

Securing your Ushahidi deployment

This guide is based on recommendations for deploying Kohana to production: <http://docs.kohanaphp.com/installation/deployment>

- Set your cookie domain - this restricts cookies to being accessed only by your domain
 - Edit application/config/cookie.php and change the following line to your domain name (without the www):

```
$config['domain'] = '';
```

Example:

```
$config['domain'] = 'mymap.com';
```

- Enable HTTPS / SSL
 - Purchase a valid SSL certificate (many hosting companies can do this for you or try a major provide like verisign.com)
 - You need a valid certificate, not a self-signed cert or your users will get a big scary warning the first time they access your site.



- Install the SSL certificate on your server (again - many hosting companies can do this for you)
There are many guides online for how to install SSL certificates, and companies that sell certificates often provide install instructions.
- Set site protocol to https
Edit application/config/config.php and change the following line:

```
$config['site_protocol'] = 'http';
```

to

```
$config['site_protocol'] = 'https';
```

- Set SECURE flag on cookies - this restricts cookies to only be accessed over SSL.
Edit application/config/cookie.php and change the following line:

```
$config['secure'] = FALSE;
```

to

```
$config['secure'] = TRUE;
```

- Delete the installer
 - The installer is a potential security vulnerability.
 - While we try our best to make sure it can't be exploited, the installer should be deleted once your deployment is up and running
 - Delete the entire installer/ directory and its contents.
- Set your encryption key Since Ushahidi 2.5 this is done automatically in the installer
 - Edit application/config/encryption.php and change the following line:

```
$config['default']['key'] = 'USHAHIDI-INSECURE';
```

Your encryption key should be at least 16 character long and contain letters, numbers, and symbols.
(Do not use a hash as your key. This significantly lowers encryption entropy.)