

I have installed Let's Encrypt SSL. Can I use cloudflare with it?

reviewturtleWP 2016-03-17 13:49:30 UTC #1

I just installed SSL certificate on my website <https://www.universalbloggingtips.com>. Would there be any problem if I activate CloudFlare with it?

Thanks! 😊

pfg 2016-03-17 14:46:52 UTC #2

I use Let's Encrypt behind CloudFlare as well, works without any problems.

Two things you should know:

- If you're currently using `tls-sni-01` to verify domain ownership (that's the default for the apache plugin, as an example), that won't work behind CloudFlare and you'll have to switch to `http-01`. You might want to look at [this thread](#) for some details.
- CloudFlare is a reverse proxy, so your TLS sessions are (necessarily) no longer end-to-end-encrypted, meaning CloudFlare (or any adversary that has owned CloudFlare) *could* read your traffic.

Make sure to use the `Full SSL (strict)` option in CloudFlare as well, so that CloudFlare only accepts valid and trusted certificates from your backend server.

leo10 2016-09-13 09:38:53 UTC #3

Hi, could please provide some steps to install Let's Encrypt on VPS that's already using CloudFlare service.

serverco 2016-09-13 09:55:01 UTC #4

leo10:

Hi, could please provide some steps to install Let's Encrypt on VPS that's already using CloudFlare service.

What mode are you using cloudflare in ? Just for DNS ? or are you using the full caching of cloudflare ? What do you have (and want) as the SSL settings ? Flexible SSL ? Full SSL ? Full (Strict) SSL ? and are you on the free plan or a paid plan ?

leo10 2016-09-13 10:20:29 UTC #5

Hello,

- Full caching of ClouFlare.
- I have Flexibal SSL, and I want Full(strict) SSL.
- Free plan.

Thank you for your time.

pfg 2016-09-13 10:33:46 UTC #6

The instructions in the [linked thread](#) should be sufficient. If you're running into any problems, we'll need more details.

leo10 2016-09-13 13:04:22 UTC #7

Okay thanks, just a quick question, is it possible to use the SSL certificate(Full Strict) and continue using ClouFlare's free plan or should I upgraid to a piad one ?

serverco 2016-09-13 13:31:45 UTC #8

You can use the free plan.

Using the cloudflare SSL certificate (Full Strict) then the user will see the cloudflare certificate of course, not your personal certificate from Let's Encrypt (I don't know if that is an issue for you or not).

leo10 2016-09-14 15:22:10 UTC #9

I contacted SiteGround's support and they've told me that ;

" Let's encrypt provides you with HTTPS encryption that is not compatible with the free CloudFlare CDN , in order to use LE SSL or any other SSL provider I have to upgrade my ClouFlare plan " so is it really true ?

cool110 2016-09-14 15:48:10 UTC #10

It's half true, the LE cert will only protect the connection between your server and CloudFlare. The connection between the public and CloudFlare will be protected by one of CloudFlare's certs.

It's still important to have the LE cert however, even if the public will never see it.

prateekvarma 2017-06-14 13:18:27 UTC #11

The short answer is yes.

However, bear in mind that since Cloudflare acts as a reverse proxy, there will be two connections -

1. Visitors -> Cloudflare
2. Cloudflare -> Your server

The trouble is, that the SSL used for point 1, will use Cloudflare's free Universal SSL, which does not work with Windows XP (sp3) systems.

Which means, even if you install Lets Encrypt on such a setup, your visitors using Win XP will not be able to use your website.

So if your website has a subsequent number of XP users (such as mine, i get around 15% XP users) - Cloudflare's free plan is not such a good idea.

I'm not sure why Cloudflare won't use something like Let's Encrypt instead of Universal SSL - maybe it's from a business perspective.

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