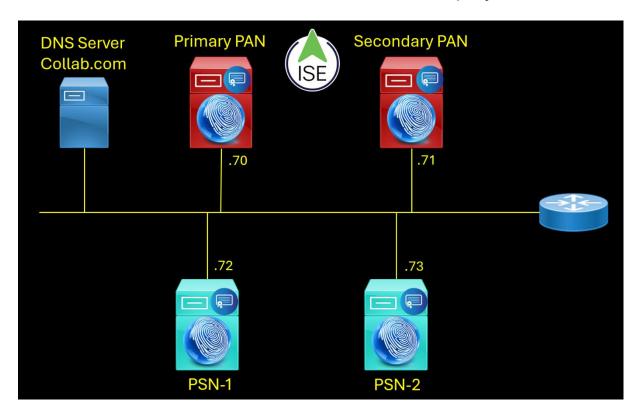
Demystifying PKI Infrastructure and Certificate Management With Cisco ISE Cluster Distributed Deployment



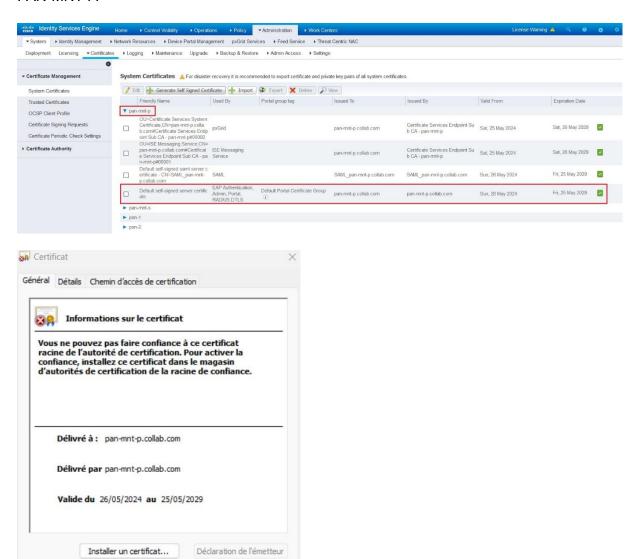
Redouane MEDDANE

In distributed deployment, each node installs a self-signed certificate signed by the system and has the Object Type: Certificate Authority. This certificate is unique in that it's self-signed, essentially ensuring for its own authenticity. It doesn't require validation from an external or superior entity because it already sits at the top of the trust hierarchy.

This self-signed certificate is used by the following services admin, EAP authentication, RADIUS DTLS and portals.

Below the list of the self-signed certificate used by each node. Each certificate has the Common Name equal to the FQDN of the node.

PAN-MNT-P.





PAN-MNT-S.







PSN-1.

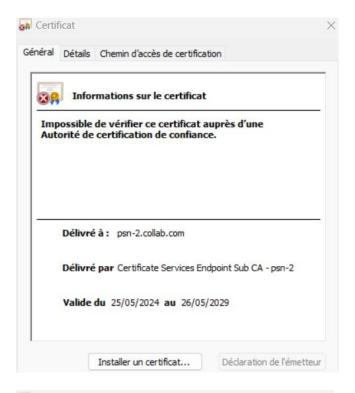






PSN-2.

▶ pan-mnt-s								
▶ psn-1								
▼ psi	Default self-signed saml server c ertificate - CN=SAML_pan-mnt- p.collab.com	SAML		SAML_pan-mnt-p.collab.com	SAML_pan-mnt-p.collab.com	Sun, 26 May 2024	Fri, 25 May 2029	~
	Default self-signed saml server c ertificate - CN=SAML_psn-2.colla b.com	Not in use		SAML_psn-2.collab.com	SAML_psn-2.collab.com	Sun, 26 May 2024	Fri, 25 May 2029	
	Default self-signed server certific ate	EAP Authentication, Admin, Portal, RADIUS DTLS	Default Portal Certificate Group	psn-2.collab.com	psn-2.collab.com	Sun, 26 May 2024	Fri, 25 May 2029	
	OU=Certificate Services System Certificate,CN=psn-2.collab.com #Certificate Services Endpoint S ub CA - psn-2#00003	pxGrid		psn-2.collab.com	Certificate Services Endpoint Su b CA - psn-2	Sat, 25 May 2024	Sat, 26 May 2029	2
	OU=ISE Messaging Service; CN= psn-2.collab.com#Certificate Ser vices Endpoint Sub CA - psn-2#0 0004			psn-2.collab.com	Certificate Services Endpoint Su b CA - psn-2	Sat, 25 May 2024	Sat, 26 May 2029	





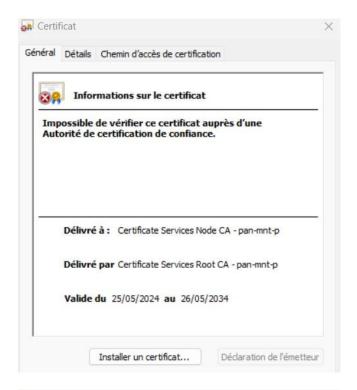
When you install Cisco ISE cluster, an internal PKI hierarchy is built. The certificate management are centralized on the Primary PAN where you can create, delete and renew the nodes certificates.

First the primary PAN has the Root CA certificate representing the top of trust hierarchy as shown below.





The PAN has also a subordinate certificate called Certificate Services Nodes CA - pan-mnt-p signed by its Root CA certificate as shown below.

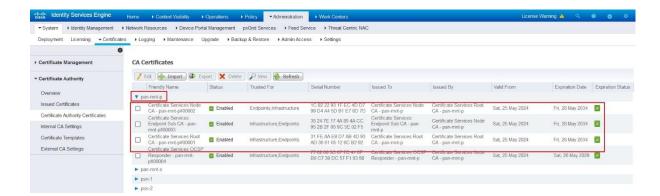




In additon the Primary PAN generates a subordinate certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA – pan-mnt-p and it is signed by the Node Certificate of the primary PAN called "Certificate Services Nodes CA - pan-mnt-p".







When you register the secondary PAN two subordinate certificates are generated.

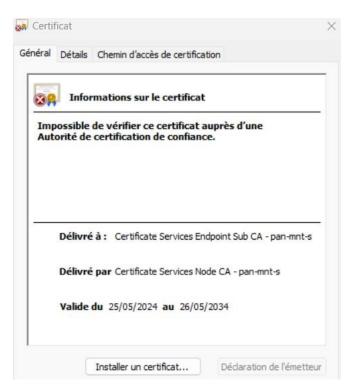


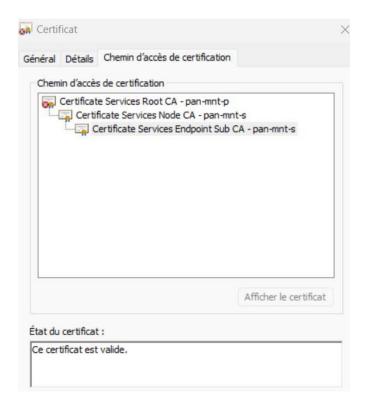
Certificate Services Nodes CA - pan-mnt-s signed by the primary PAN Root CA.



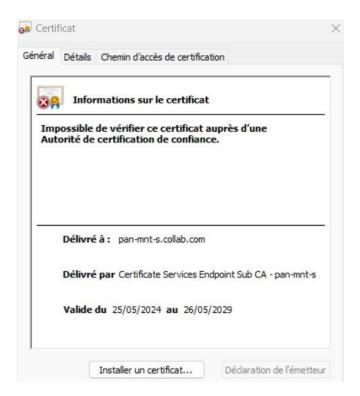


Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - pan-mnt-s signed by the subordinate certificate Services Nodes CA - pan-mnt-s.





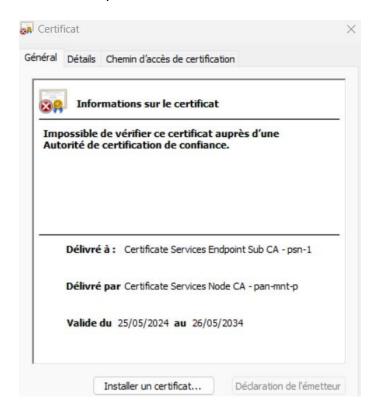
In addition, a server or entity certificate is generated for the secondary PAN with the Common Name equal to the FQDN pan-mnt-s.collab.com, this server certificate is signed by the subordinate certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - pan-mnt-s.collab.com.

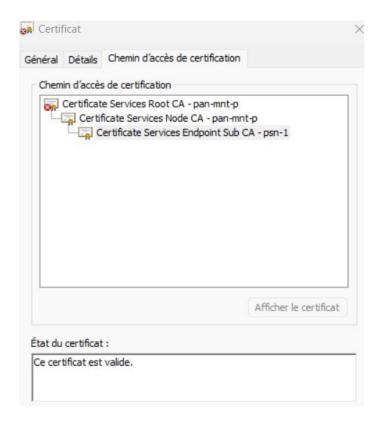




When you register the Policy Service Node PSN, each PSN node is provisioned a subordinate certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA and it is signed by the Node Certificate of the primary PAN called "Certificate Services Nodes CA - pan-mnt-p".

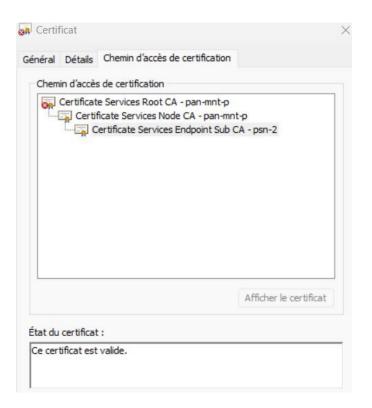
In this example, the PSN-1 is provisioned with a subordinate certificate called "Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - PSN-1".



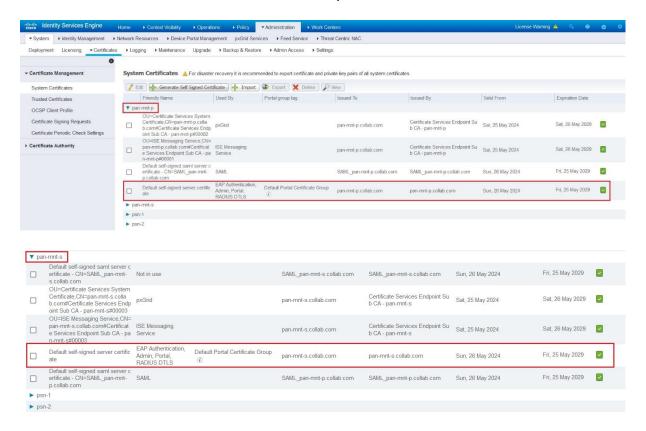


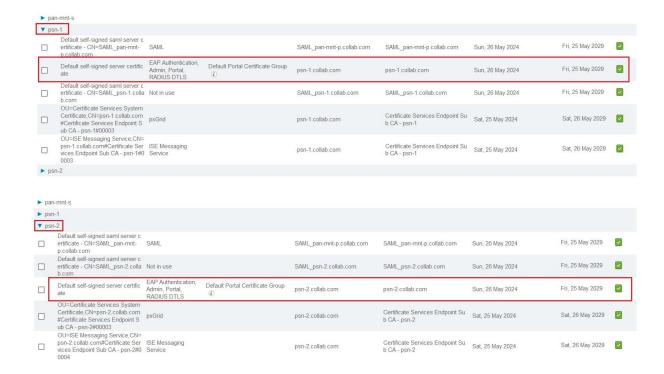
The PSN-2 is provisioned with a subordinate certificate called "Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA - PSN-2".





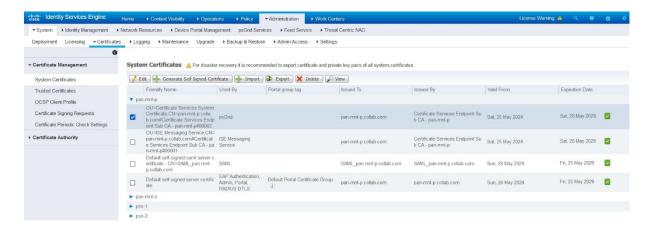
By default, each node uses the self-signed certificate for the following services: admin access, EAP authentication, RADIUS DTLS and portals.

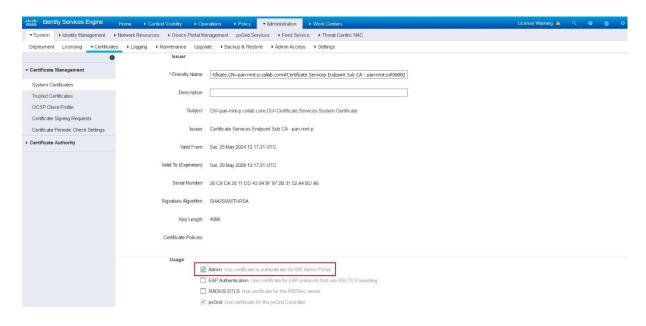




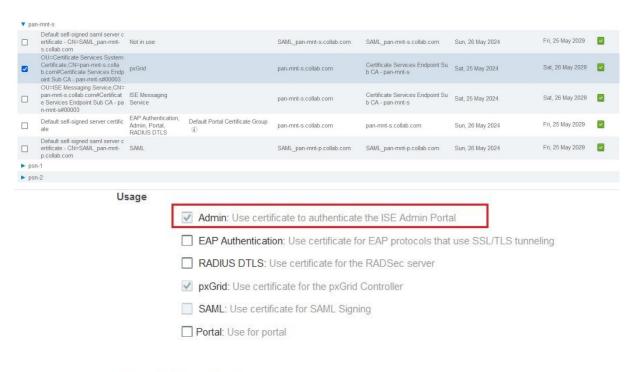
We can instruct each node to use another system certificate such as the one used for pxGrid which is signed by the Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA of each node.

Primary PAN pan-mnt-p.





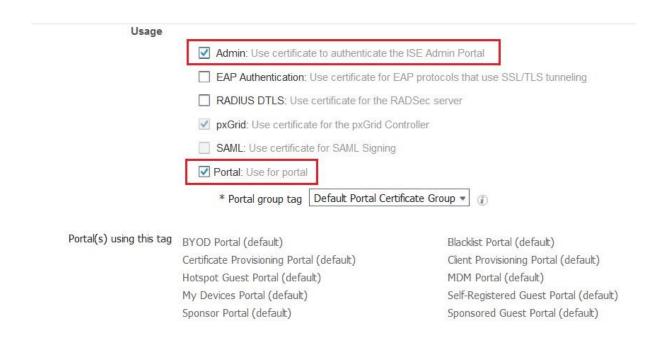
Secondary PAN pan-mnt-s.



Renew Self Signed Certificate

Policy Service Node PSN-1.

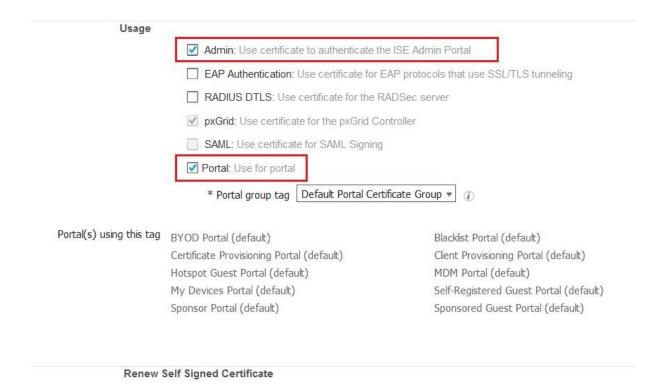




Renew Self Signed Certificate

Policy Service Node PSN-2.

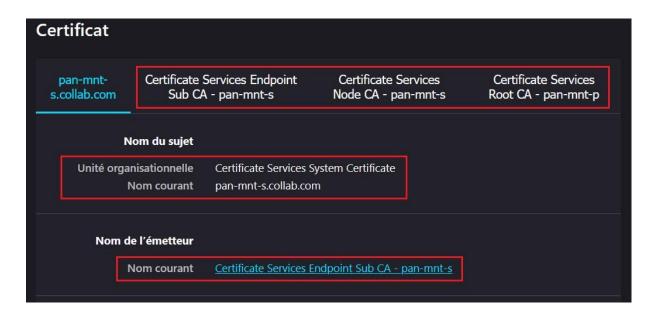




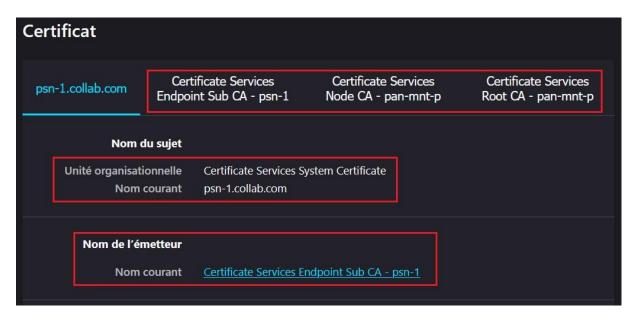
The primary PAN is now using the system certificate for admin access and signed by its own subordinate CA certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA – pan-mnt-p.



The secondary PAN is now using the system certificate for admin access and signed by its own subordinate CA certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA – pan-mnt-s.



The Policy Service Node PSN-1 is now using the system certificate for admin access/portals and signed by its own subordinate CA certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA – psn-1.



The Policy Service Node PSN-2 is now using the system certificate for admin access/portals and signed by its own subordinate CA certificate called Certificate Services Endpoint Sub CA – psn-2.

