



Digital Alert Systems Releases New Digital Certificate Bundle to Replace Expiring FEMA IPAWS Certificates

DASDEC and One-Net Users Must Apply Free Certificate Update Before April 14 to Maintain Proper Operation

LYNDONVILLE, N.Y. — Jan. 31, 2024 — Digital Alert Systems, the global leader in emergency communications solutions for video services providers, today announced the availability of a necessary update of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) digital certificates used to authenticate messaging from the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

The company has released updated IPAWS Certificate Authority (CA) credentials for the DASDEC™ and One-Net™ series of Emergency Alert System/Common Alerting Protocol (EAS/CAP) encoder/decoders to replace the current certification chain that expires on April 14.

This is a free update for all U.S. DASDEC and One-Net users. The new certificate is fully functional right now, so customers are advised to replace the existing certificate to ensure the required message authentication continues to operate correctly. Digital Alert Systems reminds all EAS participants that the FCC requires them to “configure their systems to reject all CAP-formatted EAS messages that include an invalid digital signature.”

“We teamed up with FEMA and have fully tested this new certificate to ensure current and future compatibility, so customers can begin loading it right now,” said Adam Jones, senior sales engineer for Digital Alert Systems. “We appreciate FEMA getting these out so quickly, and our customers will be pleased to know this new certificate is good until March of 2031! No additional software update is required for this new certificate, and, of course, there is no cost to our customers.”

The new certificates will also be packaged with the forthcoming DASDEC V5.3 release, so customers planning to update to that version can wait and get their certificates then if they wish, as long as they do it before April 14.

FEMA uses digital certificates to create a chain of trust between an EAS device and the IPAWS servers. Publicly trusted certificate authorities issue digital certificates. The DASDEC and One-Net EAS/CAP devices use these digital certificates to validate the authenticity of IPAWS-sourced CAP alerts. In this case, the old CA is changing, requiring the new CA to publish replacement certificates.

All DASDEC and One-Net customers using the IPAWS system must have the latest certificates in place so that the devices only process messages authenticated through IPAWS. Users not updating their equipment before April 14 could see this error message: “Event Log: Digital Signature VERIFICATION ERROR: Signer UNTRUSTED! Check for correct CAP decoder CA file.” Alternatively, the device might simply ignore valid IPAWS alerts.

The new field service bulletin and CA file are now available from the Digital Alert Systems website at www.digitalalertsystems.com/alerting-authorities-digital-certs. DASDEC and One-Net customers should go to the website, download the field service bulletin for instructions, and link to the new CA file.

Further information about Digital Alert Systems and its products is available at www.digitalalertsystems.com.

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About Digital Alert Systems

Digital Alert Systems is the leading innovator of next-generation Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) for radio and television broadcasters. In 2009, Digital Alert Systems merged with Monroe Electronics, whose EAS products are the widely accepted standard for CATV. From its headquarters in Lyndonville, New York, Digital Alert Systems provides R&D, manufacturing, sales, and customer service for all Digital Alert Systems and Monroe Electronics One-Net™ brands and maintains its hard-earned reputation for quality, reliability, and service to valued customers around the world.

More information is available at www.digitalalertsystems.com.

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Link to Word Doc: www.wallstcom.com/DAS/240131-Digital_Alert_Systems-New_FEMA_IPAWS.docx

Photo Link:

www.wallstcom.com/DAS/DAS_logo-2D-blue_black-2019.png

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Photo Caption: Digital Alert Systems updates IPAWS Certificate Authority credentials for the DASDEC™ and One-Net™ series to replace certification that expires April 14.

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