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The Swiss Education & Research Network

SwissSign vs. SCS certificates: which one is right for you?

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SwissSign vs. SCS certificates at a glance SWITCH

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	SwissSign	SCS
Available types	Server and user certificates	Server certificates only
Root certificate (commonName)	<i>SwissSign CA (RSA IK May 6 1999 18:00:58)</i> , only preinstalled with Grid applications (IGTF)	<i>GTE CyberTrust Global Root</i> , preinstalled in virtually any SSL enabled software, but not (yet?) with the IGTF distribution
Chain (w/o root)	4 certificates	1 certificate
Validity	1 year only	1, 2 or 3 years
Available profiles	one default profile	SureServerEDU TLS SureServerEDU TLS emailserver SureServerEDU
Enrollment procedure	based on PDF registration form	based on challenge e-mail message
SWITCHpki pricing	per certificate and year	yearly fee with unlimited number of certificates (for organizations with RA operators having access to GlobalSign's WebConnect platform, otherwise up to ~10)

Recommendations

... for general-purpose SSL-enabled servers (Web servers, mail servers, LDAP servers, RADIUS servers, ...)

use SCS certificates

... for Grid hosts (authentication/encryption)

use SwissSign Server certificates

... for Grid users at your organization (authentication)

use SwissSign Personal certificates

... for pilot projects with user certificates (signed e-mail etc.)

use SwissSign Personal certificates

Stay tuned for SWITCHpki

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