

Working with Word Documents Containing Smart Tags

Technical Alert

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Product: CoSign Word Add-in

Symptom:

Invalid signatures.

Background

Smart tags enable Microsoft and other applications to extend their functionality and insert their own links into documents, web pages, etc. These links appear as a purple dashed underline, differentiating them from the original text.

Smart tags are similar to traditional hyperlinks, but more complex and interactive.

Examples


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The problem

In some scenarios, smart tags in a Microsoft word document (DOC file) change the document's **state** to "not saved".

In most cases it happens after you open a file and run a grammar and spell-check.

Note, the phenomenon depends on how your Word is configured, so the spell-check may take some time and not be performed as the document is opened. It is also possible to disable the spell-checking completely.

If the scope of the signature is set to **Entire File**, or if you are still using an older version of ARX Word add-in (prior to version 3.4.X) - when validating the CoSign's digital signature, the validation fails



even if it has been saved since the smart tags mark the document's state as "not saved".

Workaround Suggestions

1. Make the signature a Microsoft Office compatible signature in the signature settings.
2. If possible, change the scope of the signature to "**Document's content**", (not to "Entire File"), and then sign.
3. If possible, you may sign the document with your CoSign certificate, but not use ARX's word add-in mechanism; to do this, take the following steps:

Open your Microsoft Word document.

In the **Tools** menu select **options**.

In the **security** tab click on **digital signatures...**

Click on **add...** and choose your certificate.

Confirm by clicking **OK** in both dialog boxes.

4. If you don't need smart tags in your documents, you should consider canceling this option altogether.
To do that go to the **tools** menu, click on **options** and select the **save** tab, then clear the check box "embed smart tags".

