



PALO ALTO NETWORKS EDU 210

Lab 13: Blocking Threats in Encrypted Traffic

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Introduction

As a network security professional, you have noticed a dramatic increase in HTTPS secure traffic over the past few years. Correspondingly, you have noticed that very few websites even use unencrypted HTTP traffic any more. Virtually all network traffic is now encrypted.

You know that HTTPS protects privacy and sensitive data in transit between hosts, but you have begun to realize that HTTPS also hides potentially damaging data as well. Encrypted traffic into and out of your network might contain viruses, spyware, vulnerability exploits, and other damaging types of data.

You need to make certain that the Palo Alto Networks firewall can inspect even encrypted traffic, so you have decided to implement decryption. This process will allow the firewall to decrypt HTTPS traffic, inspect it, and then block any sessions that contain malicious content.

Right now, you do not have budget funds available to request a decryption certificate from a CA (certificate authority). However, you can generate a self-signed certificate on the Palo Alto Networks firewall and deploy that for decryption.

HR has also told you that there are certain types of traffic from employees that should not be decrypted because those transactions might contain personally identifiable information (PII). You need to exclude certain categories of websites (such as finance and healthcare) from decryption. You will create a No-Decrypt rule to prevent the firewall from decrypting traffic to and from these kinds of websites.

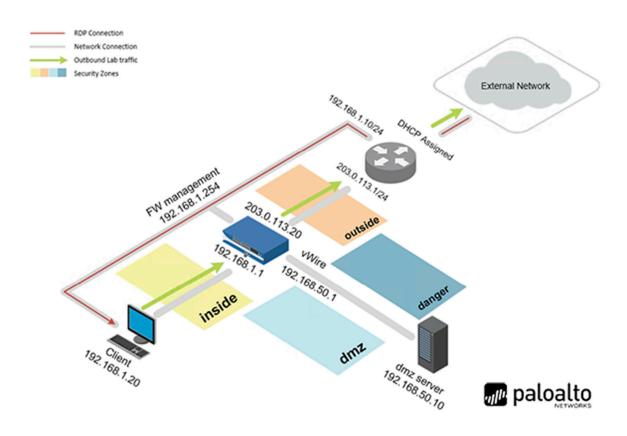
Objective

In this lab, you will perform the following tasks:

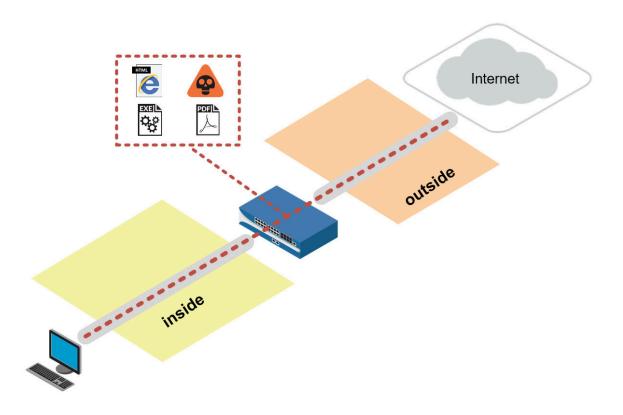
- Load a lab configuration
- Test the firewall without decryption
- Create a self-signed certificate for trusted connections
- Create a self-signed certificate for untrusted connections
- Create and test a decryption policy rule for outbound traffic
- Test outbound decryption policy rule
- Export the firewall certificate and import to Firefox
- Test outbound decryption policy again
- Review firewall logs
- Exclude URL categories from decryption using a no-decrypt rule
- Test the no-decrypt rule



Lab Topology



Theoretical Lab Topology





Lab Settings

The information in the table below will be needed to complete the lab. The task sections below provide details on the use of this information.

Virtual Machine	IP Address	Account (if needed)	Password (if needed)
Client	192.168.1.20	lab-user	Pal0Alt0!
DMZ	192.168.50.10	root	PalØAltØ!
Firewall	192.168.1.254	admin	Pal0Alt0!
VRouter	192.168.1.10	root	Pal0Alt0!

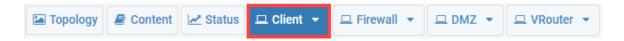


1 Blocking Threats in Encrypted Traffic

1.1 Apply a Baseline Configuration to the Firewall

In this section, you will load the firewall configuration file.

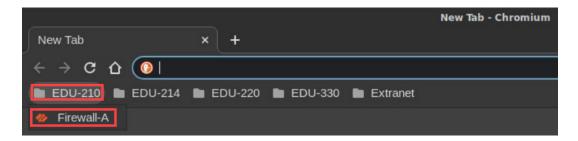
1. Click on the **Client** tab to access the Client PC.



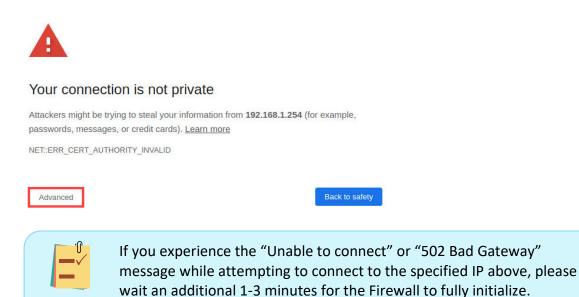
2. Double-click the **Chromium Web Browser** icon located on the desktop.



3. In the *Chromium* web browser, click on the **EDU-210** bookmark folder in the bookmarks bar and then click on **Firewall-A**.



4. You will see a "Your connection is not private" message. Next, click on the ADVANCED link.



Refresh the page to continue.



5. Click on Proceed to 192.168.1.254 (unsafe).



Your connection is not private

Attackers might be trying to steal your information from **192.168.1.254** (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards). <u>Learn more</u>

NET::ERR_CERT_AUTHORITY_INVALID



Back to safety

This server could not prove that it is **192.168.1.254**; its security certificate is not trusted by your computer's operating system. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection.

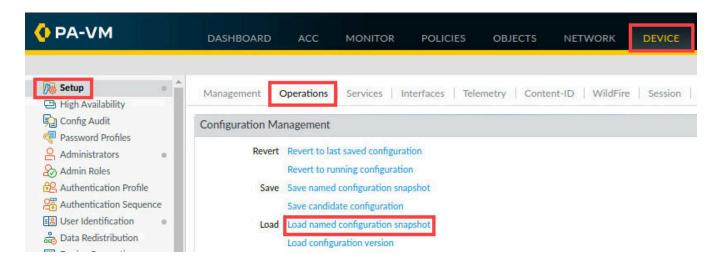
Proceed to 192.168.1.254 (unsafe)

6. Log in to the firewall web interface as username admin, password PalOAltO!.

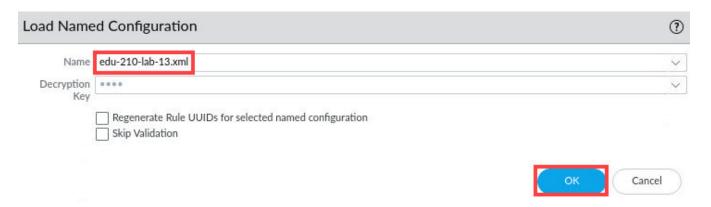




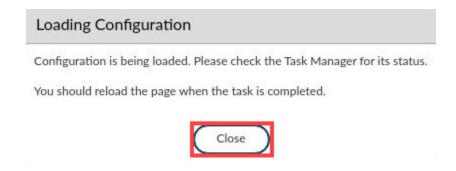
7. In the web interface, navigate to **Device > Setup > Operations** and click on **Load named configuration snapshot** underneath the *Configuration Management* section.



8. In the *Load Named Configuration* window, select **edu-210-lab-13.xml** from the *Name* dropdown box and click **OK**.



9. In the Loading Configuration window, a message will show Configuration is being loaded. Please check the Task Manager for its status. You should reload the page when the task is completed. Click Close to continue.

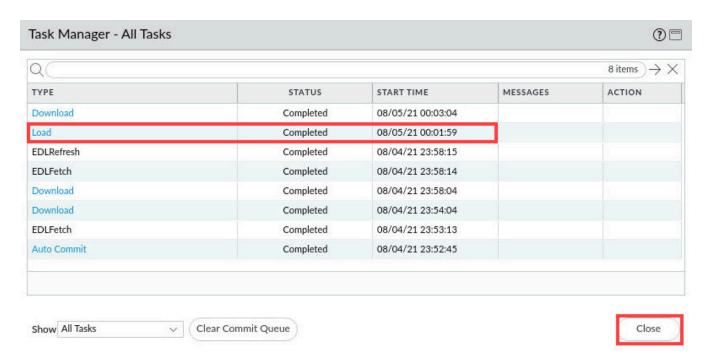


10. Click the **Tasks** icon located at the bottom-right of the web interface.





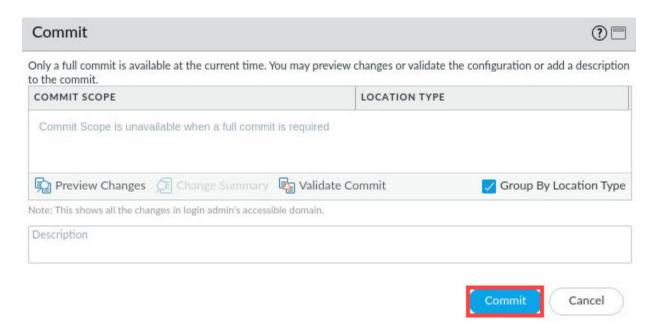
11. In the *Task Manager – All Tasks* window, verify the *Load* type has successfully completed. Click **Close**.



12. Click the **Commit** link located at the top-right of the web interface.

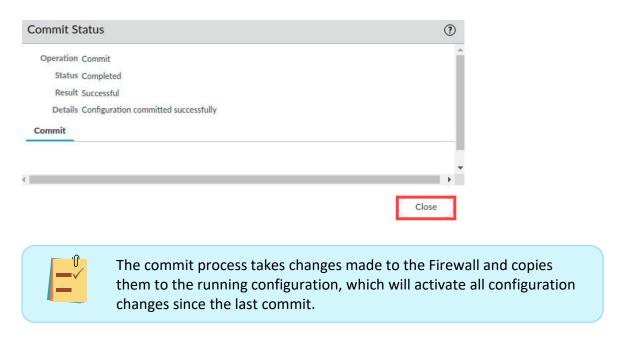


13. In the Commit window, click Commit to proceed with committing the changes.





14. When the *Commit* operation successfully completes, click **Close** to continue.



15. Leave the Palo Alto Networks Firewall open and continue to the next task.

1.2 Test the Firewall Behavior Without Decryption

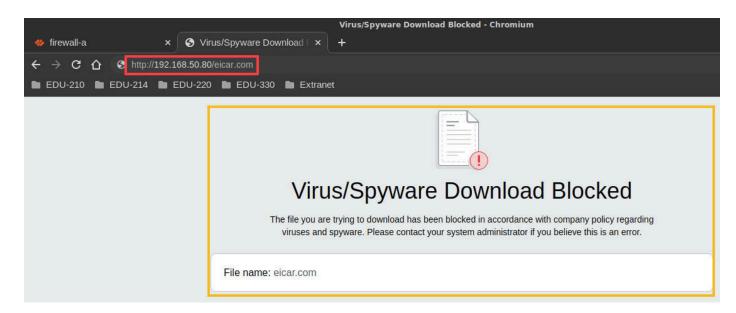
In this section, you will test the firewall behavior without decryption by downloading a virus.

1. Open a new tab in **Chromium**.





2. Type http://192.168.50.80/eicar.com and press Enter. You should get a blocked page.



Please Note_ Because the connection between the client and the server is not encrypted, the firewall is able to examine the traffic and block malicious content.

In the configuration you loaded to begin this lab, there is an *Antivirus Security profile* applied to security policy rules. The *Antivirus profile* is preconfigured and pre-applied for this exercise so that you can focus on how to configure the firewall to perform decryption. We will examine *Security profiles* (including *Antivirus*) in more detail in later sections of this course.

3. In the new tab, type www.eicar.org. Press Enter.

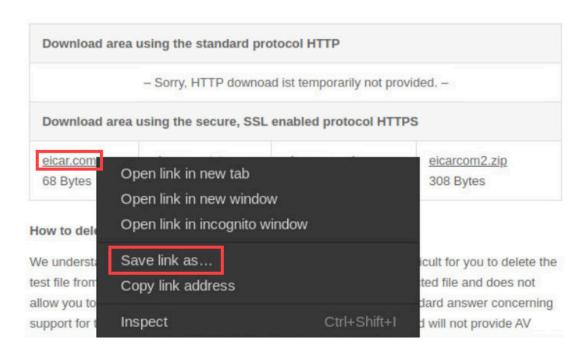


4. Click the link for Download Anti Malware Testfile.

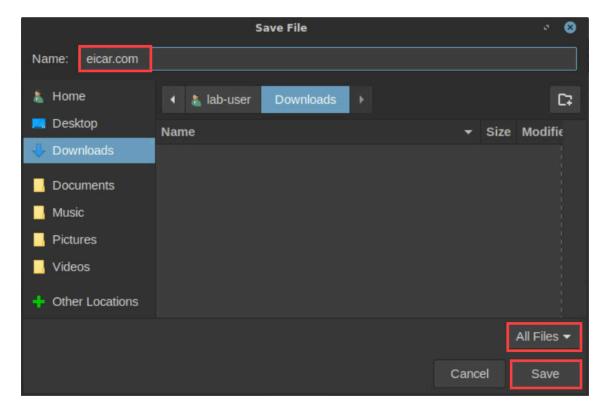




5. Scroll down and locate the section *Download* area. Right-click the link for the **eicar.com** file and select **Save link as**.

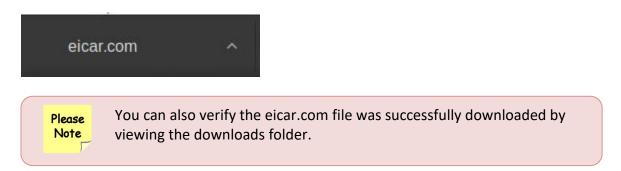


6. In the Save File window, save to the ~/Downloads directory and click Save.





7. Notice at the bottom of the *Chromium* window that the download is not blocked because the connection is encrypted, and the virus is hidden. This exercise proves that without decryption, the firewall is unable to examine the contents of an encrypted connection to scan for malicious content.



8. Close the two *Chromium* tabs that you just opened.



9. Leave the *Palo Alto Networks Firewall* open and continue to the next task.

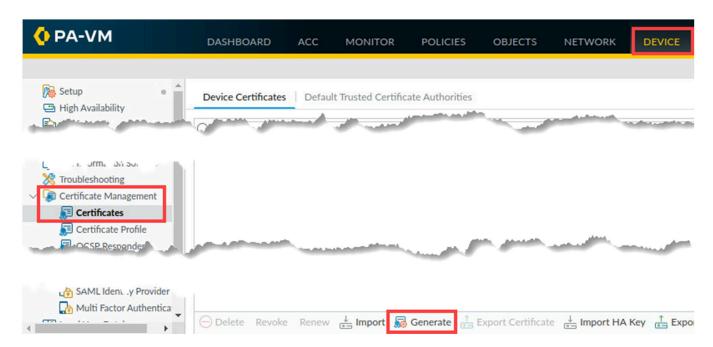
1.3 Create a Self-Signed Certificate for Trusted Connections

In this section, you will generate a certificate on the firewall that will be used when clients connect to HTTPS websites that have certificates issued by trusted certificate authorities.

The firewall will use this certificate as part of the decryption process between clients and trusted HTTPS websites.



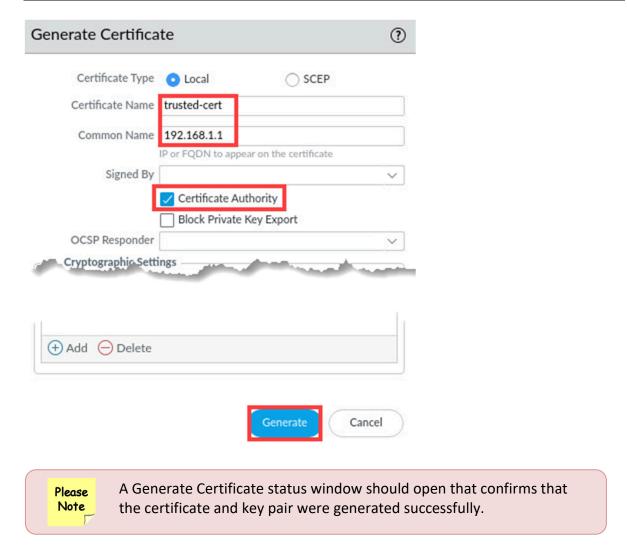
1. Select **Device > Certificate Management > Certificates**. Click **Generate** to create a new *CA Certificate*.





2. In the *Generate Certificate* window, configure the following. Click **Generate**.

Parameter	Value
Certificate Name	trusted-cert
Common Name	192.168.1.1
Certificate Authority	Certificate Authority



3. In the Generate Certificate window, click OK.

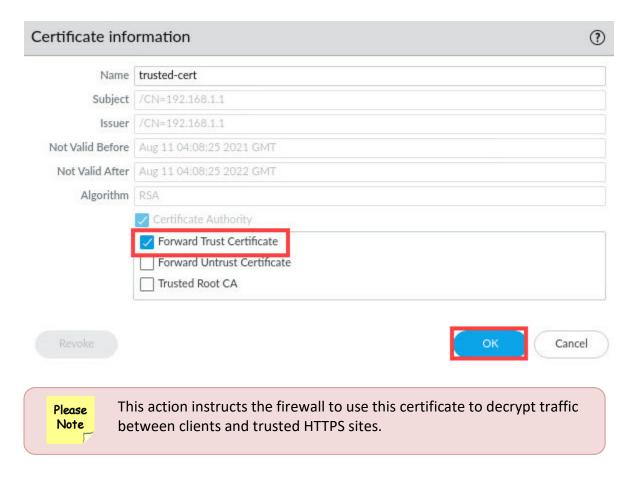




4. You should have a new entry in the Device Certificates table. Click trusted-cert.



5. In the *Certificate information* window, place a **check** in the box for **Forward Trust Certificate**. Click **OK**.



6. Leave the Palo Alto Networks Firewall open and continue to the next task.

1.4 Create a Self-Signed Certificate for Untrusted Connections

In this section, you will generate a certificate on the firewall that will be used when clients connect to HTTPS websites that DO NOT have certificates issued by trusted certificate authorities - for example, sites that use self-signed certificates or certificates that have expired.

The firewall will use this certificate as part of the decryption process between clients and untrusted HTTPS websites.

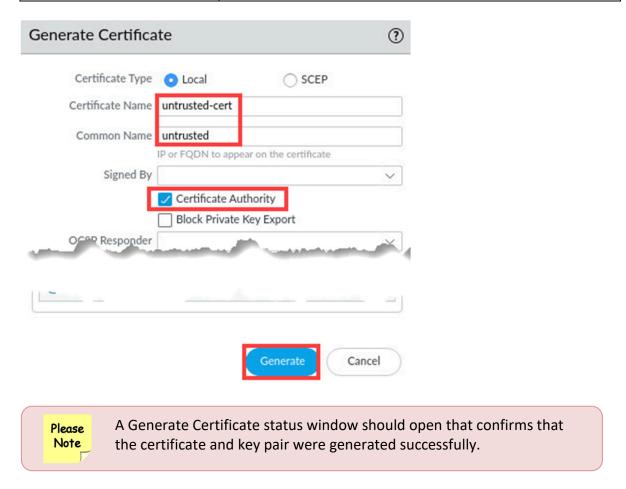


1. Click **Generate** to create a new *CA Certificate*.



2. In the Generate Certificate window, configure the following. Click Generate.

Parameter	Value
Certificate Name	untrusted-cert
Common Name	untrusted
Certificate Authority	Certificate Authority

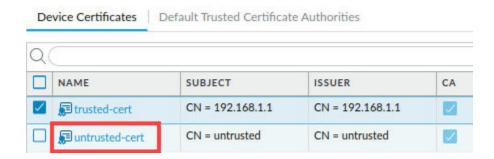


3. In the *Generate Certificate* window, click **OK**.

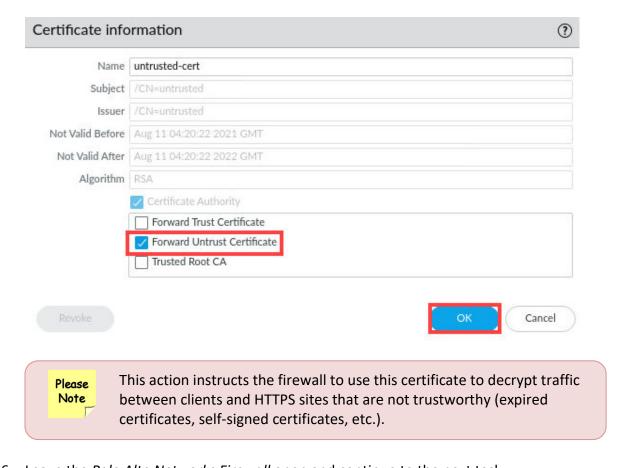




4. You should have a new entry in the Device Certificates table. Click untrusted-cert.



5. In the *Certificate information* window, place a **check** in the box for **Forward untrust Certificate**. Click **OK**.



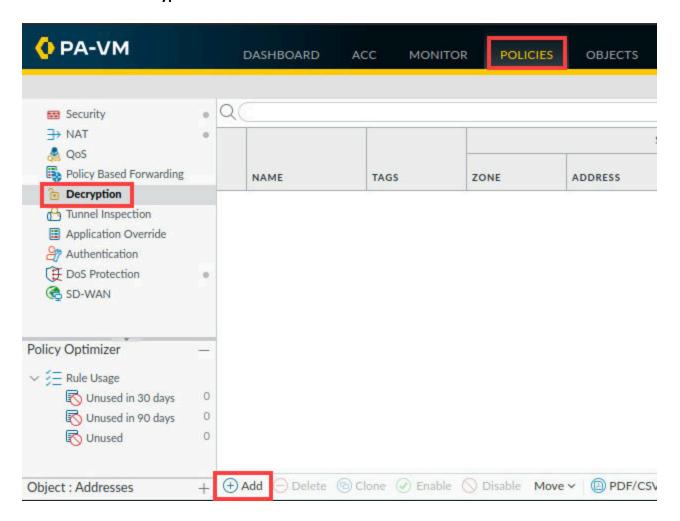
6. Leave the Palo Alto Networks Firewall open and continue to the next task.

1.5 Create Decryption Policy for Outbound Traffic

In this section, you will create a Decryption Policy to decrypt HTTPS traffic from the Users_Net security zone to the Internet security zone.



1. Select Policies > Decryption. Click Add.



2. In the *Decryption Policy Rule* window, under the **General** tab, configure the following.

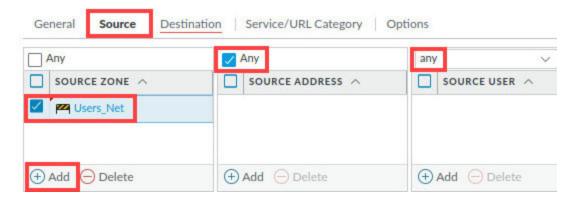
Parameter	Value
Name	Decrypt_User_Traffic
Description	Decrypts web traffic from Users_Net.





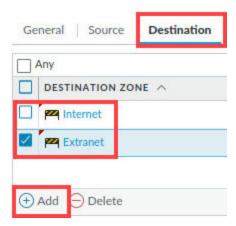
3. Click the **Source** tab and configure the following.

Parameter	Value
Source Zone	Users_Net
Source Address	Any
Source User	any



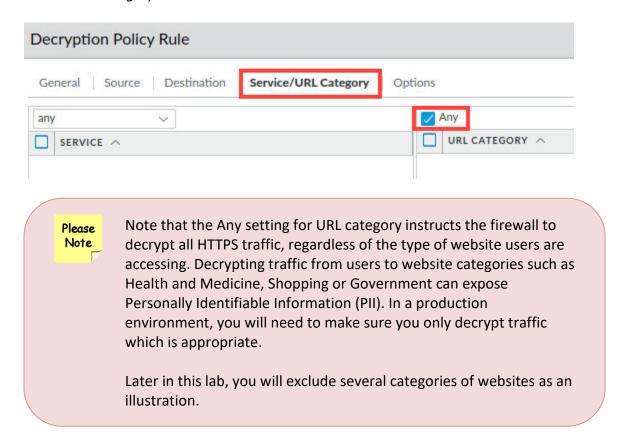
4. Click the **Destination** tab and configure the following.

Parameter	Value
Destination Zone	Internet
	Extranet
Destination Address	Any



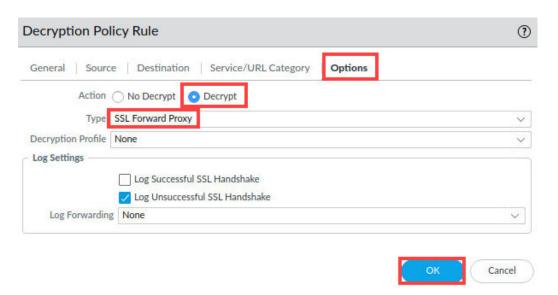


5. Click the **Service/URL Category** tab and verify that the *Service* is set to **Any** and that the box for **Any** above *URL Category* is **checked**.



6. Click the **Options** tab and configure the following. Click **OK**.

Parameter	Value
Action	Decrypt
Туре	SSL Forward Proxy
Decryption Profile	None





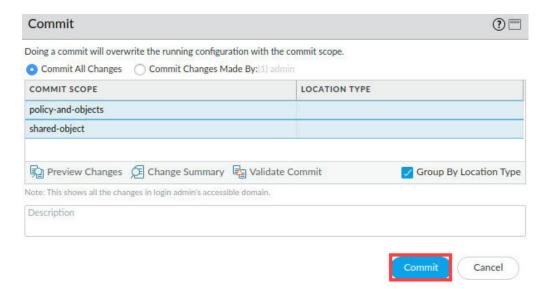
7. Verify the *Decryption* policy is visible, and the configuration matches the following.

		Source	Destination				
	NAME	ZONE	ZONE	URL CATEGORY	SERVICE	ACTION	TYPE
1	Decrypt_User_Traffic	Users_Net	Extranet Internet	any	any	decrypt	ssl-forward-proxy

8. Click the **Commit** link located at the top-right of the web interface.



9. In the Commit window, click Commit to proceed with committing the changes.



10. When the *Commit* operation successfully completes, click **Close** to continue.





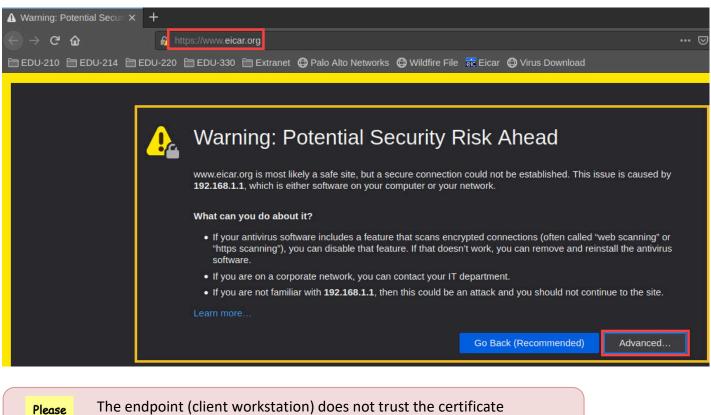
1.6 Test Outbound Decryption Policy

In this section, you will test the outbound decryption policy.

1. On the client desktop, open the **Firefox Web Browser** application.



Type https://www.eicar.org and press Enter. The browser presents a warning message. Click Advanced.

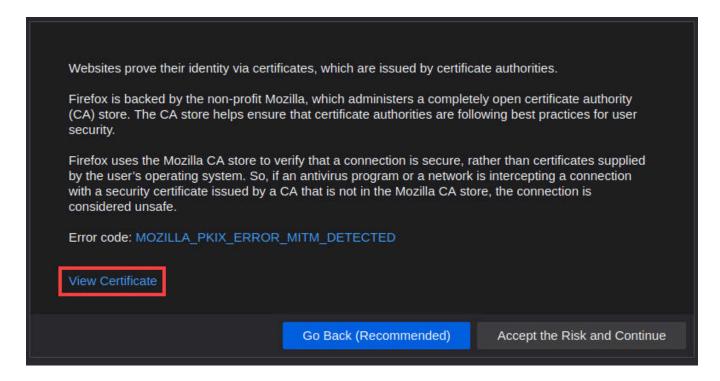


Note

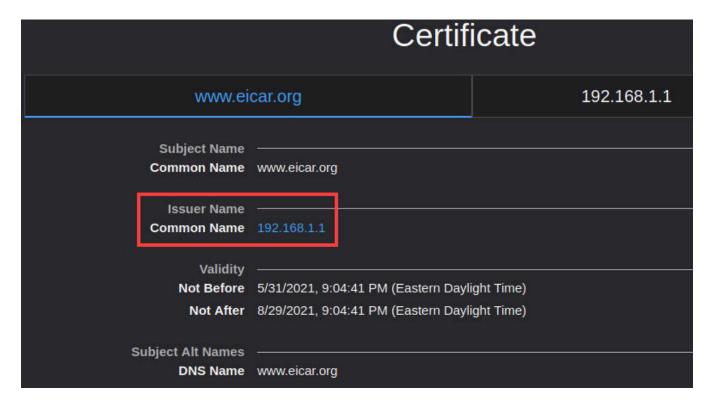
The endpoint (client workstation) does not trust the certificate generated by the firewall (192.168.1.1).



3. Click the link for View Certificate.



4. Under the section for www.eicar.org, note the Issuer Name section contains 192.168.1.1.





Please Note This certificate has been issued on behalf of www.eicar.org by the firewall (192.168.1.1) using the Trusted Certificate you created earlier. The client browser does not trust this certificate because it is "self-signed" by the firewall. In the next section, you will fix this issue so that the Firefox browser trusts certificates issued by the firewall.

5. Minimize the Firefox Web Browser.



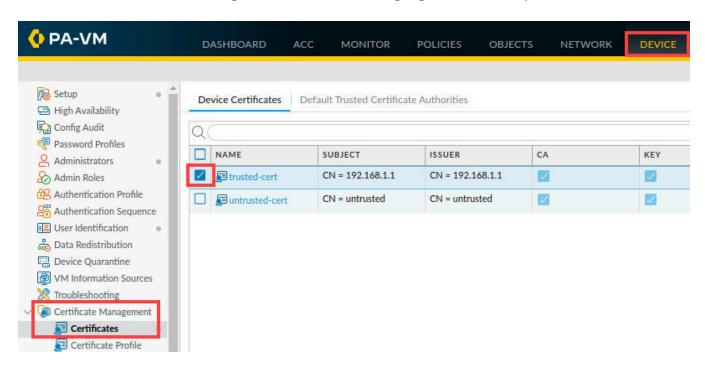
6. If you minimized the *firewall*, reopen the *Firewall* interface by clicking on the **Chromium** tab in the taskbar.



1.7 Export the Firewall Certificate

In this section, you will export the trusted certificate from the firewall.

1. Select **Device > Certificate Management > Certificates**. **Highlight** but do not open *trusted-cert*.

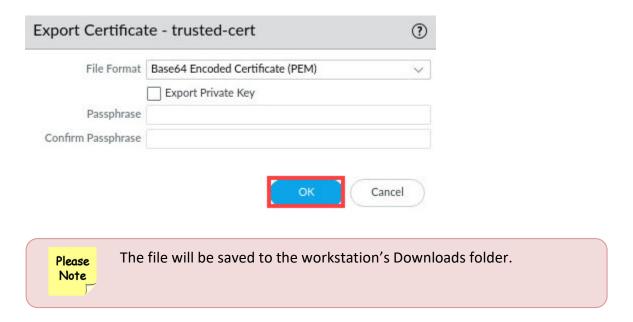


2. At the bottom of the window, click **Export Certificate** to open the *Export Certificate* configuration window.





3. In the *Export Certificate – trusted-cert* window, leave all settings unchanged. Click **OK** to export the *trusted-cert* certificate.



4. Minimize the Palo Alto Networks Firewall and continue to the next task.



1.8 Import the Firewall Certificate

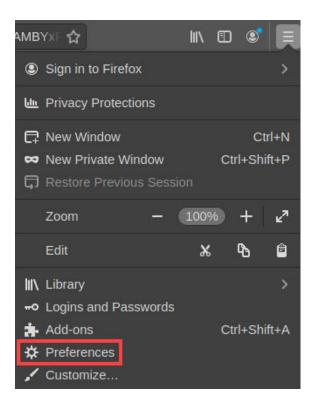
In this section, you will import the trusted-cert certificate from the workstation to the Firefox Web Browser.

1. On the client desktop, reopen the Firebox Web Browser by clicking the **Firefox** icon in the taskbar.

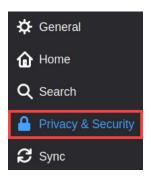




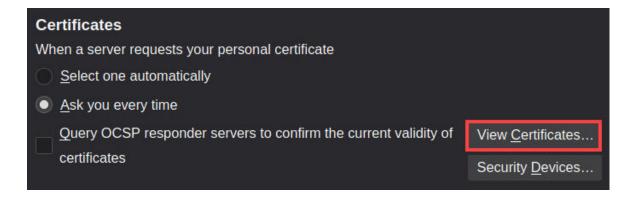
2. In the upper-right corner of the window, click the "hamburger" button and choose Preferences.



3. On the left side of the *Preferences* screen, select **Privacy & Security**.

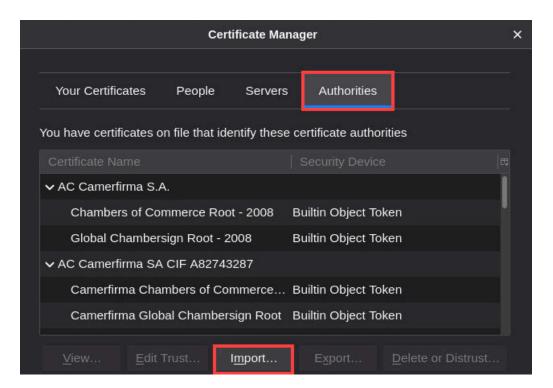


4. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and locate the Certificates section. Click View Certificates.

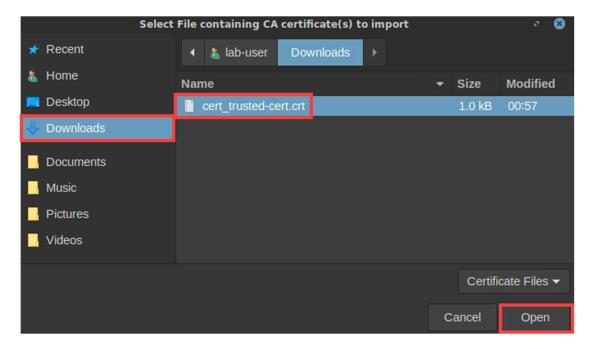




5. In the *Certificate Manager* window, select the **Authorities** tab. Click **Import**.

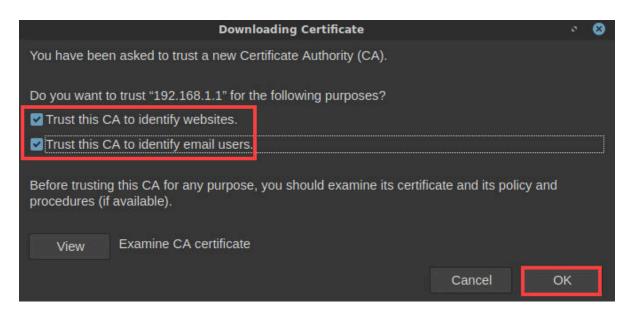


6. In the *Select File containing CA certificate(s) to import* window, click **Downloads**. Select **cert_trusted-cert.crt** and click **Open**.

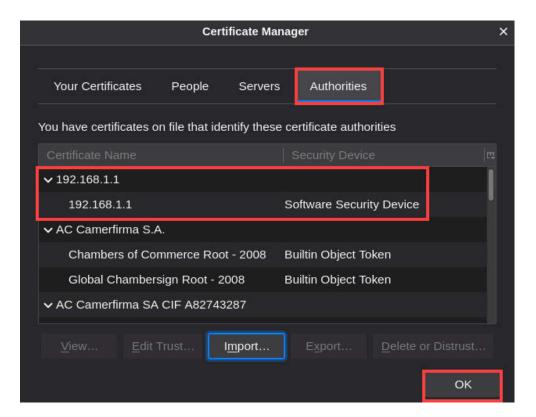




7. In the Downloading Certificate window, place checks in both boxes for Trust this CA. Click OK.



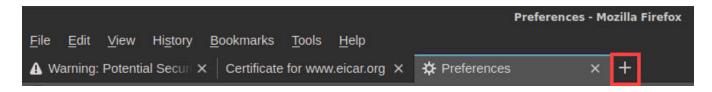
8. The firewall **trusted-cert** entry appears in the list of certificate authorities. Click **OK**.



Please Note The Firefox browser will trust any certificate issued by the entities in this Authorities list. By adding the firewall certificate to this list, the Firefox browser will trust any certificates issued by the firewall. Note that the process of importing certificates to client workstations varies based on the browser type and the operating system.



9. Open a new Firefox tab and continue to the next task.



1.9 Test Outbound Decryption Policy Again

With the firewall trusted-cert certificate imported to Firefox on the client workstation, try downloading the virus file using HTTPS again.

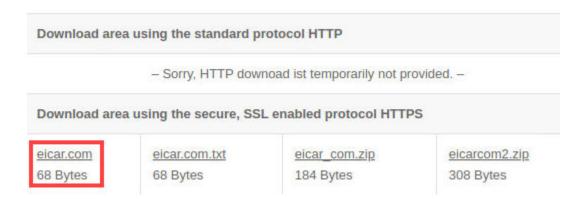
10. In the new Firefox tab, type https://www.eicar.org. Press Enter.



11. Click the link for Download Anti Malware Testfile.

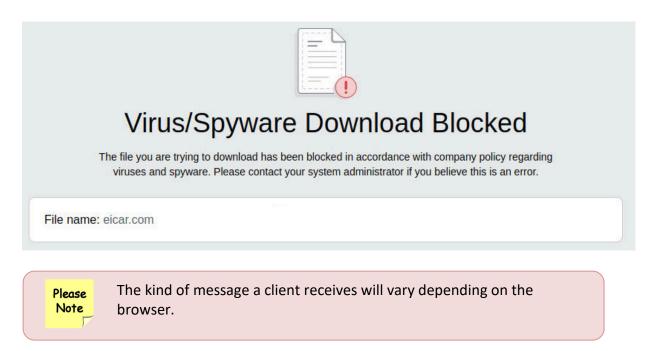


12. Scroll down and locate the section *Download area*. Click the link for the **eicar.com** file download.

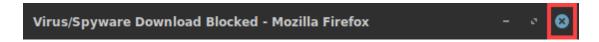




13. You will receive a warning pane from the firewall indicating that it has detected and blocked the malicious file download.



14. Close the Firefox Web Browser by clicking the close icon.



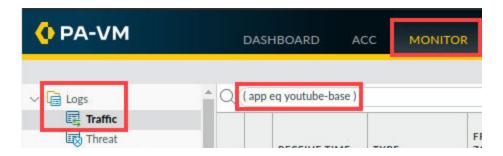
15. Reopen the *PA-VM firewall* web interface by clicking on the **Chromium** icon in the taskbar and continue to the next task.



1.10 Review Firewall Logs

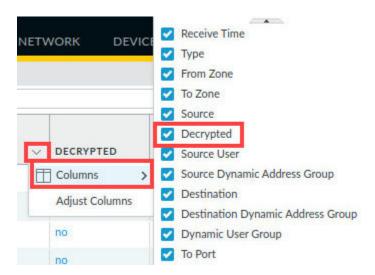
In this section, you will examine information in the firewall logs to see more details about the decryption process.

Select Monitor > Logs > Traffic. In the filter builder, type (app eq youtube-base). Click Apply Filter.





2. Add the **Decrypted** column to the table by selecting **Columns > Decrypted**.



3. Drag and drop the **Session End Reason** column from the right side of the table to the beginning of the table. You may need to *scroll* the *Traffic* window to find the *Session End Reason*.





This is not a requirement, but placing this column at the beginning of the table will make it easier for you to locate entries that have ended because of unusual actions taken by the firewall (such as detecting a threat).

4. In the filter builder, type (flags has proxy) and (session_end_reason eq threat). Click Apply Filter. This will display entries that have been decrypted from the client workstation and that have been terminated because of a detected threat in the traffic. If the traffic log is not showing, allow one to two minutes for it to populate.



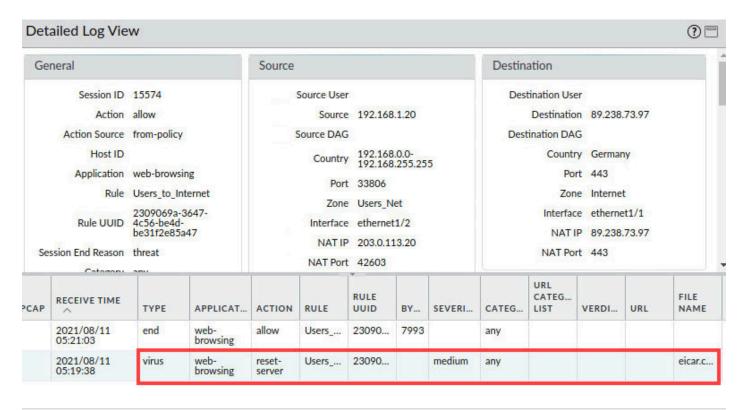


Please Note_ The filter syntax "flags has proxy" displays entries which have been decrypted (the value will show as **yes** in the **Decrypted** column). Entries that match the filter indicate that the firewall carried out a proxy connection for decryption.

5. Click the magnifying glass next to the entry listed to see details about the session.

SESSION END REASON	RECEIVE TIME	TYPE	FROM ZONE	TO ZONE	SOURCE	DECRYPTED
threat	08/11 05:21:03	end	Users_Net	Internet	192.168.1.20	yes

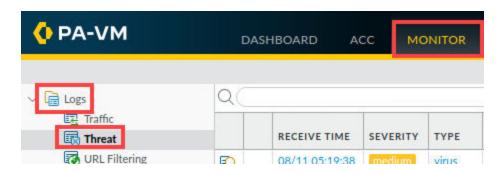
6. In the *Detailed Log View* window, you should see similar information indicating that the firewall detected the **eicar.com** file and used **reset-server** to terminate the session. Note that several columns have been hidden in the lower section of this example window. Click **Close**.







7. Select Monitor > Logs > Threat.



8. Delete any filters in place. Notice the entry for virus indicates that the firewall detected and blocked the **eicar.com** file.



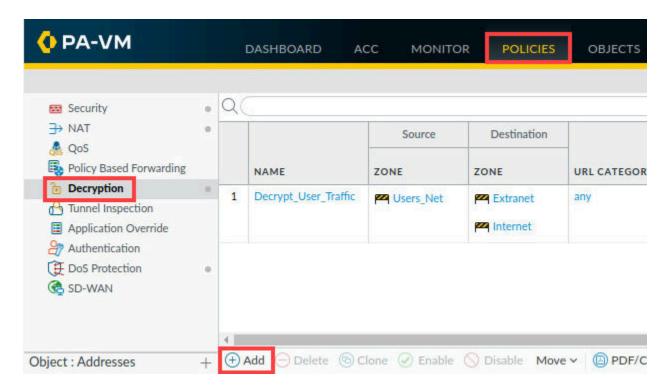
9. Leave the Palo Alto Networks Firewall open and continue to the next task.

1.11 Exclude URL Categories from Decryption

The existing decryption policy rule you created instructs the firewall to decrypt all traffic, regardless of the URL category. In this section, you will configure a no-decrypt rule that instructs the firewall to exclude sensitive categories of web traffic from decryption in order to avoid exposing PII (Personally Identifiable Information).



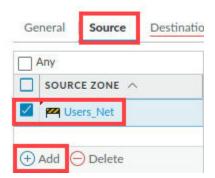
1. In the firewall web browser, select **Policies > Decryption**. Click **Add**.



2. In the *Decryption Policy Rule* under the *General* tab, enter **No-Decryption** for *Name*. For *Description*, enter **Do not decrypt URLs in gov, shopping and finance**.

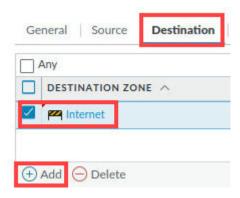


3. Select the tab for **Source**. Under the *Source Zone* section, click **Add** and select **Users_Net**.

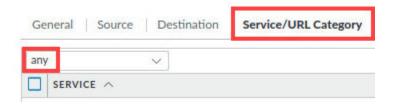




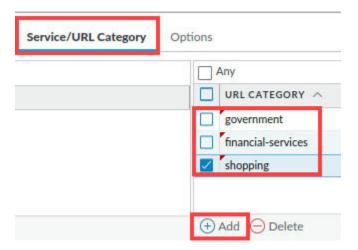
4. Select the **Destination** tab. Under the *Destination Zone* section, click **Add** and select **Internet**.



5. Select the tab for **Service/URL Category.** Leave the **Service** set to **any**.

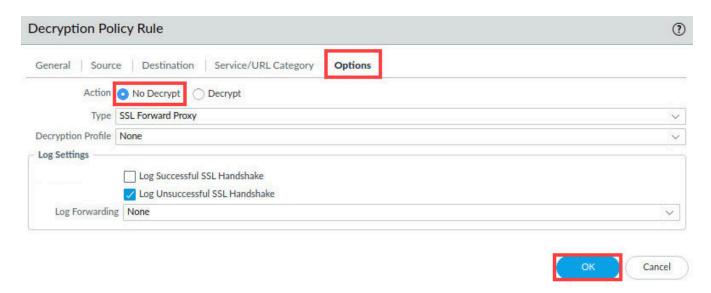


6. Under the URL Category, use the Add button to add government, financial-services, and shopping.





7. Select the tab for **Options.** Verify that the *Action* is set to **No Decrypt**. Click **OK**.



8. You should have two entries in the *Decryption* policy. Do you notice what is wrong with the Decryption Policies? The answer is yes. They are in the wrong order. All traffic will match the first rule Decrypt_Users_Traffic because the URL category is set to **any**. The firewall will therefore never proceed beyond that first rule to implement the second rule, which instructs the firewall to exclude financial-services, government, and shopping websites from decryption



9. Drag and drop the No-Decryption rule entry above the Decrypt User Traffic.



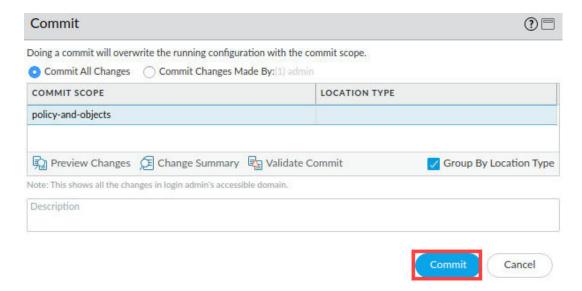


Please Note Always place no-decrypt rules at the beginning of the decryption policy table so that specified packets don't get decrypted when the firewall evaluates rules from top-to-bottom.

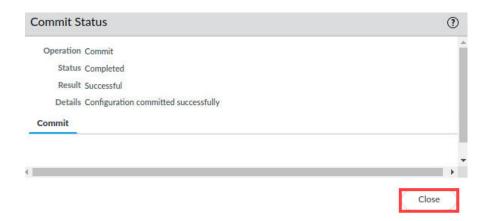
10. Click the **Commit** link located at the top-right of the web interface.



11. In the *Commit* window, click **Commit** to proceed with committing the changes.



12. When the Commit operation successfully completes, click Close to continue.



13. Minimize the Palo Alto Networks Firewall and continue to the next task.





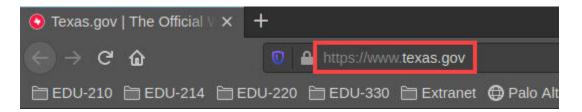
1.12 Test the No-Decryption Rule

With your No-Decryption rule in place, you will test the No-Decryption rule by browsing to a website that falls into one of the excluded categories.

1. On the client desktop, open the **Firefox Web Browser** application.



2. Type https://www.texas.gov and press Enter.

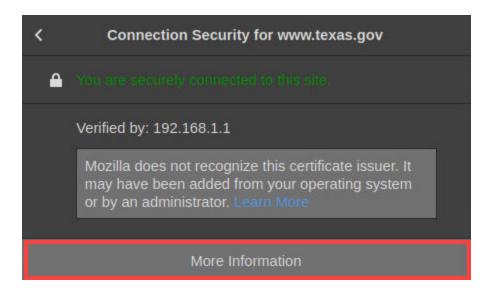


3. Click the **padlock** icon to view the site information window for *texas.gov*. Click the **arrow** next to *Connection secure*.





4. In the Connection Security for www.texas.gov window, click More Information.

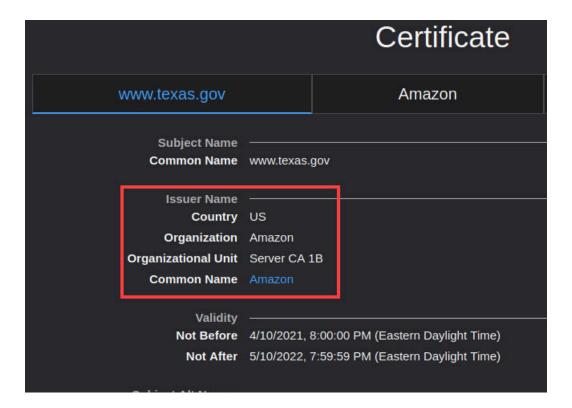


5. In the *Page Info – https://www.texas.gov* window, click **View Certificate**.





6. Note that the *Issuer Name* is not **192.168.1.1**.



Please Note If the firewall had decrypted this website, the Issuer Name would be displayed as 192.168.1.1. Because you excluded government websites from Decryption, the firewall has not decrypted this site. The issuer name you see may be different from the example shown here.

7. The lab is now complete; you may end your reservation.