

# OCSP Peer Verification

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## Release History

Revision	Date	Description
1	2023-06-20	Initial release

## Context and Problem Statement

Many users of NATS are highly invested in X.509 certificates to identify applications, certificate authority tooling and policies, and ultimately TLS handshake to authenticate applications in their environment (solely or in combination with NATS user credentials). OCSP Peer adds the option for NATS Server to OCSP verify an *external peer* against the peer's own certificate authority (or authorities) at the time of TLS negotiation and before ultimately accepting or rejecting the TLS connection. External peers are NATS client applications establishing mutual TLS (mTLS) connections with NATS Server (MQTT, WebSocket, and NATS protocols) and NATS Leaf connections (over mTLS and TLS) between two NATS Servers.

OCSP Peer allows an operator to allow or revoke NATS connectivity at either a fine-grain (leaf certificate) or coarse-grain level (intermediate CA certificate) using their CA tools and CA OCSP responder capabilities.

Adding dependency on peer-specified CA OCSP responder services for client connection necessarily adds a single point of failure (SPOF) from the NATS Server point of view and will in any case slow overall connection time. To mitigate, OCSP Peer is paired with a local OCSP response cache whose main purpose is to minimize expensive network calls to external services, but also to provide some connection resilience (in the happy-path) when OCSP responder services are offline or not reachable.

This feature is intended to comply with the following standards:

Standard	Description
<a href="#">RFC 6960: X.509 Internet Public Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol - OCSP</a>	OCSP Responder specification (Sections 2.1, 2.2)
<a href="#">RFC 5280: Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile</a>	Authority Information Access (AIA) extension (Section 4.2.2.1)

## Prior Work

The OCSP Stapling (Server 2.3+) feature enables NATS Server to pre-fetch and "staple" its own CA verification (OCSP response) to be used in identity exchange with an inbound TLS client during handshake if so-requested by the TLS client.

A NATS Server so-configured also validates the staple provided by an *internal peer* NATS Server of the same cluster (ROUTE connections) or of the same supercluster (GATEWAY connections) in handshake negotiations that it initiates as a TLS client.

Note: OCSF Peer applies to CLIENT and LEAF connections only and does not overlap or supersede the OCSF Stapling feature.

## Design

The OCSF Peer feature has four main elements:

OCSF:

- **Verification check** during TLS handshake after trust-store verification
- **Eligibility check** based on CA's AIA assertion in trust-chain certificates
- **Callout to CA** responder service for eligible certificates
- **Response cache** to minimize callouts (in an expiry period set by the CA)

## Configuration

### Configuring OCSF peer verification

In the NATS Server configuration file, the `ocsp_peer` configuration option may be added to the respective `tls` configuration map of the following client and leaf connection types:

Client connection type	TLS map of (configuration)	During TLS handshake, OCSF verify of	TLS verify (mTLS) required
Inbound NATS	<i>Root</i>	TLS client	Yes
Inbound MQTT	<code>mqtt</code>	TLS client	Yes
Inbound WebSocket	<code>websocket</code>	TLS client	Yes
Inbound Leaf (hub)	<code>leafnodes</code>	TLS client	Yes
Outbound Leaf (spoke)	<i>Leafnode</i> <code>remote</code>	TLS server	No

OCSF verification check will be made during TLS handshake **after** trust-chain verification is successful, i.e. peer's leaf certificate chains to server's trusted CA certificate(s) specified in `ca_file` or the operating system's default trust store (when unset).

### Defaults, short, and long form

The `ocsp_peer` configuration option may be specified in short or long forms.

#### Short form

The short form is a boolean value:

<code>ocsp_peer</code>	OCSF peer verification for the TLS map
<code>true</code>	Is enabled; equivalent to long form with <code>verify: true</code> and otherwise defaults

ocsp\_peer

OCSP peer verification for the TLS map

false (default, unset)    Is not enabled

Here is an example NATS Server configuration snippet for Inbound NATS connections:

```
port: 4222
tls {
  cert_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/server1/TestServer1_bundle.pem"
  key_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-
ca/server1/private/TestServer1_keypair.pem"
  ca_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/root/root_cert.pem"
  timeout: 5
  verify: true
  ocsp_peer: true
}
```

Long form

The long form is a map of customization options:

```
port: 4222
tls: {
  cert_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/server1/TestServer1_bundle.pem"
  key_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-
ca/server1/private/TestServer1_keypair.pem"
  ca_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/root/root_cert.pem"
  timeout: 5
  verify: true
  ocsp_peer: {
    verify: true
    ca_timeout: 2
    allowed_clockskew: 30
    warn_only: false
    unknown_is_good: false
    allow_when_ca_unreachable: false
    cache_ttl_when_next_update_unset: 3600
  }
}
```

Customization options

Option	Description	Type	Default
verify	Enable OCSP peer validation	bool	false
ca_timeout	OCSP responder timeout in seconds (may be fractional)	float64	2
allowed_clockskew	Allowed skew between server and OCSP responder time in seconds (may be fractional)	float64	30

Option	Description	Type	Default
warn_only	Warn-only and never reject connections	bool	false
unknown_is_good	Treat response <i>Unknown</i> status as valid certificate	bool	false
allow_when_ca_unreachable	Warn-only if no CA response can be obtained and no cached revocation exists	bool	false
cache_ttl_when_next_update_unset	If response <i>NextUpdate</i> unset by CA, set a default cache TTL in seconds (may be fractional) from <i>ThisUpdate</i>	float64	3600

### Configuring OCSP response cache

In the NATS Server configuration file, the `ocsp_cache` configuration option may be used to explicitly enable a server-scoped OCSP response cache. Such cache will be used for all TLS listeners enabled for OCSP Peer Verification (as above).

Note: If `ocsp_cache` is configured, but no TLS listeners are enabled for OCSP Peer Verification, the NATS Server will not initialize a cache. If `ocsp_cache` is absent, but one or more TLS listeners are enabled for OCSP Peer Verification, the NATS Server *will* initialize a local cache with default settings. This is equivalent to `ocsp_cache: true`.

### Defaults, short, and long form

The `ocsp_cache` configuration option may be specified in short or long forms.

#### Short form

The short form is a boolean value:

ocsp_cache	OCSP cache behavior
true (default, unset)	Is enabled; equivalent to long form with <code>type: local</code> and otherwise defaults
false	Is disabled; equivalent to long form with <code>type: none</code>

Here is an example NATS Server configuration snippet with short form configuration:

```
port: 4222
ocsp_cache: true
tls {
  cert_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/server1/TestServer1_bundle.pem"
  key_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/server1/private/TestServer1_keypair.pem"
  ca_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/root/root_cert.pem"
  timeout: 5
  verify: true
  ocsp_peer: true
}
```

#### Long form

The long form is a map of cache customization options:

```
port: 4222
ocsp_cache: {
  type: local
  local_store: "_rc_"
  preserve_revoked: false
  save_interval: 300
}
tls: {
  cert_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/server1/TestServer1_bundle.pem"
  key_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-
ca/server1/private/TestServer1_keypair.pem"
  ca_file: "configs/certs/ocsp_peer/mini-ca/root/root_cert.pem"
  timeout: 5
  verify: true
  ocsp_peer: true
}
```

Customization options

Option	Description	Type	Default
type	Sets the cache implementation: <code>local</code> or <code>none</code>	string	<code>local</code>
local_store	Sets the directory where the local cache will persist <code>cache.json</code> . Relative paths will be relative to current working directory of the NATS Server executable.	string	<code>_rc_</code>
preserve_revoked	When set to <code>true</code> the local cache implementation will ignore commands to delete cached responses of status <i>Revoke</i> . See also OCSP Peer setting <code>allow_when_ca_unreachable</code> .	bool	<code>false</code>
save_interval	Set how often the in-memory <code>local</code> cache is persisted to disk (in seconds). The default value is 5 minute interval saves (every 300 seconds). A minimum value of 1 second is enforced.	float64	<code>300</code>

Peer OCSP verification

Trust-chain pre-requisite

Peer OCSP verification occurs during TLS handshake cycle, only AFTER successful trust-chain verification. Peer connections are immediately rejected if trust-chain verification fails.

Peer rejection

If a peer connection is rejected due to failed OCSP verification, the peer will receive a summary TLS handshake error from the NATS Server as:

Handshake reject	Connection type
client not OCSP valid	NATS, WebSocket, and MQTT client connections. Inbound Leaf (hub) connections.

Handshake reject	Connection type
server not OCSF valid	Outbound Leaf (spoke) connections.

The connection is then terminated.

Log entries

Certificate's that fail OCSF verification - which could be a peer leaf certificate or an Intermediate CA certificate - will be logged at **warning** level.

A rejected peer connection will be logged at **error** level (the same whether OCSF verification is enabled or not).

```
[6980] 2023/06/20 12:50:07.444055 [WRN] OCSF verify fail for
[CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US] with CA status [revoked]
[6980] 2023/06/20 12:50:07.444125 [ERR] 127.0.0.1:57312 - cid:7 - TLS handshake error:
client not OCSF valid
```

Advisory system events

The NATS Server will also emit Advisory system events corresponding to the log entries above:

Event type	Event subject	Event frequency
io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp_peer_reject	<code>\$SYS.SERVER.&lt;server&gt;.OCSP.PEER.CONN.REJECT</code>	1 per rejected connection
io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp_peer_link_invalid	<code>\$SYS.SERVER.&lt;server&gt;.OCSP.PEER.LINK.INVALID</code>	1 per link evaluated and invalid

See below in this document for event payload examples.

Peer rejected event

If a peer connection is rejected due to failed OCSF verification, the NATS Server will emit an advisory system event. This event carries information about the peer's leaf certificate to aid operators in diagnosing a configuration issue or attempted exploit that is preventing successful connections.

Note: This advisory event does not imply that the peer's leaf certificate directly failed OCSF verification. The leaf certificate (e.g. Subject field) is used as top-level peer identification as rejection takes place *before* NATS Authorization and binding to a NATS User/Account.

Peer link invalid event

Whenever a certificate's OCSF response is obtained and the CA has asserted not "Good", the NATS Server will emit an advisory system event. The event carries information about the certificate's (Subject) identity as well as the certificate identity of the corresponding peer's leaf certificate. This event aids operators in understanding the root cause of a

peer's connection rejection, i.e. the specific certificate that is OCSLP valid which could be the leaf certificate of the peer or an Intermediate CA certificate.

Note: In the typical case, there will be one peer link invalid event per peer rejection, i.e. the peer's single trust-chain OCSLP invalidated immediately upon finding a single invalid link; however, *if the peer forms multiple trust-chains*, there may be multiple peer link invalid events at time of connection, and the peer may ultimately be allowed or rejected.

## OCSLP Peer verification criteria

### OCSLP verified

Peer with:

1. A self-signed certificate
2. At least one chain with *zero* OCSLP-eligible links
3. At least one chain with *one or more* OCSLP-eligible links having a "Good" OCSLP response for all eligible links

### OCSLP NOT verified

Peer with: 4. None of the above ([1],[2],[3]) true

### Criteria modifiers

Non-default configuration settings modify above criterion as follows:

- If `unknown_is_good` is `true` then a CA response of *Unknown* status is considered the same as *Good* status as it applies to [3].
- If `allow_when_ca_unreachable` is `true` then a non-response is considered *Good* status as it applies to [3].

Note: When `allow_when_ca_unreachable` is `true`, if a *Revoked* CA response entry is found in cache, even if "expired" (in respect to NextUpdate), the corresponding chain is NOT verified in respect to [3].

## Peer OCSLP eligibility

After trust is determined, there is *at least one* verified trust chain that connects the leaf certificate to the NATS Server's trust-anchor. Each chain is evaluated for links (certificates) that are OCSLP eligible. A certificate is considered OCSLP eligible if the certificate's issuing CA declares an OCSLP responder web URI (http or https) in the certificate's **Authority Information Access (AIA) extension**. Non-web URI schemes are NOT supported and are ignored.

Note: In practice, CA OCSLP Responders usually reside at non-TLS web endpoints (http) as their OCSLP Responses are intentionally public and digitally signed. Hosting CA OCSLP Responders at TLS web endpoints (https) may create ambiguity in certificate verification. NATS Server will attempt to use https endpoints if encountered; the server host's default trust store will be used to verify the web server.

If the link is the trust-anchor, i.e. *explicitly* trusted by the NATS Server, then the link is not evaluated for OCSLP eligibility.

Note: A trust "chain" may consist of just one link, the leaf certificate. This is self-signed trust (there is no CA). In this case, the leaf certificate is a trust-anchor and is not OCSLP eligible.

### Certificate example

In the following OpenSSL-style "pretty print" of certificate extensions for a sample client certificate, the CA's declared Authority Information Access (AIA) web URI is shown:

```
X509v3 extensions:
  X509v3 Subject Key Identifier:
    AF:4B:3E:F2:BE:A1:F2:E5:7E:0B:31:CC:BB:A5:5F:83:7F:42:B3:94
  X509v3 Authority Key Identifier:
    7B:14:FB:1B:B4:A0:09:30:C8:81:BC:E1:01:32:67:D0:68:A8:A3:D1
  X509v3 Basic Constraints: critical
    CA:FALSE
  Netscape Cert Type:
    SSL Client, S/MIME
  X509v3 Key Usage: critical
    Digital Signature, Non Repudiation, Key Encipherment
  X509v3 Extended Key Usage:
    TLS Web Client Authentication, E-mail Protection
  X509v3 CRL Distribution Points:
    Full Name:
      URI:http://crl.tinghus.net/intermediate_crl.der
  Authority Information Access:
    OCSP - URI:http://ocsp.tinghus.net/
  X509v3 Subject Alternative Name:
    email:UserA1@user.net
```

## OCSP responder callout

When evaluating an eligible trust-chain certificate for OCSP validity, the OCSP response cache will always be checked first. If no existing OCSP response entry is found in cache, or a found entry is not in an effective time window, then the NATS Server will make a synchronous call to the CA OCSP responder's web endpoint.

Note: The NATS Server must have network access to the CA OCSP responder's web endpoint as well as DNS access to resolve a URI expressed as a hostname and domain.

NATS Server will wait for (default) 2 seconds for an HTTP response from the OCSP responder. The timeout is configurable as the `ca_timeout` option. If no response, or a non-HTTP 200 response is received, the NATS Server will log an error and consider the certificate not OCSP valid for purposes of peer evaluation. As the CA's actual intent is ambiguous, no advisory system event will be emitted. If a successful HTTP response is received, the response payload will be parsed as an OCSP Response. If the response fails to parse than an error will be logged and the certificate will be considered not OCSP valid for evaluation purposes; no advisory system event will be emitted.

If the response parses, the CA's OCSP Response will be evaluated to determine:

- Valid digital signature of the OCSP Response, either the issuing CA or a signing delegate entitled by the issuing CA
- Valid effectivity time window, i.e. "now" after **ThisUpdate** and before **NextUpdate**
- Certificate's status in set **Good**, **Revoked**, or **Unknown**

Successfully obtained and valid OCSP Responses will be cached for future use.

## OCSP response cache

There are two implementation types of OCSP response cache:



Cache Type	Description
<code>none</code>	A "no-op" cache implementation. No OCSP responses are cached.
<code>local</code>	A server-scoped in-memory cache with periodic snapshot to disk.

The default cache type is `local`. The `none` cache type exists for testing purposes or an operating environment where there is a mandated OCSP check of peer certificates at every connection.

## Local cache

The `local` cache type is a server-scoped in-memory cache with periodic snapshot to disk. The persistent snapshot is a JSON document in a file named `cache.json`. The `local_store` cache configuration option is used to tell NATS Server where to find `cache.json` on startup/reload (if it exists) and where to write the latest snapshot periodically (every 5 minutes by default) and at server shutdown. The default `local_store` value if unset is relative directory path `_rc_`. Snapshot frequency may be configured with the `save_interval` option (value in seconds).

Note: Setting a fully qualified directory path for `local_store` is recommended

Eviction of expired OCSP responses from cache is "passive" in the sense that cache entries are only evicted when the respective certificate is evaluated again as constituent of a peer connection attempt. If the cached entry is found to be expired at that time, it is evicted. Note that the cache option `preserve_revoked` can be enabled such that cached responses that represent certificate revocations are never evicted (although they can be replaced by a newer response).

## Format

The persisted format is essentially a map of certificates (keyed by certificate hash) to obtained CA OCSP responses `resp`. Responses are stored as base64 encoding of the raw bytes returned by the CA OCSP responder.

Additional fields `subject`, `resp_status`, and `resp_expires` are extracted and stored in human-readable format for operator convenience and debugging purposes, but are "non-normative" for runtime OCSP verification.

Note: Whether a CA OCSP Response is obtained from cache or directly from web call, identical response parsing and validation is performed at runtime.

Example `cache.json` file with three cached OCSP responses:

```
{
  "0aJpXCPoR06ZTxm0lhuXlEM25YBWGUjiZzQFu9Y0/Q=": {
    "subject": "CN=UserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US",
    "cached_at": "2023-06-05T23:13:15Z",
    "resp_status": "good",
    "resp_expires": "2023-06-05T23:14:15Z",
    "resp":
"/wYAAFMyc1R3TwBOBQBOTsRv0gzUMIIGTgoBAKCCBkcwggZDBgkrBgEFBQcwAQEEggY0MIIGMDCB5KFYMFYxCzA
JBgNVBAYTA1VTEQogCAwCV0ExDzANAAQ0wBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgERNAoMB1RpbmdodXMxZzAVARLwdgMMDk9DU1A
gUmVzcG9uZGVyGA8yMDIzMDYwNTIzMTMxNVowdzB1ME0wCQYFKw4DAhoFAAQUYj2aszQjKY7QXbC4y+QQ1jxp/20
EFHsU+Xu0oAkwyIG84QEYz9BoqKPRAhRp14uSS8bBa7SX0U8Biv0HaHpKgIAAQmYABKARMhMAADQBefQ9AQ0GCSq
GSIB3DQEBCwUAA4IBAQAQTe7D6y7jSpQf5o7U0ZK6cfQNMH3bYaVAHsVZKLfcS9jImaK00uEmXaHQZeZntMRA8As
7sndd48le0V3u4EZ5fP2Uuwra/GT/K20uvNhrVkovKypQvK98oWkx92HW2M01qNRae/vB1V5zrEY/snJjq94MF1
WXvX0C04HnEYF2GjLuDIOLhk0dDcuJ+x4G0fXMkGf/QRixGkT1suaJVpBoeVQPphjYNskjWfu33QqAx6WLDsVpJ
C6eVCriLqxEWHJPnnbHtdXEp0+rj9LU+o3zZxI+VeVxPMQ0pnbpFv+JczGtB2ZLjPjLRVrxGom2W49nIkX+nuTKE
Gsu2dzoCJoIIEMTCCBC0wggQpMIIDEaADAgECAhQXEaeCXcregyeqhdBXzFyrMhgHNjo/AQQwV1Ej1jACCBgwFkk
```

```
woA9JbnRlcm1lZG1hdGUGQ0EwHhcNMjMwNDE3MjE1MDU0WhcNMjQwNDE2DQ9RqRUASAwggEiLiMCAAEFAPRAAQ8
AMIIBCgKCAQEA0NEVY8NMjY71RBZvSw02fhp3MerRQaFM6pvXZgqYD5CzBfuEE1Mn+mYx31lWRPcK+xAjQJvT3K
HdzOVYztAIM0t231R+TdLI+VEsW6j70kWazJbfYqswPfYLoaYjpmfgfdd2XlmCwm9wdQMUCtAgxwnu8rZef24CkBL
L9TP0pqu5kNNRXWSTTsmcLsZ6EfQfyXujurX1/HHlv2ebU126QIMKoJ+CS0mPPDiS/Rpv7QEYlLaHuEfcsTOWKZn
S9vVYQdXY8Qc3UKk38E/c5PNeOkaV5+5hIhEmE+ouQSnttpYSXIb1ZUFg1HG/A/Yq1yFjCuDlSYHNmnxMsPDhz5
zjwIDAQABO4HtMIHqMB0GA1UdDgQWBbTtTAyYBkUuCWf70JHb2P0XDAVH+TAfBgNVHSMEGDAWgFLHAzQwDAYDVR0
TAQH/BAIwAIVMBB0PAQ4QBAMCB4BFGgQdJQEQAwwCgYIibGAAwkWPAYDVR0fBDUwMzAxoC+gLYYraHR0cDovL2N
ybC50iYkULm5ldC9pXVMkX2Nybc5kZXIwNBFKHAEBBCgwJjAkERAMMAGGGA1JDG9jc3AySgAuEgKRNfD/hM0u+Ha
L3XCwZPiY5b2sdUQCkAJVQCeUHGhYjn5DU1R0v5euXF33+/TwnBbYuFnT7x6r1qAfiZvOQkrViOJVFYCYMITLOUW
5RJac2G0hiSpfcFgHN36VuL3qxdGXVSmtCC5J/uuLvs10a1gRKtoAcmAHV1MbwndnjS8/mIesw0oueJgbYI+GNb2
03+acdQuv6jZonK/7ZeHkGeMgumMOBTQ0RKtkmzDDp4xIASDctTQCZf3M1JF8pQVfBOE92oZIA5b2rAg5YoGoy8K
4ZAT26NBuaUEVgaC0+zc9FI0lrzyqgNF43A/w19nj0sAX0n3uGZBKVtRxR2sUeL/EUqW4HQ==
},
"6QS2jCKv9hRrgLR0/2VTuNSVmtWa+/j1jEumc9QBBbY=": {
  "subject": "CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US",
  "cached_at": "2023-06-05T23:14:54Z",
  "resp_status": "revoked",
  "resp_expires": "2023-06-05T23:15:53Z",
  "resp":
"/wYAAFMyc1R3TwBIBQBm6fX86gzUMIIGZgoBAKCCB18wggZbBgkrBgEFBQcwAQEEggZMMIIGSDCB/KFYMFYxCzA
JBgNVBAYTA1VTEQ0gCAwCV0EXDzANAAQ0wBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgERNAoMB1RpbmdodXMxZzAVARLweAMMDk9DU1A
gUmVzcG9uZGVyGA8yMDIzMdyWNTIzMTQ1M1owgY4wgYswTTAJBgUrDgMCGGUABBRiPZqzNCMpjtBdsLjL5BCWPGn
/bQQUexT7G7SgCTDIgzbhATJn0G1oo9ECFEW+adELDY2oBZMwjEsvsrzK65o1oRYNaDg0MTgwNjE0MDdaoAMKAQE
NFhl+BKARMAAUBKfQ9AQ0GCSqGSIB3DQEBcWUAA4IBAQBFOdy3eZ00v4jmm812XNCdn/tWspM1tSwxOFFyk2D
uSTiu64L8QTPkts2b7Ls9JvEomhgremytV3XqxsuNo1V1KRdclTy9t63RY7axCcw2X2qB7SRsM112XgSWpITGU
MmXLf4Tq8SRCCsEzDVDz9V3z25W/kE9eG2E4pmEjL0LU8FdkNW7Zm6F4xBy30LhZnjcY1Ic1KiKat9xjAm8fx18/
KwUn+fqm/pGw1kFzaIEuuzH1zVQmfW56gahLu/Pf1bgoDemjHvbdMJEDu80DFxQ50kyJtD0CKEDVvapyjkltcX1A
4qRT1v58IcGNyWu6Yk/NYcVcr687cT51t0GAoIIEMTCCBC0wggQpMIIDEaADAgECAhQXEaeCXcregyeqhdBxzFy
rMhgHNjo/AQQwV1E71kgCCBgwFk1IoA9JbnRlcm1lZG1hdGUGQ0EwHhcNMjMwNDE3MjE1MDU0WhcNMjQwNDE2DQ9
RwRUASAwggEiLiMCAAEFAPRAAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEA0NEVY8NMjY71RBZvSw02fhp3MerRQaFM6pvXZgqYD5CzBf
uEE1Mn+mYx31lWRPcK+xAjQJvT3KHdzOVYztAIM0t231R+TdLI+VEsW6j70kWazJbfYqswPfYLoaYjpmfgfdd2Xl
mCwm9wdQMUCtAgxwnu8rZef24CkBL9TP0pqu5kNNRXWSTTsmcLsZ6EfQfyXujurX1/HHlv2ebU126QIMKoJ+CS0m
PPDiS/Rpv7QEYlLaHuEfcsTOWKZnS9vVYQdXY8Qc3UKk38E/c5PNeOkaV5+5hIhEmE+ouQSnttpYSXIb1ZUFg1H
G/A/Yq1yFjCuDlSYHNmnxMsPDhz5zjwIDAQABO4HtMIHqMB0GA1UdDgQWBbTtTAyYBkUuCWf70JHb2P0XDAVH+TA
fBgNVHSMEGDAWgFLdA1AwDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADAoBgNVHQ8BDhAEAwIHgEUaBB01ARAQDDAKBgijYADCTA8BgN
VHR8ENTAzMDGgLAthitodHRwOi8vY3JsLnSjORQuBmV0L2ldUyRfY3JsLmRlcjA0EUocAQEEKDAMMCQREAwAYY
YDUkMb2NzcDJKAC4SApE18P+EzS74dovdclBk+Jj1vax1RBwAo1VAJ5QcaFiofKNTVE6/165cXff79PCCFti4WdP
vHqvWoB+Jm85CStWI41UlvhwhhMs5Rb1ElpzYY6GJK19wWAc3fpW4verF0ZdVKA0ILkn+6ou+zxRqWBEq2gByYad
XUxvCd2eNLz+Yh6zDSi54mBtgj4Y1vY7f5px1C6/qNmicr/tl4eQZ4yC6Yw4FNDREq2SbMMOnjEgCwNy1NAJ1/cy
UkXy1BV8E4T3ahkgDlvasCD1igajLwrhkBpbo0G5pQRWBoLT7Nz0Ug6WvPKqA0Xjcd/CX2ePSwBfSfe4ZkEpw1HF
HaxR4v8RSpbgd"
},
"L5KmmDwaZ7JRPU+5+6qPS+QIZiHcbAUnc5YmLaZAI=": {
  "subject": "CN=Intermediate CA,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US",
  "cached_at": "2023-06-05T23:13:15Z",
  "resp_status": "good",
  "resp_expires": "2023-06-05T23:14:15Z",
  "resp":
"/wYAAFMyc1R3TwBIBQC6qBY3ygzUMIIGRgoBAKCCBj8wggY7BgkrBgEFBQcwAQEEggYsMIIGKDCB56FbMFkxCzA
JBgNVBAYTA1VTEQ0gCAwCV0EXDzANAAQ0wBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgERNAoMB1RpbmdodXMxZzAVARLweQMMEUNBIE9
DU1AgUmVzcG9uZGVyGA8yMDIzMdyWNTIzMTMxNVowdzB1ME0wCQYFKw4DAhoFAAQU1u1MFVfdg9oIN8Cm4P8Xbp9
KX8kEFM8miAT60eIHPz6mep0OF7amfxBZAHR05CcEcq0fyUn2DUu67bUK8IKPa4AAQmYABKARMnkAADQBefQ9AQ0
GCSqGSIB3DQEBcWUAA4IBAQDh976LKdW5Ahy3lS1WzyW/J63/Abb2ZprBJVSF/B6zx89VwvYXXWkivMVGd42u1HE
zmrGw5kZEYPcUqn1fOL5lIoOHYgKkitiz1fmRah68P/TUTGxa3le087yKMAZvPC3se/2UG5wfI1yejtJtUxDXeb
GJ2JeM5mhiH1Zhbyv2Q/xN40B0G0dUeEjXbjjcphPQWgc7JBhmG0nITum8KaTjYDKMIBY1ksFpbBMUc1X1cDXBOM
1k4vsVwhwJdr1IF0Y05B8ATQ9Z1M2el0wAfxNASumS4W0+RaftQuiTkE3pGanhWf5S2FpajgI3WNVE5SKx8HGIOy
DsVUKDEE2pmsyoIEIjCCBCIwggQeMIIDBqADAgECAhRzwwLtr51fhJo/zMDyBaVvAMws1Do/AQQwT1Em1jMCTUV
```

```

0AwwHUm9vdCBDQTAEfW0yMzA0MTcyMjM2NDFaFw0zAQ8ANA0AUaQVAEsMMIIBIi4eAgABBQD0QAEPADCCAQoCggE
BAPFecS6VD9uWs391mirSF2ZvtVRQMQM2TGm1PJC6nUDfpizT7vvdqye2U3Yqiv5D++UEijY1UGCB5Ufb6GDUv0EB
XMP+sN9088ZXTpZoNd1dy4x9uSfDm/eP5o1sR98b+G1BfDFU+94jHP+6bMifp40NeYCRz2Rz1qfBjr30BW/CxS17
j1qJtkEH480KGMh8VpfF12Vi30/Yg1Impr9IabI6CZW78ua302epo6wFett2LgStDYqIw49RklnHFHcXBRkkfoCi
j5ybpmyobl0JB0k6YgXV05oKMS6ewnH6SgShVTdfnFqWBjTu6RSvk4uwmuvz0p69IvAiqcIFW4MA1ucCAwEAAa0
B5zCB5DAdBgNVHQ4EFgQUmmQFckE8vZEKxkWDa7os3EPMci8wHwYDVR0jBBgwFoBSwgM0MAwGA1UdEwEB/wQCMAC
FSgQdDwEOGAQDAgeAMBYBHgAlARAQDDAKBgijr4ADCTA0BgNVHR8ELTArMCmgJ6AlhiNodHRwOi8vY3JsLnSJh0g
ubmV0L3Jvb3RfY3JsLmRlcjA2EUICAQEEKjAoMCYRUgwwAYYaEUEQYW9jc3AyRAAuDAKRKvD/5k6KPs+YbDzJ39Y
ZONiYEwlqsgeo1XjXfSW/pcOcjsYMRbTmxLlVz1JEoDFHfmQ380G1+oAez22tz0SfNhnSNpUGMng6MvLsq0i9r58
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6drC1mMdAsSaeCDxUx4pUyvpbSkr7RF1NVRZTz0qAvXwVBgzbpuDgKURdIlWgvo6+t9GSewMtVRSS79BqZ2AWZ01
b1Q7T4VHE1Y2tRyYoYPoJ/64aFeUMIPKnBA0Kd6k/1B2cYIa88bSQbh1lecS0rw=="
}
}

```

## Monitoring additions

As a visual indication for operators, a new field will appear in **varz** JSON output wherever **ocsp\_peer** has been enabled in a TLS map:

```

...
"tls_ocsp_peer_verify": true,
...

```

If **ocsp\_cache** is enabled (implicitly or explicitly) **varz** will reflect the current cache type and provide updated cache statistics to help the operator understand cache effectiveness:

```

"ocsp_peer_cache": {
  "cache_type": "local",
  "cache_misses": 2,
  "cached_responses": 3,
  "cached_revoked_responses": 1,
  "cached_good_responses": 2
}

```

## Debug logging

The following debug-enabled log output shows log entries example for: server startup, a rejected peer connection due to a revoked certificate, and server shutdown.

```

...
[6638] [DBG] Starting OCSP peer cache
[6638] [DBG] Loading OCSP peer cache [/home/todd/lab/mtls-ocsp/test/_rc_/cache.json]
[6638] [DBG] No OCSP peer cache found, starting with empty cache
[6638] [INF] OCSP peer cache online, type [local]
[6638] [INF] Server is ready
...
[6638] [DBG] 127.0.0.1:55140 - cid:5 - Client connection created
[6638] [DBG] 127.0.0.1:55140 - cid:5 - Starting TLS client connection handshake
[6638] [DBG] Peer OCSP enabled: 1 TLS client chain(s) will be evaluated

```

```
[6638] [DBG] Chain [0]: 3 total link(s)
[6638] [DBG] Chain [0] has 2 OCSF eligible link(s)
[6638] [DBG] Checking OCSF peer cache for [CN=UserA1,O=Testnats,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US],
key [5xL/SuHl6JN00mxrNMpzVMTA73JVYcRfGX8+HvJinEI=]
[6638] [DBG] OCSF peer cache miss for key [5xL/SuHl6JN00mxrNMpzVMTA73JVYcRfGX8+HvJinEI=]
[6638] [DBG] Trying OCSF responder url [http://127.0.0.1:18888/]
[6638] [DBG] Caching OCSF response for [CN=UserA1,O=Testnats,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US], key
[5xL/SuHl6JN00mxrNMpzVMTA73JVYcRfGX8+HvJinEI=]
[6638] [DBG] OCSF response compression ratio: [0.851943]
[6638] [WRN] OCSF verify fail for [CN=UserA1,O=Testnats,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US] with CA
status [revoked]
[6638] [DBG] Invalid OCSF response status: revoked
[6638] [DBG] No OCSF valid chains, thus peer is invalid
[6638] [ERR] 127.0.0.1:55140 - cid:5 - TLS handshake error: client not OCSF valid
[6638] [DBG] 127.0.0.1:55140 - cid:5 - Client connection closed: TLS Handshake Failure
...
[6638] [INF] Initiating Shutdown...
[6638] [DBG] Client accept loop exiting..
[6638] [DBG] SYSTEM - System connection closed: Client Closed
[6638] [INF] Server Exiting..
[6638] [DBG] Stopping OCSF peer cache
[6638] [DBG] OCSF peer cache is dirty, saving
[6638] [DBG] Saving OCSF peer cache [/home/todd/lab/mtls-ocsp/test/_rc_/cache.json]
[6638] [DBG] Saved OCSF peer cache successfully (2080 bytes)
...
```

## Advisor system events (examples)

Example when a "bad" peer attempts client connection:

```
23:22:10 Subscribing on $SYS.SERVER.*.OCSP.>
[#1] Received on
"$SYS.SERVER.NAXQD6DG5FVZANGJT0B7BM2H3PYDEHSYOZDHNBEJZARWOPDOKL64W4W4.OCSP.PEER.LINK.INVALID"
{"type":"io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp_peer_link_invalid","id":"cDlWM74JVKNnaAQmqC10mT",
"timestamp":"2023-06-20T06:23:13.659116379Z","link":
{"subject":"CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US","issuer":"CN=Intermediate
CA,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US","fingerprint":"6QS2jCKv9hRrgLR0/2VTuNSVmtWa+/j1jEumc9Q
BBbY=", "raw":"MIIEXDCCA0SgAwIBAgIURb5p0QsNjagFkzCMSy+yvOTrmiUwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwVzELMA
kGA1UEBhMCVVMxZCZAJBgNVBAGMAldBMQ8wDQYDVQQHDAZUZYWNvbWExEDAOBgNVBAoMB1RpbmdodXMxGDAwBgNVBA
MMD0ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZSB0QTAeFw0yMzA0MTcyMzA2NTJhFw0yMzA0MTYyMzA2NTJhMFExCzAJBgNVBAYTA1VTMQ
swCQYDVQQIDAjXQTEPMA0GA1UEBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgYDVQQKDAdUaW5naHVzMRIwEAYDVQQDDA1CYWRVc2VyQT
EwggeiMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4IBDwAwggEKAoIBAQCrsWveLaNeL6KzHwNuIXku40sDgX9ys5eW/7mNENRcsx
cAwsZhVcFOaTxjLtkYVPQ19dddTADZCg3W2BIB6vZQixwRggB+xC1GyOQFFuCspAv+mrnLsX/bTo72LJCMzSqYa
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ZQ/kXgmd+ySDBYn9h76I5GG5Trs8U6LRovAgMBAAGjggEkMIIBIDAdBgNVHQ4EFgQUEOaMMHdTJiReYXSfdjMZIU
Edkl8wHwYDVR0jBBGwFoAUext7G7SgCTDIgzbhATJn0Gioo9EwDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADARBg1ghkgBhvhCAQEEBA
MCBAwDgYDVDR0PAQH/BAQDAgXgMB0GA1UdJQQWMBQGCCsGAQUFBwMCBggrBgEFBQcDBDA8BgNVHR8ENTAzMDGgLG6
AthitodHRwOi8vY3J3LnRpbmdodXMubmV0L2ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZV9jcmmuZGVyMDQGCGCsGAQUFBwEBBCGwJjAkBg
grBgEFBQcwAYYYaHR0cDovL29jc3AudGluZ2h1cy5uZXQvMBoGA1UdEQQTMBGBD1VzZXJBmUB1c2VyLm5ldDANBg
kqhkiG9w0BAQsFAAOCAQEADgTil110Tc4dn09Gww4L6CjriTwpFh0sys+cpZ+QF/BbQE1p/UtwPfYE/Vg+COUezC
IIabLTC5pnCwm9S34X7ieRjCGmkMY26QmrP6VzSdFF9lD45Q409YDUqsZMmIKy9XEG1qOR4qUGb+ODmheUmHk3u
Q7LB/kXxbpiNaUwQvBIFX83wh3jNbI8rHACRpQm5Dk81tKh01WGrHE3g1Ic8VgDH9Hr8yTgaesCIwpz3InbX0A1C
CaZCZzWiTKkylNOxdn5e1046SdHT30pFEHc1tpPDHucZKyNJAqlB/Eb+uHS5QaYqg2crWFA/npV4keQCbiCYmQVx
```



```

AviGTPx78TVA=="}, "peer":
{"subject": "CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US", "issuer": "CN=Intermediate
CA,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US", "fingerprint": "6QS2jCKv9hRrgLR0/2VTuNSVmtWa+/j1jEumc9Q
BBbY=", "raw": "MIIEXDCCA0SgAwIBAgIURb5p0QsNjagFkzCMSy+yvOTrmiUwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwVzELMA
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MMD0ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZSBDQTAeFw0yMzA0MTcyMzA2NTJhFw0yNDA0MTYyMzA2NTJhMFExCzAJBgNVBAYTA1VTMQ
swCQYDVQQIDAjXQTEPMA0GA1UEBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgYDVQQKDAdUaW5naHVzMRIwEAYDVQQDDA1CYWRVc2VyQT
EwggEiMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4IBDwAwggEKAoIBAQCrsWveLaNeL6KzHwNuIXku40sDgX9ys5eW/7mNENRcsx
cAwwZhvCFOaTxjLtkYVPQ19dddPZADZCg3W2BIB6vZQixwRggB+xC1GyOQFFuCsPav+mrnLsX/bTo72LJCmZSqYa
x98RuFr/acUgfkAtmaA0xLlauZnAWRZpLMkGMzRKJCo28+XZbzm+Y1Jd0BoMO5+vNtXqZr2Fq5F+NsLPda73BZWE
BQVNB5Mcd5yJmBfZ4KAovwk7ShvzmST94cPolrWzTm/iGM7lnHjKjNjFMKMi8AY+mwdpknr4n6CWcavvGnyrHHKed
ZQ/kXgmd+ySDBYn9h76I5GG5Trs8U6LRovAgMBAAGjggEkMIIIBIDAdBgNVHQ4EFgQUEOaMMHdJiReYXSfDjMZIU
Edkl8wHwYDVR0jBBGwFoAUexT7G7SgCTDIgbzhATJn0Gioo9EwDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADARBg1ghkgBhvhCAQEEBA
MCBAwDgYDVR0PAQH/BAQDAgXgMB0GA1UdJQQWMBQGCCsGAQUFBwMCBggrBgEFBQcDBDA8BgNVHR8ENTAzMDGgLG6
AthitodHRwOi8vY3JsLnRpbmdodXMubmV0L2ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZV9jcmwuZGVyMDQGCSsGAQUFBwEBBCgwJjAkBg
grBgEFBQcwAYYYaHR0cDovL29jc3AudGluZ2h1cy5uZXQvMBoGA1UdEQQTMBGBD1VzZXJBMUB1c2VyLm5ldDANBg
kqhkiG9w0BAQsFAAOCAQEADgTil110Tc4dn09Gww4L6CjriTwpFh0sys+cpZ+QF/BbQE1p/UtwPfYE/Vg+COUezC
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CaZCZzWiTKkylNOxdn5e1046SdHT30pFEHc1tpPDHucZKyNJAqlB/Eb+uHS5QaYqg2crWFA/npVk4eQCbiCYmQVx
AviGTPx78TVA=="}, "server":
{"name": "tester", "host": "0.0.0.0", "id": "NAXQD6DG5FVZANGJTOB7BM2H3PYDEHSYOZDHNBEJZARWOPDO
KL64W4W4", "ver": "2.10.0-beta.41", "seq": 31, "jetstream": true, "time": "2023-06-
20T06:23:13.659211768Z"}, "reason": "Invalid OCSP response status: revoked"}

[#2] Received on
"$SYS.SERVER.NAXQD6DG5FVZANGJTOB7BM2H3PYDEHSYOZDHNBEJZARWOPDOKL64W4W4.OCSP.PEER.CONN.REJ
ECT"
{"type": "io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp_peer_reject", "id": "cDlWM74JVKNNaAQmqC10pl", "tim
estamp": "2023-06-20T06:23:13.659151705Z", "kind": "Client", "peer":
{"subject": "CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US", "issuer": "CN=Intermediate
CA,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US", "fingerprint": "6QS2jCKv9hRrgLR0/2VTuNSVmtWa+/j1jEumc9Q
BBbY=", "raw": "MIIEXDCCA0SgAwIBAgIURb5p0QsNjagFkzCMSy+yvOTrmiUwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwVzELMA
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MMD0ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZSBDQTAeFw0yMzA0MTcyMzA2NTJhFw0yNDA0MTYyMzA2NTJhMFExCzAJBgNVBAYTA1VTMQ
swCQYDVQQIDAjXQTEPMA0GA1UEBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgYDVQQKDAdUaW5naHVzMRIwEAYDVQQDDA1CYWRVc2VyQT
EwggEiMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4IBDwAwggEKAoIBAQCrsWveLaNeL6KzHwNuIXku40sDgX9ys5eW/7mNENRcsx
cAwwZhvCFOaTxjLtkYVPQ19dddPZADZCg3W2BIB6vZQixwRggB+xC1GyOQFFuCsPav+mrnLsX/bTo72LJCmZSqYa
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BQVNB5Mcd5yJmBfZ4KAovwk7ShvzmST94cPolrWzTm/iGM7lnHjKjNjFMKMi8AY+mwdpknr4n6CWcavvGnyrHHKed
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MCBAwDgYDVR0PAQH/BAQDAgXgMB0GA1UdJQQWMBQGCCsGAQUFBwMCBggrBgEFBQcDBDA8BgNVHR8ENTAzMDGgLG6
AthitodHRwOi8vY3JsLnRpbmdodXMubmV0L2ludGVybWVkaWZ0ZV9jcmwuZGVyMDQGCSsGAQUFBwEBBCgwJjAkBg
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CaZCZzWiTKkylNOxdn5e1046SdHT30pFEHc1tpPDHucZKyNJAqlB/Eb+uHS5QaYqg2crWFA/npVk4eQCbiCYmQVx
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KL64W4W4", "ver": "2.10.0-beta.41", "seq": 32, "jetstream": true, "time": "2023-06-
20T06:23:13.659317657Z"}, "reason": "client not OCSP valid"}

```

Event: io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp\_peer\_link\_invalid

```

{
  "type": "io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp_peer_link_invalid",
  "id": "cDlWM74JVKNnaAQmqC10mT",
  "timestamp": "2023-06-20T06:23:13.659116379Z",
  "link": {
    "subject": "CN=BadUserA1,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US",
    "issuer": "CN=Intermediate CA,O=Tinghus,L=Tacoma,ST=WA,C=US",
    "fingerprint": "6QS2jCKv9hRrgLR0/2VTuNSVmtWa+/j1jEumc9QBBbY=",
    "raw":
"MIIEXDCCA0SgAwIBAgIURb5p0QsNjagFkzCMSy+yvOTrmiUwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAwVzELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVM
xCzAJBgNVBAGMAldBMQ8wDQYDVQQHDAZUYWNvbWExEDA0BgNVBAoMB1RpbmdodXMxGDAWBgNVBAMMD0ludGVybWV
kawF0ZSBDQTAeFw0yMzA0MTcyMzA2NTJaFw0yNDA0MTYyMzA2NTJaMFExCzAJBgNVBAYTA1VTMQswCQYDVQQIDA
XQTEPMA0GA1UEBwwGVGFjb21hMRAwDgYDVQQKDAdUaW5naHVzMRIwEAYDVQQDDA1CYWRVc2VvQTEwggEiMA0GCSq
GSIB3DQEBAQUAA4IBDwAwggEKAoIBAQCrsWveLaNeL6KzHwNuIXku40sDgX9ys5eW/7mNENRcsxcAwwZhVcFOaTx
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bFZ4KAovwk7ShvzmST94cPolrWzTm/iGM7lnHjKjnfMKMi8AY+mwdpknr4n6CWCavvGnyrHHKedZQ/kXgmd+ySDB
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  },
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Event: io.nats.server.advisory.v1.ocsp\_peer\_reject

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