



< Let's Talk

Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS

Automatic Validation of PDF Authenticity

Now more than ever, organizations have reasons for moving processes online — cost-savings, environmental responsibility, faster response times and more.

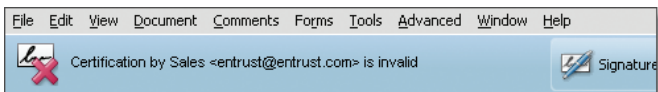
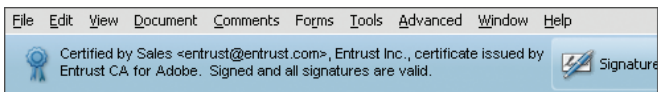
Recipients, however, are concerned that these documents can be fraudulently falsified or altered. Until recently, organizations have tried to solve this challenge with digital signatures, but those processes were difficult for end-users to understand and required special software or configurations to read.

In response, Adobe created Certified Document Services (CDS) for PDF documents. Using digital signature technology, CDS provides recipients with assurances that certified PDF documents are authentic. This ensures that the document originated from the stated author, it has not been altered, and/or it has been approved by the author. Users only require a PDF reader (e.g., Adobe® Reader®/Acrobat®) to read CDS-verified documents, without special configuration.

Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS enable organizations to digitally sign Adobe PDF files with confidence. Recipients will feel more confident by seeing the visual trust indicators that verify who published the document and whether it has been altered, and know that the author/organization has been verified by a trusted authority.

Key Benefits & Features

Certify with Confidence — Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS provide users with clear indications of the integrity of the document. This allows document authors to certify a document has not been altered since signing. Users receive a real-time visual indication at the top of the Adobe CDS-verified PDF document to give confidence of its authenticity.



The Legality of Digital Signatures

The legality of digital signatures varies based on jurisdiction, but, in general, digital signatures are legally accepted in most jurisdictions.

United States

The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) facilitates the use of electronic records and signatures by ensuring the validity and legal effect of contracts entered into electronically.

Canada

PIPEDA distinguishes between the generic "electronic signature" and the "secure electronic signature." Federal regulations make it clear that a secure electronic signature is a digital signature created and verified in a specific manner.

United Kingdom

The Electronic Communications Act 2000 and the Electronic Signatures Regulations 2002 gave digital signatures legal status. The UK has also defined the concept of Advanced Electronic Signatures, which is considered more secure and is as legal as a handwritten signature.

United Nations

Many other countries have adopted the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law on E-Commerce, which defines e-signatures.

< Let's Talk

Authorize with Trust — In addition to certification, Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS can also be used to provide authorization to parts of or the entire document. This is an ideal solution to many workflow requirements.



Real-Time Assurance — Adobe CDS certificates are verified each time they are signed or the certified PDF document is opened. This enables real-time verification — not just when the document is first received, but throughout its lifetime.

Manual or Automatic — Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS are available for manual or automatic signing. Manual or “ad hoc” format is intended for use with individual-signing tools such as Adobe® Acrobat® Professional. The automatic version is intended for signing groups of documents in bulk with applications such as Adobe® LiveCycle®.

Sign by Group or Individual — Individual-signing certificates display the name and e-mail address of the signer/approver in the signature. Group-signing displays the signature of the organizational group.

Compatibility — Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS work seamlessly with both Adobe® Reader® and Adobe Acrobat (version 6.0 or later) on the desktop and Adobe LiveCycle Digital Signatures ES on the server.

Entrust Certification Authority (CA) — Adobe partnered with Entrust to provide certification authority (CA) services, including all registration authority (RA) functionality. Entrust’s CA has been “chained” to Adobe’s CA to provide trust services on behalf of Adobe. Once registered, the author is verified by Entrust and issued a digital ID to certify documents to be used in Adobe Acrobat, Reader and LiveCycle products.

Applications — Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS are optimal for organizations who share sensitive or official information electronically, including statements, invoices, legal documents, engineering plans and diagrams, diplomas, charters and more.

Technical Features

- Entrust includes a FIPS-validated cryptographic USB token, which is secured by passwords and easily accessed by signing applications. For enterprise CDS digital signatures, organizations can download their certificate to a HSM (Hardware Security Module), which is also FIPS-compliant.
- Adobe CDS certificates can be reissued to the same identity throughout the life of the certificate. A certificate may be reissued if passwords are forgotten, tokens are misplaced (an administrative fee applies to the replacement token), a compromised key, or if an individual leaves the organization.
- Authoring software that works with Entrust Certificates for Adobe CDS include Adobe Acrobat Professional and Standard (Version 6.x and newer) and Adobe LiveCycle Document Security Server (Version 8.x and newer) as well as Adobe LiveCycle ES Digital Signatures.
- Both Adobe Acrobat and Adobe LiveCycle are highly configurable to allow signatures to “expire.” In most cases, however, the signature will remain valid after the signature has expired, thus allowing documents to be considered “valid” long after the initial signature.

About Entrust

Entrust provides identity-based security solutions that empower enterprises, consumers, citizens and Web sites in more than 4,000 organizations spanning 60 countries. Entrust’s identity-based approach offers the right balance between affordability, expertise and service. For strong authentication, fraud detection, digital certificates, SSL and PKI, call 888-690-2424, e-mail entrust@entrust.com or visit www.entrust.com.

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