

How to Create a PFX Certificate File from a PEM File

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Problem

Some certificate authorities (such as Let's Encrypt) only supply certificate in the form of a PEM file, which is not usable by many Windows services.

In the case of Let's Encrypt, the PEM file may not have been generated as a part of a certificate signing request.

How to Convert PEM to PFX

- Install the latest stable Open SSL. The main page is [here](#) or you can find good Windows binaries [here](#).
- Copy the PEM file to the OpenSSL binary folder, such as C:\Program Files\OpenSSL-Win64\bin
- Open an administrative command prompt or Powershell window to that folder
- Type in:

```
.\openssl pkcs12 -export -out result.pfx -inkey mypemfile.pem -in mypemfile.pem
```

- You will be prompted for a PFX password as part of the process. You must securely store the password with the PFX file to be able to use it.
- Above, the **-inkey** command is used to input the private key. If you have a separate certificate signing request (CSR) this would likely not be in the .PEM file, but would be in a separate .CRT file:

```
.\openssl pkcs12 -export -out result.pfx -inkey mycsrkeyfile.crt -in mypemfile.cer
```

Also see [here](#).

Applies to:

- Windows Server services that require a PFX certificate that includes the private key

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