

# Template:Generating certificates and keys

## Step 3: generating certificates and keys

- Now we can start generating the certificates and keys. Begin with the **certificate authority (CA)** - the root certificate file that will be used to sign other certificates and keys:

```
build-ca
```

**NOTE:** you can press the "Enter" key when prompted to enter the values set in the *vars.bat* file earlier. Doing this will set the values to the default specified in *vars.bat*. However, you should type in a meaningful **Common Name**.

- Next, build the **server** certificate and key:

```
build-key-server server
```

**NOTE:** once again, don't forget to specify a different Common Name (use the name "server" for easier management purposes). When prompted the sign and commit the certificate, type **y** and press "Enter".

- Next, build certificates and keys for the **clients**:

```
build-key Client1
```

**TIP:** use the same Common Name as the certificate name (Client1 in this example). This will help you differentiate between clients easier. Pick meaningful names like "toms\_PC", "company\_maintenance", etc. Repeat this step as many times as you need, depending on the client quantity.

- Lastly, generate **Diffie Hellman parameters**:

```
build-dh
```