

SSL/TLS BUYER'S GUIDE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO CHOOSE
THE RIGHT CERTIFICATE FOR YOUR WEBSITE.




Almost every website involves some exchange of information—from login details for an online application to contact info on a landing page—and today's savvy online consumers won't stay on a website unless they feel confident that it's secure.

Use this guide to help you select an SSL/TLS option for your business.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF AUTHENTICATION.

Each certificate differs in the extent of company information vetting involved and how much visitor trust they command.

TYPE OF CERTIFICATE	VALIDATION	BENEFITS	USE CASES
LEVEL 1 DOMAIN VALIDATION (DV)	 Good	Provides encryption to keep the transfer of personal and confidential information secure, while also satisfying recent changes in browser encryption trends. DV certificates verify the domain ownership only, and thus are issued very quickly.	Great for sites where authentication is less important and there is a need for encryption, including blogs, pages where information may be requested, intranets and test or development servers.
LEVEL 2 ORGANIZATION VALIDATION (OV)	 Better	Provides the same encryption as DV certificates, but also verifies the identity of the organization that owns the website, resulting in increased trust for the user, and proves the legitimacy of the site operator.	A good option for public-facing websites that collect personal information such as login details, payment data and national identifiers, among others.
LEVEL 3 EXTENDED VALIDATION (EV)	 Best	EV SSL Certificates use standard authentication protocols as mandated by the CA/Browser Forum, and provide the most rigorous authentication in the industry. In popular browsers, EV will cause a green address bar to appear. This visual cue leads to more customer trust.	Ideal for eCommerce, banking and other sites handling sensitive information, as well as sites looking to maximize conversions and strengthen their online credibility as a brand.

THREE THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOU BUY

1. FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE EVERYTHING.

The visual cues provided by SSL/TLS certificates can help your visitors feel that they can trust your site. That's why choosing the right certificate is about both security and selecting the level of trust you need to gain from your customers.

2. YOUR SSL/TLS PROVIDER MATTERS.

The certificate authority that issues your SSL/TLS certificate is just as important as the kind of certificate you choose. You want to be backed by a name that not only you, but also your visitors, know and trust.

3. COMPLIANCE MATTERS, TOO.

EV is recommended by PCI (Payment Card Industry) for websites that handle sensitive information, such as insurance records, credit card information or personally identifiable information (PII).

PII: Any data that could potentially identify an individual such as a full name, address, or date of birth.