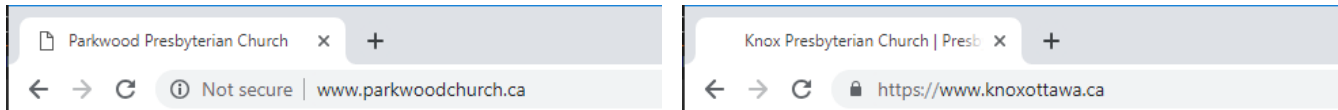


Webservant's Report to the May 21, 2019 meeting of the Presbytery of Ottawa

SSL Certificates and websites labelled "NOT SECURE"

While doing some updates to the Presbytery website recently I was curious as to how many churches in the Presbytery had websites that were deemed "NOT SECURE", as indicated in the upper left corner of the church's webpage. For the record, as of 27 Apr 2019, of the 21 websites related to the Presbytery of Ottawa, 18 show this message when accessed. The three "good guys" are (trumpet sounds!!) Knox Ottawa, Trinity Carp and Rockland Community Church. Here's what the dire message looks like (I chose my own church site to represent the "bad guys", and chose the example of the "good guys" alphabetically):



So what's with this "NOT SECURE" anyway? Should we be worried? I've been getting messages from Parkwood's web host for at least a couple of years on this issue, and they tend to sound a bit scary. Here, without the dramatic red bold fonts etc., is part of the latest message...

NOTICE: Our records indicate that there is no SSL Security Certificate installed on your website.

Chrome 68 is here! Websites without an SSL Certificate will be shown as 'Not Secure'. Now is the time to order your SSL Certificate and start reaping the benefits.

With over 80% of desktop internet traffic using Google Chrome, doing nothing simply isn't an option. Now is the time to act, our limited time offer on discounted SSL Certs is ending soon.

The message goes on... "For a limited time we are offering Standard Domain SSL Certificates for just \$5.95/mo." (That's \$71.40 a year, plus tax).

So I asked a computer professional* what was up with these SSL Certificates and were they **REALLY** necessary. What it all comes down to at the moment is, **an SSL certificate is necessary if you have anything on your site using a login and password. If you don't, you really don't need an SSL certificate**, but you must bear the burden of having your site labelled "NOT SECURE". A fuller explanation can be obtained from me, at gord.walford@rogers.com.

- Gord Walford, Presbytery webservant

FYI: the URL or web address of a site with an SSL certificate starts with https:// while a site without an SSL certificate will have a URL starting with http://

** For seven years, Scott Hurd served as the Chief Information Officer of OMF International, based in Singapore, where he was responsible for Information Technology for the Fellowship, including systems (personnel, finance, medical, communications, etc.), policy, and information security and risk management. Subsequently he took a new role as the Deputy International Director for Fellowship Services, responsible for all of the support ministry services in OMF, including Information Technology, for a year and a half. Since April 2018 Scott has been serving as Director for Fellowship Services. Scott, a former executive with Nortel, is the brother of James Hurd, clerk of the Presbytery of Ottawa.*