Web T-Rex Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Last updated 27 January 2002

Questions about the Web T-Rex product

Why is it called Web T-Rex?
The story is it stands for **Web T**ool for **R**eally **E**asy key and **X**.509 certificate management. Yes, it was a stretch, but really it is named for my son, Will, who loves them.

Why is Web T-Rex web-based?
Web T-Rex is web-based to allow a uniform GUI interface regardless of client operating system. This project was originally started with a multi-GUI toolkit, but the results were not too promising.

Does Web T-Rex run on Microsoft Windows 9X/NT/ME/2K/XP?
Web T-Rex does do Windows. Specific host machines supported are listed on the Help!|About Web T-Rex page. Tested web browser clients are also listed on the same page.

Does Web T-Rex run on other operating systems?
Web T-Rex also runs on Linux x86 based systems – but don't forget that almost any web browser, on any machine can access the tool.

Can Web T-Rex use/process VeriSign and other commercial CA certificates?
Web T-Rex can use commercial CA certificates and can also create Certificate Signing Requests (CSRs) for submission to commercial Certificate Authorities. Use the Apache/SSLeay/OpenSSL setting if submitting to a web site/page.

Are certificates generated by Web T-Rex usable in Apache Web Servers?
Apache Web servers using mod_ssl or Apache-SSL (or variants such as Stronghold or Covalent) do support certificates generated by Web T-Rex.

Are certificates generated by Web T-Rex compatible with other Web Servers?
We have been told this is the case, but have no direct knowledge of compatibility. If problems are encountered please direct your questions to the OpenSSL mailing list.

Are certificates generated by Web T-Rex usable in Internet Explorer browsers?
Yes. (More detailed answer someday).

Are certificates generated by Web T-Rex usable in Netscape browsers?
Yes. (More detailed answer someday).

Questions about Web T-Rex usage

How do I create a server certificate?
Three things need to be done.
1. Generate a RSA Private Key using the Keys | Create RSA Keys action.
2. Generate a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) using the Requests | Create Certificate Request action.
3. And lastly, generate the server certificate using the Certificates | Create X.509 Certificate action. This last action can only be performed if you have a valid CA certificate and private key available.

How do I create a certificate signing request (CSR)?
If you already have a Private RSA key then you generate a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) using the Requests | Create Certificate Request action. Otherwise you will have to generate a RSA Private key using the Keys | Create RSA Keys action first.

How do I create a DSA certificate?
DSA certificates are not currently supported by Web T-Rex.

How can I remove the passphrase on a RSA private key?
Firstly you should be really _really_ sure you want to do this. Leaving a private key unencrypted is a MAJOR security risk. If you decide that you do **have** to do this than use the Keys | Convert Key Format action. Be sure to set the **Output Private Key Format** to **None**.

I have more Key/Certificate/CRL option questions?
Web T-Rex uses the wonderful **OpenSSL** toolkit/library for all cryptographic
support. Additional information on specific features and options may be found in the
OpenSSL man page. Another good source of PKI information is ArticSoft's
whitepapers.

Questions about Web T-Rex troubleshooting

I cannot get my IE browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running with SSL?
Two things to check. First be sure that the URL starts with "https://". The "s" is
crucial. Secondly be sure that somewhere under **Tools | Internet Options ... |
Advanced** the **Use SSL 3.0** checkbox is selected. Web T-Rex does NOT support SSL
2.0.

I cannot get my IE browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running with TLS?
Again there are two things to check. First be sure that the URL starts with "https://".
The "s" is crucial. Secondly be sure that somewhere under **Tools | Internet Options
... | Advanced** the **Use TLS 1.0** checkbox is selected.

I cannot get my Netscape browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running SSL?
Two things to check. First be sure that the URL starts with "https://". The "s" is
crucial. Secondly be sure that somewhere under **Communicator | Tools | Security
Info | Navigator** the **Enable SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) v3** checkbox is selected.
Web T-Rex does NOT support SSL 2.0.

I cannot get my Netscape browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running TLS?
Netscape 4.X does not support TLS. Netscape 6.2 does support TLS. Using Netscape
6.2 be sure that the URL starts with "https://". The "s" is crucial. Secondly be sure
that somewhere under **Edit | Preferences ... | Privacy & Security | SSL** the **Enable
TLS** checkbox is selected.

I cannot get my XXX browser to display the Web T-Rex menus?
Web T-Rex has three different navigation methods (we try to please everybody). If
you are running a popular (no flames please) browser with JavaScript/ECMA script
support (and we support it!) then you should see our JavaScript menus (JSM). If we
don't natively support your XXX browser then you have two choices: if your browser
supports the NOSCRIPT tag then you can disable JavaScript and see the menu-grid
(HTML 3.0 compatabile). But if you run a real old browser (HotJava is a good

example) then you will have to use the links on the welcome/index page to navigate. Note that on each page the Web T-Rex logo will return you back to the welcome/index page. We **are** looking for anyone with more JavaScript experience to extend our JSM to Opera and Konqueror.

I cannot get my Opera browser to STOP animating the Web T-Rex logo, and it is driving me crazy?
Opera 6.0 does seem to have a problem with this. This can be disabled, if it also drives you crazy. Using Opera 6.0 be sure that somewhere under **File | Preferences | Multimedia | Images** the **Enable GIF animation** checkbox is not selected.

I cannot get my Opera browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running SSL?
Using Opera 6.0, be sure that the URL starts with "https://". The "s" is crucial. Secondly be sure that under **File | Preferences | Security | Security protocols** the **Enable SSL 3** checkbox is selected.

I cannot get my Opera browser to connect when Web T-Rex is running TLS?
Opera 6.0 does support TLS. Using Opera 6.0 be sure that the URL starts with "https://". The "s" is crucial. Secondly be sure that under **File | Preferences | Security | Security protocols** the **Enable TLS 1** checkbox is selected.

Why does my browser give a warning about a mismatched hostname?
Browsers expect the server's hostname to match the value in the Common Name (CN) field of the certificate. If it does not then you get a warning.

Why does Web T-Rex not display a Create Certificate (or Create CA Certificate or Create CRL) button on my form?
There are two versions of Web T-Rex, a freeware version which does everything except create certificates, and CRLs and a commercial version which doe it all. The commercial version requires a license, but the freeware one does not. See the Lymeware web site for current pricing of the commercial version and other updates.

Other Questions

I have another Web T-Rex Question?
Send any other questions to trex@lymeware.com and expect an answer within a few days. Thanks.