

# Generate an SSL Certificate and Signing Request

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## Overview

This feature allows you to simultaneously generate both a self-signed SSL certificate and a certificate signing request (CSR) for a domain. You can also use this interface to generate private keys, which are essential for self-signed certificates and purchased certificates. To purchase a certificate, submit the CSR to your chosen certificate authority (CA). They will provide you with a certificate, typically in a `.zip` file via email.

For more information, read our [Purchase and Install an SSL Certificate](#) documentation.

## Contact Information

To receive the SSL certificate, private key, and CSR in an email, enter an email address in the *Email Address* text box.

Select the *When complete, email me the certificate, key, and CSR* checkbox to receive a copy of the request that this interface generates.



### Important:

Do **not** select this checkbox if your email service provider does not support secure mail via SSL/TLS.

## Private Key Options

Select the desired key size from the *Key Size* menu. We recommend that you choose *2,048 bits*.

## Certificate Information

To generate an SSL certificate and CSR, perform the following steps:

1. In the *Domains* text box, enter the domain name of the website that the certificate will secure.
  - You can enter a wildcard-formatted domain name to install the same certificate on any number of subdomains if they share an IP address. For example, you can use a wildcard certificate for `*.example.com` to securely connect to the `mail.example.com` and `www.example.com` domains.
  - You can also enter multiple domains, with one domain per line.
  - For more information about how to share SSL certificates, read our [Manage SSL Hosts](#) documentation.
2. In the *City* text box, enter the complete name of the city in which your servers are located.
3. In the *State* text box, enter the complete name of the state in which your servers are located.
4. In the *Country* text box, select the country of origin for the certificate.
5. In the *Company Name* text box, enter your business's complete name.



### Note:

Some certificate authorities may not accept special characters in the *Company Name* and *Company Division* text boxes. If your company name includes symbols other than a period or a comma, ask your CA to confirm whether you can use these characters.

6. In the *Company Division* section, enter the name of the department or group within the company. This information is optional.
7. In the *Email* text box, enter a secure contact email address that your CA can use to verify domain ownership.

## Shared Secrets

Enter a passphrase in the *Passphrase* text box if your certificate authority requires one for verification purposes.

## Create

After you enter the correct information, click *Create*. WHM will display the CSR with its SSL certificate and private key.

- Copy and paste these items into the correct directories.
- If you provided an email address, the system also sends the information to that email address.
- You can view the keys, certificates, and CSRs that you create in WHM's [SSL Storage Manager](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> SSL/TLS >> SSL Storage Manager*).



**Note:**

The system saves this information in the following directories on your server:

- CSR — `/var/cpanel/ssl/system/csrs`
- SSL certificates — `/var/cpanel/ssl/system/certs`
- Private keys — `/var/cpanel/ssl/system/keys`

If you purchased an SSL certificate, provide the CSR to the company from which you purchased the SSL certificate.

If you used a self-signed certificate, navigate to the [Install an SSL Certificate on a Domain](#) interface (*WHM >> Home >> SSL/TLS >> Install an SSL Certificate on a Domain*) to install the certificate.

## Additional documentation

- [Generate an SSL Certificate and Signing Request](#)
- [Manage Service SSL Certificates](#)
- [Purchase and Install an SSL Certificate](#)
- [Manage SSL Hosts](#)
- [Apache mod\\_userdir Tweak](#)