



Operating System

Automatic Certificate Request for Computers

Beta 3 Technical Walkthrough

Abstract

This technical walkthrough guides you through the series of steps that use the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) Group Policy snap-in to configure automatic certificate requests for computers in a Microsoft® Windows® 2000 domain.

Certificates are issued to a computer for use with public-key security-system services and applications. For example, Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) can use certificates to authenticate and communicate securely with remote computers.

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INTRODUCTION

This technical walkthrough guides you through the series of steps that use the Microsoft Management Console (MMC) Group Policy snapin to configure automatic certificate requests for computers in a Microsoft Windows® 2000 domain.

Certificates are issued to a computer for use with public-key security-system services and applications. For example, Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) can use certificates to authenticate and communicate securely with remote computers. Automatic certificate requests for computers allow the administrator to request certificates from Windows 2000 Certification Authorities running Enterprise policy for all computers in a domain or Organizational Unit (OU) from a single point.

Prerequisites

This technical walkthrough assumes the following environment:

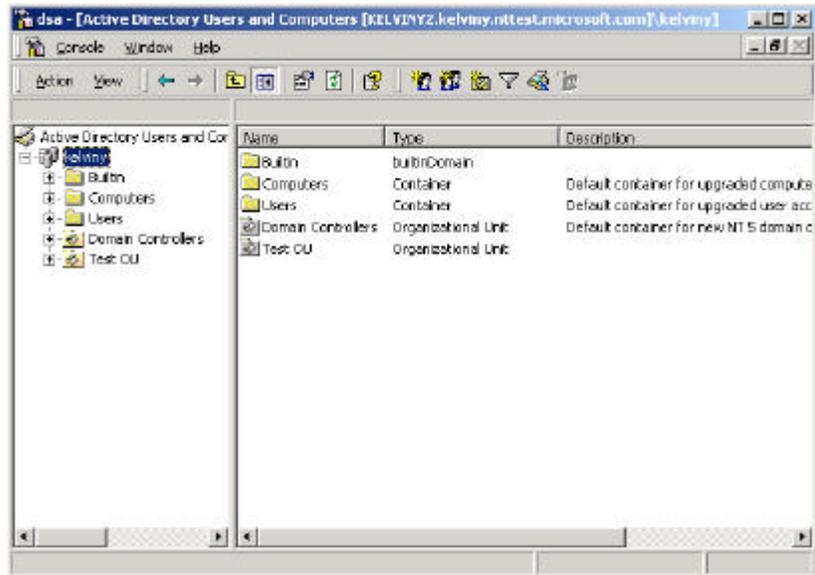
- You have installed Windows 2000 build 1943 or later in a Windows 2000 domain.
- You are a domain administrator or the administrator of the local computer.
- You are running this walkthrough on a domain controller.
- There is a Windows 2000 Certification Authority running Enterprise policy in the domain.

SETTING UP AN AUTOMATIC CERTIFICATE REQUEST FOR COMPUTERS

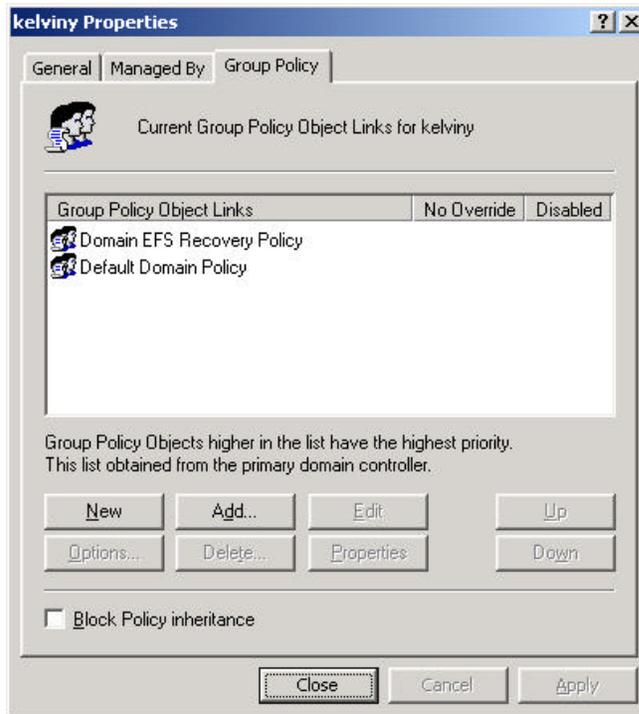
In this example you will create automatic certificate requests in the default Group Policy Object (GPO) using the Group Policy snap-in.

To create automatic certificate requests

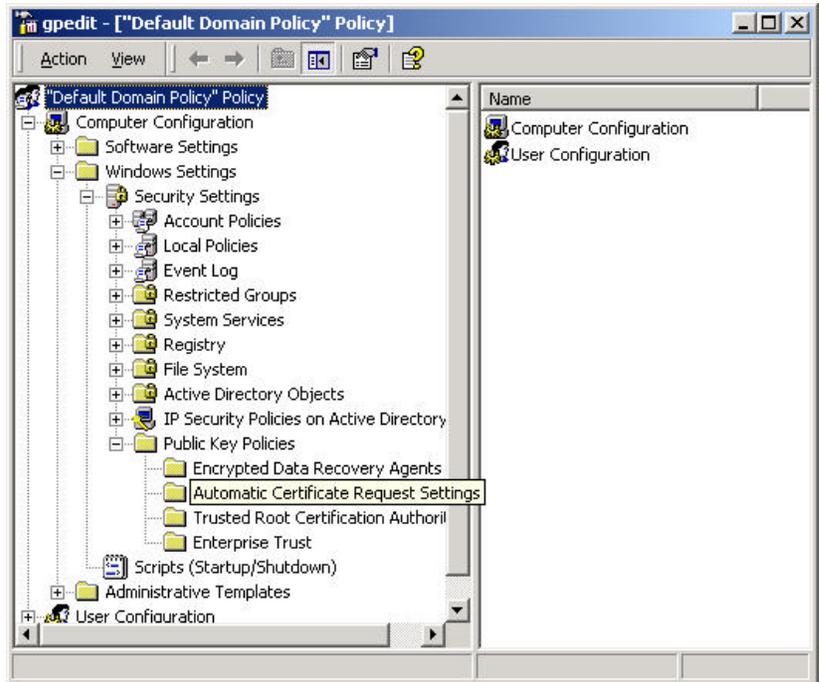
1. Start the Active Directory™ directory service Users and Computers snap-in.



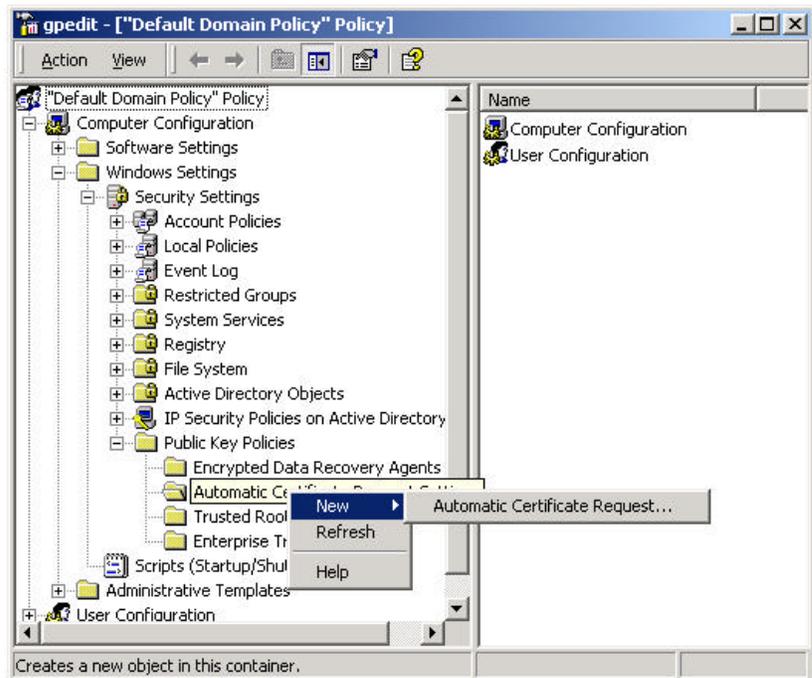
2. Right-click the **kelviny** domain node, and click **Properties** to start the properties dialog box.



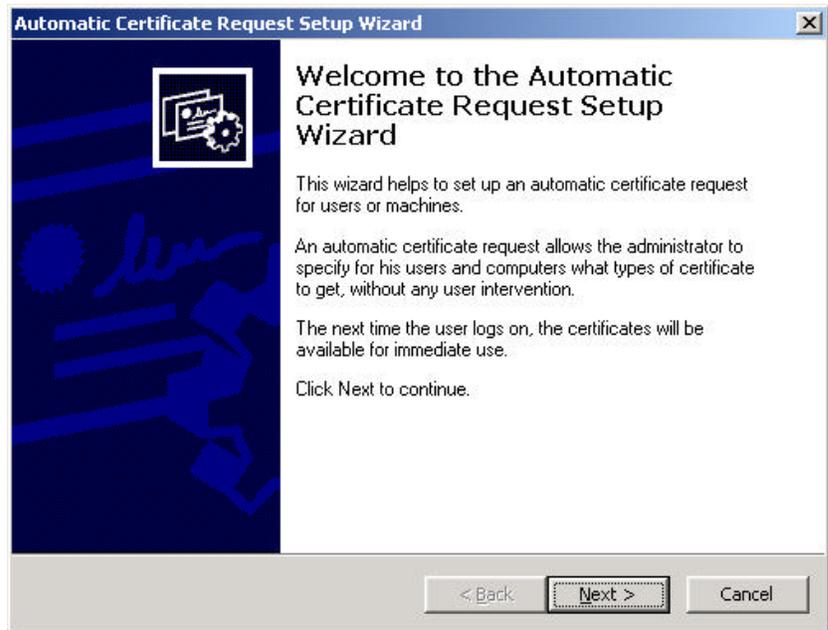
3. By default, Windows 2000 creates two Group Policy Objects for the domain. Select the **Default Domain Policy GPO** and click **Edit**. This starts the Group Policy snap-in.
4. Expand the node hierarchy and locate the **Automatic Certificate Requests** node under **Computer Configuration**



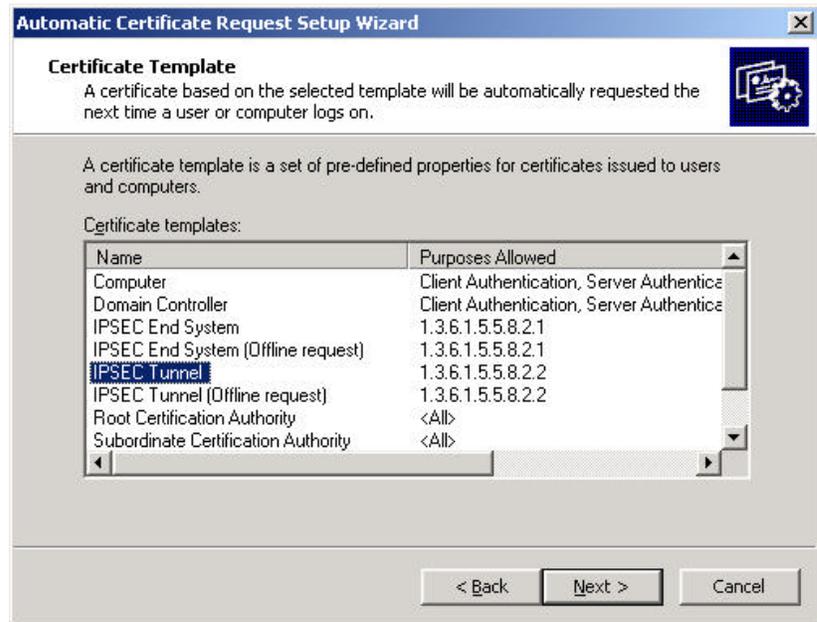
5. Right-click the **Automatic Certificate Request Settings** node.



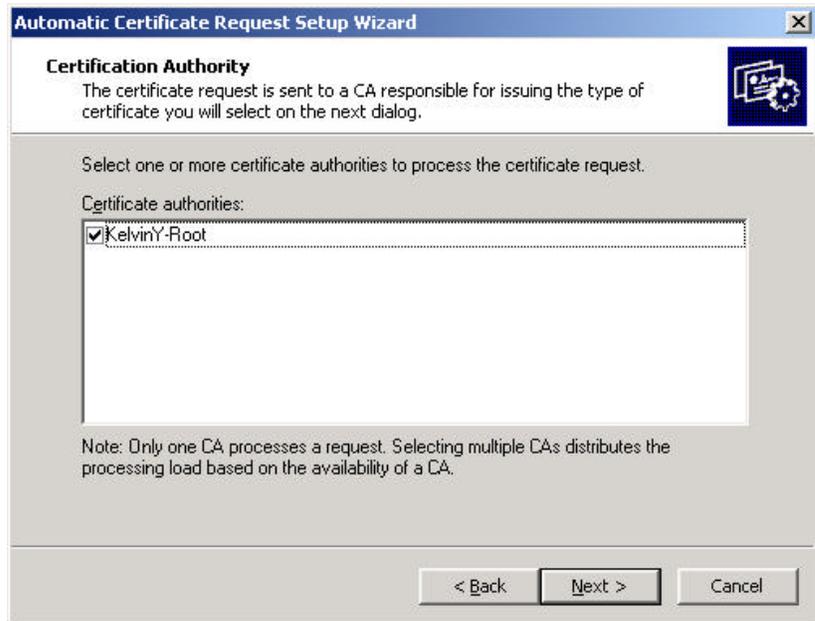
6. On the **New** menu, click **Automatic Certificate Request** and then click **Next**.



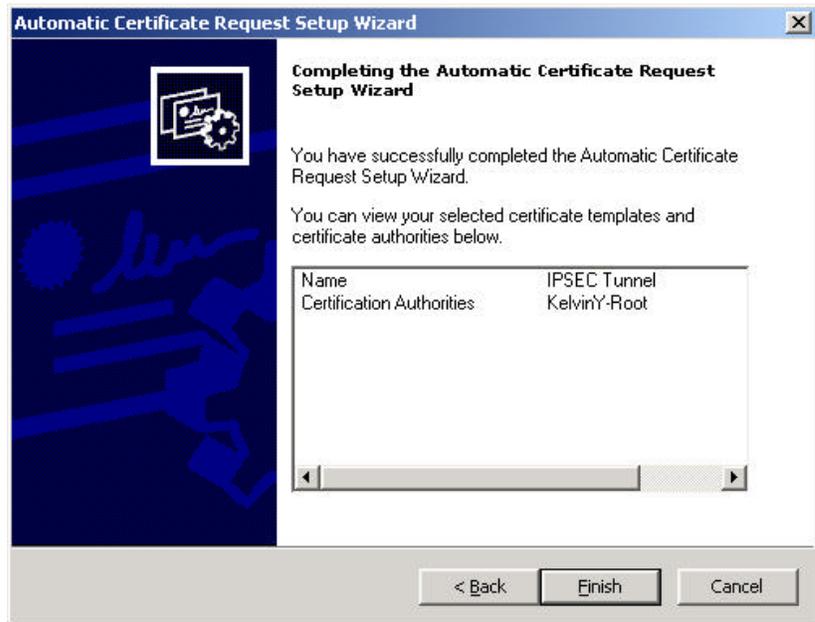
7. Select the certificate template to use in the request. In this example, you should select **Computer**.



8. Select the certification authorities (CA) on the Windows2000 domain to send the certificate request. In this example there is only one CA available on the domain. An enterprise may have more than one CA. Note that CAs not running Enterprise policy will not appear on this list. Click **Next**.



9. Click **Finish** to create the automatic certificate request. The request for the certificate will take place when the GPO refreshed on the client.

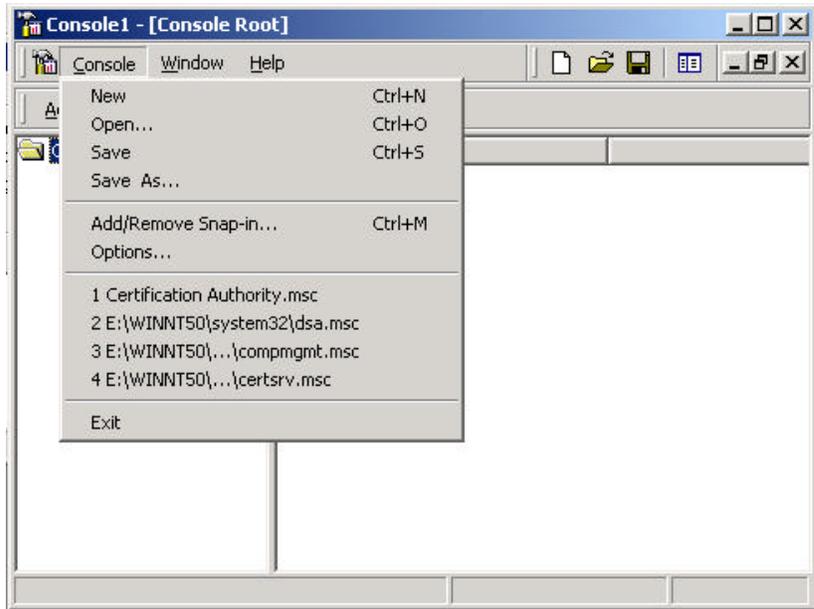


Viewing a Certificate's Store

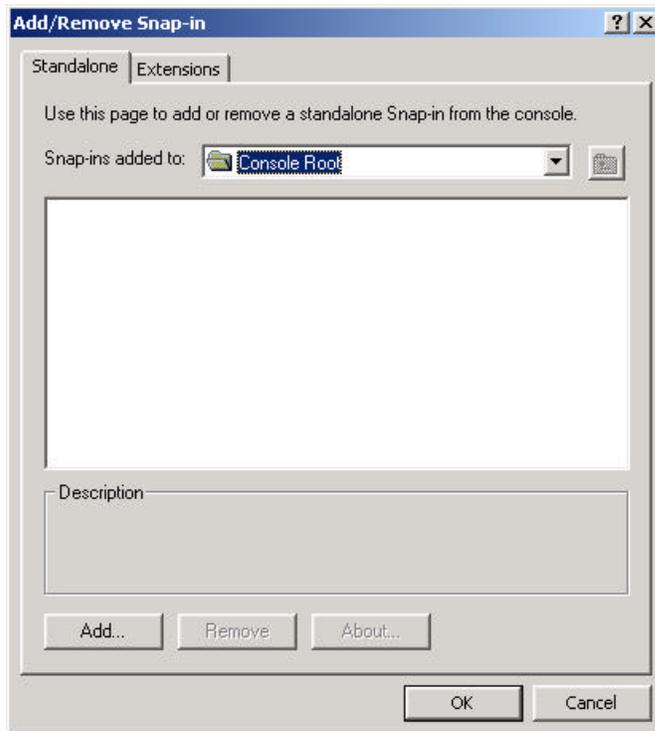
To verify that a certificate has been issued for the computers in the domain, you can use the Certificates snapin to view a computer's certificate store.

To view a certificate store

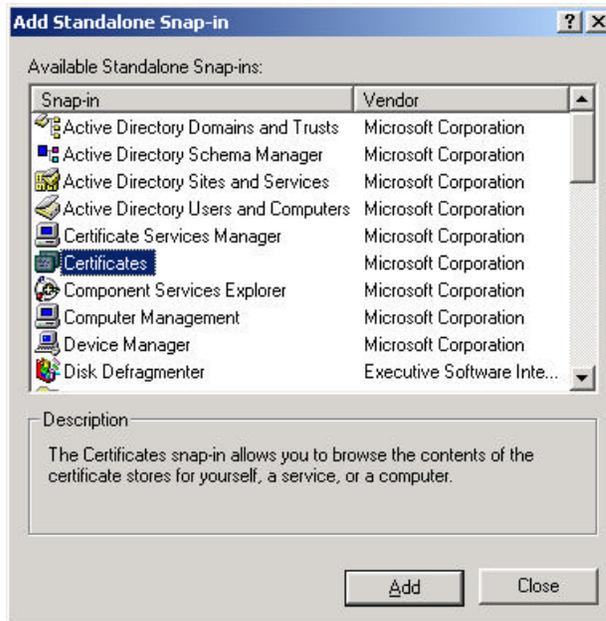
1. Start the Microsoft Management Console (mmc.exe) by clicking **Run** on the **Start** menu. Then type in *mmc.exe* and click **OK**.



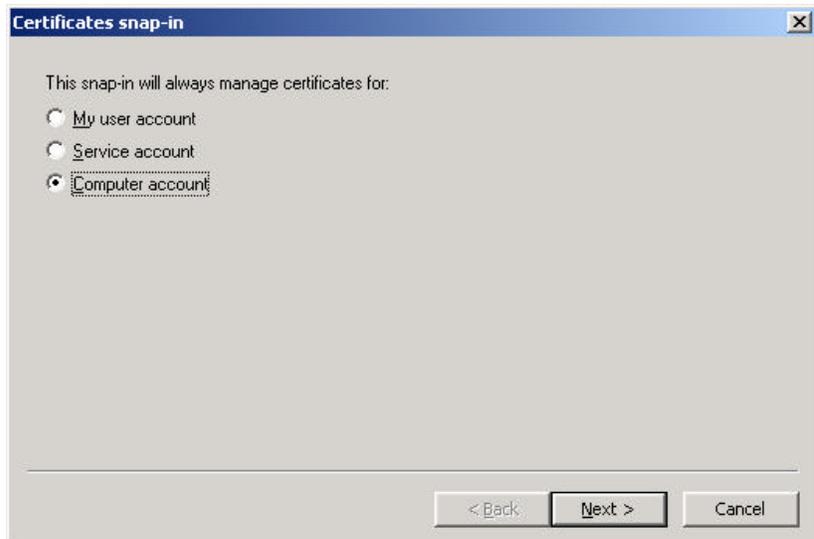
2. On the **Console** menu, click **Add/Remove Snap-in**.



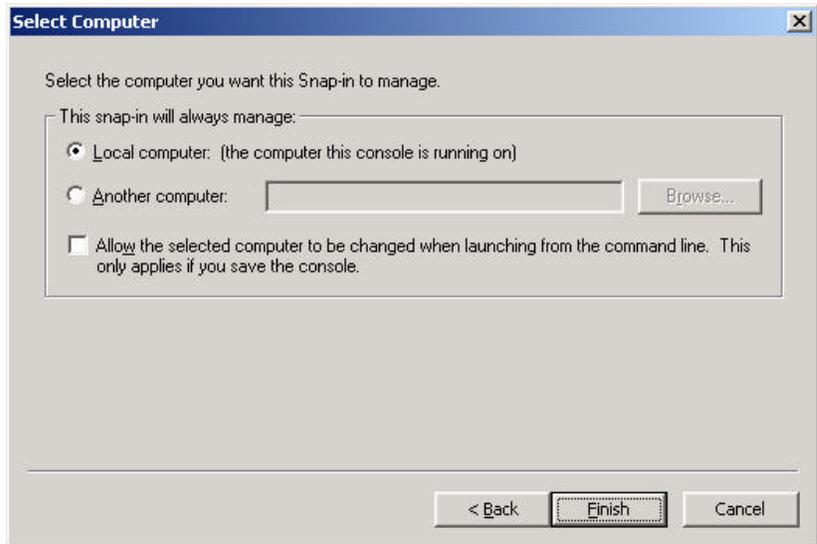
3. Click **Add** to select a snap-in.



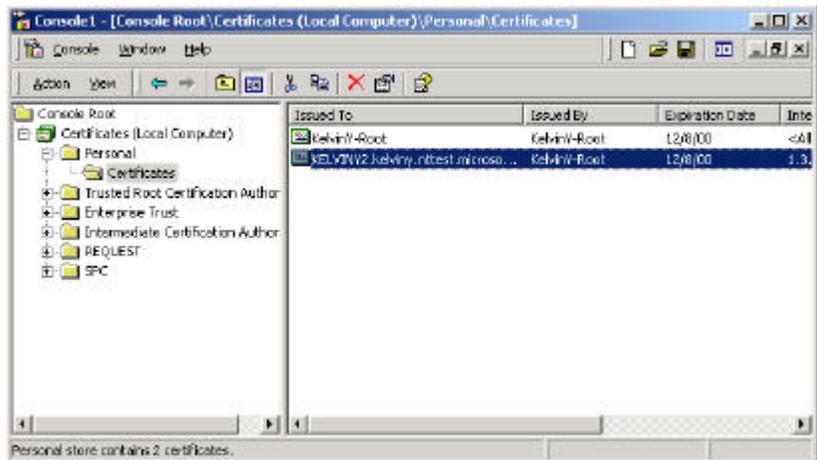
4. Click **Certificates** to add the Certificates snapin.



5. Select **Computer account** to manage certificates for a computer. Click **Next** to continue.



6. Select the computer by typing the name of the computer. Click **Finish** to continue.
7. Expand the hierarchy on the left side.



8. The certificate with the intended purpose 1.3.6.1.5.5.8.2.2 (IPSec Tunnel) is the certificate that was automatically requested by the computer and issued by the Enterprise Certification Authority. Doubleclick the certificate to view it in details.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the latest information on Microsoft Windows2000 network operating system, visit our World Wide Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/server/> and the Windows NT Server Forum on the Microsoft Network (GO WORD: MSNTS).

For the latest information on the Windows2000 Beta 3, visit the World Wide Web site at <http://ntbeta.microsoft.com/>.

Before You Call for Support

Please keep in mind that Microsoft does not support these walkthroughs. The purpose of the walkthroughs is to facilitate your initial evaluation of the Microsoft Windows 2000 features. For this reason, Microsoft cannot respond to questions you might have regarding specific steps and instructions.

Reporting Problems

Problems with Microsoft Windows 2000 Beta 3 should be reported via the appropriate bug reporting channel and alias. Please make sure to adequately describe the problem so that the testers and developers can reproduce it and fix it. Refer to the Release Notes included on the Windows 2000 Beta 3 distribution media for some of the known issues.