

ClassifyIt 7.1

WHAT'S NEW

ClassifyIt, an Add-In for Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint

support@ugarbe.de
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Article I. Overview

ClassifyIt 7.1 brings the classification out of Office into Windows Explorer, allows STANAG 4774/4778 labelling, adds review and downgrade dates, allows Categories and ONLY markings, makes CI-TDF containers safe to edit, and records user actions in the Windows event log. Under the hood it is a new native Office add-in.

Area	New in ClassifyIt 7.1
Release Form	Customizable three-column layout with filters, release groups, categories with ONLY label, and a live preview. Release and category lists can be disabled.
Review Date	Review date and downgrade dates can be set, and can be displayed in the actual marking, or only in the technical label.
Windows Explorer	Word, Excel, PowerPoint and PDF documents can be classified and receive a visual marking in accordance with the classification. The Office documents receive a technical label in accordance with the selected classification – when opened next time in Office the user is asked if the classification marking should be added to the document. All other files can be classified by exporting to a Trusted Data Format (TDF) container, preserving classification and binding, and allowing encryption.
TDF containers	Secured data files with protected encrypted or unencrypted content, keeping Open by double-click, save changes back, sender check by fingerprint, STANAG 4774 label
Event logging	Reads, saves, exports and sends of classified items can be logged to the Windows Event Viewer
Deployment	Silent setup, MECM and Intune, manual installation and deinstallation
Quality	Independent verification review fixed; no third-party add-in framework any more

Article II. Release Form

The Release Form was redesigned: three columns side by side, each list with its own filter, and a live preview of the marking at the bottom. It is the same in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and Windows Explorer.

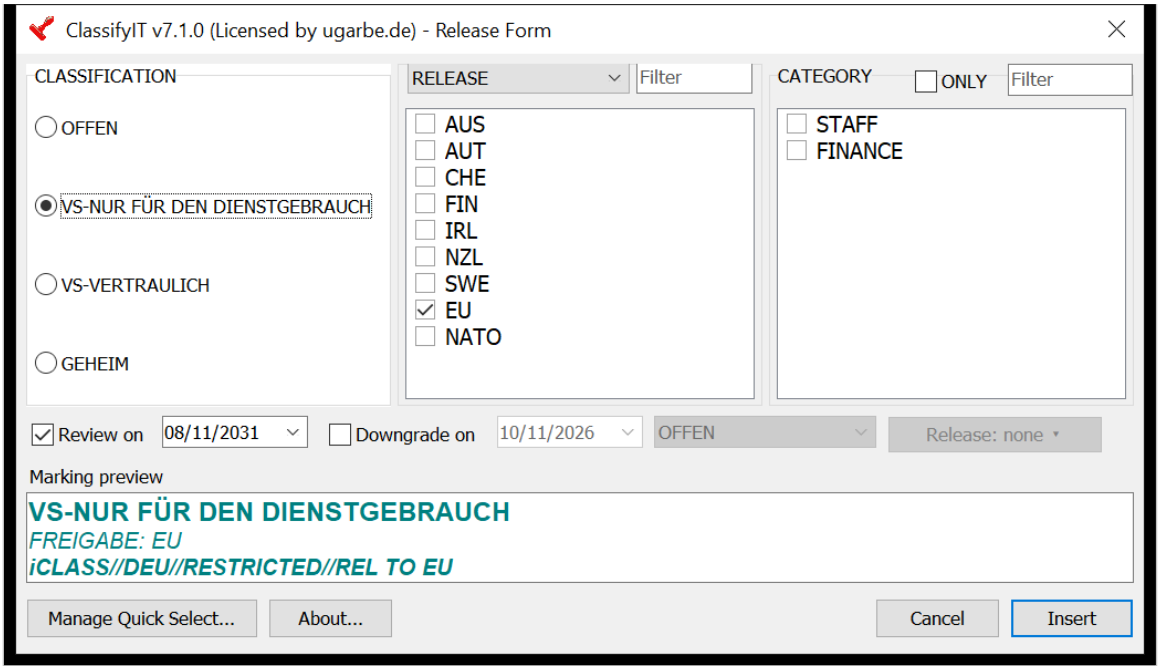


Figure 1. The new Release Form (Classify It in Word).

ClassifyIt 7.0	**ClassifyIt 7.1**
Classification and release in one list, menu bar	Columns CLASSIFICATION, RELEASE and CATEGORY, no menu bar
Release groups in a menu	Release groups in the RELEASE drop-down: one click ticks or clears a whole group
No categories	CATEGORY column with ONLY, e.g. STAFF or FINANCE
No dates	Review on and Downgrade on, with the class and release after the downgrade
Preview needed a separate step	Marking preview always visible, exactly as it will be written

The administrator decides which parts are shown (configuration section release_form: showRelease, showCategory, showReview, showDowngrade). A

hidden part keeps the values a marking already has.

Article III. Review Date, Downgrade and Categories

A marking can now carry a review date and a planned downgrade, and ClassifyIt reminds the user when either is due. Both travel with the document in the technical marking (iCLASS) and are shown in the visible marking.

- **Review date:** when it has passed, ClassifyIt says so on opening and opens Classify It with a new review date proposed.
- **Downgrade:** from its date, ClassifyIt offers the lower class and release - or the same class released to more nations - preselected in the Release Form.
- **Originator:** every marking names the organisation that applied it, e.g. DEU.
- **Categories with ONLY:** additional handling categories; replies and forwards in Outlook must keep them.
- **In Windows Explorer:** files whose review or downgrade is due show an orange ring on their icon (Figure 2).

Article IV. Windows Explorer

ClassifyIt now works on files without opening them: one ClassifyIt entry in the right-click menu, and a classification stamp on the icons of classified Office, PDF and CI-TDF files. In ClassifyIt 7.0 the classification existed only inside Office.

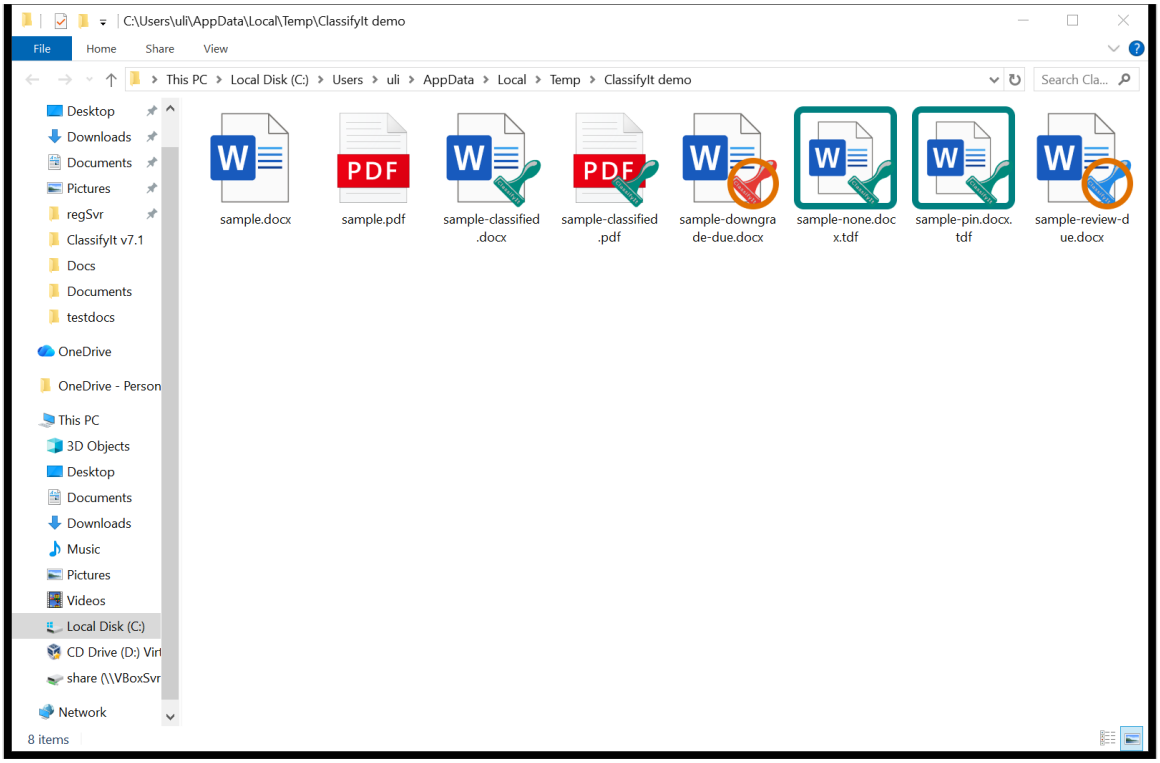


Figure 2. Classification stamps in Windows Explorer; the orange ring marks a due review or downgrade.

Function	What it does
Classify File...	Classifies unclassified Office and PDF files in place, with the Release Form; classified files are never changed
Show Classification	Shows a file's classification and originator, also for CI-TDF containers
Export to TDF...	Protects any file as a CI-TDF container; Office and PDF files keep their own classification
Open a container	Double-click a .tdf file: sender check, then the document opens in its application
Icon stamps	Stamp in the colour of the class; orange ring when review or downgrade is due

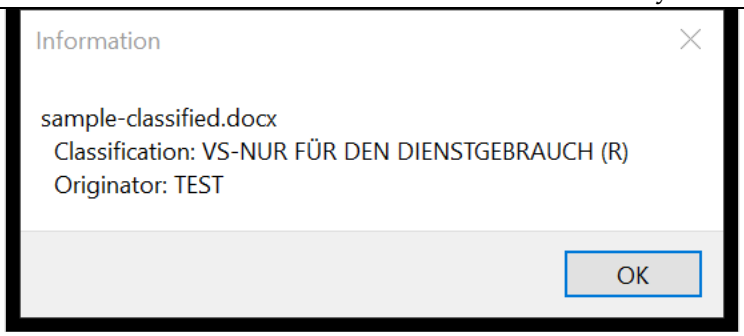


Figure 3. Show Classification from the right-click menu.

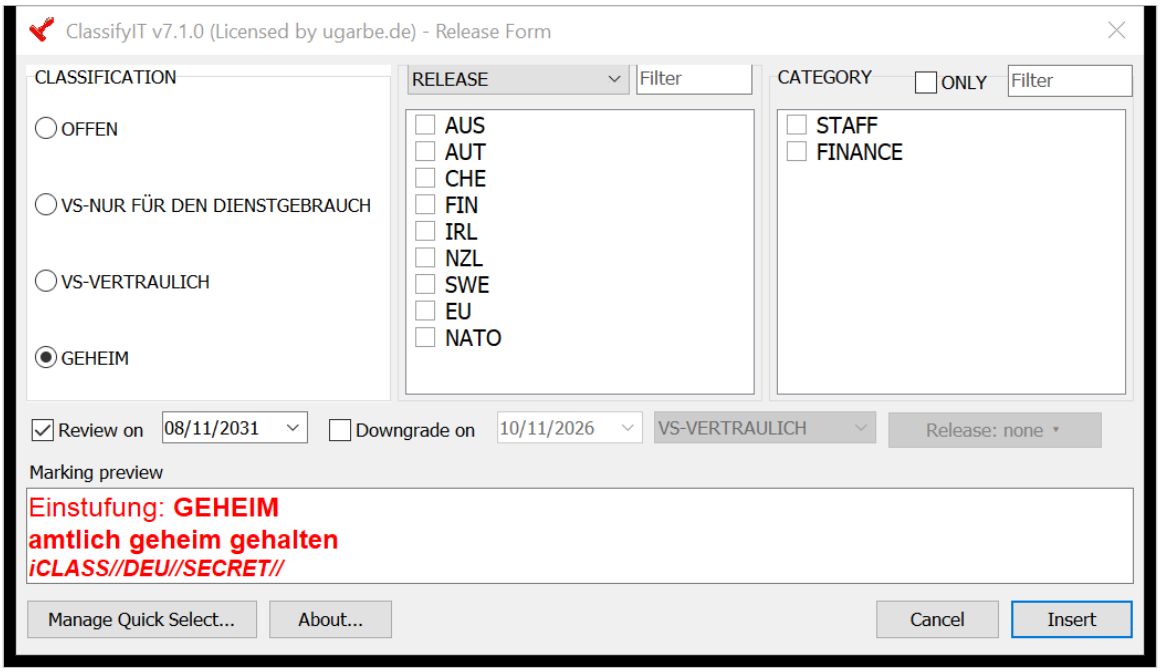


Figure 4. Classify File: the Release Form opened from Windows Explorer.

When such a file is opened in Word for the first time, ClassifyIt offers to add the visible marking. Results of Explorer commands appear as Windows notifications.

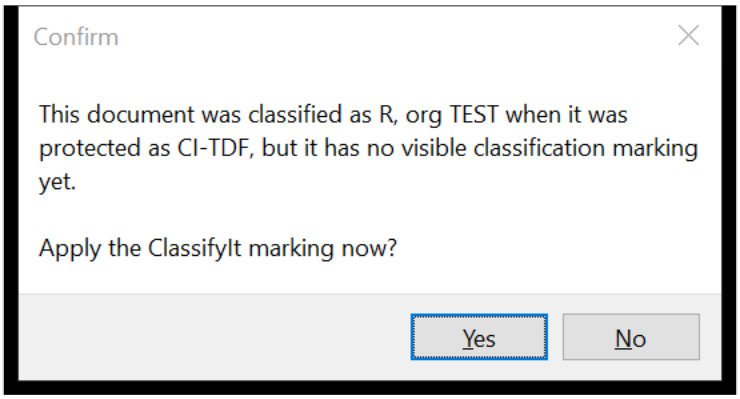


Figure 5. Word offers the visible marking for a file classified in Explorer.

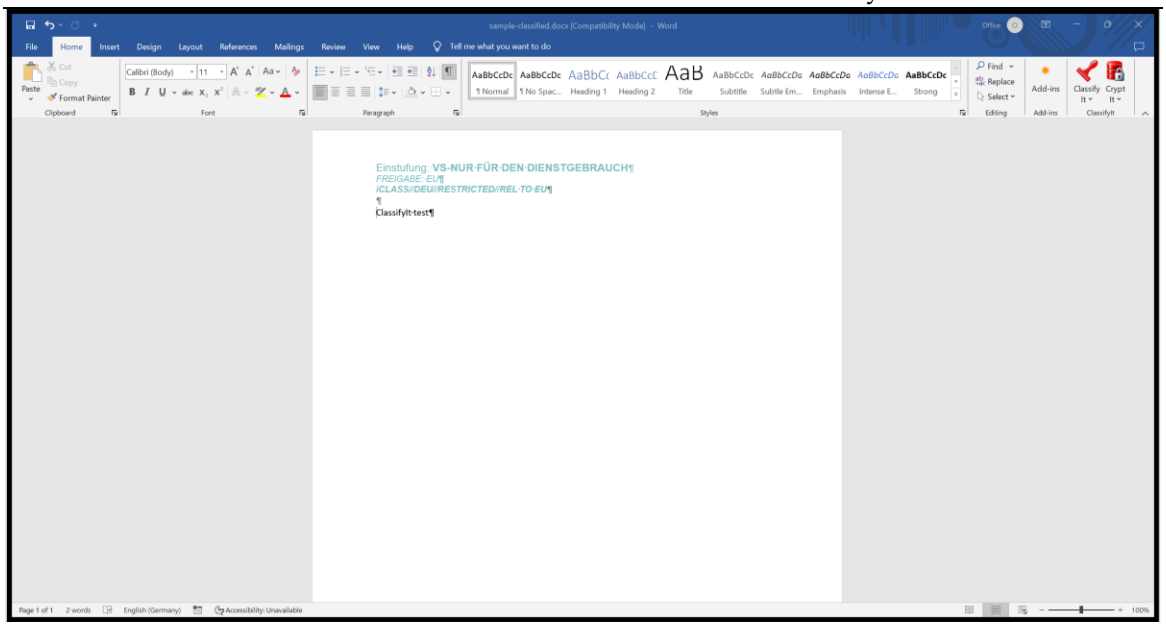


Figure 6. The document with its visible marking and the iCLASS line; the ClassifyIt group in the ribbon.

Article V.CI-TDF Containers

CI-TDF containers can now be opened by double-click, edited and saved back, and every container is signed. Changes that could not be saved into their container are never lost.

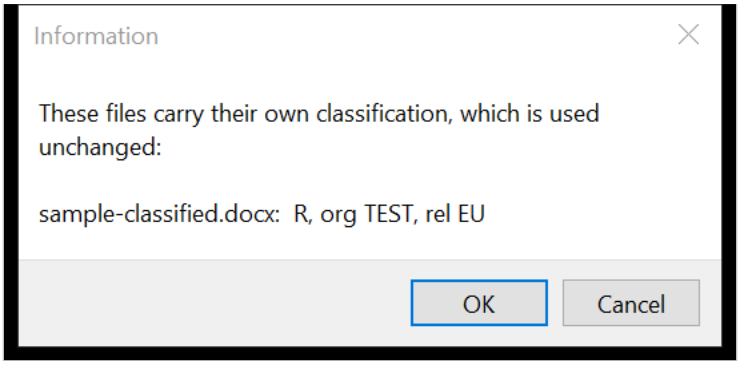


Figure 7. Export to TDF: the container carries the file's own classification.

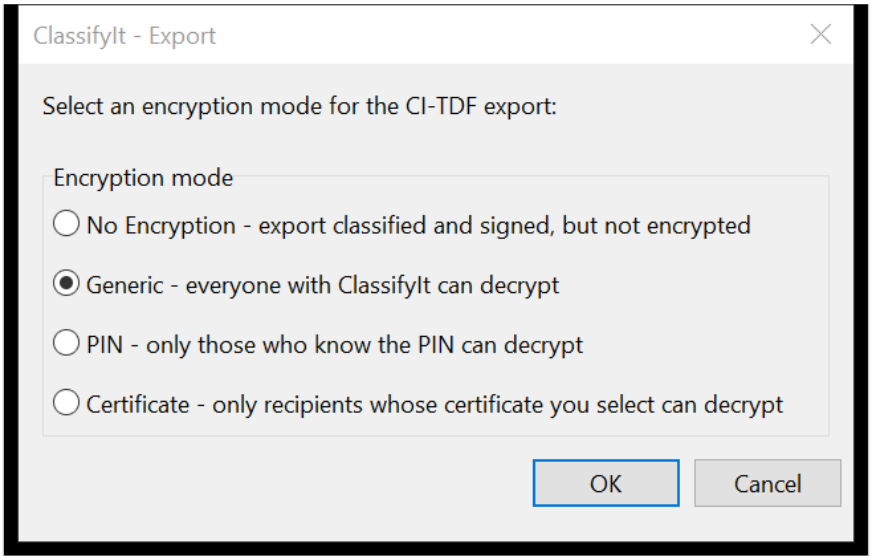


Figure 8. Choice of protection for the container.

Topic	New in ClassifyIt 7.1
Protection	No encryption, Anyone with ClassifyIt, Anyone with the PIN or Selected recipients - always signed with the user's own certificate
Sender check	An unknown sender is confirmed by fingerprint, nine words or a safety number, compared by phone or in person
Saving back	A saved working copy is written back into its container - never with a lower classification

Topic	New in ClassifyIt 7.1
Unsaved changes	If a save-back fails: Retry, Save as new container, Keep for later or Discard; kept copies are offered again at the next start
STANAG 4774	Optional confidentiality label in the manifest, bound to the original file by its digest
Tamper check	A changed content or a lowered classification is refused on opening

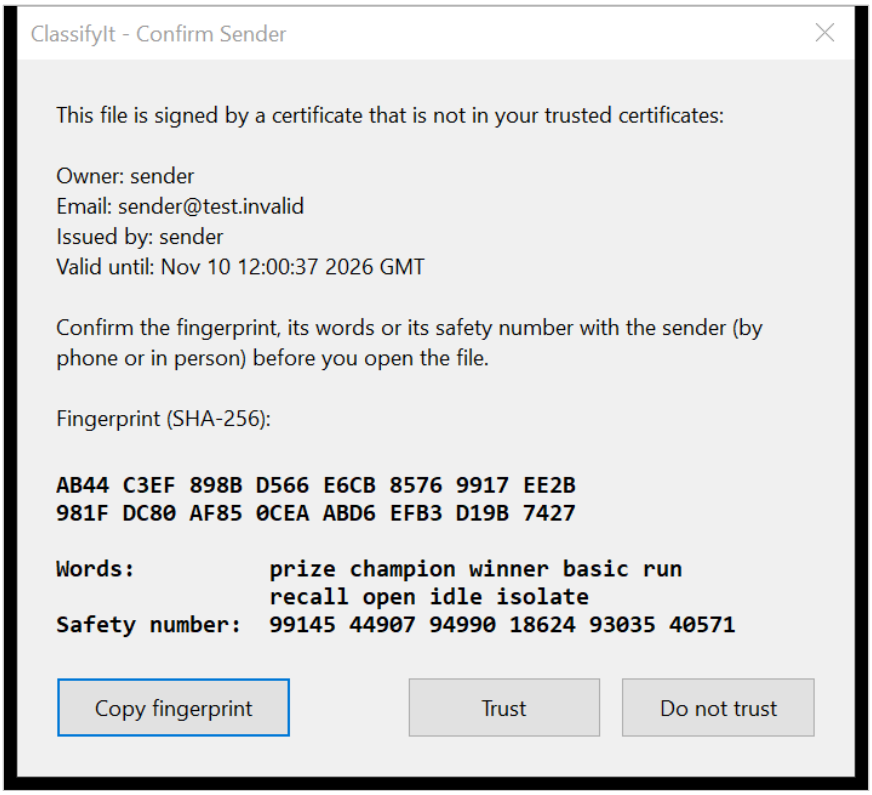


Figure 9. Confirm the sender of a container: fingerprint, words and safety number.

Certificate Management shows the user's own certificate with the same fingerprint, words and safety number, and the list of trusted certificates. It opens from the Start menu (ClassifyIT > ClassifyIt) or from Crypt It in Office.

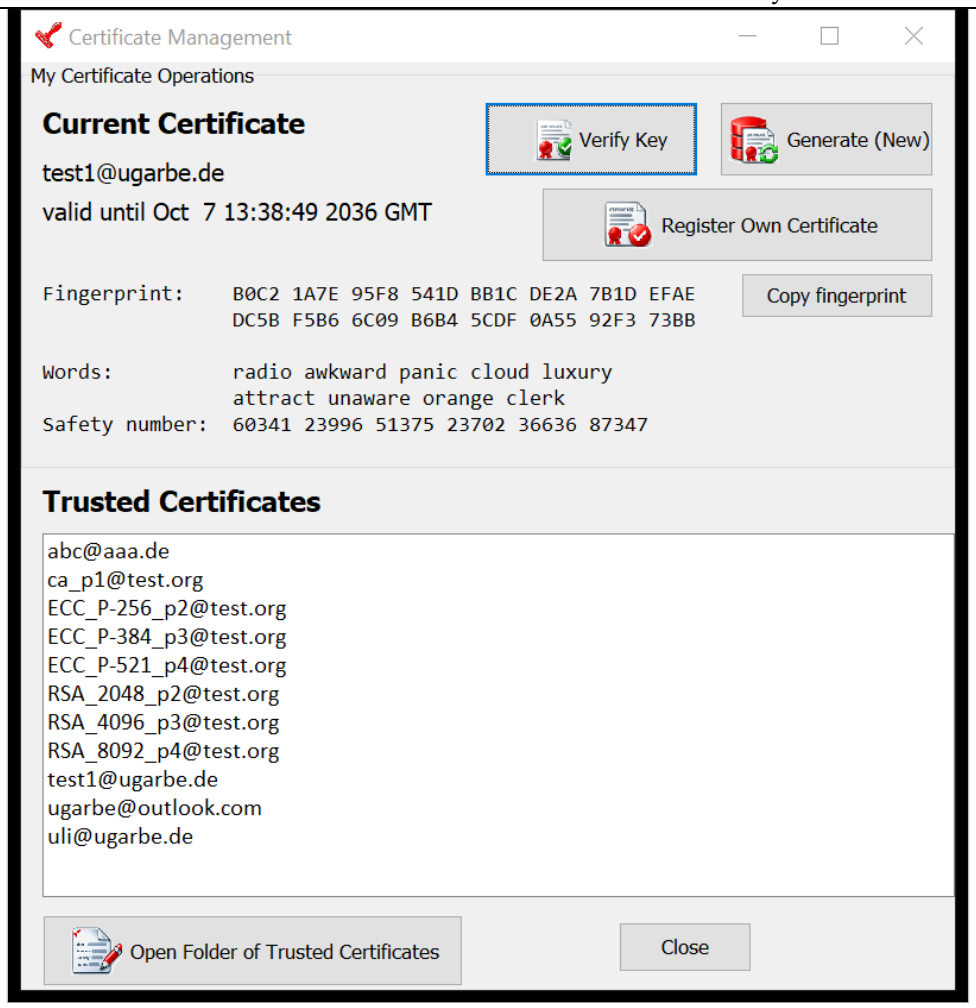


Figure 10. Certificate Management.

Article VI. Event Logging

With "logEvents" switched on, ClassifyIt records reads, saves, exports and Outlook sends of classified items in its own Windows event log (Event Viewer > Applications and Services Logs > ClassifyIt). Only administrators can read it; users can only write to it.

Event ID	Action	Level
1001	A classified document, container or email is opened	Information
1002	Saved, saved under a new name, exported to PDF or CI-TDF	Information
1003	Email sent	Information
1004	Email blocked by ClassifyIt	Warning

Each event shows labelled lines: the application, the action, the marking as shown in the document and as iCLASS, and the path or the subject, recipients and attachments of the email. Time, user and computer are those of the event. The contents of documents and emails are never recorded. A SIEM or syslog server receives the events with the usual tools (Windows Event Forwarding, Splunk, Elastic, NXLog).

Article VII. Deployment

ClassifyIt 7.1 is built for central deployment: the setup runs silently, and the admin guide describes the installation by hand step by step.

- **Silent setup:** /VERYSILENT with /ACCEPTREADINESS confirms the operational readiness statements on the command line; the setup log records how they were confirmed.
- **MECM and Intune:** installation in system context, detection by the version of the add-in (ClassifyIt.dll 7.1.0.0, ClassifyIt64.dll from 7.1.0.1); the Explorer integration reaches every user through Windows Active Setup at the next sign-in.
- **Manual installation and deinstallation:** new admin guide chapters with every command (regsvr32, registry keys, event log, Active Setup).
- **Updates:** the setup stops the ClassifyIt background tool and replaces files in use without a restart where Windows allows it.
- **Requirements:** 64-bit Office; OpenSSL 3.5 is installed next to the add-in.

Article VIII. Robustness and Security

An independent verification review (November 2026) found 11 points; 8 are fixed and 3 were accepted as they are. Third-party frameworks were removed at the same time.

Area	Change
Saving back into containers	Changes are kept until they are in the container or the user discards them
Office events	Save, print and close act on the document of the event, not the active one; errors cancel safely
Containers	A container is never saved back with a lower classification
Configuration download	Timeouts, size limit and checked file replacement
PDF reading	Limits on file size, streams, objects and nesting against malformed PDF files
Add-in framework	Native Office add-in instead of Add-in Express; own PDF metadata code instead of Gnostice
Build and tests	Delphi 13, 64-bit, no compiler warnings; 83 automatic tests and an Office smoke test

Printing in PowerPoint still cannot be blocked: if the marking cannot be completed, ClassifyIt says so and asks the user to cancel the print job. PowerPoint now asks at every save of a document from a container, which covers Save As. The 32-bit setup is now a wrapper around the current setup.

Article IX. Update 7.1.0.1

7.1.0.1 adds the following, mostly from user tests and a second code review (November 2026).

Windows Explorer: previews of Word, Excel and PowerPoint files show the stamp in the top right corner; icons show it there too. A class the configuration does not have gets a square with an "i" in its iCLASS colour instead of another class's stamp. ClassifyItTool restartshell restarts Explorer with fresh icons and previews.



Stamps on previews; the iCLASS square for classes not in the configuration.

Containers: a container whose integrity cannot be validated can be opened anyway after a clear warning; such a copy never overwrites its container. Opening asks read-only or for editing. Protection choices are named after who can open the container.

Office: for a document from a container, the Crypt It button shows its state - TDF (saved) or TDF (unsaved); a click gives the details. After Clear Classification, the next opening offers to remove the visible marking too.

Dialogs: ClassifyIt's questions with several choices (unsaved changes, damaged container, read-only) now always appear inside Office; before, they could fail silently, and changes stayed out of the container without the user being told.

Code review: the review fixed save-back consistency, attachment checks in Outlook, decryption of attachments, concurrent saves into one container, limits for malformed Office files, shared settings and Excel sheet insertion (see Docs\Review_Fixes_2026-11-14.md).

After the first 7.1.0.1 test round (15-21 November 2026):

STANAG 4778 for Office files: the label of a finished Word, Excel or PowerPoint file can be bound to the document and signed (Explorer: Sign Classification; also Classify File, and Outlook for attachments when sending) - in the JSON form of the CI-TDF container. Show Assertions checks it. Classify File also writes the

STANAG 4774 label; its creation time (dcr) is kept while the label stays the same.

Review date and downgrade: the boxes for review date and downgrade show what the classification has; the configuration decides whether they are offered at all. A downgrade is chosen from a list with "(no downgrade)".

Containers: saving a document from another organisation's container overwrites it after the usual warning; the classification is the user's responsibility.

Explorer: stamps appear on network drives too (switchable per user in the ClassifyIt menu); the tool's windows stay in front and carry the ClassifyIt stamp; text files from a container warn about editors that keep their own copies.

Installation and security: the setup checks for Office 2016 or newer in its bitness; a separate setup serves 32-bit Office. The add-in is now ClassifyIt64.dll (32-bit: ClassifyIt32.dll). OpenSSL is loaded only from ClassifyIt's own folder, never a copy of another program.