



## NHS SPINE Project

# 1096 Guidelines for using the Spine ESW interface for self- serv

Issue 2 Draft B  
28th July 2006

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# 1 About This Document

## Scope and Objectives

This document provides guidance to Endpoint Administrators who wish to use the Spine Entrust Enrollment Services for Web (ESW) interface to request and receive an endpoint TLS certificate to install on their approved Spine accredited system instance.

This use of ESW to request and receive an endpoint TLS certificate is a sub-task of the Endpoint Registration Process.

## Background

This document is created as part of a communication pack that will be sent to all endpoint requestors to help them undertake the new endpoint registration process that will come into place on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

### 1.1 Assumptions and Constraints

The endpoint administrator or user of ESW is familiar with X.509 and PKI technologies and understands the technical standards, naming conventions and tasks required to request, receive and install X.509 TLS certificates.

The endpoint administrator is familiar with and agrees to comply with all relevant NPfIT Security, Key Management and X.509 Certificate policies.

## Document Hierarchy

This document is part of the 'Communication Pack' that will be delivered as part of the Interim Endpoint Registration Process acceptance into service programme.

## 2 ESW Guidance notes

### What is Entrust Enrollment Services for Web (ESW)

It's primary purpose is to allow anybody who has the necessary registration and activation code for an endpoint that is undergoing registration or re-issuance to request and receive their TLS Certificate.

### Who uses ESW?

Typically the endpoint administrator will be the person who accesses and uses ESW. The endpoint administrator is the person who is installing the accredited system instance on the physical endpoint.

In some circumstances the endpoint administrator may forward a PKCS#10 to another party who will access ESW on the administrator's behalf. E.g. where the endpoint does not yet have NHSNet/N3 access and thus cannot access ESW directly the endpoint administrator may allow a trusted representative of their system supplier to retrieve their certificate. In this instance the endpoint administrator must ensure the registration number and activation code are communicated securely.

### How do I get to ESW

You will need an NHSNet/N3 connected PC with a web browser. If you use a browser other than Internet Explorer some of the options may not be available to you. This is due to the way access to the Microsoft CAPI store is controlled by Windows.

To access ESW browse to the following URLS.

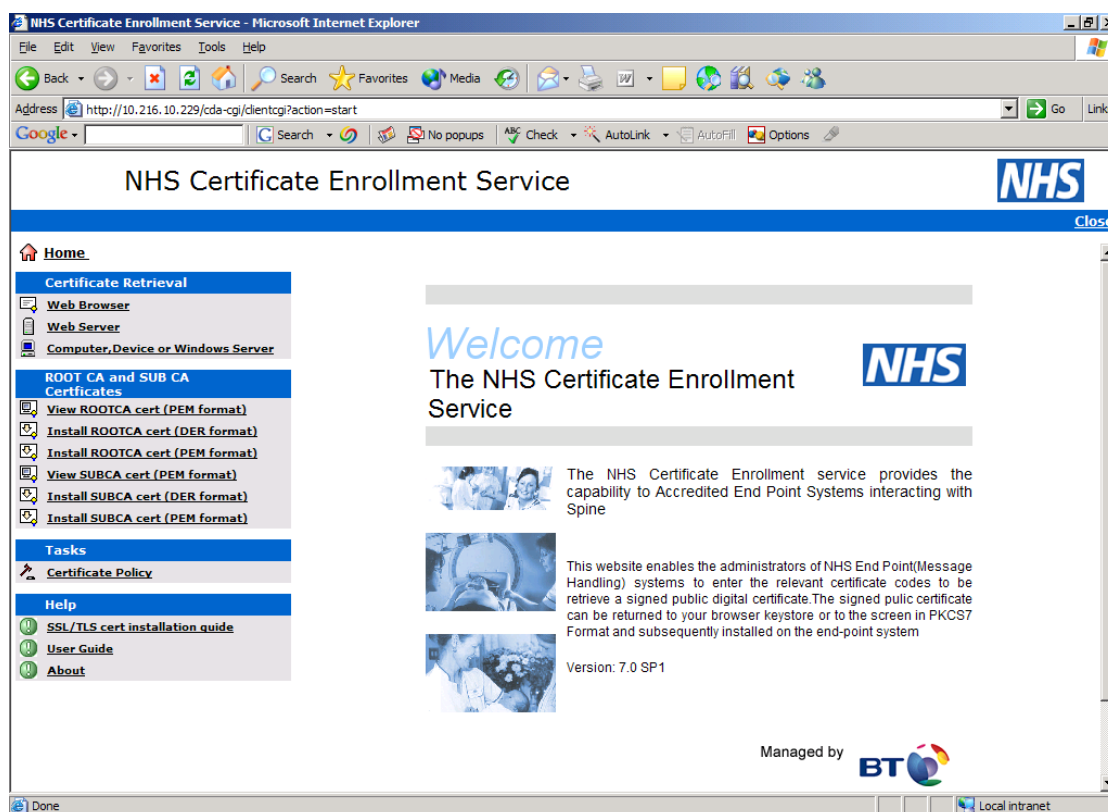
- The URL to access the Live ESW interface is  
<https://esw.national.ncrs.nhs.uk/cda-cgi/clientcgi?action=start>.
- The URL to access the Sandpit ESW interface is  
<https://esw.nis1.national.ncrs.nhs.uk/cda-cgi/clientcgi?action=start>.

### How do I use ESW?

ESW provides the ability for an administrator to submit a 'certificate signing request' typically in the PKCS#10 format (although other more automatic methods are available) after they have created their public/private cryptographic key pair on which the certificate signing request is based.

This part of the endpoint registration can only take place after the endpoint administrator has received the registration number and activation codes associated with their endpoint registration (see document "Device and Service Endpoint Registration Ver2.0" for a full description of the endpoint registration process).

After deciding which environment the endpoint is registering for access the relevant ESW URL with your web browser (the Live environment has been used for this document). You are presented with the following screen:



There are three main options available to submit a request to ESW.

1. Submit a PKCS#10 certificate signing request. This could have been created on the machine being used to browse ESW or any other host. E.g where a new system instance is being built the physical machine may not be connected to a network. This option allows the PKCS#10 to be taken from that machine and submitted from any NHSNet connected host. This is the "Web Server" option under Certificate Retrieval option.
2. Automatically create a key pair and request a certificate for the Internet Browser certificate store on a connecting machine. This is the "Web Browser" option under Certificate Retrieval.

3. Automatically create a key pair and request a certificate for the Local Machine CAPI store on a connecting Microsoft Windows machine. This is the "Computer, Device or Windows Server" option under Certificate Retrieval. NB this option is only available if you use MS Internet Explorer to access ESW.

In the majority of cases the first option will be used as the third option is limited to Microsoft technologies and the machine where the certificate is to be used must have the necessary NHSNet/N3 access for both options (I.e. only option one allows for 'indirect' certificate requests).

### Option one – Create Web Server request

Select the "Web Server" option under Certificate Retrieval. You will be presented with the following screen.

The screen shot shows the three fields that must be populated and the option drop down list where you can select the format that your certificate will be produced in.

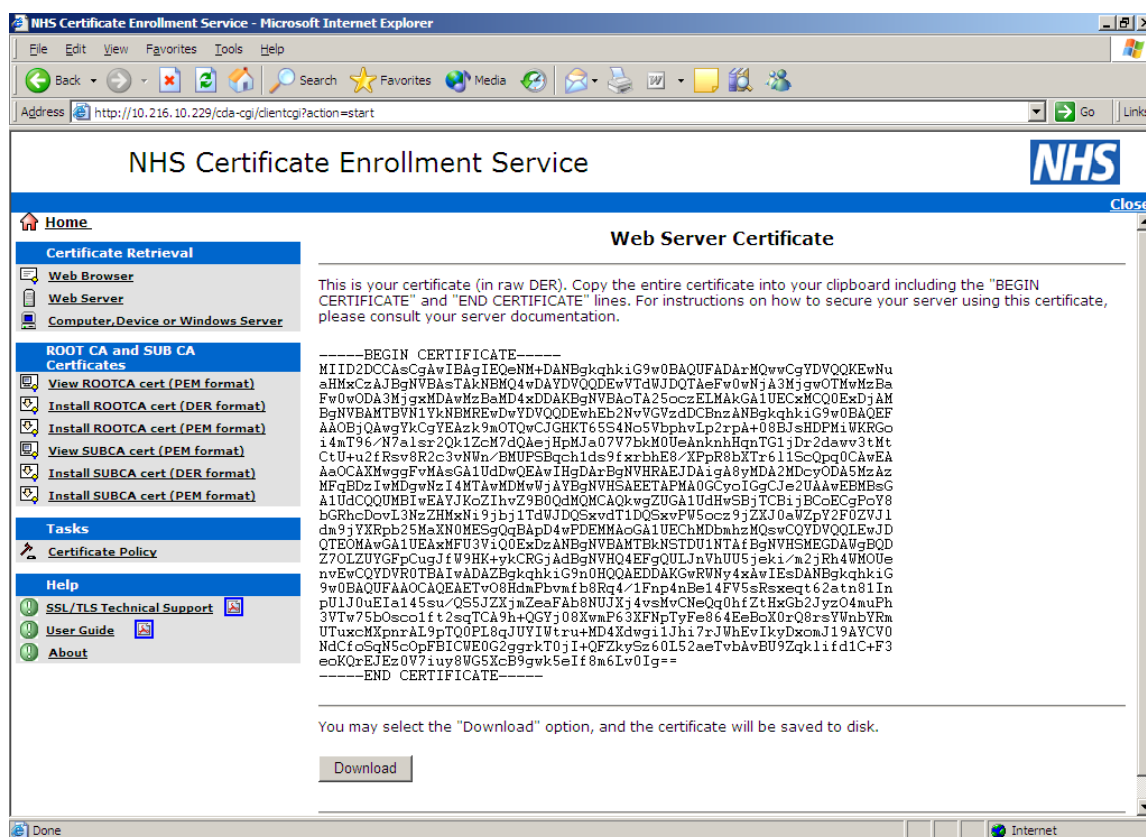
The reference number is the number that was used as the CN when you created your PKCS#10 Certificate signing request. This is the first number communicated to the endpoint administrator (EA) by the endpoint registration team (EPR Team). The authorization code is the second number that is communicated to the EA by the EPR team.

The large freeform text field is where the PKCS#10 is pasted in.



The options drop down list is where the EA can choose the format of the certificate they need for their particular system.

Once the three fields have been populated and the certificate format chosen the EA presses the submit request button. ESW will then present the new certificate as a selectable text string as shown below:



## Option two – Browser certificate request

Select "Web Browser" option under Certificate Retrieval. Selecting this option will automatically create a cryptographic key pair and request and install a certificate in the browser's certificate store on the machine you are browsing from. As the creation of the certificate signing request is automated the only two pieces of information that need to be filled in are the registration (or reference) number and the authorization (or activation) code. There are options to change Cryptographic Service Provider if desired.

**NHS Certificate Enrollment Service**

**Browser Certificate Request**

Please enter the reference number and authorization code that you received from the Administrator.

Reference Number :

Authorization Code :

The appropriate Cryptographic Service Provider (CSP) should be selected automatically in the selection box below. In order to use a smart card reader, or other cryptographic add-on, select the appropriate CSP. When you switch to another CSP type, the CSP list will be updated with the providers of the specified type.

CSP type :

CSP :

Once the submit request button is pressed you may be prompted to create a key pair. E.g the following is the Internet Explorer prompt.



Depending on the security settings of your browser you may be prompted to allow the installation of the certificate or other cryptographic actions. If so respond in the affirmative.

### Option three – Create computer/Device certificate

Select "Computer, Device or Windows Server" option under Certificate Retrieval. Although very similar to the previous option this will automatically create a key pair and request and install a certificate in the Local Machine CAPI (certificate) store. Again only the reference number and authorization code are needed before the request is submitted.

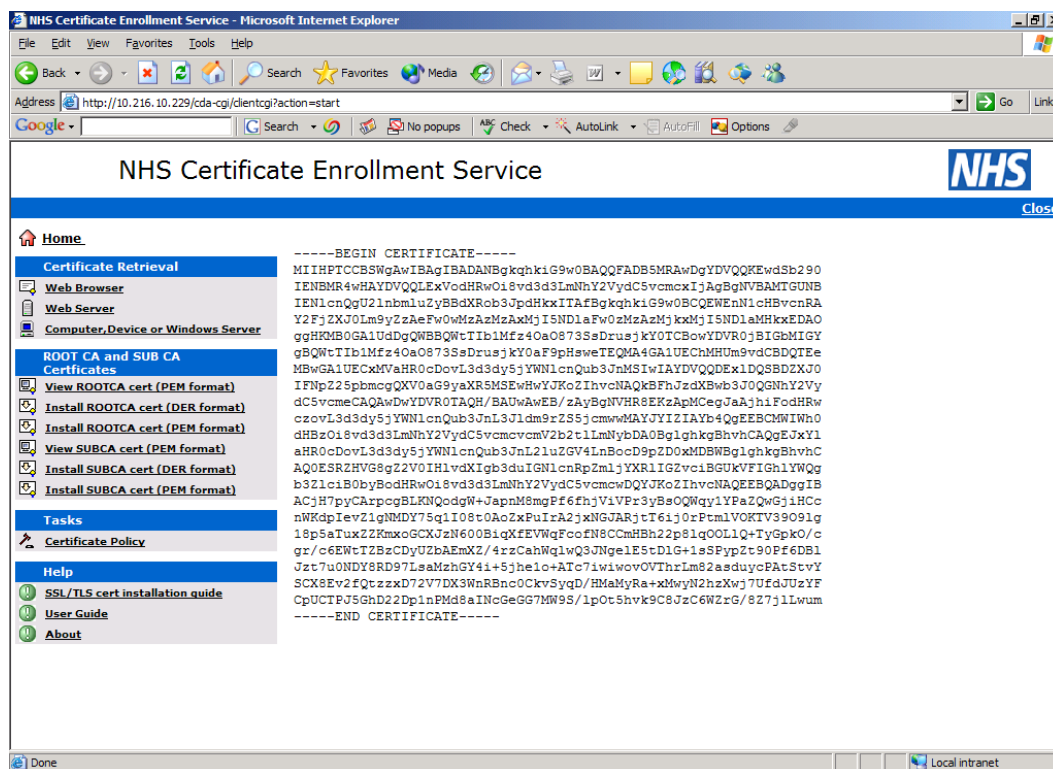
Once the submit request button is pressed you may be prompted to create a key pair. The following is the Internet Explorer prompt.



Depending on the security settings of your browser you may be prompted to allow the installation of the certificate or other cryptographic actions. If so respond in the affirmative.

## Other uses of ESW

ESW also allows anybody on N3 to retrieve the Root and Subordinate CA certificates for that environment. For example if you select the “Install ROOTCA cert (PEM format)” link in the left hand pane you will get the following screen:



The root certificate can be cut and pasted from this screen.

## Troubleshooting ESW

ESW is a simple system that is easy and reliable to use once the initial learning curve has been completed. There are times however when a submitted request may fail. Error messages are intentionally obscure to ensure few clues as to the problem with the submission are communicated to unauthorised users.

The following problems (in order of prevalence) will cause failure of an ESW submission and should be used as a simple checklist for initial troubleshooting.

- An incorrect Registration Number or Activation Code.
- Activation Codes have expired. As a security feature activation codes have a limited lifetime. This is currently set at six weeks.

- An incorrectly created PKCS#10. The PKCS#10 *must* be created with the Common Name set to the Registration Number that is communicated to you by the Endpoint Registration Team.
- A poorly formatted PKCS#10. Typically, spurious characters can be introduced into the body of the PKCS#10 text whilst cutting and pasting into/from files. This is dependent on the text editors used for the purpose, and whether text is pasted in email bodies etc. It is recommended that the simplest text editors are used for the purpose and if the created PKCS#10 is transported by email it is sent as a file rather than a text string in the body of the mail. NB The delimiters “---begin new certificate request-----” and “-----end new certificate request-----” must be present at the start and end of the encoded text string.
- Incorrect Cryptographic Provider for key pair generation (RSA 1024 should be used).

If a problem still occurs after these potential causes have been investigated please contact the Endpoint Registration Team on 0845 600 2956.

End of Document.