

Using virtual smart cards on Windows

When a virtual smart card is provisioned with the relevant certificates, it can be used by Microsoft Base Smart Card Cryptographic Service Provider (BaseCSP) for most Windows-related use cases, such as these:

- Windows logon, logging in to a PC or laptop
- TLS client cert authentication in Microsoft Edge
- Remote access using VPN or direct access
- Native app integration through MS crypto APIs CAPI or CNG
- Secure email using S/MIME
- Integration of PKCS#11 clients towards the virtual smart card, for example Firefox. This use case requires the PKCS#11 package, see [Install Personal Desktop App](#).

The following use cases only depend on Windows functionality and proper certificate configuration, independent of Personal Desktop App:

- Document protection by signing or encryption
- BitLocker drive encryption for data volumes

To get started with these use cases, a virtual smart card must first be created, see [Create virtual smart card](#), and provisioned, see [Issue virtual smart cards](#).