

Where's my private key?

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When you generate a CSR to request an SSL certificate, a private key is created on your local server. You shouldn't ever send your private key to someone else (including us!), but you'll need to know where it is to complete the installation of your SSL certificate. Below are some common places to find the private key on your server.

Windows/IIS On Windows servers, the OS manages the certificate for you in a hidden file, but you can export a .PFX file that contains both the certificate and the private key. Open the **Microsoft Management Console (MMC)**. In the *Console Root*, expand **Certificates (Local Computer)**. Your certificate will be located in the *Personal* or *Web Server* folder. Locate and right click the certificate, click **Export** and follow the guided wizard. Once you have the .pfx file, you can keep it as a backup of the key, or use it to install the certificate on another Windows server. If you're trying to use the certificate on a different OS, you'll need to split the .pfx into the certificate and the private key.

Apache You can find the location of your private key in your Apache configuration file, which is named `.httpd.conf` or `apache2.conf`. The line `SSLCertificateKeyFile` shows you the file path to your private key.

NGINX The path to your private key is listed in your site's virtual host file. Navigate to the server block for your site (by default, it's located in the `/var/www` directory). Open the configuration file for your site and search for `ssl_certificate_key` which will show the path to your private key.

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Online URL: <https://www.heartinternet.uk/support/article/where-s-my-private-key.html>