

# RE: CA Client Certificates only expire in one years time

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2007-03/msg01428.html>

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- *From:* [briandel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:briandel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) (Brian Delaney [MSFT])
  - *Date:* Wed, 28 Mar 2007 03:02:39 GMT
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Hi Roman,

If this was installed as an Enterprise CA this is normal. Enterprise CAs get the validity dates of the certificates from the certificate templates which in v1 templates cannot be modified. v2 Templates can be modified but require Enterprise Edition of Windows Server for issuance. If you look closely in the article you mentioned this is discussed as well.

"For certificates that are issued by Enterprise CAs, the validity period is defined in the template that is used to create the certificate. Windows 2000 and Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition do not support modification of these templates. Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition supports Version 2 certificate templates that can be modified. The validity period defined in the template applies to all certificates issued by any Enterprise CA in the Active Directory forest. One exception is the Subordinate CA certificate templates. There is no validity period defined in this template. Instead, the CA's registry validity period determines the validity period of the Subordinate CA certificate. A certificate that is issued by a CA is valid for the minimum of the following periods of time:

the registry validity period that is noted earlier in this article.  
This applies to the Standalone CA, and Subordinate CA certificates issued by the Enterprise CA.

The template validity period.  
This applies to the Enterprise CA. Templates supported by Windows 2000 and Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition cannot be modified. Templates supported by Windows Server Enterprise Edition (Version 2 templates) do support modification."

Hope this helps,

Brian Delaney  
Microsoft Canada

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Thread-Topic: CA Client Certificates only expire in one years time  
thread-index: Acdww6tW8PJSsF7lRyyuI1Yc8PWpCA==  
X-WBNR-Posting-Host: 203.97.107.160  
From: =?Utf-8?B?Um9tYW4=?= <Roman@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
Subject: CA Client Certificates only expire in one years time  
Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2007 16:00:09 -0700

Hi there,

I've got a windows 2003 Standard Edition server that I've just added the

MS

Certification Authority to. I've set up the CA to expire in five years

time

– March 2012. The problem I've got is that when I try to generate and install the certificates on the client machines it installs them fine but

the

client-certificates expire in March 2008 – only one year away!

I'd like these certificates to expire in two years time. I've been

looking

for similar issues on the Net and keep coming across this article:  
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:Q254632>

The thing is that my default settings are actually two years:  
ValidityPeriod is Years  
ValidityPeriodunits is 2

I've changed these values to time periods of less than one year and restarted the cert service and it works fine. I then tried changing these values to 3 years and also tried 24 months but in both cases it sets the expiry period on the generated client certs to March 2008.

Does anyone know why this is setting the client certificates to a maximum

on

one year?

Any help would be most appreciated.

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