Issuing SSL Certificates via Certbot

You can issue a free SSL Certificate signed by Let's Encrypt; a non profit organization, using **Certbot**. It's a free, open-source software tool that helps website administrators obtain and install SSL/TLS certificates.

Its primary purpose is to enable HTTPS on websites by automating certificate issuance, installation, and renewal.

Install Certbot from the command terminal

> The commands provided are compatible with Ubuntu 22.04, CentOS uses `yum`, and AlmaLinux uses `dnf`.

1. Update system packages

```
sudo apt update
```

2. Install Certbot and its related plugin

```
sudo apt install -y certbot python3-certbot-nginx
```

3. If above command succeed without error, check version

```
certbot --version
```

If you see an up-to-date version (e.g. `certbot 1.32.0`), you may proceed.

Issuing SSL certificates using Certbot

1. Make sure your site is accessible over HTTP. Open your domain (e.g. `example.com`) in a browser. Certbot verifies domain ownership via **port 80**.

2. Run Certbot

```
sudo certbot --nginx
```

During the setup process, Certbot will do the following:

- Detect virtual hosts present
- Prompt you to choose the domain of your choice
- Automatically configure HTTPS

> Certbot will also modify your Nginx/Apache config to add an HTTPS redirect.

Test your setup. Open your website in a browser! if everything works, you'll see a padlock icon and the `https://` prefix.

If you'd like, you can also test via the command line:

```
curl -I https://example.com
```

Automatic renewal information

By default, Certbot installs a cron job or `systemd-timer` for automatic certificate renewal. You can test the renewal manually by running the command in the terminal below.

```
sudo certbot renew --dry-run
```

If you see a return of `Congratulations, all renewals succeeded`, everything is OK and working as intended.

Your site is now protected with a free SSL certificate from Let's Encrypt, and Certbot will automatically manage renewals when needed.

About this article

- Written by Gary Phatt, a TheOpenRoad Support employee.
- Still need help? Please write to us in the comment section below or contact TheOpenRoad support.

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