

webDiplomacy – phpBB authentication

Summary

Document summarizing the phpBB authentication tie-in; what affect the changes have, documentation and installation guide.

Goal

Make users that register into webDiplomacy get automatically registered into phpBB3, and make logging into webDiplomacy log the user into phpBB automatically.

Results

Users that register into webDiplomacy are automatically registered into phpBB, and logging into webDiplomacy logs the user into phpBB automatically. In addition logging into phpBB will log the user into webDiplomacy automatically, and create the account in phpBB if the account exists in webDiplomacy but not phpBB.

Changes made

- **Lib/auth.php** : A few internal webDiplomacy authentication functions were made publically accessible, to allow phpBB to re-use the code for authenticating with webDiplomacy.
 - The keySet() function (used to set a new webDiplomacy session cookie) was changed from private to public.
 - The key_UserID() function (used to validate a webDiplomacy session cookie) was changed from private to public
 - These two single-word changes will be the only changes which, with permission, will be ported to the official release, for the sake of ongoing webDiplomacy compatibility with redscape and because the changes are so minor.
- **Config.php** : The customFooter() function has been extended, adding code to recognize when a user is logged into webDiplomacy but not phpBB, or when a user is not logged into webDiplomacy but is logged onto phpBB, and act appropriately.
 - If the user is logged onto webDiplomacy but not phpBB phpbb_bridge.php will be run within a hidden iframe, to log the user onto phpBB behind the scenes.
 - If the user is not logged onto webDiplomacy but is logged onto phpBB the phpBB session ID cookie will be deleted, effectively logging the user out of phpBB.
 - This change alters config.php in a way which is does not alter the base installation, in line with a standard configuration change, providing better compatibility.
- **Phpbb_bridge.php** : The only addition to the webDiplomacy installation, which will not be included in the official release. This file will take a webDiplomacy username provided via phpbb_bridge?username=[username] , and will load phpBB's logon page using that username.

- The password given is the webDiplomacy session cookie being used; this is recognized by the phpBB webDiplomacy authentication module (which may be provided with an actual password or a webDiplomacy session cookie for authentication).
- Using a session cookie instead of a password here means that a webDiplomacy user can be logged on at any time that they are logged on in webDiplomacy and not logged on in phpBB, not just when first logging on to webDiplomacy. It also means that a password isn't being passed around via an iframe, which would be insecure.
- **phpBB3/includes/auth/auth_webdip.php** : This is the largest modified script, and is designed to be added to phpBB3 as part of its modular authentication framework. It intercepts username/password logon requests sent to phpBB and returns the phpBB account details.
 - Having the code in a phpBB3 module means phpBB can be upgraded easily without affecting the webDiplomacy integration.
 - If a user account is found in webDiplomacy but not in phpBB it will be automatically added to phpBB, allowing it to serve a dual purpose registration and authentication function.
 - The code will authenticate a username/password with the webDiplomacy users database, allowing people to log on via the phpBB3 logon page.
 - The code will authenticate a username/webDiplomacy-session-key, allowing people who have logged on via the webDiplomacy logon page to be logged into phpBB without reentering their password.
 - The code will generate a new webDiplomacy session key if the user does not already have one, making users authenticated into webDiplomacy, and will also generate a phpBB3 session key.
 - Authentication is done on usernames, not user IDs, which means no strict association between the two is required.

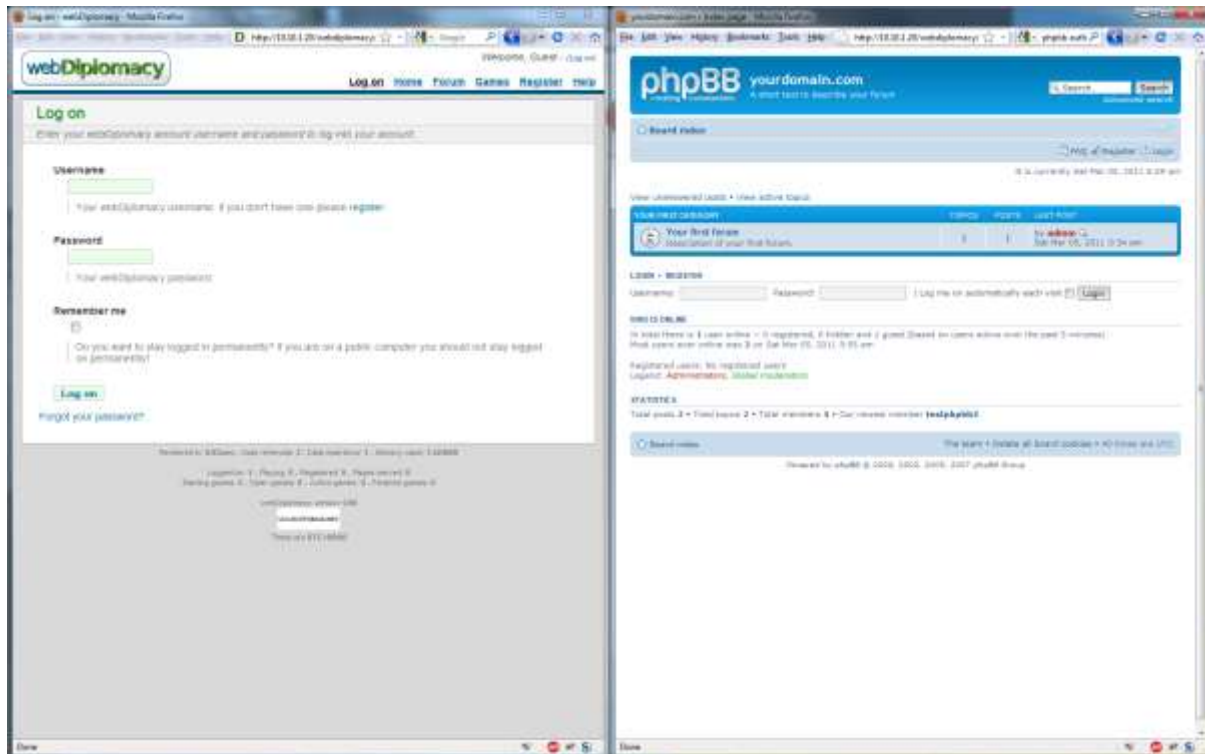
Environment

It is assumed that:

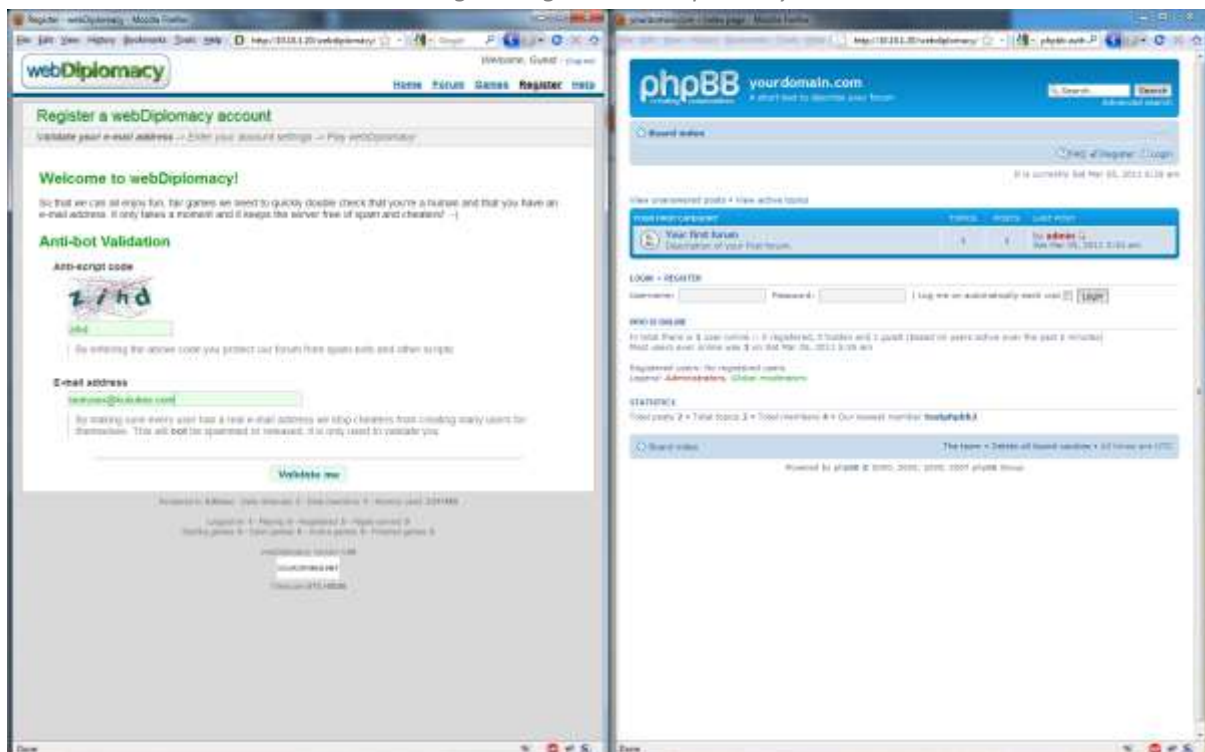
- There exists a phpBB3 folder within the main webDiplomacy installation directory, containing an installation of phpBB 3.0.8+.
- phpBB is already installed and set up, and uses the same database as the webDiplomacy installation.
- phpBB has the auth_webdip.php module installed, and has been configured so that it is the authentication module phpBB uses.
- The latest webDiplomacy code (as of 5/3/11), with the libAuth modifications, phpbb_bridge.php addition, and config.php customFooter() alteration, are installed.

Test cases

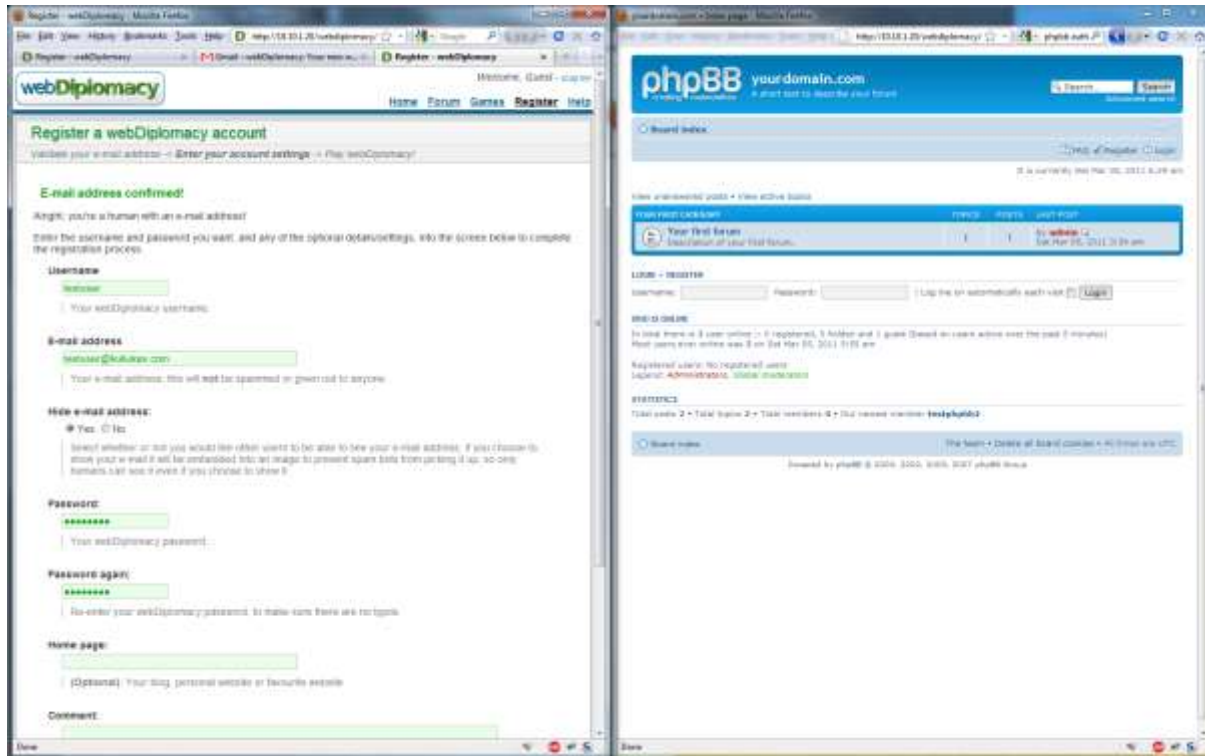
Start – Not registered



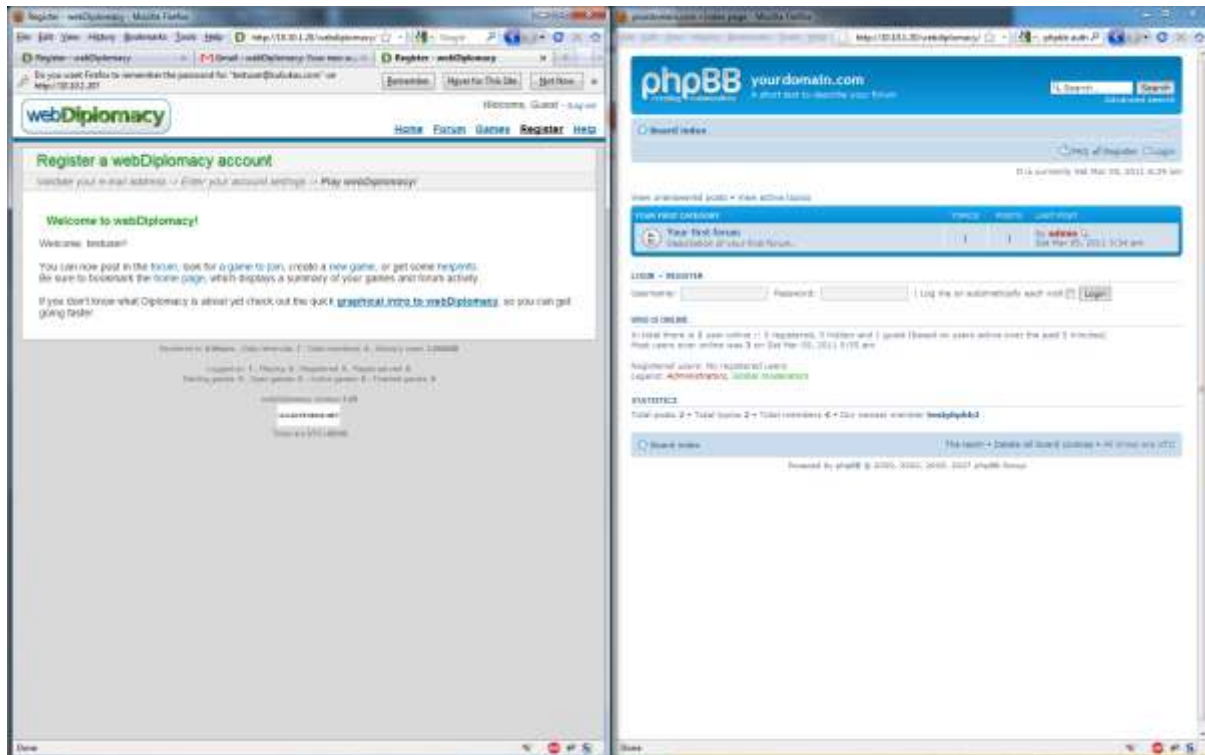
Registering into webDiplomacy



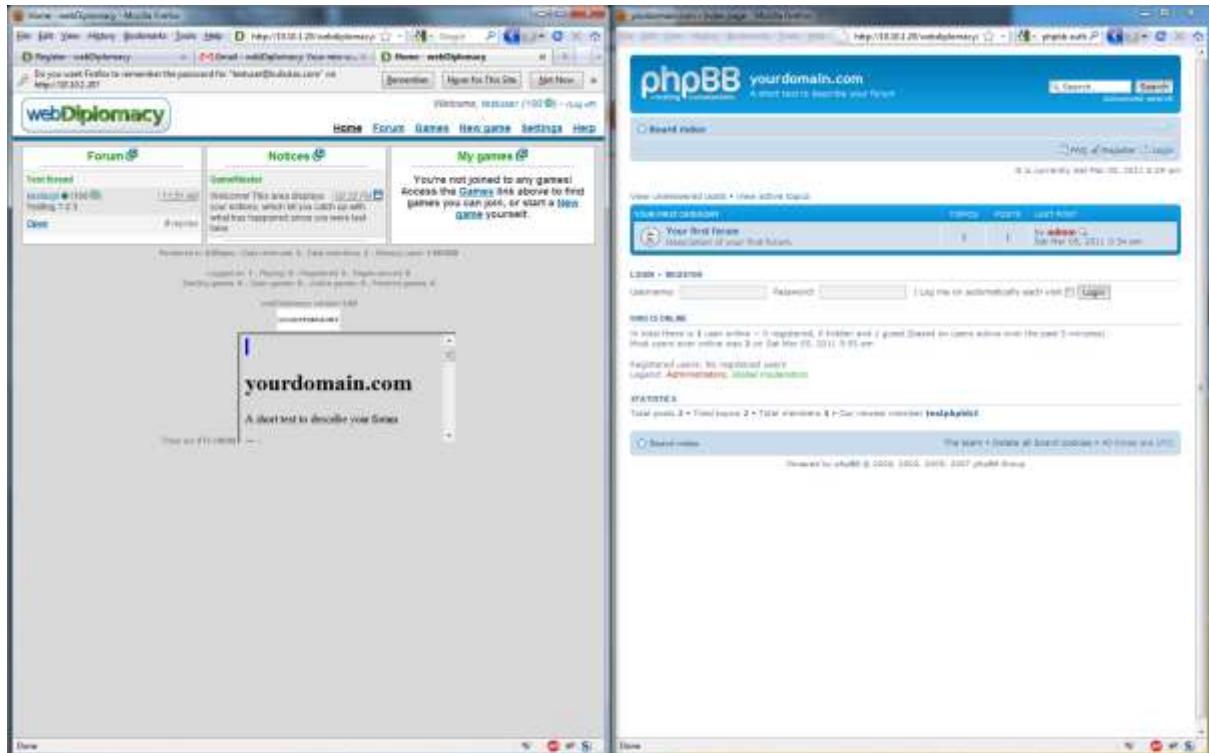
Confirming e-mail address



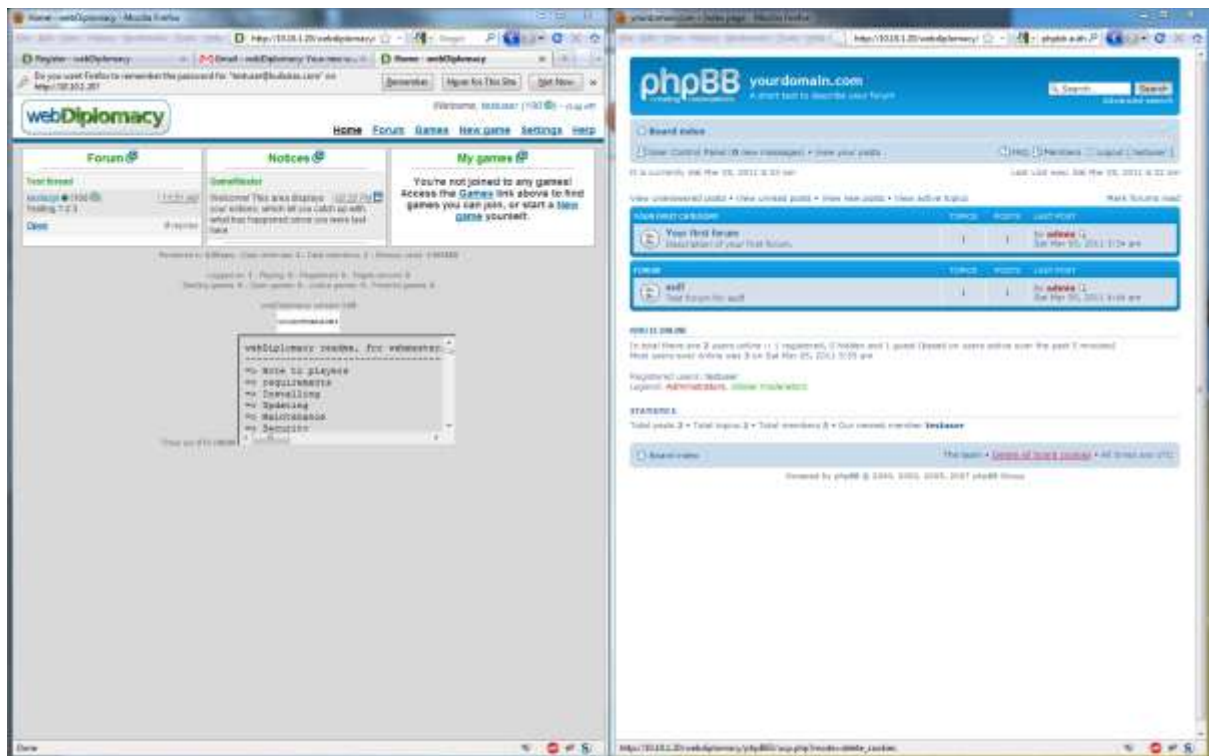
Confirmed, new webDiplomacy user created



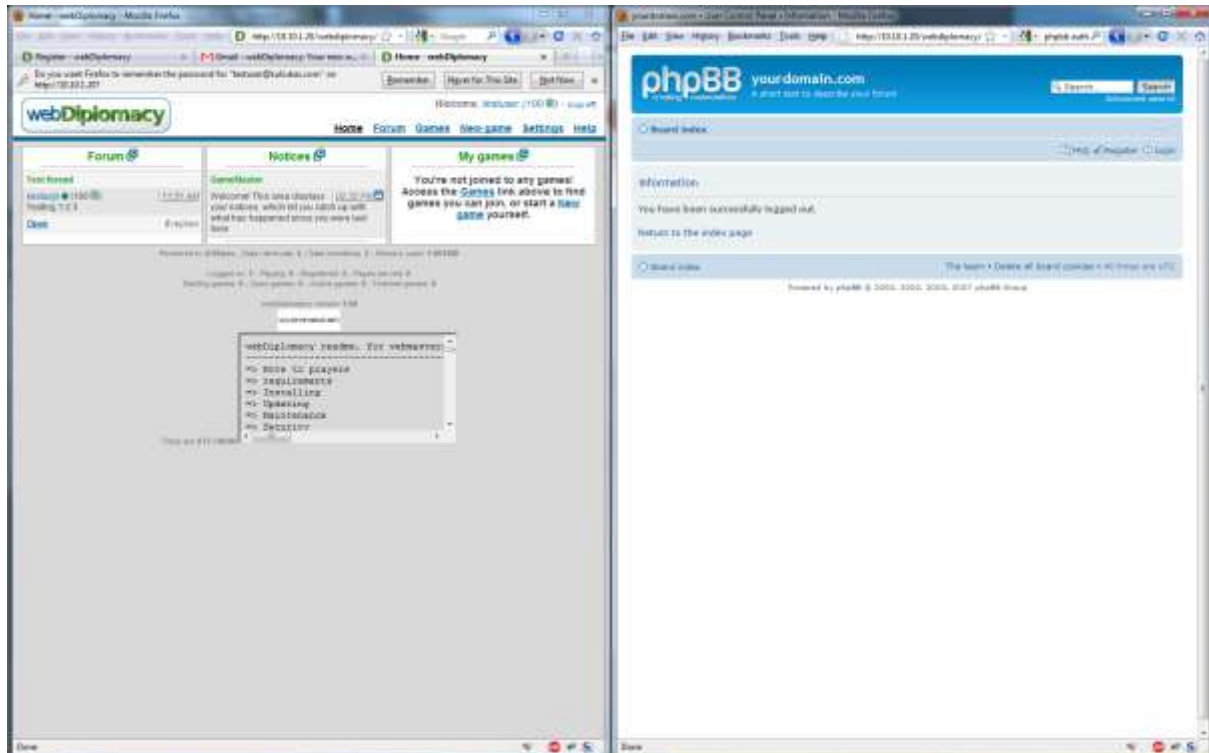
Refreshing; phpBB logon iframe shown (iframe left visible for troubleshooting)



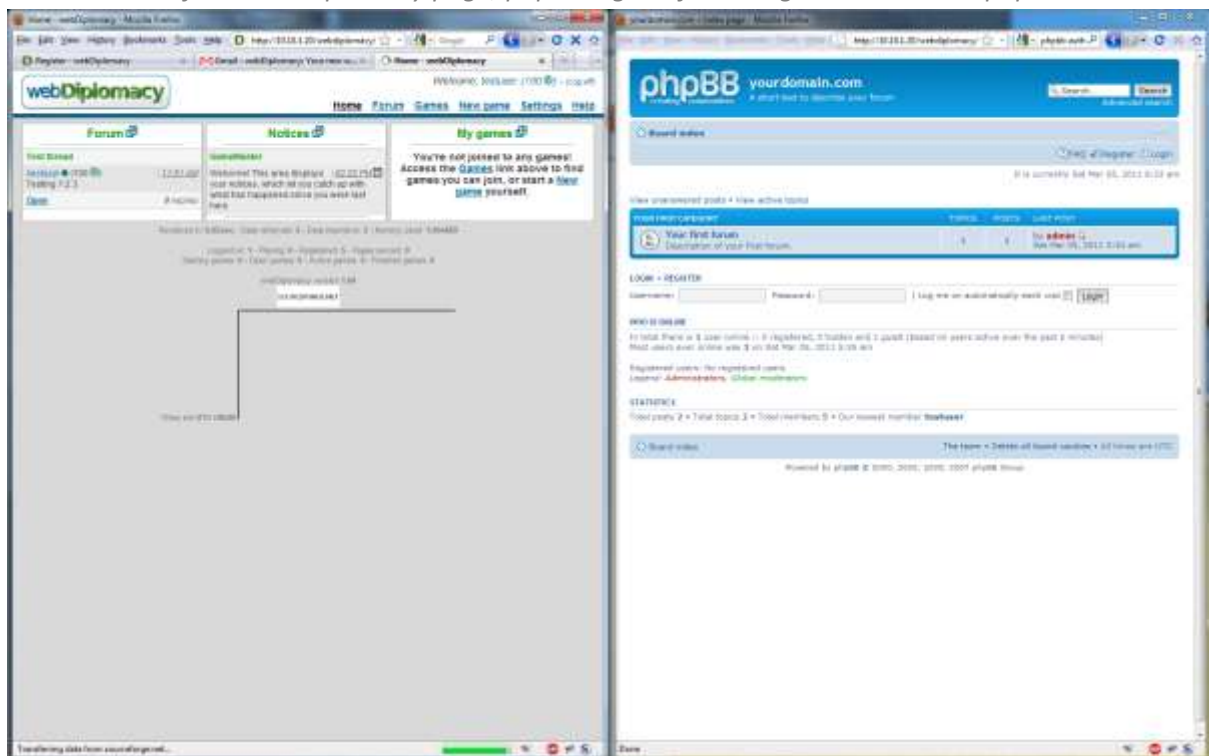
Refresh phpBB page; logged in as newly created user



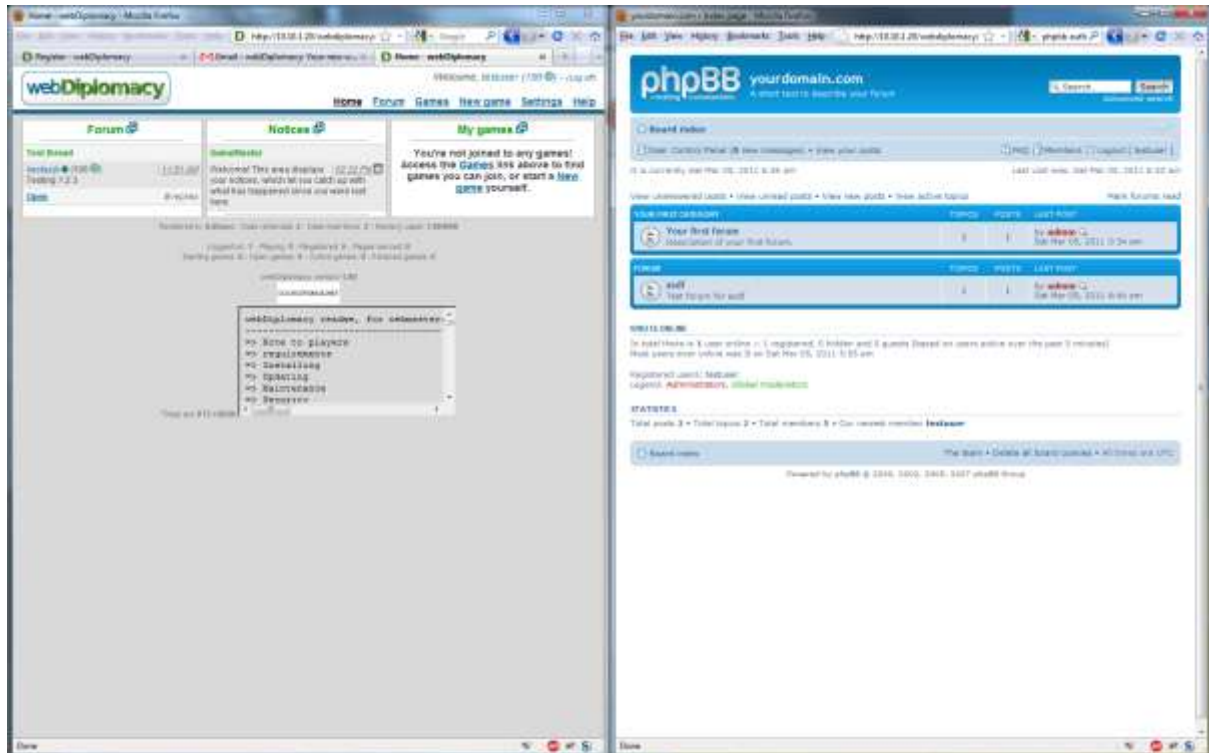
Logging out of phpBB



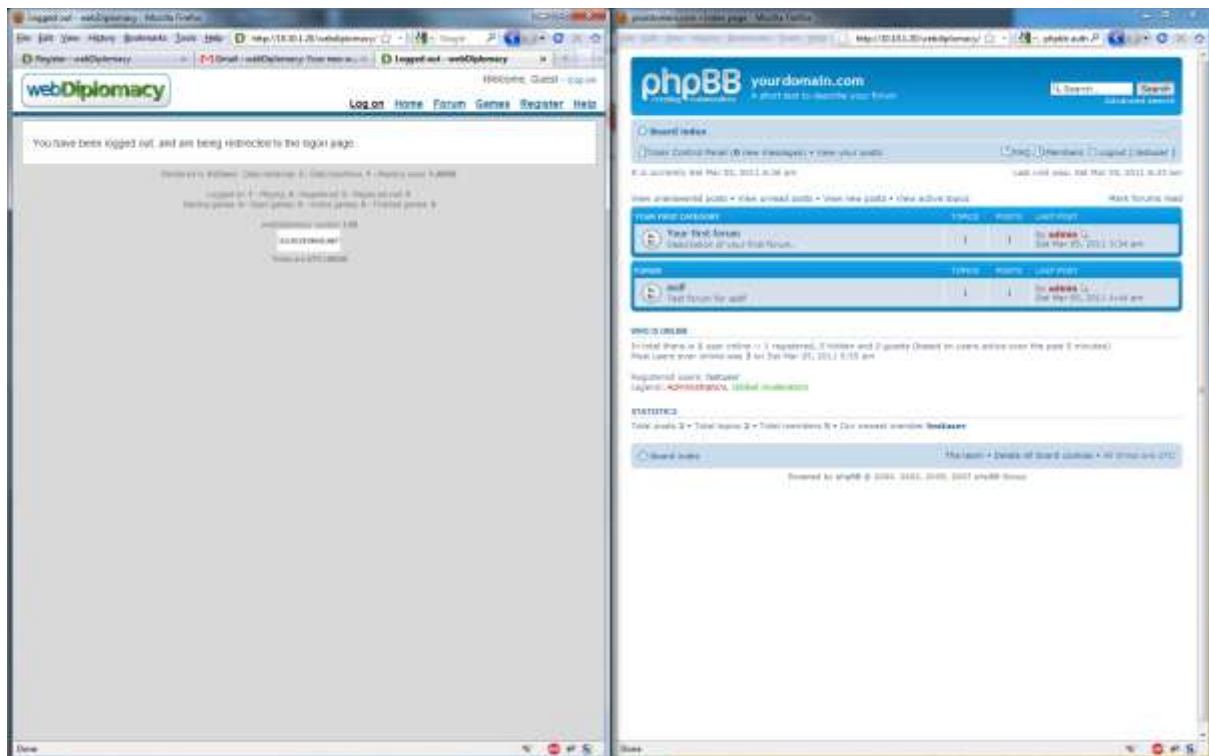
Refresh webDiplomacy page; phpBB log-on iframe logs user back into phpBB



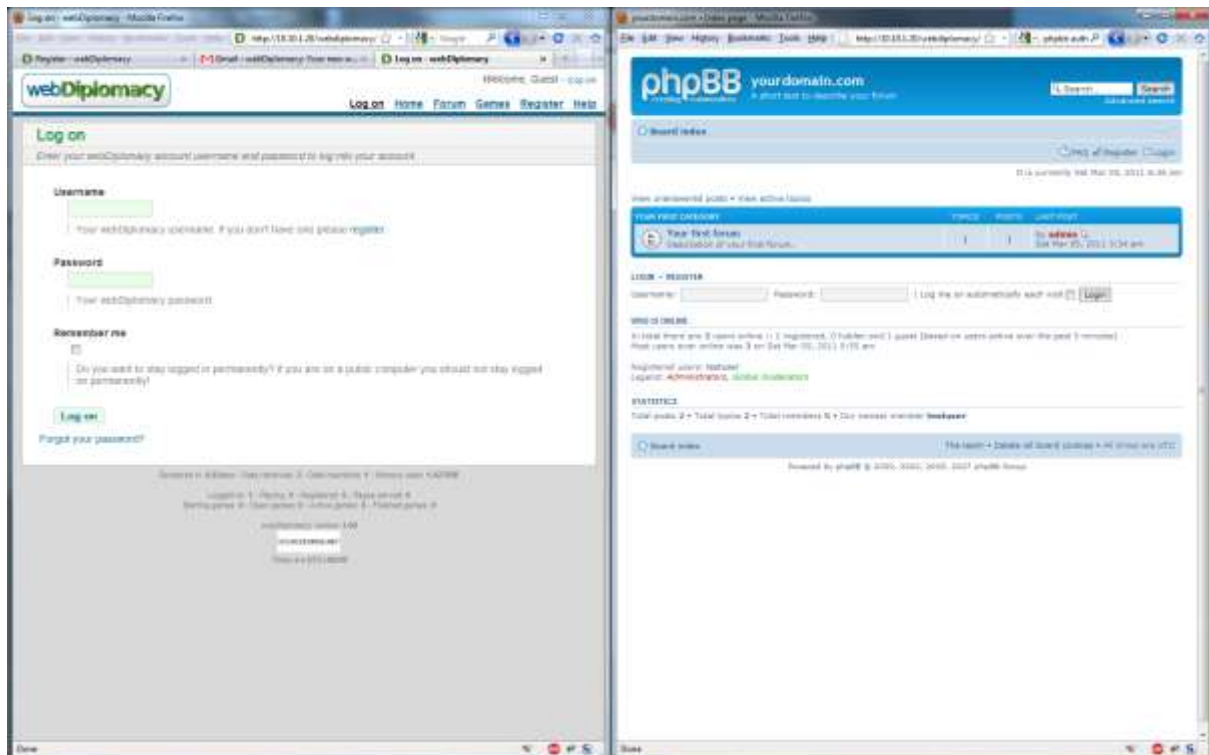
Refresh phpBB page; user logged back into phpBB



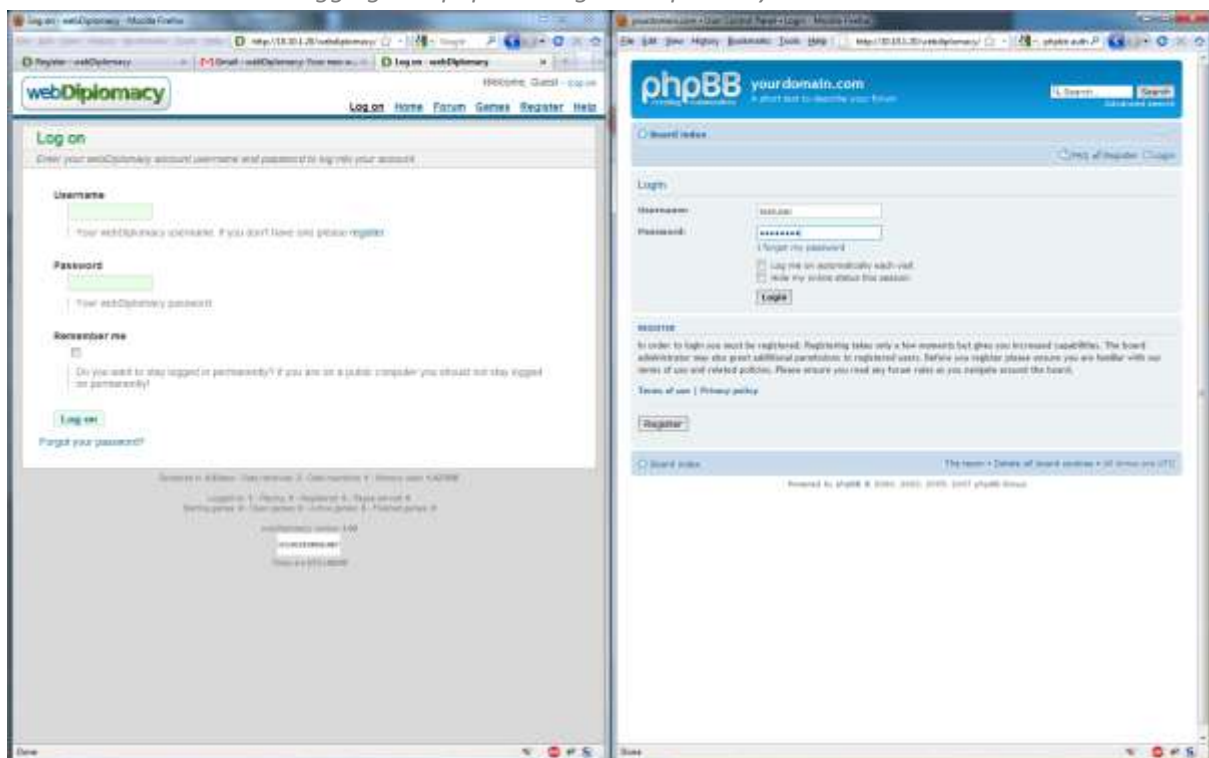
Logging out of webDiplomacy



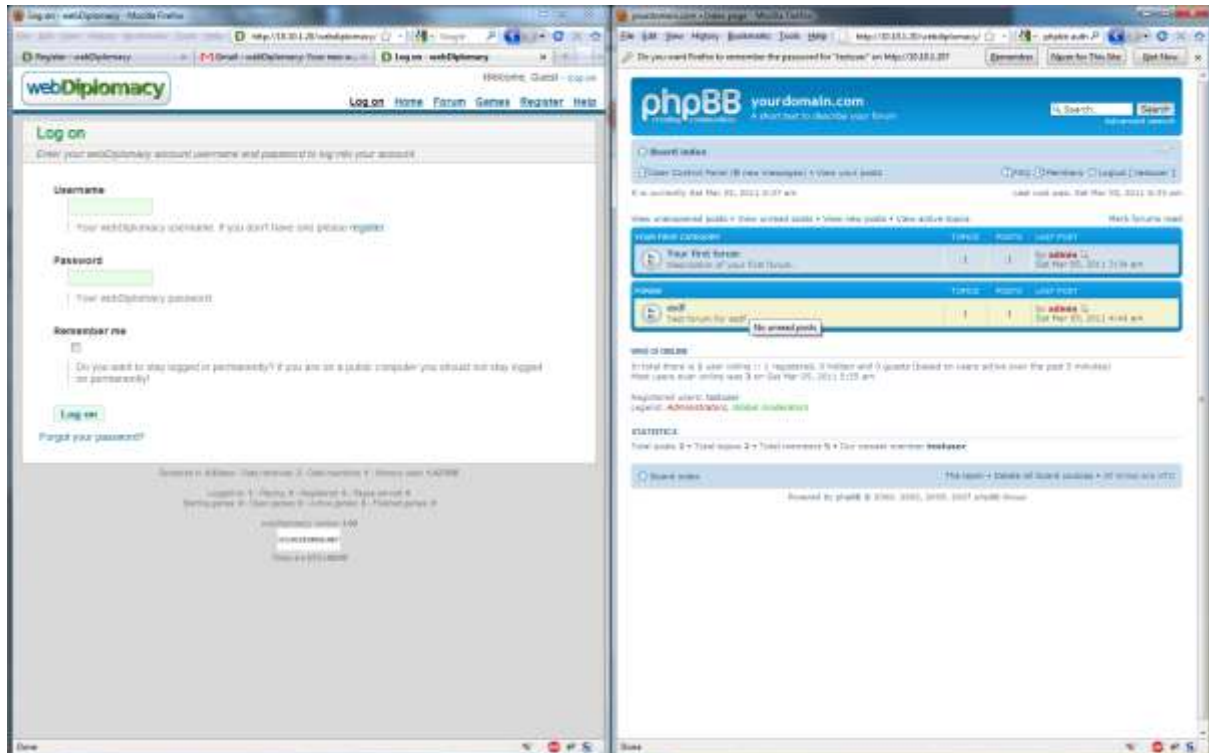
Refresh phpBB page; user logged out of phpBB



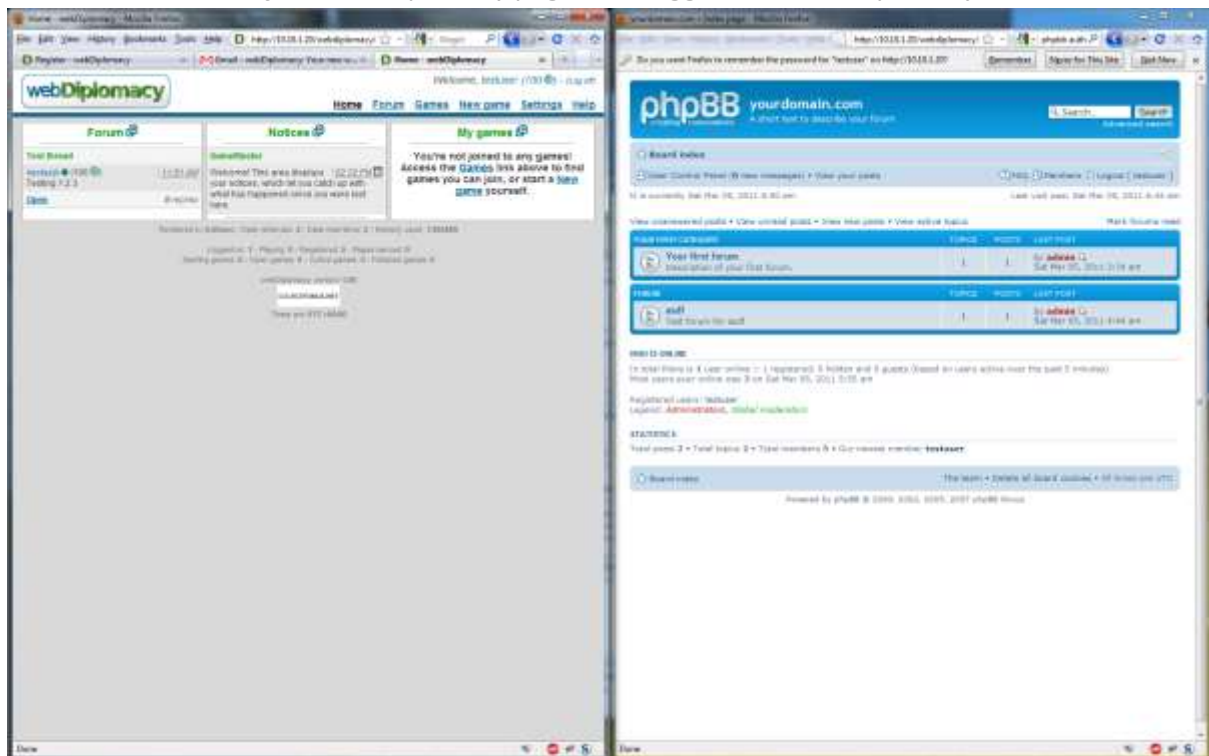
Logging into phpBB using webDiplomacy user account



User logged onto phpBB



Refresh webDiplomacy page; user logged on to webDiplomacy



Installation

- Ensure environment set up as specified above.
- Log into phpBB as admin user (using phpBB admin user/password).
- Go to Admin control panel in phpBB
- Go to Client communication->Authentication
- Under "Select an authentication method" select "Webdip", submit changes.

Client testing & review

The following URL will be available for testing until code is delivered:

<http://202.89.189.114/webdiplomacy/>