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DOE Grids Certificate Service update/transition  
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Dear colleagues,

Over the past decade, ESnet has offered certificate services to the DOE Office of Science research community through its DOE Grids Certificate Authority (CA). During this time, other organizations within the research and education community have begun to provide similar services to a similar and sometimes overlapping customer base. At the same time, vendor solutions have matured significantly and now provide greater cost efficiency and technical capabilities than ever before, resulting in many partnerships between the R&E and vendor communities. Combined, these factors led ESnet to re-evaluate how our community would be best served for its certificate service needs into the future.

As a result, ESnet has decided to transition support and management for certificate services to the Open Sciences Grid (OSG). OSG and ESnet provide service to many of the same user communities, and have long been collaborators in the areas of identity and security. We will be working with our users and with OSG to ensure a smooth and seamless transition by the end of the 2012 fiscal year.

*Since your organization currently uses the DOE Grids certificate service and may not be affiliated with OSG, there are a few options available for your consideration.*

ESnet and OSG have been engaged in evaluating a wide variety of options that could meet the unique requirements of the DOE research community. From this analysis, OSG has concluded it will either establish a replacement CA or contract a CA service from Digicert, a well-respected U.S.-based vendor partner. A multi-month pilot, which includes careful testing of Digicert certificates, registration interfaces, and management APIs, is underway to help make this decision. Whatever path is finally chosen, the new service will become production in the next 12 months. You are welcome to consider using the new OSG certificate service.

OSG will be holding a workshop in March for training and information for registration agents on the service. If you are interested in being a part of the OSG pilot program or to find out more information about the benefits of this service or the workshop, please contact Ruth Pordes ([ruth@fnal.gov](mailto:ruth@fnal.gov)), OSG Executive Director, or Von Welch ([vwelch@indiana.edu](mailto:vwelch@indiana.edu)), lead of the OSG CA transition program. Participation in the initial pilot is not required to take advantage of the OSG service at a later time.

While ESnet fully supports this path forward for our users, we understand that you may want to explore other certificate service options outside of the proposed OSG

solution. If this is the case, ESnet staff would be glad to work with you on a one-on-one basis to understand your needs and concerns and help identify possible solutions.

We will be working to update the [doegrids.org](http://doegrids.org) website to share as much information as possible on the transition as it becomes available. Please check for updates including a forthcoming FAQ. We will plan to reach out directly as needed with any time sensitive updates.

If it's helpful, we would also be happy to set up a time with you individually to answer any questions you might have.

Kind regards,  
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