



# **An Overview: US Shared Service Provider Program**

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# What and Why is the Shared Service Provider Program

- **What:** A program for evaluating and approving commercial PKI services providers to issue digital certificates under the government's Common Policy Framework CP – the US Gov. Trust Root
- **Why:** To provide digital certificates that satisfy the requirements of HSPD-12 and its enabling NIST requirements to agencies that do not already have operational PKIs that are cross-certified with the Federal PKI.

# Mandate

- Per OMB, any Federal entity (agency, etc.) that does not already have an operational PKI cross-certified with the Federal PKI **MUST** acquire PKI services from an approved Shared Service Provider to satisfy the requirements of HSPD-12 and its enabling NIST requirements.

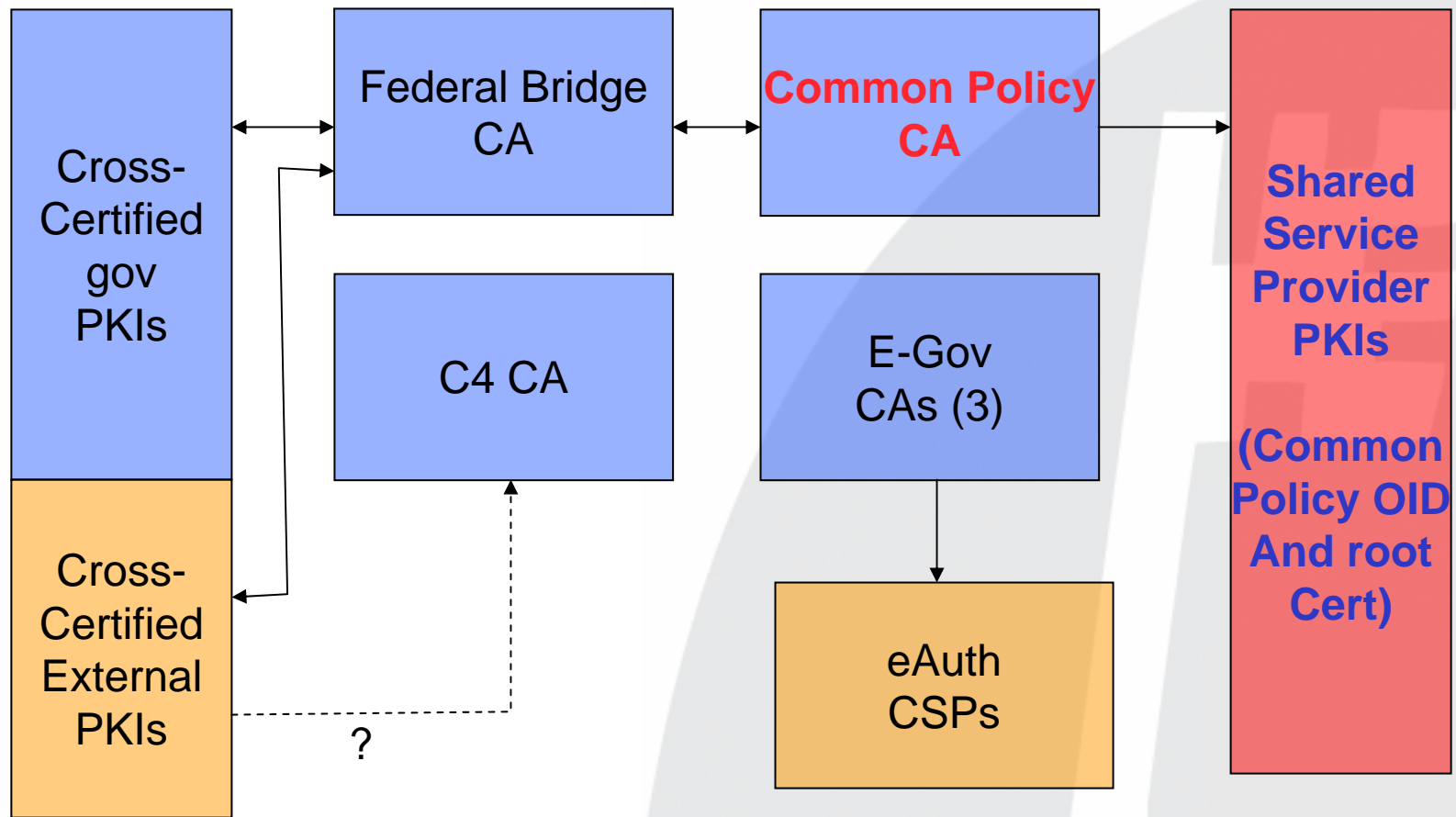
# What Shared Service Providers Provide

- Properly qualified provider of PKI services for government agencies
  - Certificate issuance services
  - Additional services optional (card mgt, etc.)
- Agencies must stand up their own Registration services and institute policies, procedures and audits of the service
  - May be outsourced, but then Agency is responsible for oversight

# Organization-Specific Tailoring

- Each agency/administration has the capability to customize its implementations
  - Within the Common Certificate Policy and Policy Authority (PA) approved CPS/RPS
  - Certificate profiles
  - Technology implementations

# SSPs' Place in Federal PKI



# Process for Becoming an SSP

- **Submit** Initial Application
- **Review** candidate's *CPS* against Common Policy CP
- **Operational Capability Demonstration** (certs/keys on cards, registration, revocation, renewal, etc.)
- **Submit Compliance Audit** of operations by qualified, independent, third party auditor
- **Certification and Accreditation**
- After successful completion of all steps, the vendor is added to the Qualified Bidders List and maybe to a GSA BPA.

# Who Are They?

- Currently-approved SSPs:
  - VeriSign
  - CyberTrust
  - Operational Research Consultants
  - National Finance Center/USDA



# Resources

- [http://www.cio.gov/ficc/ssp\\_documents.htm](http://www.cio.gov/ficc/ssp_documents.htm)
- <http://csrc.nist.gov>

# Questions/Discussion

