WebCT CE via AAIportal —

using the transparent mode

Dr. Beat Müller

**Network for Educational Technology - NET
ETH Zürich**

mueller@net.ethz.ch

http://www.net.ethz.ch/

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Introduction

What is WebCT CE?

- ➢ **web-based e-learning platform (course management)**
- ➢ **widely-used worldwide**
- ➢ **based on Perl Scripts (vs. WebCT Vista: Java)**
- ➢

WebCT @ ETHZ

- ➢ **Spring 1998: v. 1.x**
- ➢ **v. 2.1, v. 3.1.x SE, v. 3.6 SE**
- ➢ **Summer 2003: v. 4.0 CE**
- ➢ **Autumn 2003: v. 4.1 CE + LDAP (n.ethz UID)**
- ➢ **29.3.2005: v. 4.1 CE fully AAI enabled**

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Introduction 2

User Patterns

➢ **Operational Server: 5576 users, 157 courses --> 8259 seeds**

➢ **Test Server: 426 users, 2 courses --> 441 seeds**

Hardware and OS

➢ **Intel based dual processor**

➢ **Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 AS**

➢ **Built in WebCT LADP supports no SSL**

➢ **We provide WebCT services for ETHZ and Uni ZH**

➢ **Idea: enable ETHZ WebCT with AAI**

➢ **WebCT doesn't support Apache default authentication --> adaptor needed for using Shibboleth**

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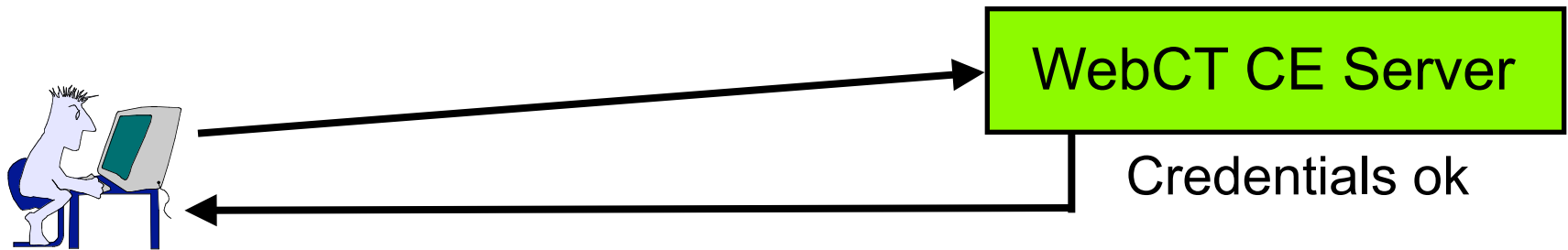
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Introduction 3

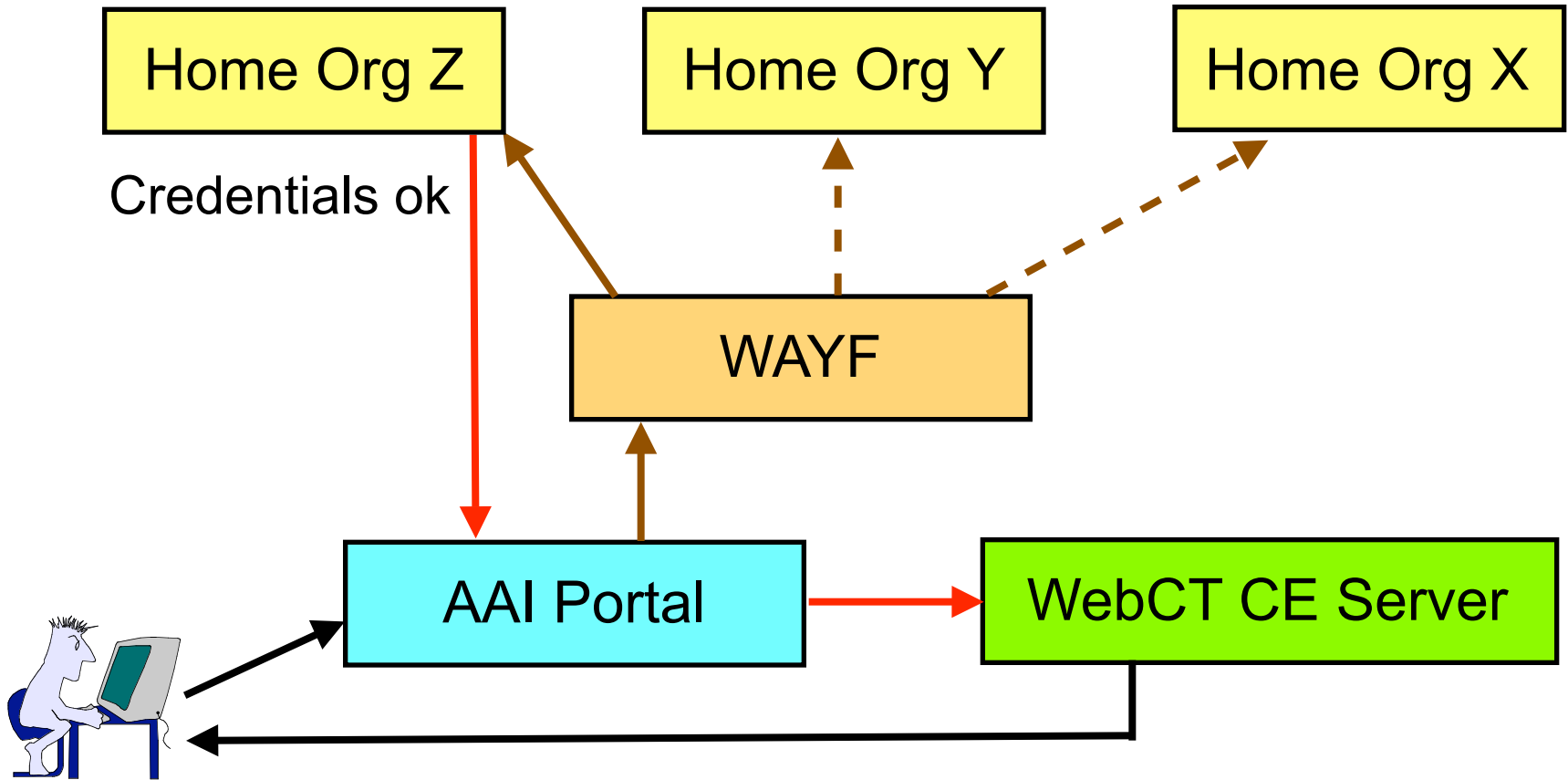**In the meantime: the idea is grown into a respectable Project**

Involved People:

- ➢ **Simon Wieser & Giovanni Staunovo (KOF ETHZ)**
- ➢ **Roland Dietlicher, Vladislav Nespor & Swen Vermeulen (ID ETHZ: Basisdienste)**
- ➢ **Alfred Soom (ID ETHZ: Betriebsinformatik)**
- ➢ **Ueli Kienholz & Valéry Tschopp (SWITCH: AAI)**
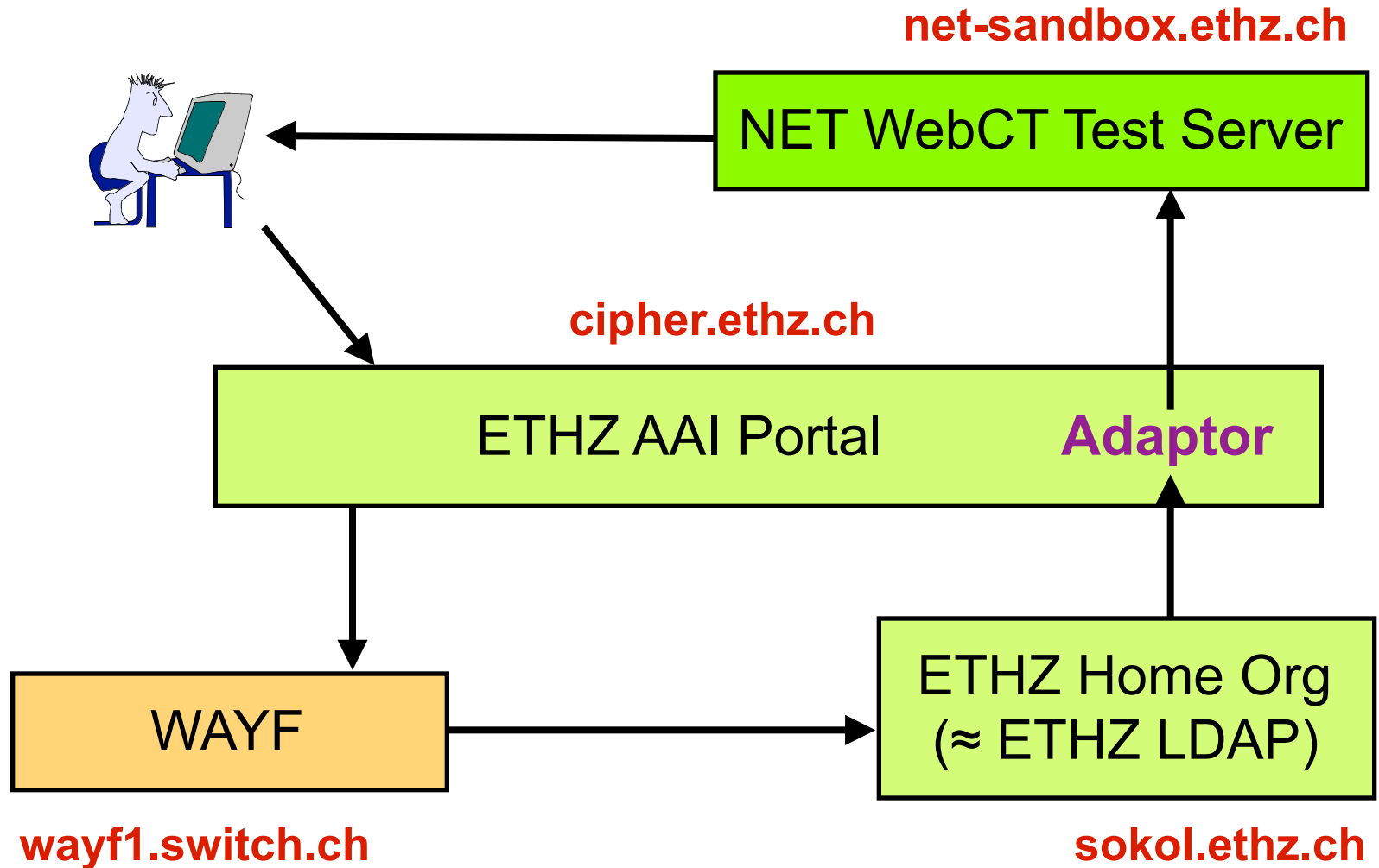- ➢ **Christian Gehrig, Marco Lehre, Olivier Widmer, Thomas Piendl & Beat Müller (NET ETHZ)**

AAI: "How it Works"

WebCT CE Server

Credentials ok

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AAI: "How it Works" 2

Home Org Z

Home Org Y

Home Org X

Credentials ok

WAYF

AAI Portal

WebCT CE Server

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Transparent Mode in Details

net-sandbox.ethz.ch

NET WebCT Test Server

cipher.ethz.ch

ETHZ AAI Portal **Adaptor**

WAYF

ETHZ Home Org (≈ ETHZ LDAP)

wayf1.switch.ch

sokol.ethz.ch

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Transparent Mode: How to Access WebCT CE

E-Ticket: URL and Parameters

https://cipher.ethz.ch/aai_portal_plugins/webctce.php?...

Register & login into a course

action=register&courseid=test_1

Login into MyWebCT

action=login

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Reenabling WebDAV

WebDAV

- ➢ **Set of extensions to the HTTP protocol which allows users to collaboratively edit and manage files on remote web servers**

- ➢ **Handier for course designers than uploading zip-files**

- ➢ **But Shibboleth works only with web browsers (so far)**

- ➢ **But it's still possible to use single signon and WebDAV in WebCT CE together (WebCT PWD ≠ WebDAV PWD)**

- ➢ **WebDAV over SSL has some drawbacks:**
  - **in Windwos you cannot use Internet Explorer**
  - **in MacOS X you need a client software (e.g. Goliath)**

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Importing Additional Attributes

https://kohala.switch.ch/secure/

User information as provided by the Home Organization

Given name	Beat	Home organization	ethz.ch
Surname	Müller	Home organization type	university
Affiliation	staff	Preferred language	
E-mail address	beat.mueller@net.ethz.ch	Mobile phone number	
Business postal address	Network for Educ. Technology Sonneggstrasse 63 ETH-Zentrum, SOW G 17 8092 Zürich	Home postal address	
Business phone number		Private phone number	
Date of birth		Gender	male

Unique ID	45243@ethz.ch
Member of	
Study branch 1	
Study branch 2	
Study branch 3	4700
Study level	4700-25
Staff category	
Organization path	
Organizational unit path	

Importing Additional Attributes 2

Import of:

- ➢ **E-Mail Address**
- ➢ **Study Branch (3)**
- ➢ **Study Level**

into course dbs

Usefull for course designers to

- ➢ **contact students**
- ➢ **decide wether a student needs a certificate**

First Experience

Advantage

- ➢ **The two course designers involved in project are vrey satisfied with the new authentication system**
- ➢ **Less user support (forgotten PWDs)**

Drawbacks

- ➢ **Support people need more klicks to create new courses and to assign them to course designers**
- ➢ **Key words for 'Study level' still missing**
- ➢ **Some minor AAI Portal software problems:**
  - • **Creation of WebCT ID of names**
  - • **containing some special charachters like ' --> will be 'escaped' in PHP (\')**
  - • **after changes in 'Given name' and/or 'Surname'**