/*
Snapshots: Bridging the gap between operation and archiving of software-based artworks
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NEW APPROACHES IN THE CONSERVATION OF CONTEMPORARY ART
European Commission
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>> What is a snapshot?

>> Example: www.TraceNoizer.org

>> Web crawling snapshot

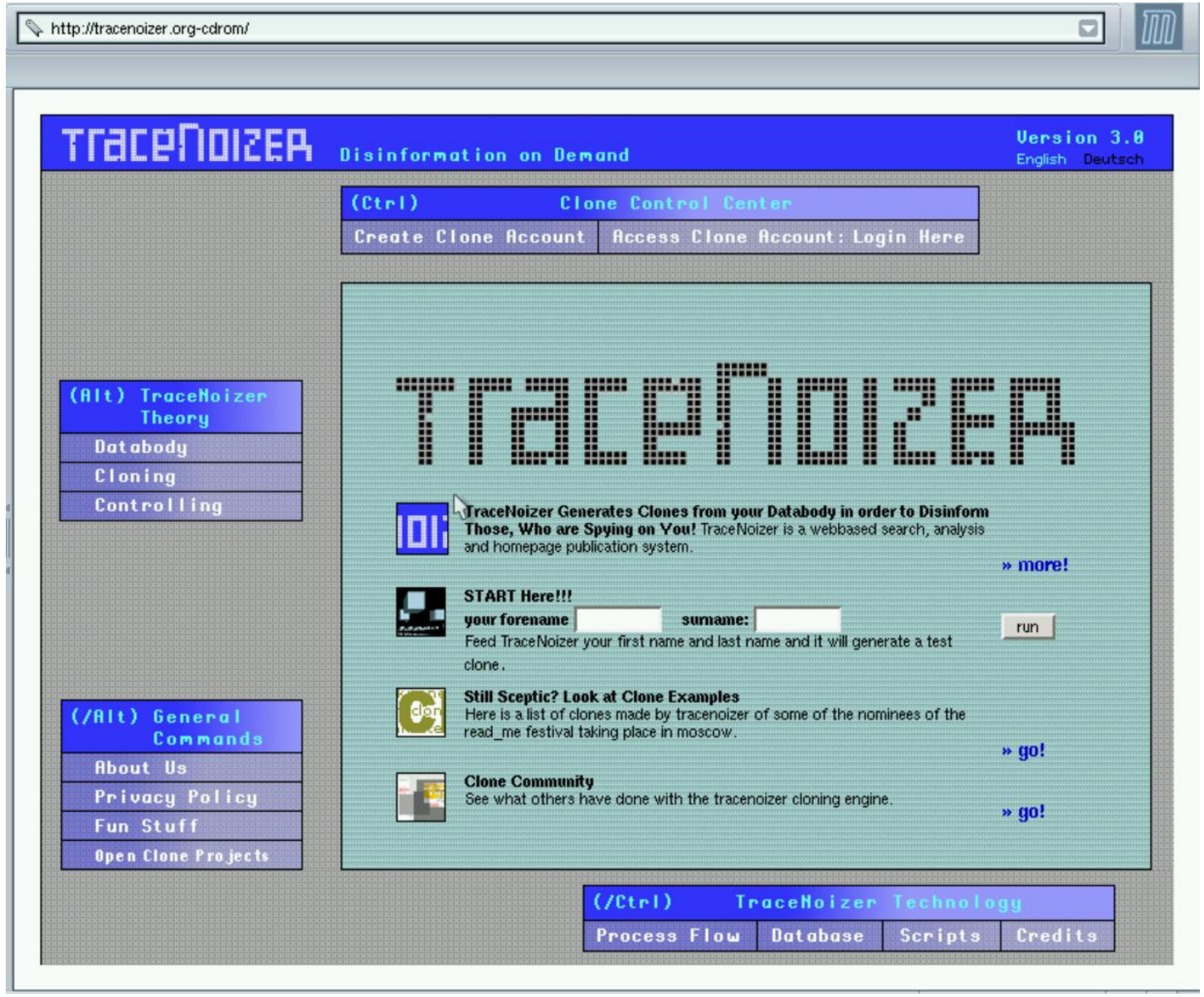
>> Container/Emulator snapshot

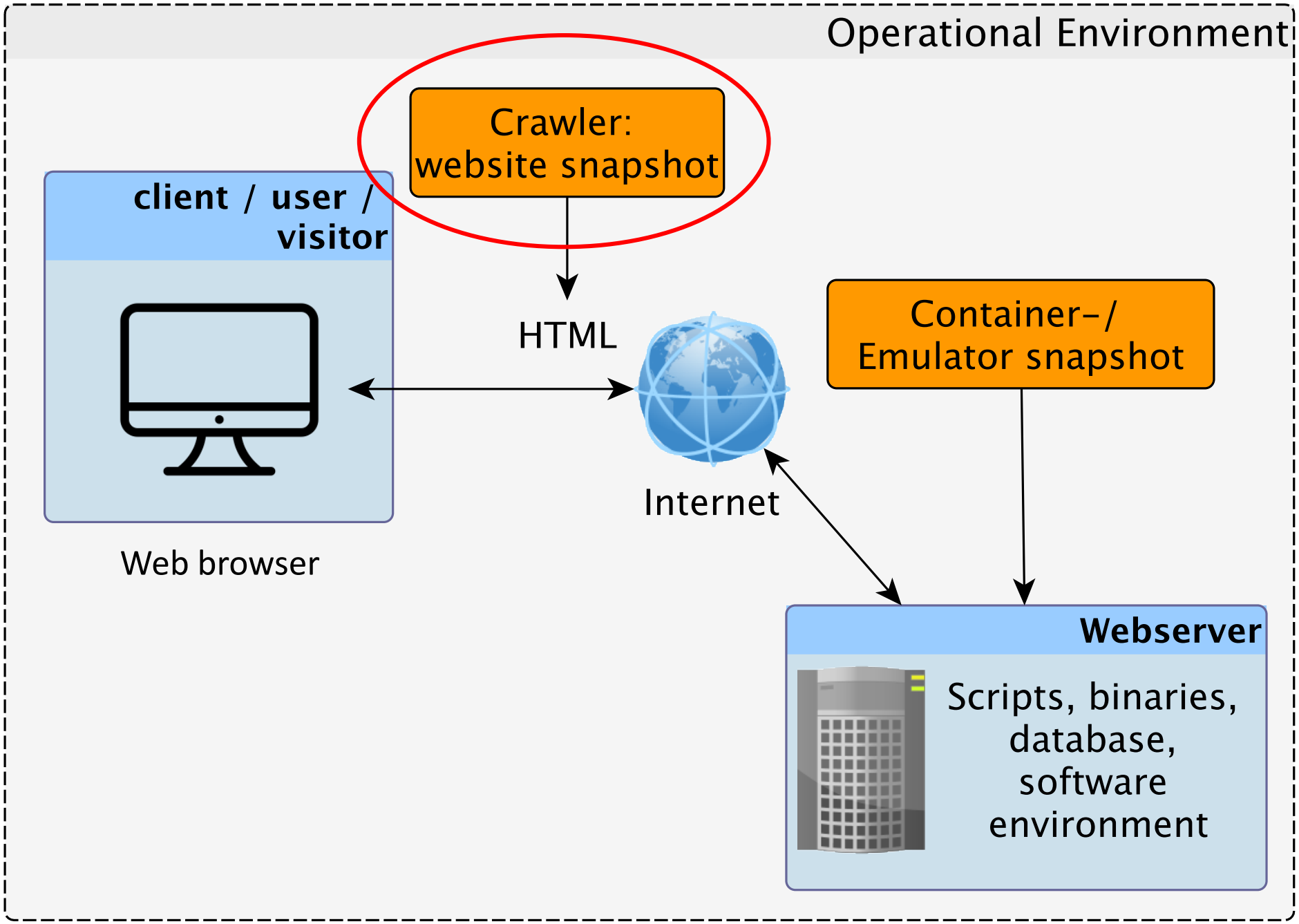
>> Snapshots of Contemporary Art?

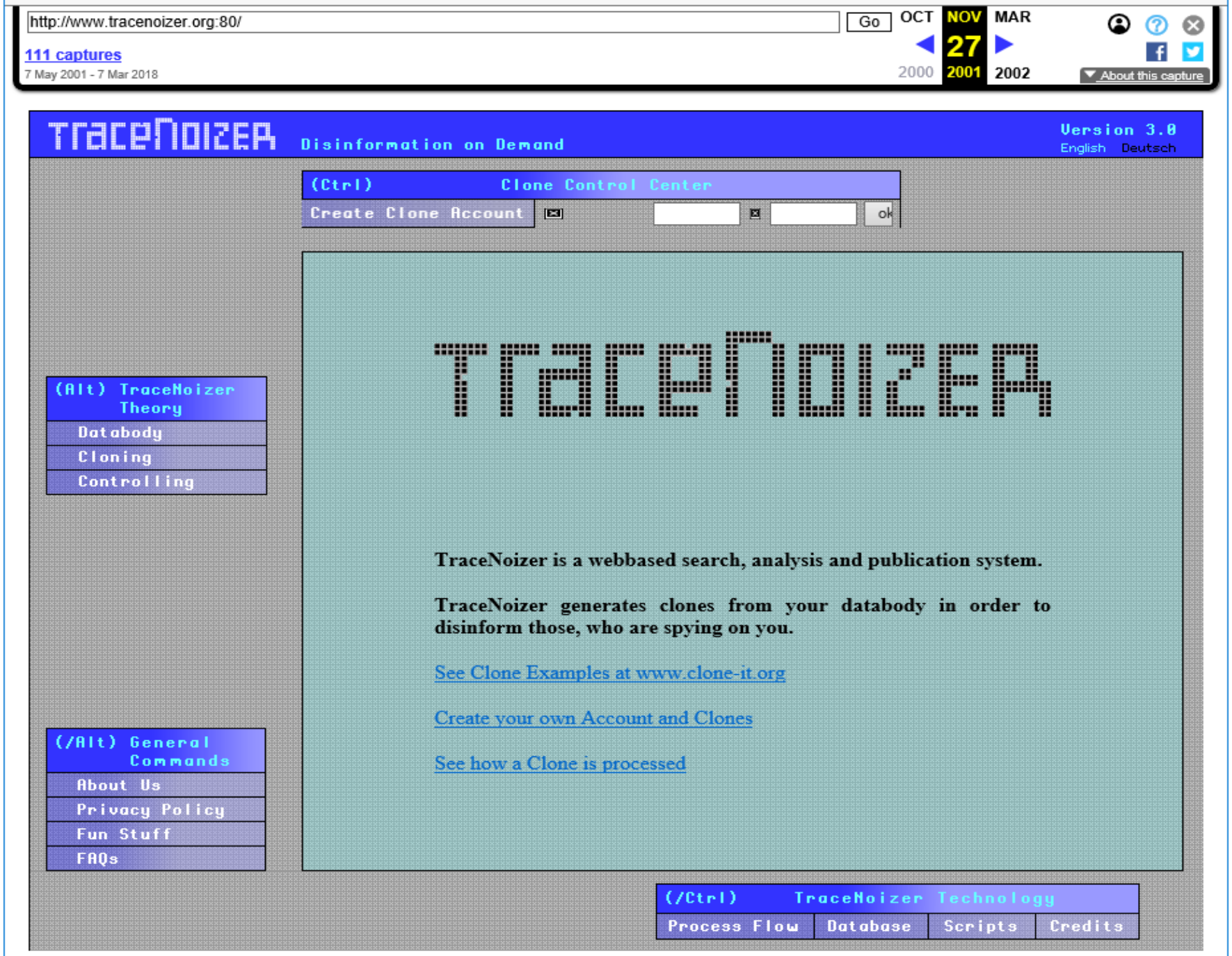
>> What is a snapshot?

- It documents a specific situation of a work that changes over time
- It is not a generic description of a work, as for instance the significant properties or the concept of an artwork.
- It is rather about capturing the execution or a manifestation of a work.
- It is about catching the current stage in order to remember and access it later. → it should have a certain permanence

Snapshots of TraceNoizer.org



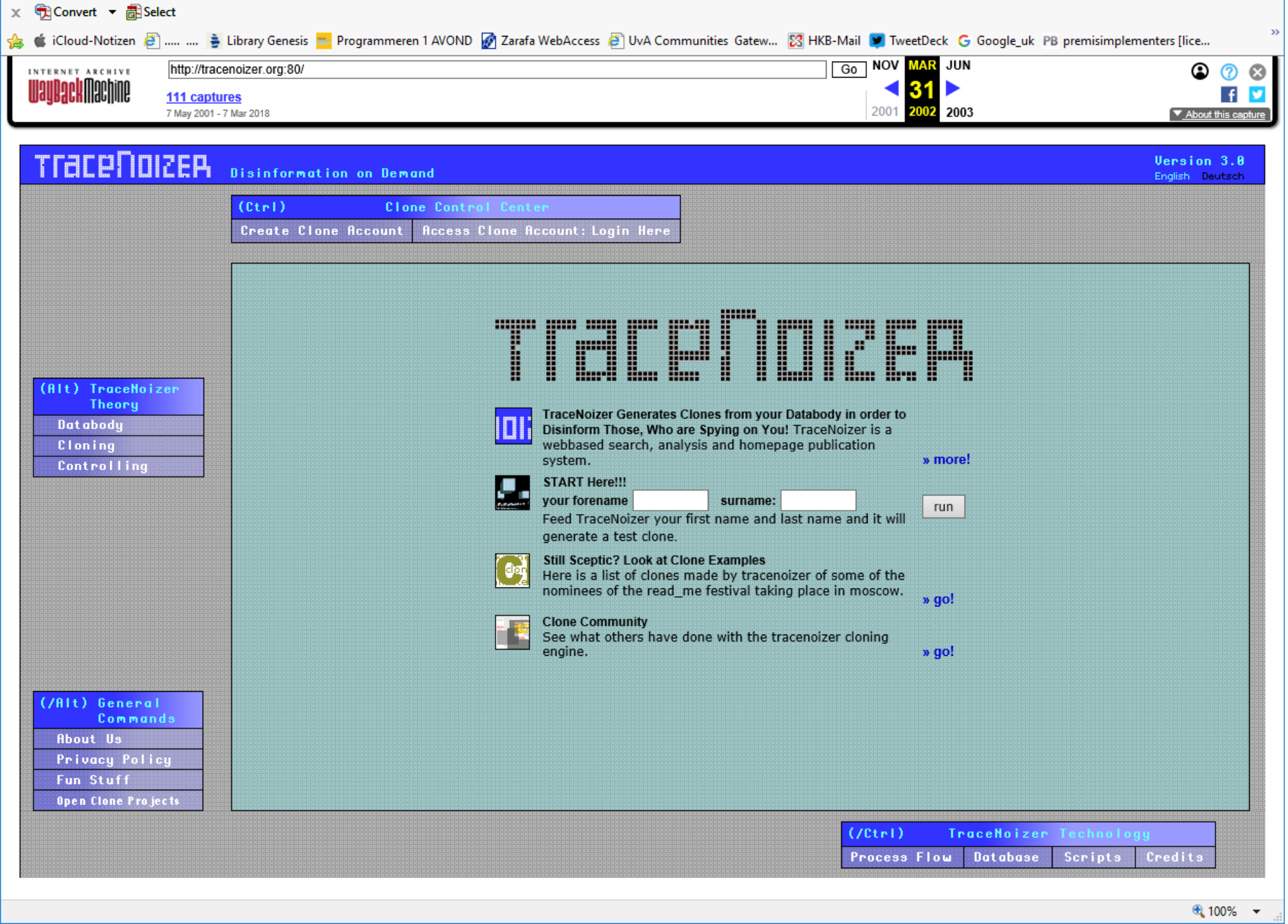

Operational Environment
Crawler:
website snapshot
client / user /
visitor
HTML
Container-/
Emulator snapshot
Internet
Web browser
Webserver
Scripts, binaries,
database,
software
environment



TraceNoizer.org

Wayback machine

27/11/2001



TraceNoizer.org

Wayback machine

31/03/2002

TraceNoizer.org

Wayback machine

27/03/2004

Characteristics of a snapshot of a Web site?

The crawler crawls the html code of the website.

→ certain functionality (hyperlinks) of the website is preserved

→ snapshot and artwork: same material (html code)

→ not connected to the URL of the website

→ in between archival copy and operational website

Snapshots document html changes, either caused by further development of the Website or by previous user interaction

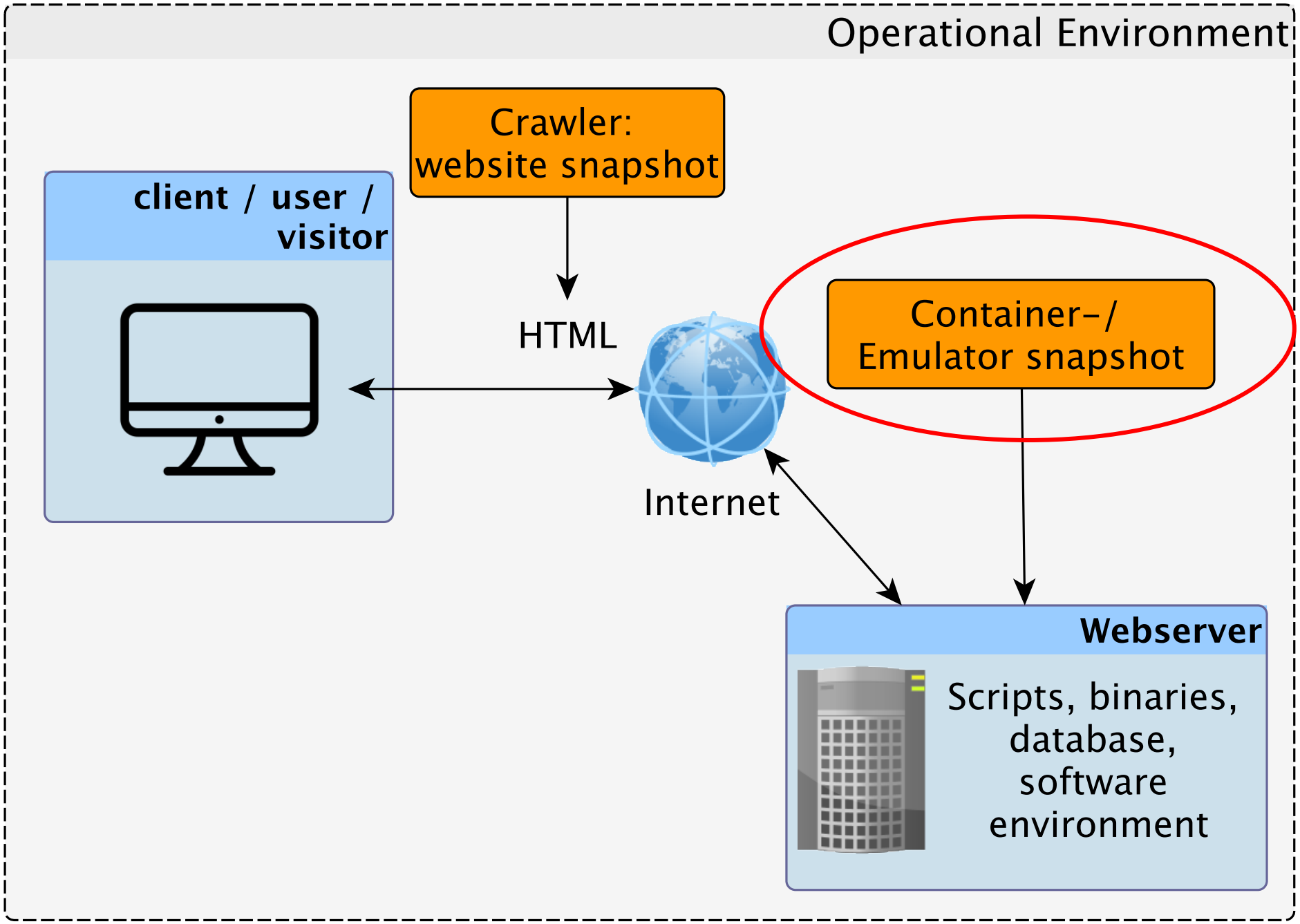
Protocol of the World Wide Web is timeless

- The HTTP protocol is timeless.

  Van der Sompel et al (2019): "*In essence, the time dimension is absent from the most common of Web protocols, HTTP. The timelessness is even written into the W3C's Architecture of the World Wide Web, which reminds us that dereferencing a URI yields a representation of the current state of the resource identified by that URI.*"

  → without crawling (snapshots), previous states of websites are lost forever

  → crawls with a specific time stamp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Scripts, binaries,
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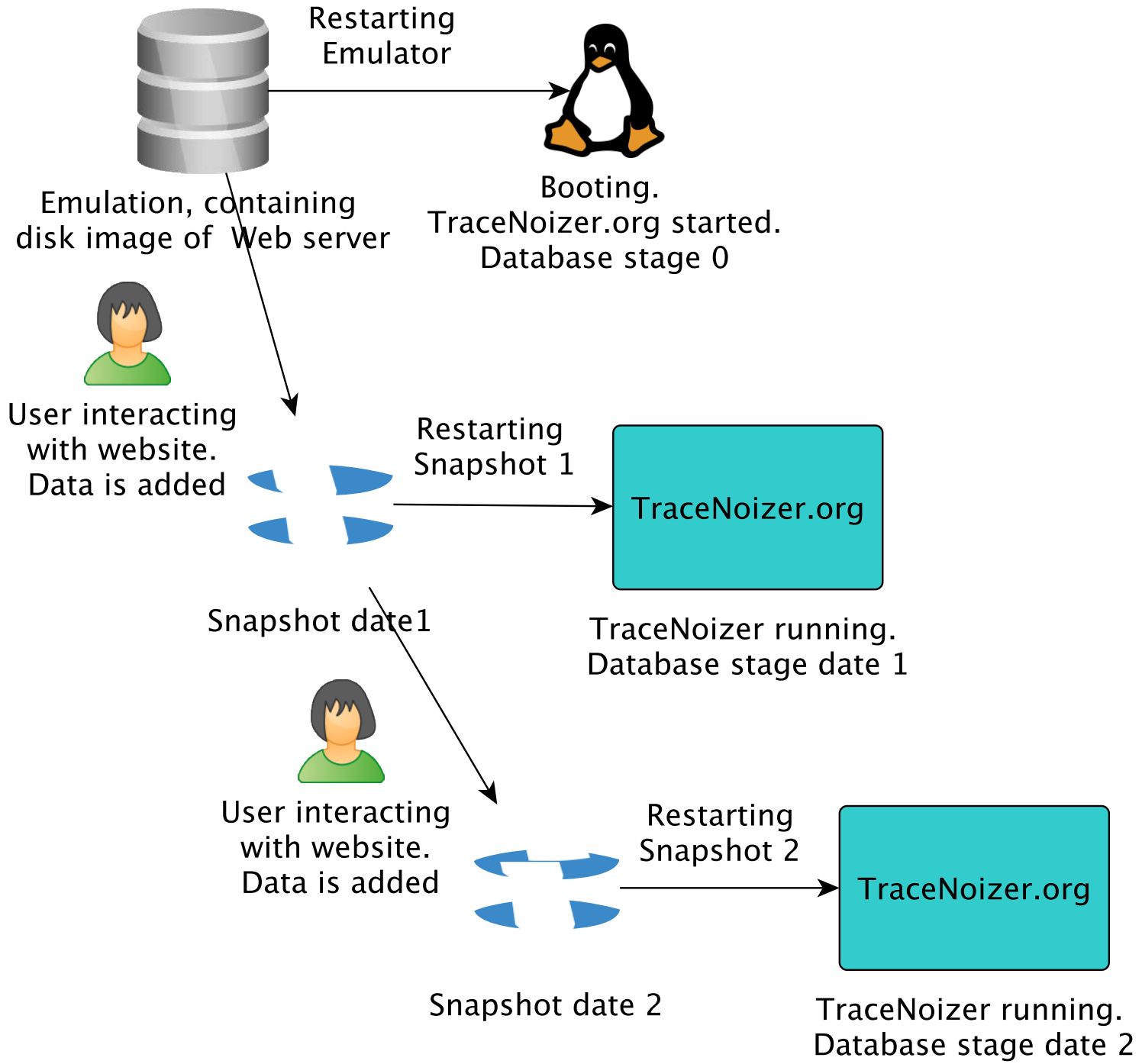
What is a container / emulator snapshot?



Characteristics of a container / emulator snapshot?

- Together with the disk image, the snapshot is fully functional
- The artwork will restart at the stage it was in, when the snapshot was made.
- The snapshot consists of the same material (software) as the artwork

Why a container / emulator snapshot?

- Vint Cerf: *"The solution is to take an X-ray snapshot of the content and the application and the operating system together, with a description of the machine that it runs on, and preserve that for long period of time. And that digital snapshot will recreate the past in the future."*
- Improvement security (encapsulation of obsolete web technology)
- Reduction of maintenance
- Documentation of change (caused by user interaction, configurations)

What is a snapshot of contemporary art?

- Example Danh Vo‘s Chandelier *Go Mo Ni Ma Da*
- Can the Chandelier be a physical snapshot? The chandelier is rather the contrary of a snapshot. It represents several points in time and contains many stories simultaneously.
- Could a story related to the Chandelier, the documentation of an event, be a snapshot? Such a story is related to a specific situation and time and it has a certain permanence.
- Such snapshots become part of the work

Snapshots

- can bridge the gap between operation, archiving and documentation of software-based art and contemporary art
- can be or become part of the work
- document artwork manifestations
- document artwork history (development of artwork)
- document artwork environment
- document visitor interaction
- (facilitate collaboration)

Thank you;

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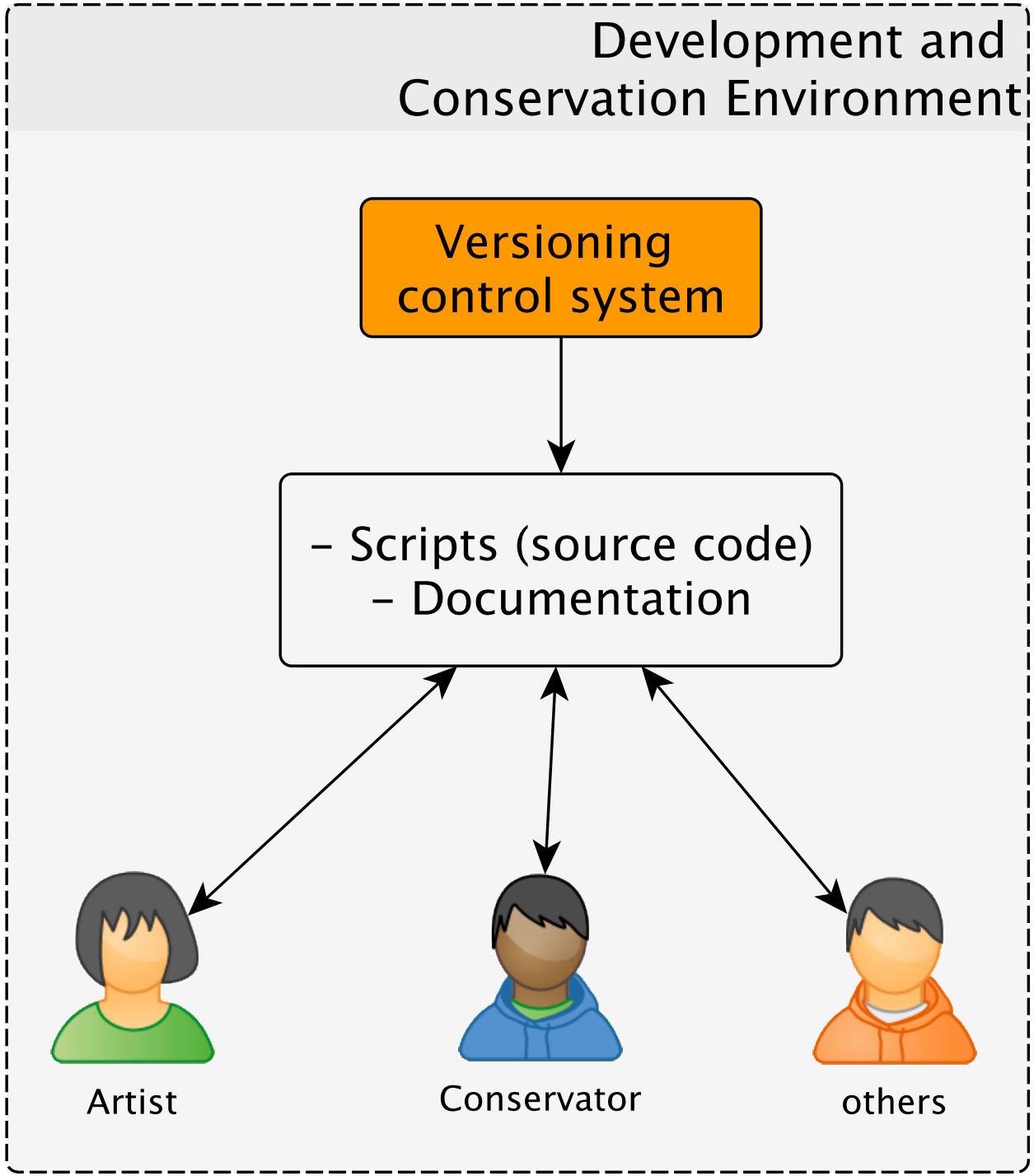
More snapshots: Versioning control systems

Purpose

- Documenting change
- Collaboration

for

- Creation and development of artwork
- Conservation of artwork
- Curation of artwork
- Documentation etc.