

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

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A **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)** supports the distribution, revocation and [verification](#) of public [keys](#) used for public key [encryption](#), and enables linking of identities with public key certificates. A PKI enables users and systems to securely exchange data over the [internet](#) and verify the legitimacy of certificate-holding entities, such as web servers, other authenticated servers and individuals. The PKI enables users to authenticate digital certificate holders, as well as to mediate the process of certificate revocation, using cryptographic algorithms to secure the process.

PKI certificates include a public key used for encryption and cryptographic [authentication](#) of data sent to or from the [entity](#) that was issued the certificate. Other information included in a PKI certificate includes identifying information about the certificate holder, about the PKI that issued the certificate, and other data including the certificate's creation date and validity period.

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