

Information Paper:

# How to Determine a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate Expiration Date

## Introduction

PKI certificates allow the proper authorities to create, manage, distribute, use, store, and revoke digital certificates that are used to provide personal identification. PKI certificates are required when simple passwords are an inadequate authentication method and more rigorous proof is required to confirm the identity of the party that wishes to access a computer system, document, etc.

## Types of PKI Certificates

For most military members, as well as for most DoD civilian and contractor employees, your PKI certificate is located on your Common Access Card (CAC).

You may also receive training PKI certificates from other sources. These certificates will normally be sent via a secure email. You will download these certificates and install them in your computer's Certificate Store. For more information on downloading and installing training certificates refer to the [EWTS Guide](#).

All PKI certificates expire. Knowing how to check your PKI certificate expiration dates will help ensure you can always access websites, documents, etc. that are accessed using your PKI certificate.

## Determining the Expiration Date

Open a browser window, then follow the below steps to determine the expiration date of the PKI certificates in your Certificate Store.

For Internet Explorer:

- a) Select **Tools** from the menu bar
- b) Select **Internet Options**
- c) Select the **Content** tab
- d) Select **Certificates**.
- e) Select the **Personal** tab

Your certificate store will open and show the installed certificates and their expiration dates (Figure 1).

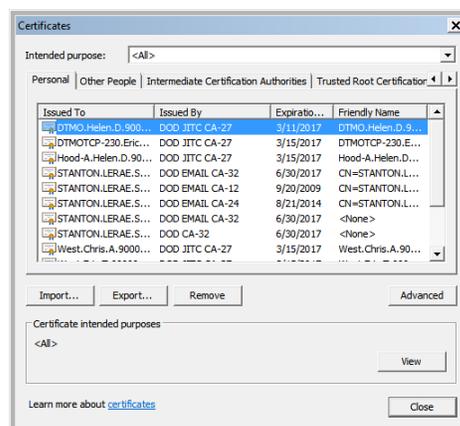


Figure 1: Internet Explorer Certificate Store

For Firefox:

- a) Select **Tools** from the menu bar
- b) Select **Options**
- c) Select the **Advanced** tab



- d) Select **View Certificates**.
- e) Select the **Your Certificates** tab

Your certificate store will open and show the installed certificates and their expiration dates (Figure 2).

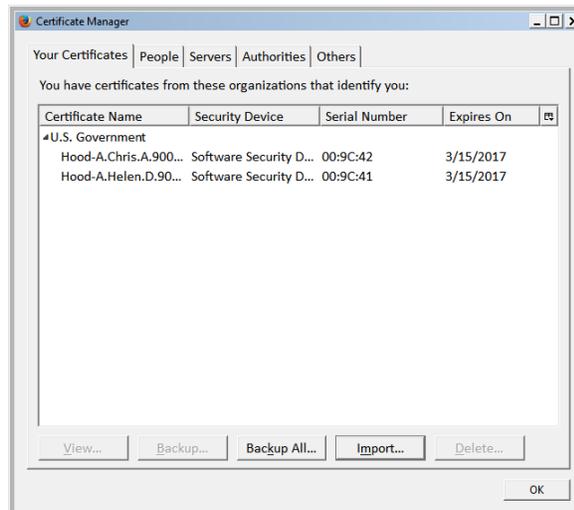


Figure 2: Firefox Certificate Manager