Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Stream:

RFC: 9883

Standards Track Category: Published: October 2025 ISSN: 2070-1721 Author: R. Housley

Vigil Security

RFC 9883

An Attribute for Statement of Possession of a **Private Key**

Abstract

This document specifies an attribute for a statement of possession of a private key by a certificate subject. As part of X.509 certificate enrollment, a Certification Authority (CA) typically demands proof that the subject possesses the private key that corresponds to the to-be-certified public key. In some cases, a CA might accept a signed statement from the certificate subject. For example, when a certificate subject needs separate certificates for signature and key establishment, a statement that can be validated with the previously issued signature certificate for the same subject might be adequate for subsequent issuance of the key establishment certificate.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

This document is a product of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). It represents the consensus of the IETF community. It has received public review and has been approved for publication by the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG). Further information on Internet Standards is available in Section 2 of RFC 7841.

Information about the current status of this document, any errata, and how to provide feedback on it may be obtained at https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc9883.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2025 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to BCP 78 and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Revised BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Revised BSD License.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. ASN.1	3
1.2. Terminology	3
2. Overview	3
3. Attribute for Statement of Possession of a Private Key	4
4. Conventions for PKCS#10	5
5. Conventions for CRMF	5
6. Security Considerations	6
7. IANA Considerations	7
8. References	7
8.1. Normative References	7
8.2. Informative References	8
Appendix A. ASN.1 Module	8
Appendix B. Example Use of the privateKeyPossessionStatement Attribute	9
Acknowledgements	17
Author's Address	17

1. Introduction

This document specifies an attribute for a statement of possession of a private key by a certificate subject. X.509 certificate [RFC5280] enrollment often depends on PKCS#10 [RFC2986] or the Certificate Request Message Format (CRMF) [RFC4211]. As part of enrollment, a Certification Authority (CA) typically demands proof that the subject possesses the private key that corresponds to the to-be-certified public key. Alternatively, a CA may accept a signed statement from the certificate subject claiming knowledge of that private key. When a certificate subject needs separate certificates for signature and key establishment, a signed statement that can be validated with the previously issued signature certificate for the same subject might be adequate for subsequent issuance of the key establishment certificate.

For example, a subject may need a signature certificate that contains an ML-DSA (Module-Lattice-Based Digital Signature Algorithm) public key and a key establishment certificate that contains an ML-KEM (Module-Lattice-Based Key-Encapsulation Mechanism) public key. For another example, a subject may need a signature certificate that contains an ECDSA (Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm) public key and a key establishment certificate that contains an ECDH (Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman) public key.

A statement of possession may be used in lieu of the usual proof-of-possession mechanisms. The statement is simply a signed assertion that the requestor of a key establishment certificate has possession of the key establishment private key and that statement is signed using a signature private key that was previously shown to be in the possession of the same certificate subject. If allowed by the Certificate Policy [RFC3647], the CA is permitted to accept this statement in lieu of proof that the requestor has possession of the private key, such as [RFC6955].

Note that [RFC6955] offers some algorithms that provide proof of possession for Diffie-Hellman private keys; however, these algorithms are not suitable for use with PKCS#10 [RFC2986]. In addition, the algorithms in [RFC6955] do not support key encapsulation mechanism algorithms, such as ML-KEM. The attribute specified in this document, on the other hand, is suitable for use with both PKCS#10 and the CRMF [RFC4211].

1.1. ASN.1

The attribute defined in this document is generated using ASN.1 [X680], using the Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) [X690].

1.2. Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

2. Overview

When using the attribute defined in this document to make a statement about the possession of the key establishment private key, the process to obtain two certificates with PKCS#10 is as follows:

- 1. The subject generates the signature key pair.
- 2. The subject composes a PKCS#10 Certificate Signing Request (CSR) in the usual manner. It includes a signature that is produced with the private key from step 1.
- 3. The subject sends the CSR to the CA, and it gets back a signature certificate. The signature certificate includes a key usage of digitalSignature, nonRepudiation, or both (see Section 4.2.1.3 of [RFC5280]).
- 4. The subject generates the key establishment key pair.

- 5. The subject composes a PKCS#10 CSR containing the key establishment public key. The CSR attributes include the attribute specified in Section 3 of this document. The subject name matches the one from step 3. The CSR includes a signature that is produced with the private key from step 1.
- 6. The subject sends the CSR to the CA, and it gets back a key establishment certificate. The key establishment certificate includes a key usage of keyEncipherment or keyAgreement (see Section 4.2.1.3 of [RFC5280]).

In general, the issuer of the key establishment certificate will be the same as the issuer of the signature certificate. If the issuers of the two certificates will be different, then the certificate policy of the issuer of the key establishment certificate MUST explain the procedure that is used to verify the subject and subject alternative names.

3. Attribute for Statement of Possession of a Private Key

The attribute for statement of possession of a private key is included in a certificate request to make the following statement:

The subject of the signature certificate that is used to validate the signature on this certificate request states, without providing proof, that it has possession of the private key that corresponds to the public key in the certificate request.

The CA **MUST** perform certification path validation for the signature certificate as specified in Section 6 of [RFC5280]. If the certification path is not valid, then the CA **MUST** reject the request for the key establishment certificate.

The CA **MUST** validate the signature on the certificate request using the public key from the signature certificate. If the signature is not valid, then the CA **MUST** reject the certificate request.

The subject in the signature certificate **SHOULD** be the same as the subject name in the certificate request. If they are different, the certificate policy **MUST** describe how the CA can determine that the two subject names identify the same entity. If the CA is unable to determine that the two subject names identify the same entity, then the CA **MUST** reject the certificate request.

If subject alternative names are present in the certificate request, they **SHOULD** match subject alternative names in the signature certificate. If they are different, the certificate policy **MUST** describe how the CA can determine that the two subject alternative names identify the same entity. If the CA is unable to determine that each of subject alternative names identifies the same entity as is named in the signature certificate, then the CA **MUST** reject the certificate request.

When the CA rejects a certificate request for any of the reasons listed above, the CA should provide information to the requestor about the reason for the rejection to aid with diagnostic efforts. Likewise, the CA should log the rejection events.

The attribute for statement of possession of a private key has the following structure:

```
id-at-statementOfPossession OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
    { 1 3 6 1 4 1 22112 2 1 }

privateKeyPossessionStatement ATTRIBUTE ::= {
    TYPE PrivateKeyPossessionStatement
    IDENTIFIED BY id-at-statementOfPossession }

PrivateKeyPossessionStatement ::= SEQUENCE {
    signer IssuerAndSerialNumber,
    cert Certificate OPTIONAL }
```

The components of the PrivateKeyStatement SEQUENCE have the following semantics:

signer: The issuer name and certificate serial number of the signature certificate.

cert: The signature certificate. If the issuer of the key establishment certificate will be the same as the issuer of the signature certificate, then this component MAY be omitted. When the signature certificate is omitted, the signer is assuming that the CA has a mechanism to obtain all valid certificates that it issued.

4. Conventions for PKCS#10

This section specifies the conventions for using the attribute for statement of possession of a private key with PKCS#10 [RFC2986] when requesting a key establishment certificate.

The PKCS#10 CertificationRequest always has three components, as follows:

certificationRequestInfo: The subject name **SHOULD** be the same as the subject name in the signature certificate, the subjectPKInfo **MUST** contain the public key for the key establishment algorithm, and the attributes **MUST** include privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute as specified in Section 3 of this document.

signatureAlgorithm: The signature algorithm **MUST** be one that can be validated with the public key in the signature certificate.

signature: The signature over certificationRequestInfo MUST validate with the public key in the signature certificate, and certification path validation for the signature certificate MUST be successful as specified in Section 6 of [RFC5280].

5. Conventions for CRMF

This section specifies the conventions for using the attribute for statement of possession of a private key with the CRMF [RFC4211] when requesting a key establishment certificate.

The following ASN.1 types are defined for use with CRMF. They have exactly the same semantics and syntax as the attribute discussed above, but they offer a similar naming convention to the Registration Controls in [RFC4211].

```
regCtrl-privateKeyPossessionStatement ATTRIBUTE ::=
  privateKeyPossessionStatement

id-regCtrl-statementOfPossession OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
  id-at-statementOfPossession
```

The CRMF CertificationRequest always has three components, as follows:

certReq: The certTemplate **MUST** include the subject and the publicKey components. The same subject name **SHOULD** match the subject name in the signature certificate, and publicKey **MUST** contain the public key for the key establishment algorithm.

popo: The ProofOfPossession MUST use the signature CHOICE, the poposkInput MUST be present, POPOSigningKeyInput.authInfo MUST use the sender CHOICE, the sender SHOULD be set to the subject name that appears in the signature certificate, the publicKey MUST contain a copy of the public key from the certTemplate, the algorithmIdentifier MUST identify a signature algorithm that can be validated with the public key in the signature certificate, the signature over the poposkInput MUST validate with the public key in the signature certificate, and certification path validation for the signature certificate MUST be successful as specified in Section 6 of [RFC5280].

regInfo: The attributes **MUST** include the privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute as specified in Section 3 of this document.

6. Security Considerations

The privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute MUST NOT be used to obtain a signature certificate. Performing proof of possession of the signature private key is easily accomplished by signing the certificate request.

The subject is signing the privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute to tell the CA that it has possession of the key establishment private key. This is being done instead of providing technical proof of possession. If the subject has lost control of the signature private key, then the signed privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute could be generated by some other party. Timely revocation of the compromised signature certificate is the only protection against such loss of control.

If the CA revokes a compromised signature certificate, then the CA **SHOULD** also revoke all key establishment certificates that were obtained with privateKeyPossessionStatement attributes signed by that compromised signature certificate.

The signature key pair and the key establishment key pair are expected to have roughly the same security strength. To ensure that the signature on the statement is not the weakest part of the certificate enrollment, the signature key pair **SHOULD** be at least as strong as the key establishment key pair.

If a CA allows a subject in the key establishment certificate to be different than the subject name in the signature certificate, then certificate policy MUST describe how to determine that the two subject names identify the same entity. Likewise, if a CA allows subject alternative names in the key establishment certificate that are not present in the signature certificate, then certificate policy MUST describe how to determine that the subject alternative names identify the same entity as is named in the signature certificate.

7. IANA Considerations

For the ASN.1 Module in Appendix A of this document, IANA has assigned an object identifier (OID) for the module identifier (118) with a Description of "id-mod-private-key-possession-stmt-2025" in the "SMI Security for PKIX Module Identifier" registry (1.3.6.1.5.5.7.0).

8. References

8.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>.
- [RFC2986] Nystrom, M. and B. Kaliski, "PKCS #10: Certification Request Syntax Specification Version 1.7", RFC 2986, DOI 10.17487/RFC2986, November 2000, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2986>.
- [RFC4211] Schaad, J., "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Request Message Format (CRMF)", RFC 4211, DOI 10.17487/RFC4211, September 2005, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4211.
- [RFC5280] Cooper, D., Santesson, S., Farrell, S., Boeyen, S., Housley, R., and W. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile", RFC 5280, DOI 10.17487/RFC5280, May 2008, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5280.
- [RFC5912] Hoffman, P. and J. Schaad, "New ASN.1 Modules for the Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX)", RFC 5912, DOI 10.17487/RFC5912, June 2010, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5912>.
- [RFC6268] Schaad, J. and S. Turner, "Additional New ASN.1 Modules for the Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) and the Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX)", RFC 6268, DOI 10.17487/RFC6268, July 2011, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6268.

- [RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174.
 - [X680] ITU-T, "Information technology -- Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1): Specification of basic notation", ITU-T Recommendation X.680, ISO/IEC 8824-1:2021, February 2021, https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.680.
 - [X690] ITU-T, "Information technology -- ASN.1 encoding rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER)", ITU-T Recommendation X.690, ISO/IEC 8825-1:2021, February 2021, https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.690.

8.2. Informative References

- [RFC3647] Chokhani, S., Ford, W., Sabett, R., Merrill, C., and S. Wu, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Policy and Certification Practices Framework", RFC 3647, DOI 10.17487/RFC3647, November 2003, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3647.
- [RFC6955] Schaad, J. and H. Prafullchandra, "Diffie-Hellman Proof-of-Possession Algorithms", RFC 6955, DOI 10.17487/RFC6955, May 2013, https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6955.

Appendix A. ASN.1 Module

This ASN.1 Module uses the conventions established by [RFC5912] and [RFC6268].

```
<CODE BEGINS>
PrivateKeyPossessionStatement-2025
  { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
    security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
    id-mod-private-key-possession-stmt-2025(118) }
DEFINITIONS IMPLICIT TAGS ::= BEGIN
EXPORTS ALL:
IMPORTS
  ATTRIBUTE
  FROM PKIX-CommonTypes-2009 -- in [RFC5912]
    { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
      security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
      id-mod-pkixCommon-02(57) }
  Certificate
  FROM PKIX1Explicit-2009 -- in [RFC5912]
    { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1) security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
      id-mod-pkix1-explicit-02(51) }
```

```
IssuerAndSerialNumber
  FROM CryptographicMessageSyntax-2010 -- [RFC6268]
    \{ iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) \}
       pkcs(1) pkcs-9(9) smime(16) modules(0)
       id-mod-cms-2009(58) } ;
-- Private Key Possession Statement Attribute
id-at-statementOfPossession OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
  { 1 3 6 1 4 1 22112 2 1 }
privateKeyPossessionStatement ATTRIBUTE ::= {
  TYPE PrivateKeyPossessionStatement
  IDENTIFIED BY id-at-statementOfPossession }
PrivateKeyPossessionStatement ::= SEQUENCE {
  signer IssuerAndSerialNumber,
cert Certificate OPTIONAL }
-- Registration Control Support
RegControlSet ATTRIBUTE ::=
  { regCtrl-privateKeyPossessionStatement, ... }
regCtrl-privateKeyPossessionStatement ATTRIBUTE ::=
  privateKeyPossessionStatement
id-regCtrl-statementOfPossession OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
  id-at-statementOfPossession
<CODE ENDS>
```

Appendix B. Example Use of the privateKeyPossessionStatement Attribute

In this example, the self-signed certificate for the CA is as follows:

```
----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----
MIIB7DCCAXKgAwIBAgIUL149AUxHunELBZMELEQm+isgKCQwCgYIKoZIzj0EAwMw
NzELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxEzARBgNVBAOTCkV4YW1wbGUgQ0ExEzARBgNVBAMTCmNh
LmV4YW1wbGUwHhcNMjUwMTAzMjAyNzA5WhcNMzUwMTAzMjAyNzA5WjA3MQswCQYD
VQQGEwJVUzETMBEGA1UEChMKRXhhbXBsZSBDQTETMBEGA1UEAxMKY2EuZXhhbXBs
ZTB2MBAGByqGSM49AgEGBSuBBAAiA2IABDxZdB/Glcxdk1p6Jf1j5en6QfliY90S
fjZbtje/w6M58PN8Sb3VFln1rPdvD17UXeazSG9Hr/Dq3enbsHH00pPntcF0gb8n
r8R8LUGhxRzjlxkaEJN+pa6Nf7qk49JDeaM/MD0wDwYDVR0TAQH/BAUwAwEB/zAL
BgNVHQ8EBAMCAgQwHQYDVR00BBYEFD6YvLLv3DQbvnGS0qP6bbzyZkCqMAoGCCqG
SM49BAMDA2gAMGUCMGfb61IigoJ3QDnlsRdoktREHe0Dpm6DKw3qOyLL6A0cFK9Z
g8m11xIwvptlran52gIxAK1Vr0jzRsFiHRpt0+gFXstTXnQkKBb2/3WQz2SqcIS/
BWEp+siJ190X0lz6APDB7w==
-----END CERTIFICATE-----
```

Alice generates her ECDSA signature key pair. Then, Alice composes a PKCS#10 Certificate Signing Request (CSR) in the usual manner as specified in [RFC2986]. The CSR includes a signature that is produced with her ECDSA private key. The CSR is as follows:

```
----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST----
MIIBhTCCAQsCAQAwPDELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxCzAJBgNVBAgTAlZBMRAwDgYDVQQH
EwdIZXJuZG9uMQ4wDAYDVQQDEwVBbGljZTB2MBAGByqGSM49AgEGBSuBBAAiA2IA
BIAc+6lXN1MIM/82QeWNb55H0zr+lVgWVeF0bf4jzxCb5MCjVaM0eFEvcjXMV5p4
kzqiJTHC0V2JAoqYMX/DMFIcwZ7xP9uQd9ep6KZ+RXut211L8+W1QI1QJSDNxANR
saBQME4GCSqGSIb3DQEJDjFBMD8wDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADALBgNVHQ8EBAMCB4Aw
IgYDVR0RBBswGYEXYWxpY2VAZW1haWwuZXhhbXBsZS5jb20wCgYIKoZIzj0EAwMD
aAAwZQIwPa2r0Ce60edAF43C/t57IW8liyy+69FE04hMAFgw3Ga+nR+8zDuUsVLw
xXGAHtcDAjEA6LbvNkZjo6j2z5xRIjrHzEbGgiV4MF4xtnpfSSRI4dB0zT52bWkj
TZsuS1YWIkjt
----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST----
```

The CA issues a signature certificate to Alice:

```
----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----
MIICJzCCAa6gAwIBAgIUf3Sj/ANs4hR4XFlhTm+N8kxHqHkwCgYIKoZIzj0EAwMw
NzELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxEzARBgNVBAoTCkV4YW1wbGUgQ0ExEzARBgNVBAMTCmNh
LmV4YW1wbGUwHhcNMjUwMTA5MTcwMzQ4WhcNMjYwMTA5MTcwMzQ4WjA8MQswCQYD
VQQGEwJVUzELMAkGA1UECBMCVkExEDAOBgNVBAcTB0hlcm5kb24xDjAMBgNVBAMT
BUFsaWN1MHYwEAYHKoZIzj0CAQYFK4EEACIDYgAEgBz7qVc3Uwgz/zZB5Y1vnkfT
Ov6VWBZV4XRt/iPPEJvkwKNVozR4US9yNcxXmniTOqIlMcLRXYkCipgxf8MwUhzB
nvE/25B316nopn5Fe63bXUvz5bVAjVAlIM3EA1Gxo3YwdDAMBgNVHRMBAf8EAjAA
MASGA1UdDwQEAwIHgDAdBgNVHQ4EFgQUIx0A0f7tCzkQEZgYzH3NcM2L05IwHwYD
VR0jBBgwFoAUPpi8su/cNBu+cZLSo/ptvPJmQKowFwYDVR0gBBAwDjAMBgpghkgB
ZQMCATAwMAoGCCqGSM49BAMDA2cAMGQCMGu/Uypd7BaVnUjB36UtX9m5ZmPi78y5
1RA8WhbOv0KQVrcYtj4qOdiMVKBcoVceyAIwRJ6U91048NAb3nicHcrGFf1UYrhb
DlytK4tCa5HBxD/qAgy4/eUzA5NZwVaLK78u
----END CERTIFICATE----
```

Alice generates her ECDH key establishment key pair. Then, Alice composes a PKCS#10 CSR. The CSR attributes include the privateKeyPossessionStatement attribute, which points to her ECDSA signature certificate. The CSR includes her ECDH public key and a signature that is produced with her ECDSA private key. The CSR is as follows:

----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST----

MIIEMTCCA7gCAQAwPDELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxCzAJBgNVBAgTA1ZBMRAwDgYDVQQH EwdIZXJuZG9uMQ4wDAYDVQQDEwVBbGljZTB0MA4GBSuBBAEMBgUrgQQAIgNiAAQB RyQTH+cq1s5F94uFqFe7l1LqGdEC8Tm+e5VYBCfKAC8MJySQMj1GixEEXL+1Wjtg 23XvnJouCDoxSpDCSMqf3kvp5+naM37uxa3ZYgD6DPY3me5EZvyZPvSRJTF1/Bag ggL9MGcGCSqGSIb3DQEJDjFaMFgwDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADALBgNVHQ8EBAMCAwgw IgYDVR0RBBswGYEXYWxpY2VAZW1haWwuZXhhbXBsZS5jb20wFwYDVR0gBBAwDjAM BgpghkgBZQMCATAwMIICkAYKKwYBBAGBrGACATGCAoAwggJ8ME8wNzELMAkGA1UE BhMCVVMxEzARBgNVBAoTCkV4YW1wbGUgQ0ExEzARBgNVBAMTCmNhLmV4YW1wbGUC FH90o/wDb0IUeFxZYU5vjfJMR6h5MIICJzCCAa6qAwIBAqIUf3Sj/ANs4hR4XFlh Tm+N8kxHqHkwCgYIKoZIzj0EAwMwNzELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxEzARBgNVBAoTCkV4 YW1wbGUqQ0ExEzARBqNVBAMTCmNhLmV4YW1wbGUwHhcNMjUwMTA5MTcwMzQ4WhcN MjYwMTA5MTcwMzQ4WjA8MQswCQYDVQQGEwJVUzELMAkGA1UECBMCVkExEDA0BgNV BAcTB0hlcm5kb24xDjAMBgNVBAMTBUFsaWNlMHYwEAYHKoZIzj0CAQYFK4EEACID YgAEgBz7qVc3Uwgz/zZB5Y1vnkfT0v6VWBZV4XRt/iPPEJvkwKNVozR4US9yNcxX mniTOqIlMcLRXYkCipgxf8MwUhzBnvE/25B316nopn5Fe63bXUvz5bVAjVAIIM3E A1Gxo3YwdDAMBgNVHRMBAf8EAjAAMAsGA1UdDwQEAwIHgDAdBgNVHQ4EFgQUIx0A 0f7tCzkQEZgYzH3NcM2L05IwHwYDVR0jBBgwFoAUPpi8su/cNBu+cZLSo/ptvPJm QKowFwYDVR0gBBAwDjAMBgpghkgBZQMCATAwMAoGCCqGSM49BAMDA2cAMGQCMGu/ Uypd7BaVnUjB36UtX9m5ZmPi78y51RA8Whb0v0KQVrcYtj4q0diMVKBcoVceyAIw RJ6U91048NAb3nicHcrGFf1UYrhbDlytK4tCa5HBxD/qAgy4/eUzA5NZwVaLK78u MAoGCCqGSM49BAMDA2cAMGQCL2TNHPULWcCS2DqZCCiQeSwx2JPLMI14Vi977bzy rImq5p0H3Bel6fAS8BnQ00WNAjEAhHDAlcbRuHhqdW6mOgDd5kWEGGqgixIuvEEc fVbnNCEyEE4n0mQ99PHURnXoHwqF

----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST----

The CSR decodes to the following:

```
0 1073: SEQUENCE {
  4
     952:
          SEQUENCE {
      1:
 8
            INTEGER 0
 11
      60:
            SEQUENCE {
             SET {
 13
      11:
              SEQUENCE {
 15
       9:
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER countryName (2 5 4 6)
 17
       3:
22
       2:
               PrintableString 'US'
 26
             SET {
      11:
       9:
              SEQUENCE {
 28
 30
       3:
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER stateOrProvinceName (2 5 4 8)
       2:
               PrintableString 'VA'
                }
             SET {
 39
      16:
 41
      14:
              SEQUENCE {
 43
       3:
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER localityName (2 5 4 7)
 48
       7:
               PrintableString 'Herndon'
 57
      14:
             SET {
              SEQUENCE {
 59
      12:
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER commonName (2 5 4 3)
 61
       3:
       5:
               PrintableString 'Alice'
 66
                }
            SEQUENCE {
 73
     116:
 75
             SEQUENCE {
      14:
 77
       5:
              OBJECT IDENTIFIER ECDH (1 3 132 1 12)
 84
       5:
              OBJECT IDENTIFIER secp384r1 (1 3 132 0 34)
 91
      98:
             BIT STRING
              04 01 47 24 13 1F E7 2A D6 CE 45 F7 8B 85 A8 57
              BB 97 52 EA 19 D1 02 F1 39 BE 7B 95 58 04 27 CA
              00 2F 0C 27 24 90 32 3D 46 8B 11 04 5C BF B5 5A
              3B 60 DB 75 EF 9C 9A 2E 08 3A 31 4A 90 C2 48 CA
              9F DE 4B E9 E7 E9 DA 33 7E EE C5 AD D9 62 00 FA
              0C F6 37 99 EE 44 66 FC 99 3E F4 91 25 31 65 FC
              16
            [0] {
191
     765:
195
             SEQUENCE {
     103:
              OBJECT IDENTIFIER
197
       9:
               extensionRequest (1 2 840 113549 1 9 14)
208
      90:
              SET {
210
      88:
               SEQUENCE {
212
      12:
                SEQUENCE {
214
                 OBJECT IDENTIFIER
       3:
                  basicConstraints (2 5 29 19)
219
       1:
                 BOOLEAN TRUE
                 OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
222
       2:
224
                  SEQUENCE {}
       0:
                   }
```

```
SEQUENCE {
226
      11:
228
       3:
                  OBJECT IDENTIFIER keyUsage (2 5 29 15)
       4:
                  OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
BIT STRING 3 unused bits
233
       2:
235
                     '10000'B (bit 4)
239
      34:
                 SEQUENCE {
241
       3:
                  OBJECT IDENTIFIER subjectAltName (2 5 29 17)
                  OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
246
      27:
248
      25:
                   SEQUENCE {
250
      23:
                    [1] 'alice@email.example.com'
                     }
                    }
275
      23:
                 SEQUENCE {
                  OBJECT IDENTIFIER
277
       3:
                   certificatePolicies (2 5 29 32)
282
                  OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
      16:
                   SEQUENCE {
284
      14:
286
      12:
                    SEQUENCE {
288
      10:
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                      testCertPolicy (2 16 840 1 101 3 2 1 48 48)
300
     656:
              SEQUENCE {
304
      10:
               OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                statementOfPossession (1 3 6 1 4 1 22112 2 1)
     640:
316
               SET {
                SEQUENCE {
320
     636:
                 SEQUENCE
324
      79:
326
                  SEQUENCE {
      55:
328
      11:
                   SET {
                    SEQUENCE {
330
       9:
332
       3:
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER countryName (2 5 4 6)
337
       2:
                     PrintableString 'US'
      19:
341
                   SET {
                    SEQUENCE {
343
      17:
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER
345
       3:
                      organizationName (2 5 4 10)
                     PrintableString 'Example CA'
350
      10:
                      }
      19:
                   SET {
362
364
      17:
                    SEQUENCE {
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER commonName (2 5 4 3)
366
       3:
371
      10:
                     PrintableString 'ca.example'
                      }
383
      20:
                  INTEGER
```

```
7F 74 A3 FC 03 6C E2 14 78 5C 59 61 4E 6F 8D F2
                4C 47 A8 79
405
                 SEQUENCE {
     551:
                 SEQUENCE {
     430:
409
413
       3:
                   [0] {
415
       1:
                    INTEGER 2
418
      20:
                   INTEGER
               7F 74 A3 FC 03 6C E2 14 78 5C 59 61 4E 6F 8D F2
               4C 47 A8 79
440
      10:
                   SEQUENCE {
                    OBJECT IDENTIFIER
442
       8:
                     ecdsaWithSHA384 (1 2 840 10045 4 3 3)
452
      55:
                   SEQUENCE {
454
      11:
                    SET {
                     SEQUENCE {
456
       9:
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
458
                       countryName (2 5 4 6)
463
       2:
                      PrintableString 'US'
                       }
467
      19:
                    SET {
      17:
                     SEQUENCE {
469
471
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                       organizationName (2 5 4 10)
476
      10:
                      PrintableString 'Example CA
                       }
488
      19:
                    SET {
490
                     SEQUENCE {
      17:
492
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
       3:
                      commonName (2 5 4 3)
PrintableString 'ca.example'
497
      10:
509
      30:
                   SEQUENCE {
511
      13:
                    UTCTime 09/01/2025 17:03:48 GMT
526
      13:
                    UTCTime 09/01/2026 17:03:48 GMT
541
      60:
                   SEQUENCE {
543
      11:
                    SET {
                     SEQUENCE {
545
       9:
547
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                       countryName (2 5 4 6)
                      PrintableString 'US'
552
       2:
                       }
556
      11:
                    SET {
       9:
                     SEQUENCE {
558
560
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                       stateOrProvinceName (2 5 4 8)
                      PrintableString 'VA'
565
                       }
569
                    SET {
      16:
```

```
SEQUENCE {
571
      14:
573
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                       localityName (2 5 4 7)
578
       7:
                       PrintableString 'Herndon'
587
      14:
                    SET {
                     SEQUENCE {
589
      12:
591
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
       3:
                      commonName (2 5 4 3)
PrintableString 'Alice'
596
       5:
                       }
                   SEQUENCE {
603
     118:
605
      16:
                    SEQUENCE {
607
       7:
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                      ecPublicKey (1 2 840 10045 2 1)
       5:
                     OBJECT IDENTIFIER
616
                      secp384r1 (1 3 132 0 34)
623
      98:
                    BIT STRING
                04 80 1C FB A9 57 37 53 08 33 FF 36 41 E5 8D 6F
                9E 47 D3 3A FE 95 58 16 55 E1 74 6D FE 23 CF 10
                9B E4 C0 A3 55 A3 34 78 51 2F 72 35 CC 57 9A 78
                93 3A A2 25 31 C2 D1 5D 89 02 8A 98 31 7F C3 30
                52 1C C1 9E F1 3F DB 90 77 D7 A9 E8 A6 7E 45 7B
                AD DB 5D 4B F3 E5 B5 40 8D 50 25 20 CD C4 03 51
                B1
723
     118:
                   [3] {
                    SEQUENCE {
725
     116:
                     SEQUENCE {
727
      12:
729
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
       3:
                       basicConstraints (2 5 29 19)
734
       1:
                      BOOLEAN TRUE
       2:
                      OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
737
                       SEQUENCE {}
739
       0:
                         }
741
      11:
                     SEQUENCE {
743
       3:
                      OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                       keyUsage (2 5 29 15)
                      OCTÉT STRING, encapsulates {
BIT STRING 7 unused bits
748
       4:
750
       2:
                         '1'B (bit 0)
                         }
      29:
754
                     SEQUENCE {
756
                       OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                        subjectKeyIdentifier (2 5 29 14)
      22:
                      OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
761
763
      20:
                       OCTET STRING
                23 1D 00 D1 FE ED 0B 39 10 11 98 18 CC 7D CD 70
                CD 8B D3 92
                         }
785
                     SEQUENCE {
      31:
```

```
OBJECT IDENTIFIER
 787
        3:
                        authorityKeyIdentifier (2 5 29 35)
 792
       24:
                       OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
 794
       22:
                        SEQUENCE {
 796
       20:
                          [0]
                 3E 98 BC B2 EF DC 34 1B BE 71 92 D2 A3 FA 6D BC
                 F2 66 40 AA
 818
       23:
                      SEQUENCE {
 820
                       OBJECT IDENTIFIER
                        certificatePolicies (2 5 29 32)
 825
       16:
                       OCTET STRING, encapsulates {
 827
       14:
                        SEQUENCE {
 829
       12:
                         SEQUENCE {
                          OBJECT IDENTIFIER
 831
       10:
                            testCertPolicy (2 16 840 1 101 3 2 1 48 48)
                   SEQUENCE {
 843
       10:
                    OBJECT IDENTIFIER
 845
        8:
                     ecdsaWithSHA384 (1 2 840 10045 4 3 3)
 855
      103:
                   BIT STRING, encapsulates {
                    SEQUENCE {
 858
      100:
 860
       48:
                     INTEGER
                 6B BF 53 2A 5D EC 16 95 9D 48 C1 DF A5 2D 5F D9
                 B9 66 63 E2 EF CC B9 D5 10 3C 5A 16 CE BF 42 90
                 56 B7 18 B6 3E 2A 39 D8 8C 54 A0 5C A1 57 1E C8
 910
       48:
                     INTEGER
                 44 9E 94 F7 5D 38 F0 D0 1B DE 78 9C 1D CA C6 15
                 FD 54 62 B8 5B 0E 5C AD 2B 8B 42 6B 91 C1 C4 3F
                 EA 02 0C B8 FD E5 33 03 93 59 C1 56 8B 2B BF 2E
 960
       10:
            SEQUENCE {
 962
        8:
             OBJECT IDENTIFIER ecdsaWithSHA384 (1 2 840 10045 4 3 3)
 972
      103:
            BIT STRING, encapsulates {
 975
      100:
             SEQUENCE {
 977
       47:
               INTEGER
                64 CD 1C F5 0B 59 C0 92 D8 3A 99 08 28 90 79 2C 31 D8 93 CB 30 8D 78 56 2F 7B ED BC F2 AC 89 AA
                E6 9D 07 DC 17 A5 E9 F0 12 F0 19 D0 D3 45 8D
       49:
1026
               INTEGER
                00 84 70 C0 95 C6 D1 B8 78 6A 75 6E A6 3A 00 DD
```

```
: E6 45 84 18 6A A0 8B 12 2E BC 41 1C 7D 56 E7 34

: 21 32 10 4E 27 D2 64 3D F4 F1 D4 46 75 E8 1F 0A

: 85

: }

: }
```

The CA issues a key establishment certificate to Alice:

```
----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----
MIICJTCCAaygAwIBAgIUf3Sj/ANs4hR4XFlhTm+N8kxHqHowCgYIKoZIzj0EAwMw
NzELMAkGA1UEBhMCVVMxEzARBgNVBAoTCkV4YW1wbGUgQ0ExEzARBgNVBAMTCmNh
LmV4YW1wbGUwHhcNMjUwMTA5MTcwNTAwWhcNMjYwMTA5MTcwNTAwWjA8MQswCQYD
VQQGEwJVUzELMAkGA1UECBMCVkExEDAOBgNVBAcTB0hlcm5kb24xDjAMBgNVBAMT
BUFsaWN1MHQwDgYFK4EEAQwGBSuBBAAiA2IABAFHJBMf5yrWzkX3i4WoV7uXUuoZ
0QLx0b57lVgEJ8oALwwnJJAyPUaLEQRcv7Va02Dbde+cmi4I0jFKkMJIyp/eS+nn
6dozfu7FrdliaPoM9jeZ7kRm/Jk+9JE1MWX8FqN2MHQwDAYDVR0TAQH/BAIwADAL
BgNVHQ8EBAMCAwgwHQYDVR0OBBYEFAnLfJvnEUcvLXaPUDZMZlQ/zZ3WMB8GA1Ud
IwQYMBaAFD6YvLLv3DQbvnGS0qP6bbzyZkCqMBcGA1UdIAQQMA4wDAYKYIZIAWUD
AgEwMDAKBggqhkjOPQQDAwNnADBkAjARQ5LuV6yz8A5DZC1l1S/gfxZ+QSJl/pKc
cTL6Sdr1IS18U/zY8VUJeB2H0nBamLwCMBRQ6sEWpNoeeR8Bonpoot/zYD2luQ1V
2jevmYsnBihKF0debgfhGvh8WIgBR69DZg==
----END CERTIFICATE----
```

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Sean Turner, Joe Mandel, Mike StJohns, Mike Ounsworth, John Gray, Carl Wallace, Corey Bonnell, Hani Ezzadeen, Deb Cooley, Mohamed Boucadair, and Bron Gondwana for their constructive comments.

Author's Address

Russ Housley

Vigil Security, LLC Herndon, VA United States of America Email: housley@vigilsec.com