

# Install or Renew Node Credential by CSR

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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Install or Renew Node Credential by CSR



# 1 Description

This instruction describes how to install or renew a node credential manually with Certificate Signing Request (CSR), PKCS#10.

As shown in Figure 1, the installation or renewal consists of the following main steps:

- 1 Enrollment data preparation in the Managed Element (ME).
- 2 CSR file creation in the ME.
- 3 Transferring the CSR file from the ME to an external host with the SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).

**Note:** SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) uses system-wide Secure Shell (SSH) algorithm setting defined in [Ssh Managed Object \(MO\)](#), see [View SSH Algorithms](#).

- 4 Submitting the CSR file from the external host to an external Certification Authority (CA) and requesting the CA to generate a certificate file in Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM) or Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) format.
- 5 Certificate file creation in the CA.

The procedures for sending the CSR file to the CA, creating the certificate at CA, and receiving the certificate file from the CA are outside the scope of this instruction. The procedures can depend on the CA.

- 6 Receiving the certificate file from the CA.

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- 7 Certificate file installation in the ME. During this step, the ME copies the certificate file to the ME with the SFTP and installs it. Enrollment action will automatically create chain certificates if they exist in the received enrollment data

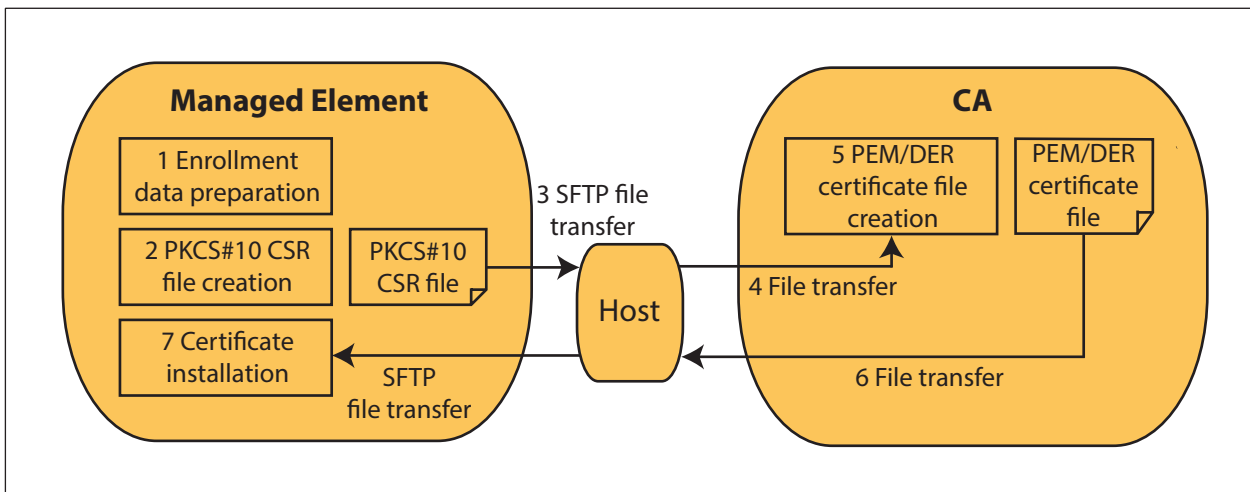


Figure 1 CSR-Based Offline Enrollment

## 2 Procedure

### 2.1 Install or Renew Node Credential by CSR

#### Prerequisites

— This instruction references the following documents:

- [Generate Fingerprint for File](#)
- [View SSH Algorithms](#)

— No tools are required.

— The following conditions must apply:

- The user has the System Security Administrator role.
- A user account for accessing the Managed Element (ME) with the SFTP and downloading the CSR file from the ME is available.

In this instruction, the corresponding username is `me_user1`.

- The address, username, and password for the SFTP server in the external host are known.

In this instruction, the username is `hostuser1` and the password is `hostuser1pw` in `host1`.



- The name and path to the certificate file in host1 are known.

In this instruction, the external host is host1, the username is hostuser1, and the password is hostuser1pw. The certificate file node06stNodeCredential1.pem is stored in host1 in the home directory for hostuser1.

- The user has read access to the certificate file in the external host to be able to download it to the ME with the SFTP.
- The Certificate Authority (CA) used for certificates and the procedures for requesting certificates from the CA are known.
- The fingerprint of the certificate file (PEM or DER file) has been provided by the CA administrator.

In this instruction, the fingerprint is ba:41:ac:4f:b3:00:10:98:28:47:36:b1:eb:d9:66:33:69:05:7d:c2.

- For a renewal, the NodeCredential MO to use is known.
- An Ericsson Command-Line Interface (ECLI) session in Exec mode is in progress.

## Steps

1. Navigate to the CertM MO, for example:

```
>dn ManagedElement=NODE06ST,SystemFunctions=1,SecM=1,CertM=1
```

2. Select the appropriate action:

Installation: Proceed with Step 3.

Renewal: Proceed with Step 7.

3. Enter Config mode:

```
(CertM=1)>configure
```

4. Create a NodeCredential MO, for example:

```
(config-CertM=1)>NodeCredential=1
```

5. Specify the X.501 Distinguished Name (DN) name to be used in the subject field of the requested certificate, for example:

```
(config-NodeCredential=1)subjectName="C=SE,O=Ericsson,CN=node06st.ericsson.com"
```



**Note:** The only mandatory Relative Distinguished Name (RDN) required in the DN is the Common Name (CN).

The value `CN=node06st.ericsson.com` is an example value. From a certificate syntax point of view, also other values such as `CN=NODE06ST` are valid. The value that is to be configured in the CN depends on the security policy in the organization for which the ME is installed. It also depends on the information the peer expects to receive in a certificate from the ME when the peer tries to connect to the ME using the service for which this node credential is used.

6. Proceed with Step 9.

7. Navigate to the `NodeCredential` MO, for example:

```
(CertM=1)>NodeCredential=1
```

8. Enter Config mode:

```
(NodeCredential=1)>configure
```

9. Select the appropriate key type and length, for the supported key types see `CertMCapabilities` MO `keySupport` attribute. Deprecated key types are not recommended for new enrollments. For example, `RSA_2048` that corresponds to 2048-bit long key generated for the RSA algorithm

```
(config-NodeCredential=1)keyInfo=RSA_2048
```

10. You may define the subject alternative name by entering the optional attribute `subjectAltName`, which lets you specify an additional host name into the certificate. The `subjectAltName` can be specified either as an IP address or a domain name, see the managed object model for `NodeCredential` MO. If the `subjectAltName` is specified, the certificate author must return the subject alternative name in the enrolled certificate, otherwise the enrollment fails. For example:

```
(config-NodeCredential=1)subjectAltName=DNS:www.domain.com
```

**Note:** To verify the subject alternative names of the enrolled certificate view the `extensionContent` field of the `certificateContent` attribute of the `NodeCredential` MO after successful certificate installation.

11. Commit the changes:

```
(config-NodeCredential=1)commit
```

12. Start the enrollment by creating a CSR file in the given local Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). The simplest case is to provide only the filename, for example:

```
(NodeCredential=1)>startOfflineCsrEnrollment --uri  
node06stNodeCredential1.csr
```

The system returns `true` when successfully triggered, otherwise `false`.





The CSR file is created in the directory `certificates`, referred to by read-only attribute `localFileStorePath` in the `CertM` MO.

13. Copy the CSR file from the ME to the external host (`host1`). In this example, the user starts from the shell in `host1`, logs on with the SFTP to the ME using username `me_user1`, and retrieves the CSR file from the ME to `host1` with SFTP operation `get`:

- a. Open an SFTP session from the external host to the ME, for example:

```
shell$ sftp me_user1@node06st
```

- b. Navigate to the folder containing the file, for example:

```
>cd certificates
```

- c. Copy the CSR file from the ME by using SFTP operation `get` and specifying the full filename, for example:

```
sftp>get node06stNodeCredential11.csr
```

- d. Exit the SFTP session:

```
sftp>exit
```

14. In ECLI, navigate to the `CertM` MO, for example:

```
>dn ManagedElement=NODE06ST, SystemFunctions=1, SecM=1, CertM=1
```

15. Select the node credential to use, for example:

```
(CertM=1)>NodeCredential=1
```

16. Install the certificate in the same `NodeCredential` MO where the corresponding CSR file was created, for example:

```
(NodeCredential=1)>installCredentialFromUri --uri
sftp://hostuser1@host1/home/hostuser1/node06stNodeCre
dential11.pem --uriPassword hostuser1pw --fingerprint
ba:41:ac:4f:b3:00:10:98:28:47:36:b1:eb:d9:66:33:69:05:7d:c2
```

The credential password is not needed as the certificate is installed in PEM or DER format (option `--credentialPassword` is not used).

The fingerprint of file `node06stNodeCredential11.pem` is checked.

**Note:** The fingerprint must be entered in the defined format for the algorithm that the ME supports for calculating the fingerprint. List supported formats using the command `(CertMCapabilities=1)>show fingerprintSupport`. For more information on fingerprints, refer to [Generate Fingerprint for File](#).



The credential installation automatically deletes the file `node06stNodeCredential1.pem` from the `certificates` directory.

The system returns `true` when successfully triggered, otherwise `false`.

17. Check that the certificate installation has been completed successfully:

```
(NodeCredential=1)>show enrollmentProgress
```

```
result=SUCCESS  
resultInfo="installed from the certificate file"
```

If an error occurs during the execution of the action, attribute `enrollmentProgress` shows `result=FAILURE` and `resultInfo` shows the cause of the failure.