

Digitally signing emails

This document is an extract from the book *Ecommerce - Legal Issues* authored by Rohas Nagpal. This book is available as courseware for the **Diploma in Cyber Law** and **PG Program in Cyber Law** conducted by Asian School of Cyber Laws



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6. Digitally signing emails

This chapter serves as a step by step guide for digitally signing emails using Microsoft Outlook (version 2003 is used in this chapter). The basic steps are as under:

1. Configure your email account using Microsoft Outlook. The exact information to be entered (such as server details etc) would depend upon the email service used by you. The image below illustrates the basic configuration for a gmail account.



E-mail Accounts

Internet E-mail Settings (POP3)
Each of these settings are required to get your e-mail account working.

User Information	Server Information
Your Name: <input type="text" value="Sanya Nagpal"/>	Incoming mail server (POP3): <input type="text" value="pop.gmail.com"/>
E-mail Address: <input type="text" value="sanyanagpal@gmail.com"/>	Outgoing mail server (SMTP): <input type="text" value="smtp.gmail.com"/>

Logon Information	Test Settings
User Name: <input type="text" value="sanyanagpal@gmail.com"/>	After filling out the information on this screen, we recommend you test your account by clicking the button below. (Requires network connection)
Password: <input type="password"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remember password	<input type="button" value="Test Account Settings ..."/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Log on using Secure Password Authentication (SPA)	<input type="button" value="More Settings ..."/>

< Back Next > Cancel

Internet E-mail Settings

General **Outgoing Server** Connection Advanced

My outgoing server (SMTP) requires authentication

Use same settings as my incoming mail server

Log on using

User Name:

Password:

Remember password

Log on using Secure Password Authentication (SPA)

Log on to incoming mail server before sending mail

OK Cancel

Internet E-mail Settings

General Outgoing Server Connection **Advanced**

Server Port Numbers

Incoming server (POP3):

This server requires an encrypted connection (SSL)

Outgoing server (SMTP):

This server requires an encrypted connection (SSL)

Server Timeouts

Short Long 1 minute

Delivery

Leave a copy of messages on the server

Remove from server after days

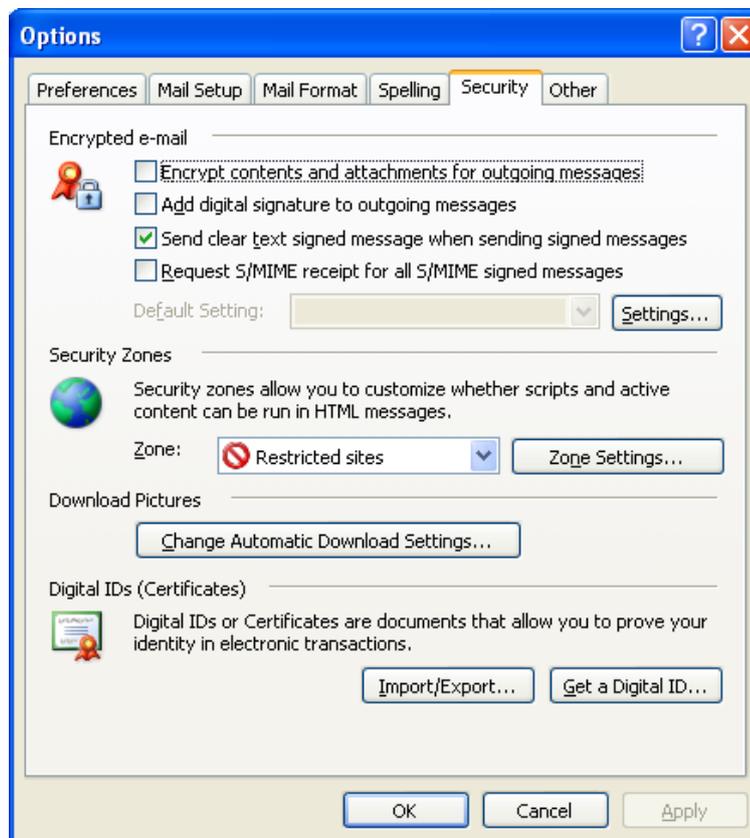
Remove from server when deleted from 'Deleted Items'

OK Cancel

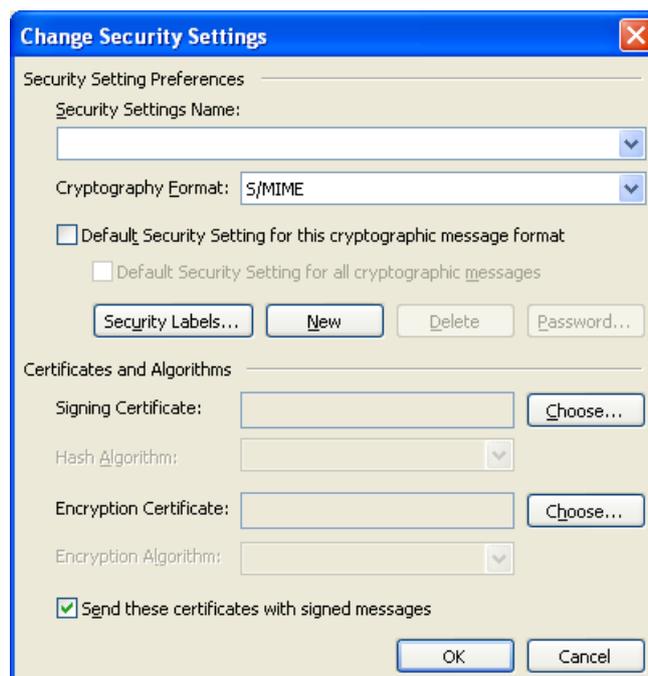


- Go to the **Tools** → **Options** → **Security** option of Microsoft Outlook.

The following screen opens up.

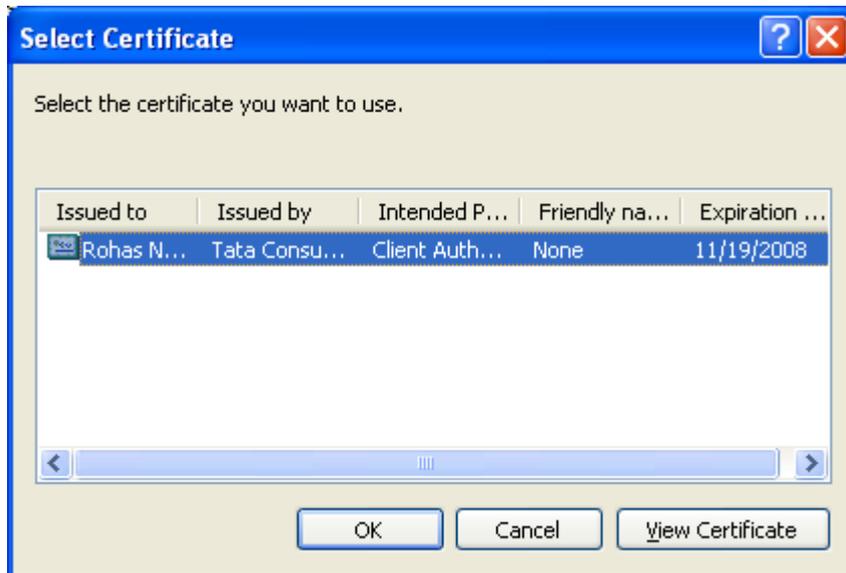


Check the “**Add Digital Signatures to outgoing messages**” option. Then click on “**Settings**”. The following screen will open up.



Click on the **“Choose”** button next to the **Signing Certificate** option. The following screen will open up.

Note: In this illustration we are going to use the digital signature certificate issued to Rohas Nagpal having the email ID rn@asianlaws.org



Click on **“OK”**. The following screen will open up.



Add a suitable title for the **Security Settings Name** (e.g. “Rohas Nagpal” in this case). Then click on **“OK”**.



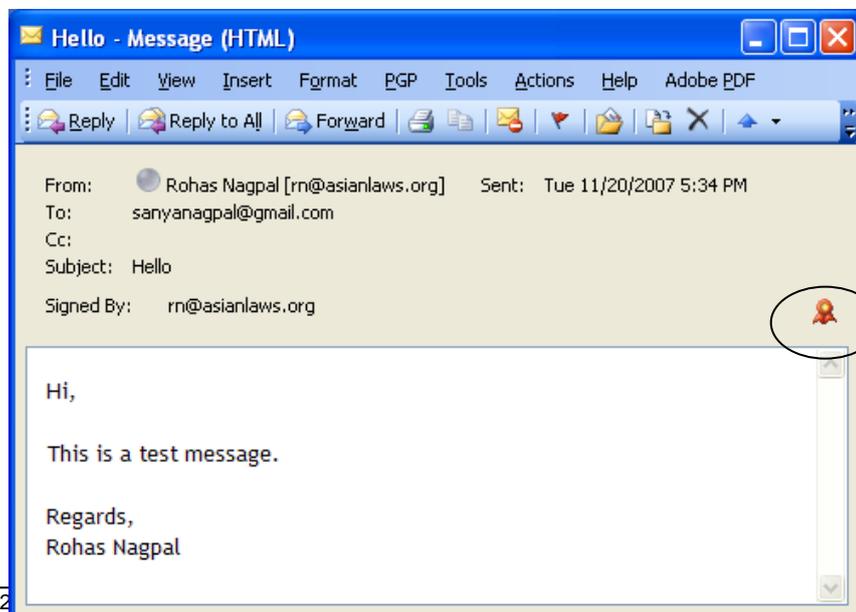
The following screen will open up.



Click on “**Apply**” and then click on “**OK**”.

Now compose and send an email. All emails sent using the rn@asianlaws.org account will be automatically signed. Let us presume that an email has been sent from rn@asianlaws.org to sanyanagpal@gmail.com

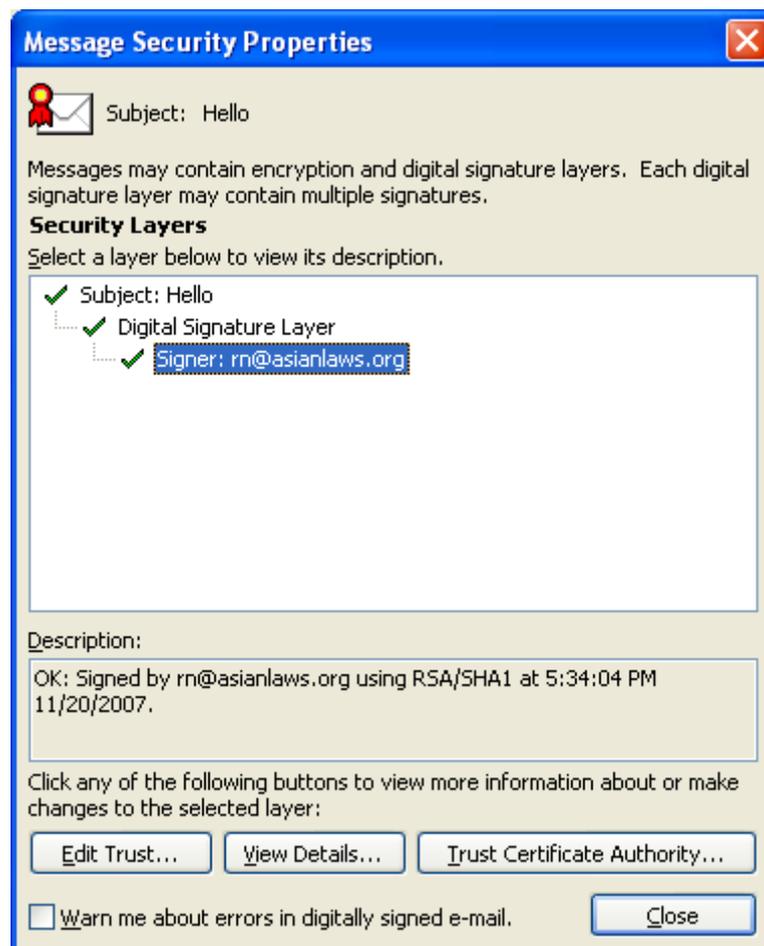
The sanyanagpal@gmail.com account is accessed by Sanya Nagpal using Microsoft Outlook. When Sanya received the digitally signed email from Rohas Nagpal, it will appear as under:



Notice the icon marked with a circle in the image above. Clicking on it opens up the following screen:

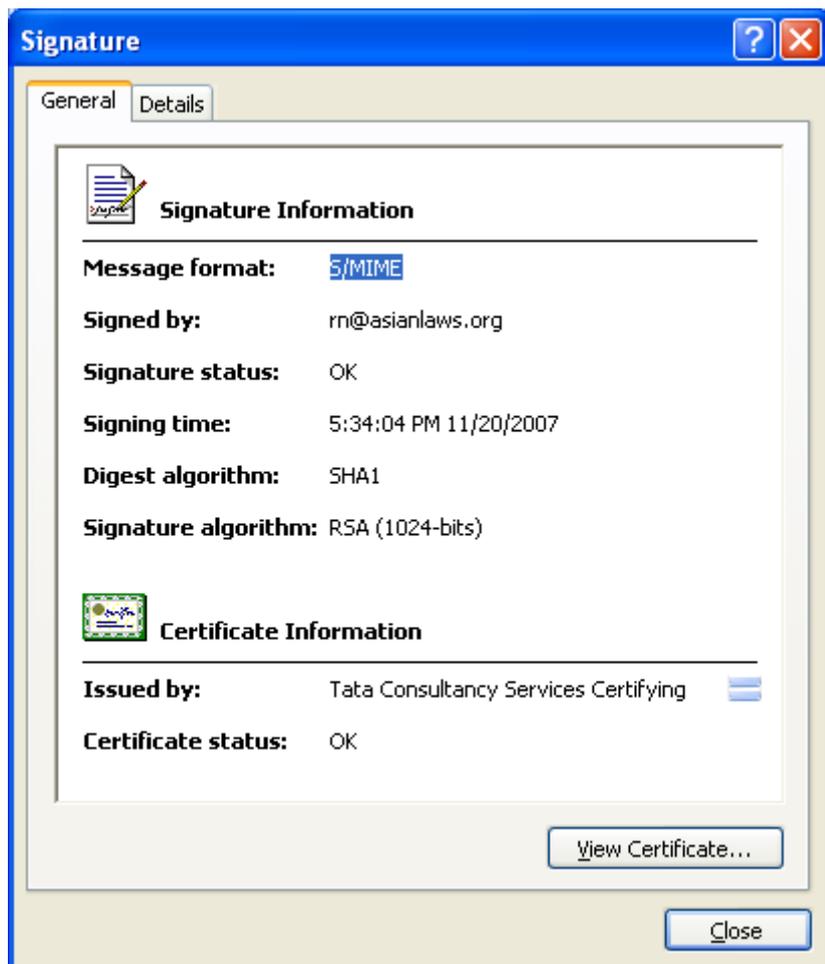


It is clearly stated that “**The digital signature on this message is Valid and Trusted**”. Clicking on the “**Details**” button opens up the following screen:





Clicking on “**View Details**” shows the relevant signature information as under:





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