

# Use curl to read certificate protected web pages

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```
curl https://web.mit.edu
```

requires a MIT personal web certificate,  
and will give an error if curl doesn't present a certificate.

You can make things work if you:

1. Get a certificate in Firefox
2. Export the certificate from Firefox, and save in your account.
3. Convert the certificate to a PEM format for curl to read
4. Tell curl to use the exported certificate

Assuming that step #2 saved a certificate into a file named,  
you can perform step #3 with "openssl":

```
openssl pkcs12 -in certificate.p12 -nodes -out ~/Private/certificate.pem
```



### PROTECT THE CERTIFICATE FILE

If people get your certificate file, they can do everything that can be done with certificates, such as changing your password, etc.

Once you have a certificate file, step #4 is done by:

```
curl --cert ~/Private/certificate.pem --capath /mit/apache-ssl/certificates https://web.mit.edu/
```