

Docs » Data Handling Category » Certificate Project » Self-Signed Certificate

Self-Signed Certificate

SelfSignedCertificate Class

Anonymous · 09/09/2026

SelfSignedCertificate Class

The `SelfSignedCertificate` class provides functionality to generate self-signed certificates for testing and development purposes. It allows customization of certificate properties such as subject, issuer, validity period, and password protection.

Overview

This class creates a digital certificate that includes:

1. A Certificate Authority (CA) certificate.
2. A user certificate signed by the CA.
3. Both packaged together in PKCS#12 format.

The generated certificate is suitable for testing electronic signature functionality without requiring a certificate from a commercial Certificate Authority.

Basic Usage

```
use Derafu\Certificate\SelfSignedCertificate;
use Derafu\Certificate\Service\CertificateLoader;

// Create with default settings.
$selfSigned = new SelfSignedCertificate();
$certificateArray = $selfSigned->toArray();

// Load as a Certificate object.
$loader = new CertificateLoader();
$certificate = $loader->loadFromArray($certificateArray);
```

Configuration Methods

Setting the Subject

The subject represents the owner of the certificate:

```
$selfSigned->setSubject(  
    C: 'US', // Country code (2 letters).  
    ST: 'California', // State/Province.  
    L: 'San Francisco', // Locality/City.  
    O: 'Example Corporation', // Organization.  
    OU: 'IT Department', // Organizational Unit.  
    CN: 'John Doe', // Common Name (full name).  
    emailAddress: 'john.doe@example.com', // Email address.  
    serialNumber: '12345678-9', // ID/Serial number (tax ID, etc.).  
    title: 'System Administrator' // Title.  
);
```

Only `CN`, `emailAddress`, and `serialNumber` are strictly required. The method will throw a `CertificateException` if any of these are empty.

Setting the Issuer

The issuer represents the Certificate Authority that issues the certificate:

```
$selfSigned->setIssuer(  
    C: 'US', // Country code  
    ST: 'Washington', // State/Province  
    L: 'Seattle', // Locality/City  
    O: 'Example CA', // Organization  
    OU: 'Certificate Authority', // Organizational Unit  
    CN: 'Example Root CA', // CA Name  
    emailAddress: 'ca@example.com', // CA Email  
    serialNumber: '87654321-0' // CA ID  
);
```

Setting the Validity Period

```
// Set validity to 730 days (2 years).  
$selfSigned->setValidity(730);
```

The default validity period is 365 days (1 year).

Setting the Password

```
// Set password for the private key.  
$selfSigned->setPassword('secure_password');
```

The default password is `'i_love_derafu'`.

Generating the Certificate

Getting the Certificate Array

```
// Get the certificate as an array with 'cert' and 'pkey' elements.
$certificateArray = $selfSigned->toArray();

// The array contains:
// [
//     'cert' => '...public key certificate...',
//     'pkey' => '...private key...'
// ]
```

Getting the Raw PKCS#12 Data

```
// Get the toPkcs12() method result (PKCS#12 binary data).
$pkcs12Data = $selfSigned->toPkcs12();

// Save to a file.
file_put_contents('certificate.p12', $pkcs12Data);
```

Certificate Structure

The generated certificate consists of:

1. An issuer (CA) certificate that is self-signed.
2. A subject certificate that is signed by the issuer.
3. Both certificates' private keys.

The PKCS#12 container includes both certificates and is password-protected using the specified password.

Default Values

If you create a `SelfSignedCertificate` without any customization, it will use the following default values:

Default Subject

- Country: `CL` (Chile).
- State: `Colchagua`.
- Locality: `Santa Cruz`.
- Organization: `Intergalactic Robots Organization`.

- Organizational Unit: Technology.
- Common Name: Daniel Bot.
- Email: daniel.bot@example.com.
- Serial Number: 11222333-9.
- Title: Bot.

Default Issuer

- Country: CL (Chile).
- State: Colchagua.
- Locality: Santa Cruz.
- Organization: Derafu.
- Organizational Unit: Technology.
- Common Name: Derafu Test Certificate Authority.
- Email: fakes-certificates@derafu.org.
- Serial Number: 76192083-9.

Other Defaults

- Validity: 365 days.
- Password: i_love_derafu.

Implementation Details

The `SelfSignedCertificate` class uses the PHP OpenSSL extension to:

1. Generate a key pair for the issuer.
2. Create a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) for the issuer.
3. Self-sign the issuer's CSR to create the issuer certificate.
4. Generate a key pair for the subject.
5. Create a CSR for the subject.
6. Sign the subject's CSR with the issuer's certificate.
7. Package everything into a PKCS#12 container.

The process mimics a real CA-issued certificate but is entirely self-contained and suitable for testing purposes.

Last updated on 09/09/2026