InCommon® CERTIFICATE SERVICE

Your Certificate Service Is Evolving. Here's What You Need to Know.

A briefing for CISOs and CIOs

A New Platform. The Same Commitment.

The InCommon Certificate Service is moving to a new platform provider, **CertiNext**, beginning April 7, 2026. This is not a disruption. It is a deliberate upgrade, years in the making, grounded in what your peers across the research and higher education (R&E) community told us they needed.

The current Sectigo Certificate Manager (SCM) platform will remain active through **July 17, 2026.** All TLS certificates issued before that date remain valid through their natural lifecycle. After July 17, new certificates will be issued exclusively through CertiNext.

For full transition details, visit incommon.org/certificate-services-transition.

The Certificate Landscape Is Changing Fast. We're Getting You Ready.

Certificate lifecycle management industry standards are accelerating toward full automation, and the stakes for falling behind are real. Here's what your security team needs to be prepared for:

- **Short-lived certificates.** Industry experts are signaling that certificate lifetimes as short as **10 days** may be mandated within the next few years. Institutions without automated renewal pipelines will face manual overhead at a scale that is simply not sustainable.
- **Post-quantum cryptography**. Post-quantum standards are actively evolving. The platforms your institution relies on need to be built to adapt.
- **The cost of standing still.** A certificate service that cannot support automation-first workflows is not a certificate service built for the next decade. InCommon acted proactively in response to these shifting standards.

Read the Q&A with UMass Amherst Vice Chancellor and CIO Christopher Misra to learn how IT leaders can successfully transition to the new InCommon Certificate Service.

Your Community Built This. We Listened.

We are not a commercial vendor. InCommon Certificate Service is one of several community-designed services within Internet2 — alongside the national R&E network, eduroam, NET+ cloud services, and the InCommon Federation — each built to meet a specific need shared by research and higher education institutions.

~500 responses from certificate admins across the R&E community

20+ in-depth interviews to confirm and refine what was needed

In 2023, we formed the InCommon Certificate Service Redesign Group, a task force of experts and leaders charged with understanding exactly what R&E institutions needed from a modern certificate service. The group surveyed nearly 500 certificate administrators and conducted more than two dozen follow-up interviews to validate and sharpen those findings.

We then used those findings to define the requirements for the next generation of the service — and selected CertiNext as the provider built to meet those requirements for the *next* 15 years.

Built for How Your Team Actually Works.

The transition to CertiNext delivers capabilities the community has been asking for:

- **Your own account.** Every subscriber institution gets a dedicated account — the most-requested improvement from the community survey. Your domains, your delegations, your control.
- **Automation-first architecture.** The new platform is built around open-standard automation protocols — ACME, API, and SCEP — the foundations of scalable, low-maintenance certificate lifecycle management.
- **Domain Validation (DV) certificates.** Now available directly through the same portal used for OV and EV certificates. No separate workflow required.
- **Improved delegation and discovery.** Greater controls for delegating certificate management across departments and teams, with improved service discovery to match.
- **A host of integrations.** The new platform supports direct integrations with the tools your teams already use — ServiceNow, F5, Microsoft Active Directory, Azure KeyVault, AWS Certificate Manager, and AWS Route53 — all included at no additional charge. A richer ServiceNow integration is already on the near-term roadmap.
- **Private CA — we're working on it.** InCommon is actively working on how to best deliver private certificate authority capabilities. Updates will be shared on the cert-users mailing list as they become available.

Our Core Promise Hasn't Changed.

Unlimited TLS web certificates. IGTF certificates. One flat price. **The same pricing model InCommon introduced more than 15 years ago continues unchanged.**

Note: Client and code signing certificates, previously bundled, will now be offered as optional add-on services. Pricing and availability will be announced via the cert-users mailing list.

We're In This With You.

Certificate management is heading into one of its most consequential periods of change. Automation, shorter certificate lifetimes, and post-quantum standards are near-term operational realities. InCommon will continue to engage the community as these requirements evolve, and we remain committed to staying ahead of them on your behalf.

Forward together.

DEADLINE: July 17, 2026
Sectigo Certificate Manager retires

Direct Your Registration Authority Officer to Act Before July 17, 2026.

Your institution was notified by email the week of April 7 and should complete the following four steps:

1. Sign the New Subscriber Agreement.

A new agreement with InCommon is required for all subscribers. Once signed, InCommon will migrate your existing configuration to the new platform.

2. Complete Your Migration Before July 17, 2026.

Certificates already issued on SCM remain valid through their natural lifecycle. No new certificates will be issued from SCM after the July 17 retirement date.

3. Subscribe to Updates.

The cert-users mailing list is the best channel for transition communications, including private CA availability and add-on pricing details.

4. Use Available Support Resources.

InCommon support, CertiNext's dedicated InCommon page, and open office hours are all available. Schedule and details at incommon.org/certificate-services-transition.

Questions? Contact InCommon at help@incommon.org.

InCommon®
A company of INTERNET2