

# THE ART AND SCIENCE OF SSL VALIDATION: A VISUAL REFERENCE GUIDE

## SO WHAT LEVEL OF SSL WORKS BEST FOR YOU? READ ON TO DISCOVER THIS AND MORE.

# DV



# OV



# EV

### LEVEL 1 DOMAIN VALIDATION

This is the lowest level of authentication used to issue SSL certificates. The Certificate Authority (CA) will issue this certificate to anyone listed as the domain admin contact in the public record associated with a domain name. As a result, DV certificates are issued very quickly. No company information is checked or displayed on the certificate, making it easier for criminals to gain this type of certificate from irresponsible CAs.

#### WHEN TO USE DV :

Situations where trust and credibility are less important

- ✓ Easy to obtain.
- ✓ Fast issuance.
- ✗ Use only for web-based applications that are not at risk for phishing or fraud.
- ✗ Don't use for public facing sites or sites that handle sensitive data, like log in's.

### LEVEL 2 ORGANISATION VALIDATION

OV is the more secure step up from DV. As well as checking up on ownership of the domain name, the CA will also carry out additional vetting of the organisation and individual applying for the certificate. This might include checking the address where the company is registered and the name of a specific contact. This vetted company information is displayed to visitors on the certificate, making ownership of the site much more visible.

#### WHEN TO USE OV:

Public-facing websites dealing with less sensitive transactions

- ✓ More thorough vetting process than DV.
- ✓ Company information is displayed to users.
- ✓ Provides a certain level of trust about the company who owns the website.
- ✗ Doesn't offer the highest visible display of trust like EV SSL (green browser bar).

### LEVEL 3 EXTENDED VALIDATION

This is the gold standard in SSL certificates. EV verification guidelines, drawn up by the CA/ Browser Forum, require the CA to run a much more rigorous identity check on the organisation or individual applying for the certificate. Sites with an EV SSL certificate have a green browser address bar and a field appears with the name of the legitimate website owner and the name of the CA that issued the certificate.

#### WHEN TO USE EV:

E-commerce sites and websites handling credit card and other sensitive data

- ✓ Use EV SSL for the highest visible display of online trust.
- ✓ Comes with the green browser address bar.
- ✓ Increase user trust and lower bounce rates and shopping cart abandonments.
- ✓ Recoup the extra cost of an EV certificate in the form of increased revenue.
- ✓ Strengthen your credibility and brand by showcasing your commitment to online security.

# ALWAYS PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE RIGHT CA

The certificate authority you choose is nearly as important as the sort of certificate you deploy. A highly reputable certificate authority like Thawte, the original international specialist in online security, gives you the credibility that your customers are looking for when assessing your website, no matter what sort of SSL certificate you choose.

## WHY CHOOSE THAWTE?

Thawte's combination of digital certificate products, uncompromised infrastructure, global reputation, security track record and world-class customer support make Thawte the world's best value in online protection. Protect your data, safeguard your business, and translate trust to your customers with high-assurance digital certificates from Thawte, the world's first international specialist in online security.

### WORLD'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE AUTHORITY

As the world's first international Certificate Authority, Thawte has a 17-year proven track record of providing world-class security to customers in 190 countries, creating customer confidence with local-language trust seals, and enabling more people to navigate the web securely in their own language.

### SSL IS OUR CORE BUSINESS

Thawte-branded certificates benefit from the strength and reliability of the Symantec authentication infrastructure. Because SSL is our core business, we constantly improve our products to deliver the tools and features our customers want and need. Continuous investment in research and development keeps our practice standard among the highest in the industry and helps us stay well ahead of evolving security risks.

### EXPERIENCE YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY UPON

Thawte delivers an easy and efficient usage experience, from product selection, to certificate management, to expert, customer support. Our Thawte Certificate Center streamlines your certificate management process by enabling you to keep track of all your certificates in one place, and easily renew, revoke, and reissue from one central location.

For more questions contact [help@opensrs.com](mailto:help@opensrs.com)  
[opensrs.com](https://www.opensrs.com)