

Nginx - setting up SSL with existing .crt, .key and CA.pem files

Asked 6 years, 3 months ago Modified 6 years, 3 months ago Viewed 12k times



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I have a `.crt`, `.key` and `CA.pem` files that were generated [like this](#).

These certs are kind of project-wide, and they work when firing up a [webpack-dev-server](#) server on HTTPS like:

```
devServer: {  
  https: {  
    key: fs.readFileSync('/path/to/example.com.key'),  
    cert: fs.readFileSync('/path/to/examle.com.crt'),  
    ca: fs.readFileSync('/path/to/CA.pem'),  
  }  
}
```

Now I need to setup an Nginx server using these 3 files, but I've been trying with no luck. Here's my config:

```
server {  
    listen      3000;  
  
    ssl_certificate certs/example.com.crt;  
    ssl_certificate_key certs/example.com.key;  
  
    # where does the CA.pem file go??  
}
```

The result of this is Chrome giving me a

```
This site can't provide a secure connection  
example.com sent an invalid response.  
ERR_SSL_PROTOCOL_ERROR
```

Nginx logs show random hex characters:

```
172.18.0.1 - - [14/Dec/2018:18:01:55 +0000]  
"\x16\x03\x01\x00\xDD\x01\x00\x00\xD9\x03\x03\xAB\xE1\xB3\x1F\xCE\x02\x02\xC5}q\xDFgd\xF  
\x98\xDF\xDEEg\x8Fm\xED\x9F\xB1\x00\x00\x1C" 400 166 "-" "-" "-" 0.001 -
```

Any ideas what could I be doing wrong?

ssl

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edited Dec 14, 2018 at 18:26

asked Dec 14, 2018 at 18:12



Christopher Francisco

16.3k ● 31 ● 109 ● 220

1 Answer

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



4



You need to concatenate your certificate with CA for nginx:

```
cp example.com.crt example.com.fullchain.pem
cat CA.pem >> example.com.fullchain.pem
```

and use this file in nginx config:

```
ssl_certificate certs/example.com.fullchain.pem;
```

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answered Dec 14, 2018 at 19:26



Ivan Shatsky

15.8k ● 2 ● 25 ● 51

I actually ended up concatenating only the CA and the crt. But yeah it worked – [Christopher Francisco](#)
Dec 20, 2018 at 14:01

I think that is exactly what I tell you to do, I didn't mention a key file in my answer. Full path of concatenated file goes as `ssl_certificate` parameter, full path of key file goes as `ssl_certificate_key` parameter. FYI, certbot from Let's Encrypt generates all of these files (key as `privkey.pem`, cert as `cert.pem`, CA as `chain.pem`, and concatenated `cert+CA` as `fullchain.pem`).
– [Ivan Shatsky](#) Dec 20, 2018 at 14:14

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