DSS How to accept invitations from outside MWN

Problem
Currently, DSSWeb service is only accessible from within the Munich Scientific Network (MWN). If you are outside of the MWN and want to accept an DSSWeb invitation, this will fail. In the following, we show three possible solutions to this problem.

Solution 1: Use LRZ VPN
The most straightforward solution is to start a VPN session into the Munich Scientific Network, using our LRZ VPN service. For details, please checkout the documentation here.
However, because of legal reasons only members of institutions within the MWN are allowed to use the LRZ VPN service. So HPC users coming from other legal entities may not be able to use this solution.

Solution 2: Use SSH X11 Forwarding from LinuxCluster or SuperMUC
If you have an X11 window server on your workstation, you may be able to setup an X11 forward via SSH to either the LinuxCluster Login Nodes or the SuperMUC TSM Nodes and startup the firefox Browser there to accept the invitation via DSSWeb.

However, X11 forwarding is known to be cumbersome over slow or high-latency network links. So while in principle this works and has been tested it may sometimes just be impractical.

Solution 3: Use SSH SOCKS Proxy on LinuxCluster or SuperMUC
While you cannot simply forward the https port of dssweb.dss.lrz.de through SSH, as this breaks the Web Application, you can use a feature called SOCKS Proxy, that will allow you to directly access DSSWeb on the browser of your local workstation outside of the MWN. To setup this, there are two steps.

First, you need to setup the SSH SOCKS Proxy forward. If you can access the LinuxCluster Login Nodes or the SuperMUC TSM Nodes directly from your workstation, just start an SSH session, using the following options:

If you cannot login directly from your workstation, but have to go over a local SSH gateway, this is also no problem. From your local workstation just start a SSH Session which forwards the SOCKS Proxy port, like ssh -D 9000 <login-node> -l <username> and then on the gateway, start the SOCKS Proxy session, using ssh -D 9000 <login-node> -l <username>. If you are using Windows, you can use putty, which also provides the SOCKS Proxy and Port Forwarding features.

The second step is to tell your Browser or OS, to use the SOCKS proxy, which now - if you followed your example from step 1 - is accessible on localhost, port 9000. To do so, open up the proxy settings of your Browser and put in localhost as Proxy Host and 9000 as Proxy Port. If you don't know how to find the proxy settings of your browser, please just google for the keyword combination: SOCKS Proxy <Your Browsername> <Your OS Name>. There are tons of good descriptions on the internet on how to do this.

If you have done all right, you now can use your local browser to directly access the DSSWeb Invitation URL.

Please don't forget to remove the SOCKS proxy configuration in your browser once you are done, as this may render your browser unusable once you stop the SSH connection.

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