

Reversing, Breaking, and Fixing the French Legislative Election E-Voting Protocol

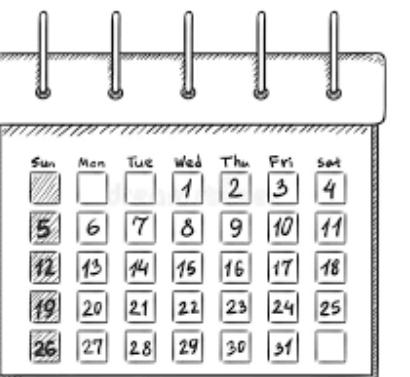
Alexandre Debant and Lucca Hirschi

Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA, Nancy, France

Pesto team seminar
November 18th 2022

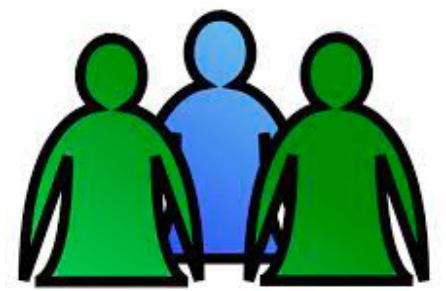


Some numbers...



May 27th — June 1st first round of the election

June 10th — June 15th second round of the election



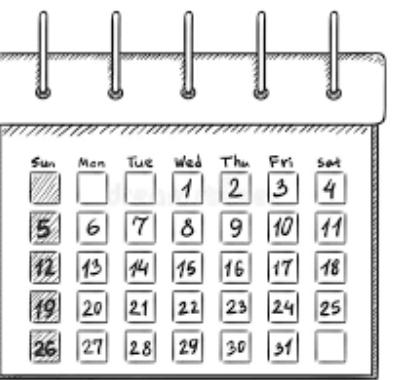
> 1.1 millions number of eligible voters (French citizens abroad only)



11 number of deputies to elect, i.e. constituencies

~200 number of consulates

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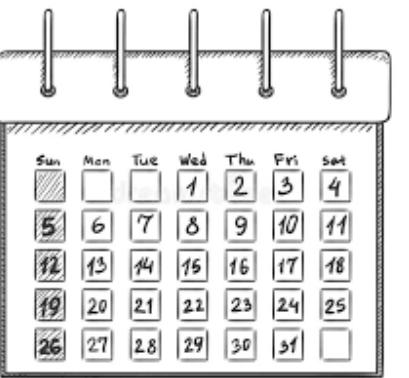
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The results are published at the consulates level!

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~524 000 number of expressed votes (~251k first round and ~273k second round)

76,9% percentage of online voting (22,7% in person, 0,3% postal voting)

4 stakeholders



1. Organizer: the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

(the ministry)

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- 1. Organizer:** the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs *(the ministry)*
- 2. Institutional security advisor:** the French National Cybersecurity Agency *(ANSSI)*

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Responsible disclosure: all the elements presented in this talk have been firstly reported and discussed with those entities.



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Outline

1. Reverse the threat model and the protocol

2. Vulnerabilities, attacks, and fixes

- ▶ how to defeat verifiability?
- ▶ how to defeat vote privacy?

3. Other concerns and take away

How to define the security targets?

The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/section_lc/LEGITEXT000006070239/LEGISCTA000006115482. The page title is "Code électoral : Livre III : Dispositions spécifiques aux ... (Articles R172 à R179-1)". The header includes "Version à la date : d'aujourd'hui ou du 15/11/2022". Below the header, there are buttons for "Bloc précédent" and "Bloc suivant". The main content area is titled "Sous-section 4 : Vote par correspondance électronique (Articles R176-3 à R176-3-10)". It features a red sidebar on the right labeled "Votre avis". The text discusses the electronic voting of French citizens abroad, mentioning Article R. 172 and Decree n°2022-369. It also covers data protection requirements under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the law n°78-17. A note indicates that the system must undergo an independent audit by the Agence nationale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information.

1. The Code électoral (the French law)

How to define the security targets?

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1. The Code électoral (the French law)

2. The CNIL recommendations (National Commission on Informatics and Liberty in English) → level 3 is expected

The image shows a document from the CNIL (National Commission on Informatics and Liberty) titled "Sécurité des systèmes de vote par internet : la CNIL actualise sa recommandation de 2010". The date is given as "10 juillet 2019". The text discusses the update of the 2010 recommendation due to the RGPD and consultation of professionals. It states that the CNIL has updated its recommendation on these devices. Below this, it mentions the 2019 recommendation for electronic voting system security, noting a two-step methodology: a risk assessment grid and security objectives. An "Etape 1 : remplir la grille d'analyse" section is described, followed by a table for question 1 and question 2.

	Vrai (0)	Faux (1)
Question 1 : Le scrutin peut être reporté, par exemple en cas d'incident.		
Question 2 : Le scrutin concerne moins de 50 personnes.		

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1. The Code électoral (the French law)

2. The CNIL recommendations (National Commission on Informatics and Liberty in English) → level 3 is expected

 The CNIL recommendations are not legal requirements... but the protocol must meet them in practice any way!

The document header reads "Sécurité des systèmes de vote par internet : la CNIL actualise sa recommandation de 2010" dated "10 juillet 2019". The text discusses the update of the 2010 recommendation due to the RGPD, consulting professionals and experts to improve internet voting security. It mentions the adoption of a risk-based approach and two-step methodology. A table for filling out an analysis grid is shown at the bottom.

Etape 1 : remplir la grille d'analyse

La grille suivante, basée sur des questions fermées, a pour objet d'aider les responsables de traitement à déterminer le niveau de sécurité que leur système doit atteindre.

	Vrai (0)	Faux (1)
Question 1 : Le scrutin peut être reporté, par exemple en cas d'incident.		
Question 2 : Le scrutin concerne moins de 50 personnes.		

Vote secrecy

Security properties

(not exhaustive)

"Votes must remain confidential"

— Code électoral. Article R176-3-9

"[the system must] ensure the strict confidentiality of the ballots as soon as created."

— CNIL, Security objective n°1-04

"[The system must] ensure that the identity of the voter and the expression of his choice can not be linked during the whole process"

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Individual verifiability

"When a voter's vote is registered, the voter is provided with a digital receipt allowing them to verify online that their vote has been taken into account."

— Code électoral, Article R176-3-9

"ensure the transparency of the ballot-box for all the voters [...] It must be possible for the voters to ensure that their ballot has been counted in the ballot-box."

— CNIL, Security objective n°2-07

Vote secrecy

Security properties

(not exhaustive)

"Votes must remain confidential"

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"[the system must] ensure the strict confidentiality of the ballots as soon as created."

Objectif n°1-04

An attacker cannot learn the choice of a target voter

The system must ensure that the identity of the voter and the expression of his choice can not be linked during the whole process"

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Individual verifiability

"When a voter's vote is registered, the voter is provided with a digital receipt allowing them to verify online that their vote has been taken into account."

R176-3-9

**A voter must have the guarantee that their
ballot appears in the ballot-box**

"ensure the transparency of the counting process and make it possible for the voters to ensure that their ballot has been counted in the ballot-box."

— CNIL, Security objective n°2-07

Threat model

"Security level 3: The threat actors include the voters, **the election operators**, outsiders, insiders within the provider or internal staff. They can be resourceful or highly motivated. "

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	Voter	Voting device	Com. channels	Voting server	Dec. auth.	3 rd -party
Verifiability	😊	😊	💔	💔	💔	😊
Confidentiality	😊	😊	💔	💔	😊	😊

😊 = trustworthy

💔 = compromised

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Cast-as-intended is
acknowledged as not satisfied

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Verifiability	😊	😊	🔥	🔥	🔥	😊
Confidentiality	😊	😊	🔥	🔥	😊	😊

😊 = trustworthy

🔥 = compromised

TLS is broken
(e.g. middle-box TLS, corrupted
network administrator, ...)

Threat model

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	Voter	Voting device	Com. channels	Voting server	Dec. auth.	3 rd -party
Verifiability	😊	😊	🔥	✗ 😊*	✗ 😊*	😊
Confidentiality	😊	😊	🔥	✗ 😊*	😊	😊

😊 = trustworthy

🔥 = compromised

😊* = trustworthy (However, compromise decreases attack complexity.)

TLS is broken
(e.g. middle-box TLS, corrupted
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How to obtain a comprehensive description of the protocol?



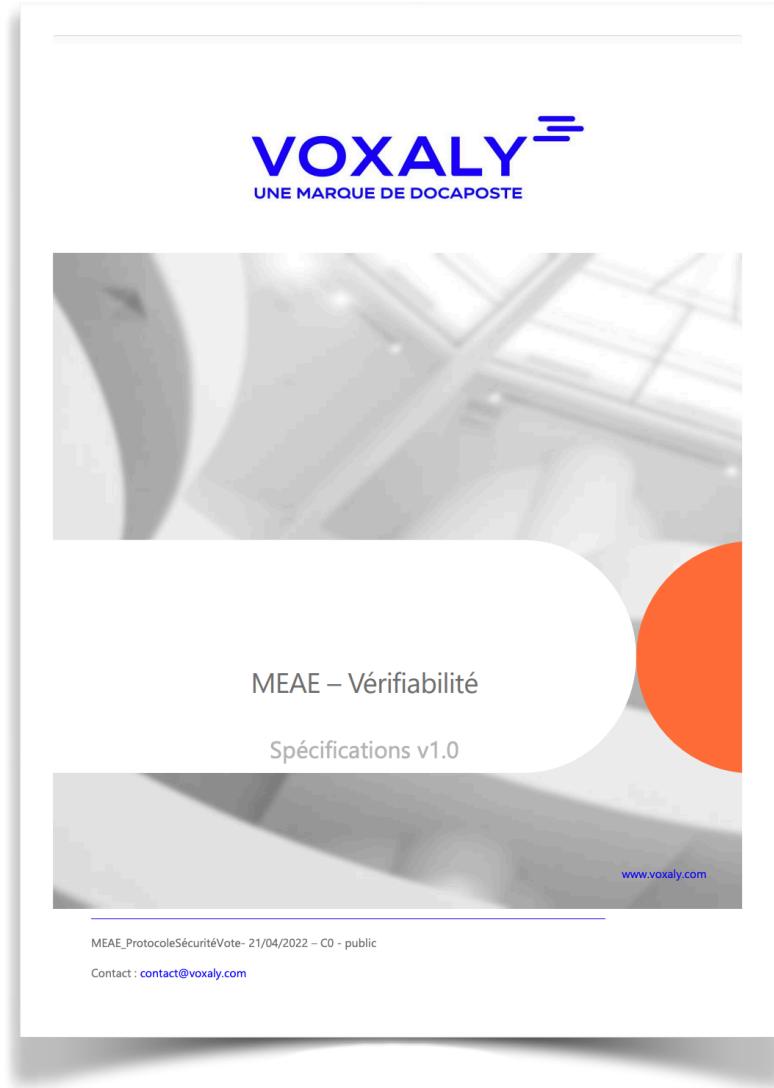
A specification of the system

- ▶ published by Voxaly Docapost on April 21st 2022
- ▶ allowing one to develop a third party verifier



This specification is incomplete... it does not describe the protocol itself!

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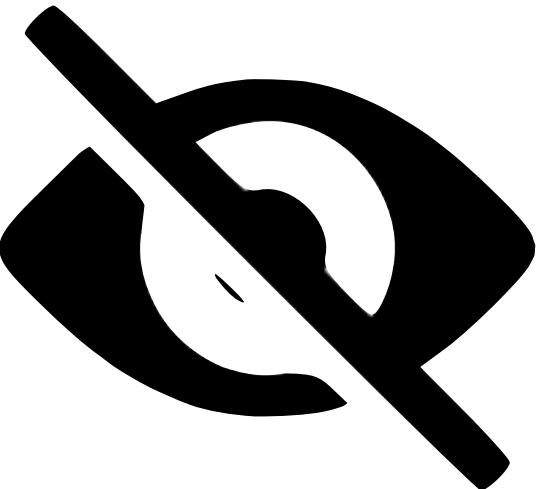
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Some reverse engineering

- ▶ based on the voter's journey (official tutorial and observation in-situ)
- ▶ based on HTML/JS/CSS data collected by different voters
- ▶ cross checking those data with data collected during a **previous large-scale test**



Reverse in practice



Standard obfuscation techniques:

- ▶ function and variable renaming
- ▶ control flow alteration (infinite for loop and breaks, switch case, nested functions, etc)



- ▶ use of the tool js – beautify to de-minimize the code
 - ➡ ~16k LoC in 4 interesting Javascript files
 - ➡ the file app.bundle.js contains the core logic of the protocol and loria.bundle.js the crypto primitives
- ▶ object attributes and HTML request are not obfuscated
- ▶ remains close to the full-scale test code which is much **less obfuscated**: side-by-side comparison possible

Concrete example: core logic to forge the reference

```
1 navclientApp.controller("PageVoteController", ["$scope", "$http", "  
  $location", "$timeout", "breadCrumbService",  
2 function(e, t, i, n, a) { // core logic computing HashClient starts after  
3   e.vote = function() {  
4     if (data.param.signatureEnabled && !e.aVote) {  
5       e.aVote = !0, e.erreurHashVerification = !1;  
6       var i = forge.md.sha256.create();  
7       i.update(e.bulletinCrypte + data.election.ordre + data.param.  
      electeurEtOrdre);  
8       var n = i.digest().toHex(),  
9         a = function(e) {  
10        [...]  
11        }(n),  
12        o = data.election.ordre + "&" + n + a;  
13        sessionStorage.setItem("HashClient", o);  
14      }  
15    }  
16  }  
17 }  
18 })
```

Test phase

```
1 function(e, t, n) {  
2   function ot(e) {  
3     [...]  
4     function v() {  
5       return (v = Pe()(Re.a.mark((function t() {  
6         var n, r, a, l, u, c, s;  
7         return Re.a.wrap((function(t) {  
8           for (;;) switch (t.prev = t.next) {  
9             case 0:  
10               [...]  
11             case 3: // core logic computing HashClient starts here  
12               return (n = new jsSHA("SHA-256", "TEXT")).update(o.  
13                 bulletinCrypte + f.idTour + d.ordre + f.electeurEtOrdre),  
14                 r = n.getHash("HEX"),  
15                 (a = new jsSHA("SHA-256", "TEXT")).update(o.bulletinCrypte +  
16                   o.voteSignature),  
17                 l = a.getHash("HEX"),  
18                 u = f.idTour + "&" + d.ordre + "&" + r + y(r),  
19                 sessionStorage.setItem("HashClient", u),  
20               }  
21             }  
22           }  
23         }  
24       )).update(o.bulletinCrypte +  
25         o.voteSignature),  
26         l = a.getHash("HEX"),  
27         u = f.idTour + "&" + d.ordre + "&" + r + y(r),  
28         sessionStorage.setItem("HashClient", u),  
29       }  
30     )  
31   )  
32 }  
33 })
```

Production phase

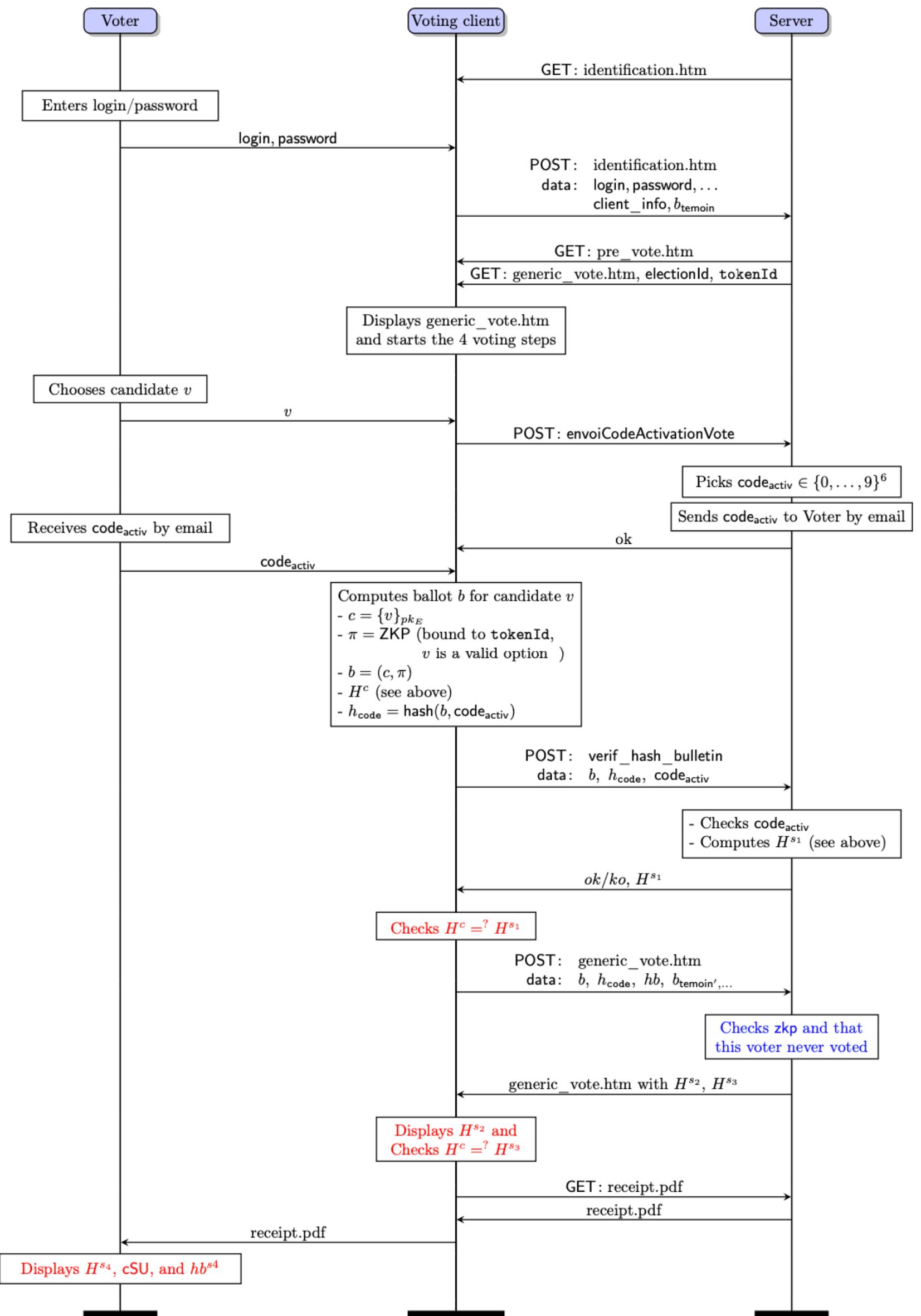
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15  }  
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30          sessionStorage.setItem("HashClient", u),  
31        }  
32      }  
33    }  
34  )).call());  
35  return v;  
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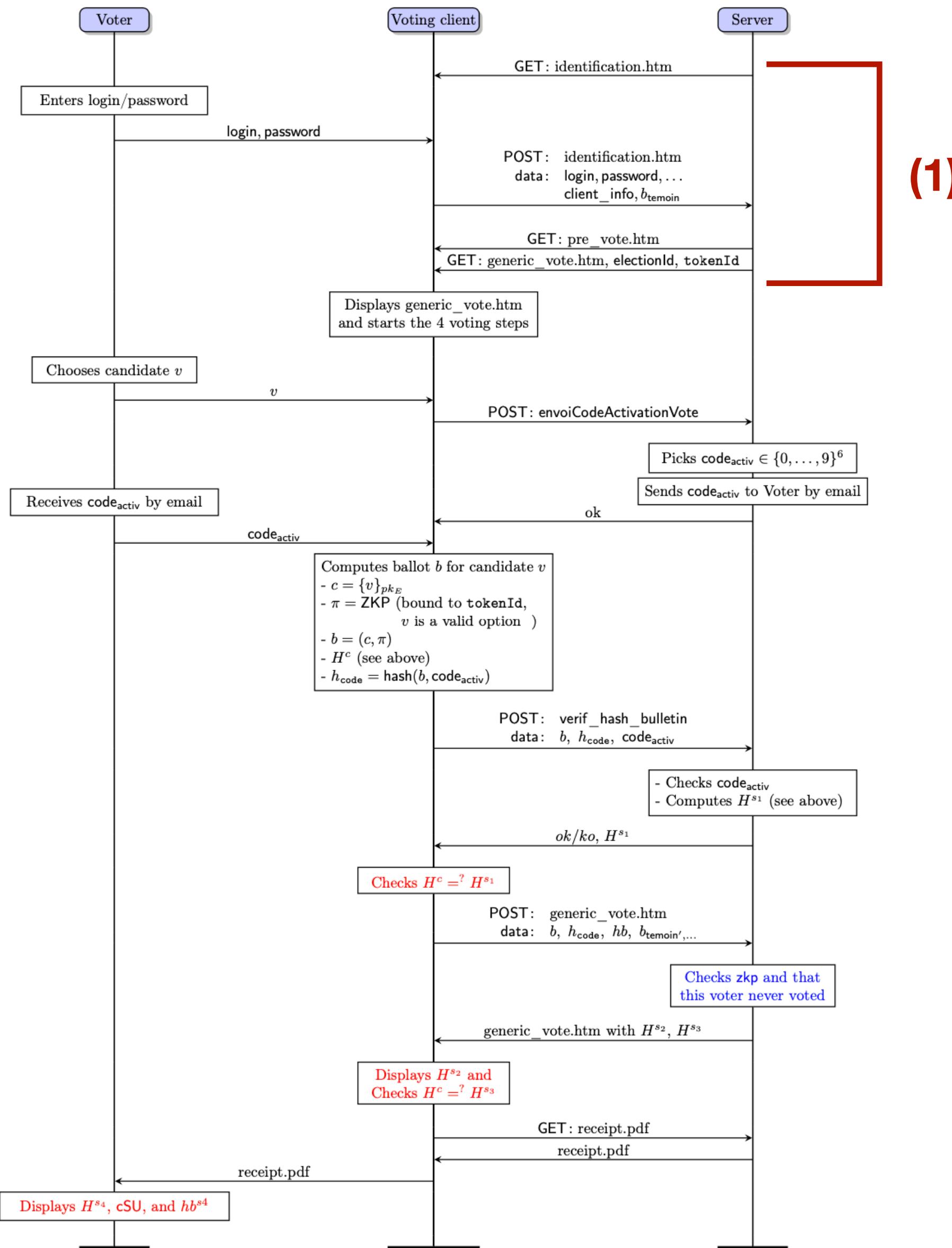
Test phase

```
1 function(e, t, n) {  
2   function ot(e) {  
3     [...]  
4     function v() {  
5       return (v = Pe()(Re.a.mark((function t() {  
6         var n, r, a, l, u, c, s;  
7         return Re.a.wrap((function(t) {  
8           for (;;) switch (t.prev = t.next) {  
9             case 0:  
10               [...]  
11             case 3: // core logic computing HashClient starts here  
12               return (n = new jsSHA("SHA-256", "TEXT")).update(o.  
13               bulletinCrypte + f.idTour + d.ordre + f.electeurEtOrdre),  
14               r = n.getHash("HEX"),  
15               (a = new jsSHA("SHA-256", "TEXT")).update(o.bulletinCrypte +  
16                 o.voteSignature),  
17               l = a.getHash("HEX"),  
18               u = f.idTour + "&" + d.ordre + "&" + r + y(r),  
19               sessionStorage.setItem("HashClient", u),  
20             }  
21           }  
22         )).call());  
23         return v;  
24       }  
25     }  
26   }  
27 }  
28 }  
29 }  
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```

A comprehensive description of the protocol

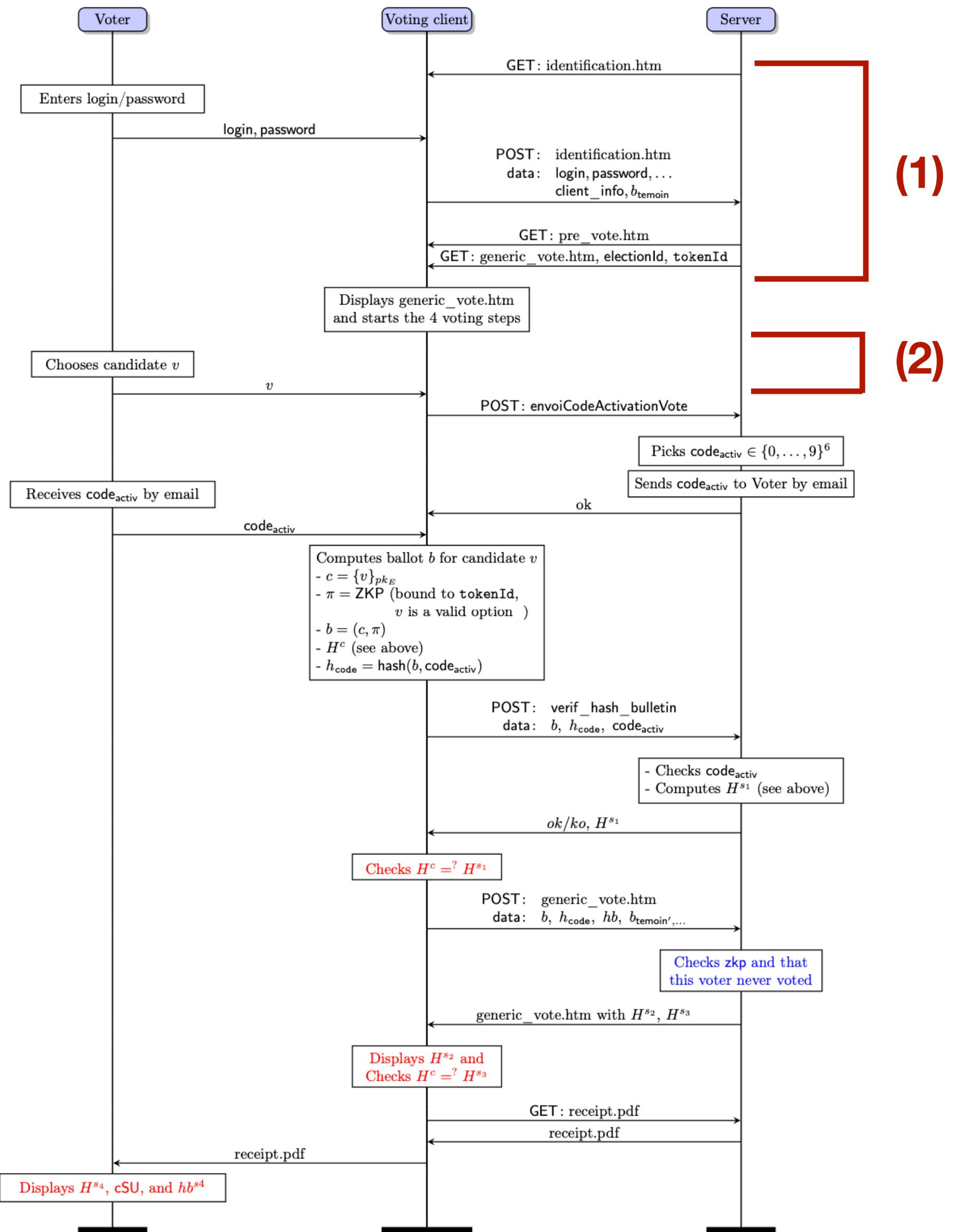


A comprehensive description of the protocol



1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

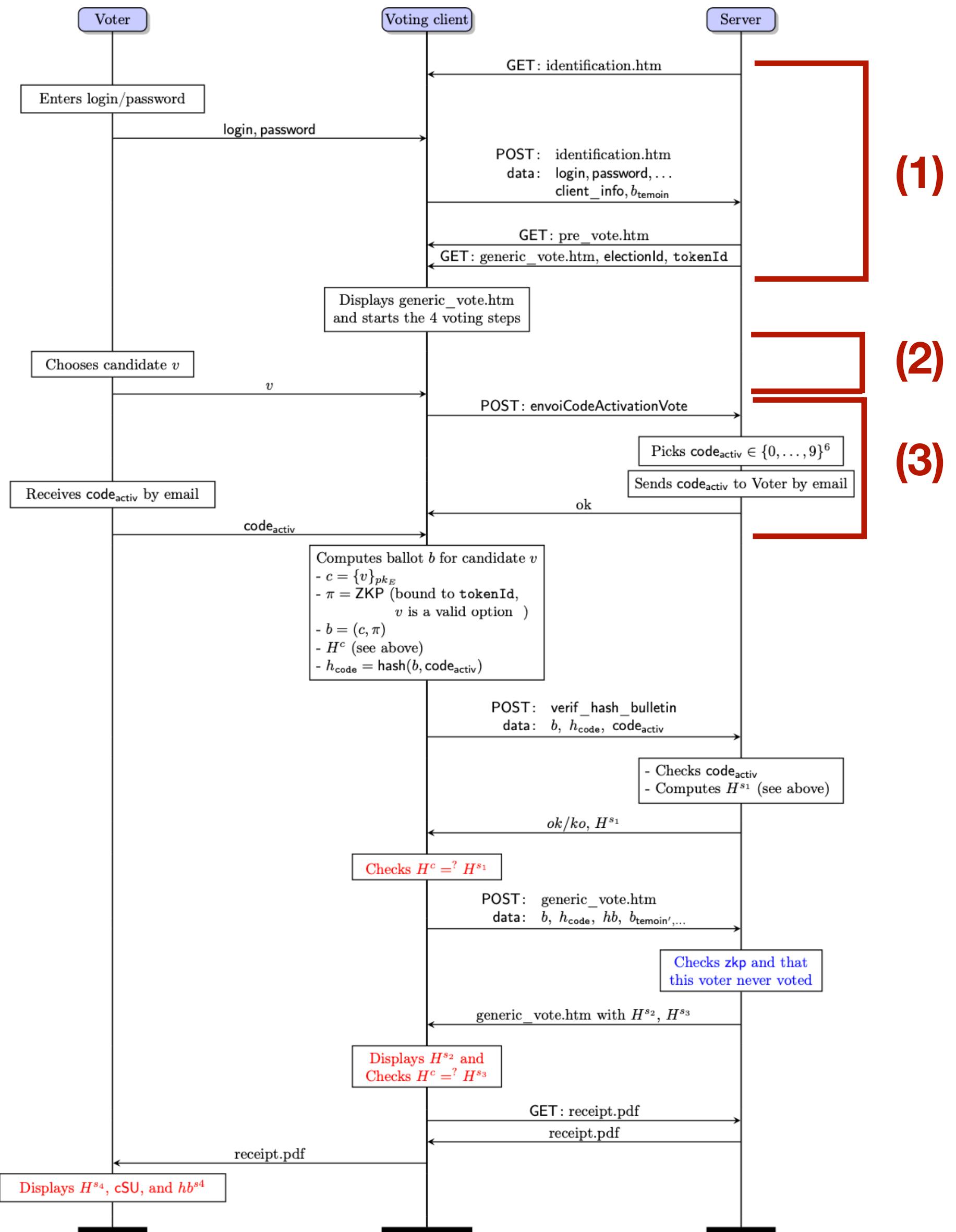
A comprehensive description of the protocol



1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

2. Vote section and confirmation

A comprehensive description of the protocol

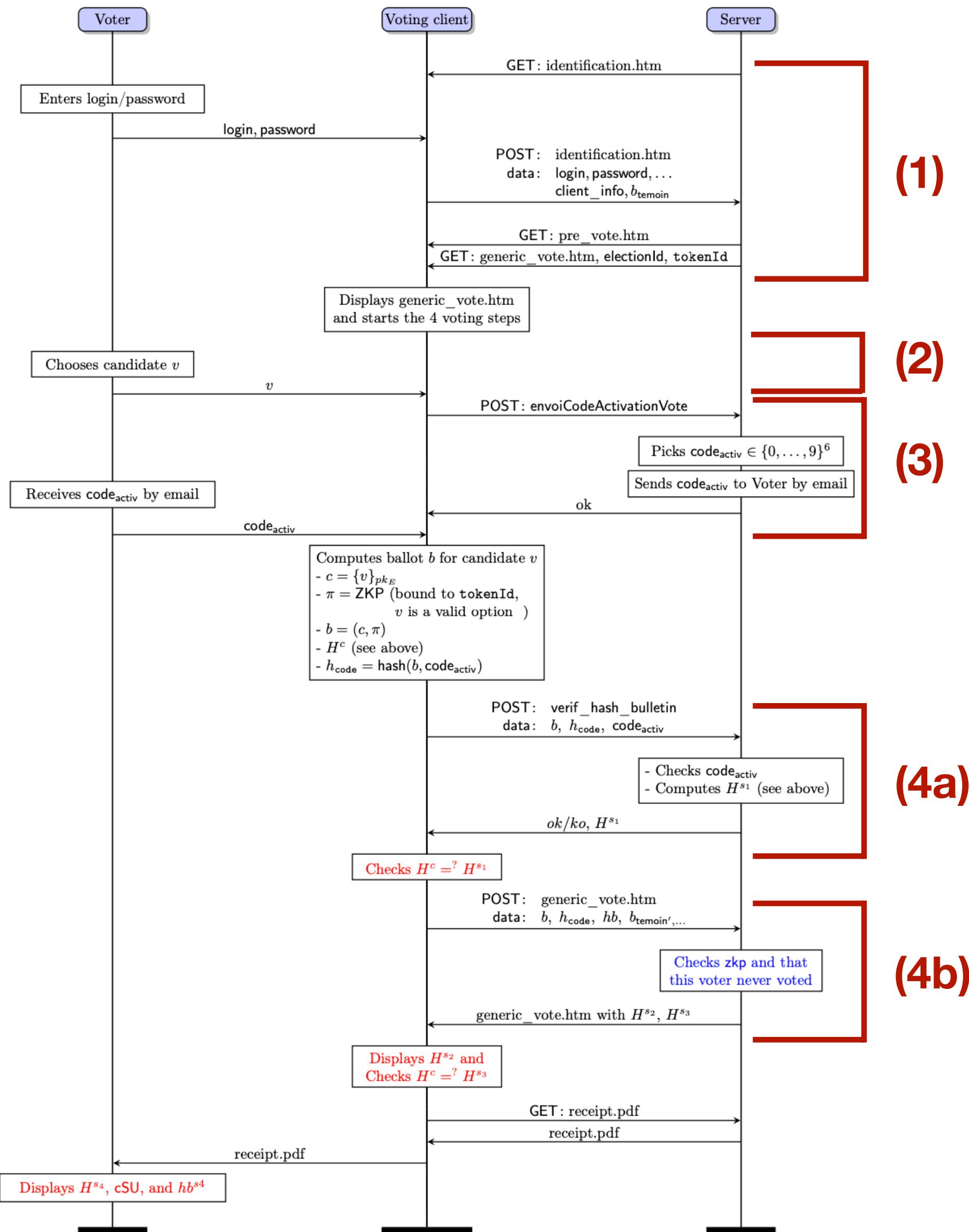


1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

2. Vote section and confirmation

3. Code activation: once confirmed, the voter initiates the sending of the **activation code** by email

A comprehensive description of the protocol



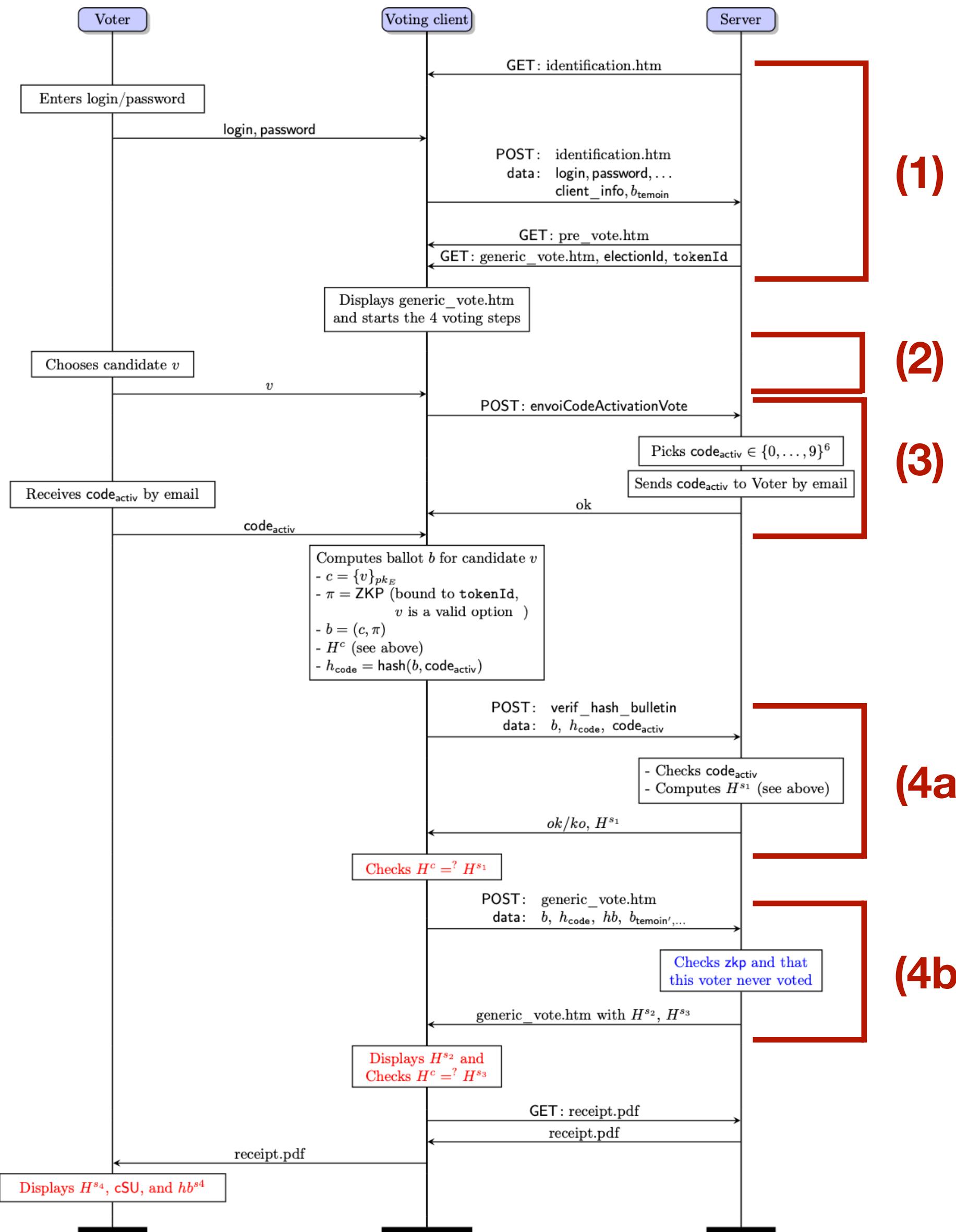
1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

2. Vote section and confirmation

3. Code activation: once confirmed, the voter initiates the sending of the **activation code** by email

4. Sending the ballot: the voter sends their ballot together with the activation code

A comprehensive description of the protocol



1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

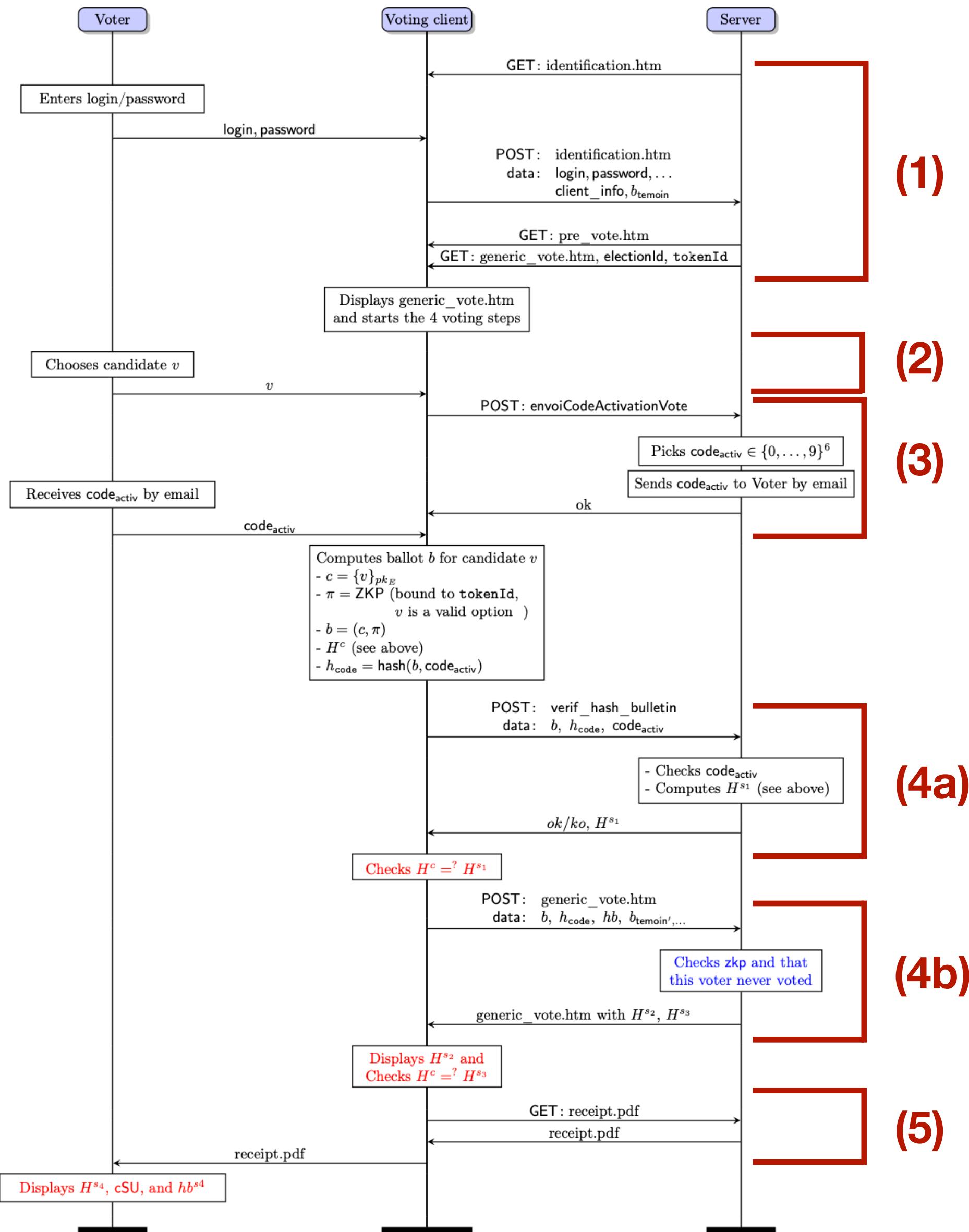
2. Vote section and confirmation

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4. Sending the ballot: the voter sends their ballot together with the activation code

🤔 Why is the ballot sent twice... ?

A comprehensive description of the protocol



1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

2. Vote section and confirmation

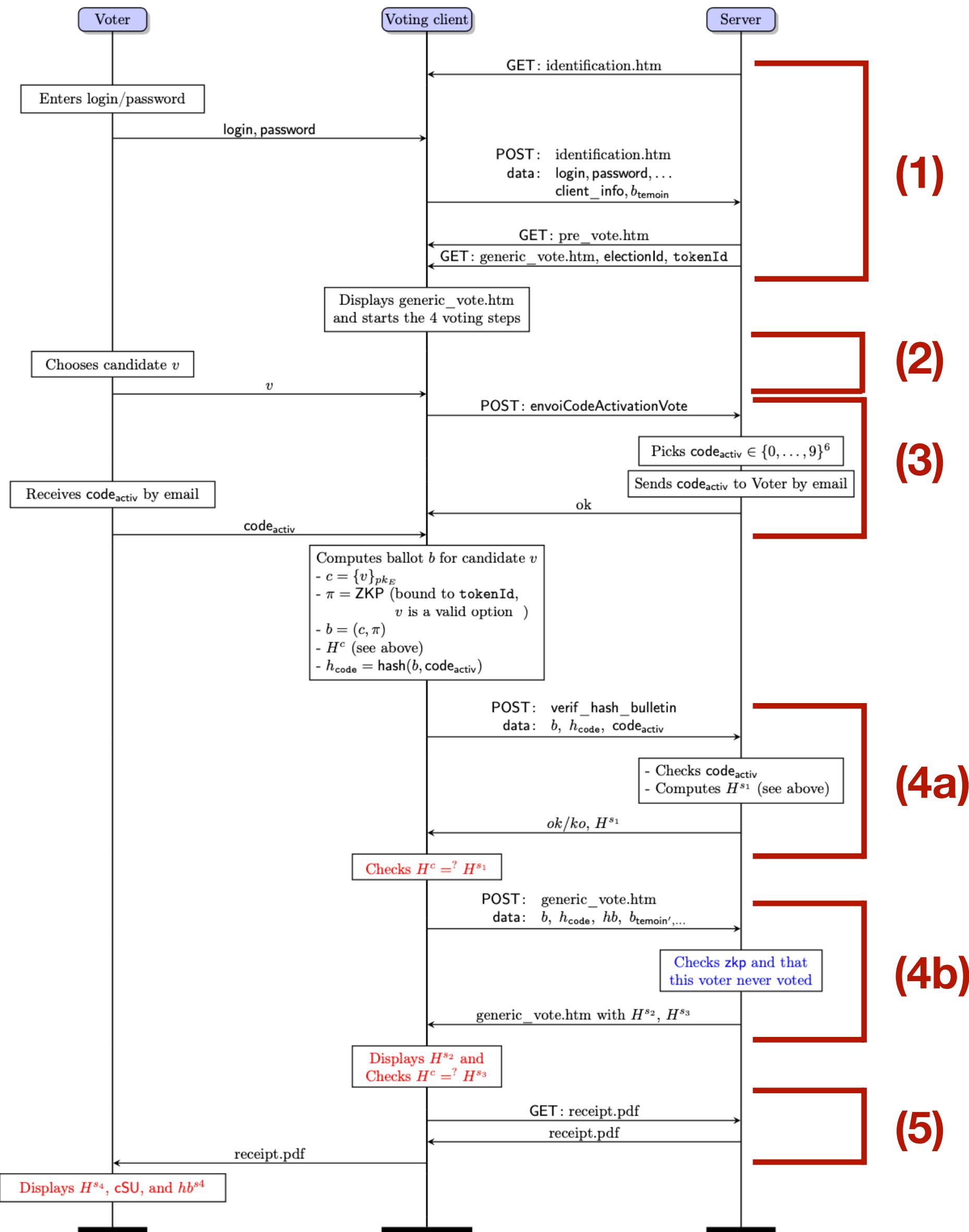
3. Code activation: once confirmed, the voter initiates the sending of the **activation code** by email

4. Sending the ballot: the voter sends their ballot together with the activation code

🤔 Why is the ballot sent twice... ?

5. Receiving the receipt: the server sends the PDF receipt to the voter

A comprehensive description of the protocol



1. Authentication: the voter sends their login/password to the server

2. Vote section and confirmation

3. Code activation: once confirmed, the voter initiates the sending of the **activation code** by email

4. Sending the ballot: the voter sends their ballot together with the activation code

🤔 Why is the ballot sent twice... ?

5. Receiving the receipt: the server sends the PDF receipt to the voter

This is the first public comprehensive description of the protocol.

Outline

1. Reverse the threat model and the protocol

2. Vulnerabilities, attacks, and fixes

- ▶ how to defeat verifiability?
- ▶ how to defeat vote privacy?

3. Other concerns and take away

More details about the receipt



Elections législatives 2022 1er tour

Preuve de dépôt du bulletin de vote dans l'urne

Voici la preuve de dépôt de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

Votre bulletin de vote a bien été introduit dans l'urne électronique.

La référence ci-dessous vous permet de contrôler que votre bulletin est bien dans l'urne.

Pour contrôler la référence de votre bulletin : cliquez ici

Une fois le dépouillement effectué, vous pouvez vérifier que votre bulletin a bien été pris en compte dans le calcul des résultats, à l'aide d'un outil tiers développé par le CNRS, conformément aux exigences de la CNIL en matière de transparence de l'urne. Pour ce faire, vous devrez renseigner le champ suivant :

électronique ci-dessous.

Ce cachet électronique vous permet également de vérifier que votre preuve de vote a bien été produite par le scrutin de votre bureau de vote.

[Pour contrôler le cachet électronique, cliquez ici](#)

La valeur chiffrée de votre bulletin de vote ci-dessous vous permet de vérifier que le contenu de votre bulletin de vote est identique tout au long du scrutin. Cette valeur est à comparer avec celle obtenue à l'issue du dépouillement de votre bulletin de vote.

en vérifiant la présence de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

(1)

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More details about the receipt



Elections législatives 2022 1er tour

✉️ Preuve de dépôt du bulletin de vote dans l'urne

Voici la preuve de dépôt de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

Votre bulletin de vote a bien été introduit dans l'urne électronique.

La référence ci-dessous vous permet de contrôler que votre bulletin est bien dans l'urne.

80011&1&3318f83ea80861c9Sdfsd7gd90f7g7896df87g598asd76f89689
65da78sd587as6

[Pour contrôler la référence de votre bulletin : cliquez ici](https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verifierEmpreinte)
<https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verifierEmpreinte>

Une fois le dépouillement effectué, vous pouvez vérifier que votre bulletin a bien été pris en compte dans le calcul des résultats, à l'aide d'un outil tiers développé par le CNRS, conformément aux exigences de la CNIL en matière de transparence de l'urne. Pour ce faire, vous devrez renseigner le cachet électronique ci-dessous.

[Vous pouvez accéder à l'outil en cliquant ici.](#)

Ce cachet électronique vous permet également de vérifier que votre preuve de vote a bien été produite par le système de vote homologué.

 hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
sadjoklasd678a (DSadsd6

[Pour contrôler le cachet électronique, cliquez ici](https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verificationCachetServeur)
<https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verificationCachetServeur>

La valeur chiffrée de votre bulletin de vote ci-dessous vous permet de vérifier que le contenu de votre bulletin de vote est identique tout au long du scrutin. Cette valeur est à comparer avec celle obtenue en vérifiant la présence de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

asd68asd6a907df90s78fuopaf90ads7f87a6sda78s96da8s76f908sd7f68sif

1. Reference of the ballot:

$$H = roundId||electionId||\text{hash}(b||roundId||electionId||ballotBoxId)$$

(1)

(2)

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More details about the receipt



Elections législatives 2022 1er tour

✉️ Preuve de dépôt du bulletin de vote dans l'urne

Voici la preuve de dépôt de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

Votre bulletin de vote a bien été introduit dans l'urne électronique.

La référence ci-dessous vous permet de contrôler que votre bulletin est bien dans l'urne.

80011&1&3318f83ea80861c9Sdfsd7gd90f7g7896df87g598asd76f89689
65da78sd587as6

[Pour contrôler la référence de votre bulletin : cliquez ici](https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verifierEmpreinte)
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[Vous pouvez accéder à l'outil en cliquant ici.](#)

Ce cachet électronique vous permet également de vérifier que votre preuve de vote a bien été produite par le système de vote homologué.

 **(2)**
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
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hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
adjoklasd678a (DSadsd6

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asd68asd6a907df90s78fuopaf90ads7f87a6sda78s96da8s76f908sd7f68sif

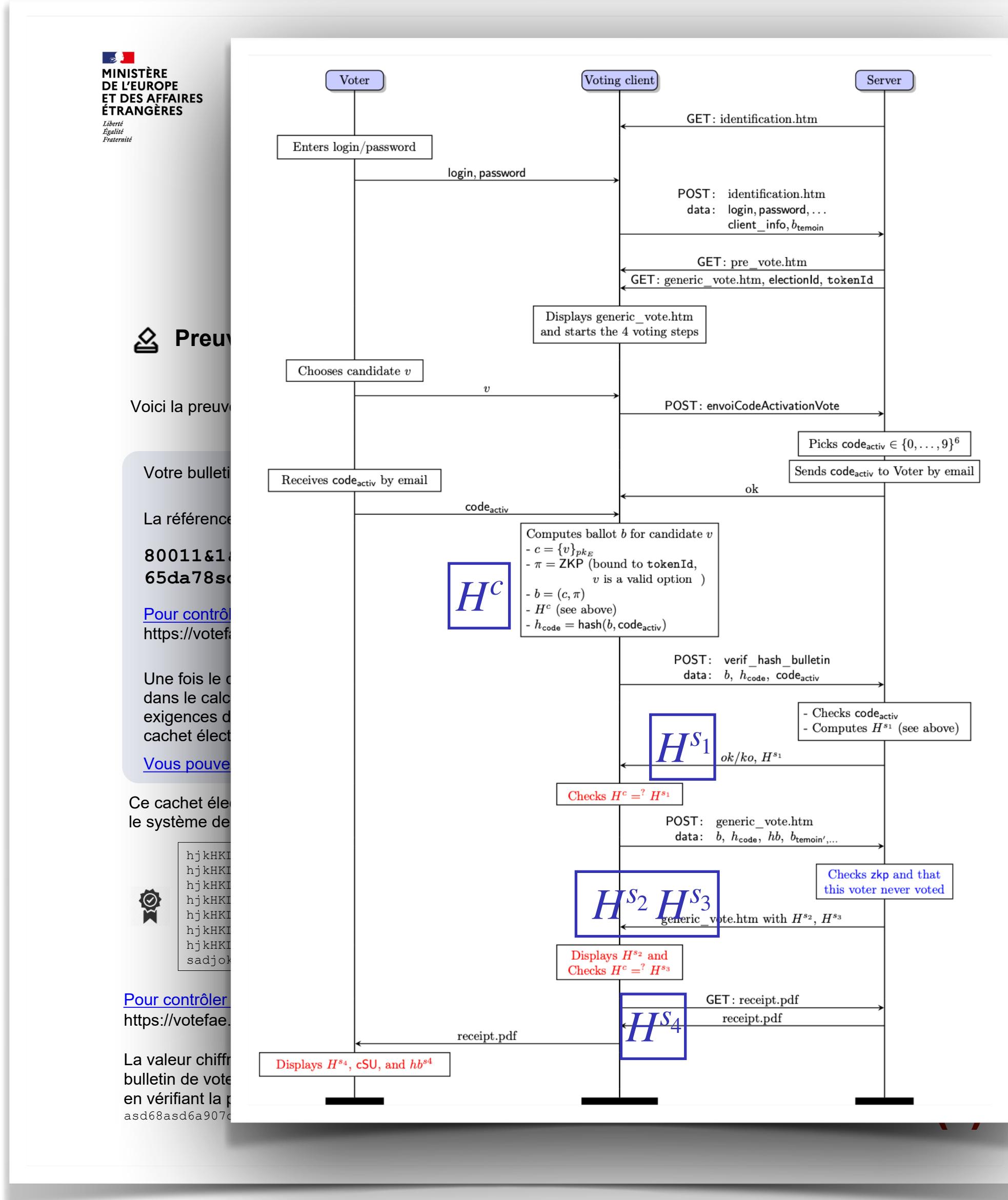
1. Reference of the ballot:

$$H = roundId||electionId||\text{hash}(b||roundId||electionId||ballotBoxId)$$

H is computed by the voting device (H^c) and received from the server 4 times ($H^{s_1}, H^{s_2}, H^{s_3}, H^{s_4}$).

(3)

More details about the receipt

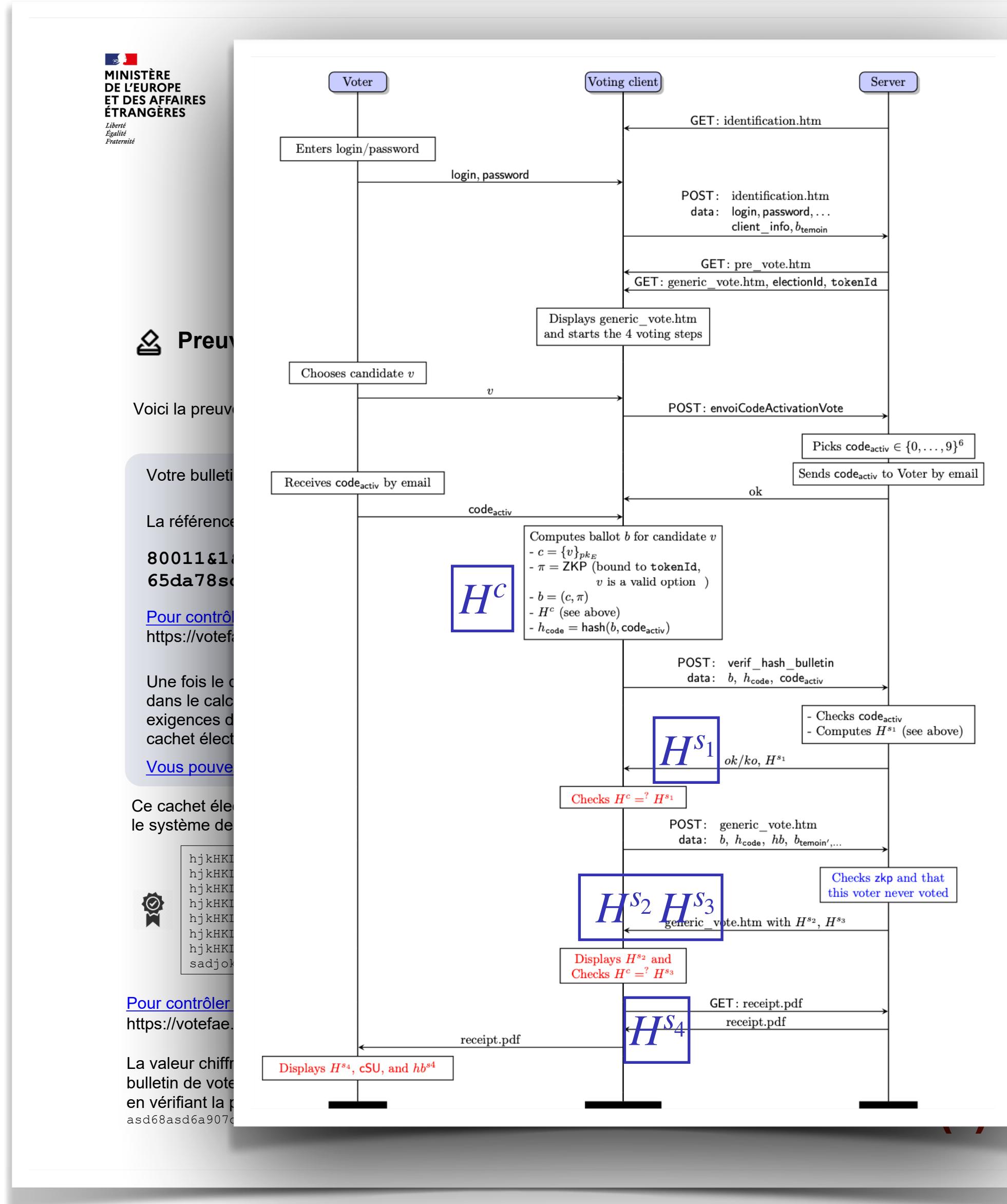


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More details about the receipt



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- the device ensures only: $H^c = H^{s_1} = H^{s_3}$
- the voter can only see H^{s_2} and H^{s_4}

More details about the receipt



Elections législatives 2022 1er tour

✉️ Preuve de dépôt du bulletin de vote dans l'urne

Voici la preuve de dépôt de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

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80011&1&3318f83ea80861c9Sdfsd7gd90f7g7896df87g598asd76f89689
65da78sd587as6

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 hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
 hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASDSDysu
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asd68asd6a907df90s78fuopaf90ads7f87a6sda78s96da8s76f908sd7f68sif

(1)

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(3)

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- the voter can only see H^{s_2} and H^{s_4}

2. Seal of the ballot:

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More details about the receipt



Elections législatives 2022 1er tour

✉️ Preuve de dépôt du bulletin de vote dans l'urne

Voici la preuve de dépôt de votre bulletin dans l'urne.

Votre bulletin de vote a bien été introduit dans l'urne électronique.

La référence ci-dessous vous permet de contrôler que votre bulletin est bien dans l'urne.

80011&1&3318f83ea80861c9Sdfsd7gd90f7g7896df87g598asd76f89689
65da78sd587as6

Pour contrôler la référence de votre bulletin : cliquez ici
<https://votefae.diplomatie.gouv.fr/pages/verifierEmpreinte>

Une fois le dépouillement effectué, vous pouvez vérifier que votre bulletin a bien été pris en compte dans le calcul des résultats, à l'aide d'un outil tiers développé par le CNRS, conformément aux exigences de la CNIL en matière de transparence de l'urne. Pour ce faire, vous devrez renseigner le cachet électronique ci-dessous.

[Vous pouvez accéder à l'outil en cliquant ici.](#)

Ce cachet électronique vous permet également de vérifier que votre preuve de vote a bien été produite par le système de vote homologué.


 hjkHKLJHSAJLKhsnlkjahsJKLHAJKLHDY&Y786S8D7F6S87D6F87SDOYF89A7S6F87AS6D89AOIYIUASDGASD
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asd68asd6a907df90s78fuopaf90ads7f87a6sda78s96da8s76f908sd7f68sif

(1)

(2)

(3)

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$$H = roundId||electionId||\text{hash}(b||roundId||electionId||ballotBoxId)$$

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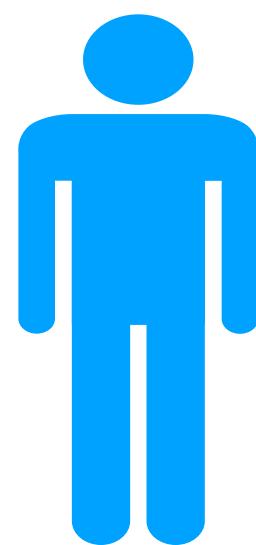
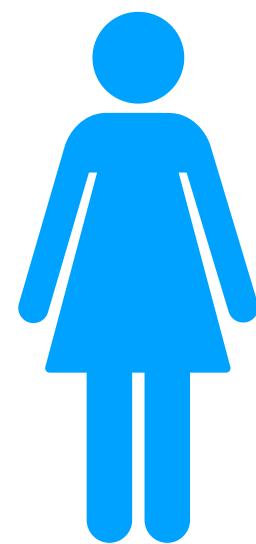
3. Ballot fingerprint: $hb = \text{hash}(b)$

Attack against verifiability

The references seen by the voter may not correspond to their ballot.

Attack against verifiability

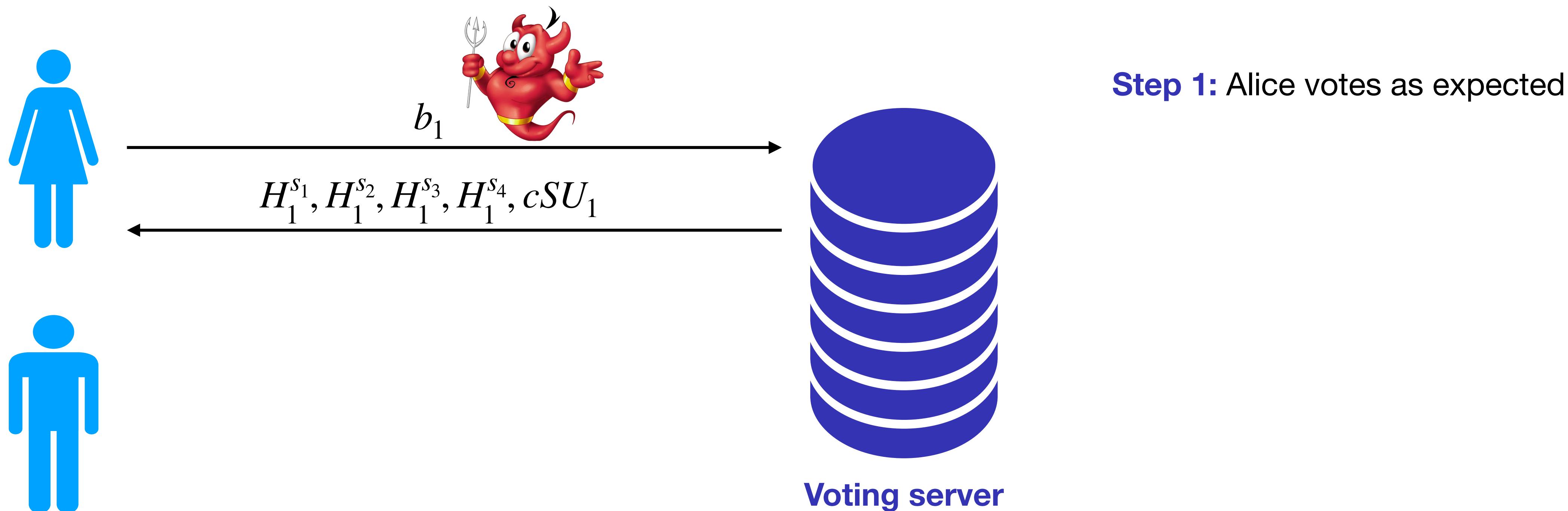
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Voting server

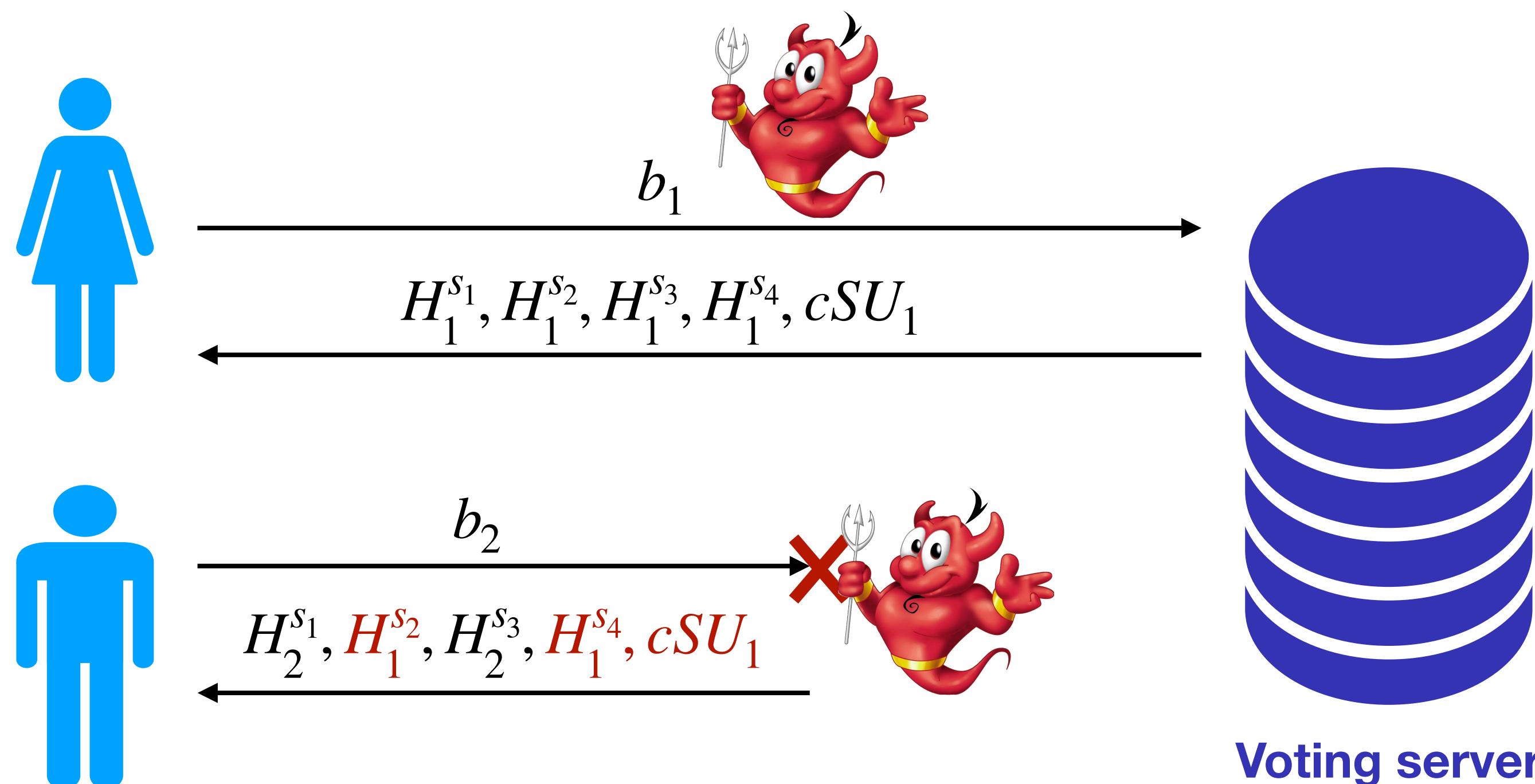
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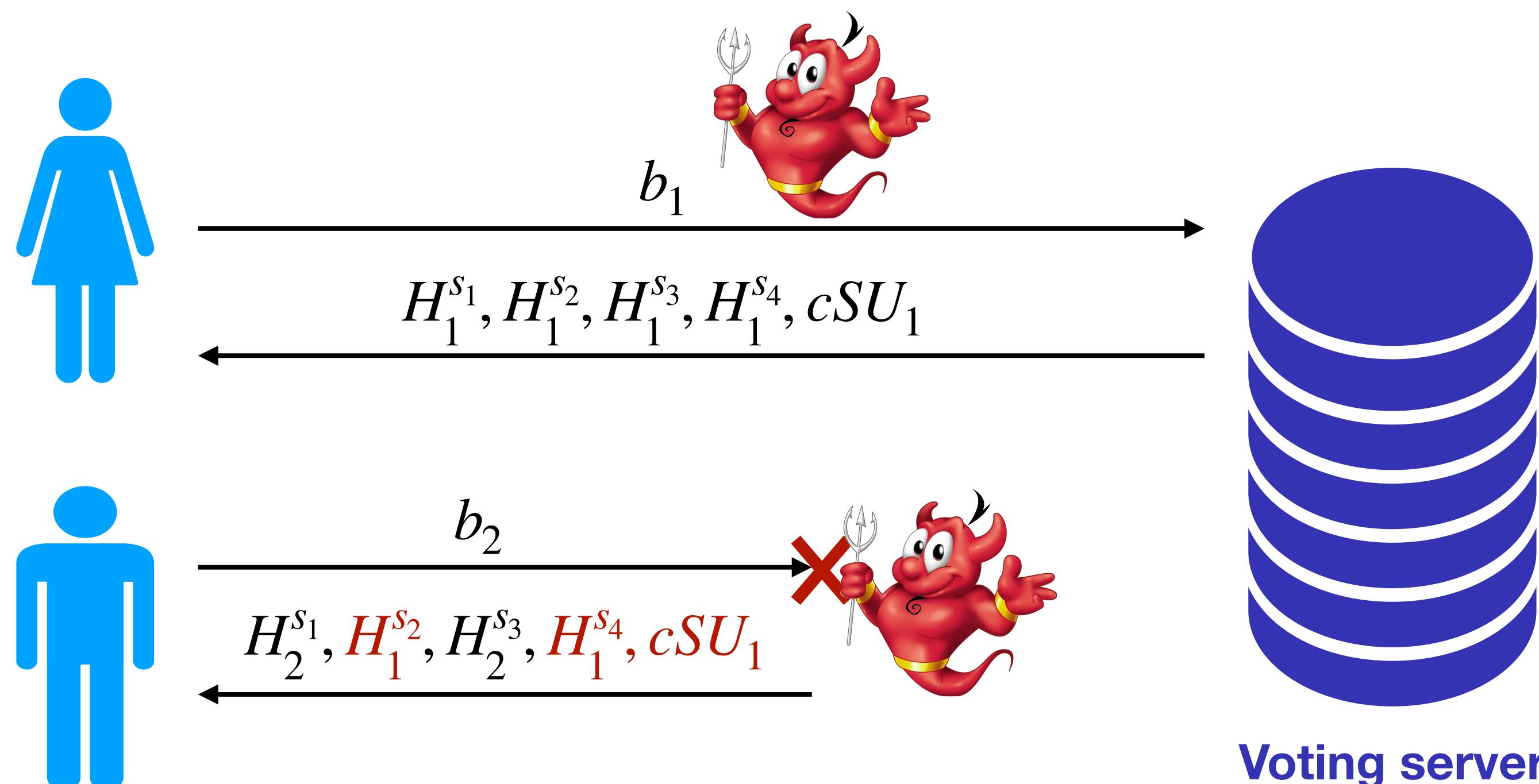
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Step 2: the attacker intercepts Bob's request

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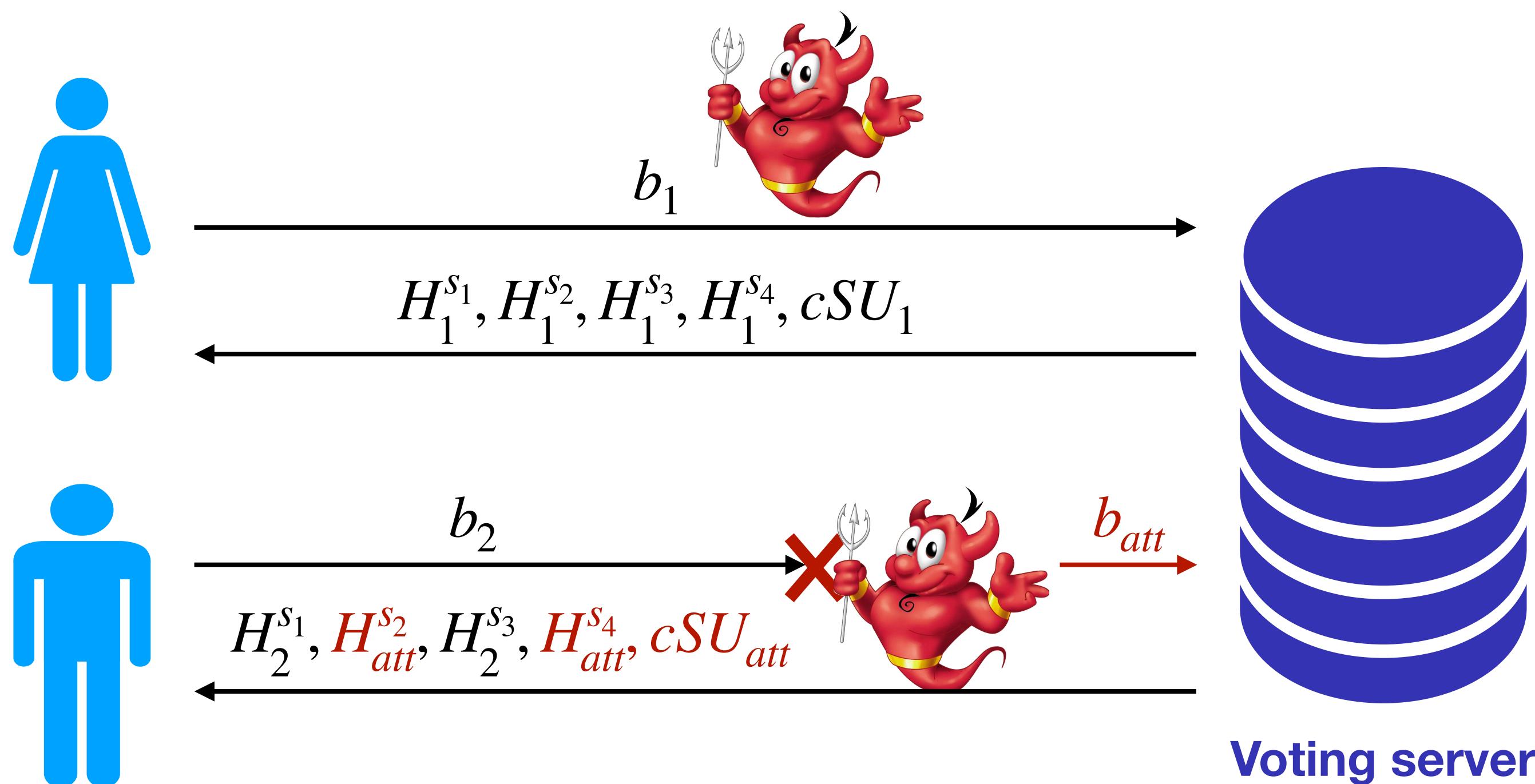
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Result: Bob's ballot is dropped... but nothing went wrong in Bob's process

Improvement: the attacker can completely modify Bob's ballot

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1. No error detected during the voting process: $H_2^c = H_2^{s_1} = H_2^{s_3} \neq H_1^{s_2} = H_1^{s_4}$
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In rare cases, detection is possible...

- ▶ **Attack 1 (drop only):** Bob can see on the signing sheet that he is considered as absentee
→ requires Bob goes to the polling station... it seems unlikely...
- ▶ **Attack 2 (drop and replace):** detectable if no-one else voted for Bob's candidate
→ unlikely in large consulates...

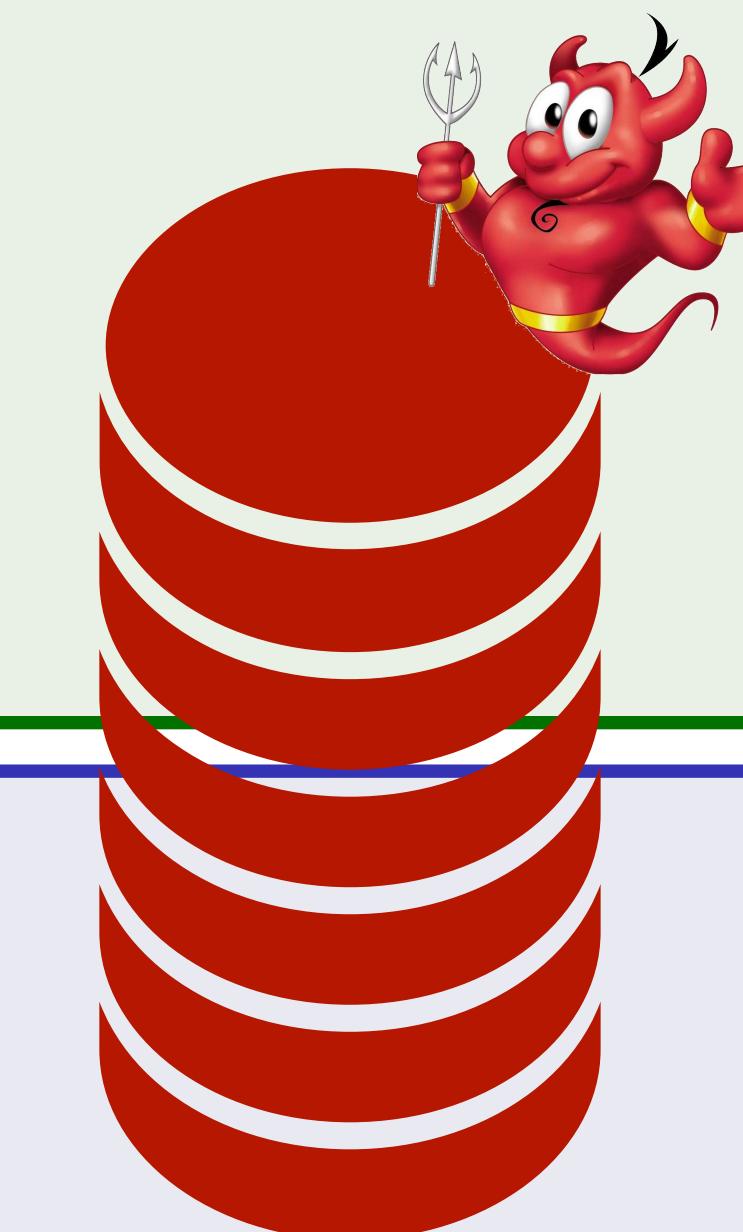
Attack against vote secrecy

The seal cSU and the ballot b are not cryptographically bound to the consulate

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Consulate 1



Consulate 2



Compromised
voting server

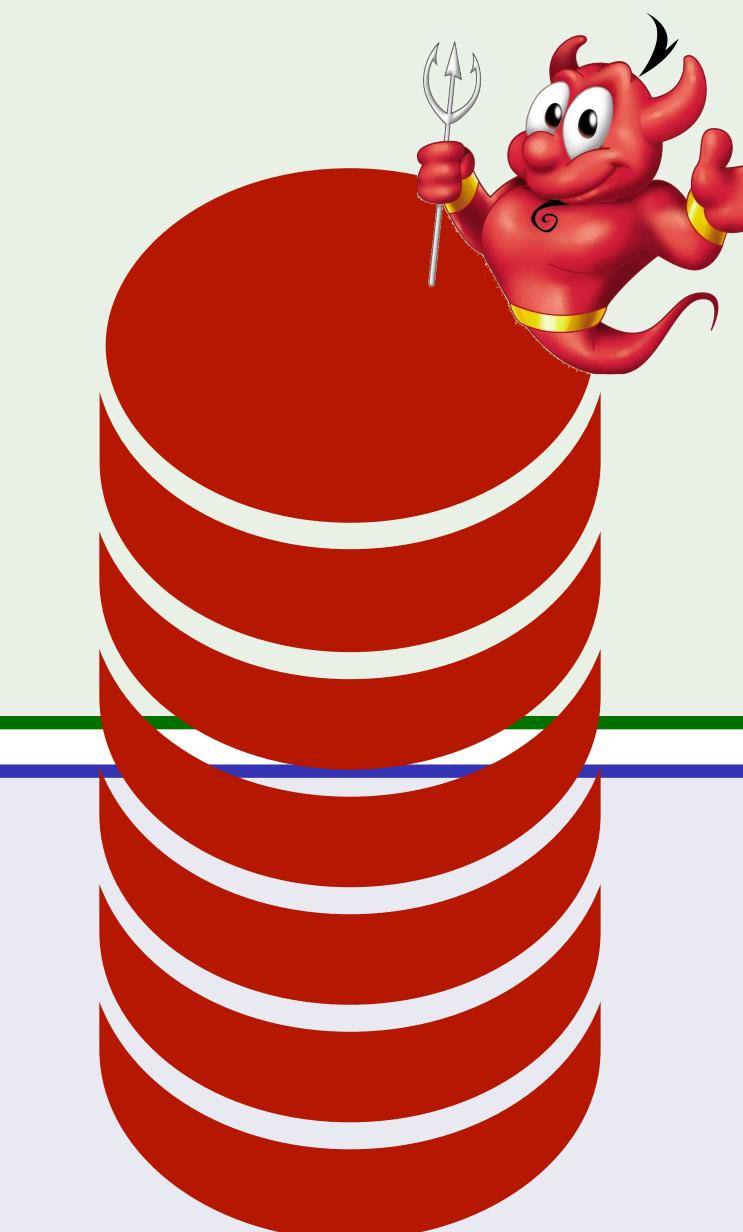


Attack against vote secrecy

E.g SIDNEY
consulate

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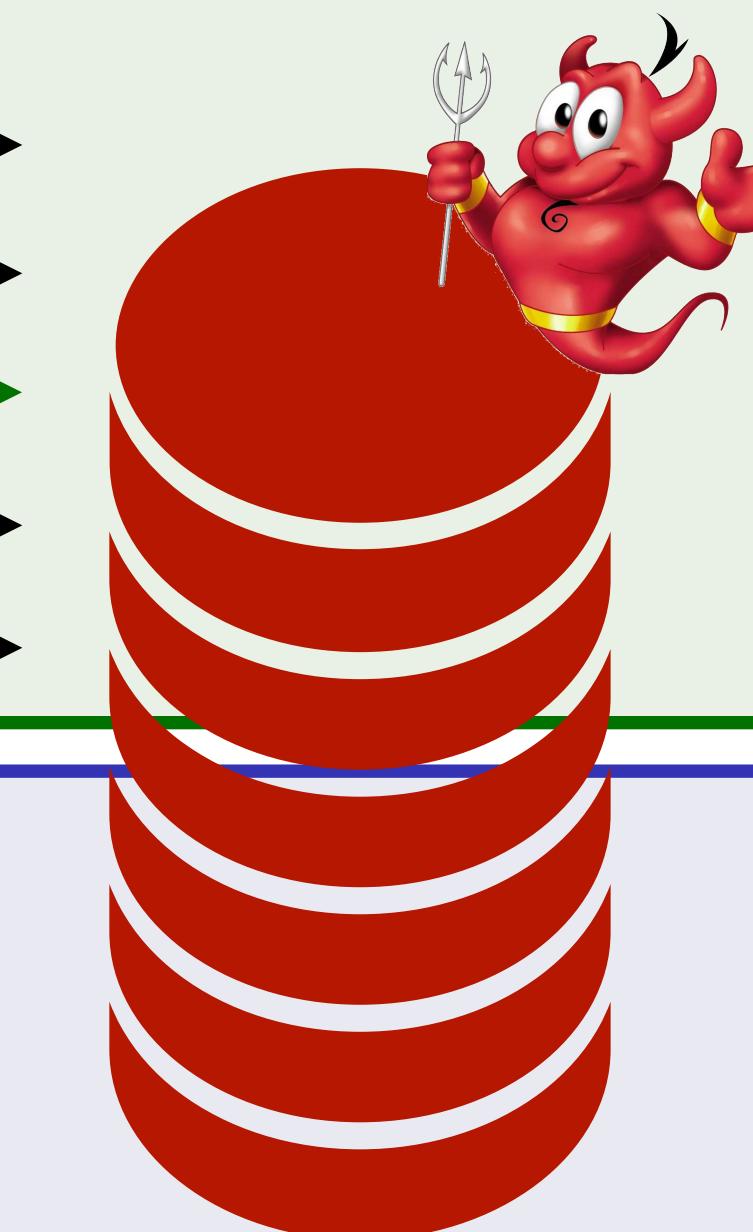
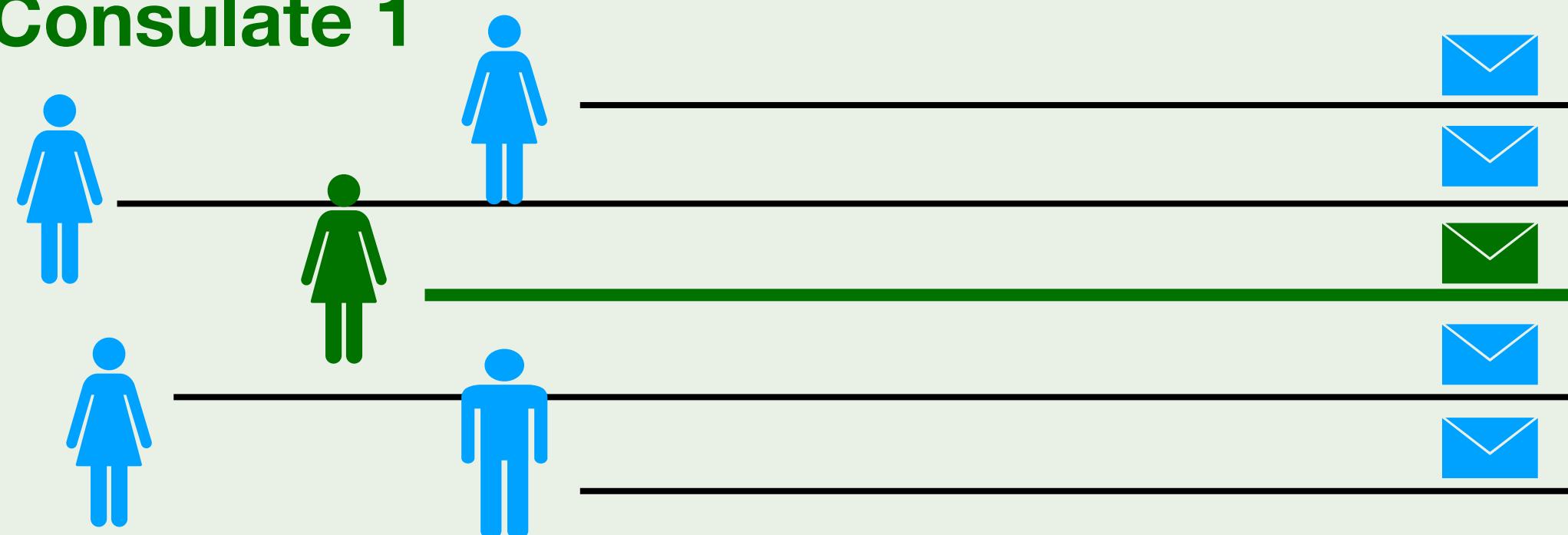
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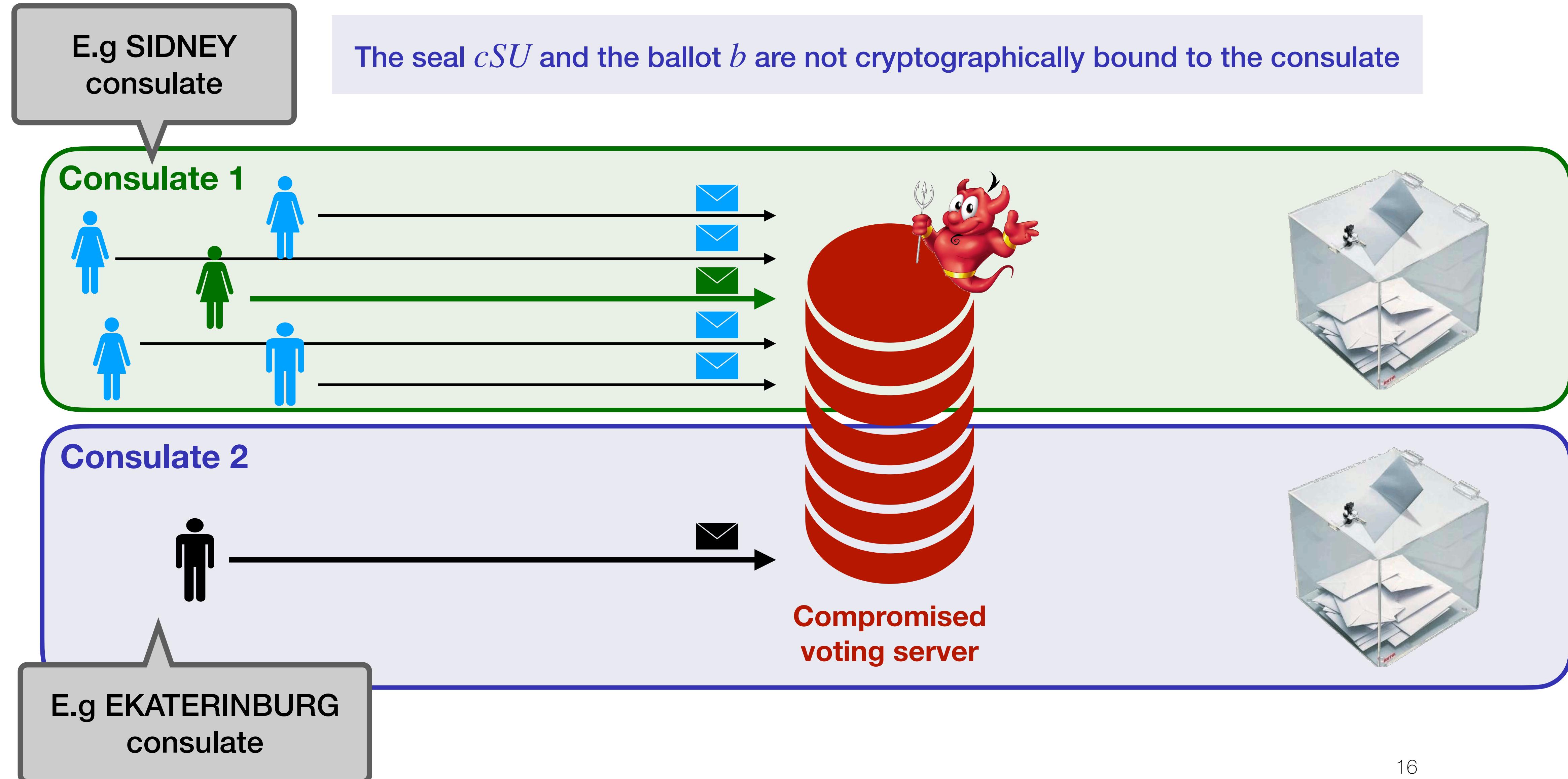


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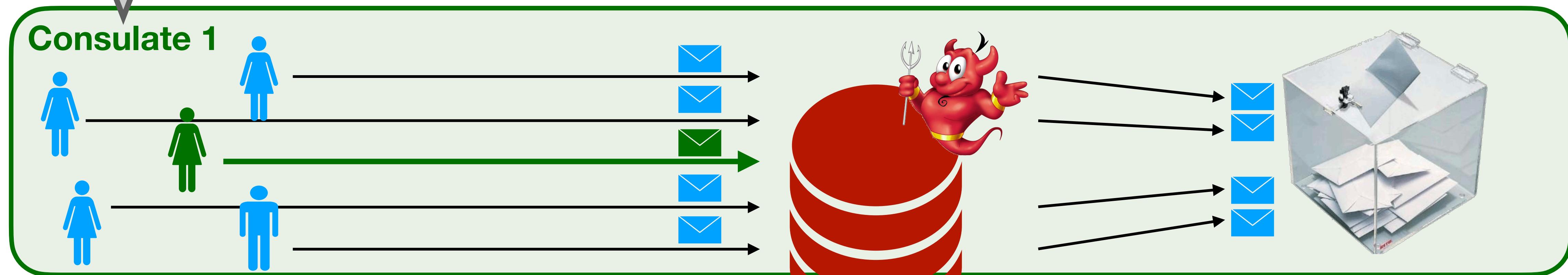
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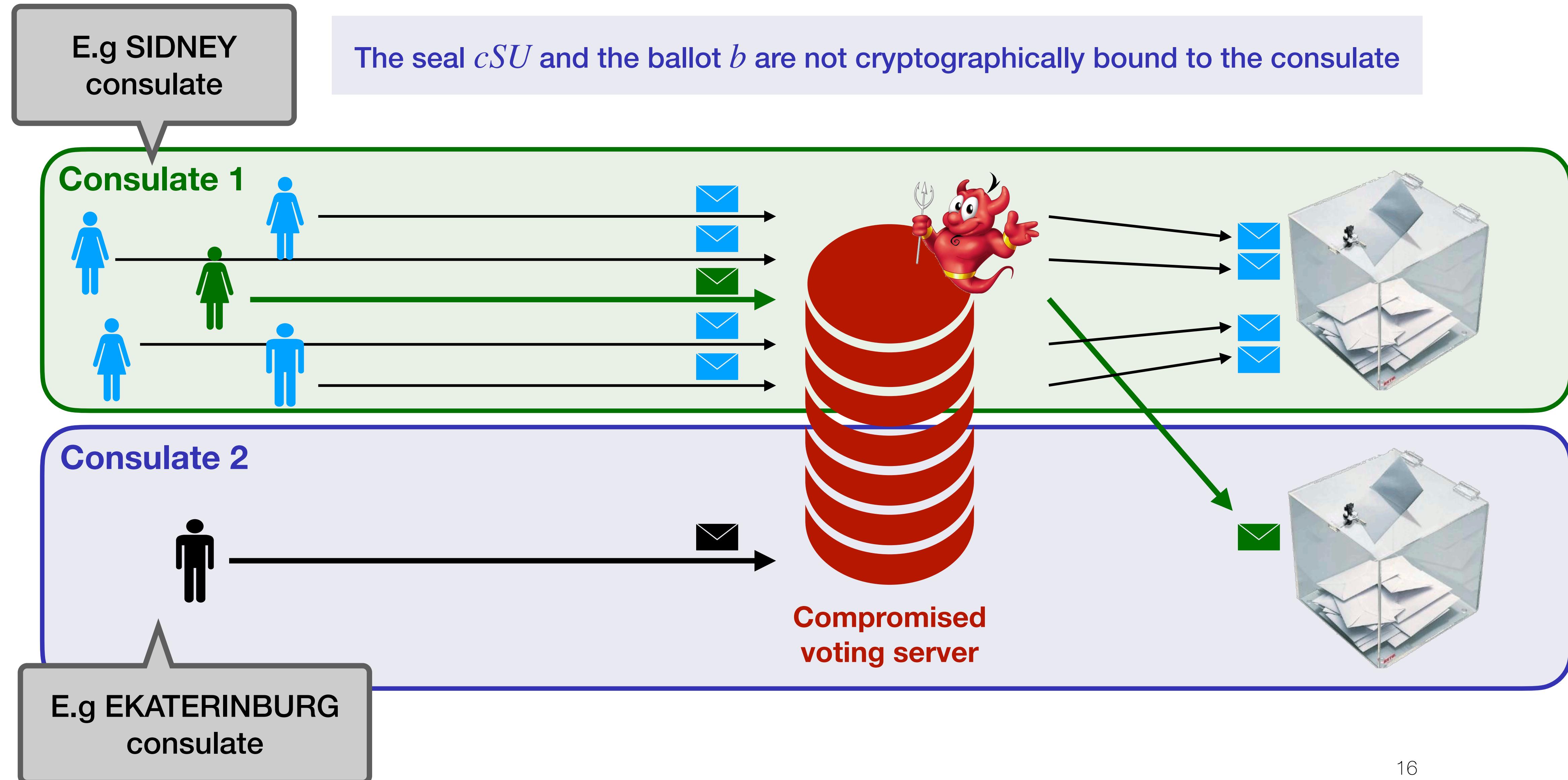
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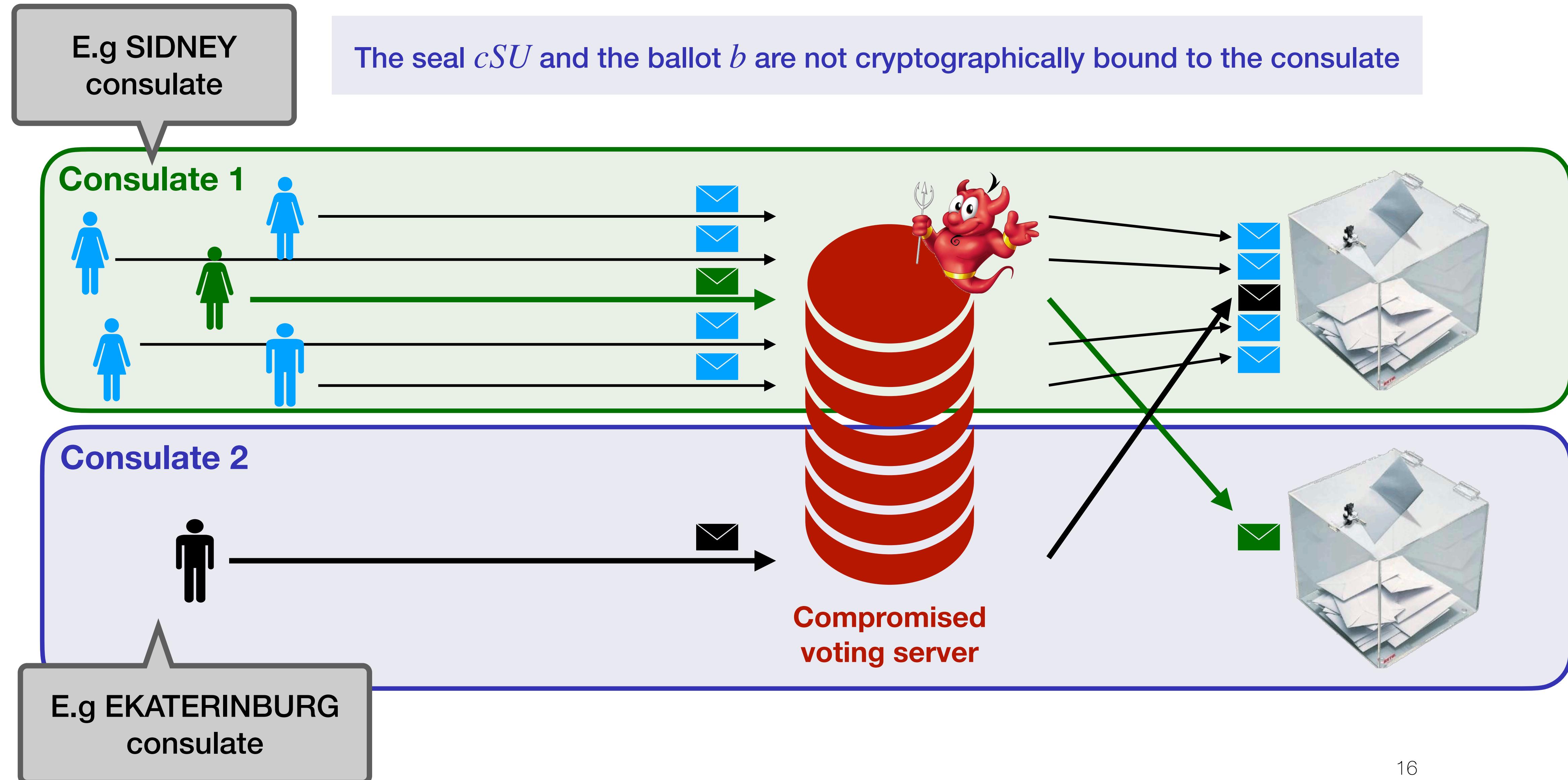
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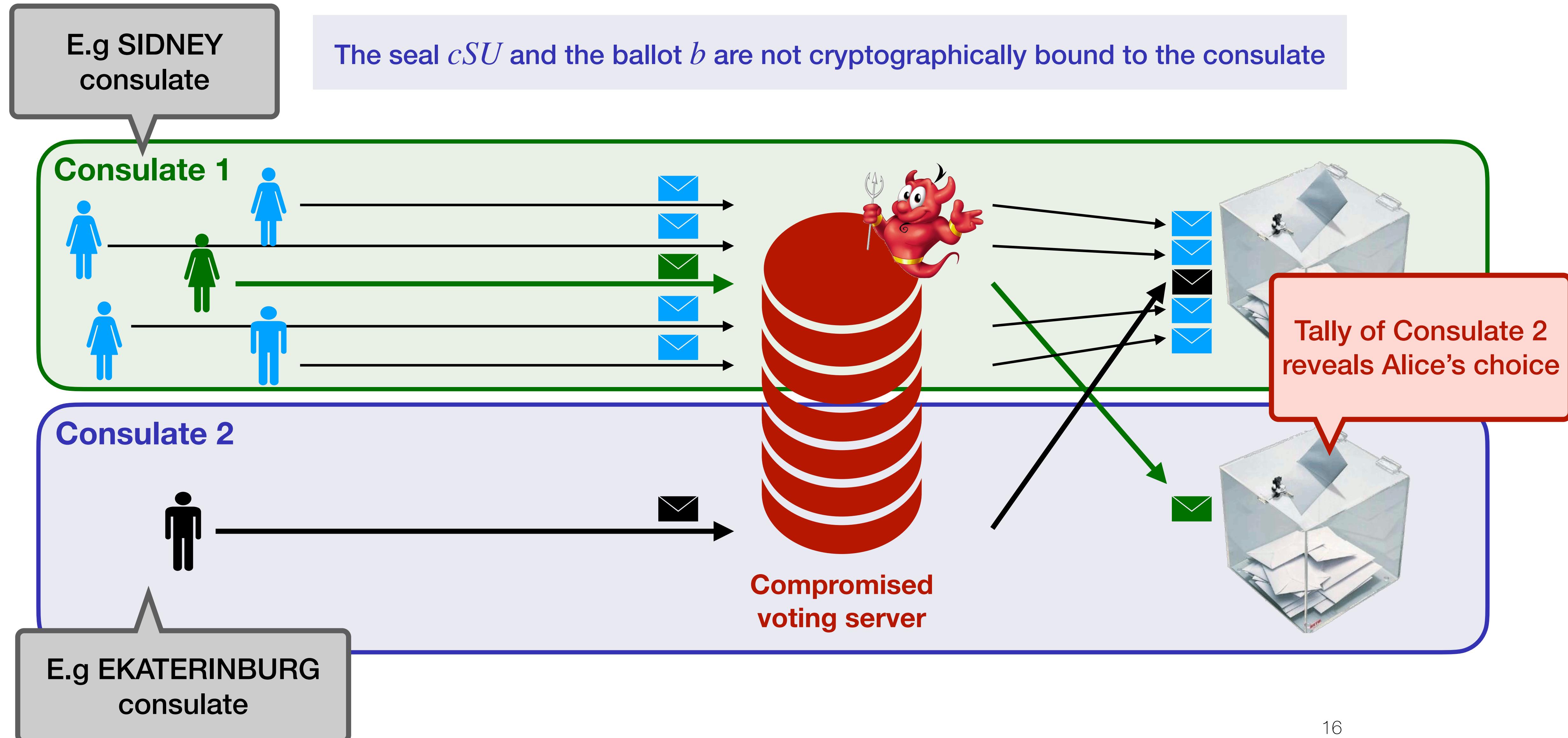
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Impact of the attack

Assumptions to mount a completely undetectable attack:

- ▶ a **channel attacker** is enough
- ▶ at least as many corrupted voter as candidates
- ▶ at least as many expressed votes as candidates in the small consulate
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Impact

- ▶ can **learn the choice** or a **bias** on the choice of target voters: one per “small” consulate
- ▶ could contribute to **remote coercion attacks**: gather and isolate all coerced voters ballots in the same consulate
- ▶ is **completely undetectable**

Summary of attacks

1- Individual verifiability does not hold

Despite the use of a third-party verifier, an attacker who compromises the communication channels (or even worse the voting server) can significantly modify the outcome of the election by dropping and replacing ballots.

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We detail 6 different variants of these attacks and propose fixes in the full report!

[ePrint 2022/1653]

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Outline

1. Reverse the threat model and the protocol

2. Vulnerabilities, attacks, and fixes

- ▶ how to defeat verifiability?
- ▶ how to defeat vote privacy?

3. Other concerns and take away

On the importance of... the literature

the system suffers from well-known vulnerabilities...

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- ▶ our vote secrecy attacks
- ▶ Cortier and Smyth attack (2011) to break verifiability and vote secrecy
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Everything is in place to
make ballot weeding...
but they weren't aware of...

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😊 = trustworthy
🔥 = untrustworthy

Voter	Voting device	Com. channels	Voting server	Dec. auth.	3 rd -party
Verifiability	😊	🔥	🔥	🔥	😊
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Now, the voting client is a Javascript program provided by the server...
→ need to find a solution to make it really trustworthy

On the importance of... the voting device

Possible solutions to improve integrity of the voting device:

- ▶ use a standalone application; or
- ▶ use an easily auditable client (e.g., non obfuscated Single-page Application); or
- ▶ use other browser integrity services...

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- ▶ the javascript code is provided **after authentication**
→ attacker can decide if he cheats depending of the voter
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Vote privacy attack: attacker can exploit this weakness to mount our vote privacy attack

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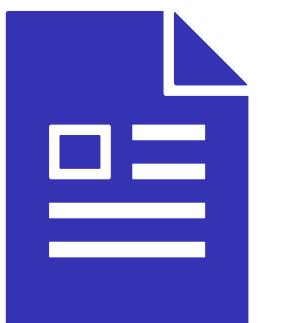
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**Can we improve the protocol to prevent such a weakness? Yes, we think so!
(but we have no solution to present for now...)**

Summary



We provide the first **public and comprehensive specification of the protocol**



We show that the system **fails to ensure verifiability and vote secrecy under a reasonable threat model:**

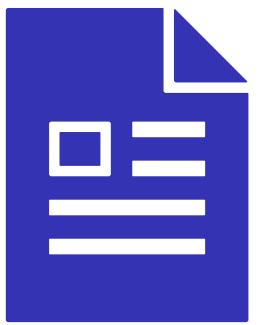
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Details are in the full report on HAL (soon...)

Hope for the future

We hope our recommandations will be taken into account for the next public tender...

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