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1. Introduction

The Entrust nShield Hardware Security Module (HSM) integrates with Microsoft Authenticode to enable you to identify the publisher of a software component before it is downloaded from the Internet, and to verify that no one has altered the code after it has been signed. Authenticode relies on proven cryptographic techniques and the use of one or more private keys to sign and time-stamp the published software. It is important to maintain the confidentiality of these keys.

The benefits of using an HSM with Microsoft Authenticode include:

- Protection for the organizational credentials of the software publisher.
- Secure storage of the private key.
- FIPS 140-2 Level 3 validated hardware.
- Provision of a trusted time-stamp to Authenticode.

1.1. Product configurations

Entrust has successfully tested nShield HSM integration with Microsoft Authenticode in the following configurations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base OS</td>
<td>Windows Server 2019 Datacenter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft .NET Framework</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows SDK</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2. Supported nShield features

Entrust has successfully tested nShield HSM integration with the following features:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operator Card Set (OCS)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softcard Protection</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nSaaS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIPS 140-2 level 3</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.3. Supported nShield hardware and software versions

Entrust has successfully tested with the following nShield hardware and software versions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Security World Software</th>
<th>Firmware</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>OCS</th>
<th>Softcard</th>
<th>Module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connect XC</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>12.50.11 (FIPS Certified)</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect +</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>12.50.8 (FIPS Certified)</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect XC</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>12.72.1 (FIPS Certified)</td>
<td>12.80.5</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect +</td>
<td>12.80.4</td>
<td>12.72.0 (FIPS Certified)</td>
<td>12.80.5</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nShield 5c</td>
<td>13.2.2</td>
<td>13.2.2 (FIPS Pending)</td>
<td>13.2.2</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4. Requirements

Entrust recommends that you familiarize yourself with the Microsoft Authenticode documentation and setup process, and have the nShield documentation available.

Entrust also recommends that the following aspects of HSM administration are taken into account:

- The Administration Card Set (ACS) K-of-N and management of the card set.
- The type of protection for the application keys, that is, module protection or Operator Card Set (OCS) protection.
- Any requirement for a FIPS 140-2 Level 3 Security World.
- Key attributes, such as the key size, persistence, and time-out.

1.5. This document

This document explains how to set up and configure Microsoft Authenticode with an HSM. The instructions in this document have been tested and provide an integration
process. There may be other untested ways to achieve interoperability.

This document may not cover every step in the process of setting up all the software. Entrust assumes you have read the HSM documentation and that you are familiar with the documentation and setup process for Microsoft Authenticode. For more information about installing Microsoft Authenticode, refer to the Microsoft documentation.

1.6. More information

For more information about OS support, contact your Microsoft sales representative or Entrust nShield Support, https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com.
2. Procedures

To install and configure Microsoft Authenticode with an HSM:

- Install the Microsoft Windows SDK.
- Install the nShield Security World software and create a Security World.
- Install and register the CNG provider.

The installation procedures outlined here assume, for example purposes, that you are installing an offline root Certificate System. It is also assumed that a new root key is generated during installation, rather than a software key being imported from an existing installation.

2.1. Install the Microsoft tools

1. Install the Microsoft Windows SDK, which contains the Authenticode programs such as `signtool` and `sn` (Strong Name Tool). See the appropriate Microsoft SDK installation documentation.

2. Add the path to the above programs to the Windows Environment Variable, since it might be long.
   - Second line: path to the nShield utilities.
   - Third line: path to the `signtool` utility.
   - Fourth line: path to the `sn` utility.
   - Fifth line: path to the `csc.exe` compiler.

3. Install the PowerShell PKI module:
2.2. Install the Security World software and create a Security World


2. Add the Security World utilities path `C:\Program Files\nCipher\nfast\bin` to the Windows system path.

3. Open the firewall port 9004 for the HSM connections.

4. Install the nShield Connect HSM locally, remotely, or remotely via the serial console. See the following nShield Support articles, and the *Installation Guide* for the HSM:

   - [https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com/hc/en-us/articles/360021378272-How-To-Locally-Set-up-a-new-or-replacement-nShield-Connect](https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com/hc/en-us/articles/360021378272-How-To-Locally-Set-up-a-new-or-replacement-nShield-Connect)

5. Open a command window and run the following to confirm that the HSM is operational:
6. Create your Security World if one does not already exist, or copy an existing one. Follow your organization’s security policy for this.

7. Confirm that the Security World is usable:

```
>enquiry
Server:
enquiry reply flags none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number 530E-02E0-D947 7724-8509-81E3 09AF-0BE9-53AA 9E10-03E0-D947
mode operational
...
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number 530E-02E0-D947
mode operational
...
```

2.3. Install and register the CNG provider

1. Select the **Start** button to access all applications. Look for the recently installed nShield utilities.

2. Double-click the CNG configuration wizard and run it as Administrator.

3. Select **Next** on the **CNG Install** welcome screen.

5. At the Security World screen, select:
   - Use the existing security world if you already have a Security World that you intend to use for this integration. The corresponding world and module xxxx-xxxx-xxxx files must be present in the %NFAST_KMDATA%\local folder. Be prepared to present the quorum of Administrator cards.
   - Create a new Security World if you do not currently have a Security World or would like to create a new Security World.

   For the purposes of this Integration Guide, an existing Security World is used. For instructions on how to create and configure a new Security World, see the Installation Guide and User Guide for your HSM.

Select Next.
6. The **Set Module States** pop-up shows the available HSM(s). Select the desired HSM. The state of the selected HMS should be **operational**. Select **Next**.

7. Select the protection method.
   - Module protection:
     a. In **Key Protection Setup**, select **Softcard protection**, then select **Next**.
   - Operator Card Set protection:
     a. In **Key Protection Setup**, select **Operator Card Set**, then select **Next**.
     b. Enter the OCS name, K of N values, select **Persistent** and **Usable remotely**, then select **Next**.
     c. Insert a blank Operator Card in the HSM.
     d. In **Insert Next Card**, enter a name to for the OCS card, enter the passphrase for the OCS card, then select **Next**.
   - Softcard protection:
     a. In **Key Protection Setup**, select **Softcard protection**, then select **Next**.
     b. In **Token for Key Protection**, select **Create a new Softcard named**, enter the name of the Softcard and the passphrase for the Softcard, then select **Next**.

8. In **Software installation**, select **Next**.
The nShield CNG providers are installed and the key Storage Provider is registered.

9. Select **Finish**.

10. Open a command window as administrator and type the following to confirm that the KSP has been successfully registered. Look for **nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider**.

```
cnglist.exe --list-providers
Microsoft Key Protection Provider
Microsoft Passport Key Storage Provider
Microsoft Platform Crypto Provider
Microsoft Primitive Provider
Microsoft Smart Card Key Storage Provider
Microsoft Software Key Storage Provider
Microsoft SSL Protocol Provider
Windows Client Key Protection Provider
nCipher Primitive Provider
nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider
```

11. Check the registry in **CNGRegistry**:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Cryptography\Providers\nCipherSecurityWorldKeyStorageProvider
```

### 2.4. Generate the Authenticode master key

This key will be protected by the HSM.

1. Launch PowerShell as Administrator, and run **Generate_Authenticode_MasterKey.ps1**:

```
> .\Generate_Authenticode_MasterKey.ps1
```

Script:
2. Enter the credentials associated with the protection method:

   ◦ OCS Card Protection:

     The Create new key window appears.

     a. Select Next.

        The Select a method to protect new key window appears.

     b. Select Operator Card Set protection.

     c. Insert the OCS card in the HSM and select Next.

        The Select token to protect key with window appears.

        Notice that the OCS name appears in the Current Operator Card Sets box.

     d. Select Next.

        The Choose modules you wish to load the key onto window appears.

     e. Add the HSM and select Finish.

        A credentials window appears.

     f. Enter the OCS passphrase and select Next.

        The Card reading complete window appears.

     g. Select Finish.

   ◦ Softcard protection:
A softcard credentials window appears.

a. Enter the Softcard passphrase.
b. Select Finish.

- Module protection:
  No window appears for module protection.

A 2048-bit RSA key pair, called Authenticode_MasterKey, is generated. The key is encrypted in the HSM, and then pushed to the requesting On-Premise Client server, where it is stored as an Application Key Token in the %NFAST_KMDATA%\local folder (C:\ProgramData\nCipher\Key Management Data\local).

3. Verify the new key:

```bash
> nfkminfo -k
```

- Key list - 1 keys
  - AppName: caping
  - Ident: s-1-5-21-3303772969-3979158951-288552622-500--006507ceb938e7b01e42954fffd4e223e483710eb

4. Display the information about the key by copy-pasting the key name. The protection method is displayed according to the type of protection you are using:

- **For OCS** Cardset
- **For Softcard** Passphrase
- **For module protection** Module
2.5. Generate the Authenticode signing certificate

A self-signed code signing certificate will be generated for the purpose of this Integration Guide.

1. Launch PowerShell as Administrator, and run `Generate_Authenticode_SelfCert.ps1`:

   ```bash
   > .\Generate_Authenticode_SelfCert.ps1
   ```

   **Script:**
2. Enter the credentials associated with the protection method:
   - OCS card protection:
     
     The **Load key** window appears.

     a. Select **Next**.

     The **Choose modules you wish to load the key onto** window appears.

     b. Add the HSM and select **Finish**.

     A credentials window appears.

     c. Enter the OCS passphrase and select **Next**.

     The **Card reading complete** window appears.

     d. Select **Finish**.

   - Softcard protection:

     A softcard credentials window appears.

     a. Enter the Softcard passphrase.

     b. Select **Finish**.

   - Module protection:

     No pop-up window appears for module protection.

3. When the script completes, the PowerShell command line displays the following information:

```powershell
> PowerShell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File Generate_Authenticode_SelfCert.ps1

PSParentPath: Microsoft.PowerShell.Security\Certificate::CurrentUser\My

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thumbprint</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974F9B6D9B8BF32F47FC2AF33D6271D905C44F</td>
<td>CN=Authenticode Code Signing Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```
4. The self-signed certificate can be viewed at any time in a PowerShell window:

```
> Get-ChildItem -Path Cert:\CurrentUser\My -CodeSigningCert -Recurse
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSParentPath: Microsoft.PowerShell.Security\Certificate::CurrentUser\My</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thumbprint                                Subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------                                -------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974F986D9B8BF32F47FC2AF33D6271DD985C44F  CN=Authenticode Code Signing Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The certificate can also be viewed with the Windows Certificate Manager.

2.6. Sign and time-stamp the code with Microsoft SDK

The `signtool` utility is used for signing. The Entrust on-line Time Stamp Server (TSS) is used to time stamp.

`signtool` can access the code-signing certificate the following ways:

- Directly from the certificate store with the thumbprint. This is the preferred method.
- By name, for example `Authenticode Code Signing Certificate`.
- By pointing to a `.cer` file that was created by exporting the certificate.

If you plan to access the certificate by pointing to a `.cer` file:

1. Export the certificate to your preferred location in the file system.
2. Launch PowerShell as Administrator, and run `Export_Certificate.ps1`:

```
> .\Export_Certificate.ps1
```

Script:

```
$certificate = Get-ChildItem -Path Cert:\CurrentUser\My\ | Where-Object {$_ .Subject -eq "CN=Authenticode Code Signing Certificate"}
Export-Certificate -FilePath "C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\Authenticode Code Signing Certificate.cer" -Cert $certificate
```

3. View the exported certificate by right-click on it and selecting `Properties`.
4. An executable called `MyTestApplication.exe` was created for the purpose of this guide. Sign and time stamp it by running one of the signing scripts provided. There is a script for each protection method. Modify the script as needed.

For all protection methods:

1. Run the required script:
• OCS card protection:
  a. Run the following script:

``` powershell
> .\Sign_with_MS_SDK_OCS.ps1
```

**Script:**

```powershell
# CNG Provider
$cngProviderName = "nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider"

# Certificate Key
$containerName = "Authenticode_MasterKey"

# Certificate Name
$certName = "Authenticode Code Signing Certificate"
$certificatePath = "C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\Authenticode Code Signing Certificate.cer"
$certHash = "1974f986d9b8bf324f7c2af33d6271d0905c44f"

# OCS Password
$password = "xxxxxxxxxxx"

# Entrust Certificate Services Time Stamp Server
$timestampServer = "http://timestamp.entrust.net/TSS/RFC3161sha2TS"

# File to be Signed
$fileName = "C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestApplication.exe"

# signtool sign /debug /fd SHA256 /n $certName /td SHA256 /tr $timestampServer $fileName
# signtool sign /debug /fd SHA256 /csp $cngProviderName /kc $containerName /f $certificatePath /p $password /td SHA256 /tr $timestampServer $fileName
# signtool sign /debug /fd SHA256 /sha1 $certHash /td SHA256 /tr $timestampServer $fileName
```

b. Select the HSM and enter the passphrase when prompted.

• Softcard protection:
  a. Run the following script:

``` powershell
> .\Sign_with_MS_SDK_Softcard.ps1
```

**Script:**

```powershell
Microsoft Authenticode nShield® HSM Integration Guide
```

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b. Enter the passphrase when prompted.

- Module protection:
  a. Run the following script:

```
> .\Sign_with_MS_SDK_Module.ps1
```

**Script:**

```powershell
# CNG Provider
$cngProviderName = "nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider"

# Certificate Key
$containerName = "Authenticode_MasterKey"

# Certificate Name
$certName = "Authenticode Code Signing Certificate"
$certificatePath = "C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\Authenticode Code Signing Certificate.cer"

# Softcard Password
$password = "1234"

# Entrust Certificate Services Time Stamp Server
$timestampServer = "http://timestamp.entrust.net/TSS/RFC3161sha2TS"

# File to be Signed
$fileName = "C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestApplication.exe"

signtool sign /debug /fd SHA256 /csp $cngProviderName /kc $containerName /f $certificatePath /p $password /td SHA256 /tr $timestampServer $fileName
```
For all protection types, the PowerShell command line displays script output information similar to the following:

The following certificates were considered:
Issued to: Authenticode Code Signing Certificate
Issued by: Authenticode Code Signing Certificate
Expires: Tue Apr 19 17:48:34 2022
SHA1 hash: 1974F986D98BF32F47FC2AF33D6271D0905C44F

After EKU filter, 1 certs were left.
After expiry filter, 1 certs were left.
After Hash filter, 1 certs were left.
After Private Key filter, 1 certs were left.
The following certificate was selected:
Issued to: Authenticode Code Signing Certificate
Issued by: Authenticode Code Signing Certificate
Expires: Tue Apr 19 17:48:34 2022
SHA1 hash: 1974F986D98BF32F47FC2AF33D6271D0905C44F

Done Adding Additional Store
Successfully signed: C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestApplication.exe

Number of files successfully Signed: 1
Number of warnings: 0
Number of errors: 0

2. Select the **Properties** of the test executable that was signed. Select the **Digital Signatures** tab, and **Details**. Notice the time stamp and other signing parameters just created.

![Digital Signature Details](image)

2.7. nShield and Microsoft Strong Name integration

Strong names prevent spoofing of your code by a third party.
Strong name signing is provided with the Microsoft SDK to give .NET Framework assemblies unique identities. To get a valid strong name, an assembly is strong-name signed during the build process. This is done by using the private key that corresponds to the public key in the strong name.

The strong name signature can then be verified using the public key.

Make sure you use the 32-bit version of the `sn` utility. The 64-bit version is not supported.

1. Install and register the CAPI provider, which is required for strong name signing with nShield products. Run both the 32bit CSP install wizard and the 64bit CSP install wizard and follow the steps. The following shows an example of the 64bit installer.

   ![Install and register the CAPI provider](image)

   Do not place the HSM in Pre-initialization mode as described in Install and register the CNG provider. Name the OCS `MSAuthenticodeCAPI`.

2. Open a command window as Administrator.
3. Set the cryptography service provider.

   Notice that the output `nCipher Enhanced Cryptographic Provider` differs from the `nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider` of the CNG.

   ```
   >sn -c "nCipher Enhanced Cryptographic Provider"
   Microsoft (R) .NET Framework Strong Name Utility Version 4.0.30319.0
   Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
   Default CSP set to 'nCipher Enhanced Cryptographic Provider'
   ``

4. Create the container:

   ```
   >keytst -c StrongNamed_Container
   CSP being used: nCipher Enhanced Cryptographic Provider
   Container 'StrongNamed_Container' created
   ```

5. Create the key in the container:
a. Run the following command:

```
>keytst -cs StrongNamed_Container
CSP being used: nCipher Enhanced Cryptographic Provider
Generating 2048-bit key(s) for the 'StrongNamed_Container' container.
New signature key generated OK.
```

The key protection wizard starts. For example, for the **64-bit CSP install**:

b. Select **Next**.

The **Choose an Operator Card Set** window appears.

c. Select the OCS and select **Next**.

The **Choose Modules** window appears.

d. Select the HSM and select **Next**.

The **Load a Token** window appears.

e. Enter the passphrase and select **Next**.

A completion window appears.

f. Select **Finish**.

6. List the container and the key that you created:

```
>csputilis -U ALL

File ID    Container name       Container owner      DLL name   $ X
=========  ===================  ===================  =========  = =
49942fc5f  StrongNamed_Container WIN-G0JD49QMHEV\... ncsp       *
1 container and 1 key found.
```

7. Show the public half of the key created above. If using an OCS, select the cardset and the HSM. Enter the passphrase as done above.
8. Extract the public half of the key to a file:

```
> sn -pc StrongNamed_Container C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\StrongNamed_Container.snk
Microsoft (R) .NET Framework Strong Name Utility Version 4.0.30319.33440
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
Public key written to StrongNamed_Container.snk
```

9. The executable MyTestProgram.cs was created for the purpose of this guide.

Compile MyTestProgram.cs with the public key part of StrongNamed_Container:

```
csc /delaysign+ /keyfile:"C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\StrongNamed_Container.snk" /out:C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestProgram.exe C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestProgram.cs
Microsoft (R) Visual C# Compiler version 4.8.3761.0
for C# 5
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
```

10. Re-sign the signed MyTestProgram.exe executable with StrongNamed_Container:

```
> sn -Rc C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestProgram.exe StrongNamed_Container
Microsoft (R) .NET Framework Strong Name Utility Version 4.0.30319.0
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Assembly 'C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestProgram.exe' successfully re-signed
```

11. Verify the self-consistency of the strong name signature:
12. Disassemble **MyTestProgram.exe**:

```bash
> ildasm C:\Users\Administrator\Documents\MyTestProgram.exe
```