

# How to download your iOS distribution certificate

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To be able to sign your app and let an external build tool like Microsoft AppCenter upload it to iTunes Connect, you need to provide two files:

- Certificate: iOS Distribution
- Provisioning Profile: App Store

Microsoft provides technical documentation on how to get the [code signing certificates](#) and how to [upload them to your build pipeline](#). I'll try to add more explanation and screenshots to make it easier to get both files. This blog is for the iOS distribution certificate.

## Distribution certificate

I need the correct distribution certificate for the provided provisioning certificate. The provisioning profile contains a list of "linked" distribution certificates. If yours is not in the list, you cannot use your certificate to sign the app.

## Get certificate

Log on to [Apple Developer Center](#). Select Certificates, IDs & Profiles from the left menu

I have several (3) certificates available.

Which one is it? When I created the provisioning profile, I added a distribution certificate. I only have one, so this is the certificate I need.

To be able to use the distribution certificate in an external tool like Microsoft AppCenter, I have to convert the certificate into a p12 file. To convert, you can import the certificate into Mac Key Toolchain, export cert and private key and save as p12.

### 1. Download the certificate

### 2. Check file

The downloaded cer file is named `ios_distribution.cer`. To see if this certificate is for distribution just read the content using `more`. It must contain the line `iPhone Distribution`.

```
more ios_distribution.cer
```

### **3. Import into keychain**

Open the certificate in MAC Keychain.

I also have the private key for that certificate.

### **4. Export**

Select the certificate and private key and export both. Save the file and provide a strong key phrase.

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Now I have my personal distribution certificate (Zertifikate.p12) and provisioning profile (.mobileprovision).