



DevCon5

**HTML5 & Mobile App
Developer Conference**

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Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City,
California

www.devconfive.com

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WebRTC & WebSockets

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Evolution on the web



*Sir Tim Berners-Lee
creates HTML. Web
-pages are static*



*W3C produces the
DOM1 specification*



*WebSocket and
WebRTC
implementations
become available*

1990

1996

1998

2004

2011

*Microsoft and Netscape
introduce different
mechanisms for DHTML*



*Google uses Ajax
in Gmail (W3C
releases 1st draft in
2006) – the dawn
of web-apps*

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Revolution in telecoms

The revolution

Before today the operators (big and small) had full control over real-time communications because it was hard to do and substantial infrastructure investment was required.



Claude Chappe
invented the optical
telegraph



Alexander
Graham
Bell patents
the telephone



- From the 1960s
onwards digital
exchanges start to
appear

- From the 1990s onwards
voice started to be carried
on technologies developed
for data networks such as
ATM and IP

1792 1837 1876 1919 1960s > 1990s > 2011



First commercial
electrical telegraph
created by
Cooke and
Wheatstone



Rotary dial
enters
service



1963: DTMF
enters service



WebSocket and
WebRTC
implementations
become
available

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Demo #1: Crocodile Scrum

- Opera and Google Chrome only for now
 - Works on Google Chrome for Android
 - Mozilla Firefox support coming soon
- Anonymous ad-hoc conferencing
- Makes use of WebRTC and WebSockets
- Join the “devcon5” scrum

<https://demos.crocodilertc.net/scrum>

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Crocodile Scrum - Google Chrome

Crocodile Scrum

<https://demos.crocodilerc.net/scrum/>

Crocodile Scrum



Scrum: expo

Leave

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There are a number of proprietary implementations that provide direct interactive rich communication using audio, video, collaboration, games, etc. between two peers' web-browsers. These are not interoperable, as they require non-standard extensions or plugins to work. There is a desire to standardize the basis for such communication so that interoperable communication can be established between any compatible browsers.

Real-Time Communication in WEB-Browsers (rtcweb) 2013-03-13 charter

[*http://tools.ietf.org/wg/rtcweb/*](http://tools.ietf.org/wg/rtcweb/)

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The mission of the Web Real-Time Communications Working Group, part of the Ubiquitous Web Applications Activity, is to define client-side APIs to enable Real-Time Communications in Web browsers.

These APIs should enable building applications that can be run inside a browser, requiring no extra downloads or plugins, that allow communication between parties using audio, video and supplementary real-time communication, without having to use intervening servers (unless needed for firewall traversal, or for providing intermediary services).

Web Real-Time Communications
Working Group Charter

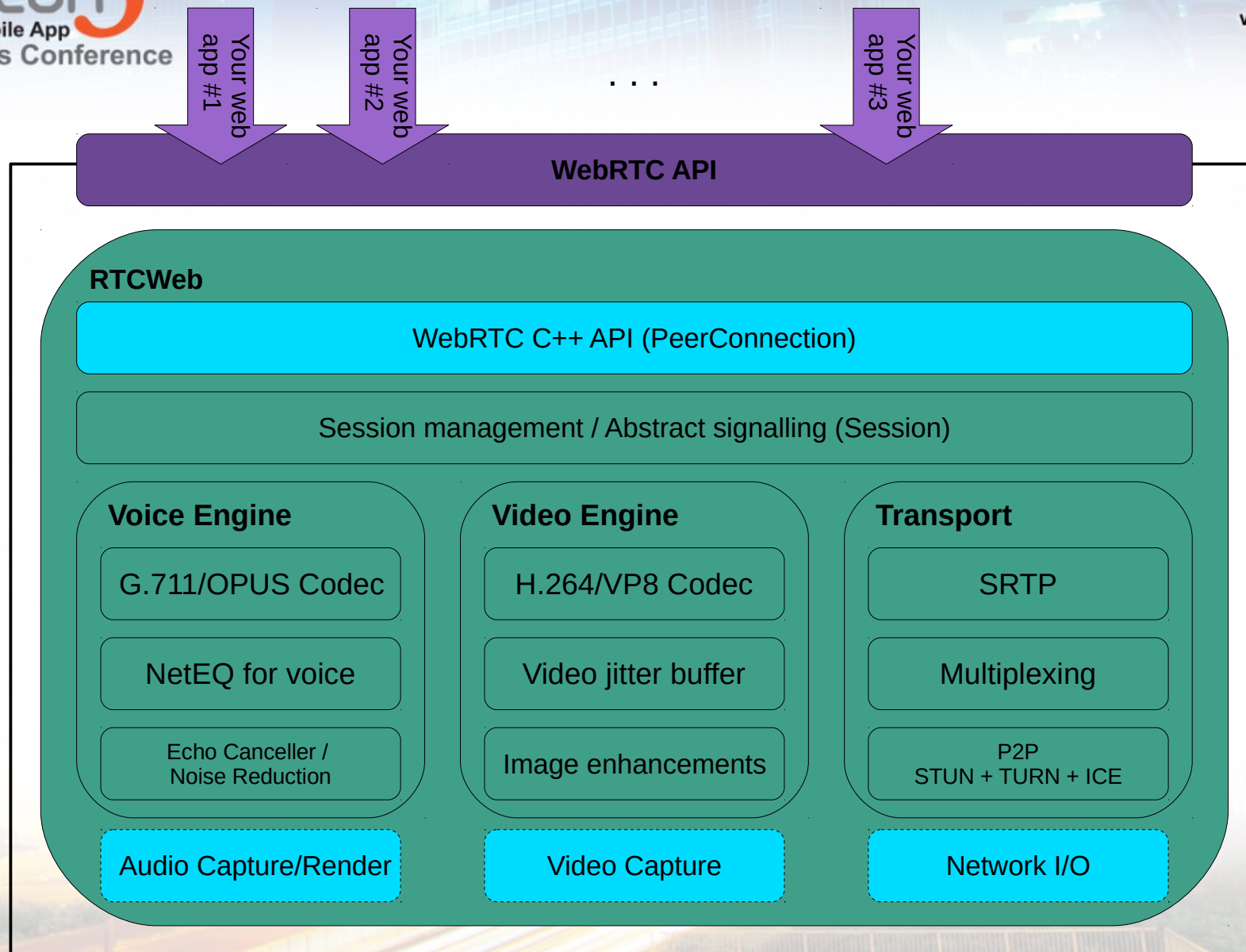
<http://www.w3.org/2011/04/webrtc-charter.html>

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RTCWeb and WebRTC: not the same thing

- RTCWeb is the on-the-wire protocol as defined by the IETF and may be used in many applications and systems
 - Within VoIP phones
 - On network servers
 - Includes MTI codecs for audio and video
- WebRTC is the browser API as defined by the IETF



Your
browser

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Based on the diagram from <http://www.webrtc.org/reference/architecture>

Audio Codecs

- RTCWeb has two MTI (Mandatory To Implement) audio codecs:
 - G.711 narrowband
 - free to use and unencumbered by patents
 - trivial to implement
 - widely supported on legacy equipment
 - OPUS wideband
 - free to use and unencumbered by patents
 - complicated to implement – but there are open-source versions
 - fantastic quality audio and excellent handling of packet loss

Video Codecs (the great debate)

- There is a big argument over which of H.264 and VP8 should be used
- The arguments are commercial not technical
 - H.264 and VP8 are comparable in terms of performance and quality
 - H.264 and its licensing terms are unacceptable to many small companies and open-source projects
 - Cisco's offer helps some but not all
 - The IPR situation around VP8 is unclear
 - Large (and rich) companies cannot risk using VP8 – it makes them a target
 - Mandating both will not solve this
- Out of desperation older codecs are being suggested including H.261, H.263, and Theora

Codecs are not limited to the MTI

- Apps and browsers can offer any codecs they are capable of
- The MTI is just the base set of codecs you must support to ensure interoperability between endpoints

WebRTC has a rich API

- Media Capture and Streams
 - Audio, video, and screen-sharing
 - <http://www.w3.org/TR/mediacapture-streams/>
- MediaStream Recording
 - <http://www.w3.org/TR/mediastream-recording/>
- WebRTC
 - Data can be exchanged too
 - <http://www.w3.org/TR/webrtc/>

Available (to varying degrees) in Chrome, Firefox, and Opera

What do these APIs let you do?

- Capture audio and video streams from microphone and webcam
- Exchange the captured audio and video with a peer in real-time
- Record local and remote audio and video streams
- Reliably exchange data with a peer in real-time

Screen sharing

- Google Chrome has experimental support for screen sharing
 - You need to turn on a hidden flag to use it
- Screen sharing is (more) dangerous (than video calling)
 - It only takes one frame to reveal any personal details on your screen
- In the future screen sharing will be restricted
 - Only available to Chrome apps (not web-pages)
 - Will require you to explicitly select the screen or window you want to share

The DataChannel

- The WebRTC DataChannel uses SCTP over DTLS
 - SCTP means reliable, in-order, frame delivery
 - DTLS means UDP packets (so the same NAT traversal mechanisms can be used for audio, video, and data) that are encrypted
- There are already peer-2-peer file-sharing applications implemented using the WebRTC DataChannel

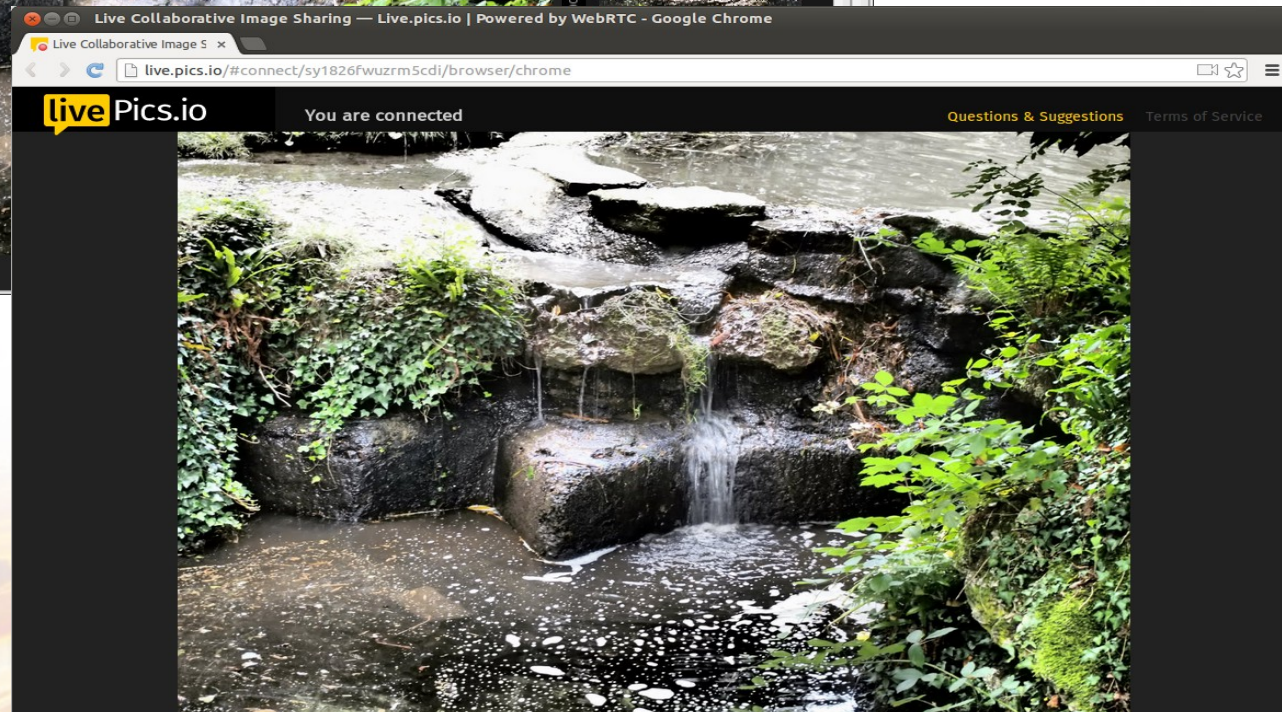
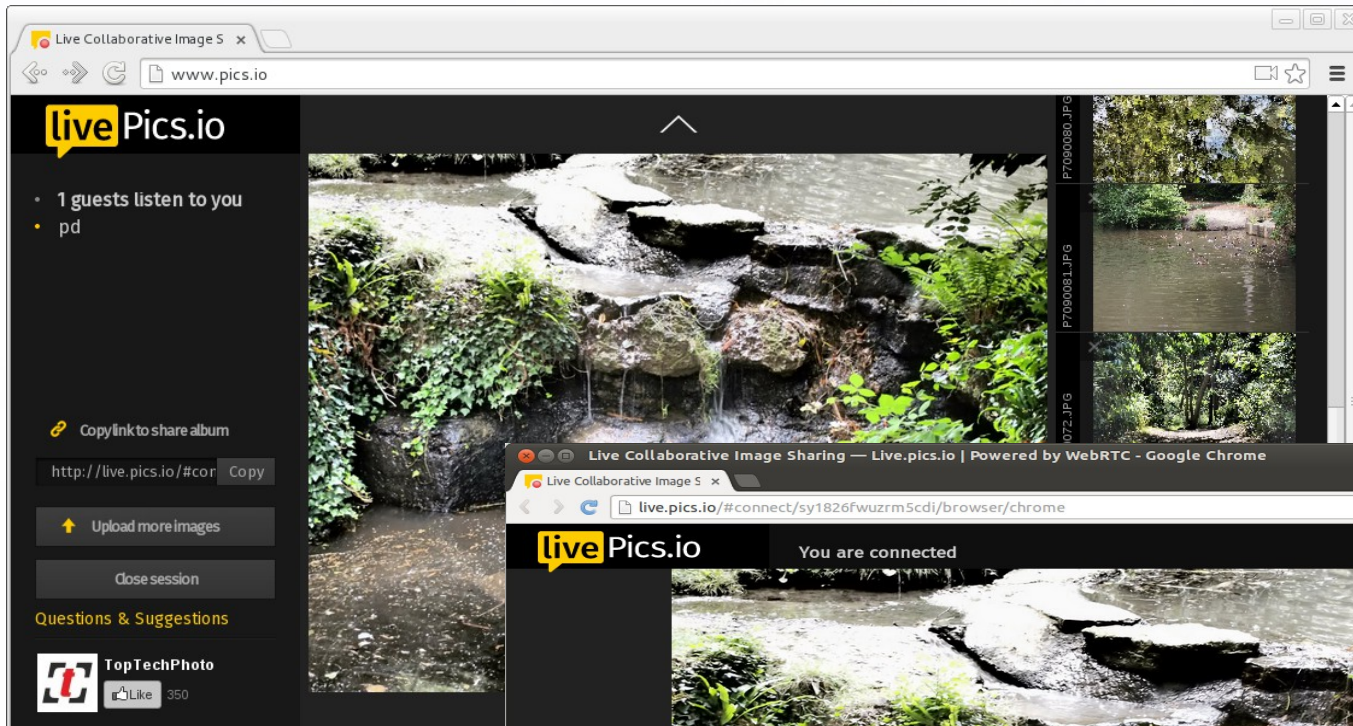
Demo #2: live.pics.io

- Produced by pics.io
- Uses WebRTC DataChannels for “Live Collaborative Image Sharing”
- Drop your images into the browser
- Share the link (to multiple people)
- Talk people through your slide-show

<http://live.pics.io/>

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WebRTC applications

- WebRTC is not about making phone calls in a browser – although this is one possible use case
- WebRTC allows you to make communicate in a contextual way
- A phone call is an activity of its own – but that's not how humans communicate face to face
- A phone call is a disruptive (rude) demanding event

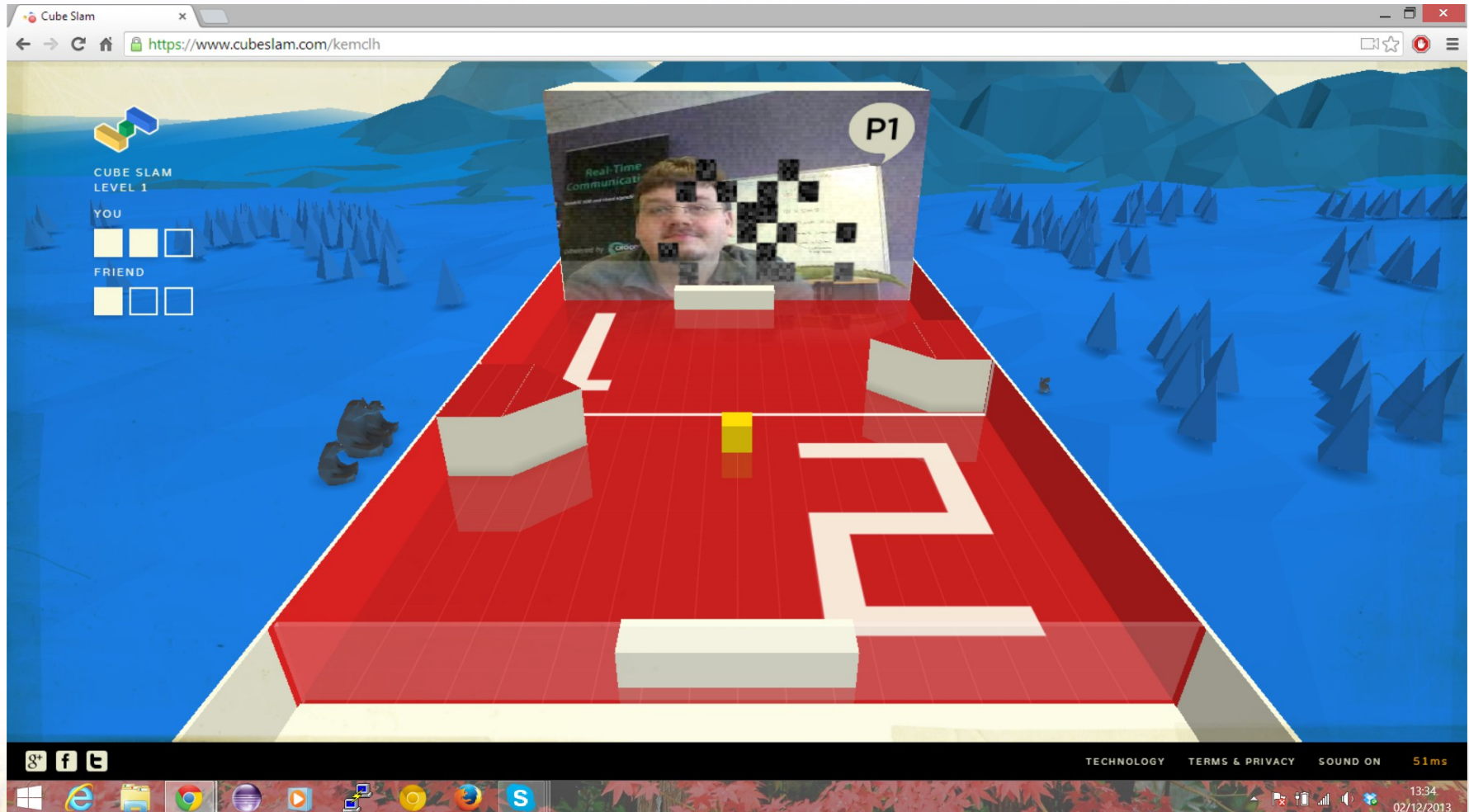
WebRTC is about context

- Talk to someone while collaborating on a document
- A better way to access customer services
 - Already authenticated
 - Use a web-form instead of an IVR
- A truly virtual PBX
 - Web-based phone and operator console
- Many gaming and entertainment related applications
 - FPS without centralised servers (DataChannel) and where you can see and hear your opponents
 - Online gambling (for example, poker) where you can see your opponents
 - Online dating, after dinner speaking, and so on
 - It's not necessarily about the real-time audio and video, but they enhance the experience

Demo #3: Cube Slam

- Produced by Google to showcase WebRTC
- WebRTC DataChannel enables multi-player gaming
- WebRTC media enhances the game but is not part of it

<https://www.cubeslam.com/>



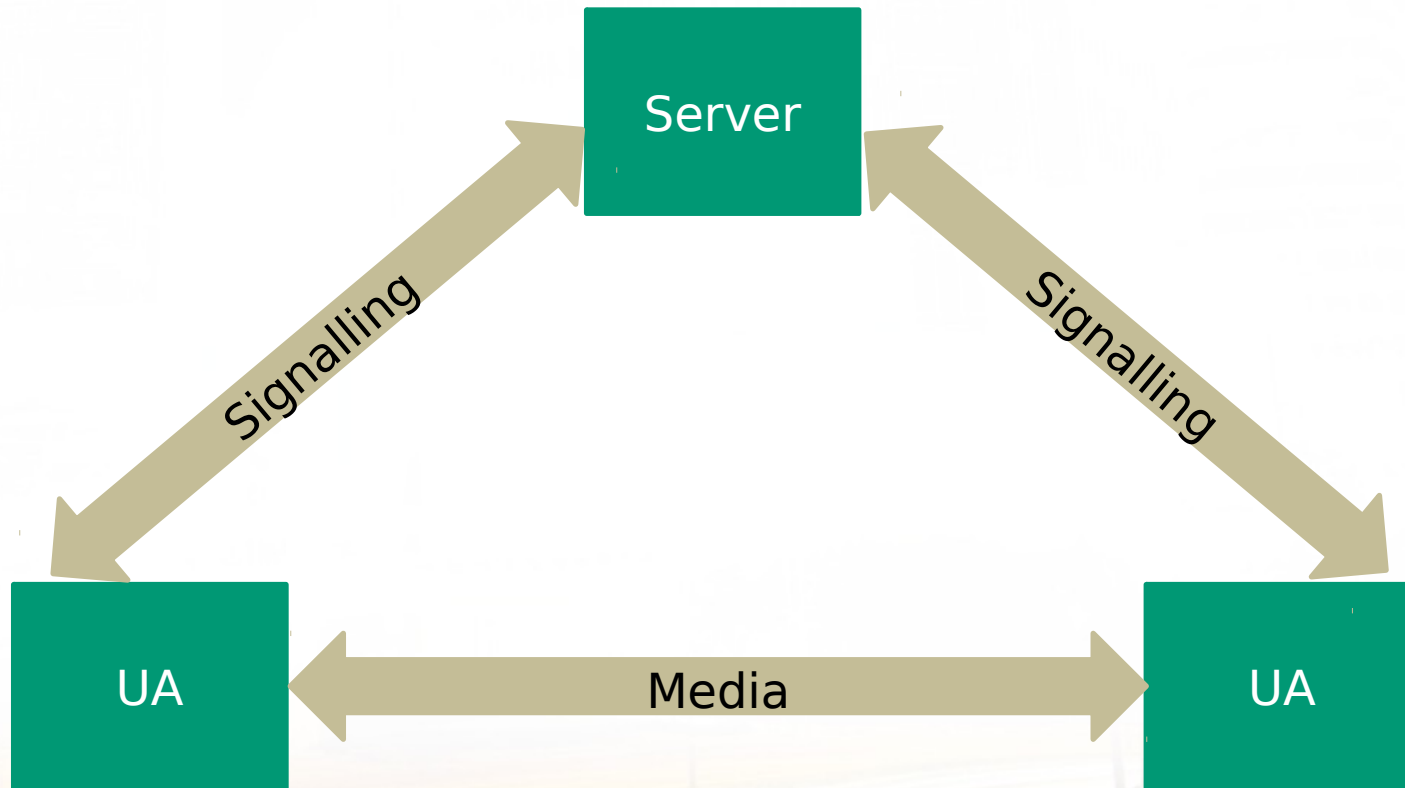
The WebRTC APIs are not enough

- Google made a controversial (but very wise) decision not to specify how the signalling should work
- Signalling is required
 - To discover who to communicate with
 - To exchange information on what the communication should be (audio, data, video, and codecs)
 - Even the simplest, proprietary, RESTful exchange is signalling

Interoperability is not always required

- Interoperability may negatively impact the business case
 - For example:
 - Document collaboration – you want to keep people in your application
 - Online dating – you want to keep people on your site
 - Online gaming – there is no point in different games interoperating

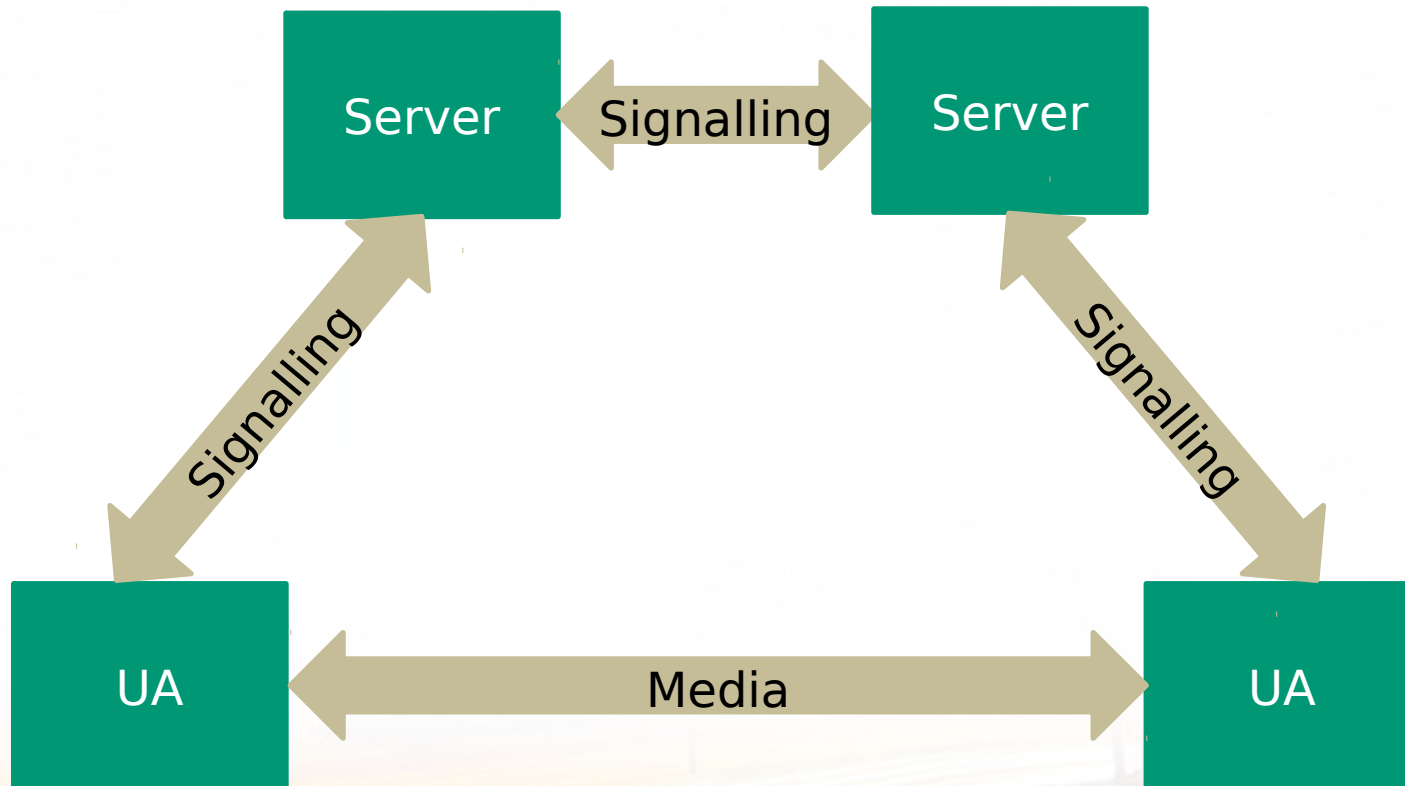
The signalling triangle



Interoperability is sometimes required

- These are typically ones where the point of the application is communication
 - For example:
 - Conferencing – calls in and out of legacy networks are required
 - Call Centres – calls in and out of legacy networks are required
 - Virtual PBX – calls in and out of legacy networks are required

The signalling trapezoid



Signalling transport options

- XHR Polling (HTTP Long Polling)
 - Easy
 - Securable
 - Inefficient
- WebSockets
 - Available in all modern browsers (certainly any with WebRTC support)
 - Fast
 - Securable

Demo #4: Web Communicator

- A fully-featured unified communications client
- Makes use of WebRTC and WebSockets
- Multiple WebSocket/DataChannel connections for multiple protocols
 - MSRP (file-transfer), SIP (session signalling), and XMPP (messaging and presence)
- No need to create a new application for every target platform
- Browsers without WebRTC support can still use WebSocket for file-transfer, messaging, presence, and other data

Crocodile Web Communicator - Google Chrome

Crocodile Web Communicator x

<https://www.crocodiletalk.com/communicator/>

£110.93

Status: ●

Address Nickname

- ▼ Crocodile
 - Gavin Llewellyn
 - Hugh Waite
 - James Wyatt
 - John Parr
 - Konstantin Levchin
- Other

Phone Video Chat

than over.
Android 2.2
\$30

James Wyatt

Me 11:49:23
Hi James

James Wyatt 11:49:33
Hi.

Me 11:49:48
Do you have that file I needed?

Send

File Transfers

James Wyatt

InterestingGIF.gif
1.02MB of 2.29MB - 44.5% 130KB/s

Crocodile Web Communicator - Google Chrome

Crocodile Web Communicator x

<https://www.crocodiletalk.com/communicator/>

£148.69

Status: [dropdown]

Address Nickname

- Andy Miller
- **Gavin Llewellyn**
- Hugh Waite
- James Wyatt
- John Parr
- Konstantin Levchin
- daz
- Other

Phone Video Chat [dropdown]

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The WebSocket Protocol enables two-way communication between a client running untrusted code in a controlled environment to a remote host that has opted-in to communications from that code.

RFC 6455, I. Fette (Google, Inc) et al, December 2011

[*http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6455*](http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6455)

To enable Web applications to maintain bidirectional communications with server-side processes, this specification introduces the WebSocket interface.

The WebSocket API (W3C Candidate Recommendation), I. Hickson (Google, Inc),
20 September 2012

[*http://www.w3.org/TR/websockets*](http://www.w3.org/TR/websockets)

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WebSockets: safe and secure

- A raw TCP/UDP API for Javascript would be dangerous
 - There would be no need to fool users into installing trojans
- The WebSocket protocol is asynchronous
 - Connections can only be established from the client side
- Data from client to server is masked
 - Prevents in-line proxies from mistaking the data for HTTP and modifying it
- Can be secured using TLS

Easy to use

- Very simple API
 - Constructor creates (opens) the connection
 - Methods: *close()*, *send()*
 - Events: *onopen()*, *onerror()*, *onclose()*
- Has the advantages of TCP and UDP
 - Data is framed – no need to parse the stream to work out where messages start and end
 - Frame delivery is guaranteed and in-order
- Interpretation of the frames is based on subprotocol not TCP or UDP port

Opening a connection (Handshake)

Request from client (browser)

```
GET wss://edge00.crocodilertc.net/4m9e4ipsfd8uh0leg0kr HTTP/1.1
Origin: https://www.crocodiletalk.com
Host: edge00.crocodilertc.net
Sec-WebSocket-Key: ywV2YxcaL0DMDVPyeHYj3Q==
Upgrade: websocket
Sec-WebSocket-Protocol: sip
Connection: Upgrade
Sec-WebSocket-Version: 13
```

Response from server

```
HTTP/1.1 101 Switching Protocols
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: https://www.crocodiletalk.com
Connection: upgrade
Sec-WebSocket-Accept: 9H9dBstuq+Y4Be2Ql7WWkV6tnjA=
Sec-WebSocket-Protocol: sip
Upgrade: websocket
```

The browser API handles this for you

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Controlling connections

- Two types of frame
 - Data frames
 - Control frames

- Close

If you receive a close on a connection that you have not send a close on, send a close on that connection

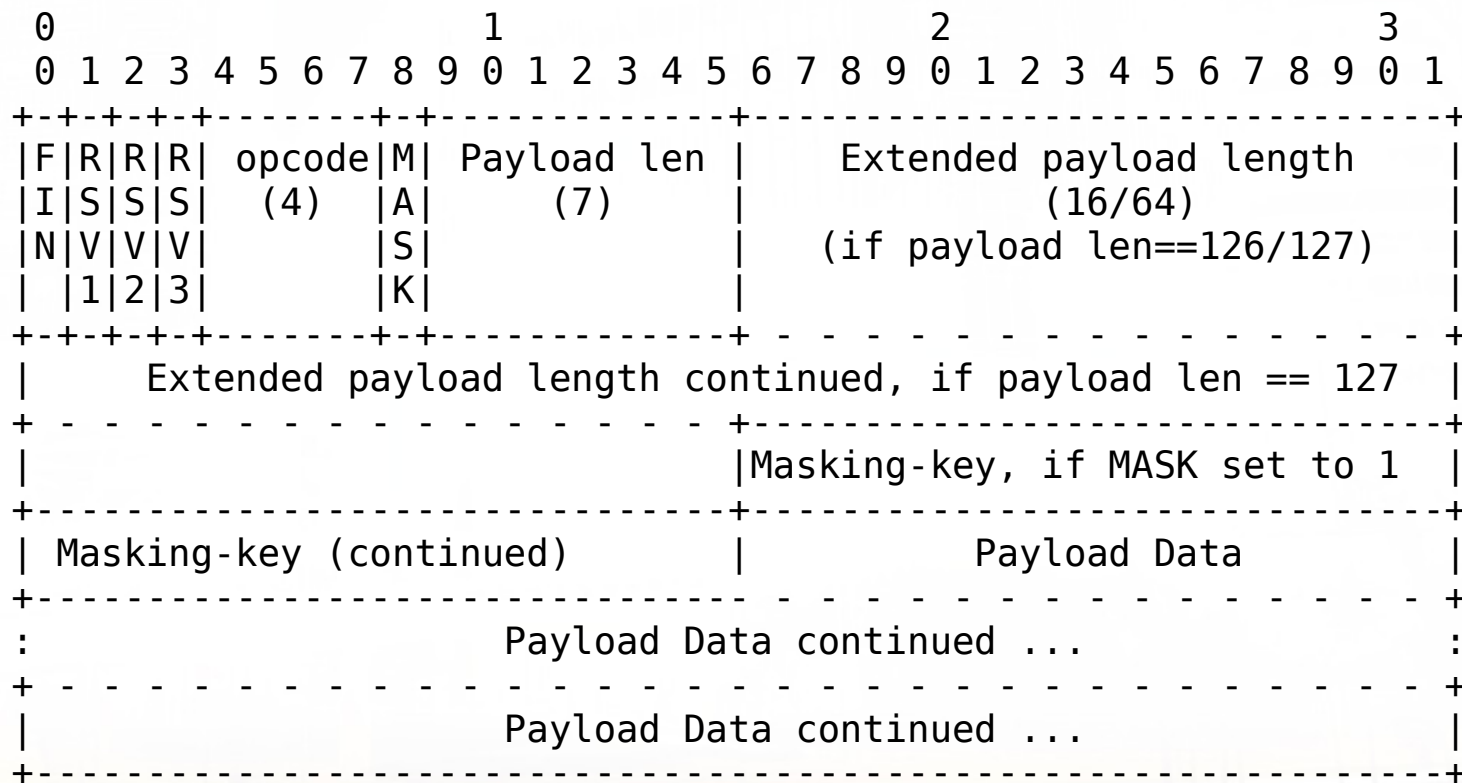
- Ping

If you receive a ping on a connection send a pong on that connection

- Pong

The browser API handles this for you

Sending/receiving frames



RFC 6455, section 5.2

The browser API handles this for you

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Proxies and subprotocols

- Proxies
 - In-line proxies may be an issue
 - Masking helps avoid frame corruption, but sometimes the handshake fails
 - Using TLS avoids the issue and is good-practice anyway
 - Configured proxies
 - Must support the CONNECT HTTP request
- Subprotocols
 - <http://www.iana.org/assignments/websocket/websocket.xml>

The simplest form of signalling

- Exchange json blobs over WebSockets
- But beware, when you go beyond the basic “call” signalling gets hard (especially in the edge cases)
- Standards based signalling schemes have already solved:
 - Session liveness
 - Hold
 - Renegotiate
 - Transfer
 - and more...

Signalling options

- Open standards are usually best
 - SIP over WebSocket,
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-sipcore-sip-websocket>
 - XMPP over WebSocket,
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-moffitt-xmpp-over-websocket>
 - OpenPeer, <http://openpeer.org/>
- The WebRTC API is easy but signalling is often hard
 - There are many open-source libraries that do the signalling
 - The library APIs vary in complexity to meet every need
 - Hosted infrastructure lets you add real-time communications to your website without having to build a network yourself

Opensource projects

- Node.js
 - Many WebSocket libraries available (for example, support in socket.io)
- SIP Servers
 - Asterisk, Kamailio, OverSIP, reSIPprocate
- SIP Clients
 - JAIN-SIP-Javascript, JsSIP, QoffeeSIP, sipml5
- XMPP Servers (and connection managers)
 - ejabberd-websockets, node-xmpp-bosh, openfire-websockets
- XMPP Clients
 - JSJaC, Strophe

Demo #5: Chrome Developer Tools

- Google Chrome provides a range of tools to help you create and debug applications
- You can add view code and add breakpoints
- You can modify code and view debug
- You can examine what is happening on the wire
 - The *Network* → *WebSockets* view can be particularly helpful – especially if using TLS
- ...

The screenshot shows a Google Chrome browser window with the address bar displaying `https://www.crocodiletalk.com/communicator/`. The page features a sidebar with a balance of £148.69, a status dropdown, and fields for Address and Nickname. The main area contains a video feed of a man with glasses and a whiteboard with handwritten notes. The developer tools are open, showing the Network tab with a list of requests. The selected request is a SIP/2.0 200 OK message from `4m9e-tipsf8uh0leg0kr` to `edge00.crocodilertc.net`. The console shows the following log:

```
2 / 11 requests | 476 B / 3.4 KB trans
Documents StyleSheets Images Scripts XHR Fonts WebSockets Other
```

Dealing with firewalls

- WebRTC is peer-to-peer technology
- Sometimes firewall and NAT devices get in the way
- ICE (Interactive Connectivity Establishment) is mandatory
 - STUN (Session Traversal Utilities for NAT) helps in most cases
 - TURN (Traversal Using Relays around NAT) helps when STUN doesn't
- If a firewall is specifically configured to block real-time communications your options are limited
 - TURN over WebSockets is now under development

<https://code.google.com/p/rfc5766-turn-server/>

Desktop and mobile apps

- This technology isn't just for browsers
- Native WebRTC is possible
 - Mobile: Android and iOS libraries, and BB10 has support in the OS
 - Desktop: Linux, OS X, and Windows libraries
- Native WebSocket libraries are available
 - WebSockets are a sensible option for mobile app developers who want a safe way to exchange data with servers

HOWTO: A SIP over WebSockets Server

- Download, build, and install Kamailio 4.1
- Create a kamailio.cfg file based on the following code snippets

<http://www.kamailio.org/>

Handling WebSocket handshakes in Kamailio

```
...
tcp_accept_no_cl=yes
...
event_route[xhttp:request] {
    set_reply_close();
    set_reply_no_connect();

    if ($hdr(Upgrade) =~ "websocket"
        && $hdr(Connection) =~ "Upgrade"
        && $rm =~ "GET") {

        # Validate as required (Host:, Origin:, Cookie:)

        if (ws_handle_handshake())
            exit;
    }

    xhttp_reply("404", "Not Found", "", "");
}
```

WebSocket clients are always behind a NAT

- Javascript applications cannot see the real IP address and port for the WebSocket connection
- This means that the SIP server cannot trust addresses and ports in SIP messages received over WebSockets
- nathelper and/or outbound can be used to solve this problem

Using nathelper on SIP over WebSocket requests

```
modparam("nathelper|registrar", "received_avp", "$avp(RECEIVED)")
...
request_route {
    route(REQINIT);
    route(WSDetect);
    ...
route[WSDetect] {
    if (proto == WS || proto == WSS) {
        force_rport();
        if (is_method("REGISTER")) {
            fix_nated_register();
        } else if (is_method("INVITE|NOTIFY|SUBSCRIBE")) {
            add_contact_alias();
        }
    }
}
...
route[WITHINDLG] {
    if (has_totag()) {
        if (loose_route()) {
            if (!isdsturisets()) {
                handle_ruri_alias();
            }
            ...
        }
    }
}
```

Using nathelper on SIP over WebSocket responses

```
onreply_route {  
    if ((proto == WS || proto == WSS)  
        && status =~ "[12][0-9][0-9]") {  
        add_contact_alias();  
    }  
}
```

What about web-calls to non-web endpoints?

- Use mediaproxy-ng from SIPWise

<https://github.com/sipwise/mediaproxy-ng>

- Companion Kamailio module: rtpproxy-ng

<http://kamailio.org/docs/modules/devel/modules/rtpproxy-ng.html>

- SIP Signalling is proxied instead of B2BUA'd (that is, not broken)

Catch 488 to invoke mediaproxy-ng

```
modparam("rtpproxy-ng", "rtpproxy_sock", "udp:localhost:22223")
...
route[LOCATION] {
    ...
    t_on_failure("UA_FAILURE");
}
...
failure_route[UA_FAILURE] {
    if (t_check_status("488") && sdp_content()) {
        if (sdp_get_line_startswith("$avp(mline)", "m=")) {
            if ($avp(mline) =~ "SAVPF") {
                $avp(rtpproxy_offer_flags) = "froc-sp";
                $avp(rtpproxy_answer_flags) = "froc+SP";
            } else {
                $avp(rtpproxy_offer_flags) = "froc+SP";
                $avp(rtpproxy_answer_flags) = "froc-sp";
            }
            # In a production system you probably need to catch
            # "RTP/SAVP" and "RTP/AVPF" and handle them correctly
            # too
        }
        append_branch();
        rtpproxy_offer($avp(rtpproxy_offer_flags));
        t_on_reply("RTPPROXY_REPLY");
        route(RELAY);
    }
}
...
```

Handle replies to the retried INVITE

```
modparam("rtpproxy-ng", "rtpproxy_sock", "udp:localhost:22223")
...
failure_route[UA_FAILURE] {
    ...
    t_on_reply("RTPPROXY_REPLY");
    route(RELAY);
}

onreply_route[RTPPROXY_REPLY] {
    if (status =~ "18[03]") {
        # mediaproxy-ng only supports SRTP/SDES - early media
        # won't work so strip it out now to avoid problems
        change_reply_status(180, "Ringing");
        remove_body();
    } else if (status =~ "2[0-9][0-9]" && sdp_content()) {
        rtpproxy_answer($avp(rtpproxy_answer_flags));
    }
}
...
```

Current mediaproxy-ng limitations

- No support for SRTP/DTLS
 - SRTP/DTLS is a MUST for WebRTC and SRTP/SDES is a MUST NOT
 - mediaproxy-ng works with Google Chrome today (but Google will be removing SRTP/SDES over the next year)
 - mediaproxy-ng does not work with Firefox at this time
- Does not support “bundling”/“unbundling”
 - WebRTC can “bundle” audio and video streams together, but mediaproxy-ng does not support this yet
 - Google Chrome does not currently support “unbundling”
 - You can have an audio stream, or a video stream, but not an audio and video stream at this time

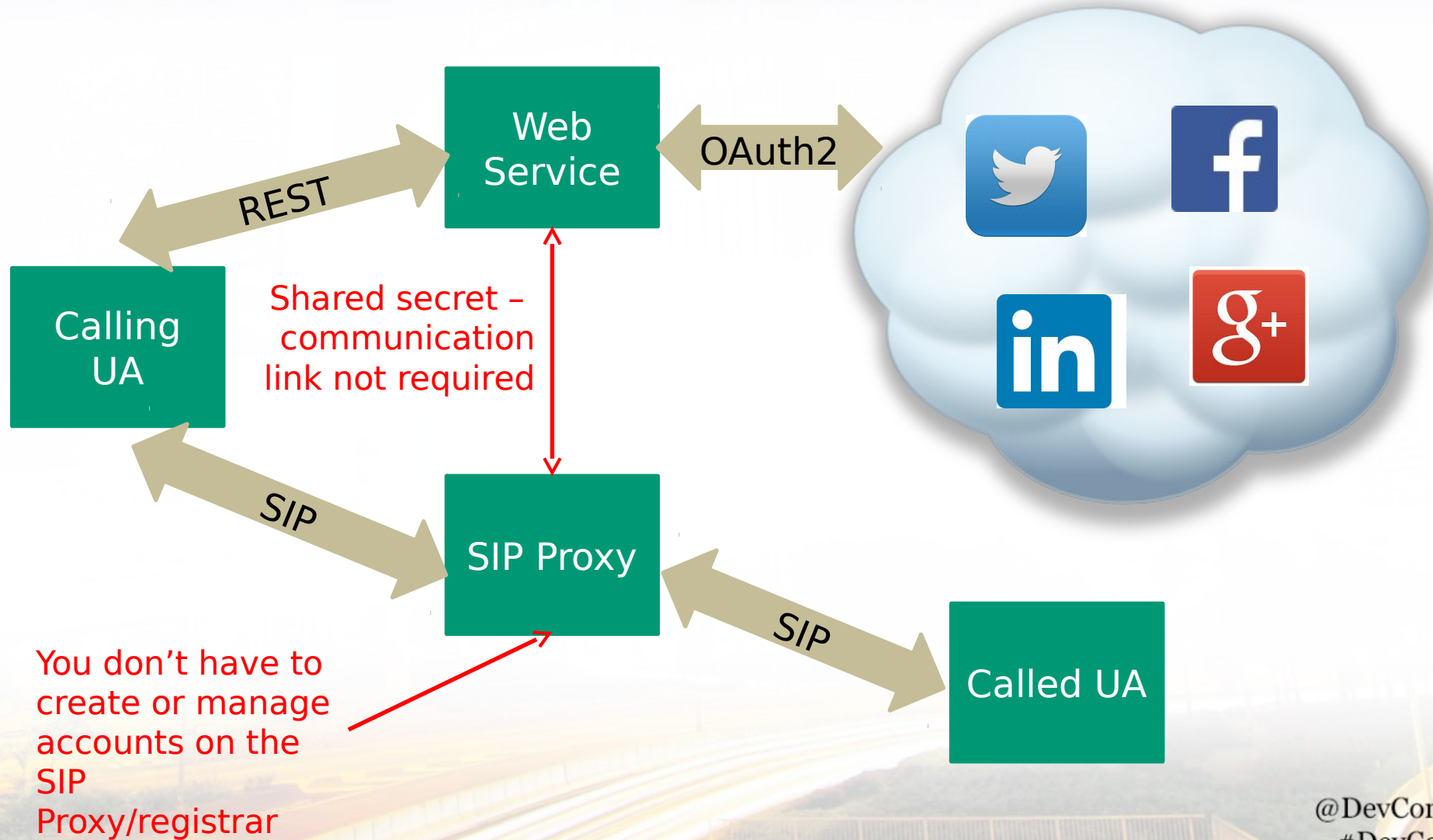
HOWTO: Authenticate SIP using a web-service

- No communication required between authentication server and Kamailio
- Credentials expire (the expiry time is chosen by the authentication server)
- Extract username and password from the “GET” used for HTTP handshake and authenticate there, or
- Use the credentials for digest authentication of SIP requests
- Check the From-URI or To-URI in SIP headers match the user part of the credential

http://kamailio.org/docs/modules/devel/modules/auth_ephemeral.html

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Authenticating the handshake

```
...
tcp_accept_no_cl=yes
...
modparam("auth_ephemeral", "secret", "kamilio_rules")
...
modparam("htable", "htable", "wsconn=>size=8;")
...
event_route[xhttp:request] {
    ...
    # URI format is /?username=foo&password=bar
    $var(uri_params) = ${hu{url.querystring}};
    $var(username) = ${var(uri_params){param.name,username,&}};
    $var(password) = ${var(uri_params){param.name,password,&}};
    # Note: username and password could also have been in a Cookie: header

    if (!autheph_authenticate("$var(username)", "$var(password)")) {
        xhttp_reply("403", "Forbidden", "", "");
        exit;
    }

    if (ws_handle_handshake()) {
        $sht(wsconn=>$si:$sp::username) = $var(username)
        exit;
    }
    ...
event_route[websocket:closed] {
    $var(regex) = $si + ":" $sp + ".*";
    sht_rm_name_re("wsconn=>$var(regex)");
}
}
```


Checking SIP requests

```
...
request_route {
    route(REQINIT);
    route(WSDetect);
    ...
    if (!(proto == WS || proto == WSS))
        route(AUTH);
    ...
route[WSDetect] {
    if (proto == WS || proto == WSS) {
        $var(username) = (str) $sht(wsconn=>$si:$sp::username);
        if ($var(username) == $null || $var(username) == "") {
            send_reply("403", "Forbidden");
            ws_close(1008, "Policy Violation");
            exit;
        }

        if (!autheph_check_timestamp("$var(username)")
            || (is_method("REGISTER|PUBLISH")
                && !autheph_check_to("$var(username)"))
            || (!has_totag() && !autheph_check_from("$var(username)"))) {
            send_reply("403", "Forbidden");
            ws_close(1008, "Policy Violation");
            exit;
        }
    }

    force_rport();
    ...
}
```

Questions?

Code: <https://github.com/crocodilertc>

Email: peter.dunkley@crocodilertc.net

Twitter: [@pdunkley](https://twitter.com/pdunkley)