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Types of SSL Certificates

A brief explanation

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What are the Types of SSL Certificates?

Over the last few years the number of organisations using SSL Certificates has increased dramatically. The applications for which SSL is being used have also expanded. For example:

Some organisations need SSL simply for confidentiality, e.g. encryption

Some organisations wish to use SSL to enhance trust in their security and identity, e.g. they want to show customers they have been vetted and are a legitimate organisation

As the applications for SSL have started to become wider, three types of SSL Certificates have emerged:

Extended Validation (EV) SSL Certificates: where the Certification Authority (CA) checks the right of the applicant to use a specific domain name PLUS it conducts a THOROUGH vetting of the organisation. The issuance process of EV SSL Certificates is strictly defined in the EV Guidelines, as formally ratified by the CA/Browser forum in 2007, that specify all the steps required for a CA before issuing a certificate, and includes:

Verifying the legal, physical and operational existence of the entity

Verifying that the identity of the entity matches official records

Verifying that the entity has exclusive right to use the domain specified in the EV SSL Certificate

Verifying that the entity has properly authorised the issuance of the EV SSL Certificate

EV SSL Certificates are available for all types of businesses, including government entities and both incorporated and unincorporated businesses. A second set of guidelines, the EV Audit Guidelines, specify the criteria under which a CA needs to be successfully audited before issuing EV SSL Certificates. The audits are repeated yearly to ensure the integrity of the issuance process.

Organisation Validation (OV) SSL Certificates: where the CA checks the right of the applicant to use a specific domain name PLUS it conducts some vetting of the organisation. Additional vetted company information is displayed to customers when clicking on the Secure Site Seal, giving enhanced visibility in who is behind the site and associated enhanced trust.

Domain Validation (DV) SSL Certificates: where the CA checks the right of the applicant to use a specific domain name. No company identity information is vetted and no information is displayed other than encryption information within the Secure Site Seal.

GlobalSign – a Simplified Range of Flexible SSL Certificates

GlobalSign is the first SSL Provider to offer a simplified range of SSL Certificates – fitting neatly into the three newly defined SSL classes of Domain Validation (DV), Organisation Validation (OV) and Extended Validation (EV). By taking its 15 years of experience in delivering trusted SSL solutions, GlobalSign has pioneered a simple approach to the three classes of SSL the market has seen emerge over recent years.

Other SSL Providers favour using complex product naming and classifications, with basic features being used to differentiate otherwise identical products. GlobalSign bucks this trend by adopting simple product naming and assigning feature sets as options within each product class. This approach is designed to eliminate the time consuming and frustrating “which Certificate do I need” issues faced by customers evaluating SSL vendor solutions.

The simplified classification of GlobalSign SSL consists of:

1. Extended Validation: GlobalSign ExtendedSSL

The latest, and possibly most significant, advancement in SSL technology since its initial inception follows the standardised Extended Validation guidelines. New high security browsers such as Microsoft Internet Explorer 7+, Opera 9.5+, Firefox 3+, Google Chrome, Apple Safari 3.2+ and iPhone Safari 3.0+ identify ExtendedSSL Certificates as EV Certificates and activate the browser interface security enhancements, such as the Green Bar. For customers who wish to assert the highest levels of authenticity, ExtendedSSL is the ideal solution.

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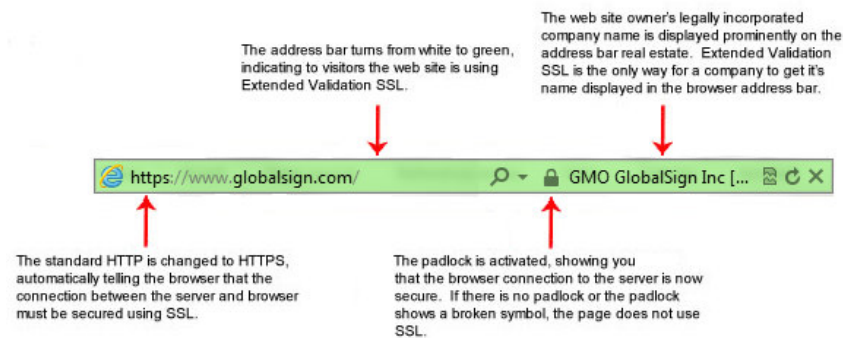
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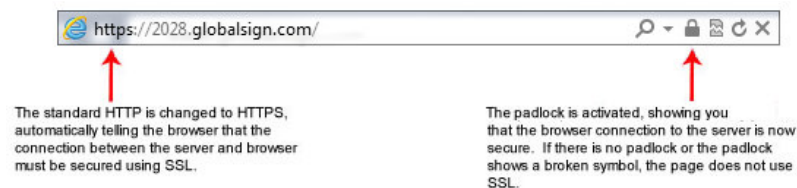
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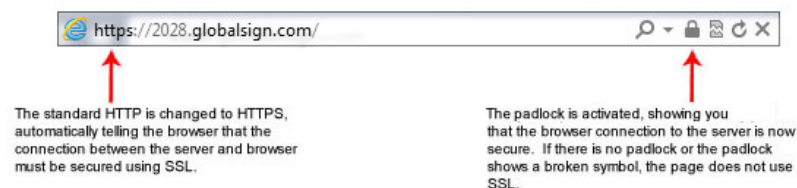
2. Organisation Validation: GlobalSign OrganizationSSL

GlobalSign has been issuing organisation validation Certificates for 15 years. Companies applying for OrganizationSSL have their company details vetted before issuance.



3. Domain Validation: GlobalSign DomainSSL

DomainSSL Certificates are fully supported and share the same browser recognition with OrganizationSSL, but come with the advantage of being issued almost immediately and without the need to submit company paperwork. This makes DomainSSL ideal for businesses needing a low cost SSL quickly and without the effort of submitting company documents.



GMO GlobalSign is one of the longest established Certificate Authorities (CA) and leaders in Cloud PKI identity credentialing and automated SSL Certificate management. GlobalSign x.509 Digital Certificates are trusted by all browsers and mobile devices and include: Multi-Domain & Extended Validation SSL, Code Signing, Adobe PDF Signing, Microsoft Office Digital Signatures, S/MIME Secure Email, Strong Authentication for networks and mobile access, and root signing for enterprise Certificate Authorities.

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