We are pleased to introduce a new monthly communication from the InCommon Certificate Service. Each month we will highlight a frequently asked question from the list along with its corresponding response as well as added notes from our team as needed after vetting them. As subscribers to the service, you get the benefit of being a part of the InCommon community and drawing on its collective knowledge to get answers to your most pressing questions.

Please let us know if there is a question that you would like to see addressed in a future installment of The Latest from the List. In the meantime, keep the great dialogue going!

—Paul Caskey, Product Manager

Q: Is there a way to have renewals expire on the original date of the certificate request, and not a year from the day of the renewal request?
—Tom Misilo, Systems Administrator, Kansas State University

A: The maximum certificate lifetime is 398 days, so that plays into it. Also, there is nothing requiring an admin to use a cert all the way to its expiration date. In fact, it's much better to use the 398 day lifetime and plan to replace the cert at a fixed window of time each year.

There is another feature of the console you might want to explore. It's in the organization and department settings and is called "Synchronize Expiration Date." Turning it on lets you specify a day and optionally a month for aligning cert expirations on all certs issued from the Organization or Department. It's explained on [page 182 of the current admin guide](#).

—Ted Pham, Information Security Office, Carnegie Mellon University

(**NOTE:** Be careful about expiring all of your certificates at the same time as that may create an unwieldy workload of renewals. Unless you have automation, it might be best to stagger the expiration dates.)