

Securing Access To Controls Applications With Apache Httpd Proxy



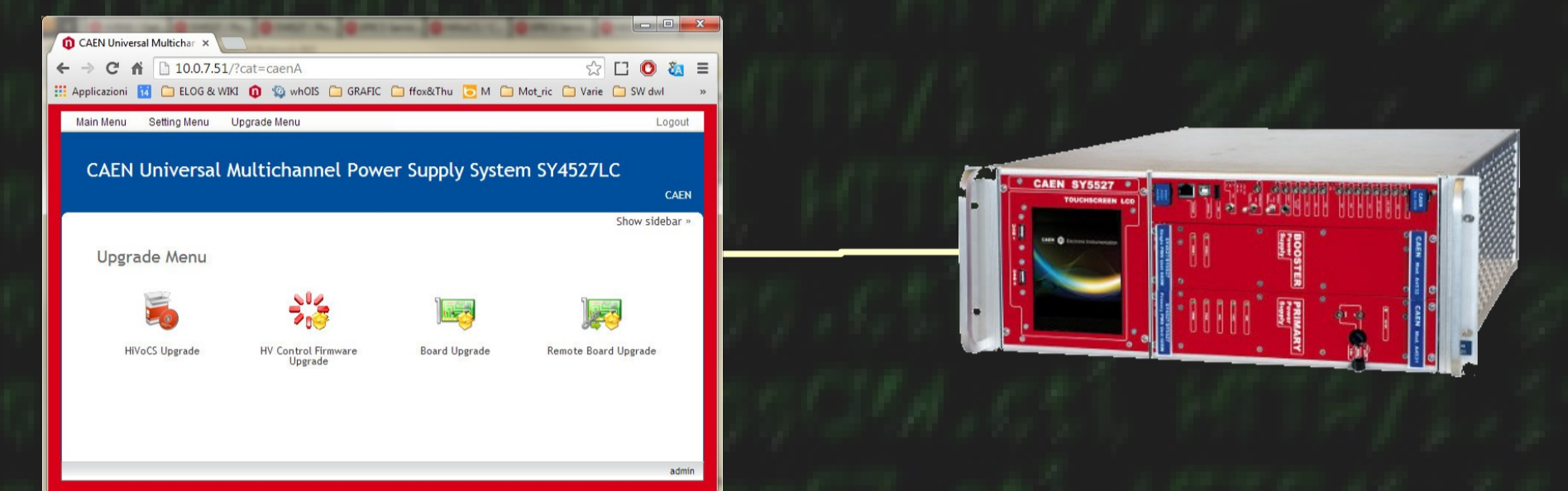
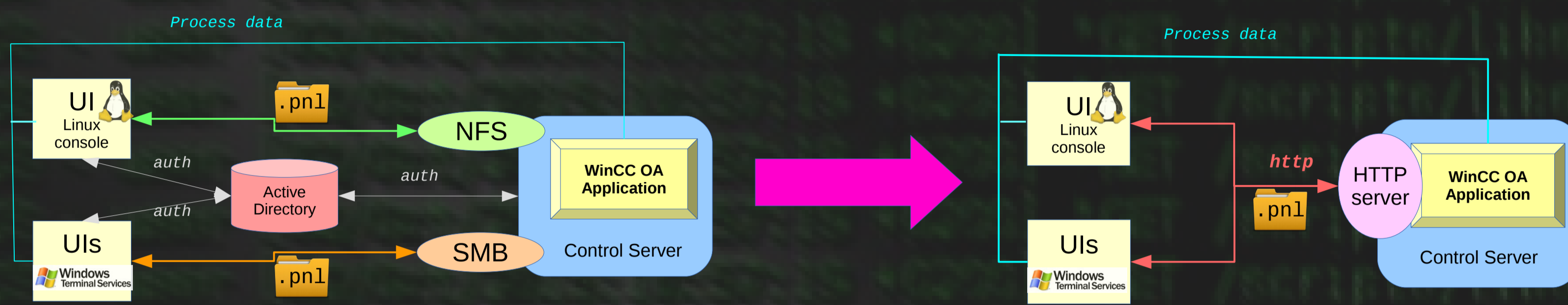
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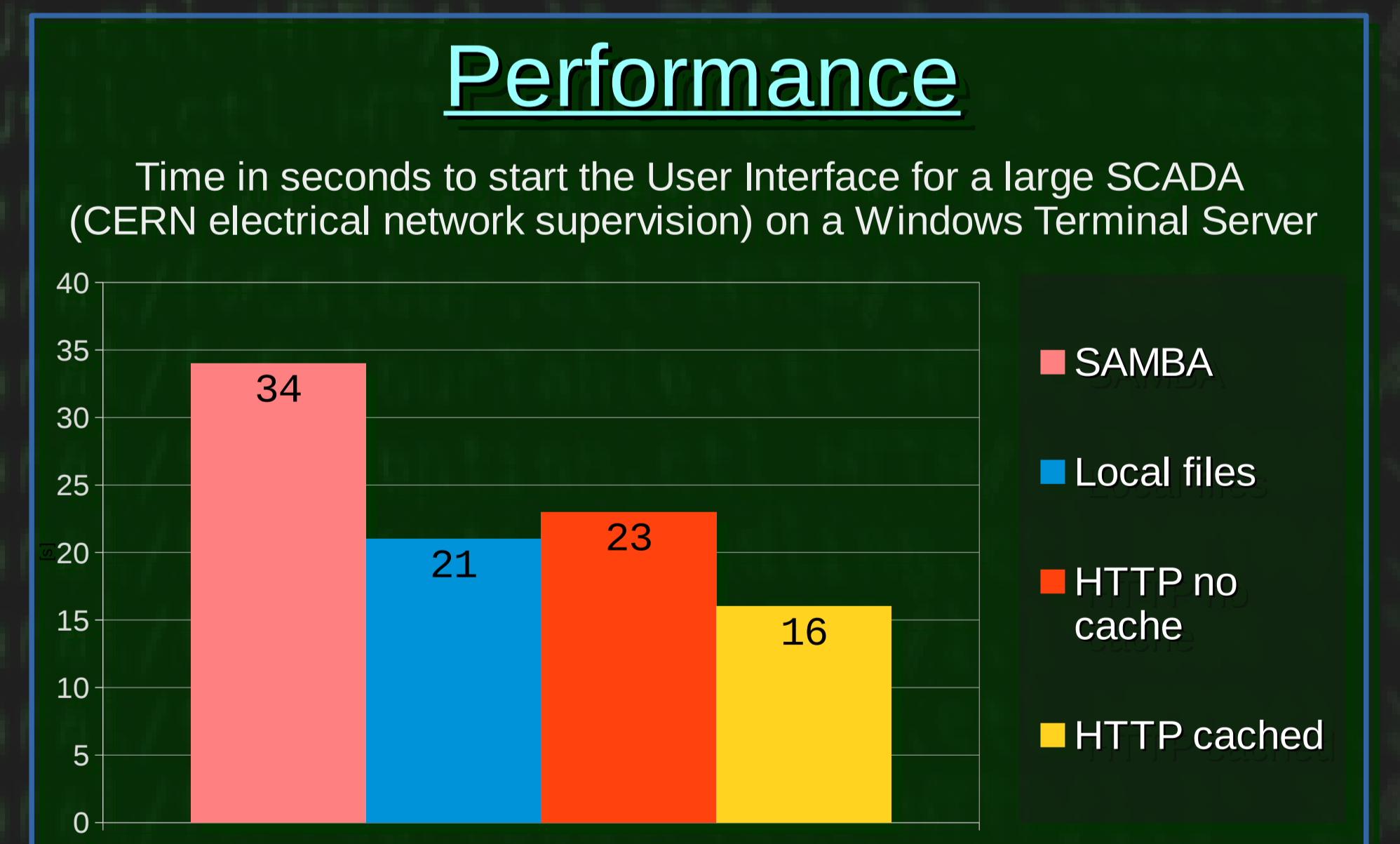
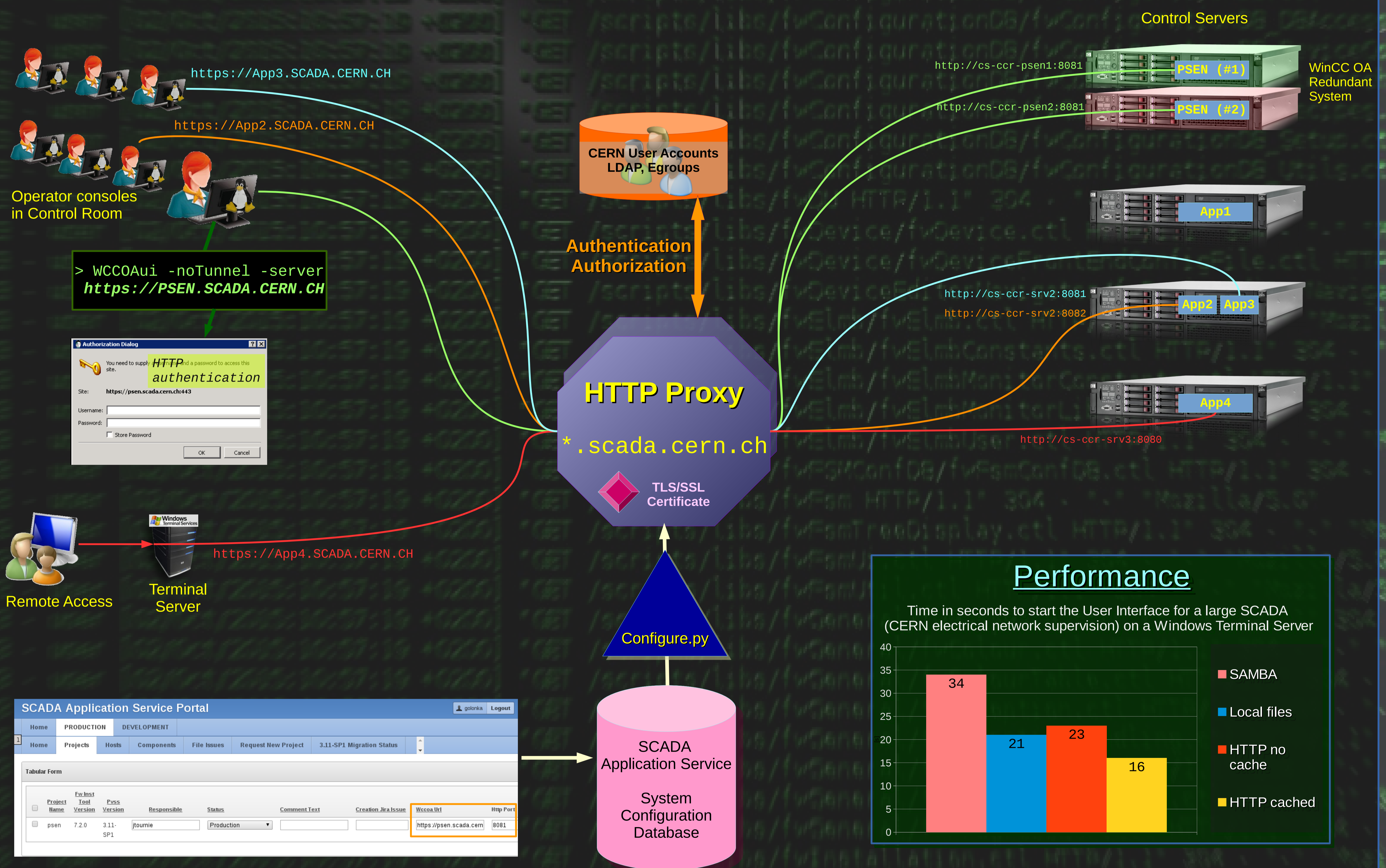
Motivation

- The access to Controls Applications needs to be protected by an authorization enforcement mechanism, such as filesystem-access rights for panels, libraries, etc. The configuration of NFS and Samba file-shares becomes complex with the growing number of applications. The WinCC OA *http* file access mechanism is an interesting alternative, yet scalability and security for large setups needs to be addressed.

- Embedded web-servers are routinely found in controls hardware nowadays, providing a convenient way to configure, maintain and also operate them. Securing access to the services as well as keeping the firmware up to date is often neglected, as availability and reliable operation is of priority for production systems.



Solution: HTTP Reverse Proxy



Conclusions

A standard WWW proxy technology was successfully applied in an atypical context as an alternative to the filesharing-based access control. The important case of redundancy is properly addressed and performance for large applications is significantly better than with file-sharing. The system is in the pilot deployment phase.

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