





# The Basics of SSL Certificates

## What are Wildcard Certificates?

Wildcard certificates are SSL certificates that are issued to a domain name with a wildcard character, such as \*.example.com. This type of certificate allows you to secure multiple subdomains under a single domain name, such as www.example.com, mail.example.com, and support.example.com. Wildcard certificates are a convenient way to manage multiple subdomains, but they are not as secure as dedicated certificates for each subdomain.

## What are Private Certificates (Dedicated Certificate Authority)?

Private certificates, also known as dedicated certificates, are issued by a dedicated certificate authority (CA) to a specific domain name. These certificates are more secure than wildcard certificates because they are issued to a single domain name and are not shared with other subdomains. Private certificates are also more expensive than wildcard certificates, but they provide a higher level of security and are more widely accepted by browsers and other applications.

## What are Domain Validated (DV) Certificates?

Domain Validated (DV) certificates are a type of private certificate that are issued to a domain name after the certificate authority has verified that the domain name exists and is controlled by the applicant. DV certificates are the most common type of certificate and are relatively easy to obtain. They provide a basic level of security and are widely accepted by browsers and other applications.