


## Subject: How Method 1 domain validation works for OV and EV certificates (BR 3.2.2.4.1)

There has been a lot of confusion in some posts about how CAs follow domain validation Method 1 when issuing OV and EV certificates – Whois lookup (BR 3.2.2.4.1), and whether or not it is secure. Here is how Method 1 can be done for retail customers, in this case for the example of “Geoff Keating” of “Apple” ordering an OV certificate for apple.com (apologies to Geoff).

Step 1: Customer completes online certificate request for an OV certificate, inputting the following data:

Org. Name:	Apple, Inc.
Address:	1 Infinity Loop, Cupertino, CA 95014
Domain Requested:	apple.com
Applicant Technical Contact:	Geoff Keating
Applicant Authorization Contact:	Curt Spann
App. Rep. Phone No.	xxx-xxx-xxxx [this phone number is not used for vetting purposes]
App. Rep. Email	<a href="mailto:name@xxx.com">name@xxx.com</a> [this address is not used for vetting purposes]

Step 2: Vetting team looks up Applicant name “Apple, Inc.” in D&B / Hoover’s online business data website, and finds the following data:



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## Apple Inc.

1 Infinite Loop  
Cupertino, California, 95014-2083  
United States

Tel:    408-996-1010  
Fax:    408-974-2483  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

Step 3: Vetting team looks up Whois information for apple.com, and finds the following data:

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Queried whois.corporatedomains.com with "apple.com"...

Domain Name: apple.com
Registry Domain ID: 1225976_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.corporatedomains.com
Registrar URL: www.cscprotectsbrands.com
Updated Date: 2017-07-06T03:10:21Z
Creation Date: 1987-02-19T05:00:00Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2021-02-20T05:00:00Z
Registrar: CSC CORPORATE DOMAINS, INC.
Registrar IANA ID: 299
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: domainabuse@cscglobal.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.8887802723
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited http://www.icann.org/e
Registry Registrant ID:
Registrant Name: Domain Administrator
Registrant Organization: Apple Inc.
Registrant Street: 1 Infinite Loop
Registrant City: Cupertino
Registrant State/Province: CA
Registrant Postal Code: 95014
Registrant Country: US
Registrant Phone: +1.4089961010
Registrant Phone Ext:
Registrant Fax: +1.4089741560
Registrant Fax Ext:
Registrant Email: domains@apple.com
Registry Admin ID:
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Step 4: Vetting team confirms the record for the Applicant “Apple, Inc.” in D&B / Hoover’s matches the Registrant for apple.com in Whois. They match both the name and the address.

Step 5: Vetting team calls the Applicant Authorization Contact, Curt Spann, using the phone number shown in the D&B/Hoover’s record for Apple, Inc. found in Step 2 – 408-996-1010.

If the vetting team \*can’t\* reach “Curt Spann” through the phone number, the order is stopped and no certificate is issued. The vetting team may look for other permitted methods to confirm Curt Spann’s authority to order a cert for Apple, Inc., such as mailing or delivering an authorization form to him at the company address found in the Step 2 D&B/Hoover’s record and including a shared secret he must return to the vetting team.

If the vetting team \*can\* reach Curt Spann through the phone number found in D&B/Hoover’s, 408-996-1010, the team asks him to identify himself and confirm that the order for an OV certificate for apple.com and organization name Apple, Inc. was submitted by Geoff Keating, is valid, and should be issued. If he says yes, his authority has been confirmed and the order can proceed after additional high risk and anti-fraud testing. The OV certificate would include the following confirmed data for the Applicant:

- O = Apple, Inc.
- L = Cupertino
- S = California
- C = US
- CN = apple.com

This Method 1 has been used successfully for 20 years by CAs around the world, with no reported cases of misissuance so far as I know. While it is a manual process, it includes safeguards that are not found with totally automated domain validation, confirms the domain owner’s identity as well as ownership of the requested domain, and is preferred by many enterprise website owners with hundreds of domains and certificates in many cases.