

# DEPARTMENTS

# products

Aug 2003

## Product Reviews

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### PKI

Real Time Credential Validation Authority 2.5

CoreStreet, <http://www.corestreet.com/>

Price: Starts at \$35,000

Validating certificates and their associated roles and privileges via the traditional Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) is a security drain and a scaling nightmare in large PKI environments. Typical OCSP responders use private keys to sign replies, hindering real-time responses for hoards of clients checking the status of one or more certificates. CoreStreet aims to address those issues with its Real Time Credential Validation Authority (RTC VA) 2.5 software.

The value of RTC VA lies in its use of a single Real Time Credential Authority (RTCA), typically collocated with the certificate authority (CA). The software also includes RTC Responders and an RTC OCSP Client Toolkit. Third-party OCSP products are also supported.

With CA-signed certificates, the RTCA generates valid OCSP responses. In fact, RTCA generates all possible responses in advance, typically by digesting certificate revocation lists and publishing those results to the RTC Responders assembled in a distributed network. RTCs look and act like standard responders that query and receive signed responses using standard OCSP.

The key difference is that RTC Responders are clear-cut shadows, simply serving up the data fed to them. Without a signing key pair and attendant security concerns, they are cheap and easy to deploy closer to the end user. Where traditional OCSP easily scales into the tens of thousands, RTC VA's simplified deployment scales into the millions.

Clearly, the single RTCA system, like the CA, must have high availability and strong processing capacity. But, CoreStreet adds a capability for Privilege Management Infrastructure, by way of standard OCSP extensions loaded from LDAP. Out-of-band triggers for eliciting updates are also available to address timing concerns.


While the target market for a commercially enhanced OCSP is bound to be smaller than that of mainstream infosecurity tools, CoreStreet's RTC VA shows impressive innovation in turning a solid, but challenging IETF OCSP draft into a scalable, real-time solution.

--MIKE BOBBITT

YA | Office | Certificates - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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## Real Time Credential Validation Authority



### RTC Validation Authority

Home: [start page](#), [change password](#), [documentation](#), [about](#)

Manage: [certificates](#), [generate tickets](#), [generate proof](#)

Audit: [credential status](#), [exit actions](#)

Admin: [user accounts](#), [certificate issuers](#), [data sources](#), [key store](#), [configuration](#), [attribute mappings](#)

[Log Out](#)

#### Certificates

Click on the link beside a name to edit the status of the certificate or its attributes. Use the text box to filter results based on a column value substring.

[register a new certificate](#)

Filter Name column by substring:  [Filter Results](#)

Serial #	Name	Status	Issuer	Valid From	Valid Until
<a href="#">Dx01980365</a>	Robin Hatwell	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Fri Jun 20 09:00:25 EDT 2003	Sat Jun 19 09:00:25 EDT 2004
<a href="#">Dx01980365</a>	Dan Prietti	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Fri Jun 20 09:00:25 EDT 2003	Sat Jun 19 09:00:25 EDT 2004
<a href="#">Dx418F0365</a>	Brant Chamberlain	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Fri Jun 20 09:00:25 EDT 2003	Sat Jun 19 09:00:25 EDT 2004
<a href="#">Dx315E4465</a>	Heather Wilde	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Fri Jun 20 09:00:25 EDT 2003	Sat Jun 19 09:00:25 EDT 2004
<a href="#">Dx00002068</a>	Brandon Volbright	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Wed Jan 22 19:00:00 EST 2003	Sat Jan 21 19:00:00 EST 2006
<a href="#">Dx00002066</a>	Andrew McGeachie	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Wed Jan 22 19:00:00 EST 2003	Sat Jan 21 19:00:00 EST 2006
<a href="#">Dx00002063</a>	Alex Sinehikov	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Wed Jan 22 19:00:00 EST 2003	Sat Jan 21 19:00:00 EST 2006
<a href="#">Dx00002060</a>	Dave Engberg	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Wed Jan 22 19:00:00 EST 2003	Sat Jan 21 19:00:00 EST 2006
<a href="#">Dx115C4465</a>	Dil Hatwell	Valid	<a href="#">PACerna-issuer</a>	Fri Jun 20 09:00:25 EDT 2003	Sat Jun 19 09:00:25 EDT 2004

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Local intranet

CoreStreet validates certificates and their associated roles and privileges with its Real Time Credential Validation Authority 2.5 software.