

enterprise

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<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windows.server.security/2006-01/msg00282.html>

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 - *Date:* Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:46:18 +0800
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Sorry if this is too much of a newbie question, I am just starting to learn about certificate services & PKI....

We are a relatively small company (<100), but we wish to implement a public key infrastructure using our Server 2003/SP1 servers (all our clients are XP/SP2). We want to have digital signing for files, emails, etc and will also be implementing smartcard login.

>From my certificate services reading, it seems that we want to have a enterprise level certification authority. So that means we need a root CA and 1 or more subordinate CAs. Also from my reading it seems that securing the root CA is extremely important, and it is recommended that we have the root CA offline and locked up.

Being a small company, the cost to do this seems a bit excessive.

Would it be possible to have one of the existing well known CAs (verisign or thawte or ...) be our root CA? ie, can we have them sign our subordinate CA's certificate? That would satisfy the "secure/locked up" requirement, right?

I have visited both Verisign & Thawte's sites, and couldnt find anything about this.

Is this possible? what kind of cost am I looking at to do this?

Thanks for any info,

Joe

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