Short Description of the current e-permitting system in Switzerland

The permitting system, called e-CITES in Switzerland is basically built in different applications around one central database (PR77): The general structure can be seen in Fig.1

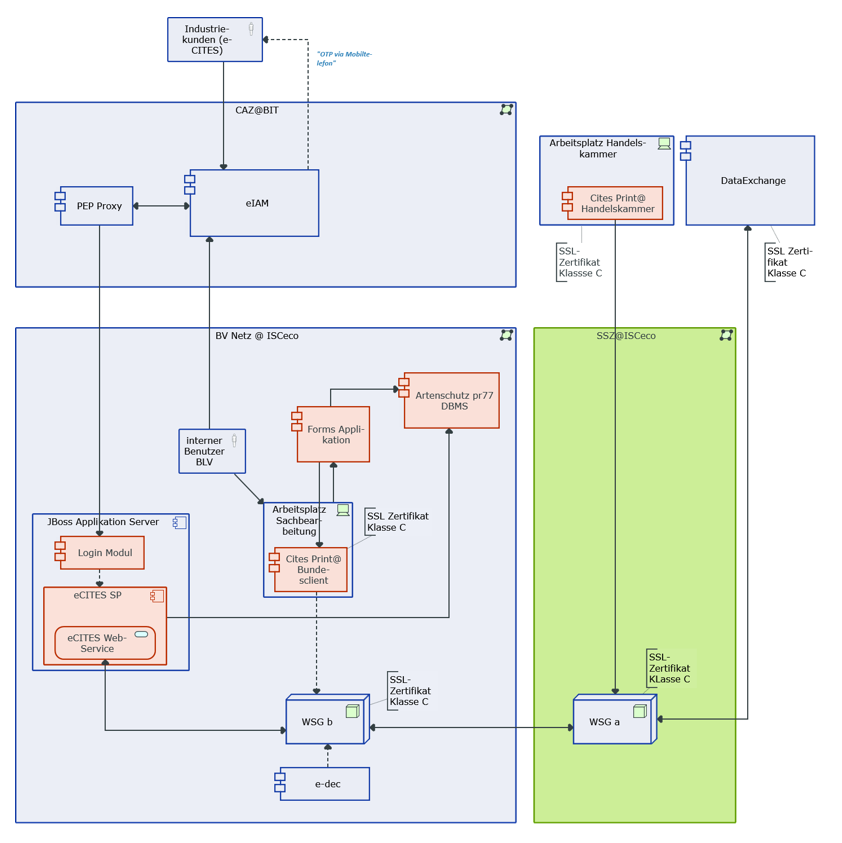


Fig.1 Structure of the Swiss e-permitting system

The system has basically two parts, one old part composed of two Forms applications “Artenschutz” and “ADR” and a Java web-application called e-CITES. The Forms applications allow the treatment of all import and export applications which are submitted on a paper base. The e-cites application allow the treatment of all electronically submitted permit applications which make up more than 95% (approx. 103’000) of the current number of applications.

This means that 95% of the applications are fully automated and run electronically. 5% are submitted on paper and must be entered into the system by hand. There exist several connections to outside systems, including exchange of permit information with selected foreign MA’s. At this stage there are no other authorities working on the system besides the Swiss MA and the industry which works in the e-CITES application and manages its imports and re-export applications.

**Future extensions of the system.**

We are finalizing a project to implement a fully electronic system for all applications which will also include control process at the border, administrative procedures in cases of contestations and seizures as well as management of seized specimens and connections to customs as well as a fully electronic permit exchange with other MA’’s which wish to do so.