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HTTPBIS WG
~~IETF 113 Vienna~~
Virtual Interim
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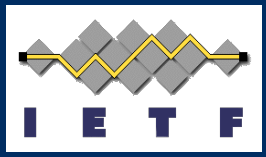
Client-Cert HTTP Header Field

draft-ietf-httpbis-client-cert-field

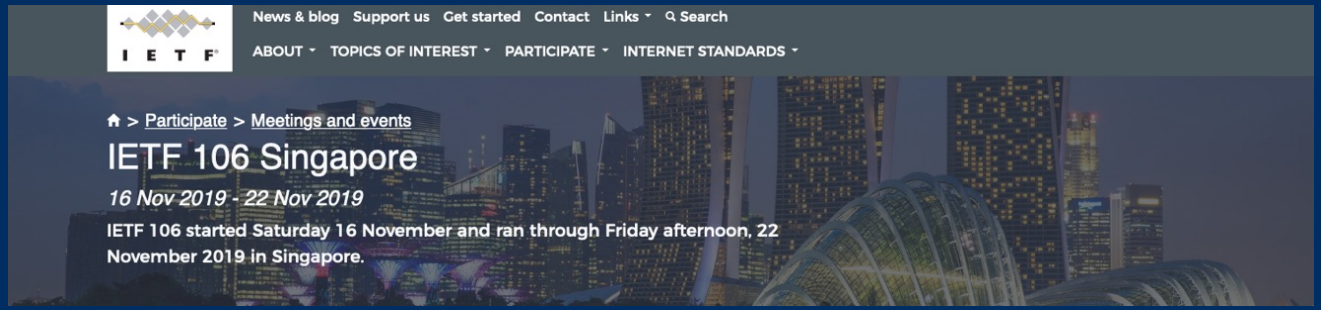
(Review) Context and Motivation



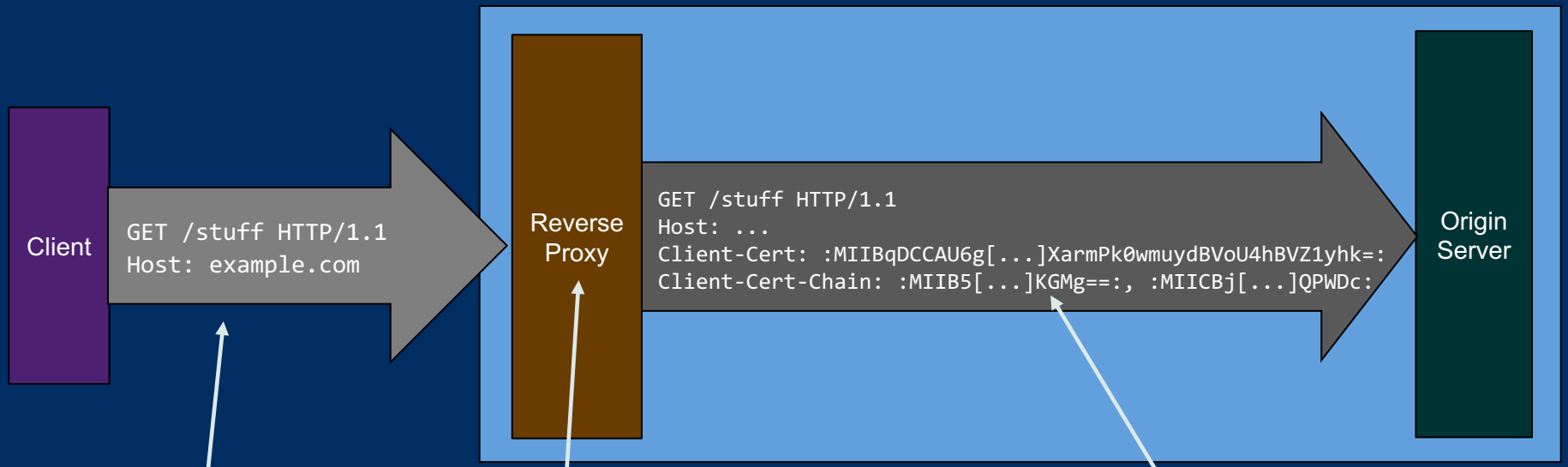
- HTTPS application deployments often have TLS ‘terminated’ by a reverse proxy somewhere in front of the actual HTTP(S) application
  - 'Old fashioned' n-tier reverse proxy and origin server
  - CDN-as-a-service type offerings or application load balancing services
  - Ingress controllers
- TLS client certificate authentication is *sometimes* used
  - In which case the actual application often needs to know something about the client certificate
  - But the original TLS connection terminated upstream so that info isn’t available
- In the absence of a standardized method of conveying the client certificate information, different implementations have done it differently (or not at all)

Goal

- Informational RFC that documents existing practice while codifying specific details sufficient to facilitate improved and lower-touch interoperability going forward
- Participate…



Draft's Approach



HTTP over a mutually-authenticated TLS connection

Verify certificate on presentation

+ sanitize headers on each request

end-entity client certificate passed as value of the `client-cert` header field

(and maybe `client-cert-chain`)

Recentish Happenings

- -02 submitted 5/25
  - Add a note about cert retention on TLS session resumption
  - In the case of multiple post-handshake client cert authentications, say to use only the last one

Openish Stuff