NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

INFORMATION SECURITY LAB

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Lab	06
Course	Information Security
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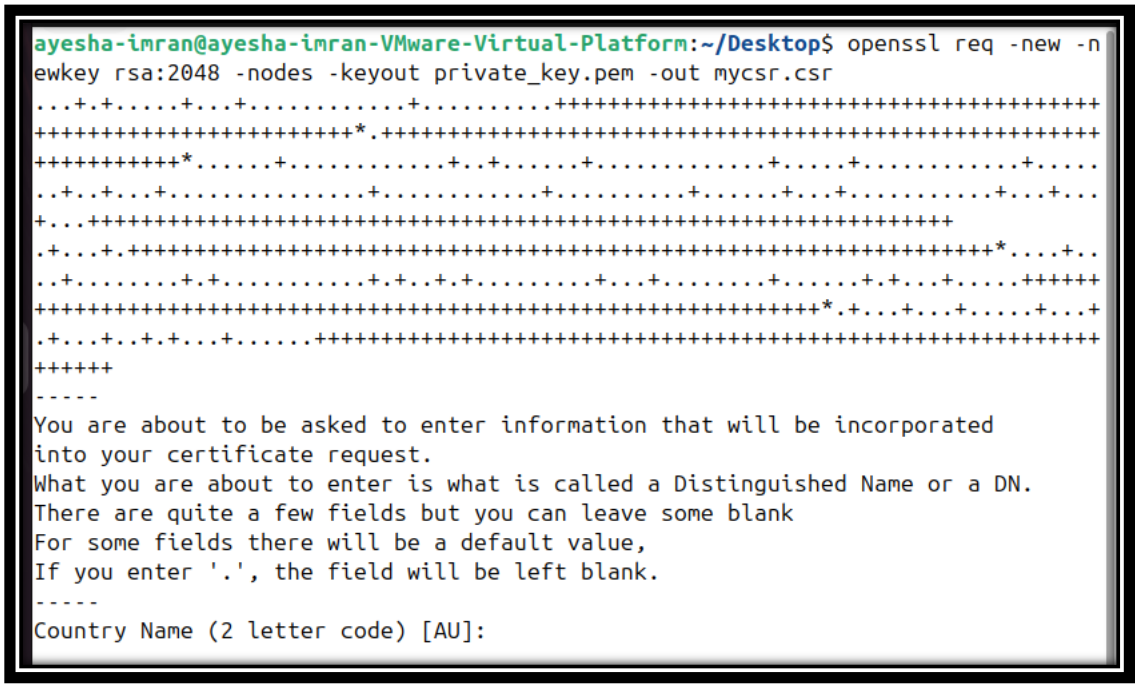
IN LAB TASKS

Part 1: Generating a Certificate Signing Request (CSR)

Generate a CSR:

Command: openssl req -new -newkey rsa:2048 -nodes -keyout private_key.pem –out mycsr.csr



```
Country Name (2 letter code) [AU]:pk
State or Province Name (full name) [Some-State]:punjab
Locality Name (eg, city) []:Rawalpindi
Organization Name (eg, company) [Internet Widgits Pty Ltd]:NUTECH
Organizational Unit Name (eg, section) []:Education
Common Name (e.g. server FQDN or YOUR name) []:Ayesha
Email Address []:ayesha@gmail.com

Please enter the following 'extra' attributes
to be sent with your certificate request
A challenge password []:1234
An optional company name []:
ayesha-imran@ayesha-imran-VMware-Virtual-Platform:~/Desktop$
```

:

2. Verify the CSR:

Command: openssl req -text -noout -verify -in mycsr.csr

```
ayesha-imran@ayesha-imran-VMware-Virtual-Platform:~/Desktop$ openssl req -text -
noout -verify -in mycsr.csr
Certificate request self-signature verify OK
Certificate Request:
    Data:
        Version: 1 (0x0)
        Subject: C = pk, ST = punjab, L = Rawalpindi, O = NUTECH, OU = Education
, CN = Ayesha, emailAddress = ayesha@gmail.com
        Subject Public Key Info:
            Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption
                Public-Key: (2048 bit)
                Modulus:
                    00:97:f3:47:5a:ed:81:26:5a:73:42:97:78:22:68:
                    fd:01:1e:2d:95:6e:71:3c:ee:88:a1:e6:88:95:e5:
                    c5:80:14:14:8d:f6:ff:d3:15:47:31:1c:ce:3a:15:
                    71:b3:0f:80:cc:06:57:6c:57:44:0f:44:bf:e8:f4:
                    6c:05:6e:b4:35:76:f6:99:21:38:a6:48:9c:47:6c:
                    19:07:ac:07:13:67:79:90:64:4a:c0:cc:44:74:1c:
                    08:bc:3b:5c:95:78:4b:c6:18:ff:da:a7:76:0d:7d:
                    86:d1:14:6f:55:28:97:73:1e:86:2e:e4:a3:83:0f:
                    91:15:cb:78:9f:9b:46:9c:81:32:38:da:53:c2:0e:
                    e8:57:89:a2:bc:67:47:f2:94:fc:ae:0f:b2:cf:c6:
                    85:22:de:4d:88:c7:86:59:3f:d3:94:6a:cf:8f:ed:
                    04:f7:81:fd:26:0a:b1:41:a0:3e:ae:ac:0c:5f:f3:
                    f5:89:fc:ef:f1:05:09:c9:7f:3e:2d:ba:08:78:84:
                    3e:3b:58:87:5d:81:e7:cf:08:35:03:fb:8b:18:f2:
                    4c:f4:a7:4c:6f:5e:f4:bb:05:06:6b:a2:d0:71:a7:
                    7b:4e:dd:6f:c5:29:7c:9e:cc:0a:9c:88:39:62:35:
```

```
                e4:85
            Exponent: 65537 (0x10001)
    Attributes:
        challengePassword        :1234
        Requested Extensions:
Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption
Signature Value:
    1b:b1:15:f8:1c:ea:ea:87:24:6a:8a:ba:fe:9b:8e:d3:80:01:
    2e:79:41:e8:a1:0e:46:9d:6e:73:58:ca:b8:49:2e:99:ac:bf:
    22:9d:eb:4a:8e:b9:26:6b:37:9f:2b:11:0b:dc:3a:a3:e9:ac:
    f0:7f:db:18:96:20:9b:f5:72:17:98:94:59:6a:e3:0c:d3:cd:
```

Part 2: Creating a Self-Signed Certificate

1. **To create a self-signed certificate that is valid for 365 days, use the following command.**

Command: openssl x509 -req -days 365 -in mycsr.csr -signkey private_key.pem –out mycert.pem

```
ayesha-imran@ayesha-imran-VMware-Virtual-Platform:~/Desktop$ openssl x509 -req -days
365 -in mycsr.csr -signkey private_key.pem -out mycert.pem
Certificate request self-signature ok
subject=C = pk, ST = punjab, L = Rawalpindi, O = NUTECH, OU = Education, CN = Ayesha,
 emailAddress = ayesha@gmail.com
```

2. Verify the self-signed certificate using:

Command: openssl x509 -text -noout -in mycert.pem

```
ayesha-imran@ayesha-imran-VMware-Virtual-Platform:~/Desktop$ openssl x509 -text -noou
t -in mycert.pem
Certificate:
    Data:
        Version: 1 (0x0)
        Serial Number:
            33:31:14:00:eb:0c:a6:83:41:73:19:8c:72:d3:3a:be:98:ad:27:b8
        Signature Algorithm: sha256WithRSAEncryption
        Issuer: C = pk, ST = punjab, L = Rawalpindi, O = NUTECH, OU = Education, CN =
 Ayesha, emailAddress = ayesha@gmail.com
        Validity
            Not Before: Oct 20 08:43:55 2025 GMT
            Not After : Oct 20 08:43:55 2026 GMT
        Subject: C = pk, ST = punjab, L = Rawalpindi, O = NUTECH, OU = Education, CN
= Ayesha, emailAddress = ayesha@gmail.com
        Subject Public Key Info:
            Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption
                Public-Key: (2048 bit)
                Modulus:
                    00:97:f3:47:5a:ed:81:26:5a:73:42:97:78:22:68:
                    fd:01:1e:2d:95:6e:71:3c:ee:88:a1:e6:88:95:e5:
                    c5:80:14:14:8d:f6:ff:d3:15:47:31:1c:ce:3a:15:
                    71:b3:0f:80:cc:06:57:6c:57:44:0f:44:bf:e8:f4:
                    6c:05:6e:b4:35:76:f6:99:21:38:a6:48:9c:47:6c:
                    19:07:ac:07:13:67:79:90:64:4a:c0:cc:44:74:1c:
```

Part 3 : Verifying the certificate

To verify the self-signed certificate, use the following command:

```
ayesha-imran@ayesha-imran-VMware-Virtual-Platform:~/Desktop$ openssl verify -CAfile m
ycert.pem mycert.pem
mycert.pem: OK
```

Part 4: Exploring the Role of Certificates in SSL/TLS

🔐 SSL/TLS Certificates and Their Role in Web Security

SSL/TLS (Secure Sockets Layer / Transport Layer Security) protocols are the backbone of secure communication over the internet. They rely heavily on **digital certificates** to establish trust and encrypt data.

What Are SSL/TLS Certificates?

Certificates are digital documents that:

- Prove the identity of a server (or sometimes a client)
- Contain the server's **public key**
- Are used during the **SSL/TLS handshake** to initiate secure communication

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SSL/TLS Handshake: Step-by-Step

Here's how certificates fit into the handshake process:

1. **ClientHello**: The client says, "I want to talk securely," and sends supported encryption methods.
2. **ServerHello + Certificate**: The server replies with its chosen encryption method and its **digital certificate**.
3. **Certificate Verification**: The client checks if the certificate is valid and trusted.
4. **Key Exchange**:
    - The client generates a **symmetric key** (used for fast encryption).
    - It encrypts this key using the server's **public key** from the certificate.
    - Sends the encrypted key to the server.
5. **Decryption**: The server uses its **private key** to decrypt the symmetric key.
6. **Secure Communication**: Both now use the symmetric key to encrypt/decrypt data.

This ensures:

- **Authentication**: The server is who it claims to be.
- **Confidentiality**: Data is encrypted.
- **Integrity**: Data hasn't been tampered with.

Types of SSL/TLS Certificates

Certificate Type	Description

Self-Signed	Created and signed by the server itself. Used for testing, not trusted by browsers.
CA-Signed	Issued by trusted Certificate Authorities (CAs). Trusted by browsers and clients.
Wildcard	Secures multiple subdomains (e.g., *.example.com) with one certificate.
Extended Validation (EV)	Requires rigorous identity checks. Shows a green bar or company name in browsers.

Self-Signed vs CA-Signed Certificates

Feature	Self-Signed	CA-Signed
Trust Level	Not trusted by browsers	Trusted by browsers and clients
Use Case	Internal testing, development	Public websites, production systems
Cost	Free	May require payment
Security Risk	Vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks	Strong authentication via CA validation

🔍 Why SSL/TLS Is Crucial for Web Security

- **Protects sensitive data** (passwords, credit cards, personal info)
- **Prevents eavesdropping** and tampering
- **Builds user trust** (padlock icon in browser)
- **Enables secure login, transactions, and communications**
