

**NAME**

openssl-sess\_id, sess\_id - SSL/TLS session handling utility

**SYNOPSIS**

```
openssl sess_id [-help] [-inform PEM|DER] [-outform PEM|DER|NSS] [-in filename] [-out filename]
[-text] [-noout] [-context ID]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **sess\_id** process the encoded version of the SSL session structure and optionally prints out SSL session details (for example the SSL session master key) in human readable format. Since this is a diagnostic tool that needs some knowledge of the SSL protocol to use properly, most users will not need to use it.

**OPTIONS****-help**

Print out a usage message.

**-inform DER|PEM**

This specifies the input format. The **DER** option uses an ASN1 DER encoded format containing session details. The precise format can vary from one version to the next. The **PEM** form is the default format: it consists of the **DER** format base64 encoded with additional header and footer lines.

**-outform DER|PEM|NSS**

This specifies the output format. The **PEM** and **DER** options have the same meaning as the **-inform** option. The **NSS** option outputs the session id and the master key in NSS keylog format.

**-in filename**

This specifies the input filename to read session information from or standard input by default.

**-out filename**

This specifies the output filename to write session information to or standard output if this option is not specified.

**-text**

prints out the various public or private key components in plain text in addition to the encoded version.

**-cert**

if a certificate is present in the session it will be output using this option, if the **-text** option is also present then it will be printed out in text form.

**-noout**

this option prevents output of the encoded version of the session.

**-context ID**

this option can set the session id so the output session information uses the supplied ID. The ID can be any string of characters. This option won't normally be used.

**OUTPUT**

Typical output:

```
SSL-Session:
Protocol : TLSv1
Cipher : 0016
Session-ID: 871E62626C554CE95488823752CBD5F3673A3EF3DCE9C67BD916C809914B40ED
Session-ID-ctx: 01000000
Master-Key: A7CEFC571974BE02CAC305269DC59F76EA9F0B180CB6642697A68251F2D2BB57E51D
Key-Arg : None
Start Time: 948459261
Timeout : 300 (sec)
Verify return code 0 (ok)
```

Theses are described below in more detail.

**Protocol**

this is the protocol in use TLSv1.2, TLSv1.1, TLSv1 or SSLv3.

**Cipher**

the cipher used this is the actual raw SSL or TLS cipher code, see the SSL or TLS specifications for more information.

**Session-ID**

the SSL session ID in hex format.

**Session-ID-ctx**

the session ID context in hex format.

**Master-Key**

this is the SSL session master key.

**Start Time**

this is the session start time represented as an integer in standard Unix format.

**Timeout**

the timeout in seconds.

**Verify return code**

this is the return code when an SSL client certificate is verified.

**NOTES**

The PEM encoded session format uses the header and footer lines:

```
-----BEGIN SSL SESSION PARAMETERS-----  
-----END SSL SESSION PARAMETERS-----
```

Since the SSL session output contains the master key it is possible to read the contents of an encrypted session using this information. Therefore appropriate security precautions should be taken if the information is being output by a “real” application. This is however strongly discouraged and should only be used for debugging purposes.

**BUGS**

The cipher and start time should be printed out in human readable form.

**SEE ALSO**

[ciphers\(1\)](#), [s\\_server\(1\)](#)

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