

Code Signing Certificates



Secure Your Modern Software Supply Chains with GlobalSign's Code Signing Certificates

Unsigned software is subject to tampering, such as the insertion of spyware or malware, so end users are encouraged not to run unsigned code. Downloading or running unsigned applications will generate worrying "Unknown Publisher" security warnings.

Digitally signing code proves the signed software is legitimate, comes from a known software vendor and that the code has not been tampered with since being published. The security warnings that appear with unsigned code are replaced with notifications containing the software publisher's information – adding an essential level of trust to the application.

Standard Code Signing vs. Extended Validation (EV) Code Signing

EV Code Signing Certificates build on the existing benefits of standard Code Signing Certificates, but offer stronger levels of assurance that the identity of the publisher is correct and has been verified.

- Stricter vetting process verifies more information about the publisher, making it more difficult to impersonate a legitimate developer and obtain a falsified credential
- EV Code Signing Certificates are required to access the Windows Hardware Developer Center Dashboard Portal through which all kernel-mode drivers targeting Windows 10 ([Build 1607 and later](#)) must be signed

SIGNING CAPABILITIES

GlobalSign Code Signing Certificates can be used to digitally sign code on any of the following platforms:

- Microsoft Windows applications and Kernel-mode drivers
- Microsoft Office and VBA macros
- Java Applets
- Adobe AIR
- macOS profiles and local apps
- Containers

GlobalSign also offers private code signing certificates to support internal use cases (e.g., firmware signing).

KEY STORAGE OPTIONS

- USB token^A
- HSM*
- Cloud based HSM's

| Feature Comparison | Standard | Extended Validation (EV) |
|---|---|---|
| Information displayed in certificate | Organization Name | Organization Name Organization Address Type of Organisation |
| Removes "unknown publisher" security warnings | ✓ | ✓ |
| Signature does not expire when timestamp is applied | Timestamping available & recommended | Timestamping available & recommended |
| Sign an unlimited number of applications | ✓ | ✓ |
| Compatible with major platforms | ✓ | ✓ |
| Private key storage options ^{*A} | Cryptographic USB token (not included) HSM Cloud based Key Vaults | Cryptographic USB token (included) HSM Cloud based Key Vaults |

^AUSB token included with EV Code Signing token orders.

*Note: The key pair associated with the EV Code Signing certificate (request) must be stored on a hardware security module (HSM) certified as conforming to FIPS 140-2 Level 2 or higher.

About GlobalSign

GlobalSign is the leading provider of trusted identity and security solutions enabling businesses, large enterprises, cloud service providers and IoT innovators around the world to secure online communications, manage millions of verified digital identities and automate authentication and encryption. Its high-scale Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and identity solutions support the billions of services, device, people and things comprising the Internet of Everything (IoE).

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gs-codesign-feb-20