

Entrust GetAccess Technical Synopsis

The Federal Public Key Infrastructure Policy Authority (FPKIPA) tasked its Path Discovery and Validation Working Group (PD-Val WG) to test products for accurate validation of certificates within the Federal PKI architecture, with the intent to qualify them as acceptable products for federal agencies' use.

GetAccess 7.1 SP2 Patch 0001 from Entrust is a Web access control solution with support for various user authentication methods. PKI-based authentication is supported through the GetAccess Certificate PAAM (Pluggable Authentication and Authorization Module), which is capable of validating certificates when authenticating user access to Web resources.

On behalf of the PD-Val WG, the FPKI Architecture Lab completed testing of GetAccess on April 18, 2006. The test results indicate that the product is capable of performing path discovery and validation as required for use within the Federal PKI. A detailed synopsis of the test results is provided below. Based on these findings, the PD-Val WG recommends the product be posted to the Qualified Validation List.

Federal agencies are encouraged to weigh the findings and select a certificate validation solution from the Qualified Validation List based upon their specific requirements.

Detailed Technical Synopsis

For the testing, GetAccess was deployed on top of version 2.0 of the Apache Web server. The GetAccess Certificate PAAM, which uses the Entrust Authority Security Toolkit for the Java Platform to perform certification path discovery and validation, implements the functionality for a Bridge-Enabled Path Validation Module (PVM) as defined in the draft NIST Recommendation for X.509 Path Validation. The GetAccess Certificate PAAM can also process delta-CRLs. When tested using the Public Key Interoperability Test Suite (PKITS) as specified in the NIST recommendation, the Certificate PAAM passed all of the tests. The Certificate PAAM was also tested using the Directory based tests from the Path Discovery Test Suite at both the Rudimentary and Basic levels and passed all of the tests.

The PD-VAL WG recommends the inclusion of GetAccess 7.1 SP2 Patch 0001 with the GetAccess Certificate PAAM on the Qualified Validation List.