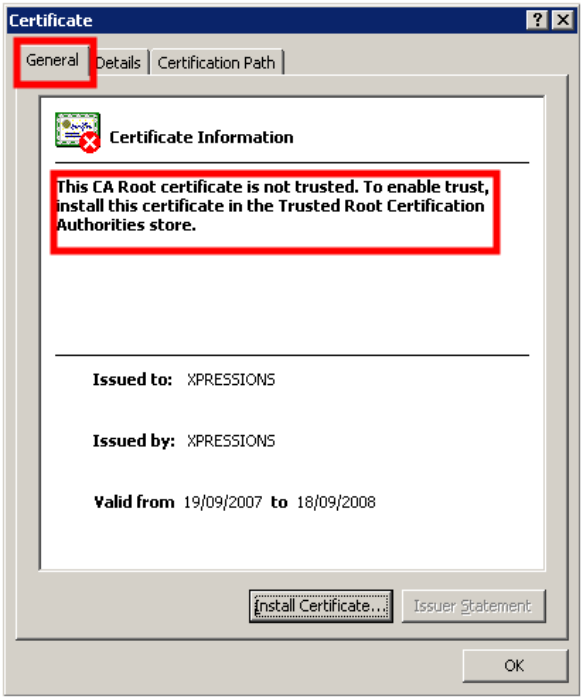
How to request certificates for HiPath Xpressions from a trusted CA

We all know the following error messages when we access Internet Sites or our HiPath applications or systems.

A security Alert appears. The homepage should not be trusted. We only press *Yes* to continue to the homepage but in fact we can easily go by accident to a phishing page.

A not trusted certificate can also mean that the CA (Certificate Authority) was hacked and people can read the passwords, emails or see whatever we do on this web site.

For applications like HiPath Xpressions where you can access your email inbox if unified messaging is enabled absolutely critical!



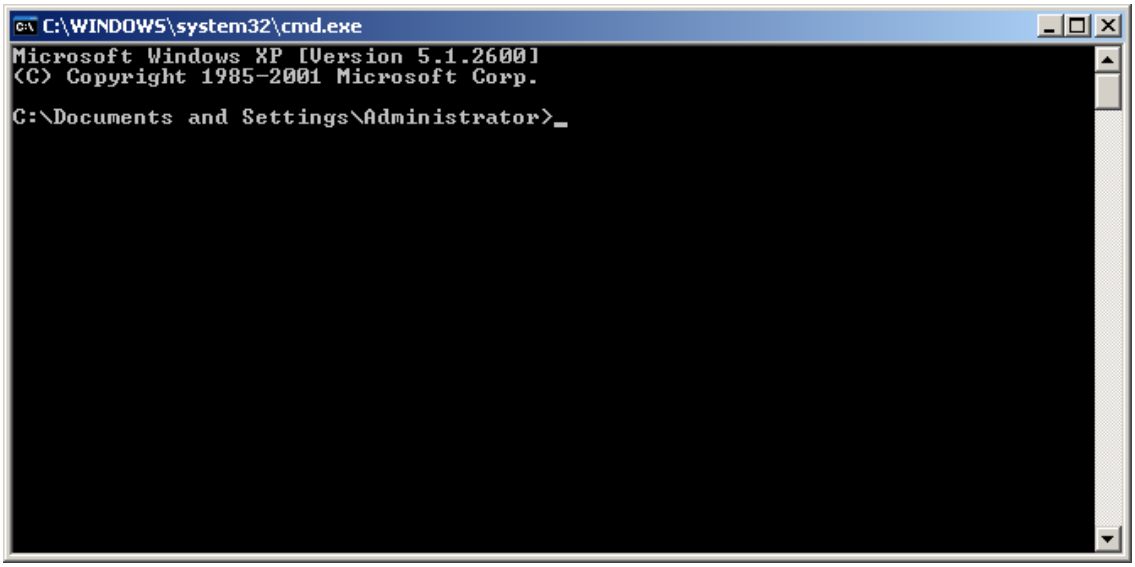
It is an absolute must to have here the correct FQDN shown of the application shown

HiPath Xpressions WebApl is based on *OpenSSL* so it is fairly easy to create a new certificate with this open standard platform.

By clicking onto *View Certificate* we can identify the reason why it is untrusted exactly. The example here shows the CA the cert was requested from a CA which is not trusted by us. We can either add the CA into our Trusted 3rd Party Certificate Store or request a proper certificate.

The *Certificate Path* shows us that the Root CA can not be found and the name of the application the certificate was issued to is invalid.

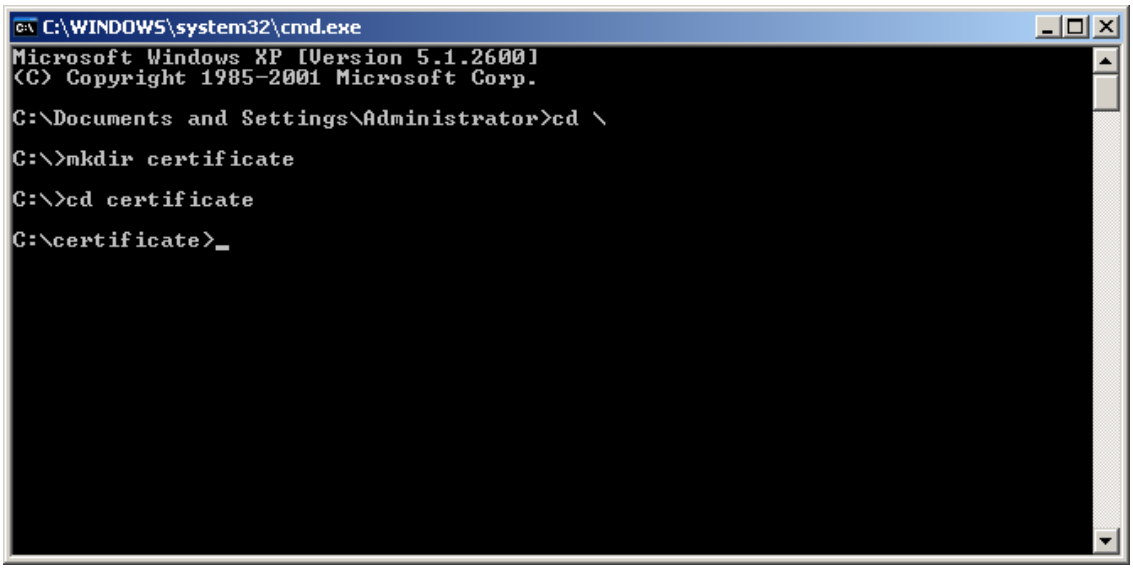
Open up the Command Prompt (Start – Run – CMD)



Browse to the root directory c:\ by typing `cd \`

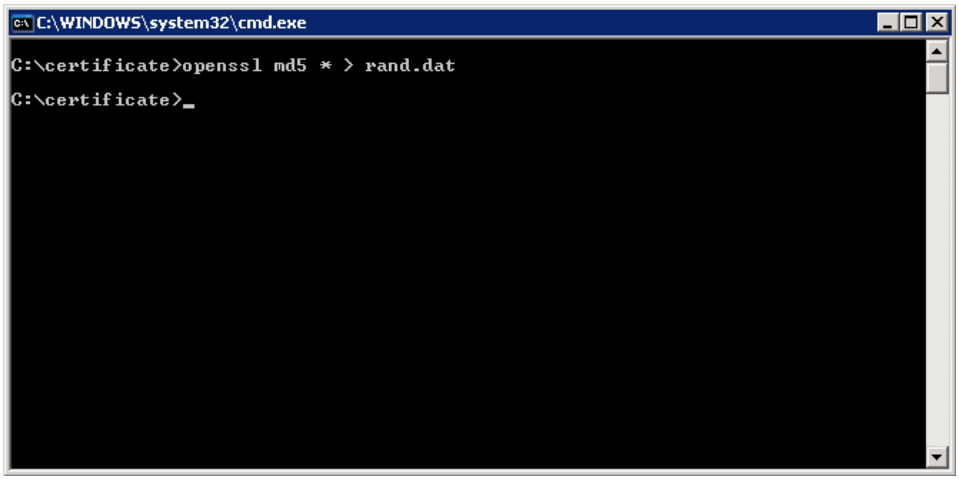
Create a new directory maybe called certificate `mkdir certificate`

Browse into the certificate folder `cd certificate`



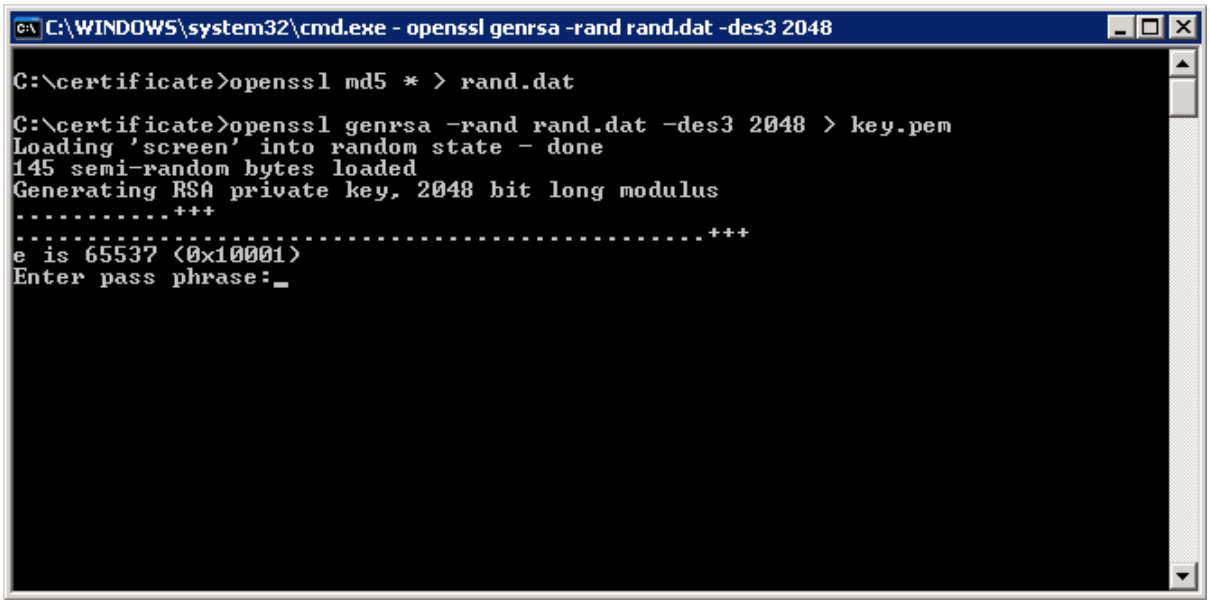
Create a new random CSR (Certificate Signing Request)

```
Openssl md5 * > rand.dat
```



With this random key file generate now an with DES3 encrypted private key. Simply type the command

Openssl genrsa -rand rand.dat -des3 2048 > key.pem



You are now prompted to *enter a pass phrase*. This is the password that keeps the private key protected and should be as secure as possible. For example fill in a complete sentence like

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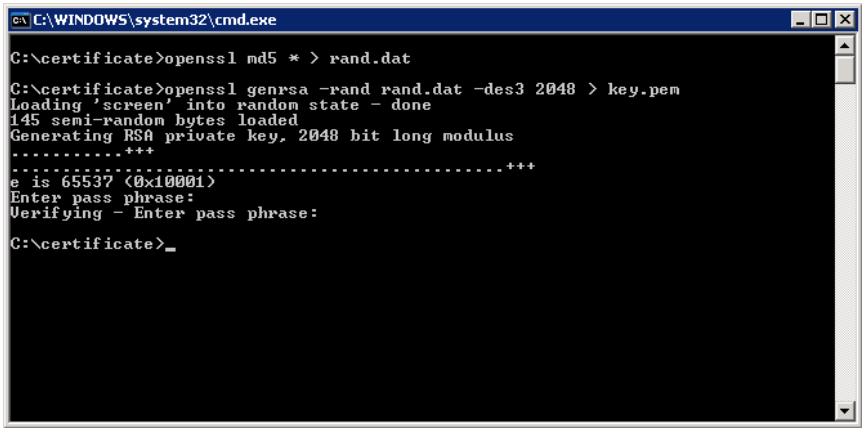
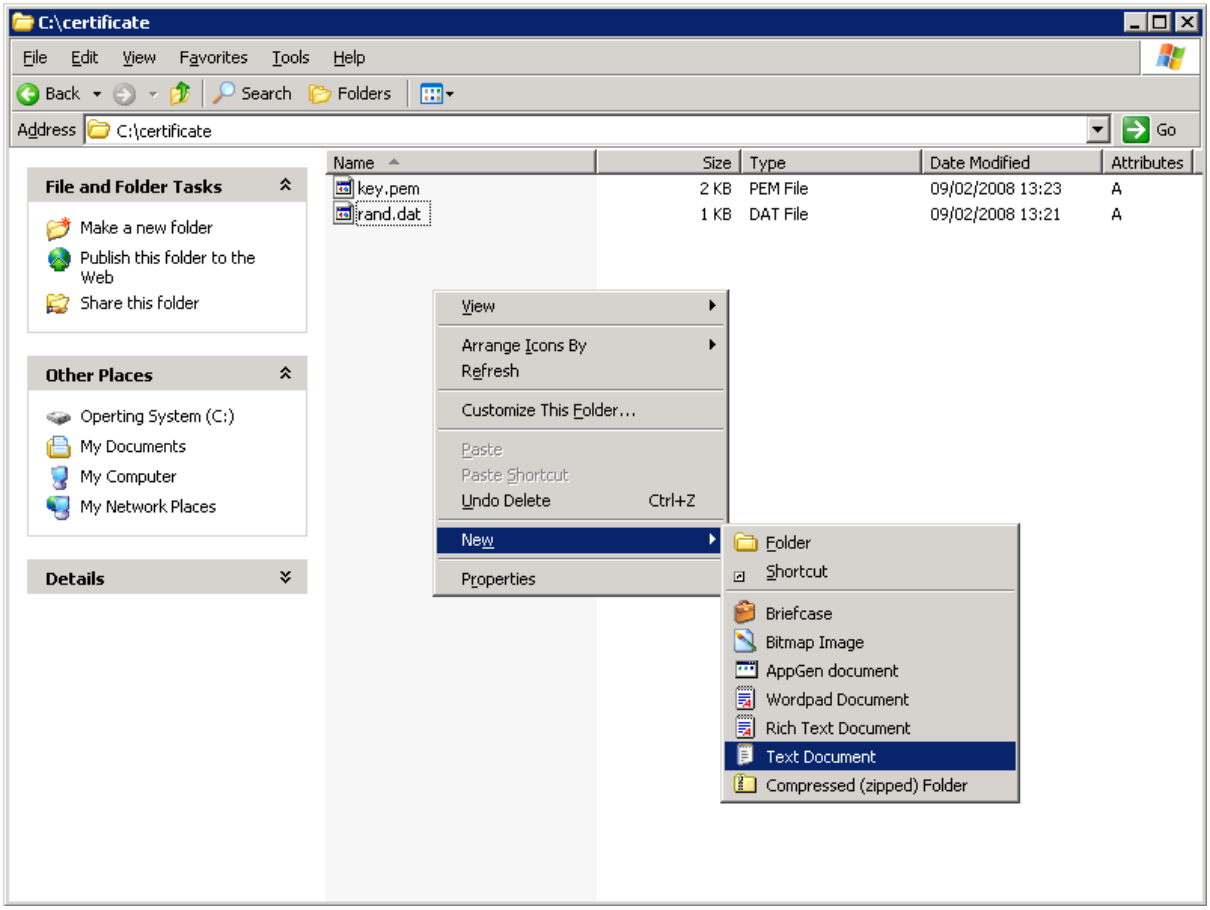
And verify the password

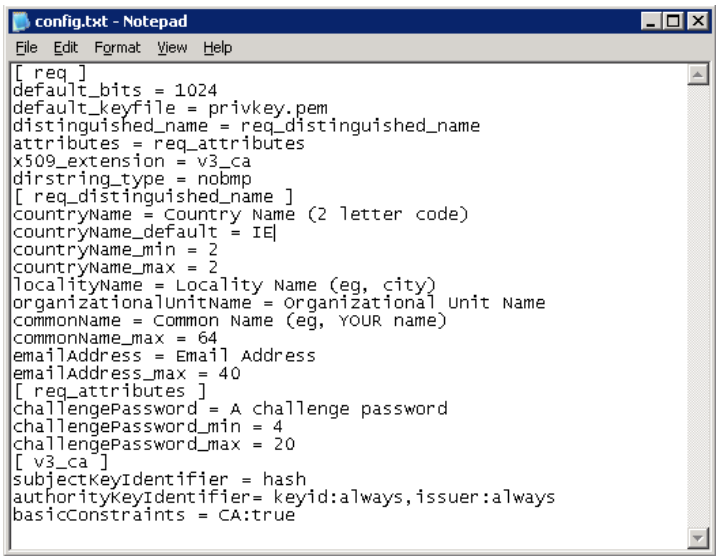


Now an OpenSSL configuration file has to be created.

Open the windows explorer and browse to the `c:\certificates` directory and *create a* `text file`



Name it *config.txt* and fill in the following information



The file will look like in this example and has to be saved.

```
[ req ]
default_bits = 1024
default_keyfile = privkey.pem
distinguished_name = req_distinguished_name
attributes = req_attributes
x509_extension = v3_ca
dirstring_type = nobmp
[ req_distinguished_name ]
countryName = Country Name (2 letter code)
countryName_default = IE
countryName_min = 2
countryName_max = 2
localityName = Locality Name (eg, city)
organizationalUnitName = Organizational Unit Name
commonName = Common Name (eg, YOUR name)
commonName_max = 64
emailAddress = Email Address
emailAddress_max = 40
[ req_attributes ]
challengePassword = A challenge password
challengePassword_min = 4
challengePassword_max = 20
[ v3_ca ]
subjectKeyIdentifier = hash
authorityKeyIdentifier= keyid:always,issuer:always
basicConstraints = CA:true
```

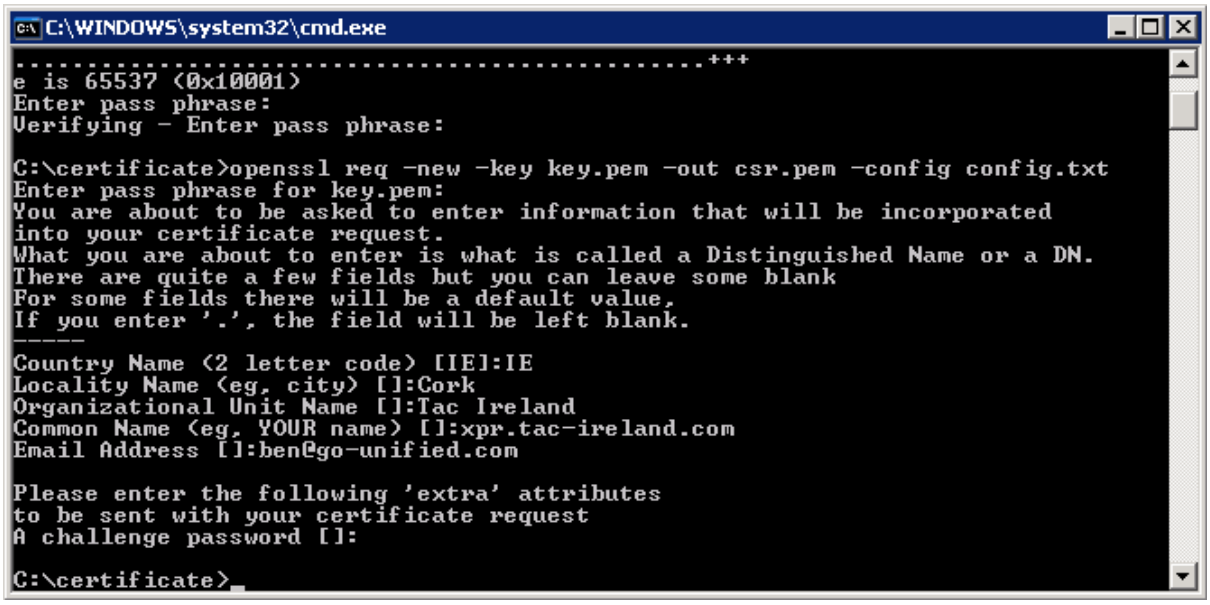
Back in the command prompt create the certificate request file that you send to your root CA.

Just type openssl req -new -key key.pem -out csr.pem -config config.txt

Enter the *password* which you specified beforehand for the private key

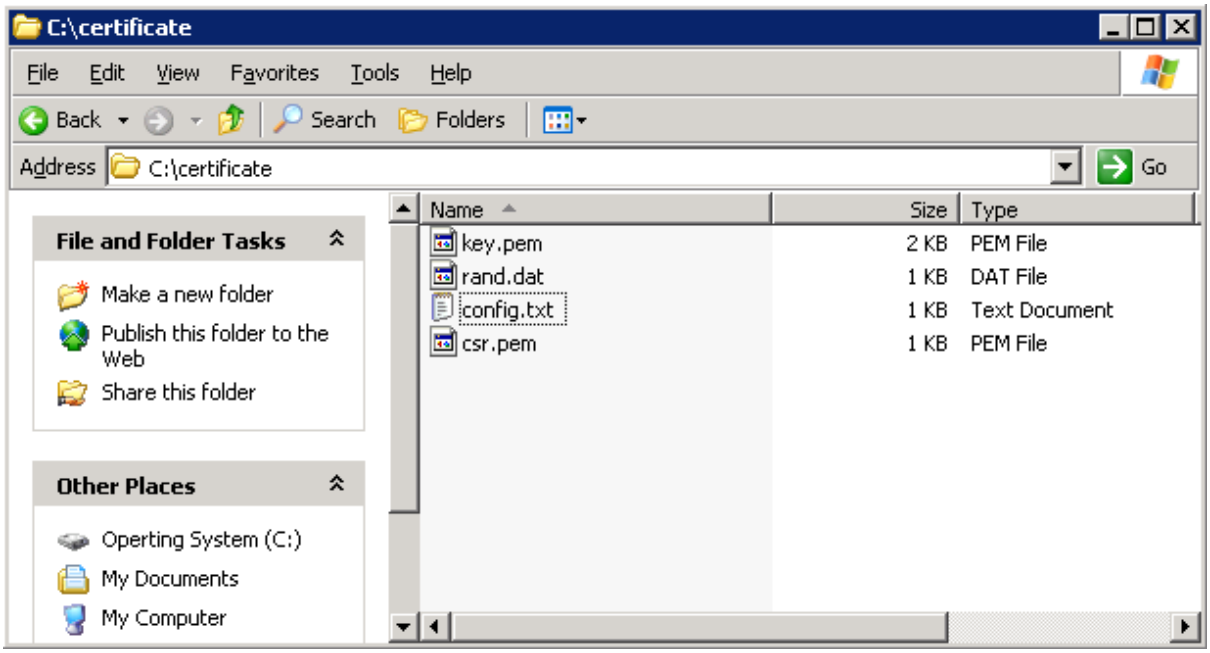
Now you have to enter some certificate specific details as specified in the configuration file.

Country Name (2 letter code) [IE]:	*IE*
Locality Name (eg, city) []:	*Cork*
Organizational Unit Name []:	*TAC Ireland*
Common Name (eg, YOUR name) []:	*xpr.tac-ireland.com – This is the server FQDN and it has to be correct in this step*
Email Address []:	*ben@go-unified.com*
Please enter the following 'extra' attributes to be sent with your certificate request A challenge password []:	*Just press Enter to skip this field*



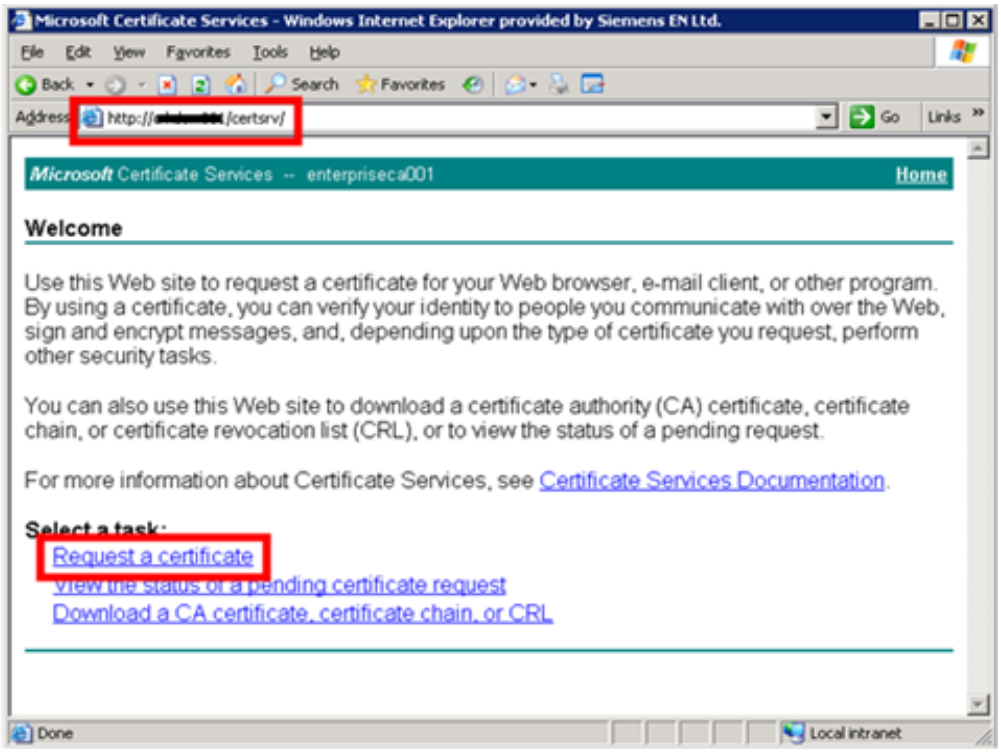
In the Windows Explorer window you will now see four files.

key.pem	The private key file
Rand.dat	The random md5 hash file
Config.txt	The OpenSSL configuration file
Csr.pem	The Certificate request file

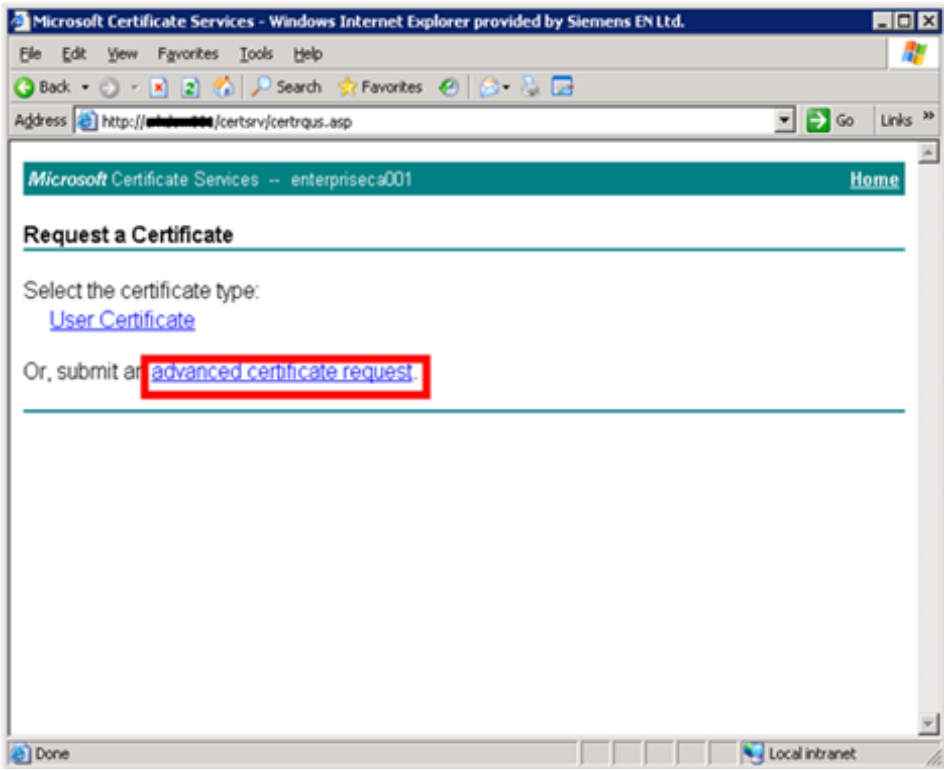


Request the certificate using a Microsoft Root CA

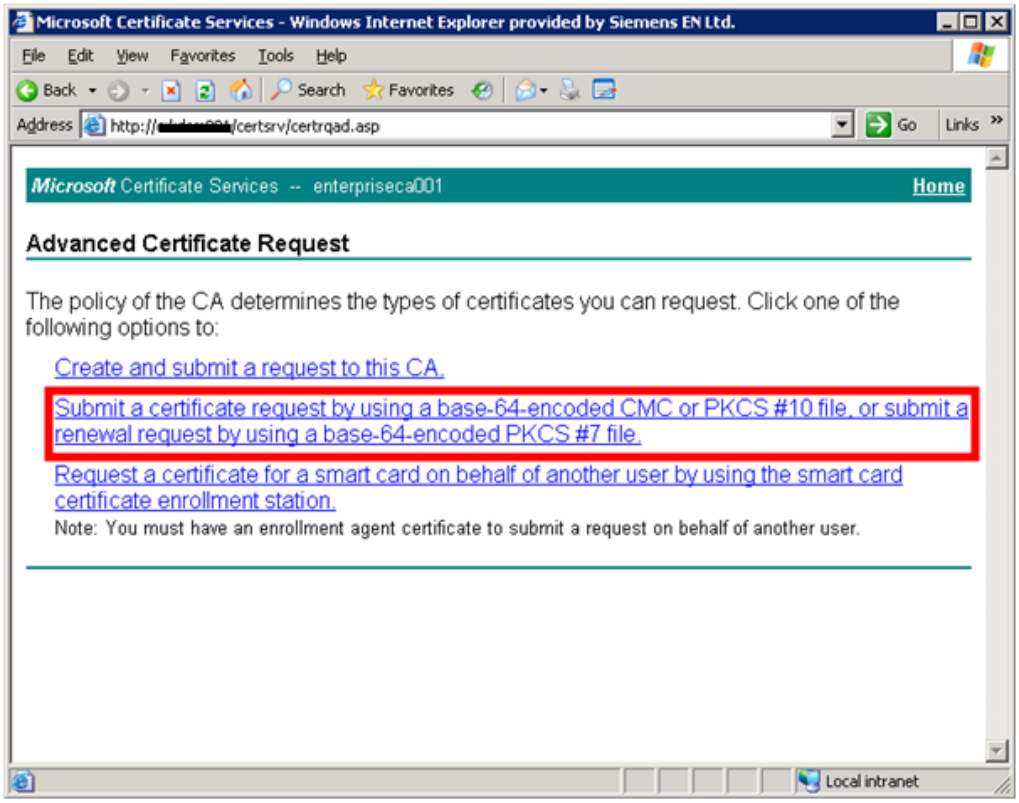
Open the Internet explorer and browse to your certificate authority's homepage. In Microsoft this is `http(s)://<servername>/certsrv`
Here you click on *Request a certificate*



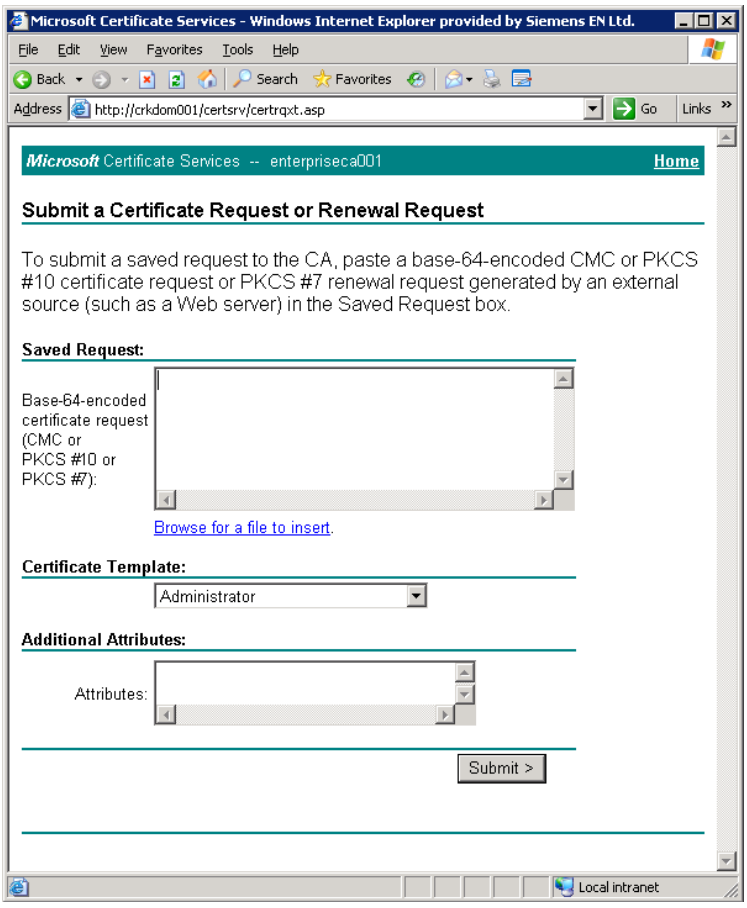
Press on `advanced certificate request`



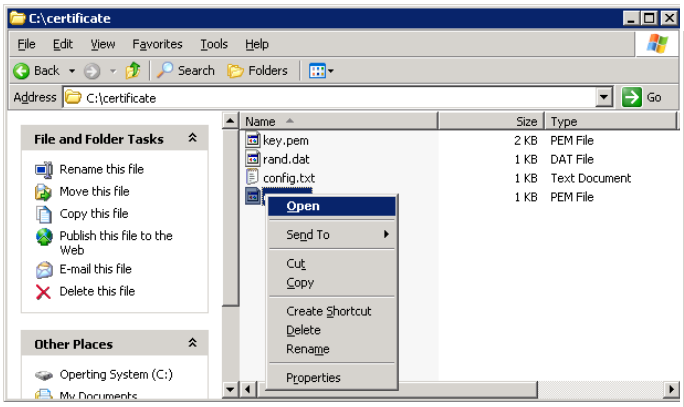
Select *Submit a certificate request by using a base 4 encoded CMC*

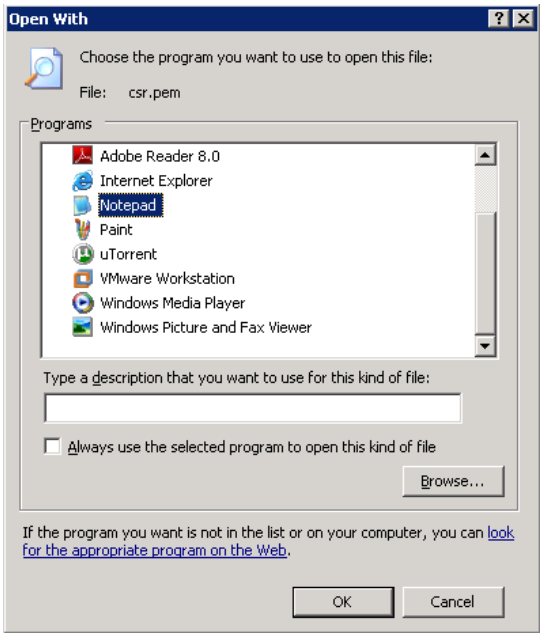


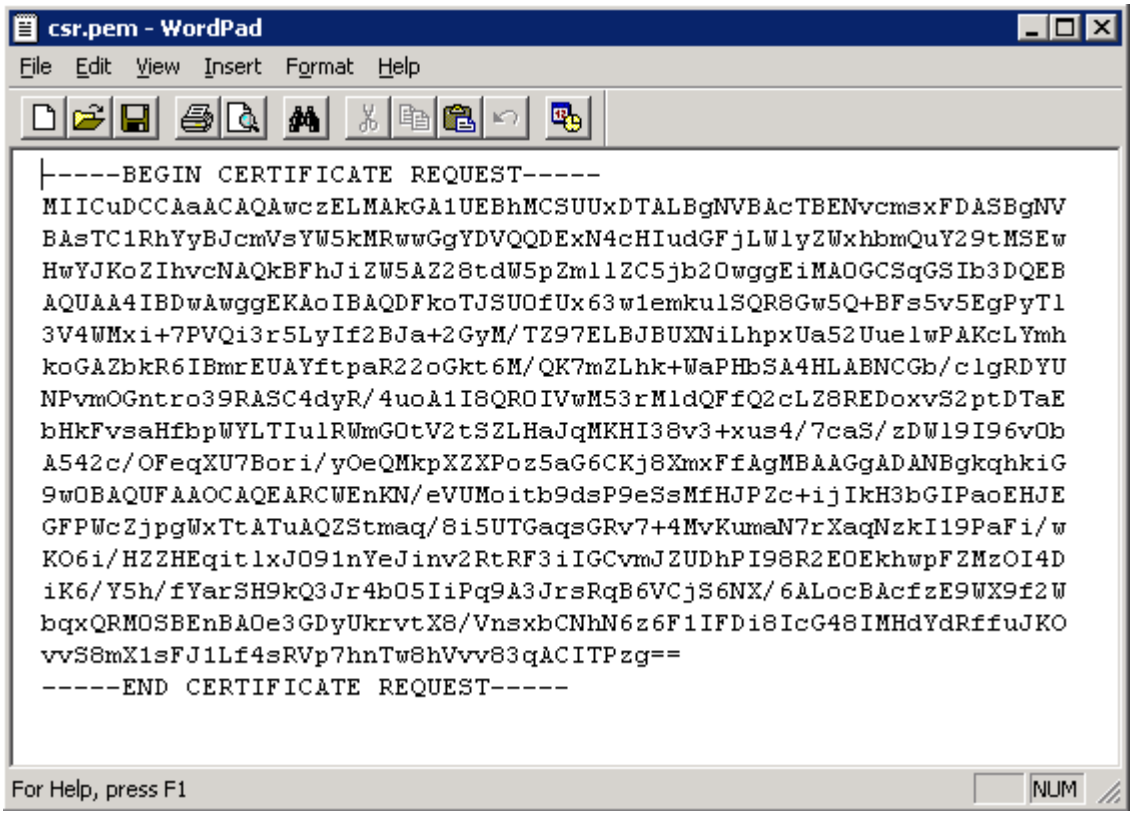
Please enter the certificate details here



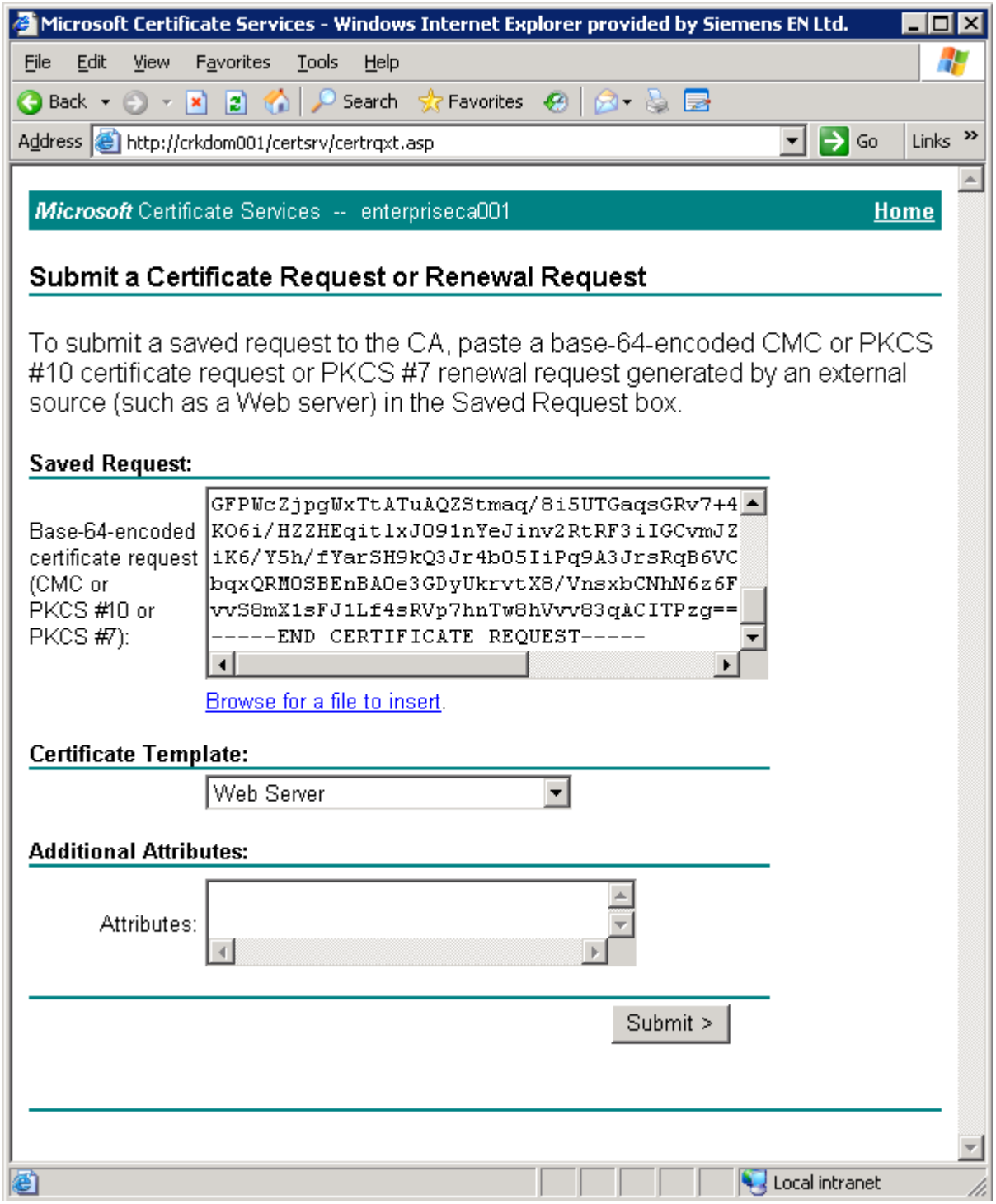
Browse to the `c:\certificate` folder and open the file `csr.pem` with a `text editor`



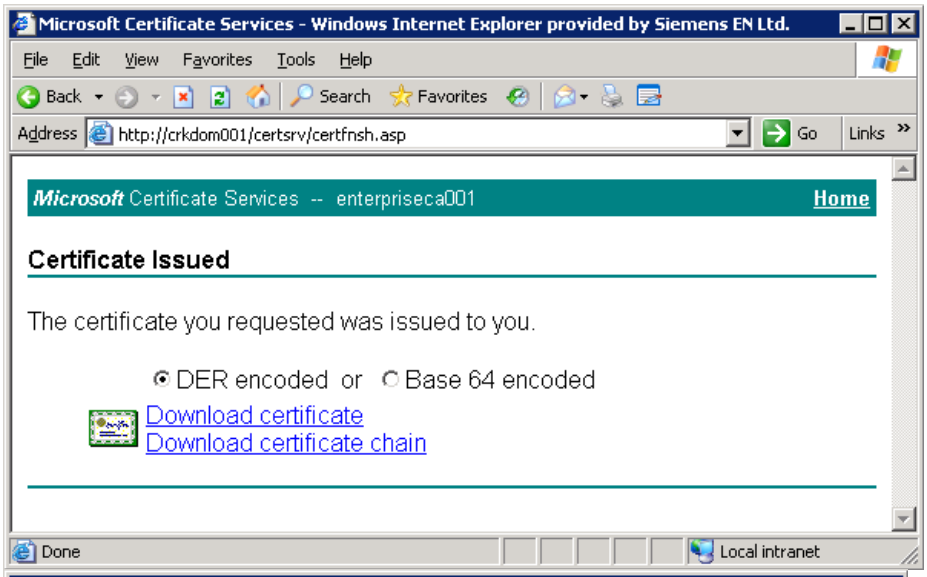


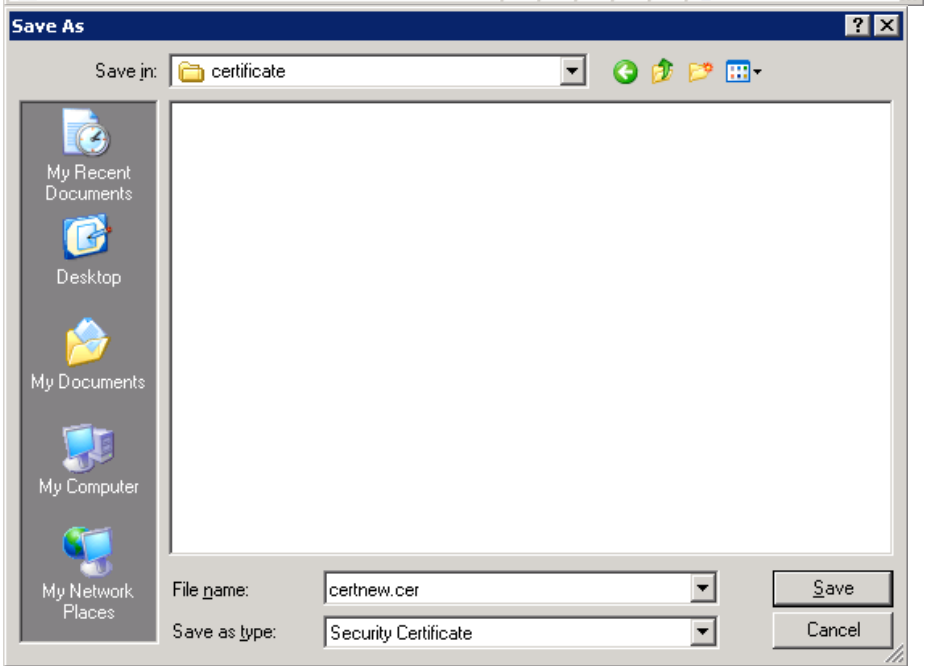


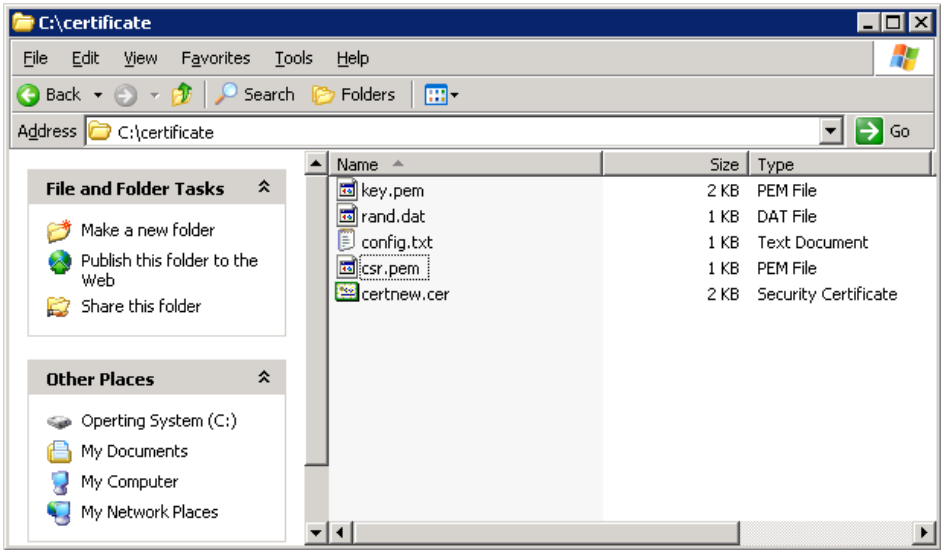
Copy – Paste the information into the Request window, select Certificate Template: *Web Server* and *submit* the request



Download the Certificate *DER* encoded and save it in the *c:\certificate* folder

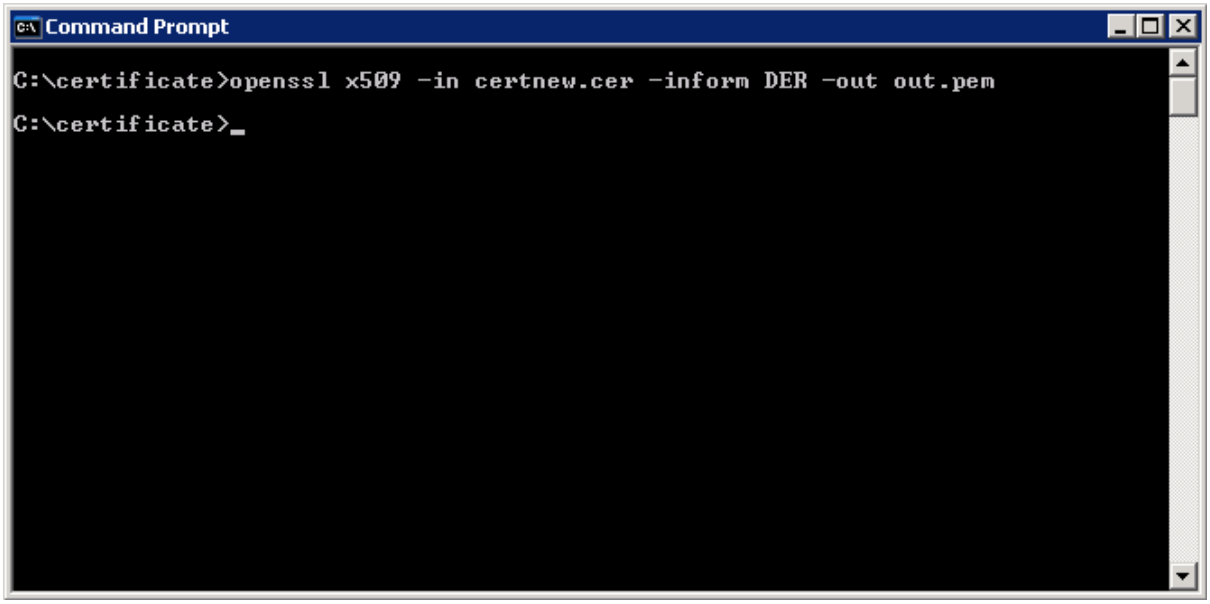




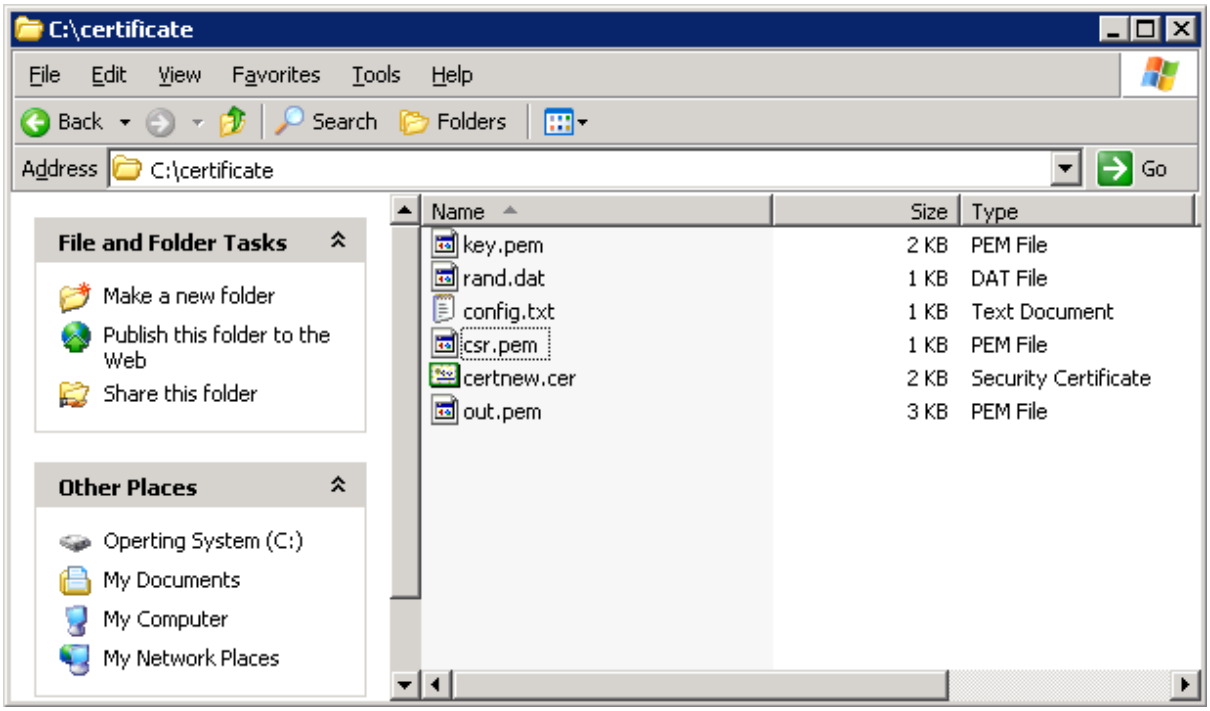


Back in the command prompt translate the certnew.cer file into the PEM OpenSSL file format

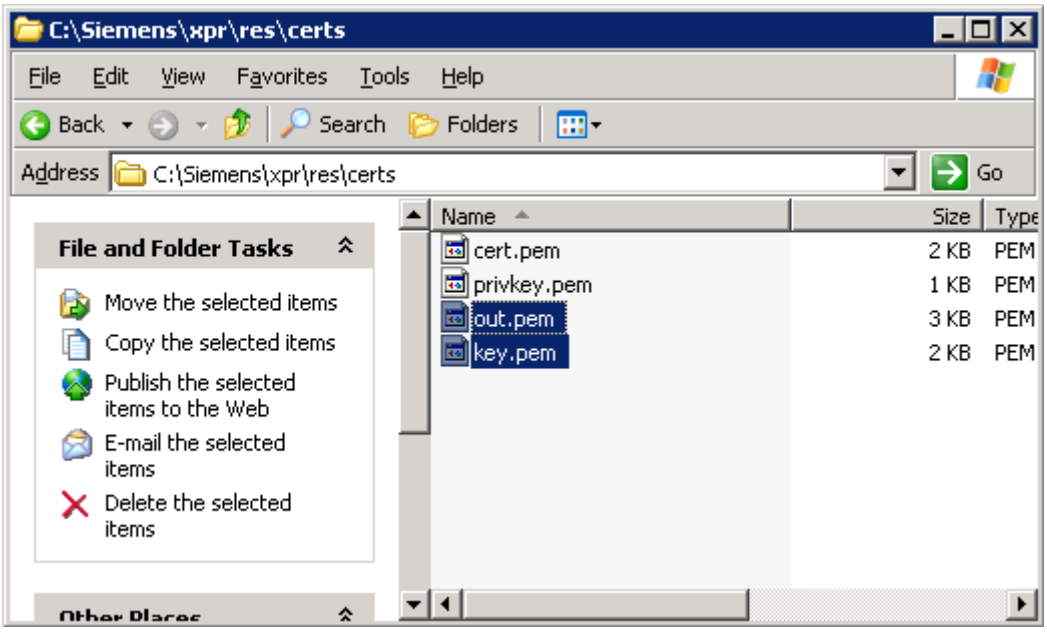
openssl x509 -in certnew.cer -inform DER -out out.pem



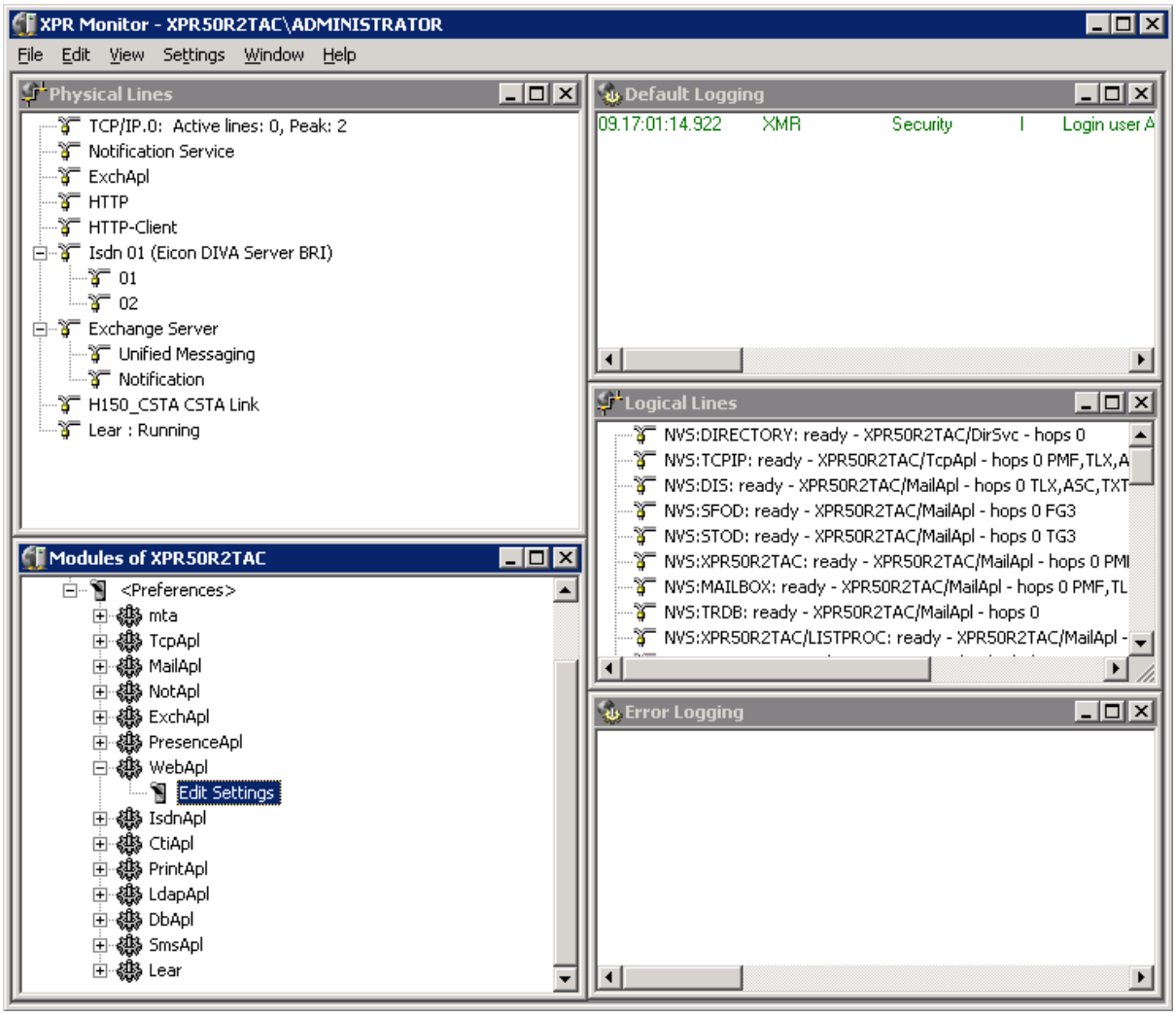
The content of your *c:\certificate* folder should look like in this example



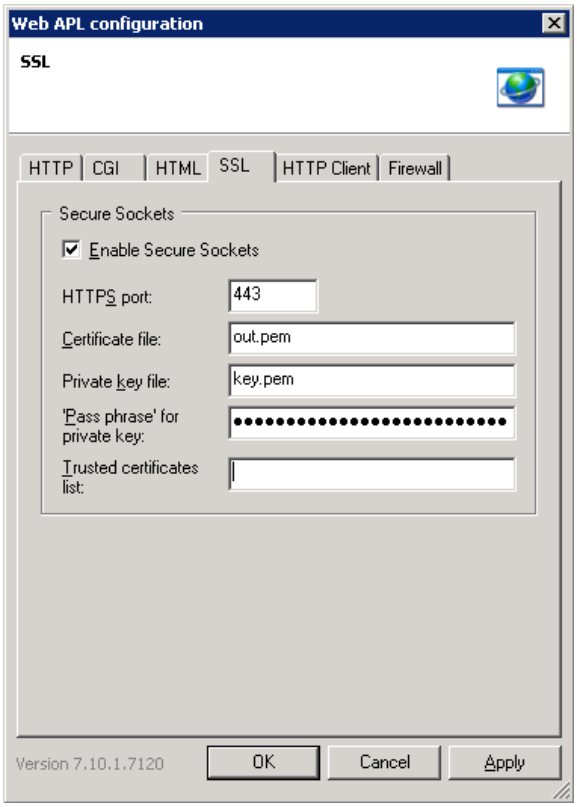
Mark the two .pem files *key.pem and out.pem* and *copy* them into the HiPath Xpressions certificate store *<XPR Installation Dir>\res\certs*



Open the MRS Monitor and *Edit the Webpl's settings*

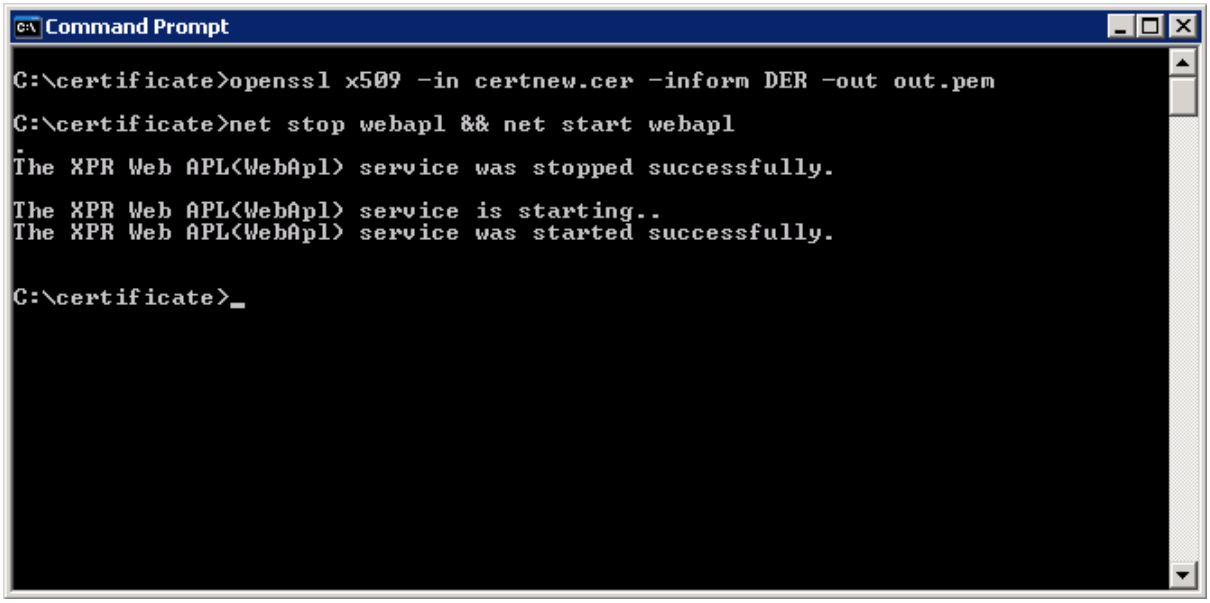


On the SSL tab make sure SSL is enabled and the default port *443* is selected.
The certificate file is named *out.pem* and the private key is called *key.pem* in our example. As Pass Phrase please enter the string you entered to secure the private key in our example
"Communication for the open minded"

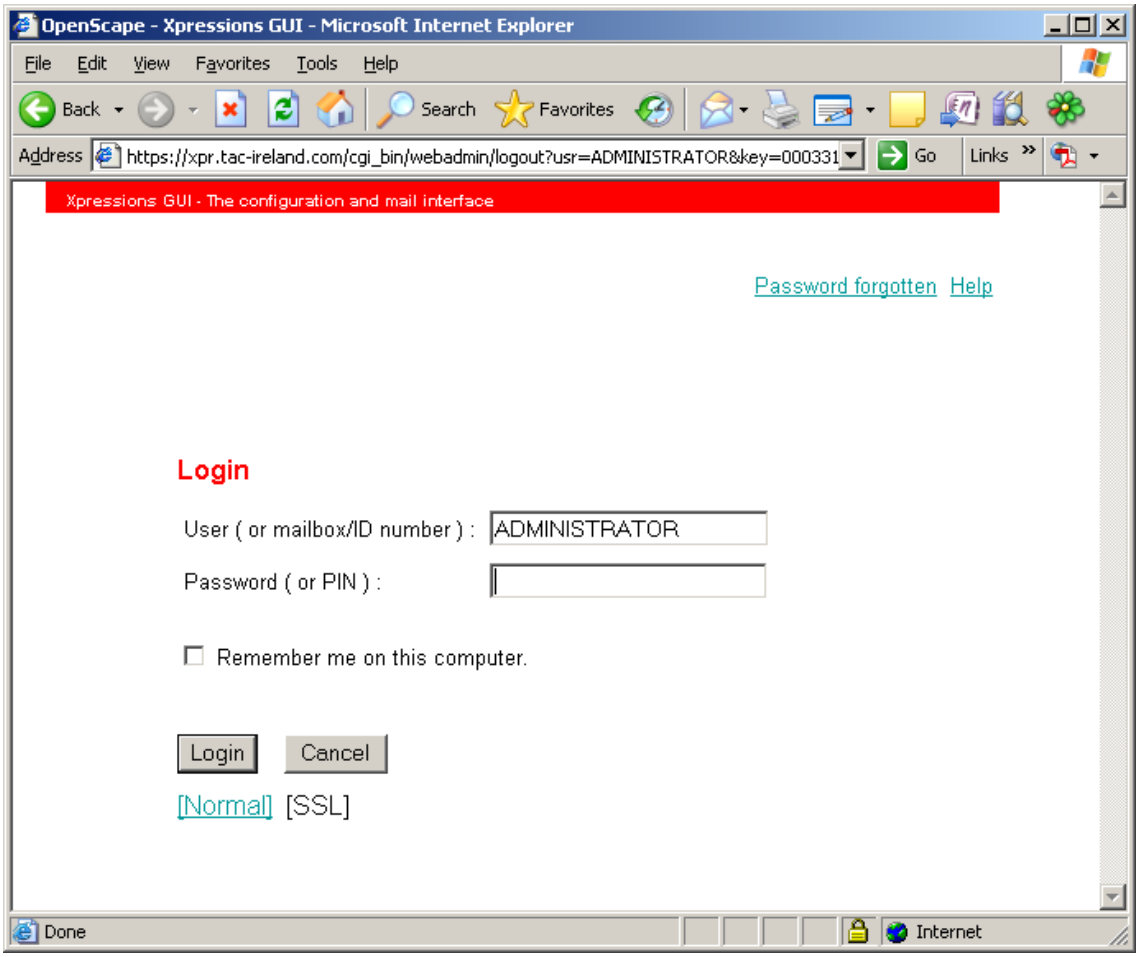


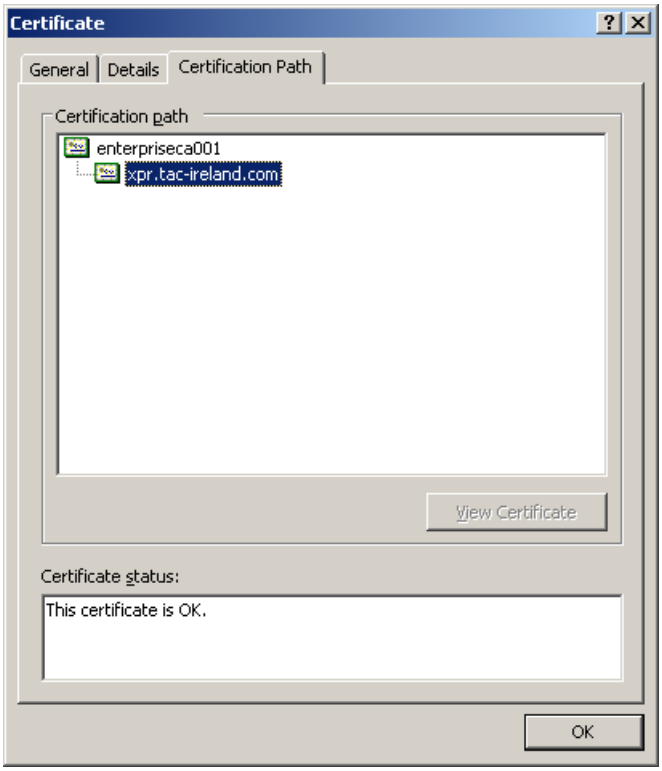
For the changes to apply simply restart the WebApl using the command prompt

Net stop webapl && net start webapl



Now *browse* to the HiPath Xpressions Web Assistant URL (*https://<FQDN>*) and you will not see any certificate error message anymore. ***Job done!***





Details about the certificate can be gained by pressing on the lock icon in the IE.