

PIV Certificate Validator Tool

The *PIV Certificate Validator* (<https://pv.test.max.gov/>) is a utility on OMB's Max.gov portal. It serves two (2) essential purposes in assisting those troubleshooting the operational readiness of an HSPD-12 Credential (or PIV Card):

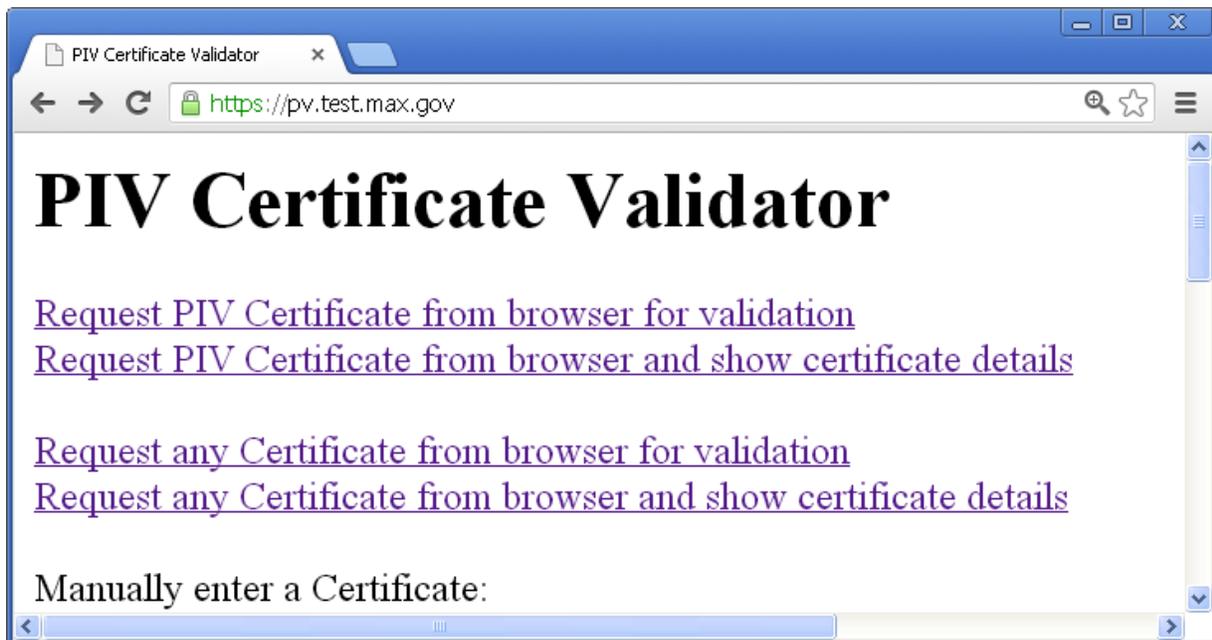
1. Determine if the PKI Certificates on a person's HSPD-12 Credential are valid (i.e., not revoked and/or not expired). If the PKI Certificates are expired or revoked, the person will not be able to use the HSPD-12 Credential to logon to a computer, access online applications, or sign electronic forms and email.
2. Ascertain if the HSPD-12 Credential is functionally capable of being used to logon to a computer or access an online application. To accomplish the validation of PKI Certificates (item 1 above), the person is actually performing an authentication using their HSPD-12 Credential. Failure to generate a result using the *PIV Certificate Validator* is an indication that the HSPD-12 credential is faulty.

How to use *PIV Certificate Validator*

The utility works best using Chrome browser, which is recommended in the guidance on the OMB max portal site. Internet Explorer can be used, but strange behavior may be encountered. This document demonstrates the utility using Chrome.

The *PIV Certificate Validator* offers several items to choose. This paper will only focus on the first item *Request PIV Certificate from browser for validation*. This option requires the credential holder to be present, because they will:

1. Have to insert their HSPD-12 Credential into the smart card reader
2. Enter their HSPD-12 PIN when prompted



Process when HSPD-12 Credential and Credential Holder is Present

1. Insert HSPD-12 Credential into smart card reader
2. Using Chrome,
 - a. go to <https://pv.test.max.gov>
 - b. Select the first item, *Request PIV Certificate from browser for validation*

3. There will be two named entries for the card holder and they will look the same. Select one and click OK.

4. When prompted, card holder must enter their HSPD-12 PIN



5. The result will display (see Figures below) within 30-40 seconds. The content circled in red in the Figures below distinguishes between PIV Authentication Certificate and the Digital Signature Certificate.
 - a. The PIV Authentication Certificate is the most important one to check validity. This certificate must be valid to 1) be a legitimate PIV Card and 2) for logon to computer to be successful
 - b. The Digital Signature certificate is used for signing electronic mail and documents.

Figure 1: PIV Authentication Certificate

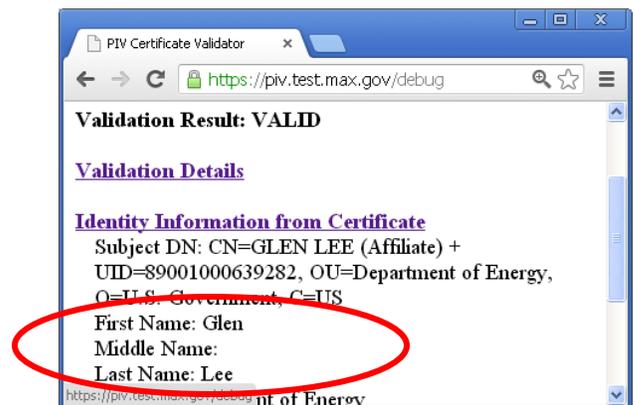


Figure 2: Digital Signature Certificate



6. Verify that the result is for the card holder by clicking on the *Identity Information from Certificate* link.
 - a. Locate the *Name* fields and verify the name matches the card holder.
 - b. If the name does not match, close the browser completely, remove card from the reader, and repeat the process.

7. Close the browser completely, remove the card from the reader and repeat the process for the other PKI certificate



PIV Authentication Certificate: Results & Analysis

The PIV Authentication Certificate is identified by looking for **PIV Certificate Type: Authentication**

Without a valid PIV Authentication Certificate, the HSPD-12 Credential is technically not a valid credential and must be replaced.



Valid

A validation result of "VALID" indicates:

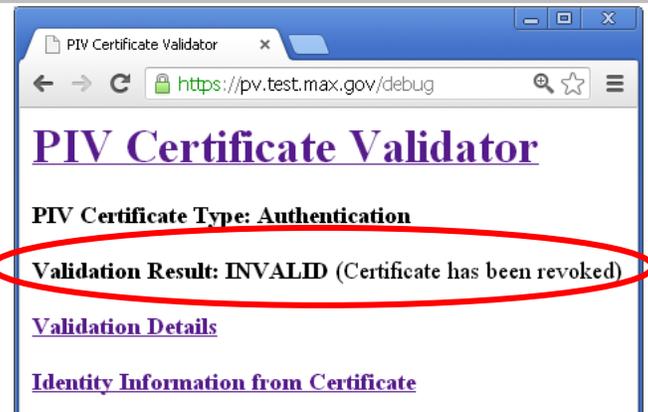
- The PIV Authentication Certificate on the HSPD-12 Credential is valid
- The HSPD-12 Credential is functional for logon to a computer or access to an online website



Revoked

A validation result of "INVALID (Certificate has been revoked)" indicates:

- A process or event within USAccess caused the revocation of the PIV Authentication Certificate
- A revoked PKI Certificate requires the HSPD-12 Credential to be replaced
- A person is unable to use their HSPD-12 Credential for logon to a computer or access to a website



Expired

A validation result of "INVALID (Certificate is expired)" indicates:

- The person failed to update their HSPD-12 Credential prior to the PIV Authentication Certificate expiring.
- An expired PKI Certificate requires the HSPD-12 Credential to be replaced
- A person is unable to use their HSPD-12 Credential for logon to a computer or access to a website

