

Internet Explorer certificate management

How to export, backup/restore and remove your keys and certificates with Internet Explorer release 6 and newer

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Revision History

Date	Revision	Description	Contributors
2007-07-13	1.0	Initial version	Grégory FERON

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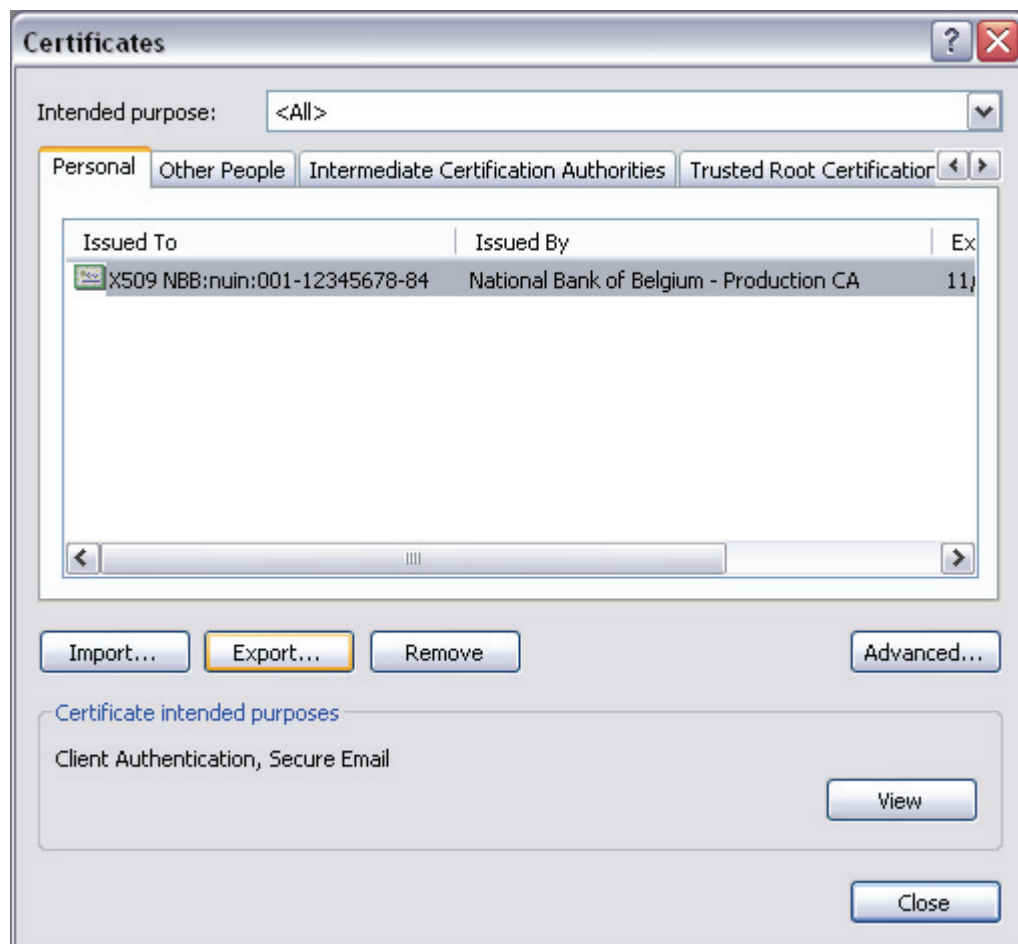
1. Introduction

This document has for goal to describe how to export, make a backup/restore or remove your private key and its certificate.

- ⚠ Note: Your workstation policy may prevent you to execute the operations outlined in this guide. In case of doubt or if you experience problems (e.g. if the **Certificates** button is inactive), please ask the appropriate people within your organization to give you the needed rights to handle the certificates store for Internet Explorer (e.g. via the Windows “registry” and/or “Group Policy Object”).
- ⚠ Note: The exported .pfx file can be used with the Offline Signing Tool v.2.2 and higher versions. It can also be renamed to .p12 and used as a PKCS #12 file.

2. How to export/backup the private key and it’s associated certificate

- Open your browser
- Select "Tools" from menu
- Select "Internet Options"
- Select "Content" tab
- Click on **Certificates** button
- In the “Personal” tab, select your current certificate starting with "X509 NBB"



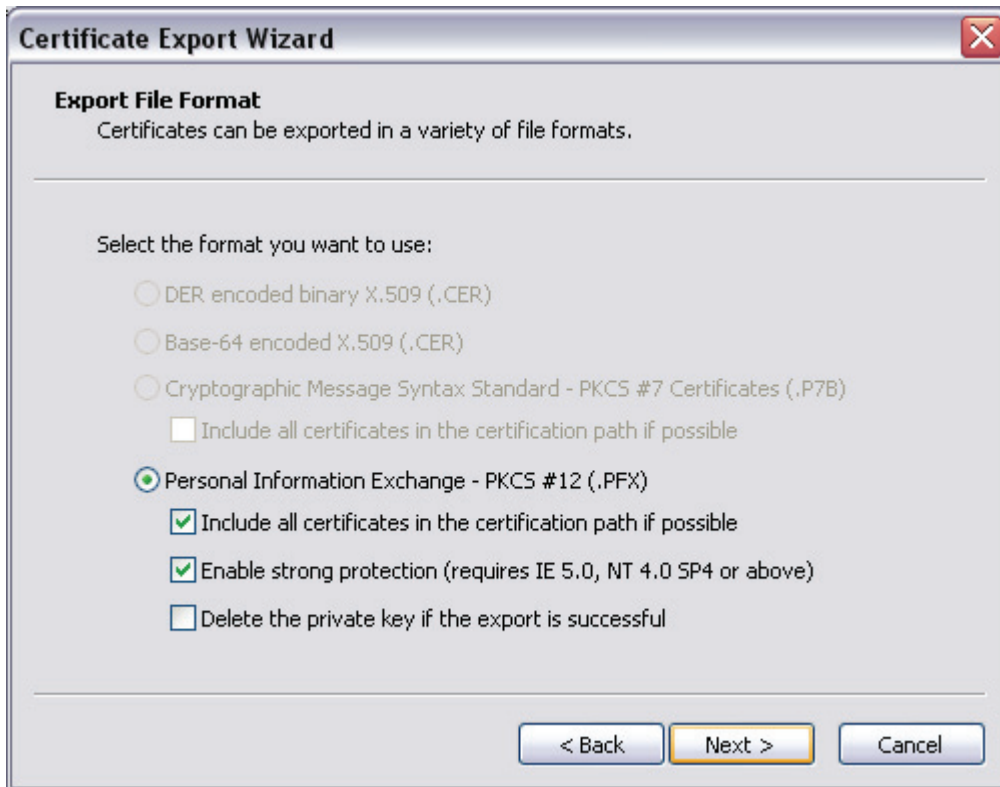
- Click **Export...**



- Click **Next >**



- Check that “Yes, export the private key” is selected and click **Next >**



- Check “Include all certificates in the certification path if possible” and “Enable strong protection” if available, then click **Next >**.

📌 **Note:** Even if you want to remove the private key from the security store, we advice to first ensure that you can restore the private and it’s associated certificate where you need to and then remove the private key.



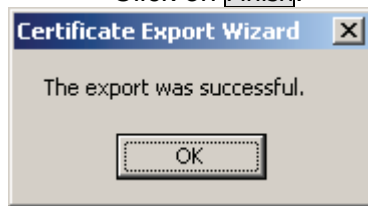
- Enter and confirm certificate password (we advice to choose a strong one). Keep a note of the password as you will need it to restore the key and certificate, or to use the Offline Signing Tool (where it is referenced as “Passphrase”).
- Click **Next >**.



- Define your .pfx file name and destination and click **Next >**



- Click on **Finish**.



- You will get a message that the export was successful. Click on **OK**.
- If you encounter an error please ask the help of your Workstation Administrator.

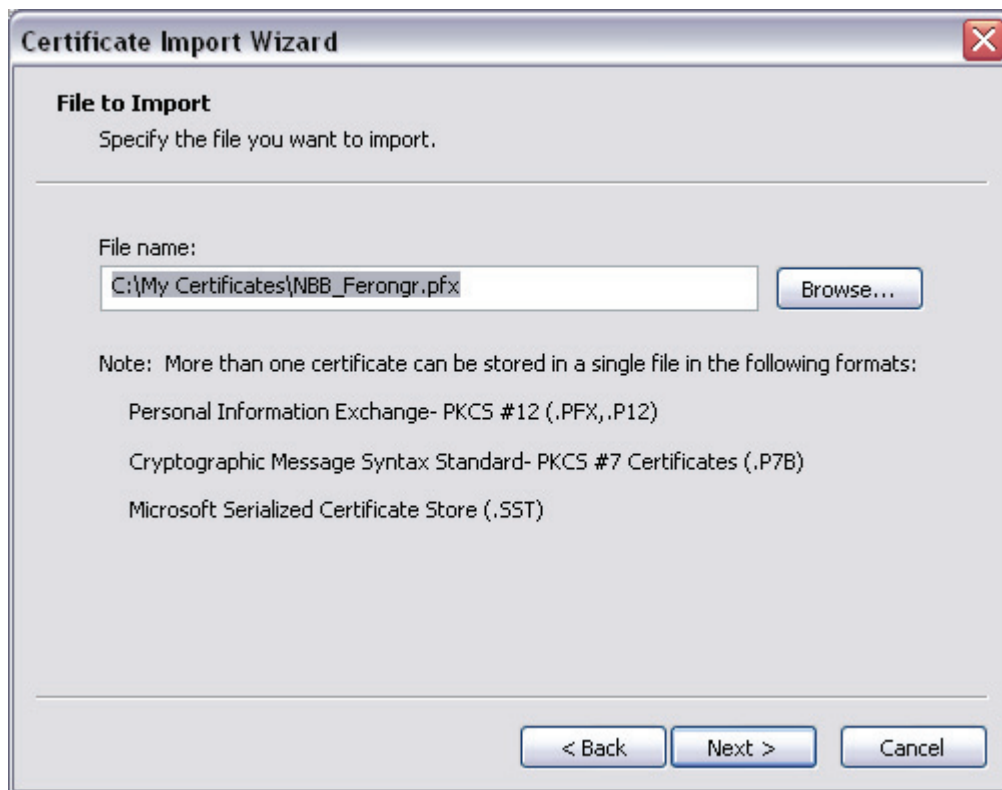
3. How to restore a backed up private key and it's associated certificate

First, retrieve your backed up file with .pfx extension, then:

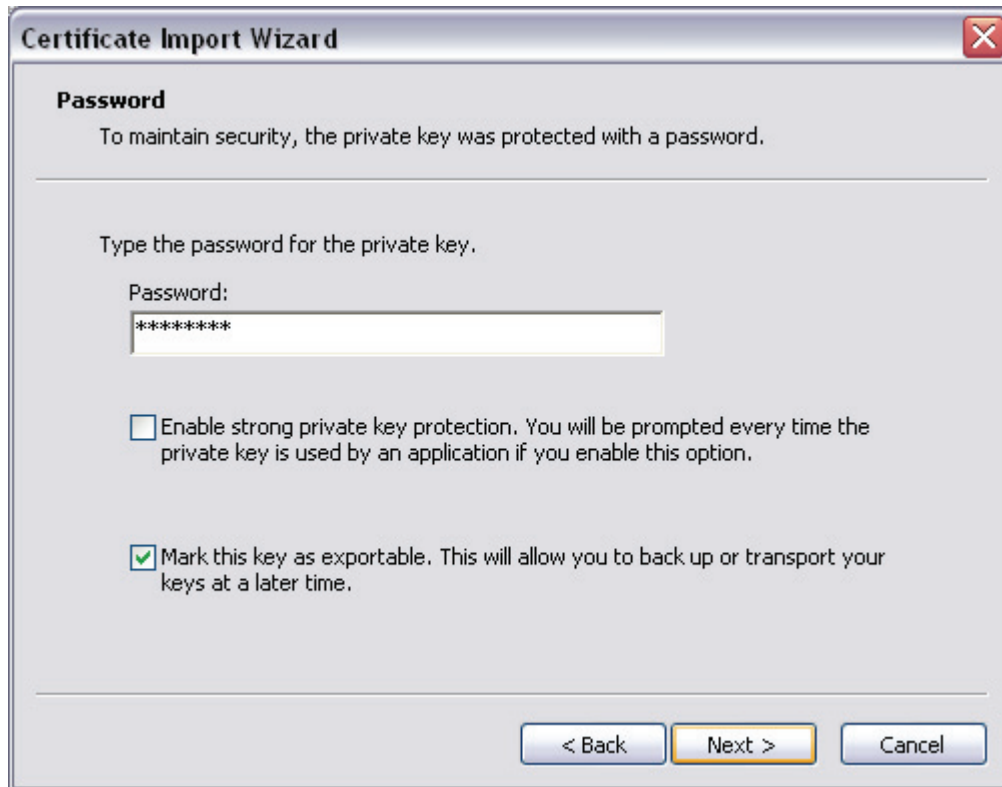
- Open File Explorer
- Go to your destination directory (e.g.: "C:\My Certificates")
- Select your .pfx file
- Double click to install it.




- Click on **Next >**.

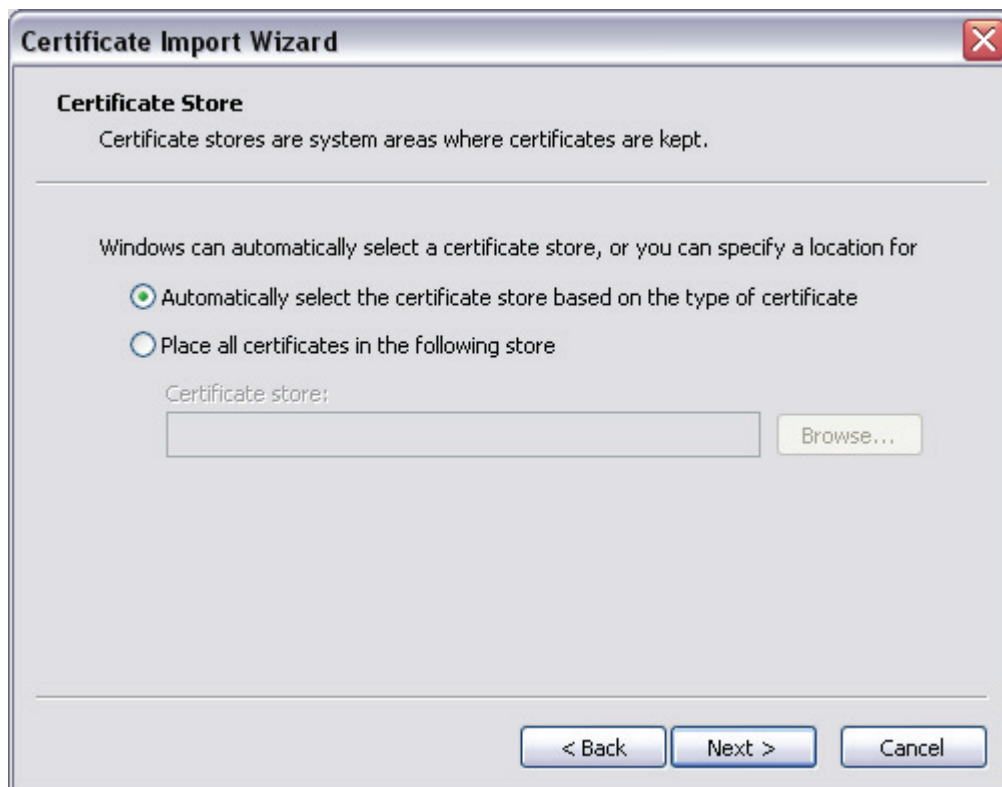


- Click on .



 **Note:** The optional checkbox “Enable strong private key protection. You will be prompted every time the private key is used by an application if you enable this option.” bring a higher security level by requiring a password (called “CryptoAPI Private Key” with the “High” option) or giving an alert (“Medium” option) when using the private key. When this option is not activated, the private key is only protected by the Windows authentication.

- Enter the password chosen at the export and check for "Mark this key as exportable." if you wish to export the key again, and click on **Next >**.



- Click on **Next >**.



- Click on **Finish**.



- Click on **OK**.

4. How to remove the private key and it's associated certificate

Note: Be sure to dispose of a valid backup if you still need the private key and the certificate (for instance: on another PC) before proceeding the removal.

- Open your browser
- Select "Tools" from menu
- Select "Internet Options"
- Select "Content" tab
- Click on **Certificates** button
- In the "Personal" tab, select the current certificate starting with "X509 NBB"
- Click **Remove**

