



# **Verify the identity of remote servers using certificates**

**ONTAP 9**

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# Verify the identity of remote servers using certificates

## Verify the identity of remote servers using certificates overview

ONTAP supports security certificate features to verify the identity of remote servers.

ONTAP software enables secure connections using these digital certificate features and protocols:

- Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) validates the status of digital certificate requests from ONTAP services using SSL and Transport Layer Security (TLS) connections. This feature is disabled by default.
- A default set of trusted root certificates is included with ONTAP software.
- Key Management Interoperability Protocol (KMIP) certificates enable mutual authentication of a cluster and a KMIP server.

## Verify digital certificates are valid using OCSP

Beginning with ONTAP 9.2, Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) enables ONTAP applications that use Transport Layer Security (TLS) communications to receive digital certificate status when OCSP is enabled. You can enable or disable OCSP certificate status checks for specific applications at any time. By default, OCSP certificate status checking is disabled.

### What you'll need

You need advanced privilege level access to perform this task.

### About this task

OCSP supports the following applications:

- AutoSupport
- Event Management System (EMS)
- LDAP over TLS
- Key Management Interoperability Protocol (KMIP)
- Audit Logging
- FabricPool
- SSH (beginning with ONTAP 9.13.1)

### Steps

1. Set the privilege level to advanced: `set -privilege advanced`.
2. To enable or disable OCSP certificate status checks for specific ONTAP applications, use the appropriate command.

| If you want OCSP certificate status checks for some applications to be... | Use the command...                                      |
|---|---|
| Enabled   | <code>security config ocsp enable -app app name</code>  |
| Disabled  | <code>security config ocsp disable -app app name</code> |

The following command enables OCSP support for AutoSupport and EMS.

```
cluster::*> security config ocsp enable -app asup,ems
```

When OCSP is enabled, the application receives one of the following responses:

- Good - the certificate is valid and communication proceeds.
  - Revoked - the certificate is permanently deemed as not trustworthy by its issuing Certificate Authority and communication fails to proceed.
  - Unknown - the server does not have any status information about the certificate and communication fails to proceed.
  - OCSP server information is missing in the certificate - the server acts as if OCSP is disabled and continues with TLS communication, but no status check occurs.
  - No response from OCSP server - the application fails to proceed.
3. To enable or disable OCSP certificate status checks for all applications using TLS communications, use the appropriate command.

| If you want OCSP certificate status checks for all applications to be... | Use the command...   |
|--|--|
| Enabled  | <code>security config ocsp enable</code><br><br><code>-app all</code>  |
| Disabled   | <code>security config ocsp disable</code><br><br><code>-app all</code> |

When enabled, all applications receive a signed response signifying that the specified certificate is good, revoked, or unknown. In the case of a revoked certificate, the application will fail to proceed. If the application fails to receive a response from the OCSP server or if the server is unreachable, the application will fail to proceed.

4. Use the `security config ocsp show` command to display all the applications that support OCSP and their support status.

```
cluster::*> security config ocsf show
Application                                OCSP Enabled?
-----
autosupport                                false
audit_log                                  false
fabricpool                                 false
ems                                         false
kmip                                        false
ldap_ad                                    true
ldap_nis_namemap                           true
ssh                                         true

8 entries were displayed.
```

## View default certificates for TLS-based applications

Beginning with ONTAP 9.2, ONTAP provides a default set of trusted root certificates for ONTAP applications using Transport Layer Security (TLS).

### What you'll need

The default certificates are installed only on the admin SVM during its creation, or during an upgrade to ONTAP 9.2.

### About this task

The current applications that act as a client and require certificate validation are AutoSupport, EMS, LDAP, Audit Logging, FabricPool, and KMIP.

When certificates expire, an EMS message is invoked that requests the user to delete the certificates. The default certificates can only be deleted at the advanced privilege level.



Deleting the default certificates may result in some ONTAP applications not functioning as expected (for example, AutoSupport and Audit Logging).

### Step

1. You can view the default certificates that are installed on the admin SVM by using the security certificate show command:

```
security certificate show -vserver -type server-ca
```

```
fas2552-2n-abc-3::*> security certificate show -vserver fas2552-2n-abc-3
-type server-ca
Vserver      Serial Number  Common Name                                     Type
-----
fas2552-2n-abc-3
              01                      AAACertificateServices
server-ca
Certificate Authority: AAA Certificate Services
Expiration Date: Sun Dec 31 18:59:59 2028
```

## Mutually authenticating the cluster and a KMIP server

### Mutually authenticating the cluster and a KMIP server overview

Mutually authenticating the cluster and an external key manager such as a Key Management Interoperability Protocol (KMIP) server enables the key manager to communicate with the cluster by using KMIP over SSL. You do so when an application or certain functionality (for example, the Storage Encryption functionality) requires secure keys to provide secure data access.

### Generate a certificate signing request for the cluster

You can use the `security certificate generate-csr` command to generate a certificate signing request (CSR). After processing your request, the certificate authority (CA) sends you the signed digital certificate.

#### What you'll need

You must be a cluster administrator or SVM administrator to perform this task.

#### Steps

1. Generate a CSR:

```
security certificate generate-csr -common-name FQDN_or_common_name -size
512|1024|1536|2048 -country country -state state -locality locality
-organization organization -unit unit -email-addr email_of_contact -hash
-function SHA1|SHA256|MD5
```

For complete command syntax, see the man pages.

The following command creates a CSR with a 2,048-bit private key generated by the SHA256 hashing function for use by the Software group in the IT department of a company whose custom common name is `server1.companyname.com`, located in Sunnyvale, California, USA. The email address of the SVM contact administrator is `web@example.com`. The system displays the CSR and the private key in the output.

```

cluster1::>security certificate generate-csr -common-name
server1.companyname.com -size 2048 -country US -state California -
locality Sunnyvale -organization IT -unit Software -email-addr
web@example.com -hash-function SHA256
Certificate Signing Request :
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
MIIBGjCBxQIBADBgMRQwEgYDVQQDEwtleGFtcGxlLmNvbTELMakGA1UEBhMCVVMx
CTAHBgNVBAgtADEJMAcGA1UEBxMAMQkwBwYDVQQKEwAxCtAHBgNVBAStADEPMA0G
CSqGSIB3DQEJARYAMFwwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADSwAwSAJBAPXFanNoJApTlnzS
xOcxixqImRRGZCR7tVmTYyqPSuTvfhVtwDJbmXuj6U3alwoUsb13wfEvQnHVFNCi
2ninsJ8CAwEAAaAAMA0GCSqGSIB3DQEBCwUAA0EA6EagLfso5+4g+ejiRKKTUPQO
UqOUEoKuvxhOvPC2w7b//fNSFsFHvXloqEOhYECn/NX9h8mbphCoM5YZ4OfnKw==
-----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
Private Key :
24 | Administrator Authentication and RBAC
-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIBOwIBAAJBAPXFanNoJApTlnzSxOcxixqImRRGZCR7tVmTYyqPSuTvfhVtwDJb
mXuj6U3alwoUsb13wfEvQnHVFNCi2ninsJ8CAwEAAQJAWt2AO+bW3FKezEuIrQlu
KoMyRYK455wtMk8BrOyJfhYsB20B28eifjJvRWdTOBEav99M7cEzgPv+p5kaZTTM
gQIhAPsp+j1hrUXSRj979LIJJY0sNez397i7ViFXWQScx/ehAiEA+oDbOooWlVvu
xj4aitxVBu6ByVckYU8LbsfeRNsZwD8CIQCbZ1/ENvmlJ/P7N9Exj2NCtEYxd0Q5
cwBZ5NfZeMBpwQIhAPk0KWQSLadGfsKO077itF+h9FGFNHbtuNTrVq4vPW3nAiAA
peMBQgEv28y2r8D4dkYzxcXmjzJluUSZSZ9c/wS6fA==
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
Note: Please keep a copy of your certificate request and private key
for future reference.

```

2. Copy the certificate request from the CSR output, and then send it in electronic form (such as email) to a trusted third-party CA for signing.

After processing your request, the CA sends you the signed digital certificate. You should keep a copy of the private key and the CA-signed digital certificate.

## Install a CA-signed server certificate for the cluster

To enable an SSL server to authenticate the cluster or storage virtual machine (SVM) as an SSL client, you install a digital certificate with the client type on the cluster or SVM. Then you provide the client-ca certificate to the SSL server administrator for installation on the server.

### What you'll need

You must have already installed the root certificate of the SSL server on the cluster or SVM with the `server-ca` certificate type.

### Steps

1. To use a self-signed digital certificate for client authentication, use the `security certificate create`

command with the `type client` parameter.

2. To use a CA-signed digital certificate for client authentication, complete the following steps:
  - a. Generate a digital certificate signing request (CSR) by using the `security certificate generate-csr` command.

ONTAP displays the CSR output, which includes a certificate request and private key, and reminds you to copy the output to a file for future reference.

- b. Send the certificate request from the CSR output in an electronic form (such as email) to a trusted CA for signing.

You should keep a copy of the private key and the CA-signed certificate for future reference.

After processing your request, the CA sends you the signed digital certificate.

- c. Install the CA-signed certificate by using the `security certificate install` command with the `-type client` parameter.
    - d. Enter the certificate and the private key when you are prompted, and then press **Enter**.
    - e. Enter any additional root or intermediate certificates when you are prompted, and then press **Enter**.

You install an intermediate certificate on the cluster or SVM if a certificate chain that begins at the trusted root CA, and ends with the SSL certificate issued to you, is missing the intermediate certificates. An intermediate certificate is a subordinate certificate issued by the trusted root specifically to issue end-entity server certificates. The result is a certificate chain that begins at the trusted root CA, goes through the intermediate certificate, and ends with the SSL certificate issued to you.

3. Provide the `client-ca` certificate of the cluster or SVM to the administrator of the SSL server for installation on the server.

The `security certificate show` command with the `-instance` and `-type client-ca` parameters displays the `client-ca` certificate information.

## Install a CA-signed client certificate for the KMIP server

The certificate subtype of Key Management Interoperability Protocol (KMIP) (the `-subtype kmip-cert` parameter), along with the `client` and `server-ca` types, specifies that the certificate is used for mutually authenticating the cluster and an external key manager, such as a KMIP server.

### About this task

Install a KMIP certificate to authenticate a KMIP server as an SSL server to the cluster.

### Steps

1. Use the `security certificate install` command with the `-type server-ca` and `-subtype kmip-cert` parameters to install a KMIP certificate for the KMIP server.
2. When you are prompted, enter the certificate, and then press **Enter**.

ONTAP reminds you to keep a copy of the certificate for future reference.



```
cluster1::> security certificate install -type server-ca -subtype kmip-  
cert  
-vserver cluster1
```

Please enter Certificate: Press <Enter> when done

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----

```
MIICPDCCAaUCEDyRMcsf9tAbDpq40ES/Er4wDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEFBQAwXzELMAkG  
2JhucwNhkcV8sEVAbkSdjbCxlRhLQ2pRdKkkirWmnWXbj9T/UWZyB2oK0z5XqcJ  
2HUw19JlYDln1khVdWk/kfVIC0dpImmClr7JyDiGSnoscxlIaU5rfGW/D/xwzoiQ
```

...

-----END CERTIFICATE-----

You should keep a copy of the CA-signed digital certificate for future reference.

```
cluster1::>
```

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