

Signature Invalidated in Microsoft Office 2007 When Certificate Expires

Technical Alert

No. 29

September 3, 2008

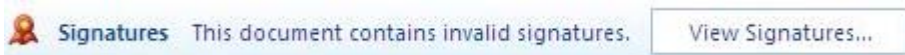
Product:

CoSign Digital Signatures or any other kind of digital signature in Microsoft Office 2007

Symptom:

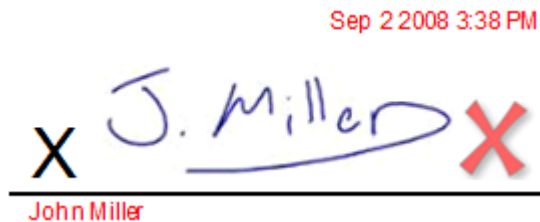
When trying to validate a digital signature in Microsoft Office 2007, the following message will display: "This document contains invalid signatures." In addition, the signature field will show as invalid.

Examples:

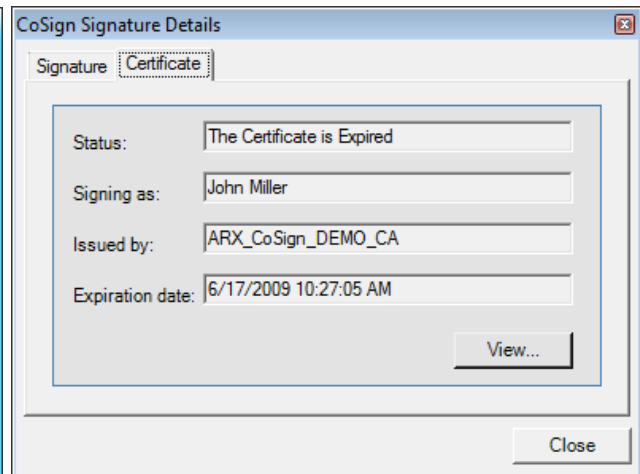
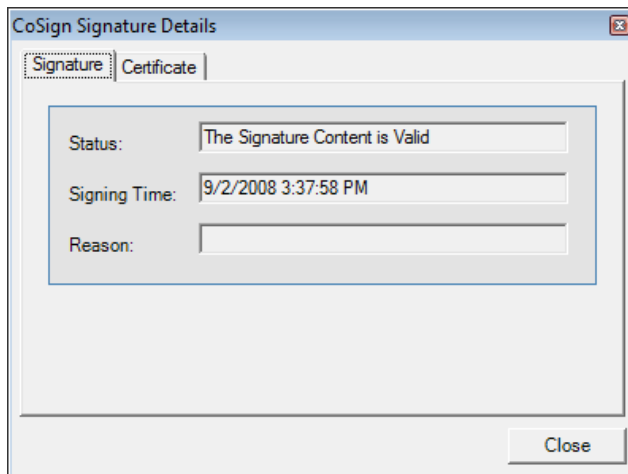


ARX CoSign Signatures Add-in for Office:

ARX Signature Field appearance:

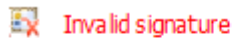


Signature Details:



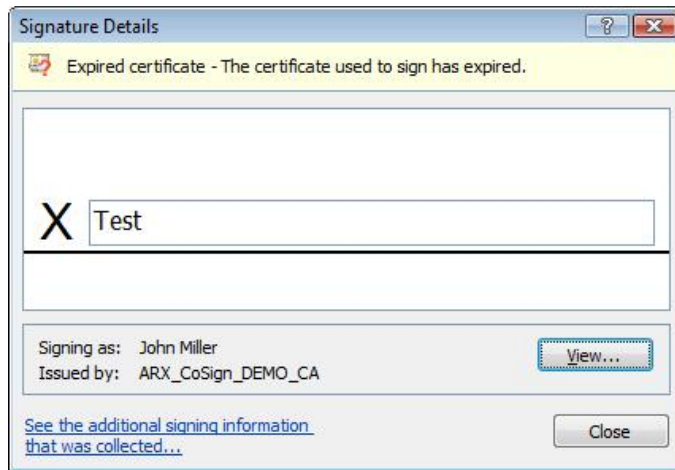
Microsoft Office Signature Line:

Microsoft Signature Field appearance:



X Test

Signature Details:



Description:

A digital signature becomes invalid in Microsoft Office 2007 when the certificate is expired, even when at the time of signing, the certificate was valid (even if the document has not been changed or modified). The users will encounter the following message when double-clicking to verify the signature: *"The Certificate is Expired"*. **Even though the status of the contact is valid.**

Reason:

This is a Microsoft Office 2007 implementation problem in the signature verification mechanism.

Resolution:

As it is only a display issue, you can enter the signature details and verify that the signature contact is indeed valid. Alternatively, you can upgrade your CoSign client to the latest version (v4.42) and use the ARX Legacy add-in to sign on .docx and .xlsx files using Office 2007. The ARX Legacy add-in can be used in cases where standard digital signature support for 2007 is limited, such as supporting section-based signatures.

Workaround:

Microsoft has released a knowledgebase article (967732) that provides a patch to fix this issue. More information can be found in the following URL: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/967732>

