



# Laboratory\_15: Mounting a Certificate Authority and perform a secure automated certificate management.

## Installation

- Install step
  - sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends curl vim gpg ca-certificates
  - sudo curl -fsSL https://packages.smallstep.com/keys/apt/repo-signing-key.gpg -o /etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/smallstep.asc && \ echo 'deb [signed-by=/etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/smallstep.asc] https://packages.smallstep.com/stable/debian debs main' \ | sudo tee /etc/apt/sources.list.d/smallstep.list deb [signed-by=/etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/smallstep.asc] https://packages.smallstep.com/stable/debian debs main
  - o sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get -y install step-cli
  - sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get install -y tshark

## CA deployment

- Deployment:

```
docker run -it -v step:/home/step \
-p 9000:9000 \
-e "DOCKER_STEPCA_INIT_NAME=Smallstep" \
-e "DOCKER_STEPCA_INIT_DNS_NAMES=localhost,$(hostname -f)" \
-e "DOCKER_STEPCA_INIT_REMOTE_MANAGEMENT=true" \
smallstep/step-ca
```

- Collect:
  - o CA administrative username
  - CA administrative password
- Check CA status:
  - o curl https://localhost:9000/health
    - Output: {"status":"ok"}





- Obtain password:
  - CA\_FINGERPRINT=\$(docker run -v step:/home/step smallstep/step-ca step certificate fingerprint certs/root\_ca.crt)
  - step ca bootstrap --ca-url https://localhost:9000 --fingerprint \$CA\_FINGERPRINT install
  - o Login:

The root certificate has been saved in /home/openbao/.step/certs/root\_ca.crt.
The authority configuration has been saved in /home/openbao/.step/config/defaults.json.
Installing the root certificate in the system truststore... [sudo] password for openbao:
done.

## Get a certificate

- 1. Once you have a certificate authority up and running, the step ca certificate command is a one-step option for generating a private key and obtaining a signed certificate:
  - step ca certificate svc.example.com svc.crt svc.key
- 2. You can check your work using step certificate inspect:

step certificate inspect svc.crt --short

## Sign a certificate signing request (CSR)

3. Generating a private key and a certificate request (CSR) file

step certificate create --csr foo.example.com foo.csr foo.key

4. Asking the CA to sign the CSR and return a certificate

step ca sign foo.csr foo.crt

5. sudo tshark -i any -f "tcp port 9000" -w step\_ca\_traffic.pcap





## Issue a certificate using a Single-use CA Token (CSR)

6. CA generates a token for the client who has the JWK's encrypted private key password:

TOKEN=\$(step ca token localhost)

echo \$TOKEN | step crypto jwt inspect --insecure

7. Generate the CSR:

step certificate create --csr localhost localhost.csr localhost.key

8. Get the CSR signed, using the token:

step ca sign --token \$TOKEN localhost.csr localhost.crt

### Renew a certificate

9. Certificate renewal is easy, and is authenticated using the existing private key:

step ca renew foo.crt foo.key

## Revoke a certificate

10. Revoke the svc.crt certificate we created earlier:

step ca revoke --cert svc.crt --key svc.key

### Validate Certificate

- 11. Install step client in windows:
- curl.exe -LO <a href="https://dl.smallstep.com/cli/docs-cli-install/latest/step\_windows\_amd64.zip">https://dl.smallstep.com/cli/docs-cli-install/latest/step\_windows\_amd64.zip</a>
- Expand-Archive -LiteralPath .\step\_windows\_amd64.zip -DestinationPath .





• step\_windows\_amd64\bin\step.exe version

#### 12. Apply on Windows:

a. step\_windows\_amd64\bin\step.exe ca bootstrap --ca-url https://192.168.64.154:9000 - -fingerprint

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> step\_windows\_amd64\bin\step.exe ca bootstrap --ca-url https://192.168.64.154:9000 --fingerprint 1f8a7b3624a0ee8c85830058e84d2df7e1de70d41228300b30c6b508673272f -install The root certificate has been saved in C:\Users\WINLARP\.step\certs\root\_ca.crt. The authority configuration has been saved in C:\Users\WINLARP\.step\config\defaults.json. Installing the root certificate in the system truststore... done.