

# CNT 4603: System Administration Fall 2012

## Scripting – Windows PowerShell – Part 5

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# Code Signing

- In the second set of notes on PowerShell we discussed the execution policy which is part of the security built-in to PowerShell.
- We modified PowerShell's default setting of Restricted, which prevents PowerShell from running any scripts (it is restricted to running in an interactive mode only).
- We changed the setting using the `set-executionpolicy` cmdlet to RemoteSigned, which allowed locally created scripts to be loaded and executed without being digitally signed.
- The other two options are: AllSigned, which is a notch under Restricted, in that all scripts must be digitally signed by a publisher you trust in order to be loaded and executed. The Unrestricted option allows any script to be executed but for non-local scripts the user is prompted for an action.



# Code Signing

- In short, code signing is the process of digitally signing scripts, executables, dynamic link libraries (DLLs), and so forth to establish a level of trust for the code.
- The trust granted to digitally signed code is based on two assumptions.
  - One, a signed piece of code ensures that the code hasn't been altered or corrupted since being signed.
  - Two, the digital signature serves to prove the identity of the code's author, which helps you to determine whether the code is safe for execution.
- These two assumptions are a way to ensure the integrity and authenticity of the code. However, these assumptions alone are no guarantee that signed code is safe to run.



# Code Signing

- For these two assumptions to be considered valid, you need the digital signature and the infrastructure that establishes a mechanism for identifying the digital signature's originator.
- A digital signature is based on public key cryptography, which utilizes an algorithm for encryption and one for decryption. The algorithms generate a key pair consisting of a private key and a public key. The private key is kept secret so that only the owner has access to it, but the public key can be distributed to other entities. Some form of secure interaction is then required between other entities and the key pair owner. Depending on the type of interaction, one key is used to lock (encrypt) the communication and the other key is used to unlock (decrypt) the communication.
- In digital signatures, the private key is used to generate a signature, and the public key is used to validate the generated signature.



# Code Signing

- The process is as follows:
  1. A one-way hash (message digest, fingerprint, or compression function), which is a cryptographic algorithm that turns data into a fixed-length binary sequence (one-way means that it is difficult to derive the original data from the resulting sequence) of the content being signed is generated by using a cryptographic digest.
  2. The hash is then encrypted with the private key, resulting in the digital signature.
  3. The hash content is sent to the recipient.
  4. The recipient creates another one-way hash of the content and decrypts the hash by using the sender's public key.
  5. Finally, the recipient compares the two hashes. If both hashes are the same, the digital signature is valid and the content has not been modified.



# Code Signing

- To associate an entity, such as an organization, a person, or a computer with a digital signature, a digital certificate is used.
- A digital certificate consists of the public key and identifying information about the key pair owner.
- To ensure a digital certificate's integrity, it is also digitally signed.
- A digital certificate can be signed by its owner or a trustworthy third party called a certificate authority (CA).
- The act of associating code with the entity that created and published it removed the anonymity of running code. Furthermore, associating a digital signature with a code-signing certificate is much like using a brand name to establish trust and reliability.



# Code Signing

- Therefore, armed with this information, users of PowerShell scripts (or any script in general) can make informed decisions about running a script.
- In a nutshell, this is why code signing is an important aspect to system administration activities and in particular to the PowerShell security framework.



# Obtaining A Code Signing Certificate

- There are two methods for obtaining a code-signing certificate: generating self-signed certificates and using a CA from a valid public key infrastructure (PKI) like Veri-Sign.
- Generating a self-signed certificate for signing your PowerShell scripts and configuration files is simpler and quicker and has the advantage of not costing anything.
- However, no independent third party verifies the certificate's authenticity, so it doesn't have the same level of trust that's expected from code signing. As a result, no other entity would trust your certificate by default. To distribute your PowerShell script to other machines, your certificate would have to be added as a trusted root CA and a trusted publisher.





# Obtaining A Code Signing Certificate

- Although changing what an entity trusts is possible, there are two problems.
- One, entities outside your sphere of control might not choose to trust your certificate because there's no independent method for verifying who you are.
- Two, if the private key associated with your self-signed certificate becomes compromised or invalid, there is no way to manage your certificate's validity on other entities.
- Given these problems, self-signed certificates should be limited to local machines or for testing purposes only.
- If you plan to have your scripts used in an enterprise or the public realm, the second method of using a CA from a PKI should be used.



# Generating a Self-Signed Certificate

- Even though the second method is the preferred method for public realm scripting, we'll focus on the first method here so that you can get some practice creating scripts that are digitally signed and then we'll also be able to once again modify the execution policy of PowerShell to require all scripts having a digital signature.
- The method of creating a self-signed certificate is based on using the `makecert` utility, which is part of the .NET Framework Software Development Kit (SDK).
- Follow the steps on the next page to use this utility to create your own digital signature.



# Generating a Self-Signed Certificate

1. Download the latest Microsoft .NET Framework SDK available at: [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com), and searching for “Microsoft .NET Framework SDK”. The current version is 2.0.
2. Install the SDK on the machine where you want to generate the self-signed certificate. Let’s use one of our virtual machines for this, like `Mark-Server1`, since that’s where you’ve installed PowerShell.
3. Locate the `makecert` utility. The default location is `C:\Program Files\Microsoft .NET\SDK\v2.0\bin`.
4. Open a command prompt and change the working directory to this location using the `cd` command. See page 12.
5. Create a self-signed certificate using the command illustrated on page 12.



```
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.0.6001]
Copyright (c) 2006 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>cd..
C:\Users>cd..
C:\>cd program files
C:\Program Files>cd microsoft.net
C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET>cd sdk
C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET\SDK>cd v2.0
C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET\SDK\v2.0>cd bin
C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET\SDK\v2.0\Bin>makecert -r -pe -n "CN= MJL Code Sig
ning" -b 01/01/2011 -e 01/01/2013 -eku 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.3 -ss My
Succeeded
C:\Program Files\Microsoft.NET\SDK\v2.0\Bin>_
```

Digital certificate was successfully created

Makecert -r -pe -n "CN= choose a name" -b beginning date -e ending date -eku 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.3.3 -ss My



PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-childitem cert:\CurrentUser\My -codesign

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

Run this cmdlet in PowerShell to see your self-signed digital certificate.

Thumbprint

Subject

D5F99C4AC4CA7734BC1186AF751E45F384F6E040 CN=MJL Code Signing

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>



# Signing PowerShell Scripts

- When signing a PowerShell script, you use the `set-AuthenticodeSignature` cmdlet, which takes two required parameters.
- The first parameter, `filePath`, is the path and filename for the script to be digitally signed.
- The second parameter, `certificate`, is the X.509 certificate used to sign the script.
- To obtain the X.509 certificate in a format the `set-AuthenticodeSignature` cmdlet understands, you retrieve the certificate as an object with the `get-ChildItem` cmdlet, as shown on the next page.



# Signing PowerShell Scripts

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> set-authenticodesignature -filePath PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1 -certificate cert:\CurrentUser\My -codeSigningCert>[0] -includeChain "All"

Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts

SignerCertificate          Status          Path
-----
D5F99C4AC4CA7734BC1186AF751E45F384F6E040  Valid          PS-Part5-p15-signed

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

Actual command string is:

```
Set-authenticodesignature -filePath <filename> -certificate @(get-childitem cert:\CurrentUser\My -codeSigningCert)[0] -includeChain "All"
```



# Signing PowerShell Scripts

- To retrieve the certificate you want from the user's certificate store, you use the `get-childitem` cmdlet with the `codeSigningCert` switch parameter.
- This switch parameter can only be used with the PowerShell Certificate provided and acts as a filter to force the `get-childitem` cmdlet to retrieve only code-signing certificates.
- To ensure that the entire certificate chain is included in the digital signature, the `includeChain` parameter is used.
- After the `set-authenticodesignature` cmdlet has been executed successfully, the signed file has a valid digital signature block containing the digital signature appended to it.





# Signing PowerShell Scripts

- The digital signature block in a PowerShell script is always the last item in the script and can be found easily because it is enclosed between SIG # Begin signature block and SIG # End signature block , as shown in the example script we just digitally signed (see next page).



```
C:\Users\Administrator\MyScripts\PS-Part5-p15.ps1 - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Macro Run Plugins Window ?
PS-Part5p15.ps1
39 #-----
40 # SIG # Begin signature block
41 # MIIECQYJKoZIhvcNAQcCoIID+jCCA/YCAQExCzAJBgUrDgMCGGUAMGkGCisGAQQB
42 # gjcCAQSGWzBZMDQGCisGAQQBgjcCAR4wJgIDAQAABBAfzDtgWUsITrck0sYpfvNR
43 # AgEAAgEAAgEAAgEAAgEAMCEwCQYFKw4DAhFAAQUVP4ZR8CZTC0cjwbSV6/6ikxc
44 # FBegggIkMIICIDCCAYmgAwIBAgIQIx95PfHJMbtIE8hu9ItkAzANBqkqhkiG9w0B
45 # AQQFADAbMRkwFwYDVQQDExBNSkwgQ29kZSBTaWduaw5nMB4XDTEwMDEwMTA1MDAw
46 # MFoXDTEwMDEwMTA1MDAwMFowGzE2MBCGA1UEAxMQTUupMIENvZGU2lnbmluZzCB
47 # nzANBqkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAAOBjQAwYkCgYEAtsWx2f821KTgBsP+bOXZcvFo3mm3
48 # v1RQps4S0P/XgJ4QAAf8ruNTKjXbJ3b/fG62yJOM3+Bwqmpk5Zdp014gG531Pedv
49 # xEsAeXio/OrMLIVZr/MycBzKr7clurOE6eZfV+H/Jz/s6630x7v11fft4Lk50ygV
50 # Eq+0c1BSFOe6M8MCAwEAAaNLGMwEwYDVR01BAwwCgYIKwYBBQUHAWMwTAYDVR0B
51 # BEUwQ4AQBgKfhK2T1IhWVC7go2BS36EdMBsxGTAXBgNVBAMTEE1KTCBDb2RlIFNp
52 # Z25pbmeCECMfeT3xyTG7SBPIbvSLZAMwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEEBQADgYEAf3x0qA3
53 # EvhS1ehx6Efa/bZqLy4DezfmKjDiRaUqbAj7hnkp8S1eLvDyg0ukfkGAXnoEhAuQ
54 # CxMA47vCnoj0nEG6yxT1ybbw5jv+B8mZfHqPglrrao8ikVrNUFgp5xOk4EI53iQM
55 # HpJmps+/ILOuQkHyB44YSvJmCUJH+1GmyA0xggFPMIIBSwIBATAvMBsxGTAXBgNV
56 # BAMTEE1KTCBDb2RlIFNpZ25pbmcCECMfeT3xyTG7SBPIbvSLZAMwCQYFKw4DAhOF
57 # AKB4MBgGCisGAQQBgjcCAQwxCjAIOAKAAKECgAAwGQYJKoZIhvcNAQkDMQwGCisG
58 # AQQBgjcCAQQWHAYKKwYBBAGCNwIBCzEOMAwGCisGAQQBgjcCARUwIwYJKoZIhvcN
59 # AQkEMRYEFGpRbl64fKVfKpA474eizyhrWi0LMA0GCSqGSIB3DQEBAQUABIGAWkWY
60 # Bp60bjuCHZYnOVA2MZOhusTUqBulrLytnVfiWYDq1YDZ4FTbasgrdpNy7Eobr7Be
61 # XMgam8SFAfCxMtQ2o7ioJ6yDohYDfPtMMqUvnzxepAQ3Y89gt2/lokPCb2saOL9t
62 # zNeU6SjhwWioukd3RTd8f5ip8dChsye490lnFDk=
63 # SIG # End signature block
64
```

Windows length : 3136 lines : 64 Ln : 5 Col : 20 Sel : 0 Dos\Windows ANSI INS



# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

- To verify the digital signature of PowerShell scripts, you use the `get-authenticodesignature` cmdlet.
- This cmdlet returns a valid status or an invalid status, such as `HashMismatch`, indicating a problem with the script.
- Page 20 illustrates verifying a script which contains a valid digital signature.
- Page 21 illustrates a script that was modified after the digital signature was applied.



# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-authenticodesignature PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1

Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts

SignerCertificate          Status          Path
-----
D5F99C4AC4CA7734BC1186AF751E45F384F6E040 Valid           PS-Part5-p15-signed

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

Status  
-----  
Valid

NOTE: Until you complete the steps to trust the digital certificate, the status here will be "Unknown Error". This screen shot was taken after I'd registered the CA.



# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-authenticodesignature PS-Part5-p15-invalidsignature.ps1

Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts

SignerCertificate          Status          Path
-----
D5F99C4AC4CA7734BC1186AF751E45F384F6E040 HashMismatch    PS-Part5-p15-invali

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```



# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

- Once you begin to digitally sign your scripts you'll need to reset the PowerShell execution policy to AllSigned.
- The next page illustrates doing this using the `set-executionpolicy` cmdlet.
- Once this is done, I attempted to run the modified version of the digitally signed script. Notice that PowerShell will not allow it to execute due to the invalid signature.



PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-authenticodesignature PS-Part5-p15-invalidsignature.ps1

Directory: C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts

SignerCertificate	Status	Path
D5F99C4AC4CA7734BC1186AF751E45F384F6E040	HashMismatch	PS-Part5-p15-invali

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> set-executionpolicy AllSigned

Execution Policy Change

The execution policy helps protect you from scripts that you do not trust. Changing the execution policy might expose you to the security risks described in the about\_Execution\_Policies help topic.

Do you want to change the execution policy?  
[Y] Yes [N] No [S] Suspend [?] Help (default is "Y"): y

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> get-executionpolicy

AllSigned

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .\PS-Part5-p15-invalidsignature.ps1

File C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts\PS-Part5-p15-invalidsignature.ps1 cannot be loaded. The content of the file does not match the hash stored in the digital signature. The script will not execute on the system. Please see "Script Signing" for more details..

At line:1 char:36

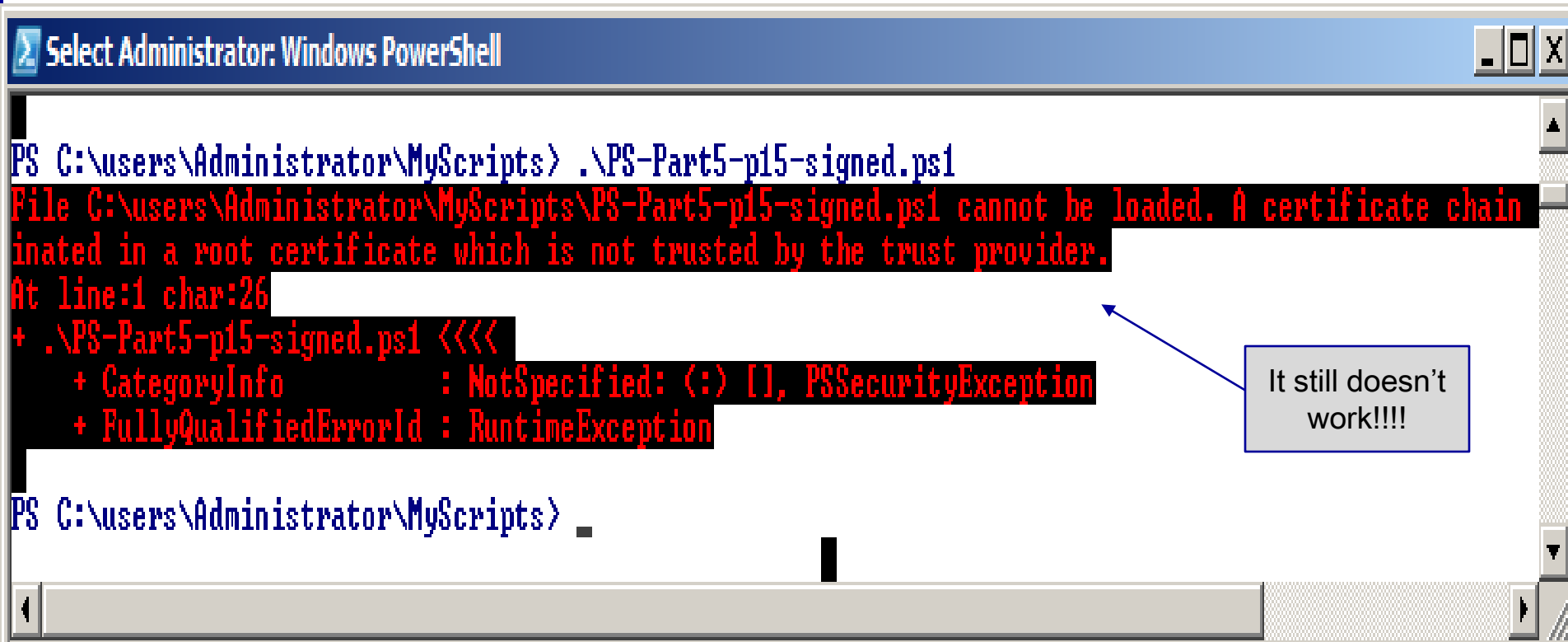
+ .\PS-Part5-p15-invalidsignature.ps1 <<<<  
+ CategoryInfo : NotSpecified: (:) [], PSSecurityException  
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : RuntimeException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>



# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

- What happens if we attempt to execute a valid digitally signed script in PowerShell now, assuming that we've changed the execution policy to AllSigned?



The screenshot shows a Windows PowerShell window titled "Select Administrator: Windows PowerShell". The command prompt shows the following sequence of events:

```
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1
File C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1 cannot be loaded. A certificate chain
inated in a root certificate which is not trusted by the trust provider.
At line:1 char:26
+ .\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1 <<<<
+ CategoryInfo          : NotSpecified: (:) [], PSSecurityException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : RuntimeException

PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .
```

A blue arrow points from a text box to the error message. The text box contains the text: "It still doesn't work!!!!"





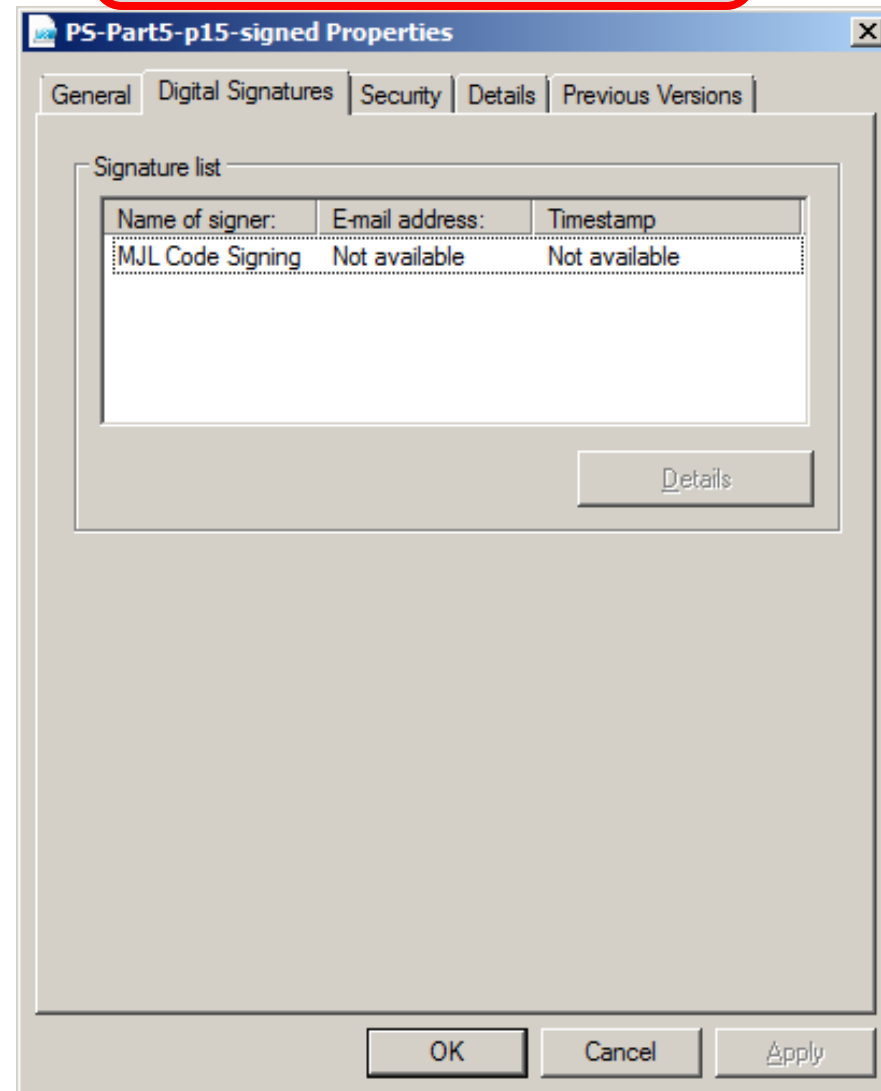
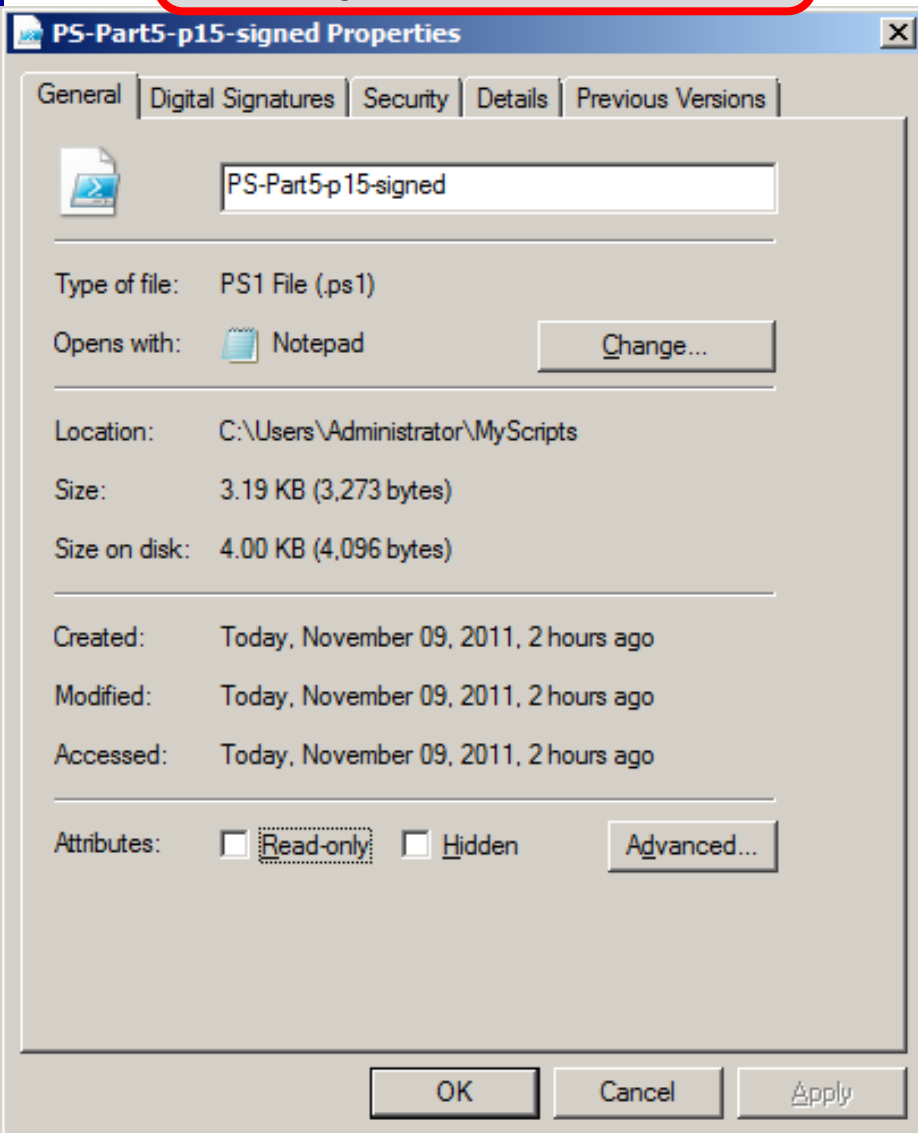
# Verifying A Digital Signature In PowerShell

- The problem, as you can see from the PowerShell script output, is that we've created the digital signature and signed the script, but the we haven't verified that we trust the creator of the signature yet.
- To do this go to the file that contains the digital signature and right click on it and select Properties.
- Follow the steps on the next few pages to
- You'll see a tab which is titled Digital Signatures. Select this tab.



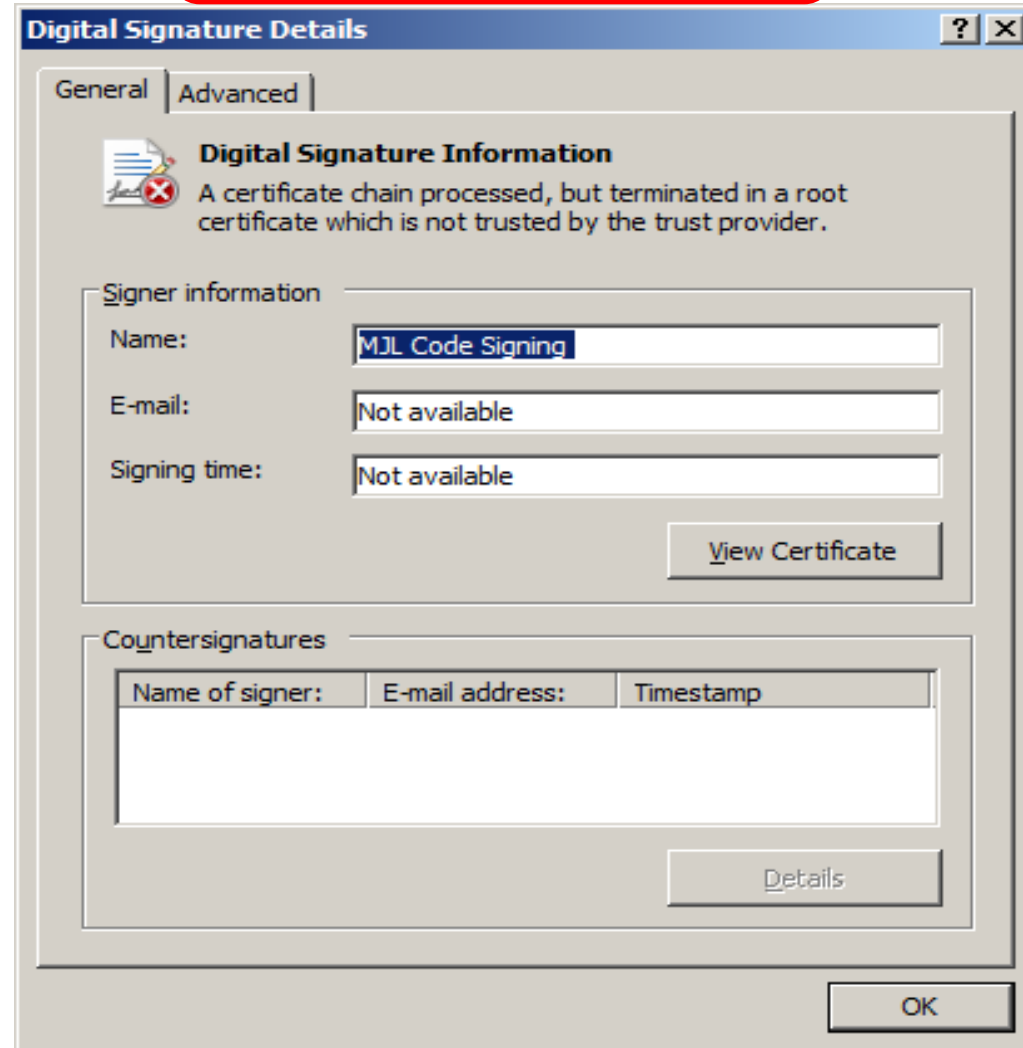
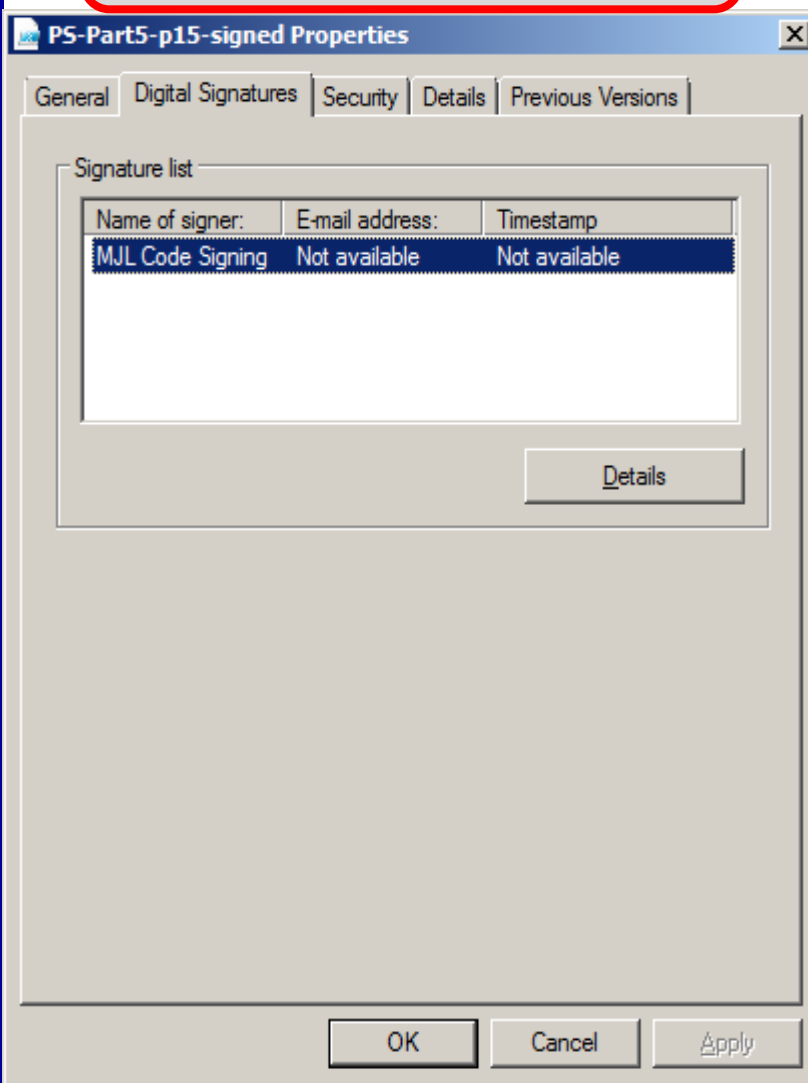
1. Right click on the file name and select Properties to see this dialog.

2. Select the Digital Signatures tab.

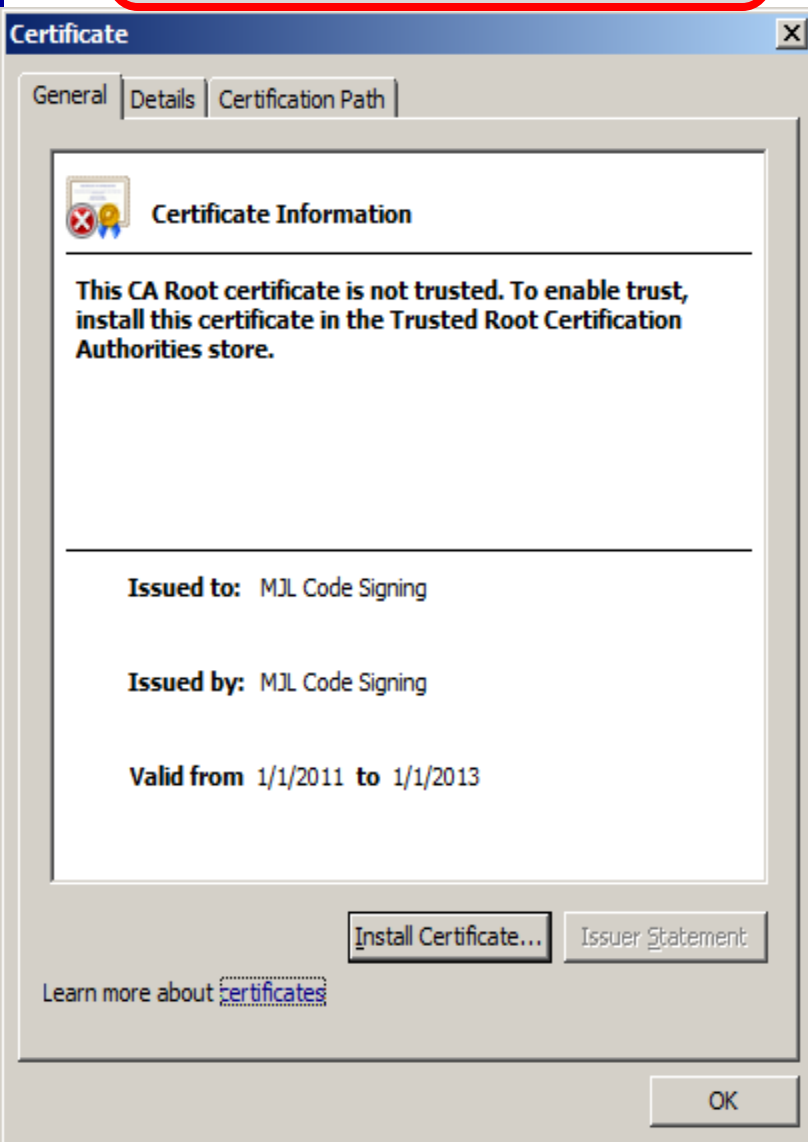


3. Highlight the name of signer you wish to trust.

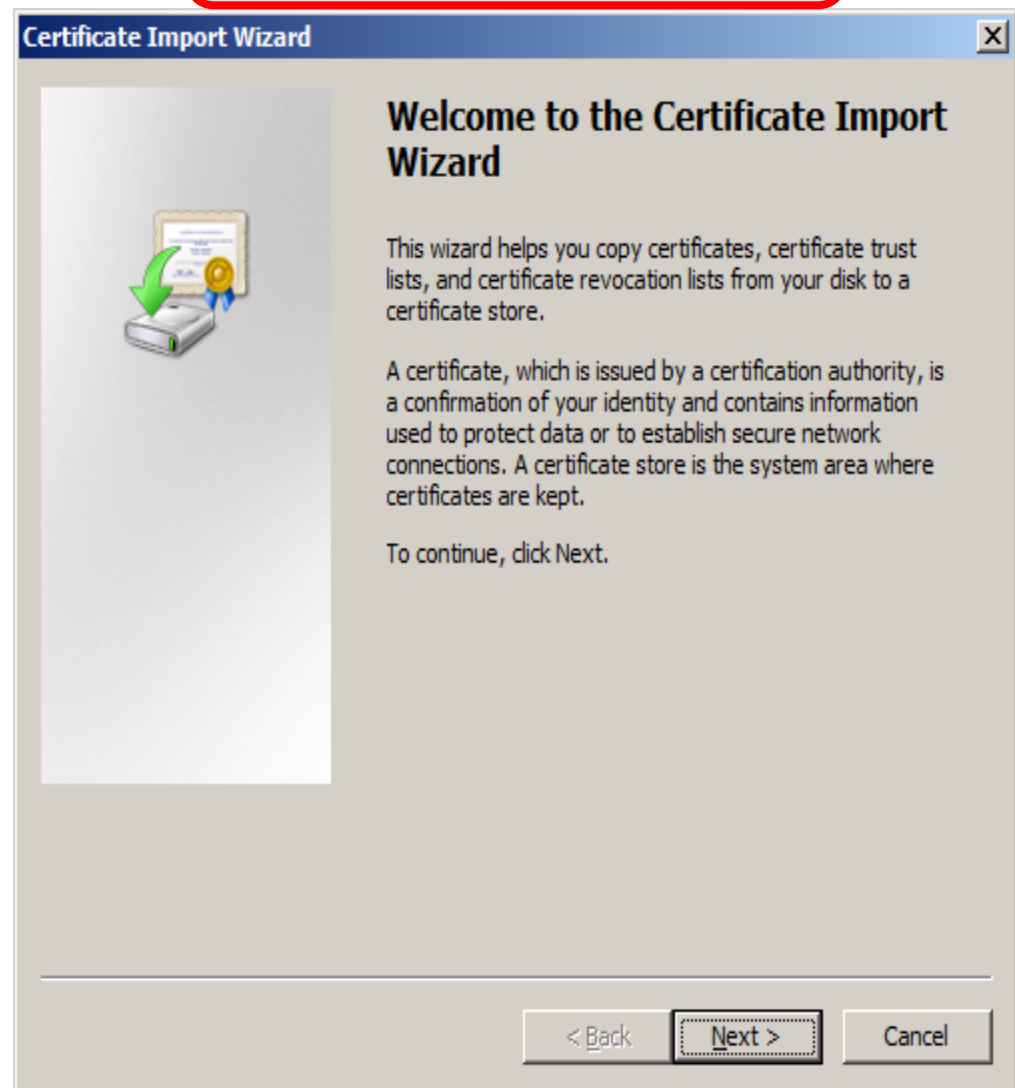
4. You should see this dialog now. Click View Certificate.



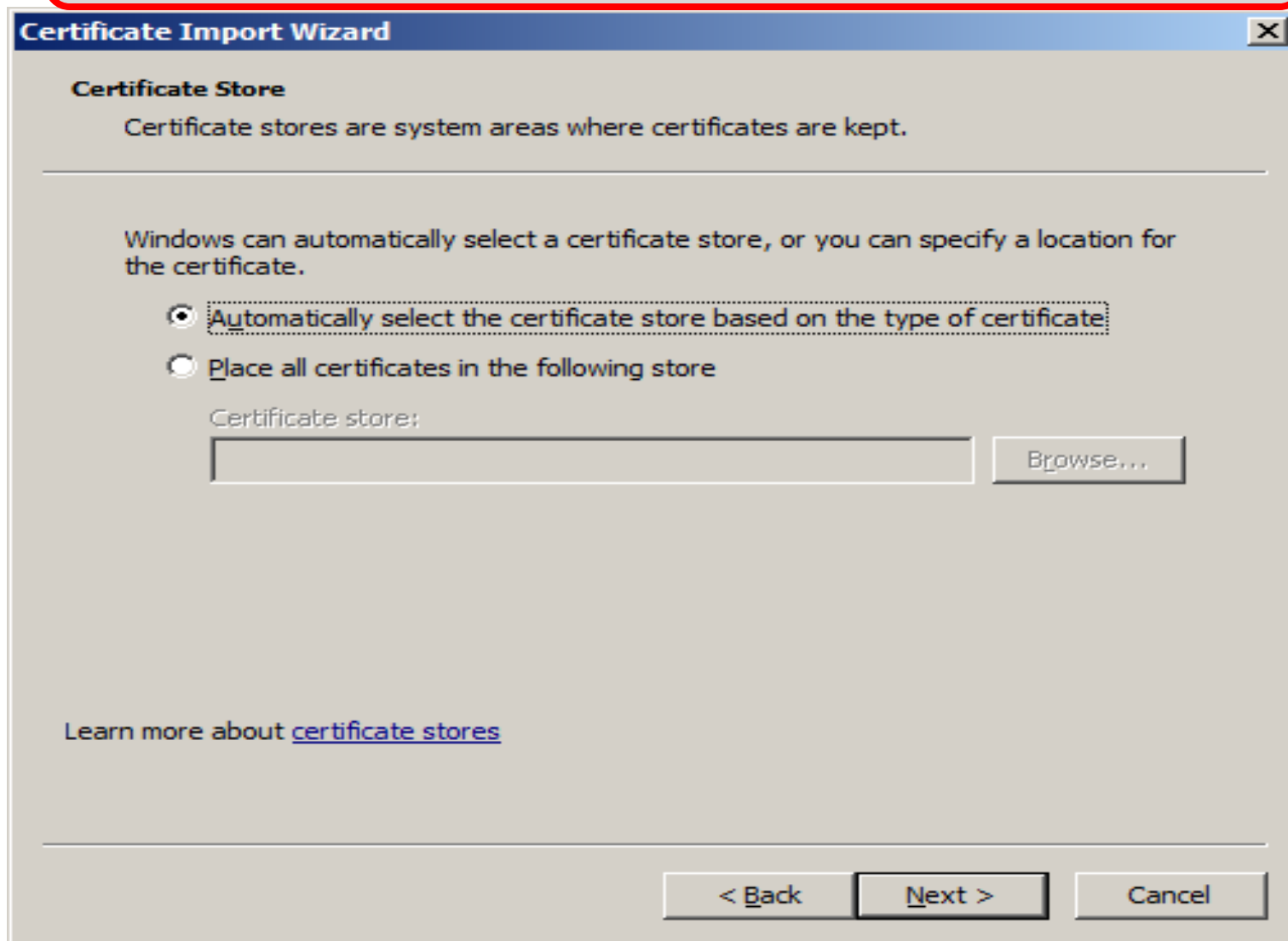
5. Click the Install Certificate button.



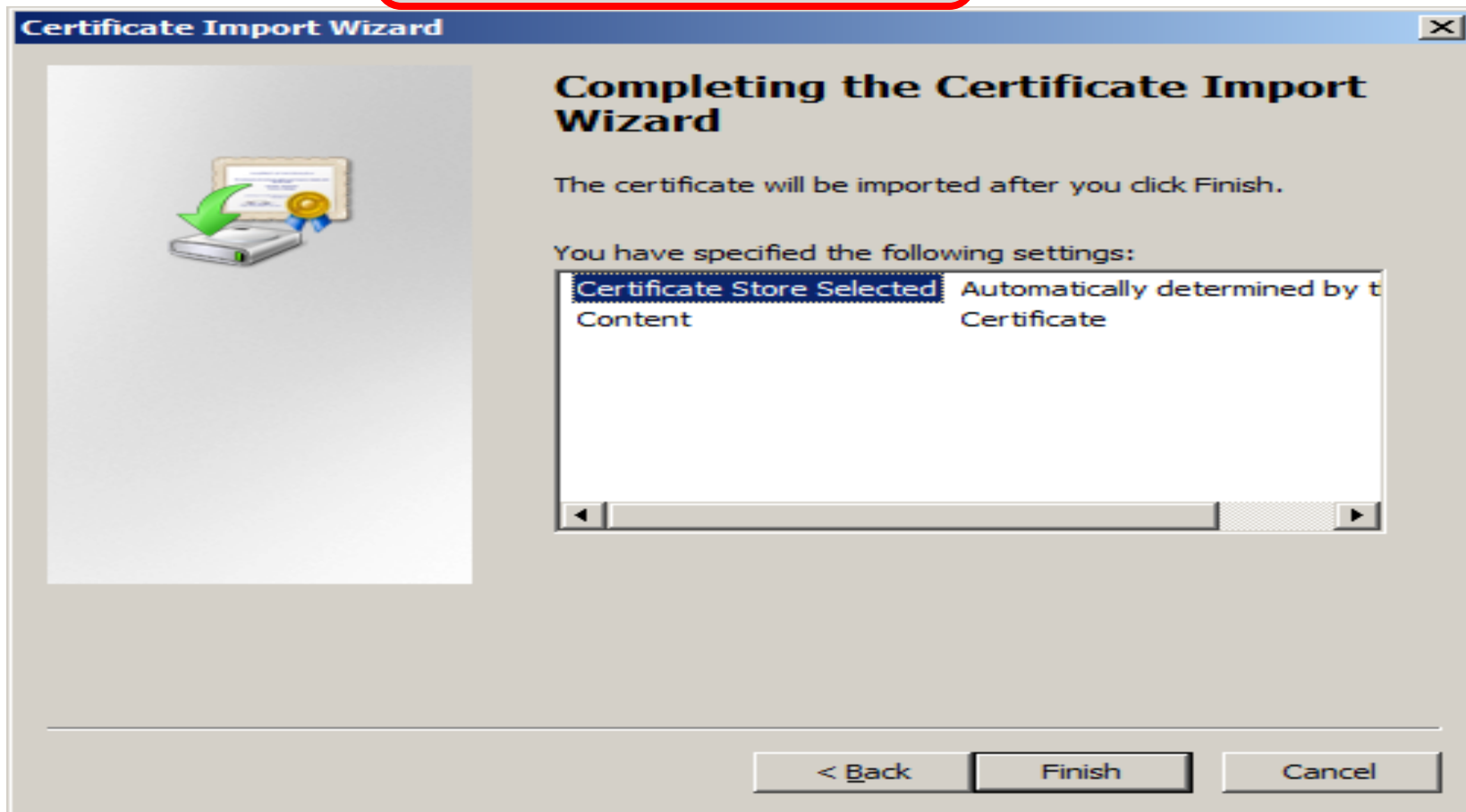
6. The Certificate Import Wizard will now run. Click Next.



7. Choose your option here. I just let mine default to automatically selecting the certificate store based on the type of certificate. Then click Next.



8. Click Finish and you're done (well almost – see next page)



9. A security warning will appear. Read it and then click Yes.

The screenshot shows a Windows Explorer window with a file list. A 'Security Warning' dialog box is overlaid on the file list, displaying a warning icon and the following text:

You are about to install a certificate from a certification authority (CA) claiming to represent:

MJL Code Signing

Windows cannot validate that the certificate is actually from "MJL Code Signing". You should confirm its origin by contacting "MJL Code Signing". The following number will assist you in this process:

Thumbprint (sha1): D5F99C4A C4CA7734 BC1186AF 751E45F3 84F6E040

Warning:  
If you install this root certificate, Windows will automatically trust any certificate issued by this CA. Installing a certificate with an unconfirmed thumbprint is a security risk. If you click "Yes" you acknowledge this risk.

Do you want to install this certificate?

Buttons: Yes, No

The background file list shows:

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
StatusInformation	11/2/2011 12:16...	File Folder	
ArrayScript	10/26/2011 9:08	PS1 File	1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			2 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB
			4 KB
			4 KB
			2 KB
			4 KB
			1 KB
			1 KB

The 'Certificate Import Wizard' dialog box in the bottom right shows:

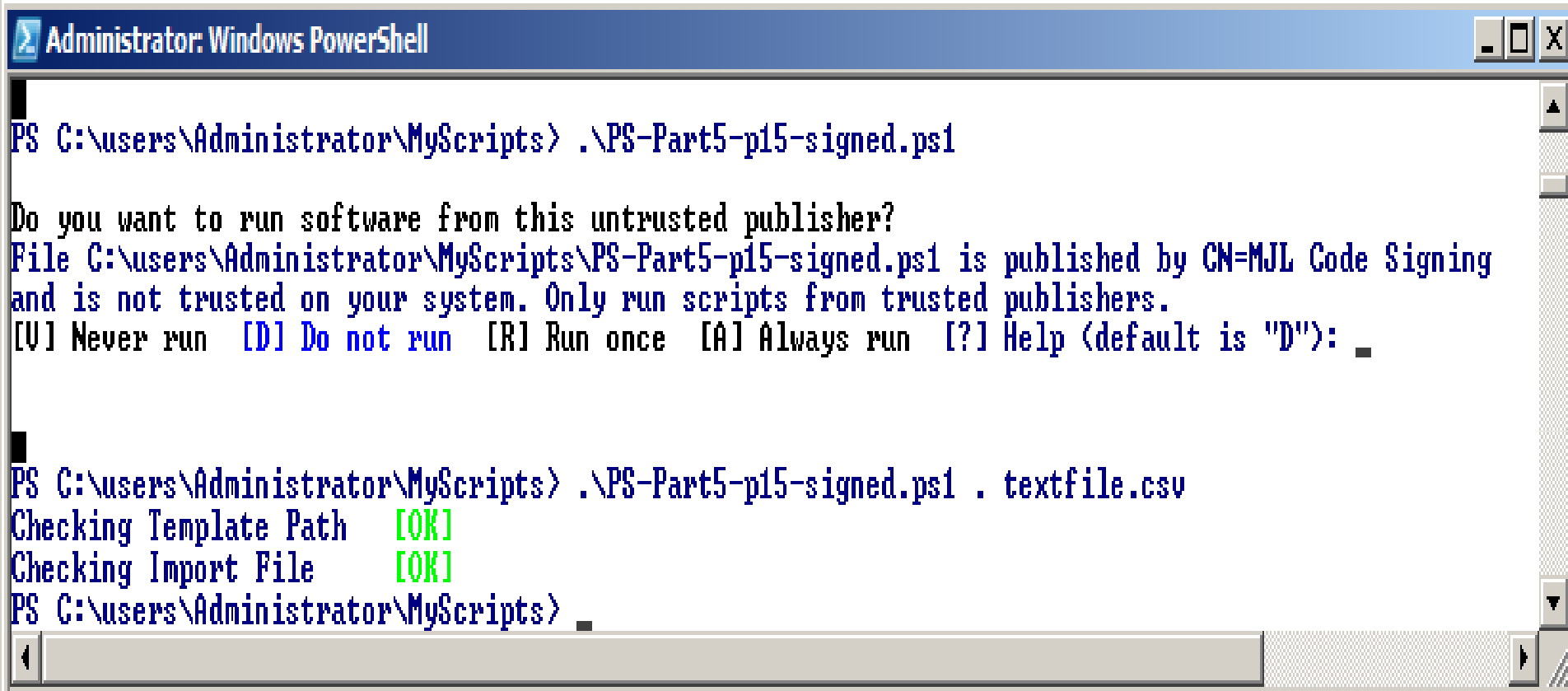
**Certificate Import Wizard**

The import was successful.

Button: OK



10. Now go back to PowerShell and attempt to rerun the digitally signed script. You will see the following message appear. Click A to always run scripts with this digital certificate, subsequent runs will not issue this prompt. Clicking the A option places the publisher's certificate in the Trusted Publisher's certificate store. Also, the root CA's certificate is placed in the Trusted Root Certification Authorities certificate store, if it isn't already there.



```
Administrator: Windows PowerShell
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1
Do you want to run software from this untrusted publisher?
File C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1 is published by CN=MJL Code Signing
and is not trusted on your system. Only run scripts from trusted publishers.
[U] Never run [D] Do not run [R] Run once [A] Always run [?] Help (default is "D"):
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts> .\PS-Part5-p15-signed.ps1 . textfile.csv
Checking Template Path [OK]
Checking Import File [OK]
PS C:\users\Administrator\MyScripts>
```

