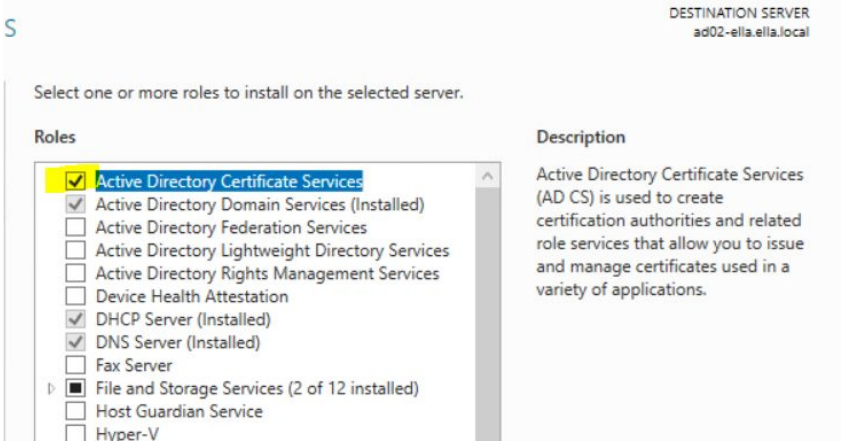
Windows Server Active Directory Certificate Services Installation and Implementation

Build Documentation

💡 This requires that you already have Windows Server 2016 setup with AD DS and a basic apache web server running on the same network.

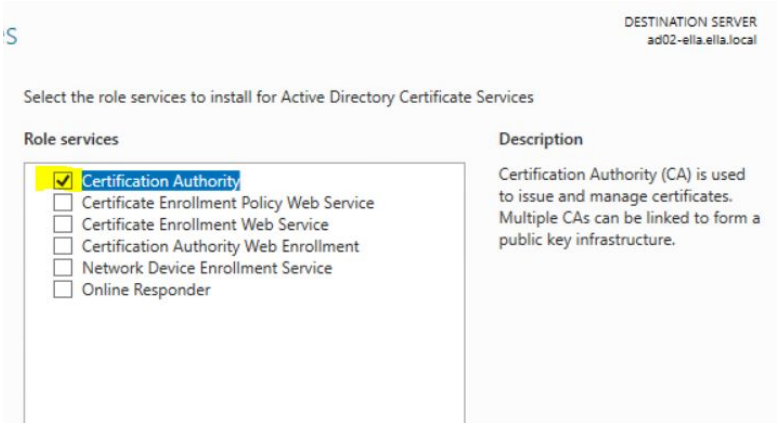
Installing AD CS on AD02

Go to the server manager dashboard and click on install roles and features, and select your AD machine, then under roles click on Active Directory Certificate Services.

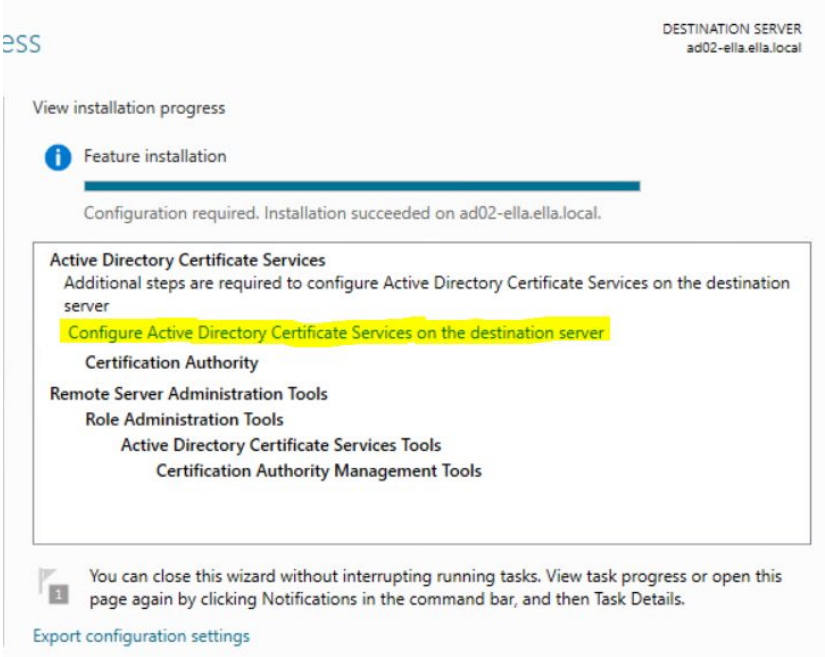


💡 Make sure that you are also installing the necessary management tools. This checkbox will appear in the pop-up when you select the box to install AD CS

We will only be installing the Certificate Authority, so that's all you need to have selected.

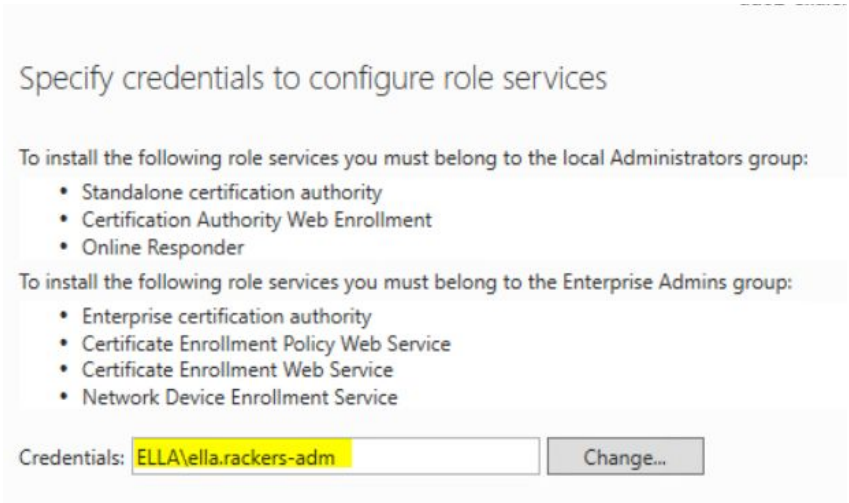


Install the certificate authority, no restart is required. After installation is complete, open the notifications flag to configure services, or click the highlighted link below

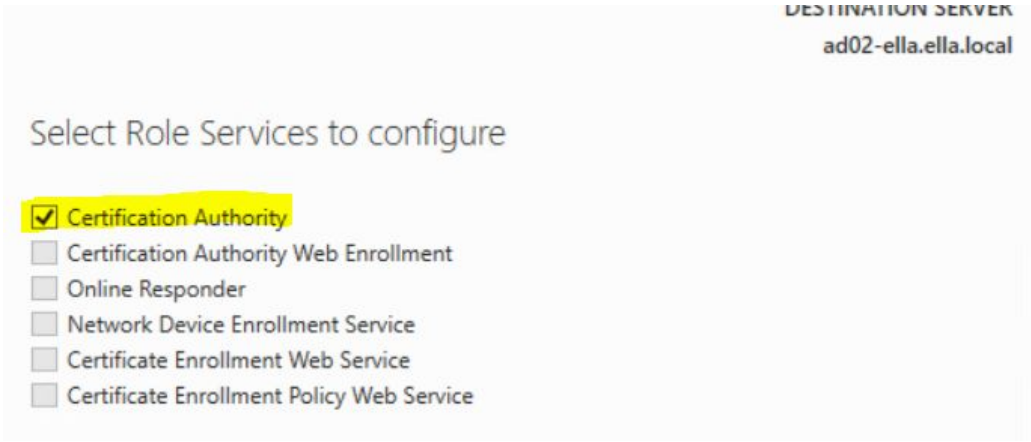


You must choose an account to control the certificate, you should use an account that belongs to the enterprise admins group, like the admin account you created before.

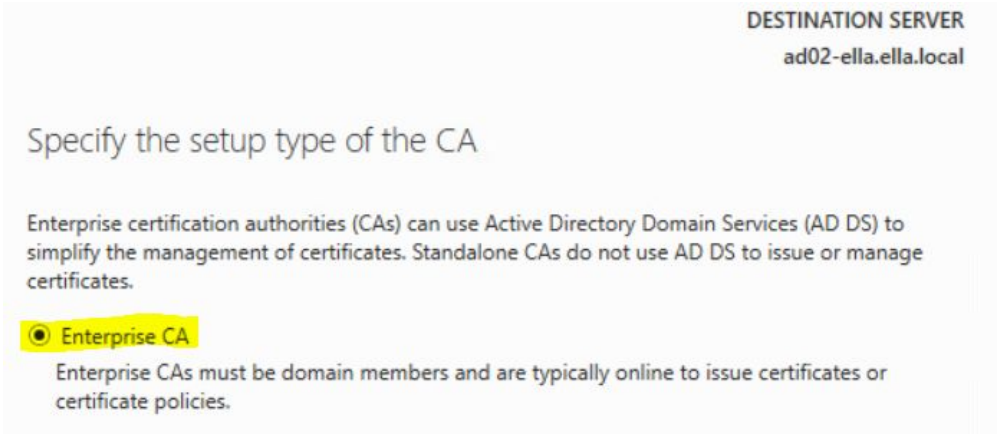
💣 You have to use an admin account to manage these services. Unprivileged users will not be able to configure the services after you've installed them.



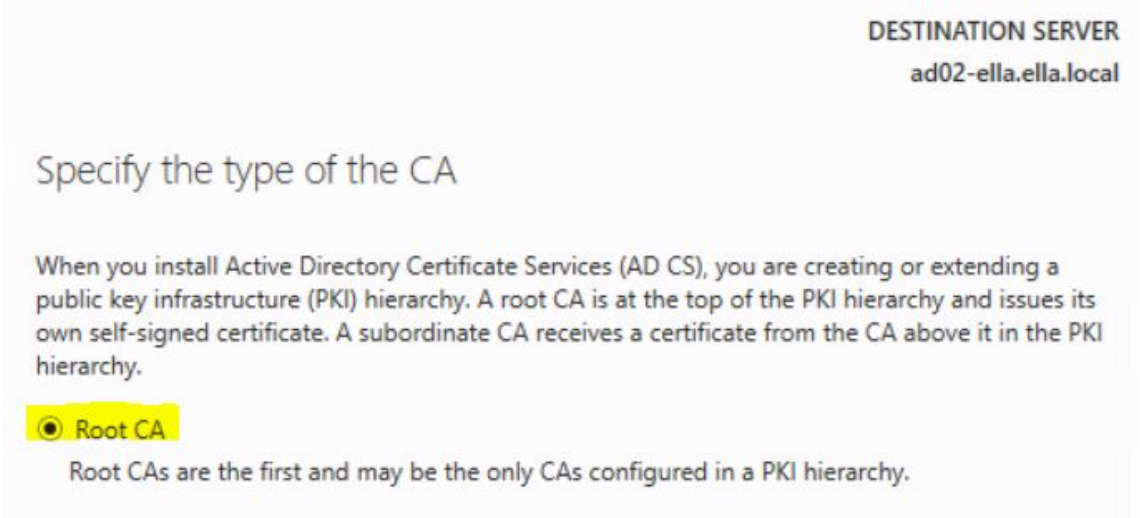
Select the Certification Authority option, as that's what we installed and need to configure.



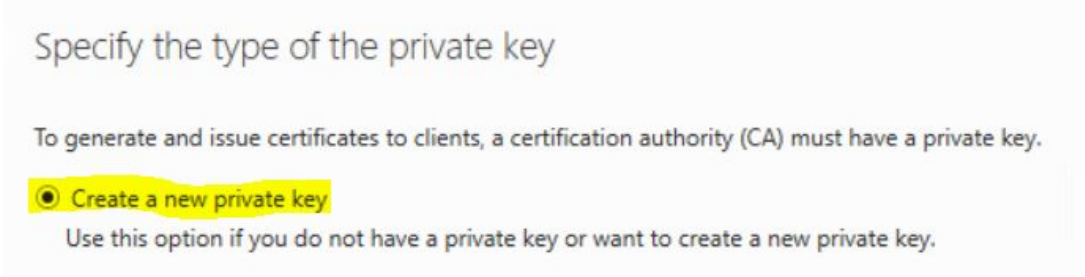
Choose an enterprise CA. These CAs have to be online to distribute and sign certificates or update certificate policies.



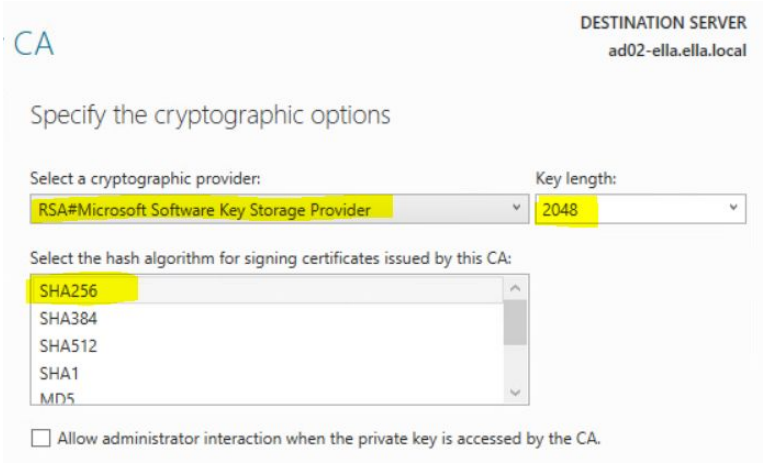
We will choose a root CA because this is the first CA we are configuring. Standalone CAs can be installed in addition to the root CA only after the root CA is installed and configured.



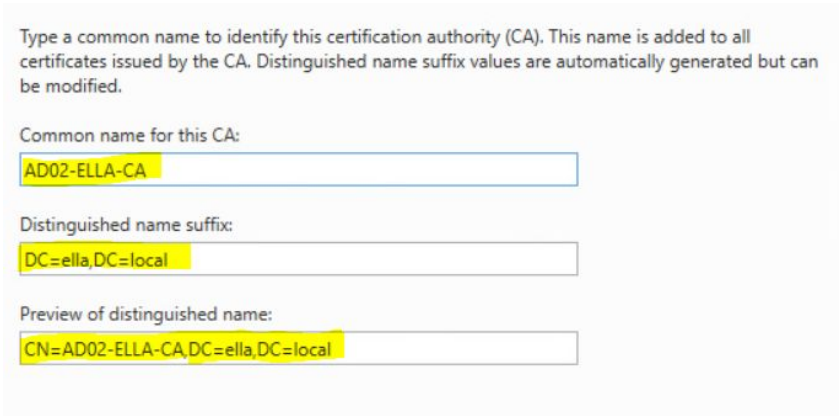
We will create a new key because we haven't made one yet.



We will choose an RSA key with a length of 2048, using a SHA256 hash for signing.



All of this information should be auto-filled. You should not change the distinguished name suffix, but the common name can be changed, just make sure you remember it for later.

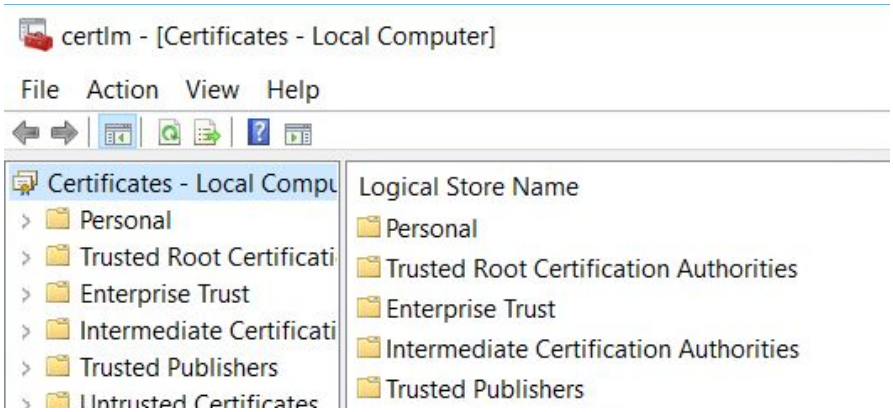


You can keep the rest of the options as defaults, then click configure to complete the process.

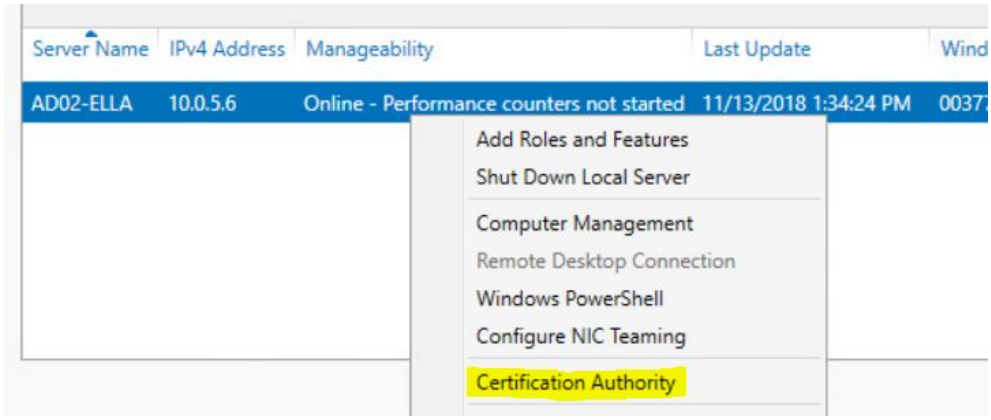
Now you should see you have AD CS installed on your windows server.

Creating a certificate template for your certificate authority

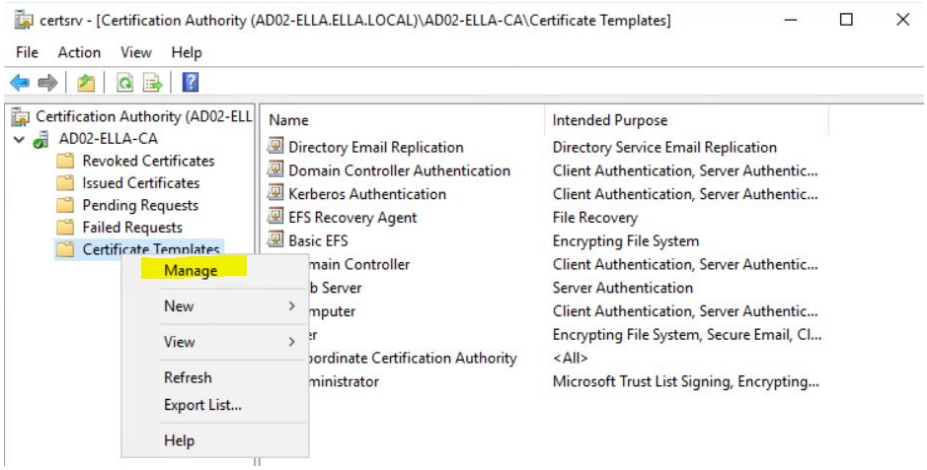
Go to Control Panel > Administrative Tools > Certificate Authority



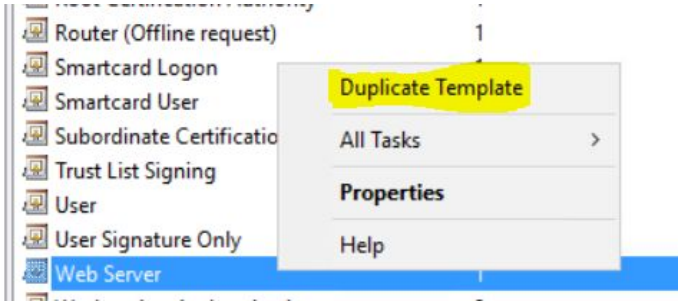
To open the certificate authority settings, right-click on your server under the AD CS section and click on “Certification Authority”



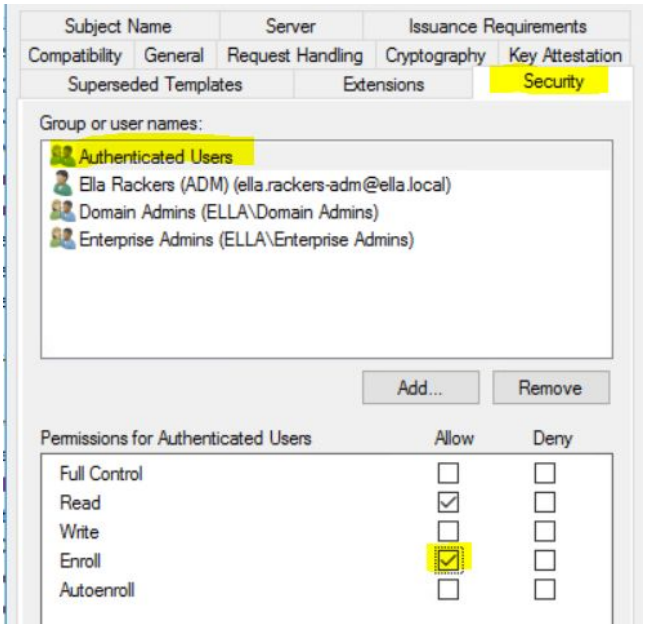
Navigate to manage certificate templates.



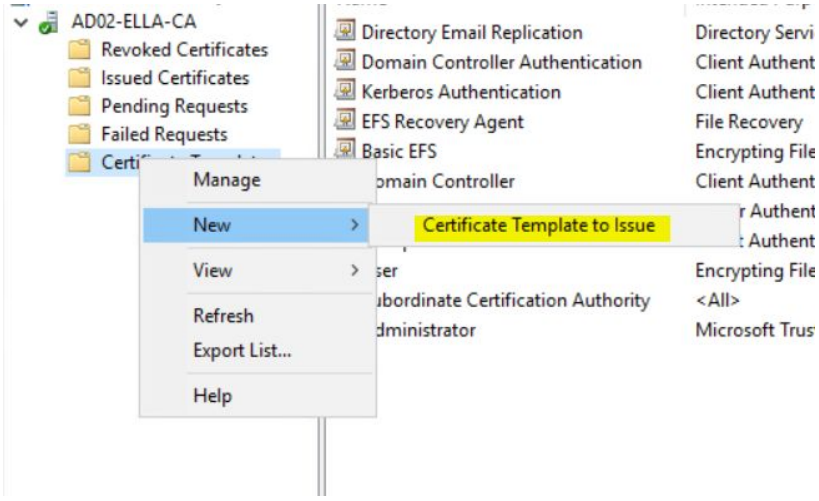
Duplicate the web server certificate template



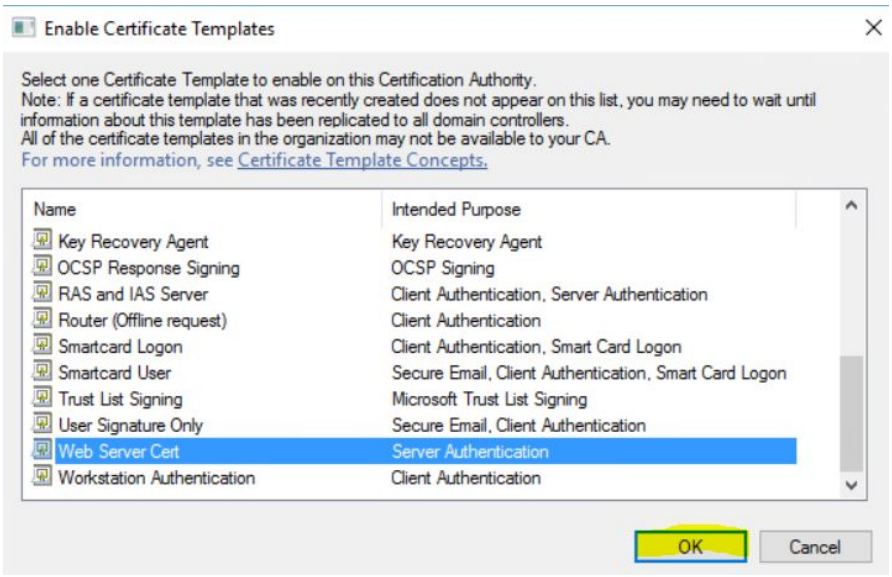
Under the security tab, make sure authenticated users can enroll



Change the name and apply the changes. Back in the certification authority settings, right click on certificate templates, and go to new > certificate template to issue.



Select your certificate and click OK



Requesting the Certificate on CentOS box

To request a certificate, first we need to have a private key and a certificate request file. Enter in the following command:

- **`openssl req -newkey rsa:2048 -keyout webserver.key -out webserver.csr`**

It will ask you to enter in information about where you're from. None of it really matters, but remember it for later because it all has to be the same besides the common name.

On AD

> 💡 You will need to have pscp (putty) installed for this next step on your AD02 Machine.

In powershell, execute the following command (using your file path on your webserver). This will copy your certificate request onto your AD machine.

- **`pscp -scp [accounts]@[ip address]:/webserver.csr C:\Users\[admin account]\Downloads\`**
- **`certreq -submit -attrib "CertificateTemplate:Web Server Cert" Downloads\webserver.csr`**

Hit enter on all the following prompts, and when you're prompted to save the certificate, remember the file path and name in which you save it. Finally, transfer the certificate back to your centos server with the following command:

- **`pscp -scp Documents\webserver.cer [account]@[ip address]:/`**

On Web02

Run the following commands:

- **cp webserver.cer webserver.crt**
- **cp webserver.crt /etc/pki/tls/certs**
- **cp webserver.key /etc/pki/tls/private**
- **yum install mod_ssl -y**

In /etc/http/conf.d/ssl.conf, make sure to change the following file names to match your files.

```
#   Server Certificate:
# Point SSLCertificateFile at a PEM encoded certificate.  If
# the certificate is encrypted, then you will be prompted for a
# pass phrase.  Note that a kill -HUP will prompt again.  A new
# certificate can be generated using the genkey(1) command.
SSLCertificateFile /etc/pki/tls/certs/webserver.crt

#   Server Private Key:
#   If the key is not combined with the certificate, use this
#   directive to point at the key file.  Keep in mind that if
#   you've both a RSA and a DSA private key you can configure
#   both in parallel (to also allow the use of DSA ciphers, etc.)
SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/pki/tls/private/webserver.key
```

Restart httpd. You will have to enter the password that you entered when creating your private key, and then it should be complete and your web service should be able to use http.