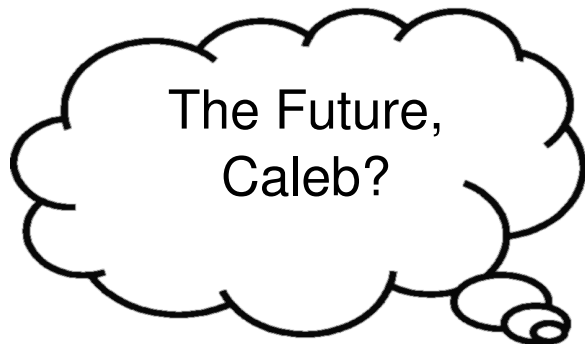


An Introduction to WifiDog

captive portal of the future!?



WifiDog
A captive portal suite

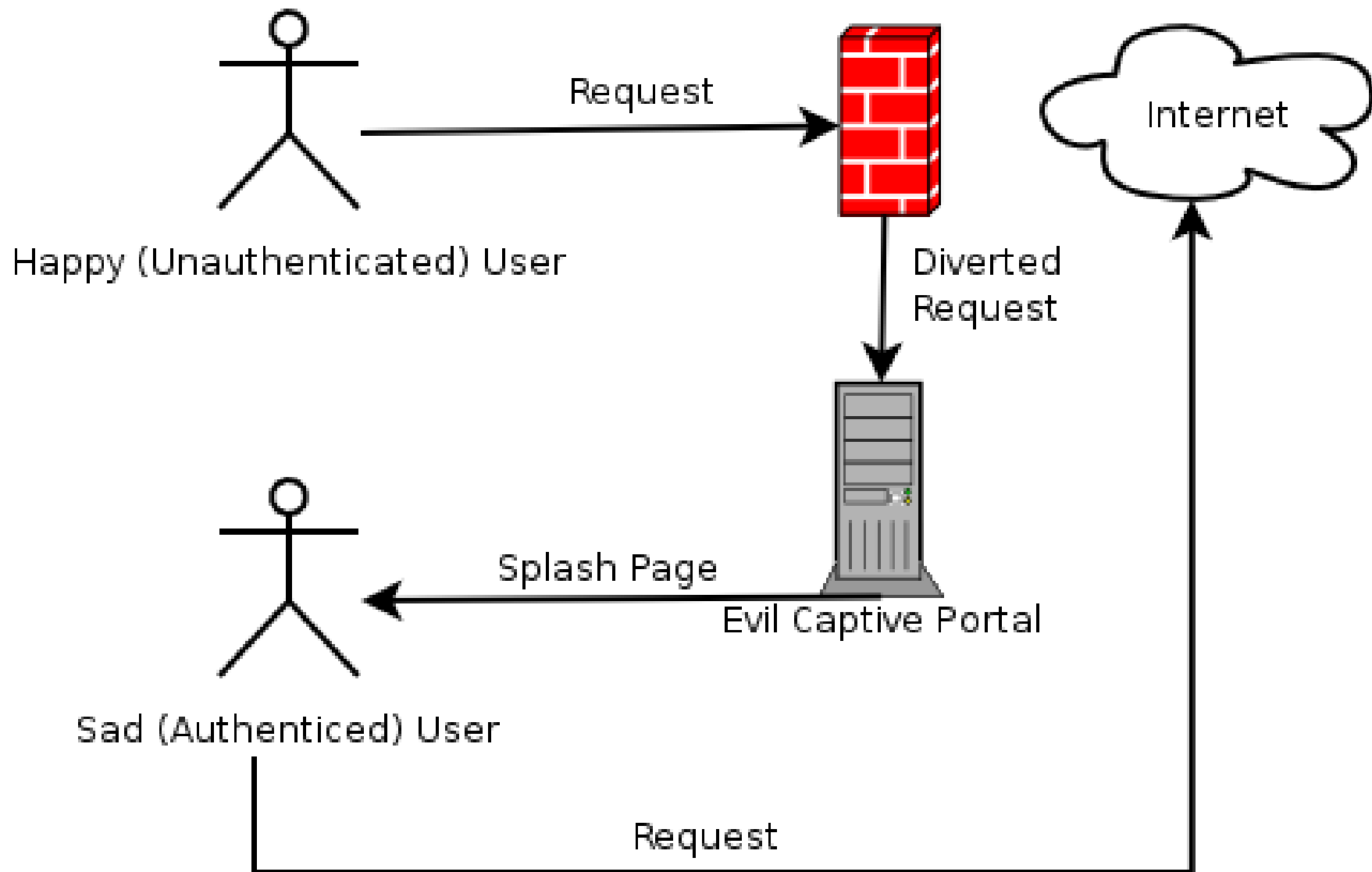
Presented at the
Personal Telco Project October 2006 Monthly
by Caleb Phillips

Find it at: <http://www.personaltelco.net/~caleb/pubs/>

Outline

- **Don't** hold questions for the end
 - What is a Captive Portal
 - How we use a captive portal, and what they look like
 - What is WifiDog, how does it differ?
 - Is it better? Why?
 - Demo: NodeSmallWhiteCube

What is a Captive Portal?



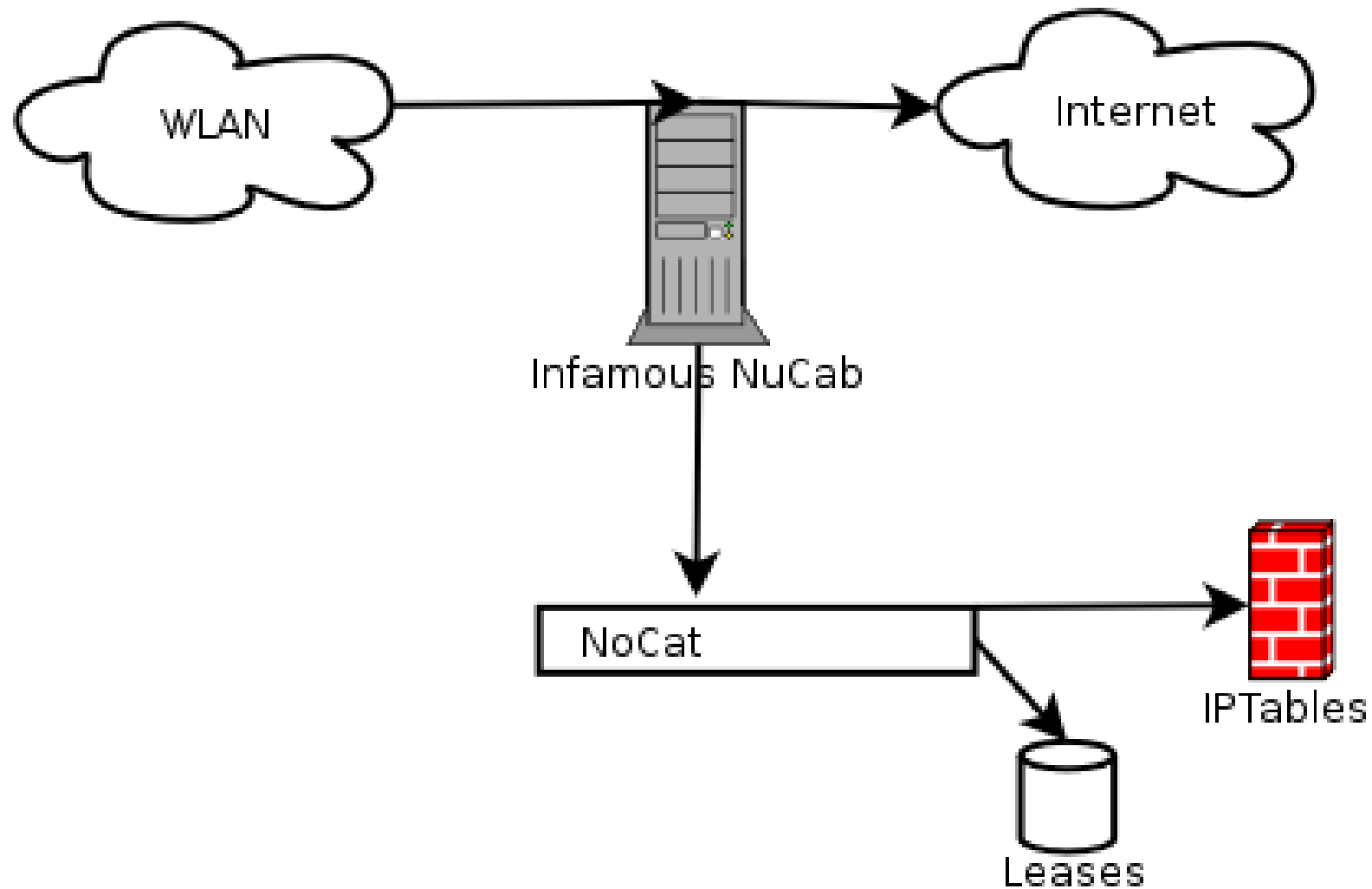
Why do we want that?

- Liability (sigh...)
- Branding?
 - Important for business nodes...
 - Important for PTP?
- Local Content? (grumble...)

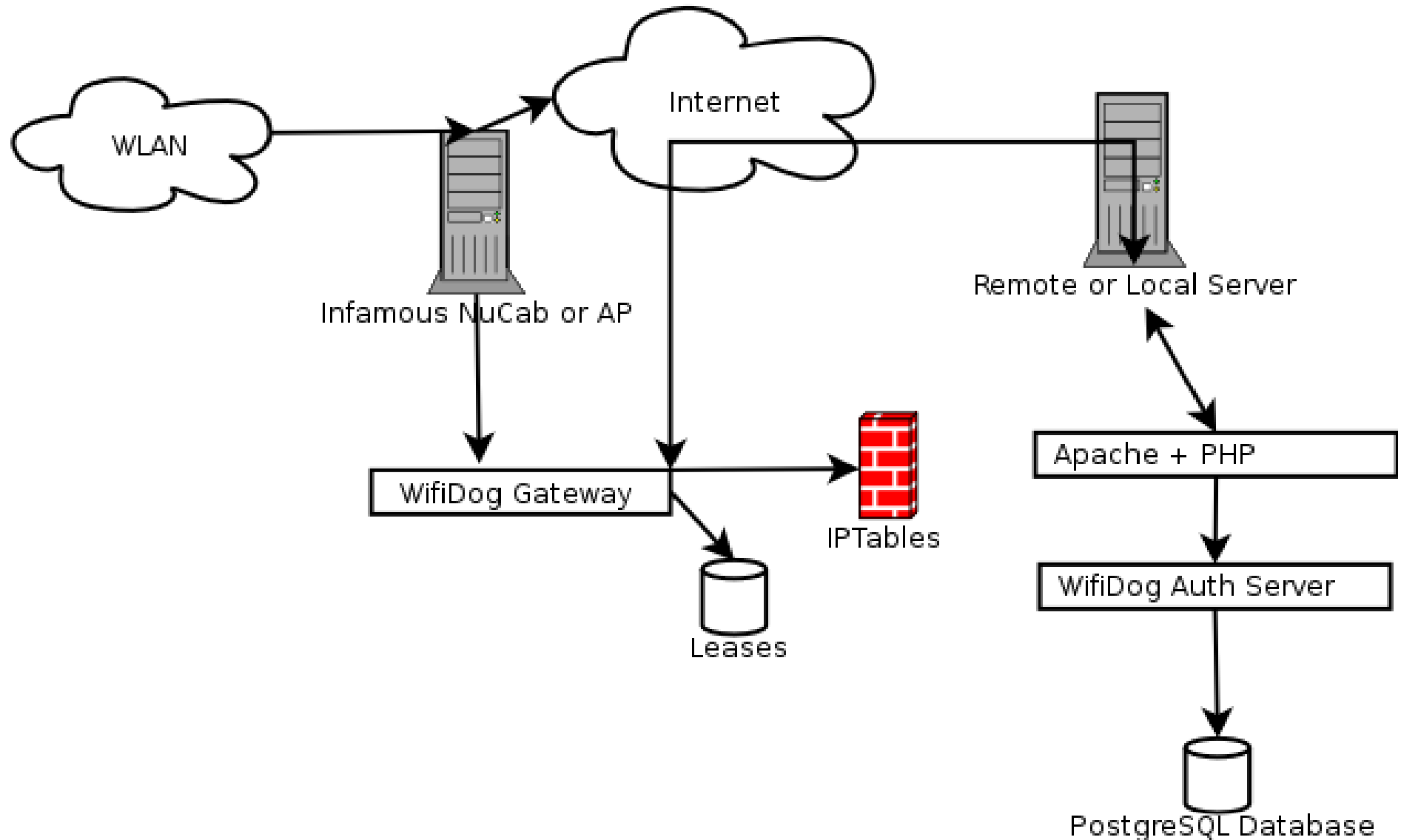
Surveying the Competition

- NoCat
 - <http://nocat.net/>
 - Made by Community wireless group in Sonoma, CA
- WiCap-PHP
 - <http://wiki.personaltelco.net/index.cgi/WiCap-PHP>
 - Regrettably, I wrote this one
- Many, many more:
 - <http://wiki.personaltelco.net/index.cgi/PortalSoftware>

How PTP uses NoCat



How is WifiDog Different?



Why is that Better?

- Centralized Auth-Server Gives Us...
 - **Local content** shared between nodes; Users persist between nodes
 - Distribution of control; Consolidation of maintenance
 - We can have multiple auth servers for redundancy
 - Each node splash is its own owner-controlled CMS
 - Gateway can be more lightweight, easier to run on embedded platforms. (i.e. **less NuCabs!**)
 - System wide **statistics**, built in network monitor

Why is that worse?

- Less adhoc?
- Privacy concerns (but we can solve these)
- NoCat has seniority, WifiDog is young
- Gateways need an internet connection (but, when wouldn't they?)

Example

- Node Small White Cube
 - Rooftop Metrix running WifiDog Gateway
 - Server elsewhere running WifiDog Auth Server
 - <http://wifidog.smallwhitecube.com>