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Fix for Certificate Error in Chrome - NET::ERR_CERT_COMMON_ NAME_INVALID

It amuses me when Google dictates security policy.

Tuesday
, June 6,
2017

Beginning with Chrome 58, the Chrome browser no longer uses the Common Name (CN) field to validate an SSL certificate. Instead, it only uses the Subject Alternative Name field.

This is in violation of [RFC 2828](#) which states,

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If a `subjectAltName` extension of type `dNSName` is present, that **MUST** be used as the identity.

Otherwise, the (most specific) Common Name field in the Subject field of the certificate **MUST** be used. Although the use of the Common Name is existing practice, it is deprecated and Certification Authorities are encouraged to use the `dNSName` instead.

So someone in Google security said, "Hey! If RFC 2828 says the Common Name is deprecated, we should start making Chrome **ONLY** use the Subject Alternative Name! Existing practice, be damned." Never mind the fact that the RFC was written May 2000, and every other browser and app on the planet uses the Common Name field for single-name certificates.

Therein lies the problem. Most single name certificates and some wildcard certificates only have a Common Name and don't have use Subject Alternative Names. This causes Chrome 58 and later to display the following (incorrect) error. It even goes so far as to blame it on a server misconfiguration.

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My Publications

I'm proud to have authored or collaborated on the following books and publications:



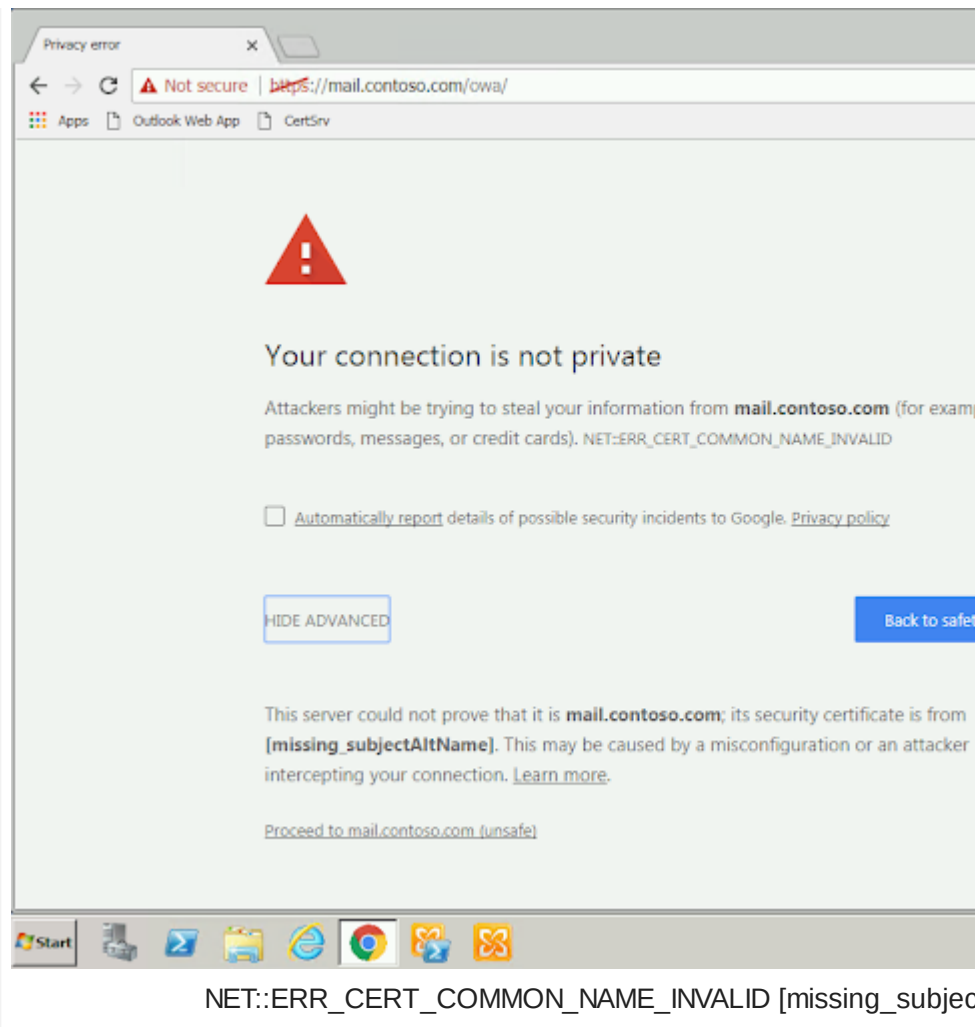
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Jeff Guillet

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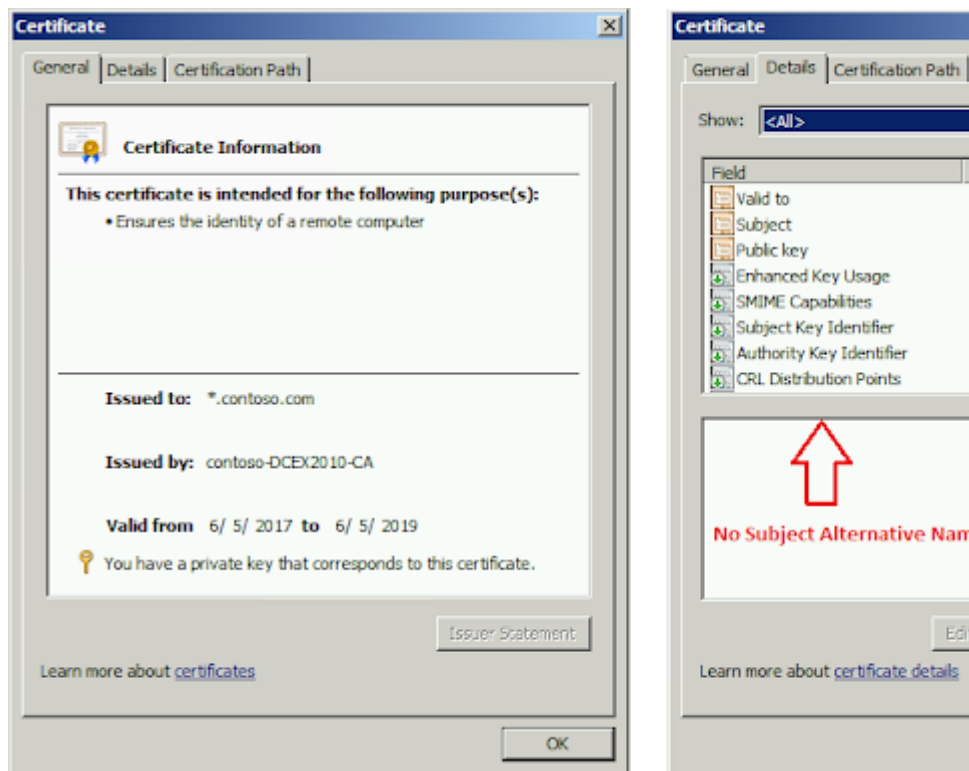
This same website (in this case, OWA) displays properly in all other browsers. If we look at the certificate, we see this is a wildcard cert for *.contoso.com issued by an internal certification authority (CA). The Details tab shows there is no Subject Alternative Name field for this cert.

Services MVP in the San Francisco bay area. I hold multiple certifications including MCITP:Enterprise Administrator and MCITP:Enterprise Messaging Administrator, MCSE:Messaging and CISSP.

I am the author of *The EXPTA {blog}*, as well as a published author, contributing writer, and technical editor for more than a dozen technical books and other publications.

I work primarily with Microsoft cloud and on-premises solutions(Exchange Server, Active Directory, Office 365, etc.). I also work with various other platforms and products, usually in the form of migrations.

Microsoft is not a "religion" for me. They simply provide the best products, in my opinion, and I like to work with the best.



Wildcard certificate details with only a Common Name (CN)

To fix the error for your Chrome users, you'll need to regenerate the certificate to include a Subject Alternative Name. Here's how to do that using the Certificates MMC when you have an internal Certification Authority (CA).

From the web server, open MMC and add the **Certificates** snap-in, managing the Computer account. Then expand **Certificates (Local Computer) > Personal > Certificates**.

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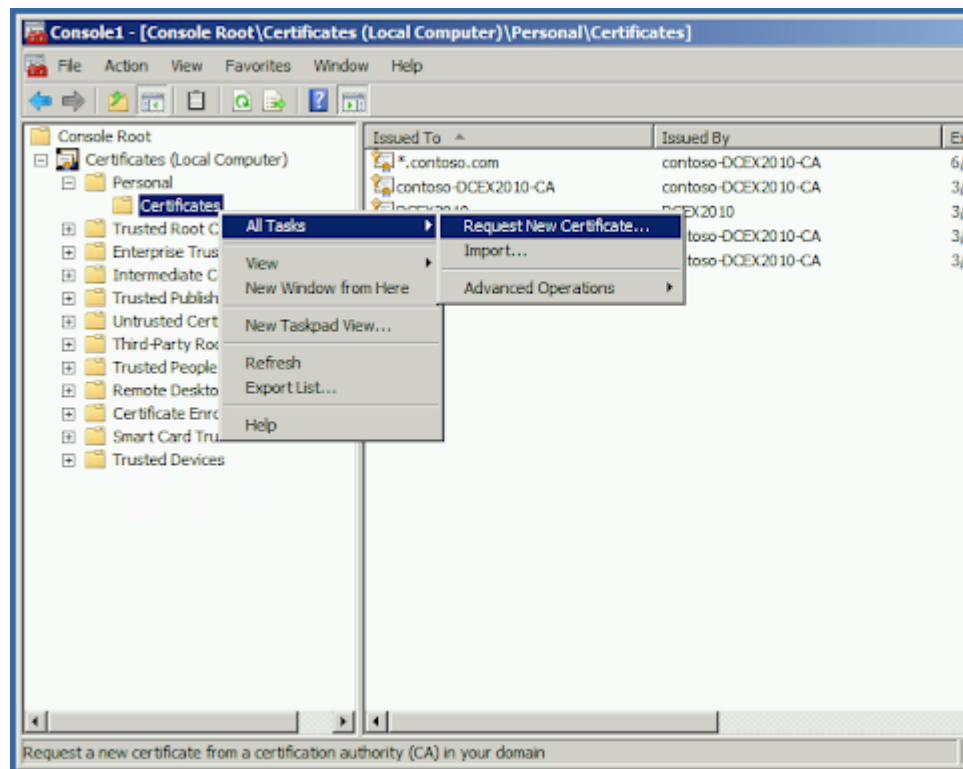
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Right-click **Certificates** > **All Tasks** > **Request New Certificate...**

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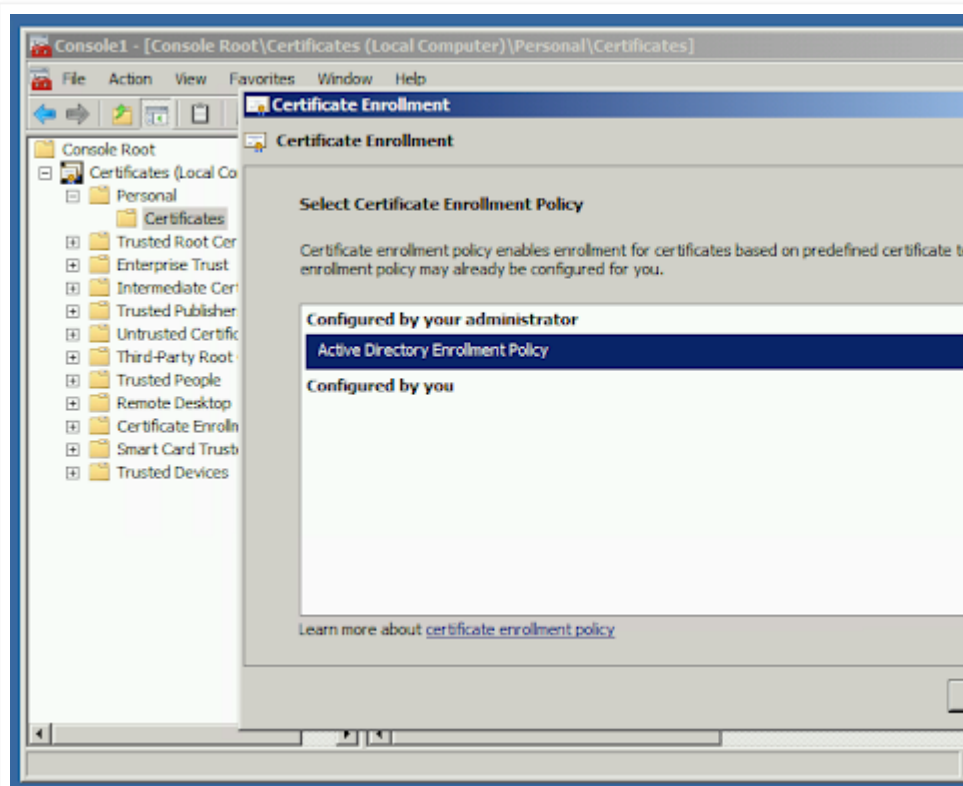
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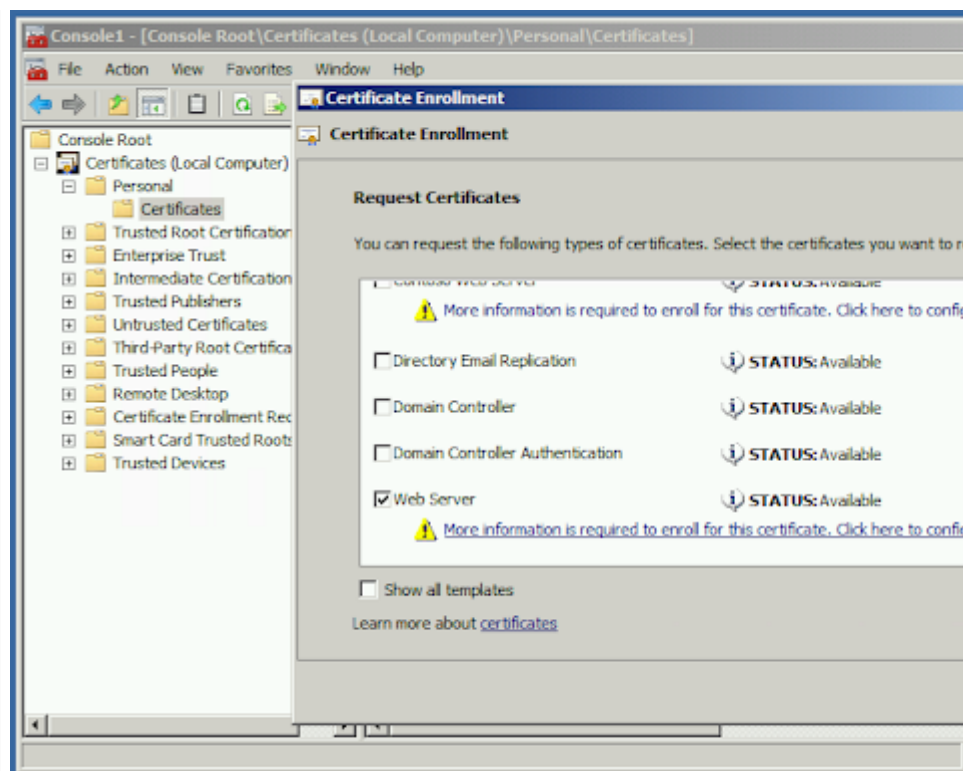
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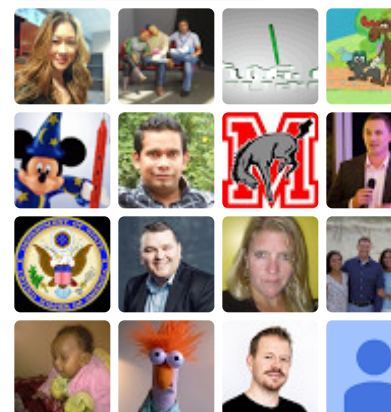


Select the **Web Server** certificate template and click the link below it to er

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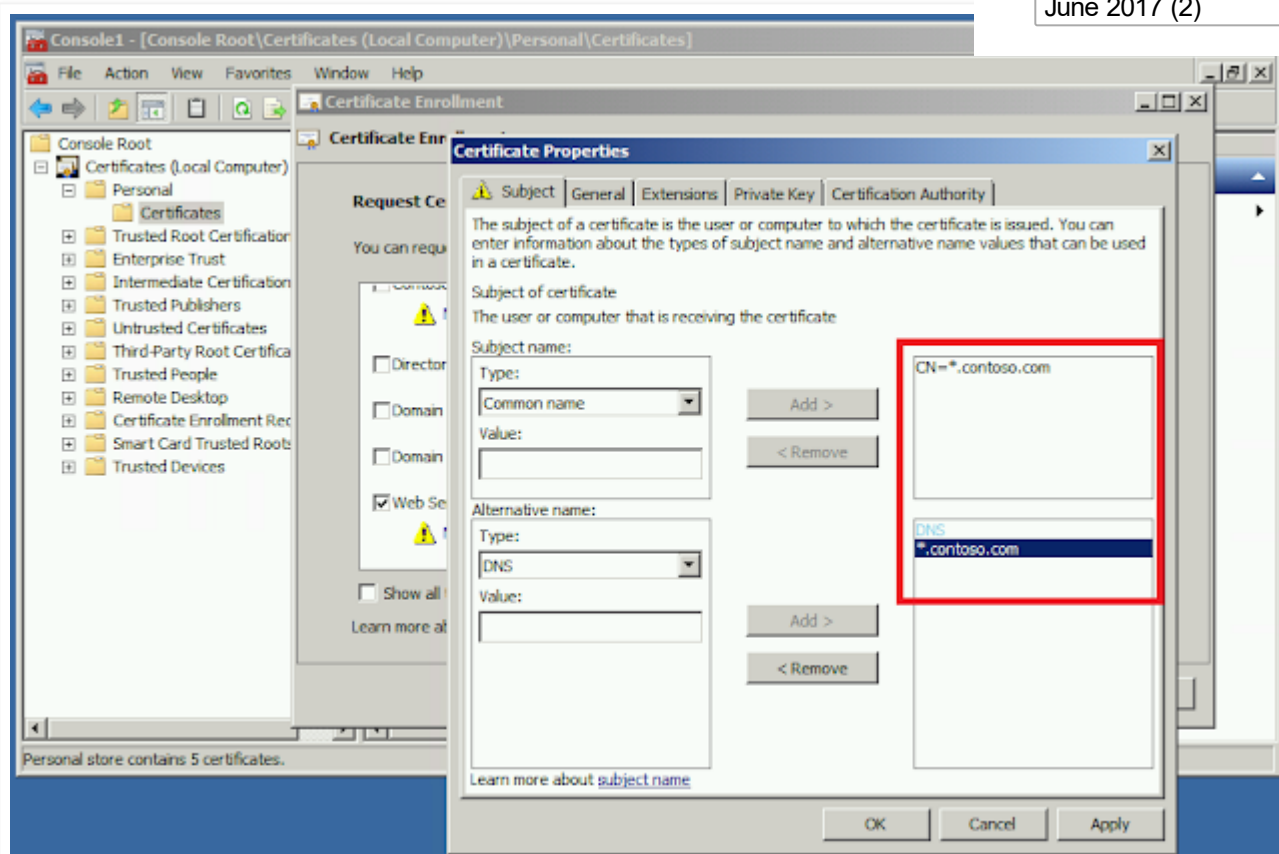
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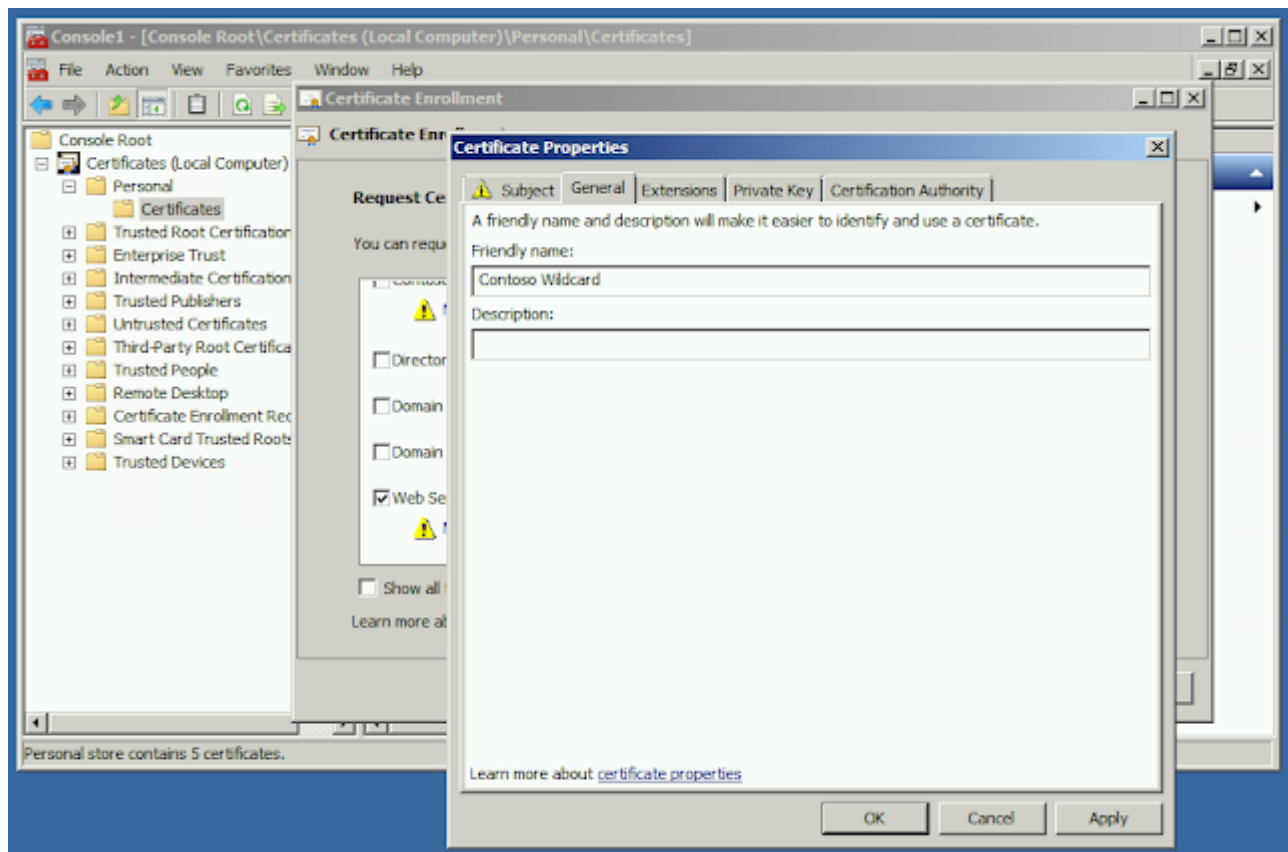
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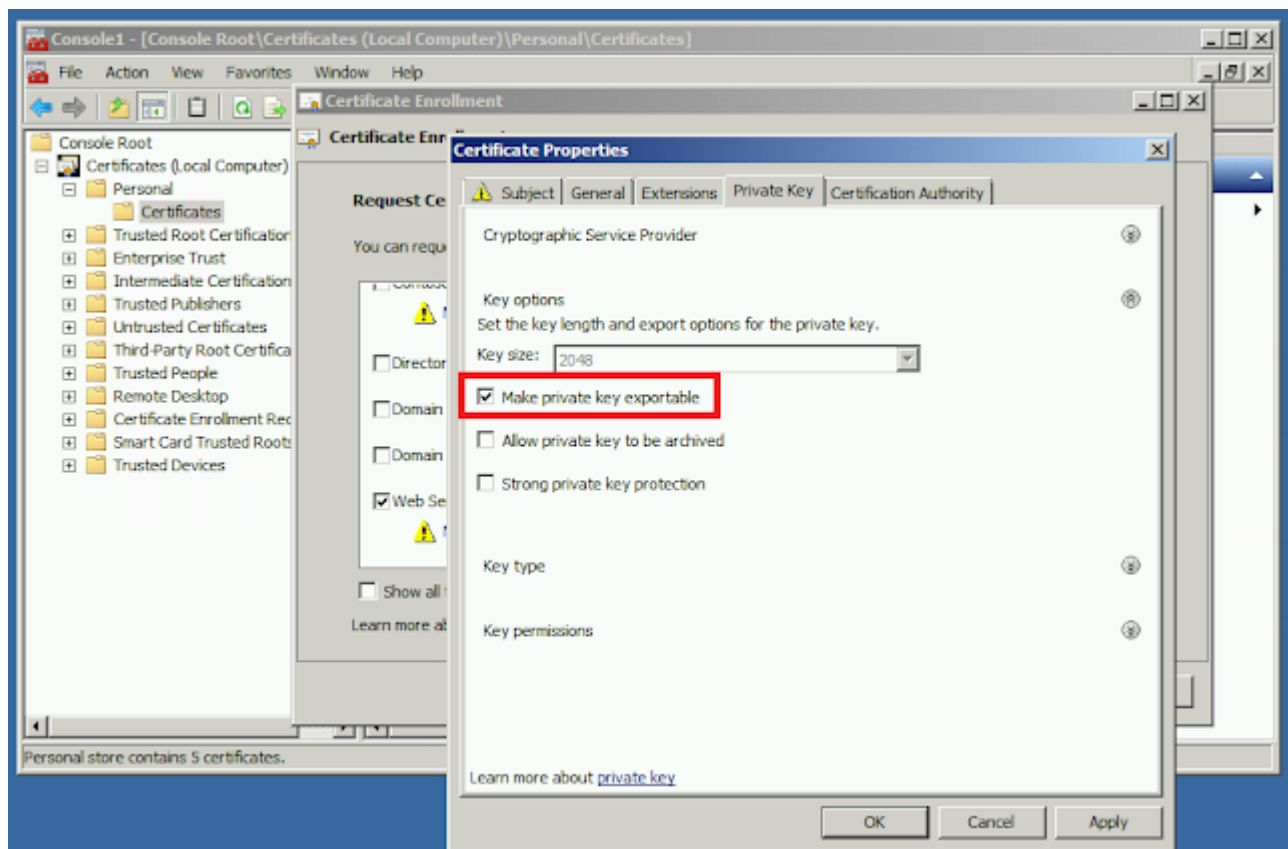
June 2017 (2)



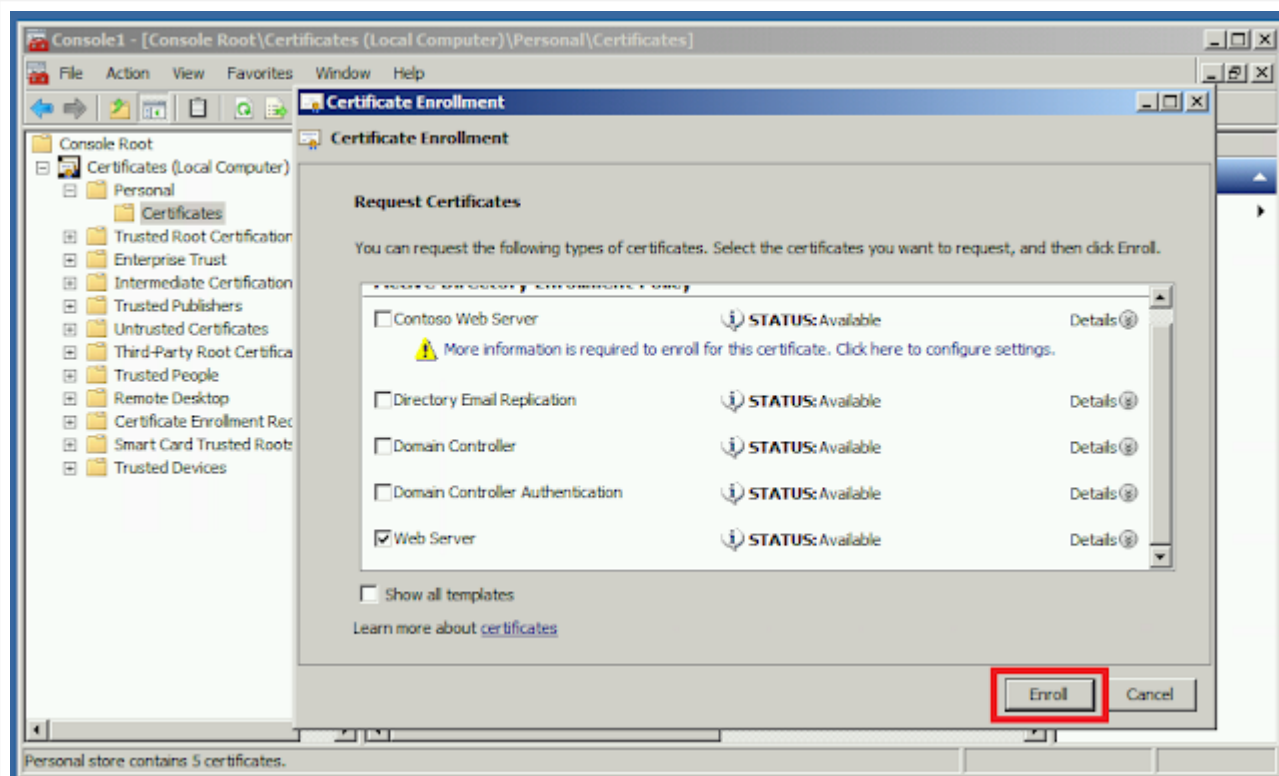
Add the **Common Name** for the Subject Name, and the **DNS** name for the Alternative Name. They can be the same value. Chrome 58 and later only uses the DNS alternative name.



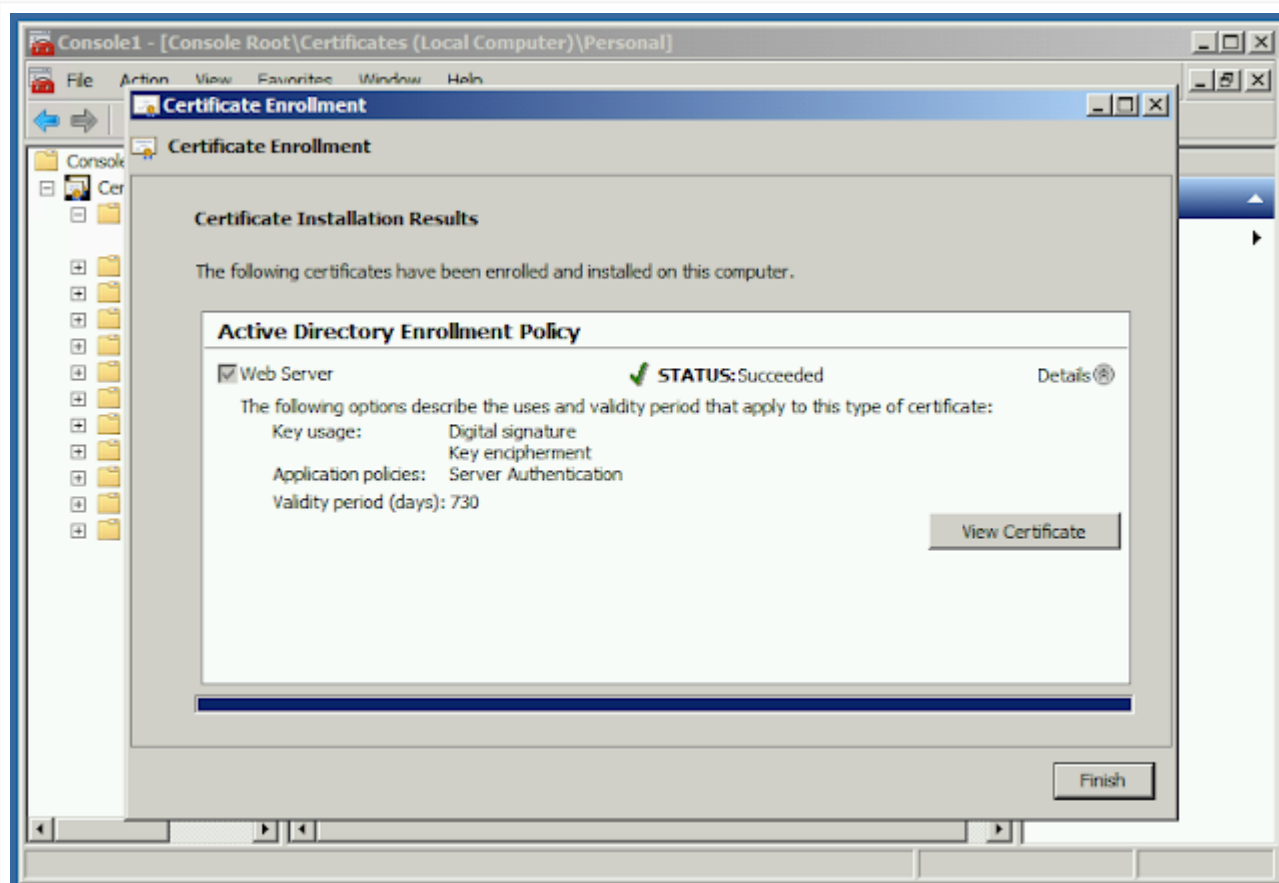
Enter a Friendly Name on the General tab.



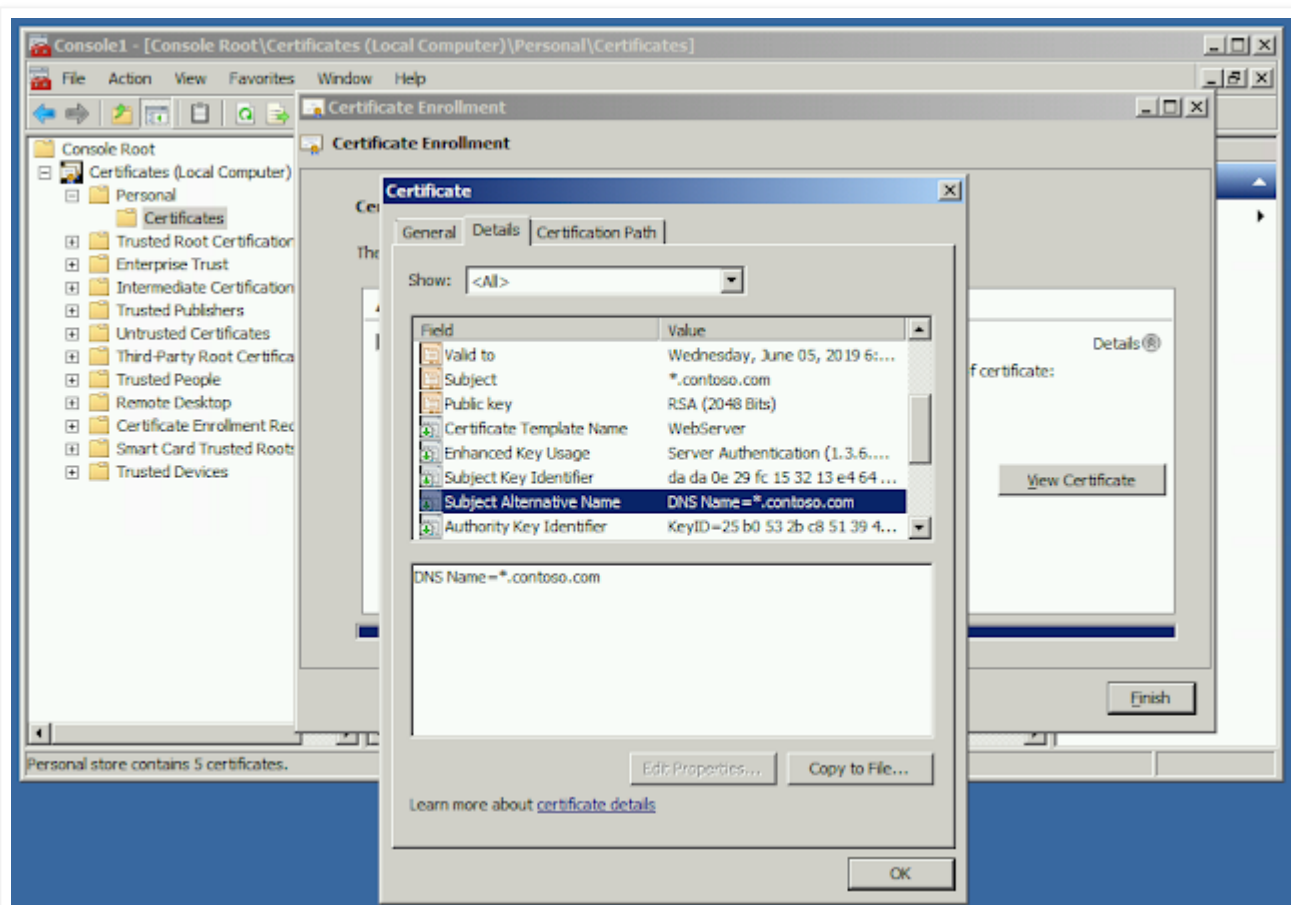
Optionally, make the private key exportable on the Private Key tab and click OK.



Click **Enroll** to generate the new cert from the CA and install it on the web server.



The certificate will be installed. Click **Details** to view the new certificate.



On the Details tab we see the Subject Alternative Name is on the new cert.

Now you'll either need to configure IIS to use the new certificate (Web Site - Bindings) or reconfigure Exchange web services using the **Enable-ExchangeCertificate** cmdlet.

Posted by [Jeff Guillet](#) at [11:48 AM](#)



Labels: [certificates](#), [Chrome](#), [Exchange](#), [Google](#), [OWA](#), [Security](#), [Skype for Business](#), [tip](#), [troubleshooting](#)

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Jeff Guillet via Google+ · 1 year ago · Shared publicly

Fix for Certificate Error in Chrome - NET::ERR_CERT_COMMON_NAME_INVALID

It amuses me when Google dictates security policy. Beginning with Chrome 58, the Chrome browser no longer uses the Subject Alternative Name field. This is in violation of RFC ...

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Andrea Borghi · 1 year ago (edited)

It created major issues for home networks, broke every connection, the policy EnableCommonNameFallbackDevices is using Microsoft Edge. I liked Chrome but it is unusable now. What we would ask is a way to ditch Printers, Asus Routers, Sonicwall Firewalls, all of them create default certificates that are not compliant and drive people away from Chrome out of desperation.



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thank you for the great explanation and post.

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