

[MS-ICPR]: ICertPassage Remote Protocol Specification

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Revision Summary

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1 Introduction

This document specifies the ICertPassage Remote Protocol. This protocol is a subset of the [Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol](#), as specified in [MS-WCCE]. The difference between this protocol and the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol is that this protocol only allows the **client** to **enroll certificates**, whereas the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol provides enrollment and additional functionality, such as the capability to read **certification authority (CA)** data and configuration information. Reading and understanding the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol, as specified in [MS-WCCE], is essential to understanding the ICertPassage Remote Protocol.

1.1 Glossary

The following terms are defined in [\[MS-GLOS\]](#):

- Active Directory**
- certificate**
- certification authority (CA)**
- certification**
- client**
- digital signature**
- Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM)**
- dynamic endpoint**
- endpoint**
- endpoint mapper**
- enroll/enrollment**
- private key**
- public key**
- public-private key pair**
- remote procedure call (RPC)**
- RPC endpoint**
- universally unique identifier (UUID)**
- well-known endpoint**

The following terms are specific to this document:

MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT: These terms (in all caps) are used as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact dochelp@microsoft.com. We will assist you in finding the relevant information. Please check the archive site, <http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/E4BD6494-06AD-4aed-9823-445E921C9624>, as an additional source.

[MS-CRTD] Microsoft Corporation, "[Certificate Templates Structure](#)", March 2007.

[C706] The Open Group, "DCE 1.1: Remote Procedure Call", C706, August 1997, <http://www.opengroup.org/public/pubs/catalog/c706.htm>

[MS-DCOM] Microsoft Corporation, "[Distributed Component Object Model \(DCOM\) Remote Protocol Specification](#)", March 2007.

[MS-DTYP] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Data Types](#)", January 2007.

[MS-RPCE] Microsoft Corporation, "[Remote Procedure Call Protocol Extensions](#)", January 2007.

[MS-WCCE] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol Specification](#)", June 2007.

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

[RFC2797] Myers, M., Liu, X., Schaad, J., and Weinstein, J., "Certificate Management Messages Over CMS", RFC 2797, April 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2797.txt>

[RFC2986] Nystrom, M., and Kaliski, B., "PKCS#10: Certificate Request Syntax Specification", RFC 2986, November 2000, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2986.txt>

[RFC3280] Housley, R., Polk, W., Ford, W., and Solo, D., "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile", RFC 3280, April 2002, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3280.txt>

[RFC3852] Housley, R., "Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)", RFC 3852, July 2004, <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3852.txt>

[UNICODE4.0] The Unicode Consortium, "Unicode 4.0.0", <http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode4.0.0/>

[X509] ITU-T, "Information Technology - Open Systems Interconnection - The Directory: Public-Key and Attribute Certificate Frameworks", Recommendation X.509, August 2005, <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.509/en>

Note There is a charge to download the specification.

[X660] ITU-T, "Information Technology - Open Systems Interconnection - Procedures for the Operation of OSI Registration Authorities: General Procedures and Top Arcs of the ASN.1 Object Identifier Tree", Recommendation X.660, August 2004, <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.660/en>

Note There is a charge to download the specification.

[X690] ITU-T, "Information Technology - ASN.1 Encoding Rules: Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER)", Recommendation X.690, July 2002, <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.690/en>

Note There is a charge to download the specification.

1.2.2 Informative References

[MS-GLOS] Microsoft Corporation, "[Windows Protocols Master Glossary](#)", March 2007.

1.3 Overview

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol exposes a **Remote Procedure Call (RPC)** (as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#)) interface that allows a client to interact with a certification authority (CA) to request and receive X.509 certificates (as specified in [\[X509\]](#)) from the CA. The ICertPassage Remote Protocol only provides certificate enrollment functionality. The [Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol](#) (as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#)) provides a larger set of functionality, including reading CA data and configuration information. The certificate enrollment process and protocol overview are as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 1.3.

The ICertPassage interface defines one method: [CertServerRequest \(section 3.2.4.1.1\)](#).

1.4 Relationship to Other Protocols

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol depends on the [Remote Procedure Call Protocol Extensions](#), as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#). No other Microsoft Windows® protocol depends on the ICertPassage Remote Protocol. The following diagram shows the layering of the protocol stack.

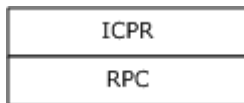


Figure 1: ICRP Protocol Stack

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol shares ADM elements with Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) as specified in section [3.1.1](#) and section [3.2.1](#). The ICertPassage Remote Protocol, the Certificate Services Remote Administration Protocol, and the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol use a common list of configuration data elements, defined in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.1.4.

1.5 Prerequisites and Preconditions

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol has the same prerequisites as the [Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol](#), as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 1.5.

ICertPassage Remote Protocol server implementations that also implement the Certificate Services Remote Administration Protocol specified in [\[MS-CSRA\]](#) or the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) use the same configuration data elements, defined in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.1.4 as "public", for those implementations.

1.6 Applicability Statement

This protocol applies to legacy clients that must use RPC (as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#)) to interact with a CA for the purpose of enrolling or managing X.509 (as specified in [\[X509\]](#)) certificates.

If clients can interact with the CA through **Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM)** (as specified in [\[MS-DCOM\]](#)) interfaces, they should use the [Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol](#), as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#).

1.7 Versioning and Capability Negotiation

Version and capability negotiation is not provided in this protocol. [<1>](#)

1.8 Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

1.9 Standards Assignments

None.

2 Messages

The following sections specify how ICertPassage Remote Protocol messages are transported and ICertPassage Remote Protocol message syntax.

2.1 Transport

This protocol uses the following RPC protocol sequence: RPC over named pipe and RPC over TCP/IP, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#).

The **endpoint** pipe name for RPC over named pipe, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#), is `\PIPE\cert`. This endpoint is used for the authenticated RPC interface. The authenticated RPC interface allows RPC to negotiate the use of authentication and the authentication level on behalf of the client and **server**, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#).

In the case of using RPC over TCP, this protocol uses RPC **dynamic endpoints** as defined in Part 4 of [\[C706\]](#). For more information, see [Client Initialization \(section 3.1.3\)](#) and [Server Initialization \(section 3.2.3\)](#).

This protocol MUST use the **universal unique identifier (UUID)**, as specified in section [3.2.4.1](#).

2.2 Common Data Types

The [ICertPassage](#) interface uses the CERTTRANSBLOB structure, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.1.

This protocol specification makes use of the [BYTE](#), [wchar_t](#), and [DWORD](#) datatypes defined in [\[MS-DTYP\]](#) sections [2.2.6](#), [2.1.6](#), and [2.2.9](#).

2.2.1 Request Format

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol is a simple request-response pattern between the client and the server. The client MUST send the certificate request using one of the following [ASN.1 DER](#) encoded message formats:

- PKCS #10 as specified in [\[RFC2986\]](#).
- Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) as specified in [\[RFC3852\]](#).
- Certificate Management Messages over CMS (CMC) as specified in [\[RFC2797\]](#).

Details are as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.4. Each format contains a set of attributes and extensions describing the request. [<2>](#)

2.2.2 Response Format

Responses are returned by the ICertPassage Remote Protocol in either CMS format or CMC format. Details are as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.6. The format of the response is determined by the value passed in the *dwFlags* parameter, as specified in section [3.1.4.1](#).

3 Protocol Details

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol is a simple request-response protocol. The client sends a certificate request, and the server responds with a signed certificate or a detailed disposition message. In almost all cases, the protocol is a single message followed by a single reply. Details on the flow and sequencing of the certificate enrollment protocol are as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.

3.1 ICertPassage Client Details

Details of the client role are exactly as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.1.

3.1.1 Abstract Data Model

The client abstract data model is as specified in the abstract data model subsections of the [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.1.

3.1.2 Timers

None.

3.1.3 Initialization

The client creates an RPC association (or binding) to the server **RPC endpoint** (as specified in section [2.1](#)) when an RPC method is called. The client SHOULD create a separate association for each method invocation, or it MAY reuse an association for multiple invocations.

The client SHOULD create an authenticated RPC association with the highest possible authentication level. RPC authentication levels are as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\].<3>](#) Because the RPC server endpoint is dynamic, the client MUST use the RPC **endpoint mapper** services (as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 2.2.1.2) to locate the endpoint at which the server is registered.

3.1.4 Message Processing and Sequencing Rules

3.1.4.1 Processing ICertPassage:: CertServerRequest

Details of the client processing rules are exactly as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.1.1.4.3.

3.1.5 Timer Events

None.

3.1.6 Other Local Events

The ICertPassage interface [CertServerRequest](#) method is invoked to obtain certificates whenever they are required by the client.

3.2 ICertPassage Server Details

Details of the server processing rules are exactly as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.

3.2.1 Abstract Data Model

As specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.1.

ICertPassage Remote Protocol server implementations that also implement the Certificate Services Remote Administration Protocol specified in [\[MS-CSRA\]](#) or the Windows Client Certificate Enrollment Protocol specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) use the same configuration data elements, defined in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.1.4 as "public", for those implementations.

3.2.2 Timers

None.

3.2.3 Initialization

Interface initialization: The CA MUST listen on the **well-known endpoint** specified for this RPC interface for the RPC over named pipes binding. The CA also MUST register with the RPC endpoint mapper service for the TCP over RPC binding (as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 2.2.1.2). Details are as specified in section [2.1](#).

Cryptographic initialization: The CA SHOULD obtain the certificates, the signing **private key**, and the exchange private key. The CA also MUST validate the CA signing certificates and its chain. The validation is based on chain validation, as specified in [\[RFC3280\]](#) section 6.<4>

3.2.4 Message Processing and Sequencing Rules

The ICertPassage Remote Protocol defines the following interface:

[ICertPassage \(section 3.2.4.1\)](#): A method that enables a client to request certificates from a certification authority.

3.2.4.1 ICertPassage Interface

The ICertPassage RPC interface permits the client to submit a certificate enrollment request to the CA and receive a signed X.509 certificate (as specified in [\[X509\]](#)) as the response.

The version number for this interface is 0.0. The UUID for this interface is 91ae6020-9e3c-11cf-8d7c-00aa00c091be, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#).<5>

The interface defines a single method.

Methods in RPC Opnum Order

Method	Description
CertServerRequest	Opnum: 0

3.2.4.1.1 CertServerRequest (Opnum 0)

The **CertServerRequest** method processes a certificate enrollment request from the client.<6>

```
DWORD CertServerRequest(  
    [in] const handle_t h,  
    [in] DWORD dwFlags,  
    [in, string, unique] const wchar_t* pwszAuthority,  
    [in, out, ref] DWORD* pdwRequestId,  
    [out] DWORD* pdwDisposition,  
    [in, ref] const CERTTRANSBLOB* pctbAttribs,  
    [in, ref] const CERTTRANSBLOB* pctbRequest,
```

```
[out, ref] CERTTRANSBLOB* pctbCert,  
[out, ref] CERTTRANSBLOB* pctbEncodedCert,  
[out, ref] CERTTRANSBLOB* pctbDispositionMessage  
);
```

h: A handle retrieved during the RPC bind operation, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.

dwFlags: The *dwFlags* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *dwFlags* parameter specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pwszAuthority: The *pwszAuthority* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pwszAuthority* parameter specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pdwRequestId: The *pdwRequestId* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pdwRequestId* parameter specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pdwDisposition: The *pdwDisposition* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pdwDisposition* parameter specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pctbAttribs: A pointer to a [CERTTRANSBLOB](#) structure, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.1, where the *pb* field of this structure points to a Unicode (as specified in [\[UNICODE4.0\]](#)) null-terminated string and the *cb* field contains the length of the string, including the NULL-terminated character (in bytes). If the value of the *cb* field doesn't match the length, in bytes, of the string (including the terminating null character), the CA MUST return the E_INVALIDARG error (0x80070057) to the client. Otherwise, the semantics of the string pointed to by the *pb* field are identical to the *pwszAttributes* parameter specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pctbRequest: The *pctbRequest* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pctbRequest* parameter, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pctbCert: The *pctbCert* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pctbCertChain* parameter, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pctbEncodedCert: The *pctbEncodedCert* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pctbEncodedCert* parameter, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

pctbDispositionMessage: The *pctbDispositionMessage* parameter has identical syntax and semantics to the *pctbDispositionMessage* parameter, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

Return Values: The method MUST return ERROR_SUCCESS (0x00000000) on success. This method's return values MUST have identical syntax and semantics to the return values specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1.

If the ADM element *Config.CA.Interface.Flags* contains the value IF_NORPCICERTREQUEST, the server SHOULD return an error.<7>

If the ADM element *Config.CA.Interface.Flags* contains the value IF_ENFORCEENCRYPTICERTREQUEST and the RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_PRIVACY authentication level ([\[MS-RPCE\]](#) section 2.2.1.1.8) is not specified on the RPC connection from the client, the CA MUST refuse to establish a connection with the client by returning E_ACCESSDENIED (0x80000009).

Otherwise, the processing rules for the [ICertRequestD::Request](#) method ([\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.2.6.2.1) apply, except that if the ADM element *Config.CA.Interface.Flags* contains the value

IF_NOREMOTEICERTREQUEST, these values are ignored and the request is processed as though the values were absent.

3.2.5 Timer Events

None.

3.2.6 Other Local Events

None.

4 Protocol Examples

A client is typically configured in such a manner that it is able to determine when it requires a certificate. A common scenario is that a user has been instructed to enroll for a certificate that will allow use of a security-enhanced wireless network. After the user invokes the enrollment process, the following sequence of events occurs:

1. The enrollment client queries **Active Directory (AD)** for the templates (as specified in [\[MS-CRTD\]](#)) that are available for the specified user. As the resource manager, AD enforces that the user only receives templates that the user has read permissions to access (as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 2.2.2.9).
2. The user selects the template with cn = Client Authentication (as specified in [\[MS-CRTD\]](#) section 2.1). This template includes the client authentication (OID = 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.2) as part of its pkiExtendedKeyUsage attribute (as specified in [\[MS-CRTD\]](#) section 2.12).
3. The client then generates a **public-private key pair** and constructs the CMS as specified in [\[RFC3852\]](#) request message (as specified in section [2.2.1](#)), which:
 - Includes a **public key**.
 - Includes a template name (that is, Client Authentication) as a request attribute.
 - Is signed by the private key, as specified in [\[RFC3852\]](#).
4. The client creates an RPC connection with the CA. See section [3.1.3](#).
5. Using the connection previously mentioned, the client invokes the [ICertPassage::CertServerRequest\(\)](#) method (see section [3.2.4.1.1](#)) and, as a result, submits the CMS certificate request constructed in step 3.
6. The CA receives the certificate request from the client.
7. The CA validates the CMS message for **digital signature** validity and ASN.1 structure accuracy (as specified in [\[X660\]](#) and [\[X690\]](#)).
8. The CA constructs a certificate based on the public key provided, the request attributes and extensions, and the template information.
9. The CA signs the certificate with the CA private key and returns the newly created certificate to the caller in the pctbEncodedCert as an out parameter.

5 Security

5.1 Security Considerations for Implementers

Security considerations for implementation of this protocol are as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 5.

5.2 Index of Security Parameters

Security parameter	Section
Authenticated RPC association	Initialization (section 3.1.3)
Cryptographic initialization	Initialization (section 3.2.3)

6 Appendix A: Full IDL

For ease of implementation, the full IDL is provided below, where "ms-dtyp.idl" is the IDL found in [\[MS-DTYP\] Appendix A](#) and "ms-wcce.idl" is the IDL found in [\[MS-WCCE\] Appendix A](#).

```
// Please refer to [MS-WCCE] for the definition of the
// CERTTRANSBLOB

import "ms-wcce.idl";

// basic type aliases

typedef byte          BYTE;

[
    uuid(91ae6020-9e3c-11cf-8d7c-00aa00c091be),
    pointer_default(unique)
]
interface ICertPassage
{
    DWORD CertServerRequest(
[in]          handle_t          h,
[in]          DWORD             dwFlags,
[in, string, unique] const wchar_t *pwszAuthority,
[in, out, ref] DWORD            *pdwRequestId,
[out]         DWORD            *pdwDisposition,
[in, ref]     const CERTTRANSBLOB *pctbAttribs,
[in, ref]     const CERTTRANSBLOB *pctbRequest,
[out, ref]    CERTTRANSBLOB *pctbCert,
[out, ref]    CERTTRANSBLOB *pctbEncodedCert,
[out, ref]    CERTTRANSBLOB *pctbDispositionMessage);
    }
}
```


7 Appendix B: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include released service packs:

- Microsoft Windows NT® operating system
- Microsoft Windows® 2000 operating system
- Windows® XP operating system
- Windows Server® 2003 operating system
- Windows Vista® operating system
- Windows Server® 2008 operating system
- Windows® 7 operating system
- Windows Server® 2008 R2 operating system

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. If a service pack or Quick Fix Engineering (QFE) number appears with the product version, behavior changed in that service pack or QFE. The new behavior also applies to subsequent service packs of the product unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms SHOULD or SHOULD NOT implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term MAY implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

[<1> Section 1.7:](#) The [ICertPassage Interface](#) is supported by all applicable Windows products. However, CMC (Certificate Management Protocol using CMS) request formats and CMC response formats are supported only by Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows 7, and Windows Server 2008 R2. CMC is specified in [\[RFC2797\]](#).

[<2> Section 2.2.1:](#) Only Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows 7, and Windows Server 2008 R2 support the CMC request format (as specified in [\[RFC2797\]](#)).

[<3> Section 3.1.3:](#) For authenticated RPC, the client in Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows 7, and Windows Server 2008 R2 passes RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_NEGOTIATE and RPC_C_AUTHN_LEVEL_PKT_PRIVACY. The client in Windows 2000 Server passes RPC_C_AUTHN_GSS_NEGOTIATE only to RPC. These values are used to allow RPC to negotiate the authentication level on behalf of the client with the server, as specified in [\[MS-RPCE\]](#).

[<4> Section 3.2.3:](#) The exchange private key was not used prior to Windows Server 2003.

[<5> Section 3.2.4.1:](#) The supported clients are:

- Windows 7
- Windows Vista
- Windows XP

- Windows 2000 Professional

The supported servers are:

- Windows NT Server
- Windows 2000 Server
- Windows Server 2003
- Windows Server 2008
- Windows Server 2008 R2

[<6> Section 3.2.4.1.1](#): The implementation of this method on Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2 is identical to the ICertRequestD::Request method, as specified in [\[MS-WCCE\]](#) section 3.2.1.4.2.1. However, the implementation of this method on Windows 2000 Server has the following differences from the ICertRequestD::Request method. In [ICertPassage](#) on Windows 2000 Server:

- The format of the certificates request passed in the *pctbRequest* parameter MUST NOT be CMC, as specified in [\[RFC2797\]](#).
- Windows 2000 Server does not return or support issued certificates in the CMC format, as specified in [\[RFC2797\]](#).

[<7> Section 3.2.4.1.1](#): In Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2, the error returned is RPC_S_SERVER_UNAVAILABLE (0x800706ba). Windows 2000 does not return an error.

8 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

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