
NAVSUP Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Instructions for Importing Software Certificates into Microsoft Internet Explorer

About Microsoft Internet Explorer

Microsoft Internet Explorer (MSIE) versions 5.0 and above are compatible with DoD PKI digital certificates. However, only the domestic 128-bit version of 5.0 and 5.1 will work with appropriate patches. Internet Explorer 5.5 contains all of the patches necessary to enable 128-bit encryption and is the recommended version of MSIE.

MSIE cannot be used to request and accept digital certificates because of its reliance on Active-X controls which are not permitted through the DoD certificate authority firewalls.

Generate Export File

Prior to importing the certificate into MSIE, you must generate an exported copy of your certificate from Netscape to a floppy disk or your hard drive. For instructions on creating this file, see the Certificate Importing and Exporting instructions.

Importing the Certificate into MSIE

- Launch Internet Explorer 5.5
- Under the “Tools” menu, select “Internet Options”
- Select the “Content” tab
- Click the “Certificate” button
- Click the “Import” button
- Click the “Next” button
- Click the “Browse” button
- At the bottom of the browse window, set the “Files of Type” option to **All Files**
- Locate the **.p12** file you exported earlier
- Click the “Open” button
- Click the “Next” button
- Enter the password you used when you saved the **.p12** file
- Click the checkbox for “Enable Strong Private Key Protection” and “Mark the Private Key as Exportable”
- Click the “Next” button
- Select the “Automatically select certificate store” radio button

- Click the “*Next*” button
- Click the “*Finish*” button

IMPORTANT: On the dialog box that appears, the default security setting is “Medium”. This setting is not acceptable security for PKI certificates and does not meet the certificate user obligations.

- Click the “*Set Security Level*” button
- Select the “*High*” radio button
- Click the “*Next*” button
- Enter your name into the “*Password for*” box
- Enter your password in the “*Password*” box
- Enter your password again into the “*Confirm*” box
- Click the “*Finish*” button
- Enter your password
- Do not check the “*Remember password*” box

IMPORTANT: Allowing the workstation to remember your password will enable anyone who has access to the workstation to use your digital identity. This setting is not acceptable security for PKI certificates and does not meet the certificate user obligations.

- Click “*OK*”