse

C : DE

E : webadmin01.fabrikam.com
```

Subject alternative names

Example:

```
$Csr.SAN
```

```
Type SAN
---- ---
DNS Name san1.fabrikam.de
DNS Name san2.fabrikam.de
DNS Name san3.fabrikam.de
DNS Name san4.fabrikam.de
DNS Name san5.fabrikam.de
DNS Name san6.fabrikam.de
DNS Name www.fabrikam.com
DNS Name hr.fabrikam.com
DNS Name sap.fabrikam.com
Rcf822 webadmin@fabrikam.com
```

Enhanced Key Usages (EKU)

```
TypeName: Selected.System.String
Name
             MemberType
                            Definition
Equals
                            bool Equals(System.Object obj)
             Method
GetHashCode Method
                            int GetHashCode()
GetType
ToString
                            type GetType()
string ToString()
             Method
             Method
Name
             NoteProperty string Name=Server Authentication
OID
             NoteProperty string OID=1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.1
```

Example:

\$Csr.EnhancedKeyUsage

```
Name OID
----
Server Authentication 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.1
Client Authentication 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.2
```