

Upgrading Your REC / REC+ Site To HTTPS

What Is HTTPS?

HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) is an internet communication protocol that protects the integrity and confidentiality of your users' data as it is sent from their computer to your website over public networks including WiFi hotspots. Secure sites running on HTTPS have an SSL certificate and a visible green padlock in their browser to show the connection is secure.



Why Is HTTPS So Important?

It helps stop criminals intercepting data as it passes over a network, preventing them stealing valuable data entered via forms, such as logging in to a site, making a purchase or subscribing to newsletters. Having login data is especially valuable because it can be used to steal identities or access sensitive data on any other sites users access using the same login details.

There is a big push for businesses to move to “SSL everywhere”, and [Google already confirmed](#) that HTTPS has become a lightweight ranking signal so there is even a small SEO benefit to be gained too.

How Do You Upgrade To HTTPS?

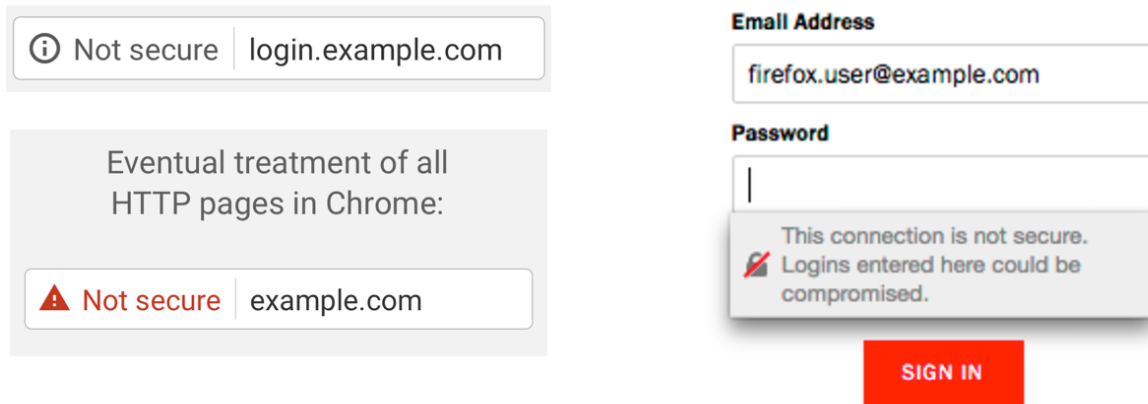
Implementing “HTTPS” protocol starts by **installing an SSL certificate** ideally on an entire site, or at least on those parts which capture sensitive data, and making sure there are no “mixed content” issues on the site. The browser will then display the familiar **green padlock** to users.

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What Are Mixed Content Issues?

Mixed content issues occur whenever a secure HTTPS page contains a reference to a non-https resource, for example a link to a Javascript file or an image that starts with "http://" rather than "https://".

If mixed content is present on a page then the green padlock will not be displayed and you may also get a browser warning message saying the connection is not secure if HTTPS is not present:



Browser warning messages are becoming more prominent with every release and those planned for the future

These warnings are controlled by the browser being used to view the site, not by the REC software, and you cannot therefore stop them from displaying. This includes all the major browsers like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, Opera and Microsoft Edge and Internet Explorer.

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What Steps Need To Be Taken?

The steps you will need to take are:

- Add an SSL certificate to your site
- Identify mixed content issues on your site
- Fix your mixed content issues - or ask us to do it on an hourly charge basis
- Update your REC settings
- Update your Google Analytics, Search Console & Merchant Centre accounts
- Test it works

Optionally:

- Use a Content Delivery Network to improve global website performance
- Monitor your site for any new mixed content issues in real-time

Migrating Your Site By Yourself

You can read how to migrate your site yourself on the [Moving To HTTPS](#) site, and we also developed our standalone [HTTPS Checker app & Reporter service](#) to help people do their own migrations.

If you require assistance from us the charge is £60 per hour or part thereof.

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Migrate Easily With Our All-Inclusive Services

We can offer the following services to make the move to HTTPS easier for you:

Simple Migration

Scan + Let's Encrypt Certificate + REC Setup + Tracking Setup + 2 Hours To Test / Fix Content

FREE SSL CERTIFICATE

This covers performing an initial scan of your site, up to two hours to resolve mixed content issues affecting templates and system pages, adding a free [Let's Encrypt](#) SSL certificate, adjusting your REC and tracking settings (where we have access granted) and checking it works afterwards with a further scan of the site.

One-off Charges: £150+VAT **Ongoing Charges:** None.

Optionally, Provide Your Own SSL Certificate: Add £99+VAT per install

Cloudflare Migration

Scan + Cloudflare Pro Setup + REC Setup + Tracking Setup + 2 Hours Test / Fix Content

GREAT FOR SITES WITH WORLDWIDE VISITORS

Cloudflare is a leading Content Delivery Network (CDN) which offers **faster website performance and increased security against online threats**, as well as providing an SSL certificate. This is ideal for sites who trade globally as it enhances website performance in more distant countries across the world.

This covers performing an initial scan of your site, two hours to resolve mixed content issues affecting templates and system pages, implementing Cloudflare Pro and their certificate, adjusting your REC and tracking settings (where we have access granted) and checking it works afterwards with a further scan of the site.

One-off Charges: £150+VAT **Ongoing Charges:** £30+VAT per month.

Optionally, Provide Your Own SSL Certificate: Add £99+VAT per install

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Stay On Top Of Your Site Appearing In Google

Ongoing Website Monitoring Service

We offer a managed service to perform a range of checks on your website and report on Google indexation, crawl errors, monitoring your reach in Google Search, 404 error reporting and blocked resource identification.

Ongoing Charges: £30+VAT per month

FAQ's

What Happens If I Don't Move To HTTPS?

Your site will still function normally but visitors will increasingly see messages displayed by browsers saying that the connection is not secure to your site. This is likely to concern visitors and lead to increased abandonment, especially on ecommerce sites.

Is This Separate To My Regular Support Payments?

Yes, this is separate to your normal monthly support service, because it relates to a general internet change in how people connect to sites over the web, rather than a change to the site only.

Do I Need To Change Any DNS Settings?

Cloudflare requires a simple DNS change which we will do if we look after your domain. If you look after your own domain then we will provide the new settings for you to do this (your domain service provider can help if needed). Adding a Let's Encrypt or 3rd party SSL certificate does not require a DNS change if you are not using the Cloudflare service.

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Do I Need To Change Any Settings In REC?

Yes, there are some simple setting changes in REC which we tell you about on our [HTTPS migration post](#) on our Freshdesk Knowledge System, including how to quickly fix blog posts. If you buy an all-inclusive service then we will do this for you.

Can I Purchase My Own SSL Certificate?

Yes you can and there are a variety of SSL certificates available from different providers offering different levels of branding and warranty. This includes standard SSL certificates for a single domain, EV (Extended Validation) to display a green bar with your name in it and a wildcard certificate to cover your domain and sub-domains. Once you purchase your SSL certificate we can add it to your site for a one-off charge of £99+VAT per installation.

Where Can I Find Out More About HTTPS & Mixed Content?

We have created a website which explains more about HTTPS and mixed content and provides links to other sources. Visit <https://www.httpschecker.net>

Why Should I Use The Website Monitoring Service?

Make sure you do not have issues that could affect your website pages appearing in Google Search, as well as measuring your marketing and brand building efforts by telling you how often your site appears in Google Search results and your click-through levels. A simple highlights report is sent to you in either Excel or PDF format. Every website owner should be using this service.

What If I Want More Advice?

Additional assistance can be provided by booking time with a consultant at our normal hourly rate.