

Install

On Ubuntu systems, the Certbot team maintains a PPA. Once you add it to your list of repositories all you'll need to do is apt-get the following packages.

```
$ sudo add-apt-repository ppa:certbot/certbot
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install python-certbot-apache
```

Get Started

Certbot has a fairly solid beta-quality Apache plugin, which is supported on many platforms, and automates both obtaining and installing certs:

```
$ certbot --apache
```

If you're feeling more conservative and would like to make the changes to your Apache configuration by hand, you can use the **certonly** subcommand:

```
$ certbot --apache certonly
```

Note:
the apache plugin
with **certonly** does the
following:

1. make temporary config changes
(adding a new vhost to pass an [ACME Challenge](#), and enabling `mod_ssl` if necessary)
2. performs a graceful reload
3. reverts all changes
4. performs another graceful reload

This appears to be a reliable process, but if you don't want Certbot to touch your Apache process or files in any way, you can use the [webroot plugin](#).

To learn more about how to use Certbot [read our documentation](#).

Automating renewal

The Certbot packages on your system come with a cron job that will renew your certificates automatically before they expire. Since Let's Encrypt certificates last for 90 days, it's highly advisable to take advantage of this feature. You can test automatic renewal for your certificates by running this command:

```
certbot renew --dry-run
```