

# The User Guide of TIHM PKI System

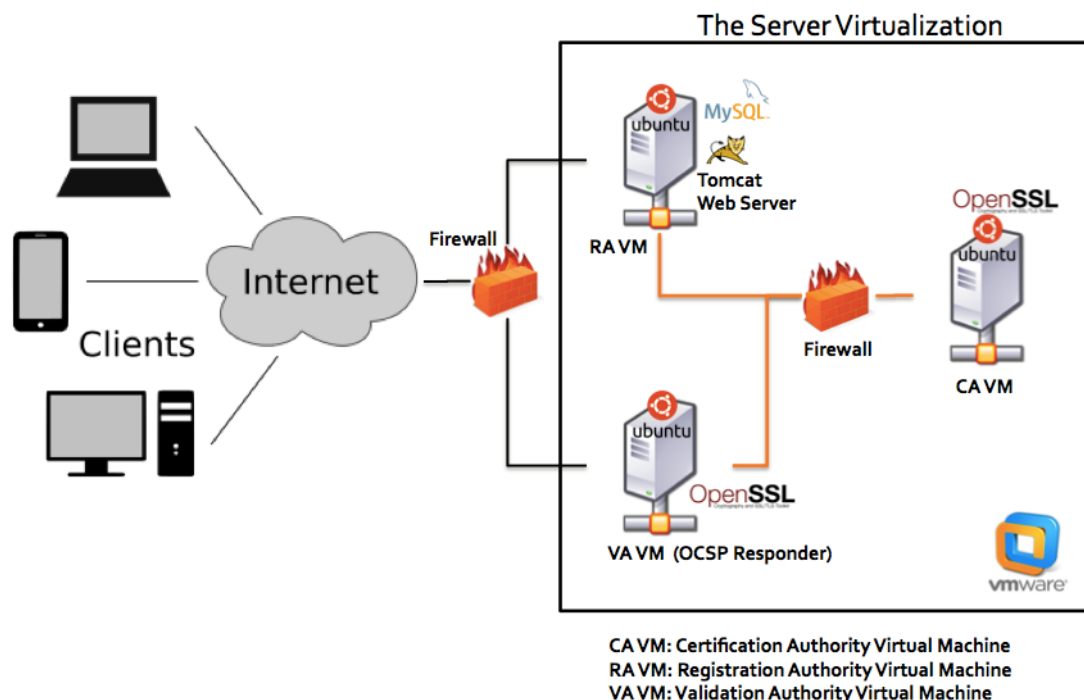
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## 1. TIHM PKI Infrastructure Introduction



The primary aim of the PKI system is to create digital certificates for the entities involved in the project. These certificates help establish a secure connection between communicating parties using protocols such as TLS1.2. Additionally, the

system has some features that enable the confirmation of the current certificate's validity when necessary. The PKI infrastructure comprises three essential services: registration (RA), validation (VA), and certification (CA).

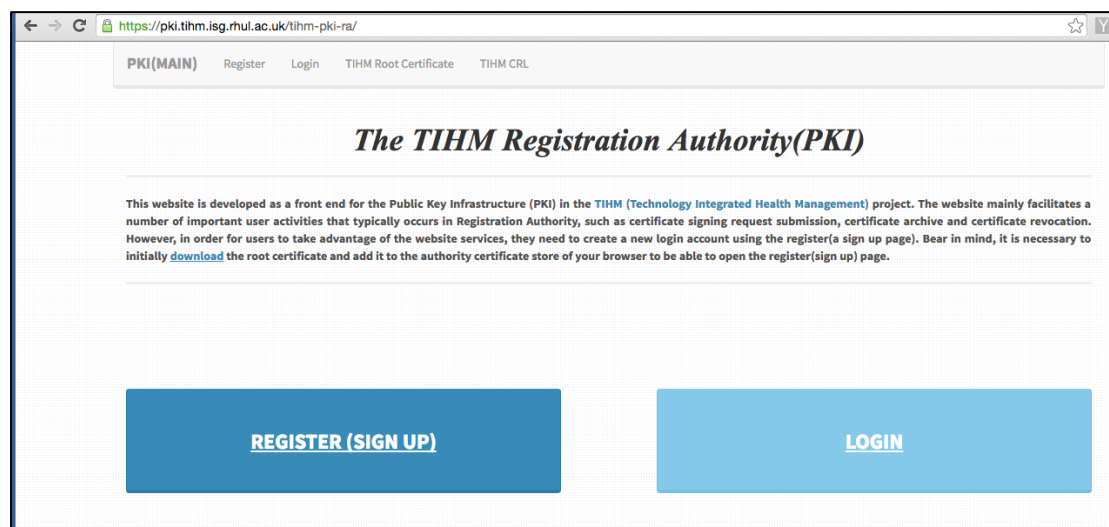
Only registration (RA VM) and validation (AV VM) authority services are accessible to external users. However, the TIHM certification authority (CA VM), which contains the master key for signing certificates, is proposed to be well protected and is anticipated not to be online for use at all times but only in certain time slots for security purposes. The Following URLs for registration and validation services show how to reach these services respectively:

- 1- <http://pki.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk> [Unavailable Due to Project Completion]
- 2- <http://ocsp.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk> [Unavailable Due to Project Completion]

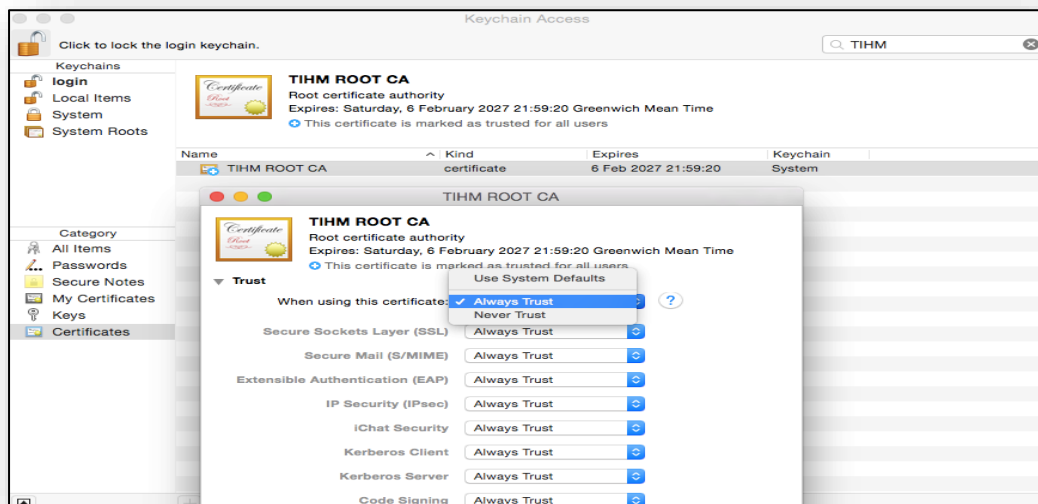
Bear in mind, the URL of the validation service is already included in every certificate being issued by CA. Please check the Authority Information attributes in the certificate.

## 2. Registration & Login

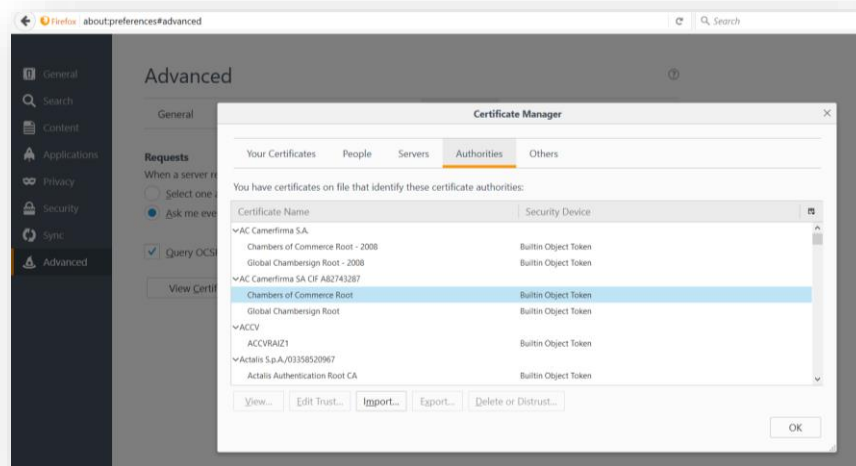
To create an account, you need first to download the TIHM root certificate and then add it to the authority certificate store of the browser in use.



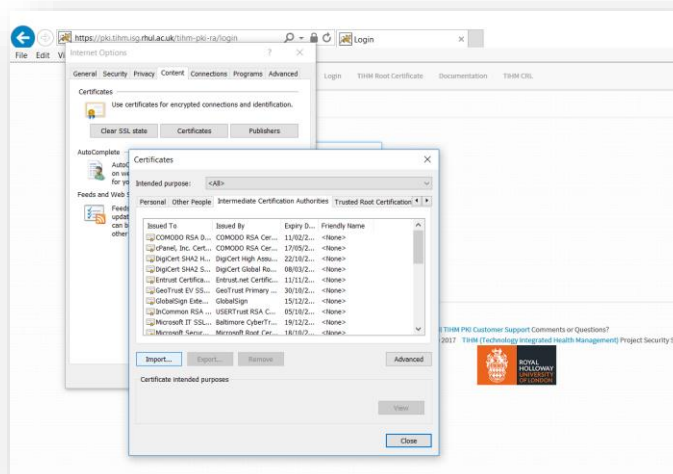
- The examples of feeding the root certificate into different browsers
  - Adding a certificate in Mac for Chrome, Firefox and Safari:



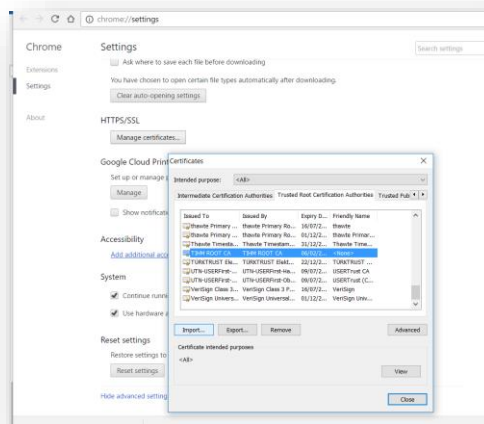
- Adding a certificate in Windows:
- For Firefox browser:



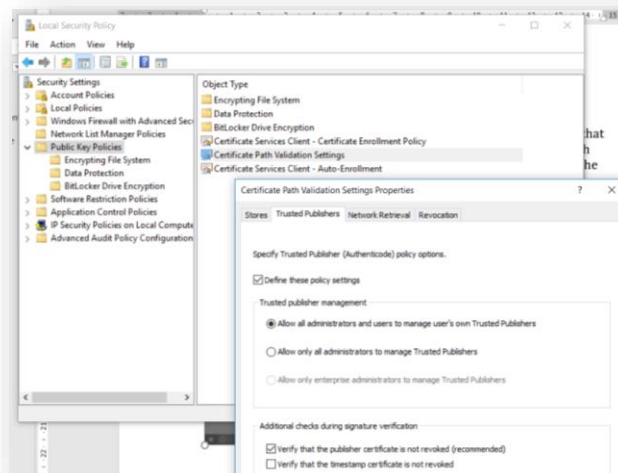
- For Internet Explorer and Edge browsers:-



- For Chrome browsers:-



**Important Note for revocation:** it is important to enable the revocation check in every browser and each browser has a different way of configuring that feature. For example, Firefox has an option for OCSP checking which you need to activate. Windows Internet Explorer has some checks in the advanced settings, which you have to enable in addition to some options in the local security policy. See the next screenshot:



Filling out the registration form for a user to login to the system, therefore you should provide a username, password and details.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "User Register Form" with the URL "https://10.201.2.7:8443/tihm-pki-ra/register". The page has a navigation bar with links: PKI(MAIN), Register, Login, TIHM Root Certificate, and TIHM CRL. The main heading is "RA User Registration". The form contains several input fields: "Email \*" (with placeholder "Email Address or Username"), "Last Name \*" (with placeholder "Last Name"), "Organization \*" (with a dropdown menu showing "Organization Name"), "First Name \*" (with placeholder "First Name"), "Password \*" (with placeholder "Password"), and "Confirm Password \*" (with placeholder "Re-password"). At the bottom, there are two buttons: "REGISTER" and "RESET".

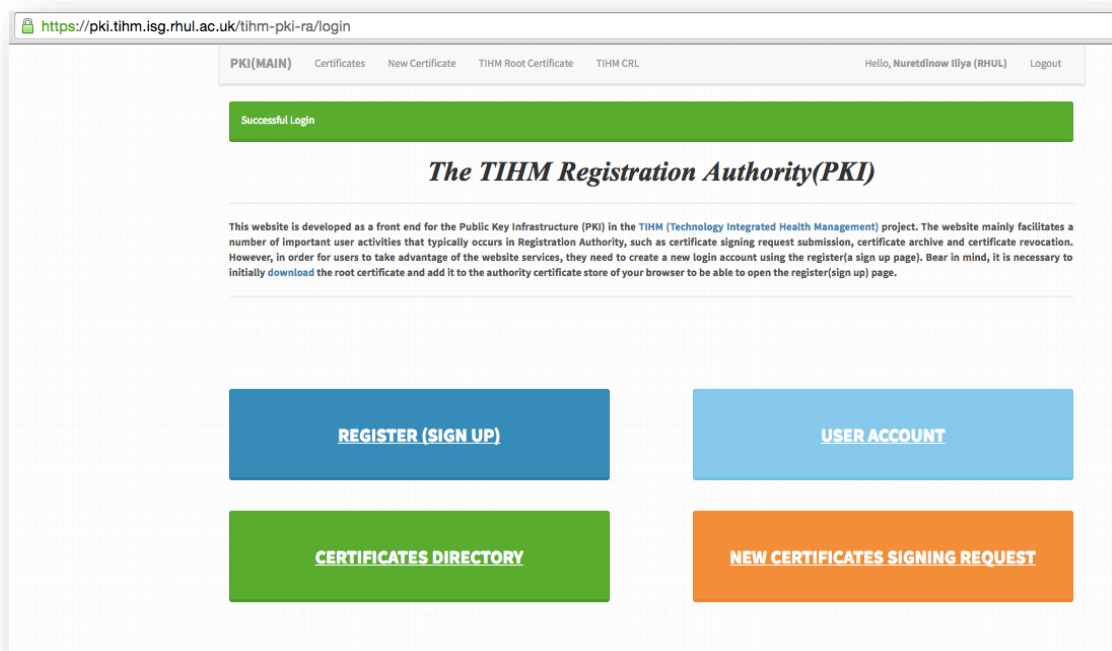
You can access the system by using Login page

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "hm-pki-ra/login". The page has a navigation bar with links: PKI(MAIN), Register, Login, TIHM Root Certificate, and TIHM CRL. The main heading is "Login". The form contains two input fields: "Email or Username \*" (with placeholder "Email or Username") and "Password \*" (with placeholder "Password"). Below the fields are two buttons: "LOGIN" and "SIGN UP". At the bottom, there is a link: "Forgotten Password, please contact Customer Support".

The next page is to allow users to manage their login accounts, such as making changes to user details or change the password.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "hm-pki-ra/secure/account". The page has a navigation bar with links: PKI(MAIN), Certificates, New Certificate, TIHM Root Certificate, and TIHM CRL. The user is logged in as "Hello, Salah eddin Darwish (RHUL)" and there is a "Logout" link. The main heading is "Account Details:-". The form contains several input fields: "User email or Username:" (with placeholder "drwish1980@hotmail.com"), "Last Name" (with placeholder "Darwish"), "User Organization" (with a dropdown menu showing "RHUL"), "First Name" (with placeholder "Salah eddin"), and "Enter Password:" (with placeholder "Enter Password to confirm the changes"). At the bottom, there is a button: "SAVE CHANGES". Below the "Account Details" section, there is a section titled "Reset your password:-" with three input fields: "Current Password \*" (with placeholder "Current Password"), "New Password\*" (with placeholder "New Password"), and "Confirm Password\*" (with placeholder "Re-type New Password"). At the bottom of this section, there is a button: "CHANGE PASSWORD".

The following screen is available after logging in; the main page will include four buttons referring to different system activities:



### 3. Submitting a Certificate Singing Request

The next page allows user to feed the new certificate-signing request to the system. Firstly, before you fill out the form on the page, you need to generate a csr file any convenient security tools. Bear in mind, that the organization name that appears in the request must match the user organization inserted during the user registration.

The screenshot shows the 'Create NEW Certificate Signing Request' form in the same web application. The URL is https://pki.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk/tihm-pki-ra/secure/newcsr. The form has a title 'Create NEW Certificate Signing Request' and a 'Certificate Type\*' dropdown menu with 'User Certificate' selected. The form is divided into two columns. The left column contains fields for 'Common Name \*' (with a note: 'if the certificate request is for device, it is highly recommended to use UUID for this field'), 'State / Province(User & Device)\*', 'User Organization / Device Provider \*' (a dropdown menu), and 'Upload Certificate Signing Request File (\*.csr)\*' (with a 'Choose File' button and 'No file chosen' text). The right column contains fields for 'Country\*', 'Locale / City(User & Device)\*', and 'User Organization Department / Device Type'. At the bottom, there are 'SUBMIT REQUEST' and 'RESET' buttons. A note at the bottom states: 'Note: The user must generate the csr file in the machine where the private key is saved using any convenient crypto libraries such as OpenSSL, Java Keytool, etc. The user guide of creating csr using OPENSSL is available(download)'.

**Example: How to generate the CSR file using OPENSSL in Linux:** The following steps are to demonstrate how to create a Certificate Signing Request (\*.csr) file using a Linux terminal, so you can upload to RA to generate a request.

Generating the CSR requires a number of shell commands, the location and file name of your newly created key, and a path and file name for your CSR. In addition, some information (e.g. country, state, etc.) is required to populate the CSR.

- 1) Generate a pair of keys (public and private keys) and save file in path with key file extension, it is important to provide the size of keys in this example 2048bit:

**openssl genrsa -des3 -out /path/to/www\_server\_com.key 2048**

- 2) Then, create a configuration file (\*.txt file) which includes all the information and properties required for generate a correct certificate request for CA. in

```
cat > csr_details.txt <<-EOF
```

```
[req]
default_bits = 2048
prompt = no
default_md = sha256
req_extensions = req_ext
distinguished_name = dn
```

```
[ dn ]
C=GB      # The Country Name is mandatory and takes a two-letter country code such as GB.
ST=Surrey # The State or Province Name field requires a full name – do not use an abbreviation,
such as London.
L=Egham   # The Locality Name field is for your city or town or device address.
O= RHUL   # The Organization Name field, insert your organization or device provider
OU=ISG    # The Organizational Unit Name is an optional field for your department or section OR
device type
CN = www.your-new-domain.com # The Common Name field is used as a user or device
identifier. For a user identifier, enter your name while for a device identifier, it is recommended to use
UUDI to have a unique identifier.
emailAddress=your-administrative-address@your- domain.com # An optional
filed
```

```
[ req_ext ]
subjectAltName = @alt_names
```

```
[ alt_names ]
DNS.1 = your-new-domain.com # alternative Name for CN
DNS.2 = www.your-new-domain.com # alternative Name for CN
EOF
```

After performing the previous command, please check if the configuration file has been created by looking into the current directory.

- 3) Finally, create Certificate Signing Request (\*.csr) file by using the following OpenSSL command:

```
openssl req -new -key -out /path/to/www.your-new-domain.com.csr -key  
/path/to/www_server_com.key -config <( cat csr_details.txt )
```

Note that a certificate-signing request always should have a file name ending with a *csr* file extension. During the execution of the previous command, entering your passphrase will be prompted for the key.

**Note:** If you prefer to use other tools to generate your own csr file, the following links provide you with some relevant resources of the other tools such as java keytool, windows MMC , etc.:

❖ **Java Keytool:**

<https://www.digicert.com/csr-creation-java.htm>

❖ **Windows:**

<http://www.entrust.net/knowledge-base/technote.cfm?tn=8924>

[https://documentation.meraki.com/zGeneral\\_Administration/Other\\_Topics/Creating\\_an\\_Offline\\_Certificate\\_Request\\_in\\_Windows\\_Server](https://documentation.meraki.com/zGeneral_Administration/Other_Topics/Creating_an_Offline_Certificate_Request_in_Windows_Server)

❖ **Mac:**

<https://www.digicert.com/csr-creation-ssl-installation-mac-osx-el-capitan.htm>

<https://www.ssldesk.com/certificate-signing-request-csr-instructions-for-apple-mac-os-x-10-11/>



## 4. Checking Certificates and Revocation

Browse the certificate directory:

#	CRT Type	Common Name	Country	State(Province)	Locale(City)	Organization/Device Provider	Organization Dept./Device Type	Request Date	CRT Serial No.	Actions
1	device	07...9a-441c-1...ce4c30a89f09	GB	London	Uxbridge		ICG Device	2017-01-25	11	<a href="#">CSR FILE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">REVOKE NOW</a>
2	user	Ilia Nouretdinov	GB	London	Egham	RHUL	ISG	2017-01-09		<a href="#">CSR FILE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">REVOKE NOW</a>
3	user	Salaheddin	GB	London	Egham	RHUL	ISG	2017-01-18	1	<a href="#">CSR FILE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">REVOKE NOW</a>
4	user		GB	Surrey	Guilford	Surrey University	5G Centre	2017-01-18	9B569BD	<a href="#">CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD</a>
5	user	test Test	GB	London	London	University of Surrey	5G Centre	2017-01-18	9	<a href="#">CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD</a> <a href="#">REVOKED</a>

After submitting a CSR request, refresh the screen in some time to see when it becomes ready for CERTIFICATE DOWNLOAD. The certificate is expected to take at most 20 minutes. For revocation of a certificate, use REVOKE NOW button. The status will be then changed to REVOKED once the revocation request is confirmed by the CA.

## 5. OCSP responder (Certificate validation)

There is no GUI for this service (<http://ocsp.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk>[\[Unavailable Due to Project Completion\]](#)) and the service is expected to be incorporated in the TLS protocol between two parties to validate certificates being exchanged before establishing a secure channel. Every entity must configure their ends to call back this service.

**Example of OPENSSL command line to call this service**

- **openssl ocsp -issuer ~/va/TIHM-CA.crt -nonce -CAfile ~/va/TIHM-CA.crt -url <http://ocsp.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk> -serial "0x04" -resp\_text**

## 6. CRL (Certificate Revocation List)

Apart from the OCSP responder, the PKI system is designed to provide CRL to the users as an alternative when OCSP is not available and this list is accessible by <http://pki.tihm.isg.rhul.ac.uk/tihm-pki-ra/crl>[Unavailable Due to Project Completion]

Signature

*Salaheddin Darwish*