Integrating the Cl@ve/FNMT with AutoFirma on macOS 💻

Problem 🤔

It seems that Macs powered by the M2 or M3 microchips (varied reports are that M1 *does* work) are unable to link web browsers to the AutoFirma software necessary to complete the "prórroga" application - amongst others.

I tried to complete my application via Safari, Google Chrome and Firefox and I kept bumping into the same problem - despite recognising the "Certificado Digital" and the downloaded AutoFirma software, the browsers were not able to prompt open AutoFirma in a way that worked. As in, my "Certificado Digital" and AutoFirma were not able to recognise each other - the Silicon microchips seem to be blocking this.

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It is seemingly a waiting game with Spanish administration to update the AutoFirma software so that it works with the Silicon microchips.

Download a Windows VM via UTM 🪟

A Microsoft Windows VM via UTM is needed for a Mac-user to access a web browser that links your "Certificado Digital" and the downloaded AutoFirma software. I was able to use the pre-downloaded Microsoft Edge browser that comes with it to finally complete my "prórroga" application.

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Follow the instructions detailed in this YouTube video to understand how to download the Windows VM to your Mac. You can use this link to download the UTM.

Don't be fooled by the 3-minute video - there are a lot of lengthy download and installation times so make sure you have time to spare!

Re-download AutoFirma ✍🏽

Once you've downloaded the Windows VM, you'll need to re-download the AutoFirma software to your new Windows desktop. This part can be a little tricky!

This process is the same as last time (via this link: https://firmaelectronica.gob.es/ciudadanos/descargas). Make sure to download the Windows 64-bit version this time - and not the macOS version you've likely downloaded before.

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To make sure the AutoFirma software on the Windows VM is working, use this website on this link as a way to test it.

Click "Realizar firma", and then "Firmar" and the downloaded software should respond as expected. If it doesn't, there is a problem with your AutoFirma download. Delete it and try again.

Exporting the "Certificado Digital" 📄 ☁️

Now that AutoFirma is up and running on your Windows VM, it's time to export your "Certificado Digital".

1. Open your "Certificado Digital" via Keychain Access.
2. It should be stored under "My Certificates". If it is not, do this now.
3. From there, click the little left-pointed arrow to the left of your name.
4. Right-click on "Imported Private Key" and export it to your preferred cloud storage service (e.g. iCloud, OneDrive, Google Drive).
5. Sign in to this cloud storage service on Microsoft Edge-Windows VM - the "Certificado Digital" should be there for you to download.
6. Clicking download will open the "Certificate Import Wizard".
7. First, click "Current User".
8. Then, hit "Next" on the "File to import" menu.
9. Enter your Cl@ve/FNMT password and check all the boxes. Hit "Next".
10. Check "Place all the certificates in the following store". Hit "Browse" and place the "Certificado Digital" directly into "Personal".
11. Now, *finito*.

Syncing the "Certificado Digital" with the Windows VM ⬇️

Now the "Certificado Digital" is downloaded to the Windows VM, we just need to integrate it a little bit more.

Click either the Windows logo at the bottom of the screen or the "Search" bar and type in "Run". In the little pop-up menu that'll appear at the bottom left-hand corner of the screen put "mmc".

This will open the Windows Certificate Manager. This YouTube video is extremely helpful when navigating this app.

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IMPORTANT: In the video, the speaker hits "Computer account" in the "Certificate snap-in" menu. You need to click "My user account". Then, click "Personal" and hit "Certificates" - your "Certificado Digital" should be there.

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Now, your "Certificado Digital" should be sufficiently integrated with the Windows VM without having undermined its connection with the original browser from which you downloaded it in the first place.

As in, my "Certificado Digital" is still recognised on my Safari despite the new exported copy.

Coming Full Circle ↩️

Before starting the new "prórroga" application, make sure to download all the required documents to Microsoft Edge-Windows VM (e.g. "nombramiento", "carta de aprovechamiento", "TASA 790-052").

You can do this easily by uploading them all to your cloud storage service and accessing them on Microsoft Edge.

Now, you're ready to give the "prórroga" application another go - exactly like you've done before on another browser.

Hopefully everything should go smoothly ⚡

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P.S. I think it's a good idea to keep everything downloaded just in case I need my "Certificado Digital" to link with AutoFirma in the future.