DigiCert has committed to a sizeable donation through Utah Valley University’s “Giving of the Green” annual fundraiser. This event encourages students, faculty, and alumni of the university to give donations to fund school-related projects. DigiCert has agreed to match donations, effectively doubling the amount of funds available to students.

Last year’s event generated over $40,000 toward revitalizing the university library. Proceeds from this year’s “Giving of the Green” go toward students in need of scholarships. Utah Valley University reports that more than 230 scholarships have been dropped due to a slowing economy and budget cuts.

“Businesses and individuals are reluctant to donate this year,” said Utah Valley University student Jason Wright. “It’s understandable, given the state of the economy, but it leaves a lot of students out on a limb. Without being able to receive a scholarship or find a good job, it can be hard for students to stay in school. DigiCert’s donation is a sight for sore eyes.”

DigiCert strongly believes in the power of education and the important role that schools such as Utah Valley University have in preparing students for the future.

“By partnering with UVU to match donations, more of tomorrow’s leaders will have the opportunity to learn, innovate, and build on the success of countless students before them,” said Travis Tidball, Director of Marketing and Customer Relations at DigiCert.

DigiCert has a strong history of working with universities, colleges, and schools. DigiCert Wildcard SSL certificates and unlimited server license allow educational institutions to save thousands of dollars while securing the transfer of sensitive online information such as passwords, credit card details, grade reports, health records, and emails.

For more information, call us toll free (Canada or US) at 1-800-896-7973 (International Customers please call us at +1-801-701-9600).

Visit us online at www.digicert.com (24-hour Live Chat service provided).

DigiCert needs your feedback on how to improve its SSL certificate service. Please help by taking part in our online survey. All results are anonymous.

To access the survey, click or copy and paste the following link into your browser window:

PCI Practical Tips:
By: Ben Wilson, Legal Counsel

If your server allows SSL 2.0 or bit rates below 128-bit, you will most likely fail your PCI audit.

You can check your server’s encryption settings by using serversniff.net. After entering your domain name or IP address, ServerSniff.net will test what encryption algorithms are supported by your server.

Apache’s website has instructions on how to set up the SSLCipherSuite in a manner that is acceptable to PCI auditing requirements.

Settings for Microsoft’s Internet Information Services (IIS) can be changed using instructions found on TechNet.com.

As always, DigiCert Support is available to answer any questions you might have about setting up your SSL certificate.

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NIST Advises Against 1024-bit Keys
DigiCert Trusted Roots Use 2048-bit Encryption
By: Travis Tidball, Director of Customer Relations

The US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has issued a special report regarding 1024-bit RSA private keys.

According to the NIST, 1024-bit keys should not be considered viable after 2010. It is unlikely that 1024-bit keys could be compromised even then, but the NIST recommends moving to 2048-bit keys in order to future-proof SSL encryption.

This recommendation is particularly important for Certificate Authorities who maintain older 1024-bit Trusted Roots. Microsoft has already pledged support of the NIST's measure by promising to remove older roots as of January 1st, 2011.

Any certificate issued under an older trusted root would immediately become untrusted and subject to browser warning messages once those roots are removed. These warnings often result in users dropping from the webpage, resulting in catastrophic losses for sites dependent on online sales or conversions.

DigiCert customers can rest assured that their trusted roots are enabled with 2048-bit keys and will not be affected by this measure. In fact, the NIST states that 2048-bit keys, including the ones used by DigiCert, will be viable until 2030.

“DigiCert customers can rest assured that their trusted roots are enabled with 2048-bit keys”

Coupled with the recent attacks on MD5 algorithms and domain-only validated SSL certificates, these events highlight the need for Certificate Authorities to use responsible methods to ensure their client’s certificates are strong and trusted. DigiCert is committed to the future reliability of its SSL certificates and validation services.

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PCI Compliance White Paper
Managed PKI
by Ben Wilson, Legal Counsel

Server security certificates from DigiCert help satisfy PCI-DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) compliance requirements with strong SSLv3 capable certificates. Protection and encryption of cardholder data (such as that provided by SSL/TLS) is required by PCI-DSS Control Objectives. To assist in meeting those requirements, DigiCert put together a White Paper. In it you will find such details as:

- Evolution of PCI Requirements
- Tips for how to avoid failing PCI Audits
- How to enable strong encryption

Find out more about how DigiCert can help you pass the PCI Compliance Audit with our new PCI Compliance White Paper