



WebRTC on Urbit

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What is WebRTC?



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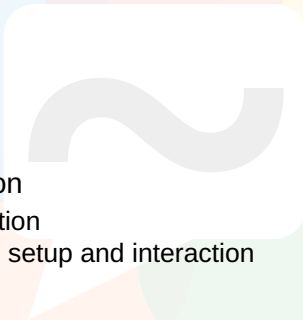


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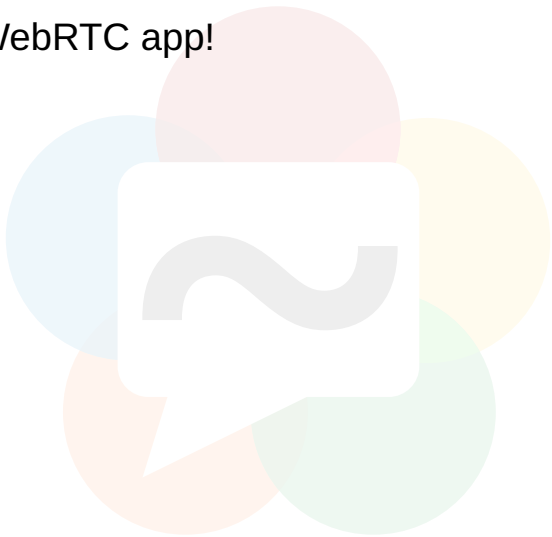
Video calls in the browser!

Yes. But more generally:

- Protocol specification
- Browser API specification
 - Media device acquisition
 - Peer-to-peer channel setup and interaction

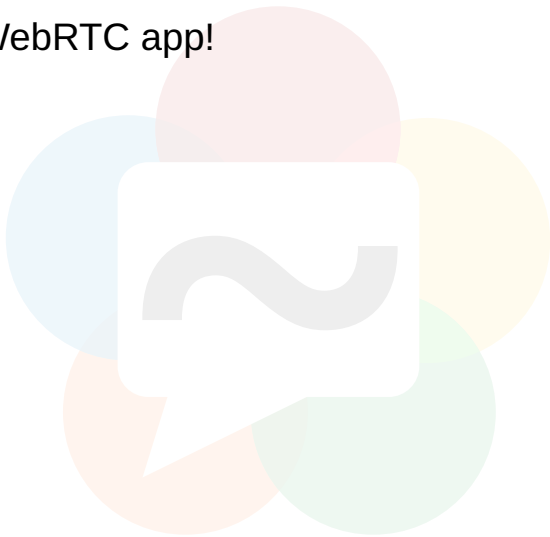


I want to build a WebRTC app!



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You will need:



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- A side channel for SDP messages



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Given these, `RTCPeerConnection` provides:

- Data channels
- Media stream transit

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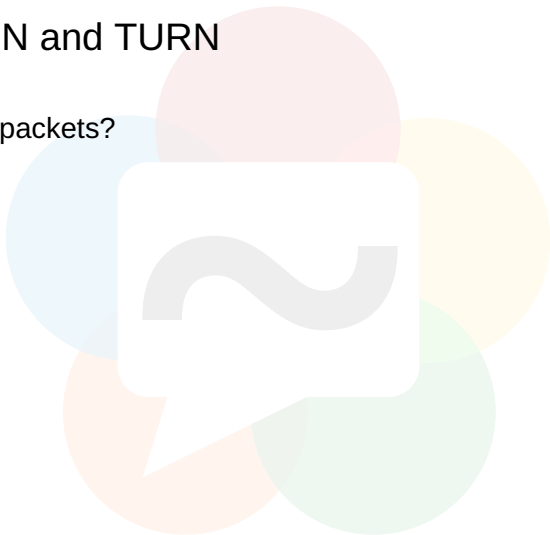
- A side channel for SDP messages

`switchboard`

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ICE Servers: STUN and TURN

Where do we send packets?



¹<https://tailscale.com/blog/how-nat-traversal-works/>

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- STUN: "You are talking to me from this IP and port"

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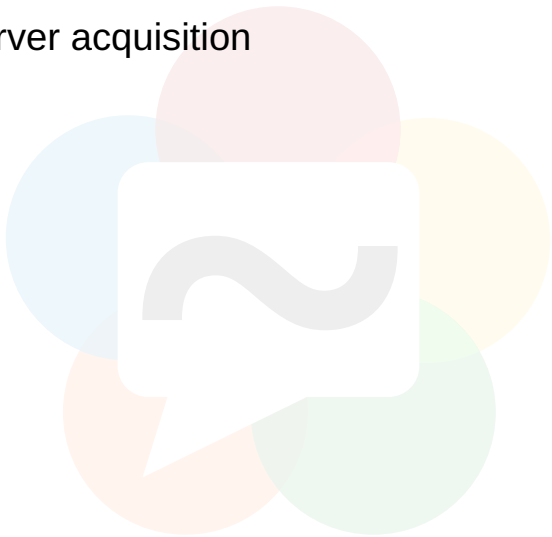
Solution:

- STUN: "You are talking to me from this IP and port"
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An ICE Server is either a STUN server or a TURN server.

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icepond: ICE server acquisition



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How do we find ICE servers?



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For instance, stars may well include ICE servers in the infrastructure they provide to sponsored planets.

Signaling



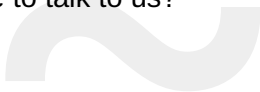
Signaling

How do we tell receivers of incoming calls?



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How do we tell our peer where to talk to us?



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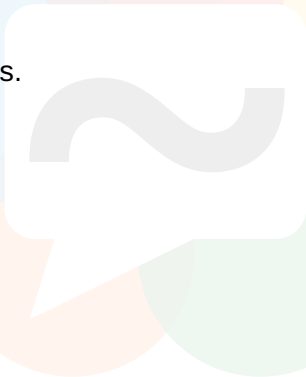
My app ↔ my switchboard ↔ your switchboard ↔ Your app

switchboard: **Call setup and SDP relay**



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Interface



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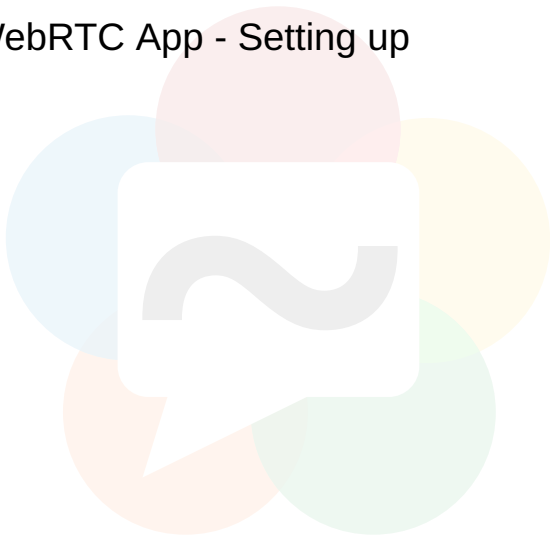
■ switchboard

- `switchboard` Nodejs package in `switchboard-js` directory
- `UrbiterRTCApp` class: make and receive WebRTC calls
- `UrbiterRTCPeerConnection` class:
 `RTCPeerConnection` with SDP signalling implemented over Urbit



Demo

Writing an Urbit WebRTC App - Setting up



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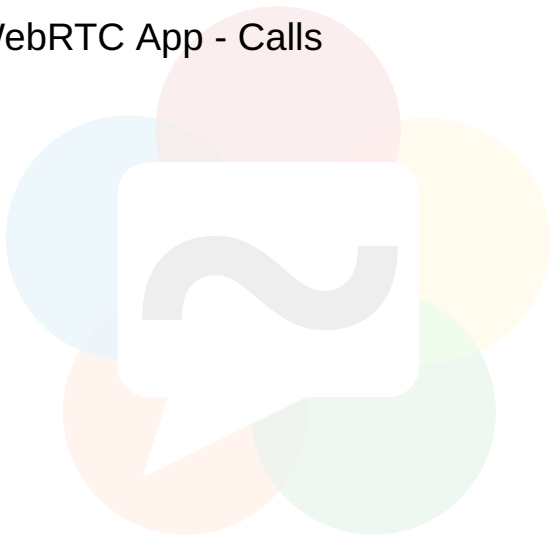
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 - Call `answer()` on the event to answer. This returns a peer connection.

Writing an Urbit WebRTC App - Setting up

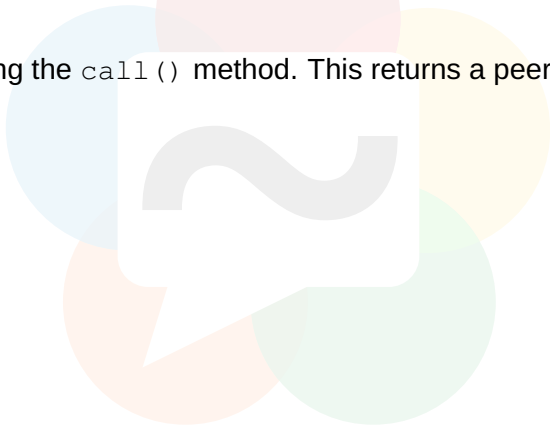
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- Register a handler for the `'iceserver'` event to add ICE servers to the peer connection.

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- Add media or data streams.

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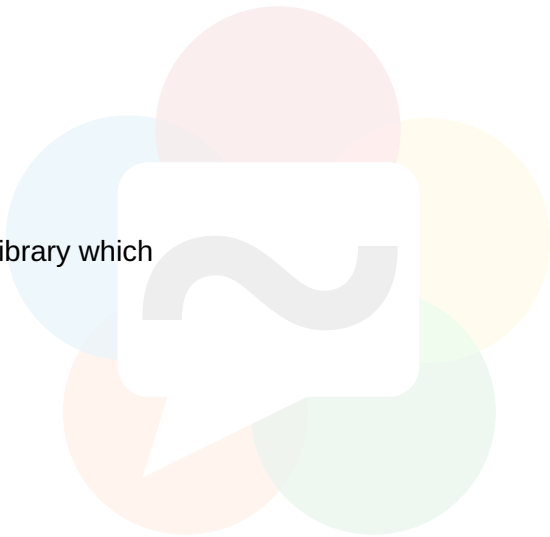
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- Add media or data streams.
- Call `initialize()` on both the `Icepond` instance and the peer connection.

Result



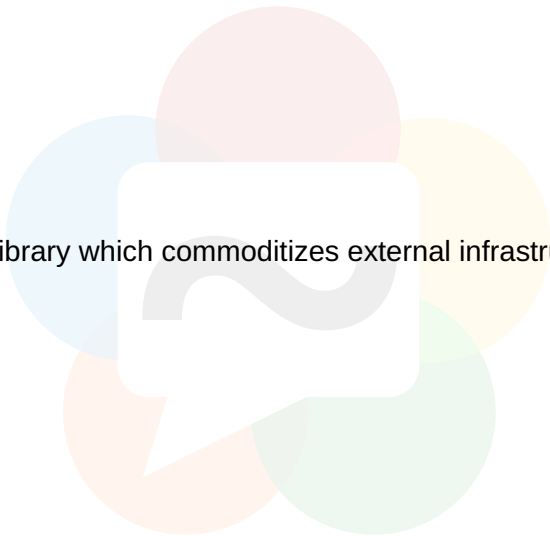
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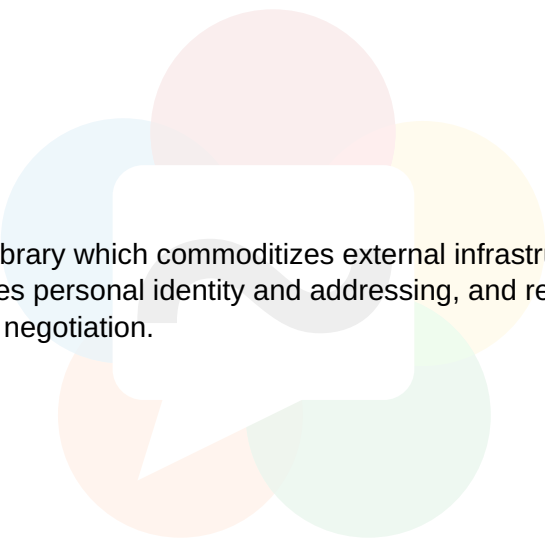


Result

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A decorative background graphic consisting of five overlapping circles in light red, light blue, light yellow, light orange, and light green, arranged in a circular pattern around a central white square with rounded corners.

Result

This is a WebRTC library which commoditizes external infrastructure dependencies, **unifies personal identity and addressing**, and removes centralized coordination for call negotiation.



Questions

Links

- **Repository:**

`https://github.com/black-river-software/urbit-webrtc`

- **Clay desk:** `~dirpub-ritpub-sipsyl %webrtc`