Certificates - Quick Start

Introduction

If you have never worked with digital certificates before, this article gives you a first idea about the concept ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_certificate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_certificate)).

A digital certificate can be stored in an application (e.g. web browser), a hard drive or floppy disc, or a Smartcard. Latter needs a special reading device. We use eToken by Aladdin ([http://www.aladdin.com/](http://www.aladdin.com/)) to offer a convenient and secure storage.

If you already received an Aladdin eToken, you can start by installing drivers and software before applying for a certificate. Afterwards you can plug-in the certificate in your web browser.

Alternatively you can install your certificate directly to your application (e.g. Windows certificate storage, Mozilla Firefox) and copy it later to your eToken. In this case please make sure that nobody has unauthorised access to your computer.

Quick start

1. **You receive a letter from us by mail.**
   This letter contains your eToken and all information necessary to apply for your certificate.

2. **Make sure you are able to receive email via your FH-account.**
   You can access your inbox directly via [http://webmail.fh-swf.de/](http://webmail.fh-swf.de/)
   If you configured a forwarding address, you can check or change it at [Virtuelles Service-Center](http://webmail.fh-swf.de/).

3. **Install the eToken drivers and client software on your personal computer.**
   The computers in DVZ PC-pool have this software already installed.

4. **Install the eToken browser plug-in (optional)**

5. **Start the eToken client software and configure the connected eToken.**
   Use a meaningful name and a secure password.

6. **Request for your certificate and store it on your eToken.**

7. **You are now ready to use the Virtuelles Service-Center**