

SWITCHpki: Strategic Outlook

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SWITCH

Serving Swiss Universities

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Strategic Goals

- Operation of a PKI infrastructure for server certificates, which is
 - first choice for inter-institutional PKI for our partners
 - first choice for universities, that do not want to operate a PKI on their own
- Operation of a PKI infrastructure for client certificates, which
 - satisfies the needs of user groups that are located in several universities
 - is focuses on a specific strategic domain (e.g. Grid)
- Participation in a few PKI pilot projects, which
 - involve several universities
 - may be relevant for future development of SWITCHpki

Strategic Means

- Co-operation with one (or more) commercial CAs,
 - which offer “high quality” service to their clients
 - whose trust anchors are widely distributed
 - which are well established in the commercial world
 - which allow to specifically adapt the issuance of certificates to our needs
 - with whom we aim to have a long lasting business relationship
 - Consequence: “high value” certificates - not free of charge
- Partnership with universities
 - SWITCH only provides the services that are requested from the universities
 - universities have option to act as a fully autonomous RA (“RA bulk”)
- International representation for Swiss universities
 - EU Grid PMA / IGTF
 - Terena (SCS)