

Re: How do I make a local machine client certificate available to all users?

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- *From:* "Assimalyst" <c_oxtoby@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 8 Nov 2006 02:51:51 -0800
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I have just found out the client machines operate from a DHCP server. I presume then that IPsec will not work in this instance?

Thanks

Assimalyst wrote:

I will elaborate on the situation as i am still a little unclear on the best course of action.

I have Windows server 2003 SP1 running a website. I want to allow only specific machines to access this website over the internet. They will likely originate from 1 or 2 IP addresses, belonging to bureau of machines, where users may be using different machines within the bureau day to day.

Ideally i would like to be able to track which machines are logged on, and which user is logged on with that machine. I can track users through the website, but am not so sure how to track the machine.

I thought by using client certificates that the machine could be tracked, but the certificate is installed on a per user basis. I found i was able to install on the local machine certificate store, but the certificate still needed to be installed per user for them to gain access to the website.

Any comments would be much appreciated.

Assimalyst wrote:

Hi David,

Thank you for your response.

Yes, the intention is to allow a machine access regardless of user, the website has a user login to track that.

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So it seems client certificates are not the way to go on this? I will look into IPSec, but of course any further comments are always welcome.

Thanks again

David Wang wrote:

What are you trying to accomplish?

Are you trying to install one client certificate on machine and have all users logged into that machine automatically use that certificate to make a SSL request to your server? Because if so, what you want is very contrary to the whole security design of a client certificate.

The whole purpose of client certificate is proof of identity. If you have multiple users that can use the same certificate, you might as well not bother requiring client certificates in the first place.

Unless you are trying to enforce the requirement that only certain machines with client certificates, used by anyone, can access your server, but you can do that in other ways, like with IPSec.

So... can you please describe what you are actually trying to do?

//David
<http://w3-4u.blogspot.com>
<http://blogs.msdn.com/David.Wang>
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Assimalyst wrote:

Hi,

Using Windows Server 2003, i have set up a standalone certificate using the certsrv tools.

When a client machine registers you can use

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the advanced form to 'Store Certificate in Local Computer Certificate Store'.

This all works as intended when the client machine registers, but when a user logs on to the site using IE6 they still are met with the 'The page requires a client certificate' web page.

I know i can export the local machine store certificate and then import per user through IE, but is there an easier way to do it? Ideally i want all users on a particular machine to automatically use the local computer stored certificate without need for individual IE install.

Thanks for your help.