Automatic Certificate Management Environment (ACME) powered by DigiCert

The word automation shouldn’t send shivers down an organization’s spine. DigiCert makes automating easy and affordable by supporting the ACME protocol. ACME or Automatic Certificate Management Environment is a client-based automation mechanism that can be configured to handle requests, installations, renewals and revocation. It’s simple to set up and works seamlessly with CertCentral® Certificate Management Platform – saving your organization money and time, while minimizing risk.

The ACME Protocol

Certificate expirations alone cost the average organization over $5.5 million each year. A 2018 KeyFactor study found that the average organization loses just over $5.5 million dollars per year on outages and downtime caused by expired certificates. And with talk of reducing certificate lifespans, miss an expiration could become a lot more common.

Automating certificate management functions doesn’t just prevent expirations – it saves time and money. Certificate Management shouldn’t be an arduous task, but without the right tools it can be. The world’s most successful organizations have found agility through automation. The right automation tools can take the work out of every stage of managing certificate life cycles.

Many smaller organizations fear they can’t afford or don’t have the resources to manage automation.

According to a recent CA customer survey, 75% of the organizations polled use no automation today and 9% only use “1% to 10% automation.” Among the most popular reasons for not automating were cost and complexity. The overriding perception was only the largest companies can afford to automate.
The ACME protocol makes automation simple and affordable. It’s easy to set up, easy to manage and works seamlessly with CertCentral® Certificate Management Platform.

The ACME protocol isn’t an automation mechanism that you have to purchase or buy hardware for. All you need is CertCentral® Certificate Management Platform. And that comes standard with every Secure Site and Secure Site Pro SSL certificate. Using CertCentral® ACME is easy to set up and takes care of the rest for you.

ACME installs a management agent on your server at the time of initial validation, from there it can handle requests, renewals and revocations.

When setting up ACME, a management agent is installed on your server at the time you request your first SSL certificate from DigiCert. While validation is being performed, the agent authenticates itself by performing the domain control check. Once authenticated, the agent can act on behalf of the website it’s been installed on. It can now request, renew and revoke certificates as per your configuration or request.

ACME can renew and replace certificates whenever you want.

The biggest reason most organizations don’t swap out certificates and keys more often is how labor intensive it all is. Not with ACME. Simply configure the agent to contact DigiCert’s servers as the desired interval and let it do the rest. No more worrying about installations, waiting in validation queues or mismatching certificates and keys. ACME does it all for you behind the scenes.
Issue any DigiCert Secure Site™ or Secure Site Pro® certificate in just a few clicks and have it issued instantly.

Simply select the site, then choose your SSL certificate from a drop-down menu and the let the ACME protocol do the rest. Your agent will generate and sign a CSR, send it to DigiCert to issue and then install it on your server – INSTANTLY. No waiting for validation. No waiting for issuance. And no manual installation. ACME does everything for you so you can concentrate on more important business.

CertCentral® + ACME is proven disaster relief – revoking and replacing certificates en masse when needed.

Shit happens. Sometimes you have to replace a lot of certificates in very little time. HeartBleed, underscore compliance issues, distrusts, bad serial numbers – even Google and Apple recently had to revoke and replace millions of certificates. Without automation, that becomes a burdensome, herculean task that could span weeks. With CertCentral® and the ACME protocol, it barely registers as a concern.

Supporting ACME is just one more reason DigiCert CertCentral® Certificate Management Platform is the most user-friendly certificate manager on the market.

DigiCert CertCentral® Certificate Management Platform is a powerful all-in-one management solution. It’s easy to set up, easy to use and it scales with your organization. Whether you’re a massive enterprise or a small single proprietorship, CertCentral takes the complexity out of managing your digital certificates by providing you with the tools to manage and automate every stage of the certificate lifecycle through a single, user-friendly interface.