What is stored in an MIT Personal Certificate?

Q: What is stored in an MIT Personal Certificate?

Answer

Information stored in the certificate includes:

- Your "real name" as defined in your Athena account information
- Your email address @MIT.EDU
- The expiration date of your certificate
- The words "Massachusetts Institute of Technology"
- The name of our state (Massachusetts)
- The internationally recognized country code for our country (US)
- A 2048-bit RSA public key, uniquely created when you visit ca.mit.edu
- A serial number, uniquely identifying the certificate

It is not possible to obtain the following information directly from your certificate:

- MIT ID number
- Account class (i.e., staff, student, etc)
- password
- anything else not listed above

Each site that uses certificates handles them differently; however, most use the email address field to look up information that they need (such as MIT ID number, etc).

Quick Links

- Certificates Landing Page
- Certificates at MIT.
- Test my certificate