Internet Voting: What Could Go Wrong?



J. Alex Halderman
University of Michigan

Voting as a Security Problem?



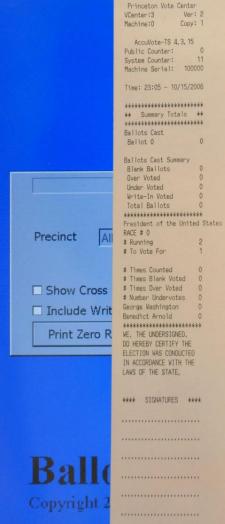
No Trusted Parties

Electronic Voting in Practice?





Diebold AccuVote-TS



OLD° TION SYSTEMS

✓ Long Report

On tion Systems, Inc.



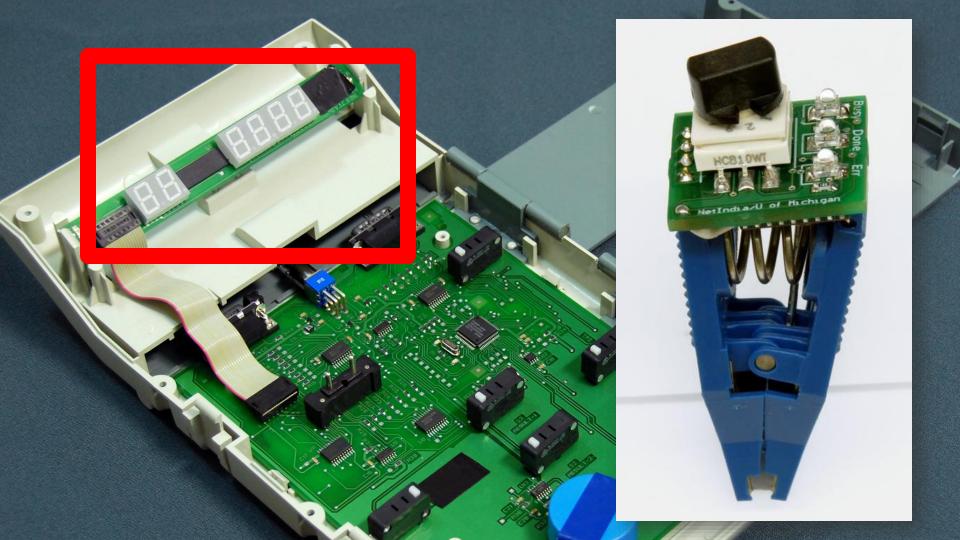
```
President of the United States
RACE # 0
# Running
# To Vote For
# Times Counted
# Times Blank Voted
# Times Over Voted
# Number Undervotes
George Washington
Benedict Arnold
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED.
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE
ELECTION WAS CONDUCTED
```















Today, >70% of American voters get to see a physical record of their vote.

Internet Voting?

Server-side Threats



Denial of Service

Remote Intrusion

Insider Attacks

State-Sponsored Attacks

Client-side Threats



Credential Theft

Imposter Sites

Malware



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2745



MEDIA RELEASE

D.C. BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS September 21, 2010

Contact: Alysoun McLaughlin, amclaughlin@dcboee.org

202-727-2511 (direct)/202-441-1121 (cell)

Board Announces Public Test of Digital Vote by Mail Service

Open Source Solution Provides Secure Alternative for Overseas Voters Who Are Underserved by Traditional Vote by Mail

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The Board of Elections and Ethics today announced that the public examination phase of the Digital Vote by Mail pilot project for overseas voters will begin on Friday, September 24.

Digital Vote by Mail is a first-in-the-nation use of open source technology to provide a



DC General Election November 2, 2010

The service offers two options:

D.C. Digital Vote-by-Mail is a new service to the overseas and military voters of the District of Columbia. We've designed this service to make it easier for you to receive your voting materials and help you return your completed ballot more quickly.

Thank you for your participation in this election.

District of Columbia Board of Election and Ethics

Physical Ballot Return

Complete your ballot and return materials by mail or express delivery service.

- Obtain your blank ballot and other vote-by-mail materials
- Complete them online and print them
- Return materials by mail or express delivery service

See more information about this option.

Digital Ballot Return

Complete your ballot and return it electronically. This pilot project allows you to return your ballot through the Internet.

- Obtain your blank ballot and other vote-by-mail materials
- Complete them online
- Return completed ballot electronically

See more information about this option.

Start Mail-in Ballot

Start Digital Ballot



DC Specific Election November 2, 2010

Check In

Your name, zip code, and voter ID number must match the information we have in your current voter record. The PIN number must exactly match the number that was provided to you by mail, by the Board of Elections and Ethics. All fields are required.

Check In

Check In

Please enter your name, address, and PIN. @

Confirm Identity

Iva Pfannerstill

3 Complete Ballot

Voter ID Number:

272188488

Zip Code:

20018

A Send Ballot

Enter 9-digit Number Provided by BOEE

PIN:

PIN

1DCC58A2A9DD9B94

Enter 16-digit Number Provided by BOEE

begins
October 22

Key Dates October 1

Last day to apply for a

Vote-by-Mail service

Vote-by-Mail Ballot

November 2

Last day to return your ballot (by mail, must be postmarked by 5:00 pm EST)

Complete instructions for the Digital Vote-by-Mail Service.

Find out more about D.C. Digital Vote-by-mail, and the digital ballot return pilot project.

Back

Continue

Last day to return your

District of Columbia Digital Vote-by-Mail Service | About | Help | Security | Contact

Home About Help

DC Specific Election November 2, 2010

Complete Ballot

Digital ballot return lets you return your ballot electronically. You will need to save your marked ballot, locate it on your computer, and upload it to the BOEE. Keep this page open until you have saved your completed ballot.

Check In

Download

Download and View Your Ballot

Click the PDF icon at the right to download your ballot. The ballot PDF will open in your default PDF viewing application, on top of your web browser.



Complete Ballot

Confirm Identity

Mark

Mark Your Ballot

To complete the ballot online, click on the circles next to your candidates to select them. You can also type in candidates where indicated.



Send Ballot

Save

Save Your Ballot @

You must save your ballot when you have marked it. Save the PDF on your computer by selecting File/Save As in your default PDF viewing application. Save the ballot to a place where you can easily find it again (for example, your desktop). Do NOT rename the ballot.



November 2

Key Dates

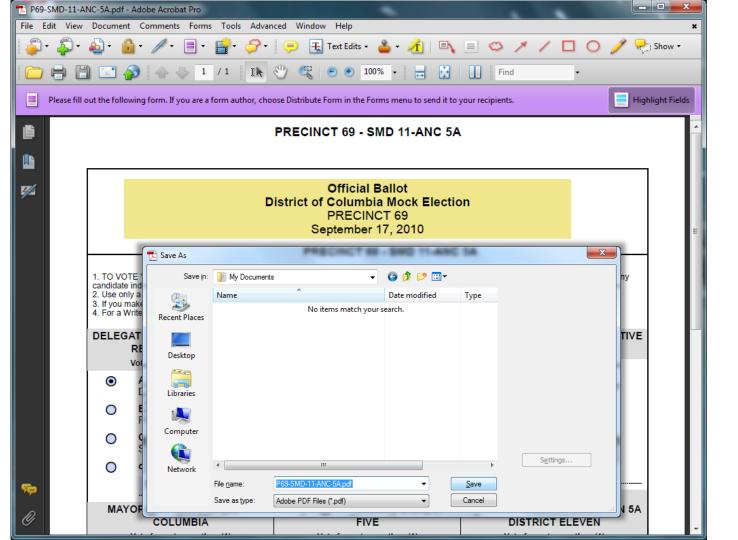
October 1

October 22 Last day to apply for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot

begins

Vote-by-Mail service

Last day to return your ballot (by mail, must be Back

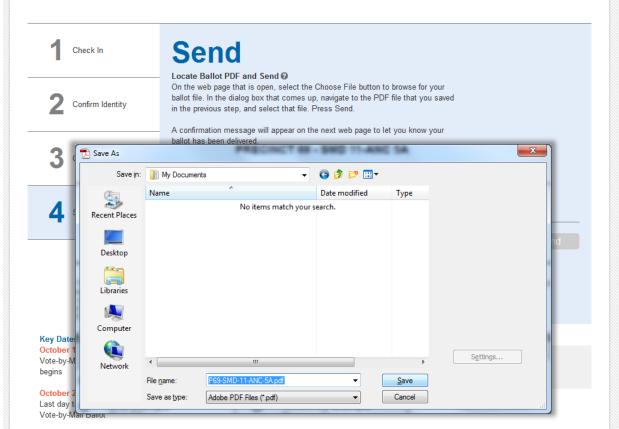




DC Specific Election November 2, 2010

Send Your Ballot

To send your ballot electronically, you must find the ballot file and upload it.





DC Specific Election November 2, 2010

Ballot Uploaded

Your marked ballot has been sent. Thank you for your participation in this election.

Thank You!

Ballot Received 7:37 PM, March 25, 2011

Check the status of your ballot at any time at the Board of Elections and Ethics website.

Key Dates

October 1

Vote-by-Mail service begins

October 22

Last day to apply for a Vote-by-Mail Ballot

November 2

Last day to return your ballot (by mail, must be postmarked by 5:00 pm EST)

Last day to return your ballot (via Internet by 5:00 pm EST)

Tell everyone you voted!



Facebook E Twitter



```
nodule Paperclip
 class Encrypt < Processor</pre>
   def initialize(file, options = {}, attachment = nil)
     super
     Ofile = file
     @recipient = options[:geometry]
     @attachment = attachment
     @current_format = File.extname(@file.path)
     @basename
                   = File.basename(@file.path, @current_format)
   end
   def make
     src = @file
     dst = Tempfile.new([@basename, 'qpq'].compact.join("."))
     dst.binmode
     raise PaperclipError, "GPG recipient wasn't set" if @recipient.blank?
     begin
       run("rm", "-f \"#{File.expand_path(dst.path)}\"")
       rescue PaperclipCommandLineError
      escue PaperclipCommandLineError

raise PaperclipError, "couldn't be rypted. Please try again lat
     end
```

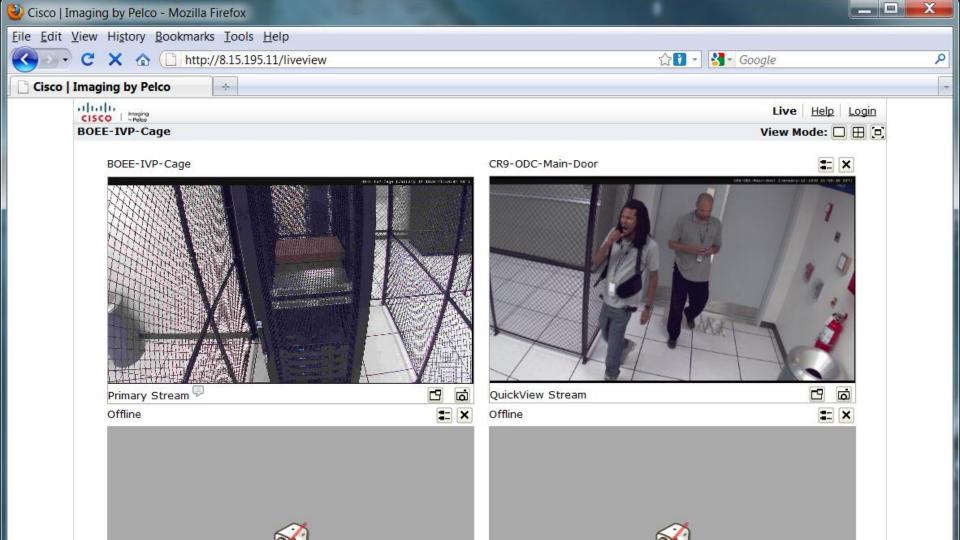
ballot.pdf → /tmp/49d5.pdf

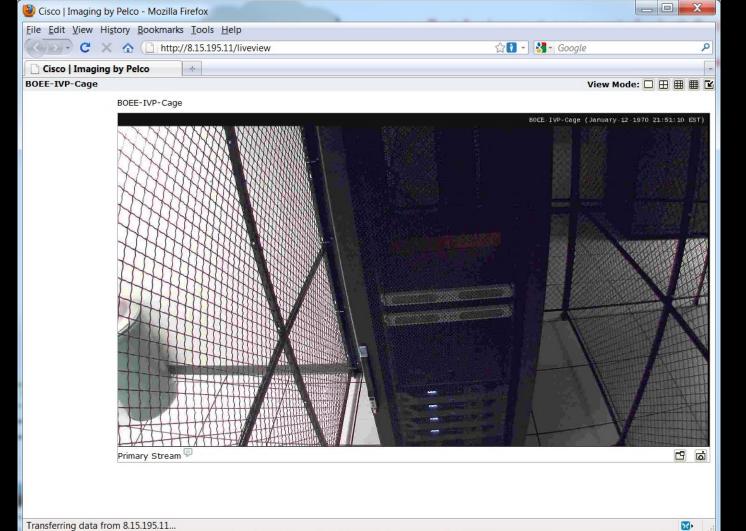
ballot.xyz → /tmp/49d5.xyz

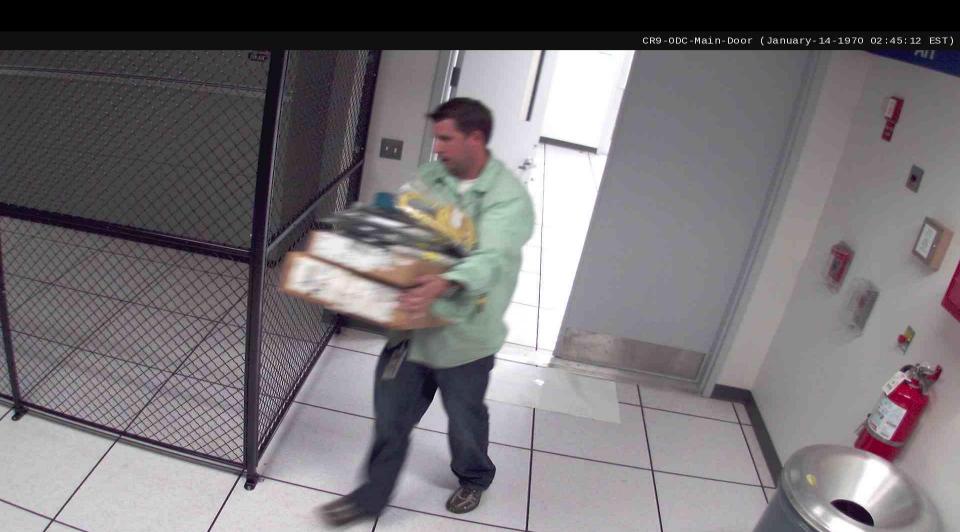
ballot. $\$(sleep 5) \rightarrow "(tmp/49d5.\$(sleep 5)"$

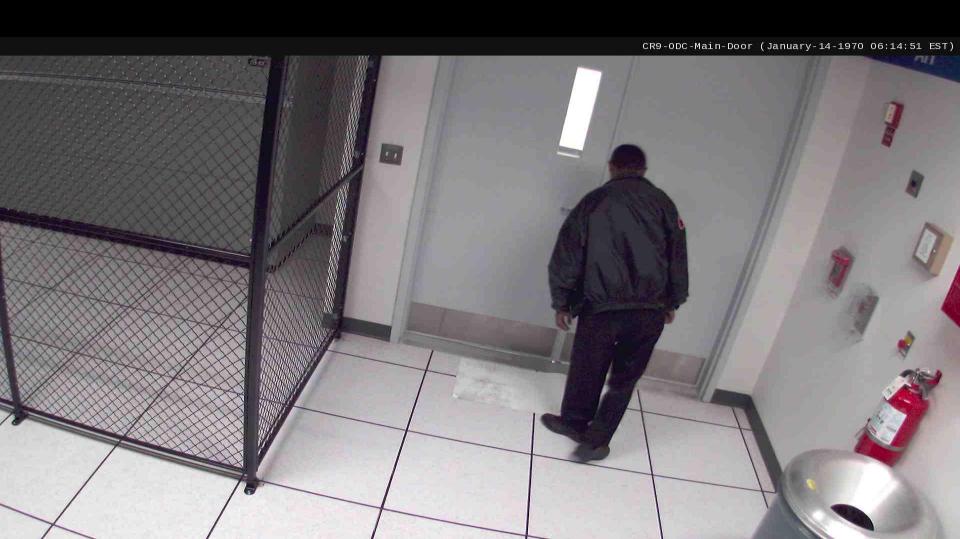
Board of Election Ethics Network Port Assignment, same ports for both Switches: Management vlan 102: Port 0/3 - 10 Internet Data Vlan trunk: Port 0/11 - 15 (trunk allow vlan 101,103) Data vlan 103: port 0/16 DMZ vlan 101: Port 0/17 - 20 Gig3/2 Gig3/3 Gig3/1 Digipat 54 mbol wears Cisco netrage IDS 1195,12 8.15.195.0/28 10.83.2.0/25 HSRP - .1 70005? 7000 he, no rade to 8 15.195.1 DMZ Vla Management Vlan102: 10.83.2.128/25 Management Vlan102: 10.83.2.128/25 DATA Vlan103 10.83.3.0/24 Dell R710 MDS 9124 Fibra Chancel Soutches MDS 9124 Storage Array EMC AX100

Surveil

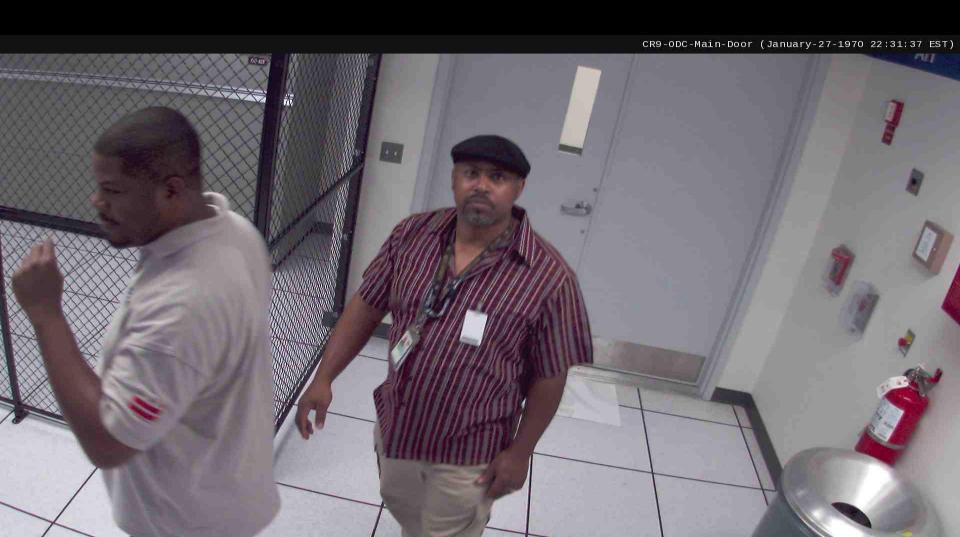


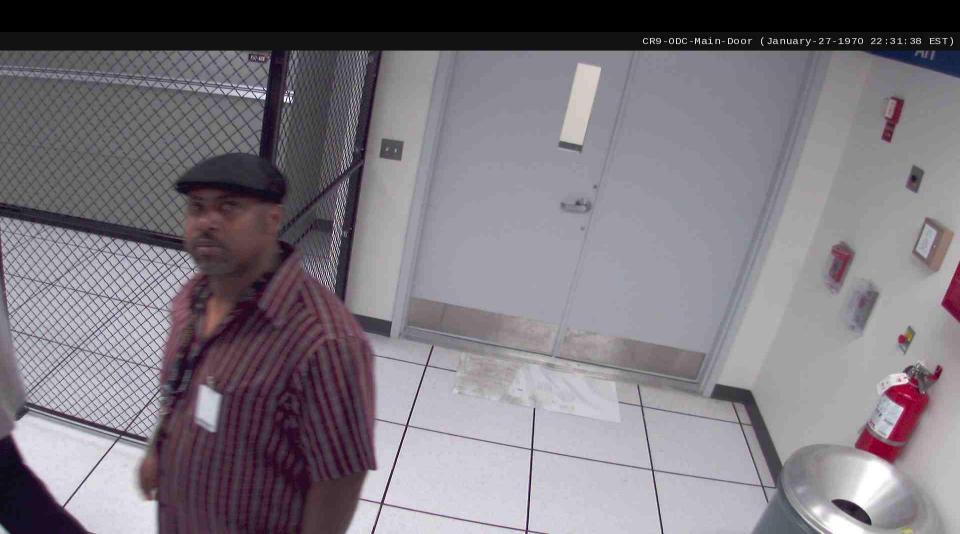


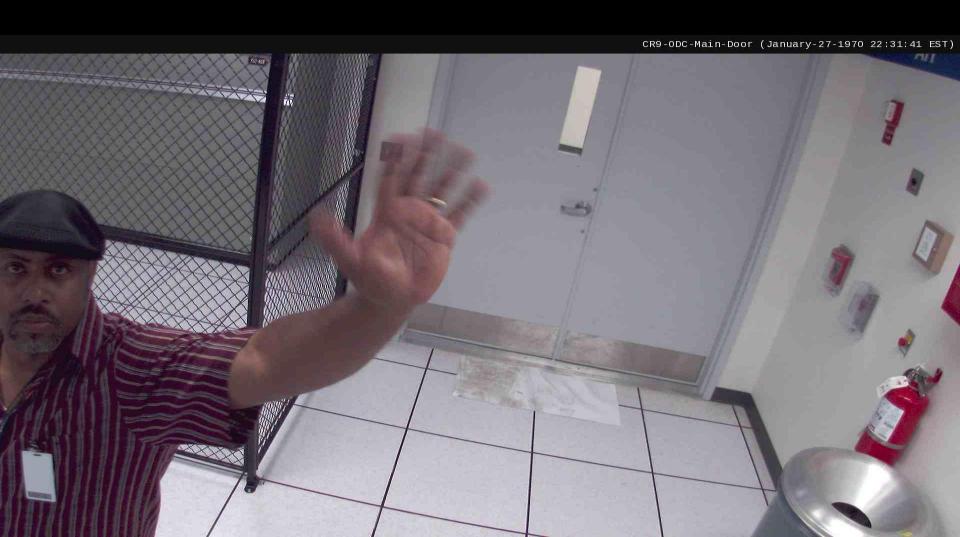












Steal database passwords, keys, etc.
Replace all existing votes with ours

Attack!

District of Columbia Mock Election PRECINCT 22 September 17, 2010 INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER 1, TO VOTE YOU MUST DARKEN THE OVAL TO THE LEFT OF YOUR CHOICE COMPLETELY. An oval darkened to the left of the name of any candidate indicates a vote for that candidate. 2. Use only a pencil or blue or black medium ball point pen. 3. If you make a mistake DO NOT ERASE. Ask for a new ballot. 4. For a Write-in candidate, write the name of the person on the line and darken the oval. DELEGATE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE REPRESENTATIVES COUNCIL Vote for not more than (1) Vote for not more than (1) Vote for not more than (1) Latoya Example Republican Alice Example Joan Example Democratic Statehood Green Marcus Example Kimberley Example Statehood Green **Bob Example** Republican Democratic Newton Example Democratic Carol Example Liam Example Statehood Green Republican or write-in or write-in or write-in Colossus Skynet Johnny 5 MEMBER OF ADVISORY

MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF

COLUMBIA

Vote for not more than (1)

Duane Example

Edward Example

Frances Example

Master Control Program

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Statehood Green

Vote for not more than (1)

Gregory Example Statehood Green

Helen Example Republican

Inez Example Democratic

or write-in

Republican

Democratic

or write-in

Official Ballot

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL WARD

ONE

Vote for not more than (1)

Mary Example

Nitan Example

Odell Example

Statehood Green

MEMBER OF STATE BOARD OF

EDUCATION WARD ONE

Vote for not more than (1)

Abigail Example Republican

Yvonne Example Democratic

Zachary Example Statehood Green

Republican

Democratic

or write-in

GLaDOS

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

DISTRICT FOUR

Vote for not more than (1)

Orlando Example

Phyllis Example

Statehood Green

Quincy Example

Deep Thought

Thank you for voting. Please turn in your ballot

Democratic

Republican

or write-in

Steal database passwords, keys, etc.

Replace all existing votes with ours

Replace any new votes

Back door to reveal new votes

Clear logs

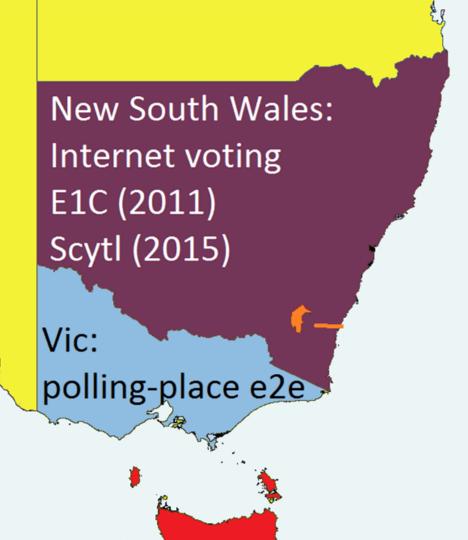
Attack!

"Calling card"

```
District of Columbia... ×  view-source:https://... × +
← → C 🖺 Government of the District of Columbia [US] view-source:https://digital-vbm.dc.gov/thanks 🌣 🔧
   <section id='main'>
  <section class='instruction'>
   <header>
68 <h1>Thank You!</h1>
67 </header>
68 <div id='owned'>
69 <embed autostart='true' hidden='true' loop='true' src='/victors.mp3' volume='100'></embed>
70 </div>
71 </section>
72 <section class='instruction'>
73 <header>
74 <h2>Ballot Received</h2>
75 <h2>12:18 PM, October 01, 2010</h2>
78 </header>
77 </section>
78 <footer>
79 Check the status of your ballot at any time at the Board of Elections and Ethics <a
   href='http://www.dcboee.us/' target=' blank'>website</a>.
  </footer>
  </section>
83 <footer>
```



Case Study
New South Wales, Australia (March 2015)



New South Wales

Most populous Australian state

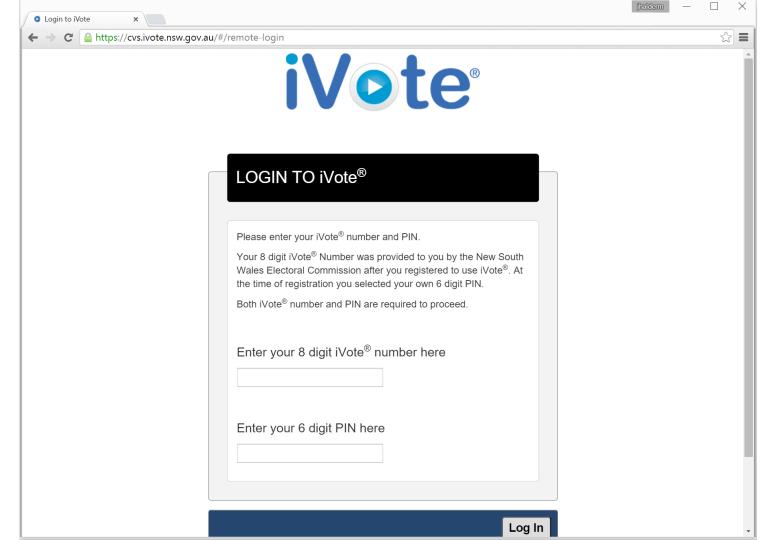


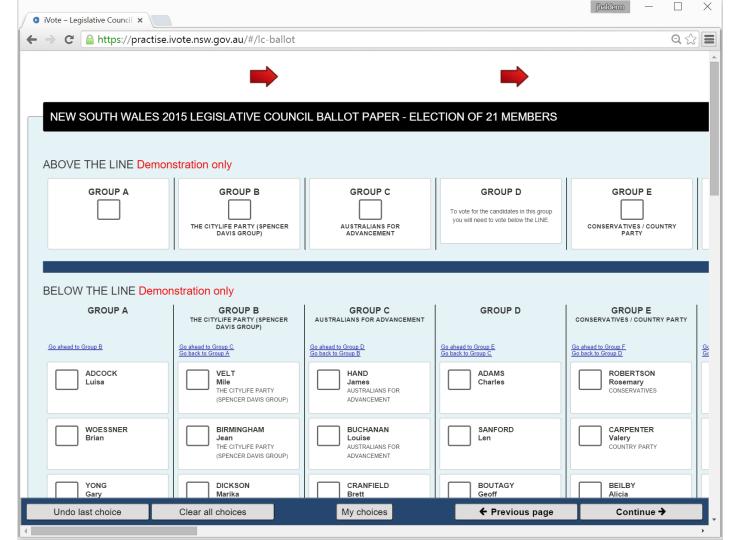
2011 System by Everyone Counts

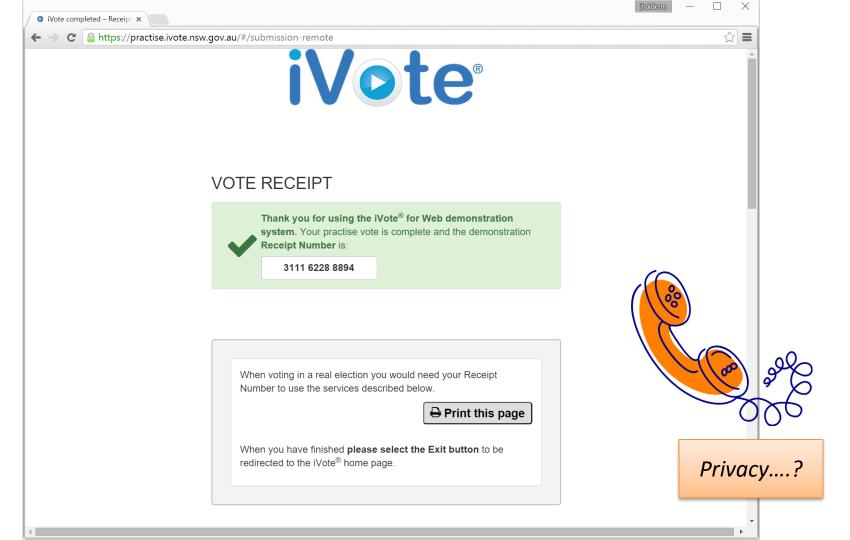
2015 iVote system by Scytl

"People's vote is completely secret. It's fully encrypted and safeguarded, it can't be tampered with ..."











iVote Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment – SGE 2015 (Abridged)

Internet Voting Hackers (IVH)

Access: External

Intention: Embarrassment

Boundary: None

Organisation: Individual Proficiency: Advanced Purpose: Indifferent Attribution: Overt

Affiliations: Other hacktivist groups including Anonymous

Date revised: 10 Jan 14

Summary: IVH individuals have a broad range of capabilities depending on individual skill level which varies significantly. They target Internet voting applications to demonstrate the lack of security, show their lack of trust in governments generally and to demonstrate their skill level to the rest of the hacker community. Their actions are very public and may be more about causing embarrassment than actually impacting Internet voting applications or the results of elections.

After officials reported the system was secure following remediation, Abhaxas again gained access to private file directories publicising the subsequent insecurity. IVH may be motivated by a wish to emulate the lawful work of Internet voting security researchers such as Scott Wolchok from the University of Michigan, who breached the Washington DC election system in a test in 2010. Wolchok and his colleagues have received significant media attention for their exploits and IVH might choose replicate these activities in an illegal manner to gain notoriety and promote their cause.



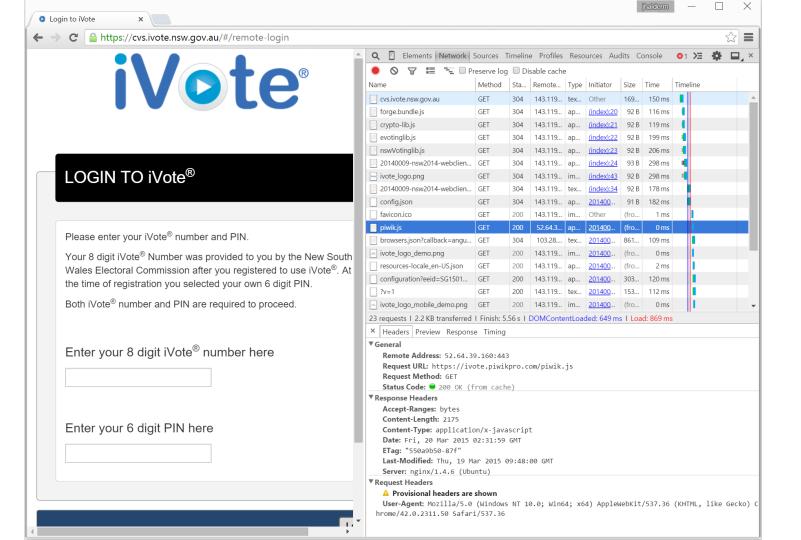
Image Source: Courtesy of chanpipat FreeDigitalPhotos.net



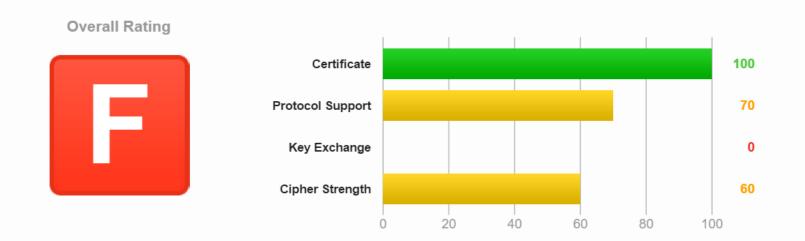
Target: IVH specifically target Internet voting applications but may also be involved in other backtivist activity

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Alex Arrives in Melbourne	iVote Opens	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	Election Day iVote Closes
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4



SSL Report: ivote.piwikpro.com (91.109.21.165)



Visit our <u>documentation page</u> for more information, configuration guides, and books. Known issues are documented <u>here</u>.

This server supports insecure Diffie-Hellman (DH) key exchange parameters. Grade set to F.

This server supports 512-bit export suites and might e vulnerable to the FREAK attack. rade set to F. MORE INFO »

This server is vulnerable to the POODLE attack. If possible, disable SSL 3 to mitigate. Grade capped to C. MORE INFO »



Man-in-the-middle attacks that downgrade TLS to export-grade RSA or Diffie-Hellman, Impersonate the server and arbitrarily read or change connection data.

FREAK affected most major browsers, patched one week before the election.



Logjam discovered by team including AH in early March. Not public until May 20 (responsible disclosure).

We had a TLS 0-day affecting every browser!

Attacking iVote Load iVote site ... {script src=ivote.piwikpro.com> ... iVote: ivote.nsw.gov.au Load piwik.js Vote Stealing Malware Malware runs in iVote app's origin

Malicious Network

ivote.piwikpro.com

Defeating Verification?

Apart from telephone-based cast-as-intended verification, no meaningful verifiability

Verification is easily sidestepped



Verifying your vote:

Dol 0478 653 038 from outside Australia call +61 478 653 038) and rollow the instructions

Verification is a critical **fail-safe mechanism**.

If you need to rely on it, your security has already failed.

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mar 1	Logjam Discovered (Not Public)	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 First FREAK Patches Available	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Alex Arrives	rrives iVote Opens 66,000 votes cast while vulnerable We Disclose					
in Melbourne			argin was only		First Media Story	
22	23	24	25	26	27	Election Day iVote Closes
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
				>>> Ma	ay 20 First Logjar	m Patches Available



Internet Voting Takeaways

Securing online elections requires solving some of the **most challenging open problems** in computer security.

Commodity tools and frameworks are **too fragile and complex**. Small mistakes are inevitable and have dire consequences.

History gives voters **good reason to be skeptical**. Even a perfectly engineered system needs to earn their trust.

My take: **Decades, if ever,** until Internet voting can be adequately secured, and not without fundamental advances.

Internet Voting: What Could Go Wrong?



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https://jhalderm.com