

EECS 388

M

Introduction to Computer Security

Lecture 19:
Election Cybersecurity

November 5, 2024
Prof. Halderman



Disinformation about the 2020 Election

Which of these claims is true?

ZERO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

REPORT: DOMINION DELETED 2.7 MILLION VOTES NATIONWIDE. DATA ANALYSTS SAY IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR VOTING SYSTEMS TO SWITCH VOTES FROM TRUMP TO BIDEN.

62.1K Quote Tweets 623K Likes

A screenshot of a Vox article. The headline is partially visible: "Trump's own officials was America's election...". A large red diagonal banner across the image says "HIGHLY MISLEADING". Below the headline, a snippet of text from the article says: "Hom... a statement with state and local officials that contradicted President's fraud claims." Below the text is a photo of several men in suits and military uniforms.

The Experts' View

“As the National Academies recently concluded, ‘There is no realistic mechanism to fully secure vote casting and tabulation computer systems from cyber threats.’”

“To our collective knowledge, no credible evidence has been put forth that supports a conclusion that the 2020 election outcome in any state has been altered through technical compromise.”

That's still true today.

Election Security Experts Contradict Trump's Voting Claims

In a public letter, 59 top specialists called the president’s fraud assertions “unsubstantiated” and “technically incoherent.”



By [Nicole Perlroth](#)

Nov. 16, 2020

Fifty-nine of the country’s top computer scientists and election security experts rebuked President Trump’s baseless claims of voter fraud and hacking on Monday, writing that such assertions are “unsubstantiated or are technically incoherent.”

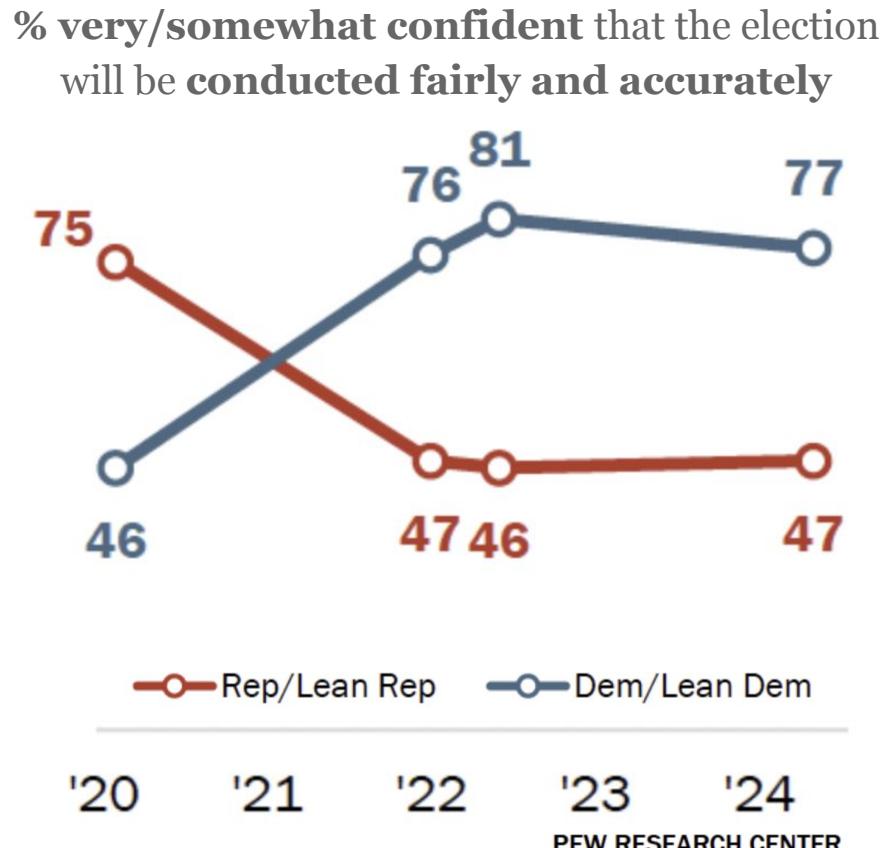
“Anyone asserting that a U.S. election was ‘rigged’ is making an extraordinary claim, one that must be supported by persuasive and verifiable evidence,” the scientists wrote. In the absence of evidence, they added, it is “simply speculation.”

“To our collective knowledge, no credible evidence has been put forth that supports a conclusion that the 2020 election outcome in any state has been altered through technical compromise,” they wrote.

Confidence in Elections is Highly Partisan

Over the past two presidential cycles, **trust in elections** is strongly predicted by whether people's candidate won last time.

Democrats and Republicans **switched places after 2020**, despite little change in the underlying trustworthiness of election administration.



Flashback: Russian Attacks During the 2016 Election

Targeted political leaks

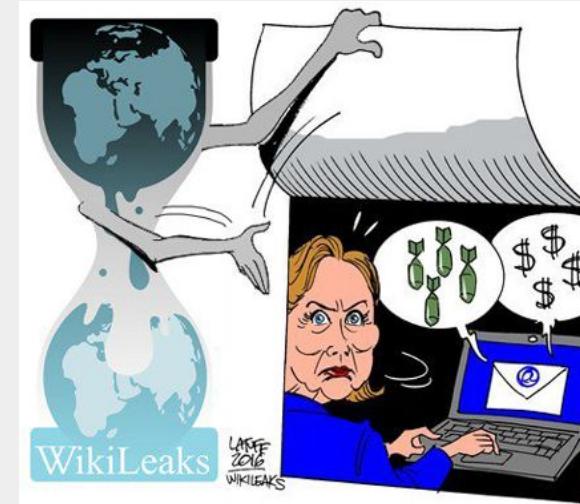
Stolen emails leaked online

Trolling/message amplification

Goals: Advantage Trump, sow discord

Attacks on election infrastructure

Registration systems and vendors



BREAKING

New Hillary Leaks Series

Wikileaks
releases
19,252
DNC Emails



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The Podesta Emails

WikiLeaks series on deals involving Hillary Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta. Mr Podesta is a long-term associate of the Clintons and was President Bill Clinton's Chief of Staff from 1998 until 2001. Mr Podesta also owns the Podesta Group with his brother Tony, a major lobbying firm and is the Chair of the



The

Flashback: Russian Attacks During the 2016 Election

Targeted political leaks

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Trolling/message amplification

Goals: Advantage Trump, sow discord

Attacks on election infrastructure

Registration systems and vendors



A screenshot of a Facebook post from Melvin Redick. The post is titled "BREAKING NEWS - WORLD" and includes a timestamp of June 8, 2016. The main text reads: "These guys show hidden truth about Hillary Clinton, George Soros and other leaders of the US. Visit #DCLeaks website. It's really interesting! <http://dcleaks.com/>". Below the text is a large logo for "DC LEAKS" where the "C" contains a white silhouette of the U.S. Capitol building. At the bottom of the post are standard social media interaction buttons for "Like" and "Share", and a small icon indicating one like has been given.

Flashback: Russian Attacks During the 2016 Election

Targeted political leaks

Stolen emails published online

Trolling/message amplification

Goals: Sow discord, advantage Trump

Attacks on election infrastructure

- All 50 states probed, multiple state voter registration systems infiltrated
- At least one election system vendor infiltrated; attempts to infiltrate county/local election offices
- Attackers had ability to change or destroy registration data (but didn't)
- No evidence that Russia changed votes, but technology didn't stop them

Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election

Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III

By at least the summer of 2016, GRU officers sought access to state and local computer networks by exploiting known software vulnerabilities on websites of state and local governmental entities. GRU officers, for example, targeted state and local databases of registered voters using a technique known as "SQL injection," by which malicious code was sent to the state or local website in order to run commands (such as exfiltrating the database contents).¹⁸⁸ In one instance in approximately June 2016, the GRU compromised the computer network of the Illinois State Board of Elections by exploiting a vulnerability in the SBOE's website. The GRU then gained access to a database containing information on millions of registered Illinois voters,¹⁸⁹ and extracted data related to thousands of U.S. voters before the malicious activity was identified.¹⁹⁰

GRU officers [Investigative Technique] scanned state and local websites for vulnerabilities. For example, over a two-day period in July 2016, GRU officers [Investigative Technique] for vulnerabilities on websites of more than two dozen states. [Investigative Technique]

Similar [IT] for vulnerabilities continued through the election.

Unit 74455 also sent spearphishing emails to public officials involved in election administration and personnel at companies involved in voting technology. In August 2016, GRU officers targeted employees of [PP], a voting technology company that developed software used by numerous U.S. counties to manage voter rolls, and installed malware on the company network. Similarly, in November 2016, the GRU sent spearphishing emails to over 120 email accounts used by Florida county officials responsible for administering the 2016 U.S. election.¹⁹¹ The spearphishing emails contained an attached Word document coded with malicious software (commonly referred to as a Trojan) that permitted the GRU to access the infected computer.¹⁹² The FBI was separately responsible for this investigation. We understand the FBI believes that this operation enabled the GRU to gain access to the network of at least one Florida county government. The Office did not independently verify that belief and, as explained above, did not undertake the investigative steps that would have been necessary to do so.

Senate Intelligence Committee Russia Investigation



"The key lesson from 2016 is that election infrastructure hacking threats are real."



"As James Comey testified here two weeks ago, we know 'They'll be back.'"

Flashback: 2020 Conspiracy Theories



The Obama administration
handed over a powerful supercomputer
system known as THE HAMMER.
THE HAMMER includes an exploit
application known as SCORECARD
that is capable of hacking into elections and
stealing the vote, according to CIA
contractor-turned-whistleblower
Dennis Montgomery...

Flashback: 2020 Conspiracy Theories



Attorney Sidney Powell:

An international Communist plot had been engineered by Venezuela, Cuba, China, Hugo Chávez, George Soros, the Clinton Foundation, and antifa...

Dominion Voting Systems “can set and run an algorithm that probably ran all over the country to take a certain percentage of votes from President Trump and flip them to President Biden.”

ZERO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

Elections Face Two Broad Classes of Security Risks

Report On The Investigation Into

Russian Interference In The
2016 Presidential Election

Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III

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Real Attacks

**2016: Russia
targets election
infrastructure
in all 50 states**

**Both are
serious
threats!**

False Claims

**2020: President
amplifies false
hacking claims**



Despite these threats, elections may be the **most neglected form of critical infrastructure**.

What **Security Requirements**
do election systems need to enforce?

Integrity

The outcome matches voter intent.

Votes are cast as intended.

Votes are counted as cast.

Security Requirements



Integrity

Ballot Secrecy

Weak form:

Nobody can figure out how you voted...

Strong form:

...even if you try to prove it to them.

Security Requirements



Integrity



Ballot Secrecy

Voter Authentication

Only authorized voters can cast votes,

and

each voter can only vote up to the
permitted number of times.

Security Requirements



Integrity



Ballot Secrecy



Voter Authentication

Enfranchisement

All authorized voters have the
opportunity to vote.

Security Requirements

-  Integrity
-  Ballot Secrecy
-  Voter Authentication
-  Enfranchisement

Availability

The election system is able to accept all votes on schedule and produce results in a timely manner.

Security Requirements

- Integrity
- Ballot Secrecy
- Voter Authentication
- Enfranchisement
- Availability

Integrity  Ballot Secrecy

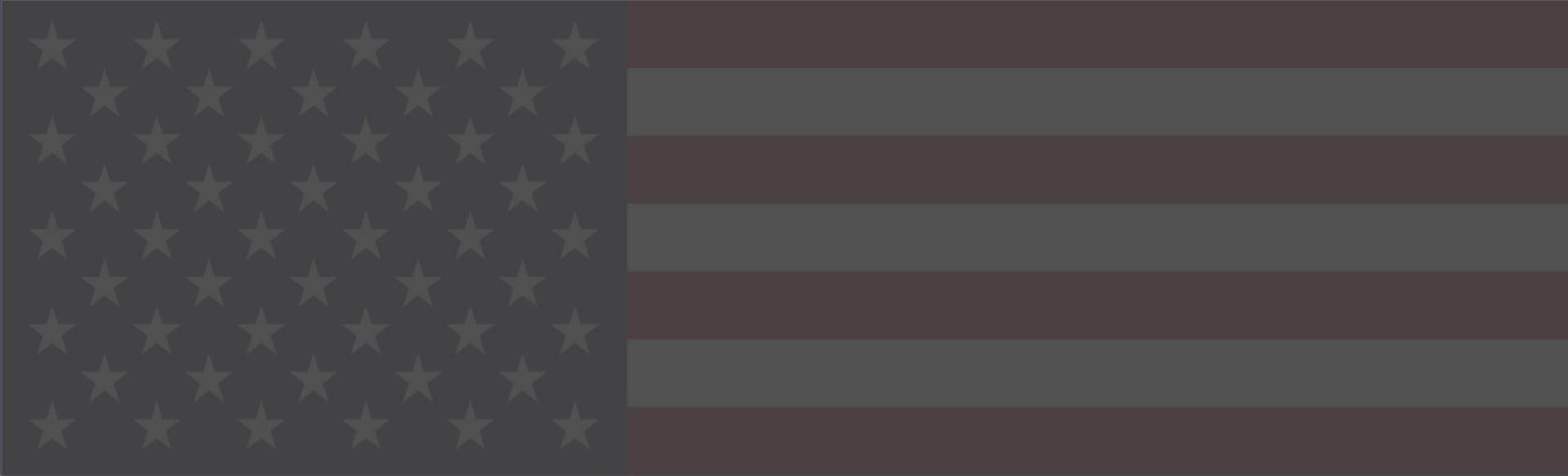
Authentication  Enfranchisement

Security Requirements

- Integrity
- Ballot Secrecy
- Voter Authentication
- Enfranchisement
- Availability

Other Important Properties

- Cost Effectiveness
- Accessibility
- Convenience
- Intelligibility



Vulnerable Infrastructure

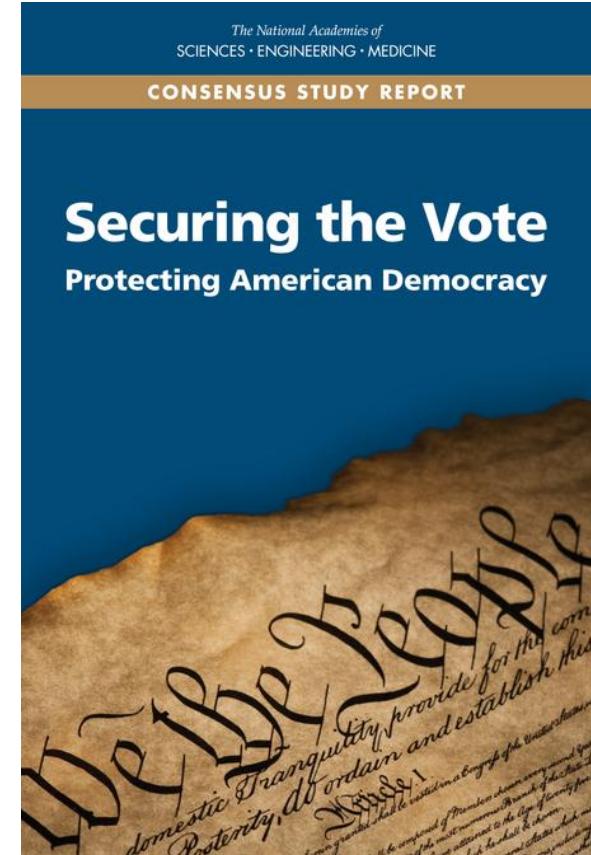
The Challenge of Election Security

Consensus of the National Academies:

“There is no realistic mechanism to *fully secure* vote casting and tabulation computer systems from cyber threats.”

Challenge for election systems:

How to achieve security and public trust with fallible technology?



U.S. Elections

Scale and Complexity

Massive Scale

~170 million registered voters

Highly Distributed

State, county, and local levels

~13,000 voting jurisdictions

~180,000 election precincts

Sensitive to Latency

Want results on election night

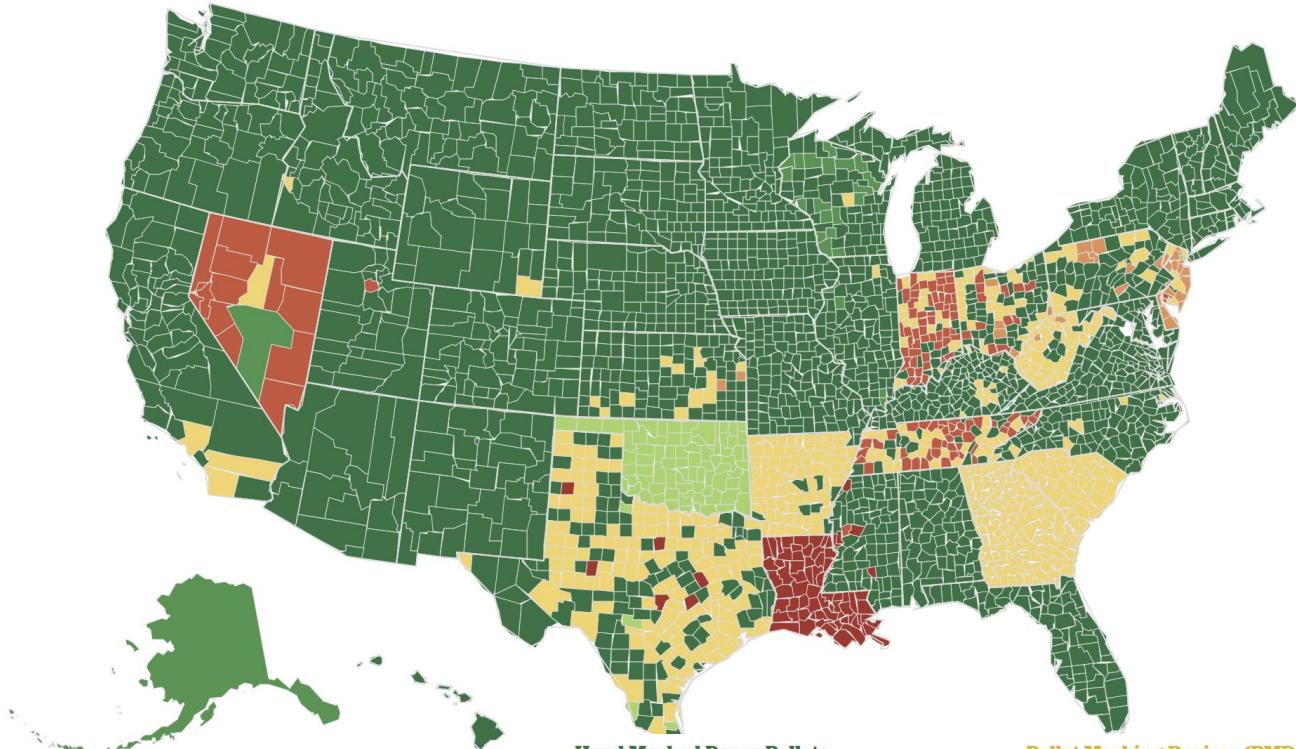
High Complexity

Ballots with many different races,
over a dozen languages, etc.

~50 models of voting machines

Election Equipment in 2024

DREs mostly replaced by BMDs



Hand Marked Paper Ballots

69.2%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Hand Marked Paper Ballots for most voters

Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs)

25.9%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Ballot Marking Devices for all voters

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems

4.9%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems for all voters

U.S. Voting Machines

three main styles



DRE (Direct-Recording Electronic)

Votes cast on screen, recorded in memory. Some models also print a paper audit trail (VVPAT)

Non-paper-ballot systems:
Mostly phased out as of 2024

Hand-Marked Optical Scan

Computers count hand-marked ballots received by mail or as they're deposited in a ballot box

Paper ballot systems: Jurisdictions with 95% of U.S. voters use some combination of hand-marked and BMD paper ballots

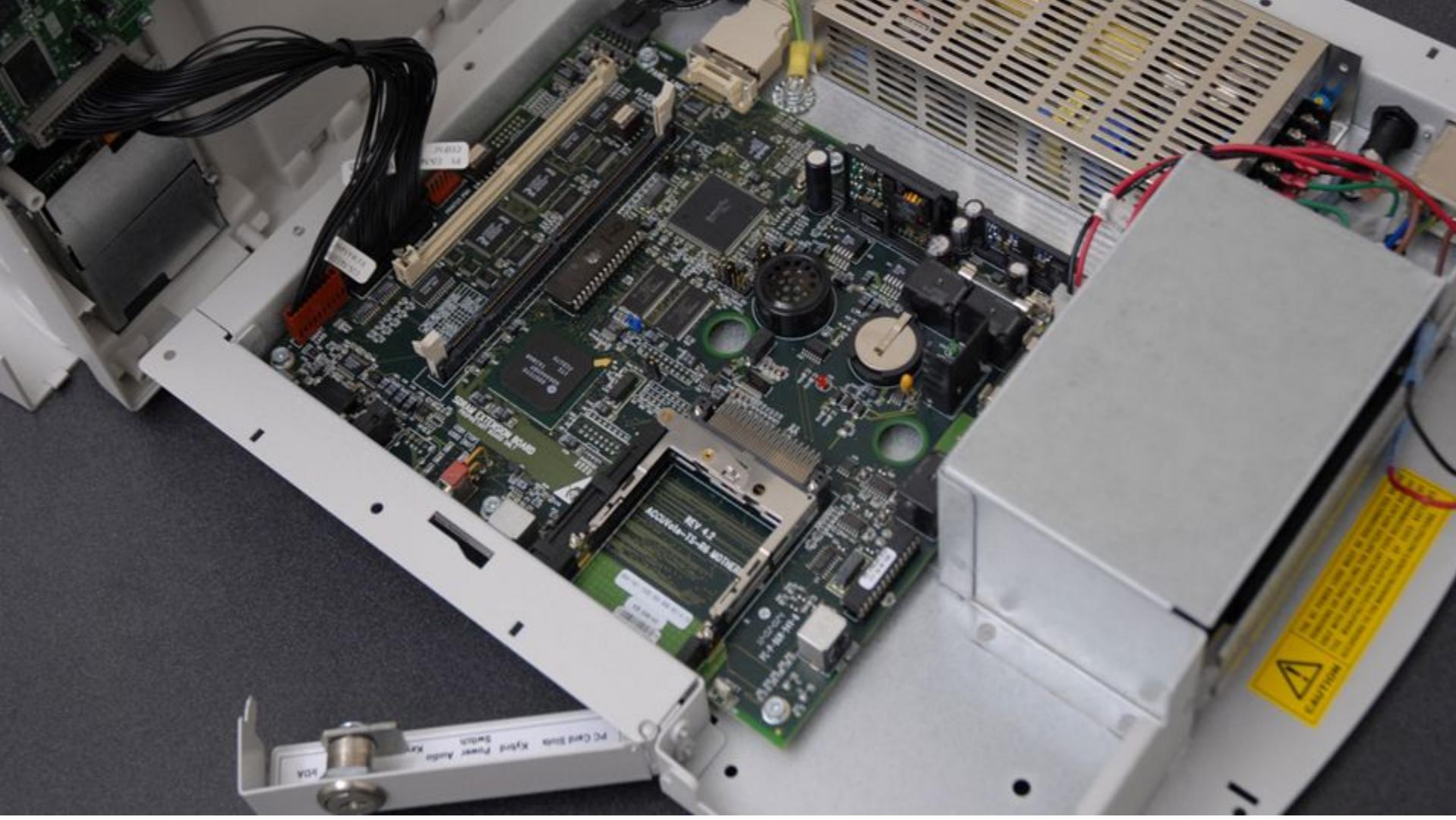
BMD (Ballot Marking Device)

Votes cast on screen, printed on paper, then counted by scanners.
Used for accessibility or by all

Are U.S. Voting Machines Secure?



AccuVote TS-X





1. Attacker infects memory card containing ballot programming files.

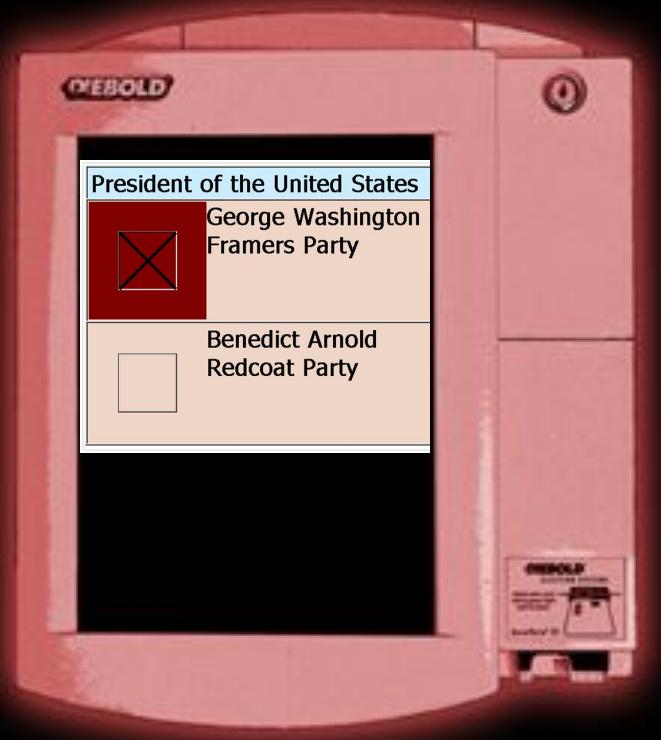




2. When officials place the card into the machine, it becomes infected.

AccuVote TS-X can be infected through:

- Unauthenticated **software update** mechanism;
- **Buffer overflows** in code that reads ballot design; or
- **Interpreted programming language** (AccuBasic) used to print result tape.



3. Malware running on the machine can arbitrarily change electronic records and printouts.

```
*****
President of the United States
RACE # 0
# Running 2
# To Vote For 1

# Times Counted 5
# Times Blank Voted 0
# Times Over Voted 0
# Number Undervotes 0
George Washington 2
Benedict Arnold 3
*****
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE
```

Pervasive Security Problems

Source Code Review of the Diebold Voting System (2007)

Calandrino, Feldman, Halderman, Wagner, Yu, and Zeller

Part of the California Secretary of State's "Top-to-Bottom" Voting System Review.

5.2.1 The AV-TSX automatically installs bootloader and operating system updates from the memory card without verifying the authenticity

5.2.2 The AV-TSX automatically installs application updates from the memory card without verifying the authenticity

5.2.3 Multiple buffer overflows allow arbitrary code execution on startup

5.2.4 Setting a jumper enables a bootloader menu that allows the user to extract or tamper with the contents of the internal flash memory

5.2.5 Keys used to secure election data are not adequately protected

5.2.6 Malicious code running on the machine could manipulate election databases, results, and audit logs

5.2.7 The smart card authentication protocol can be broken, providing access to administrator functions and the ability to cast multiple votes

5.2.8 Security key cards can be forged and used to change system keys

5.2.9 A local user can get to the Setup menu without a smart card or key

5.2.10 The protective counter is subject to tampering

5.2.11 SSL certificates used to authenticate can be stolen and have an obvious password

5.2.12 OpenSSL is not initialized with adequate entropy

5.2.13 Multiple vulnerabilities in the AccuBasic interpreter allow arbitrary code execution

5.2.14 Tampering with the memory card can result in code execution during voting

5.2.15 A malicious election file on the memory card could exploit multiple vulnerabilities to run arbitrary code

5.2.16 Malicious election files can cause arbitrary code execution on the AV-TSX when uploading elections

5.2.17 A buffer overflow in the handling of IP addresses might be exploitable by voters

5.2.22 Files on the voting machine are not securely erased when they are deleted

5.2.23 Logic errors may create a vulnerability when displaying bootloader bitmap images

5.2.24 AV-TSX startup code contains blatant errors

Every U.S. voting machine subjected to rigorous independent security review suffered vulnerabilities that would enable vote-altering attacks



Hart InterCivic eSlate
Cards spread malware (2007)



AVC Advantage
Cards spread malware (2009)



Sequoia AVC Edge
Cards spread malware (2007)



Optech Insight
Cards spread malware (2007)



ES&S iVotronic
Cards spread malware (2007)



Diebold AccuVote TSX
Cards spread malware (2007)



Diebold AccuVote OS
Cards spread malware (2007)



Dominion ICX BMD
Cards spread malware (2021)

Are More Recent Voting Machines More Secure?



CYBERSECURITY
& INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY



Alerts and Tips

Resources

ICS-CERT Advisories > Vulnerabilities Affecting Dominion Voting Systems ImageCast X

ICS Advisory (ICSA-22-154-01)

Vulnerabilities Affecting Dominion Voting Systems ImageCast X

Original release date: June 03, 2022

2.4 RESEARCHER

J. Alex Halderman, University of Michigan, and Drew Springall, Auburn University

June 2022:
First-ever federal
advisory about election
equipment vulnerabilities

IMAGECAST® X | BMD



Get in touch
1866.654.VOTE (8683)
sales@dominionvoting.com
www.dominionvoting.com

DOMINION
VOTING

Viral Malware Installation

2.2.1 IMPROPER VERIFICATION OF CRYPTOGRAPHIC SIGNATURE CWE-347



The tested version of ImageCast X does not validate application signatures to a trusted root certificate. Use of a trusted root certificate ensures software installed on a device is traceable to, or verifiable against, a cryptographic key provided by the manufacturer to detect tampering. An attacker could leverage this vulnerability to install malicious code, which could also be spread to other vulnerable ImageCast X devices via removable media.

2.2.5 PATH TRAVERSAL: './FILEDIR' CWE-24



The tested version of ImageCast X can be manipulated to cause arbitrary code execution by specially crafted election definition files. An attacker could leverage this vulnerability to spread malicious code to ImageCast X devices from the EMS.

2.2.6 EXECUTION WITH UNNECESSARY PRIVILEGES CWE-250

```
# whoami  
root
```

Applications on the tested version of ImageCast X can execute code with elevated privileges by exploiting a system level service. An attacker could leverage this vulnerability to escalate privileges on a device and/or install malicious code.

New Risks to Voter Privacy



Filter ballots

All

00200_00000_149246
00200_00000_151902
00200_00000_153131
00200_00000_194551
00200_00000_224059
00200_00000_226587
00200_00000_290600
00200_00000_302753
00200_00000_365_33

Page 1 Page 2

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
總統和副總統
Vote for One Party / 選一黨

HOWIE HAWKINS 霍伊·霍金斯
ANGELA NICOLE WALKER 安吉拉·沃克
Green
綠黨

JO JORGENSEN 茱·喬根森
JEREMY "SPIKE" COHEN 傑里米·「斯派克」·科恩
Libertarian
自由黨

JOSEPH R. BIDEN 約瑟夫·R·拜登
KAMALA D. HARRIS 賀錦麗
Democratic
民主黨

DONALD J. TRUMP 唐納·J·川普
MICHAEL R. PENCE 麥克爾·R·彭斯
Republican
共和黨

My group discovered that these “random” IDs are fully predictable

Chosen by a *linear congruential generator*, known since 1970s to be unsuitable for security.
Using only public information, anyone can deduce the algorithm and “unshuffle” all ballots



Hacking an Election?

Cyberattacks on Election Infrastructure

Altering election-night results

Detectable, but undermines credibility

Sabotage registration/poll books

Selectively cause long lines, etc.

Manipulating voting machines

Potential for *invisible* outcome changes

The screenshot shows a news article from The Christian Science Monitor. At the top right, there are links for 'Log In' and 'Register' and a button for 'FREE E-mail Newsletters'. The main title of the article is 'Ukraine election narrowly avoided 'wanton destruction' from hackers'. Below the title, a sub-headline reads: 'A brazen three-pronged cyber-attack against last month's Ukrainian presidential elections has set the world on notice – and bears Russian fingerprints, some say.' The author's name, 'By Mark Clayton, Staff writer ▾ | JUNE 17, 2014', is listed. To the right of the author's name is a 'Save for later' button. The article's content discusses a three-pronged cyber-attack on Ukraine's presidential election, which was foiled by government experts. It also mentions that the attack was aimed at wrecking the election and that it was conducted by Russian hackers.

WORLD | PASSCODE

Ukraine election narrowly avoided 'wanton destruction' from hackers

A brazen three-pronged cyber-attack against last month's Ukrainian presidential elections has set the world on notice – and bears Russian fingerprints, some say.

By Mark Clayton, Staff writer ▾ | JUNE 17, 2014

Save for later

A three-pronged wave of cyber-attacks aimed at wrecking Ukraine's presidential vote – including an attempt to fake computer vote totals – was narrowly defeated by government cyber experts, Ukrainian officials say.

The still little-known hacks, which surfaced May 22-26, appear to be among the most dangerous cyber-attacks yet deployed to sabotage a national election – and a warning shot for future elections in the US and abroad, political scientists and cyber experts say.

Cyberattacks on Election Infrastructure

Altering election-night results

Detectable, but undermines credibility

Sabotage registration/poll books

Selectively cause long lines, etc.

Manipulating voting machines

Potential for *invisible* outcome changes

Election Hacking

Invisible Attacks

How hard would it be to invisibly change a national election outcome, by tampering with voting machines?



Challenge 1

Diverse, decentralized voting technology

Challenge 2

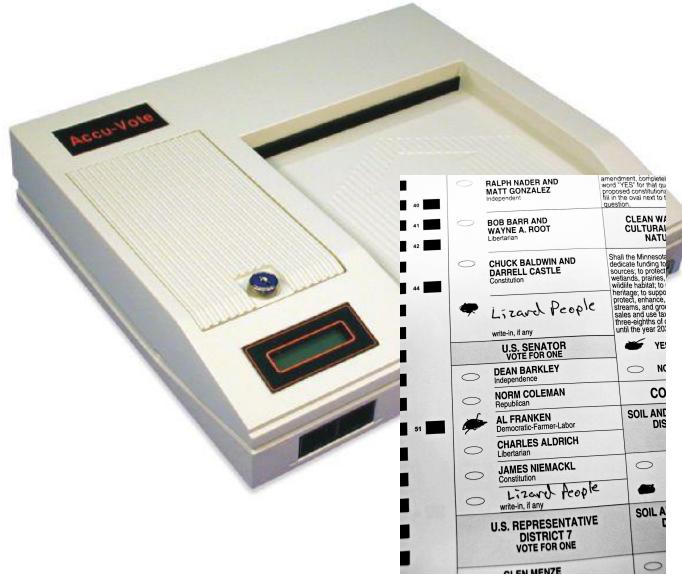
Machines aren't connected to the Internet

Challenge 3

>95% of U.S. votes have a paper record

Election Hacking

How hard would it be to invisibly change a national election outcome, by tampering with voting machines?



Invisible Attacks

Challenge 1

Diverse, decentralized voting technology

Choose weakest targets in closest states:

Latest Polling Averages

National	Pa.	Even	Mich.	Harris <1
49% Harris				
48% Trump	N.C.	Trump <1	Ga.	Trump <1
	Nev.	Trump <1	Wis.	Harris <1

Election Hacking

Invisible Attacks

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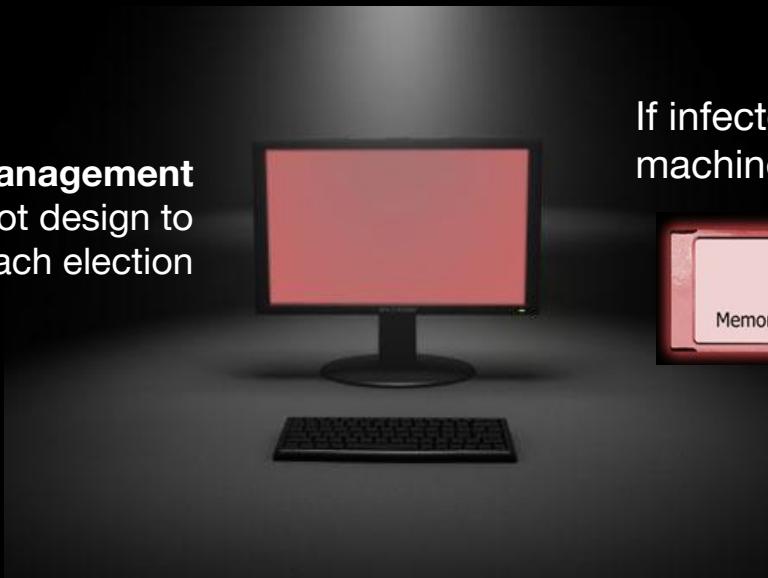
Challenge 2

Machines aren't connected to the Internet

Challenge 3

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Centralized **election management computer** programs ballot design to memory cards before each election



If infected, can spread malware to all machines across one or more counties

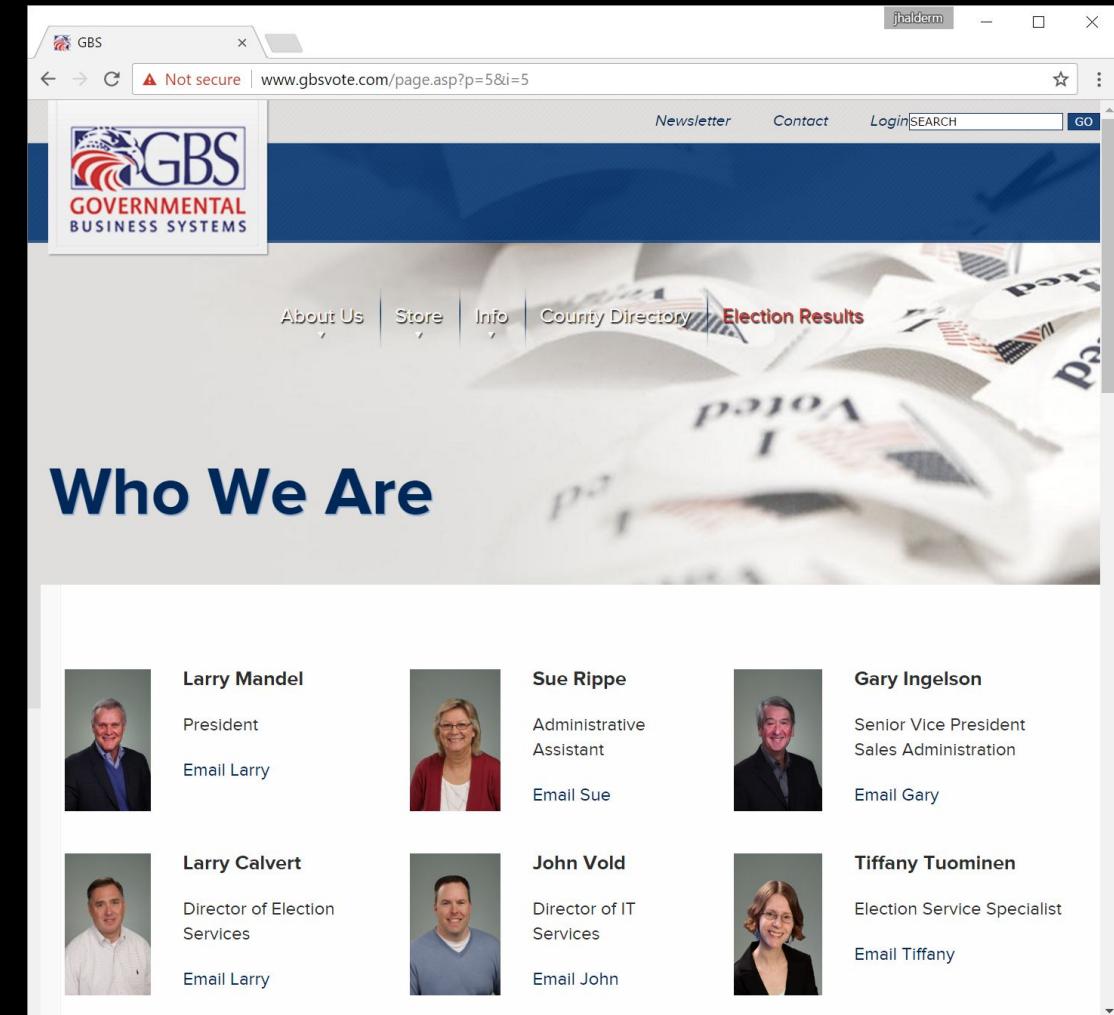




How hard would it be
to attack an election
management computer?

Many jurisdictions outsource
their ballot programming
to small, outside businesses.

75% of Michigan counties use
just two ~20 person companies.



The screenshot shows a web browser window for the GBS (Governmental Business Systems) website at www.gbsvote.com/page.asp?p=5&i=5. The page title is "Who We Are". The header includes the GBS logo, a "Not secure" warning, and navigation links for Newsletter, Contact, Login, and a search bar. Below the header is a banner image of a ballot box. The main content area features six staff profiles arranged in a grid:

Profile Picture	Name	Title	Contact Information
	Larry Mandel	President	Email Larry
	Sue Rippe	Administrative Assistant	Email Sue
	Gary Ingelson	Senior Vice President Sales Administration	Email Gary
	Larry Calvert	Director of Election Services	Email Larry
	John Vold	Director of IT Services	Email John
	Tiffany Tuominen	Election Service Specialist	Email Tiffany



How hard would it be
to attack an election
management computer?

Growing threat: Politically motivated insiders

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

Video appears to undercut Trump elector's account of alleged voting-data breach in Georgia

By Jon Swaine and Emma Brown

Updated September 20, 2022 at 1:04 a.m. EDT | Published September 20, 2022 at 12:00 a.m. EDT



On Jan. 7, 2021, a group of forensics experts working for lawyers allied with President Donald Trump spent eight hours at a county elections office in southern Georgia, copying sensitive software and data from its voting machines.

Election Hacking

Invisible Attacks

How hard would it be to invisibly change a national election outcome, by tampering with voting machines?



Challenge 1

~~Diverse, decentralized voting technology~~
Choose weakest targets in closest states.

Challenge 2

~~Machines aren't connected to the Internet~~
Target election management computers
to spread malware to the voting machines.

Challenge 3

>95% of U.S. votes have a paper record

Election Hacking

Invisible Attacks

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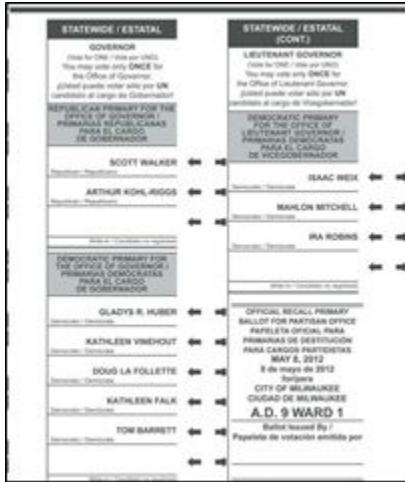
~~Machines aren't connected to the Internet~~
Target election management computers
to spread malware to the voting machines.

Challenge 3

>95% of U.S. votes have a paper record



Paper as a Defense



Slow/expensive to tally
Verified by voter

Fast/cheap to tally
Unverified

Paper as a Defense



Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA)

Hand count *enough* paper ballots to ensure that, if the reported outcome is wrong, then the audit has a high probability of detecting the discrepancy

Provides strong *affirmative evidence* that the election outcome is correct

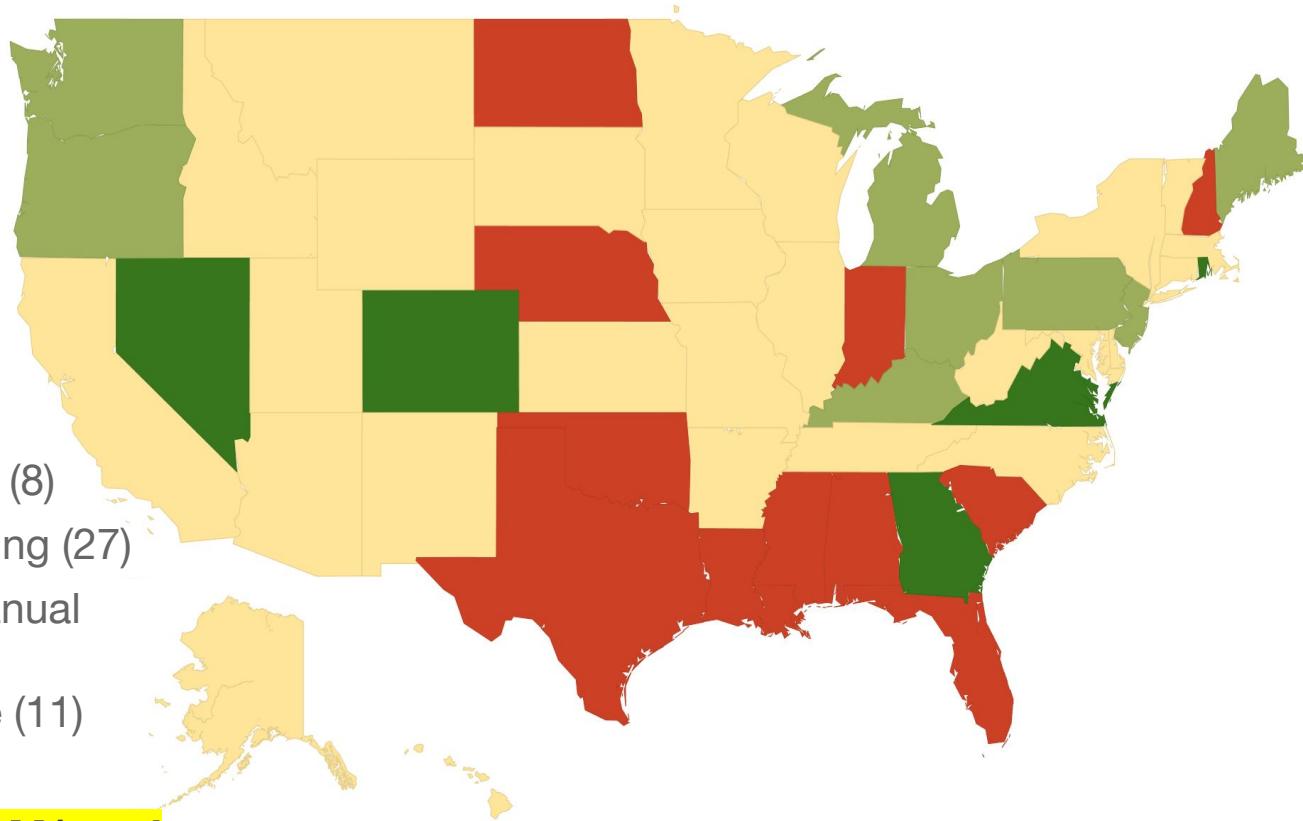
National Academies recommend states adopt RLAs by 2028 for all federal/statewide contests

States Without Rigorous Audits

Is at least
one contest
rigorously
audited?

- RLAs required (5)
- RLAs optional or piloted (8)
- Audits, but not risk-limiting (27)
- No legally mandated manual inspection of paper trail, or paper trail incomplete (11)

National cost to audit every federal race would be **< \$25M/year!**



Data: NCSL (2024/10)

Election Hacking

Invisible Attacks

How hard would it be to invisibly change a national election outcome, by tampering with voting machines?



Challenge 1

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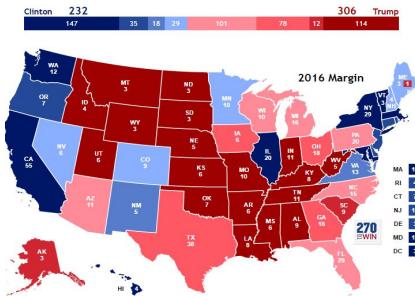
~~Machines aren't connected to the Internet~~
Target election management computers
to spread malware to the voting machines.

Challenge 3

~~95% of U.S. votes have a paper record~~
Most states don't look at enough paper!

Election Hacking

How hard would it be to invisibly change a national election outcome, by tampering with voting machines?



Step 1

Use pre-election polls to identify likely close states, choose weakest targets.

Step 2

Target jurisdictions or service providers, and compromise election management computers.

Invisible Attacks

**Far from easy,
but within reach for
sophisticated attackers**



Sue Rippe
Administrative Assistant
Email Sue



Step 3

Infected memory cards exploit vulnerable voting machines to run malware, swap, e.g., 0.5% of votes.



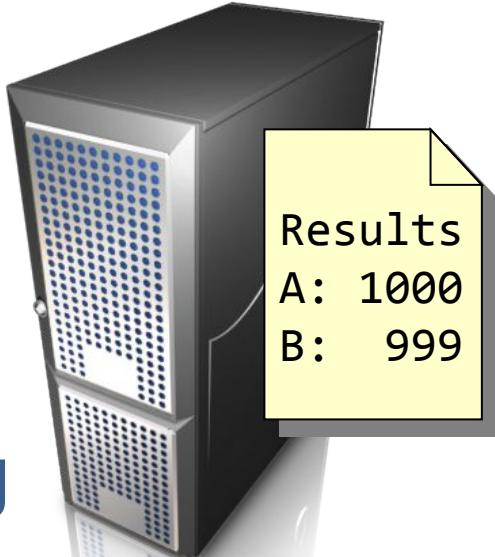
Step 4

Most states won't audit rigorously enough to catch such small errors.



Internet Voting?!

Server-side threats to online voting



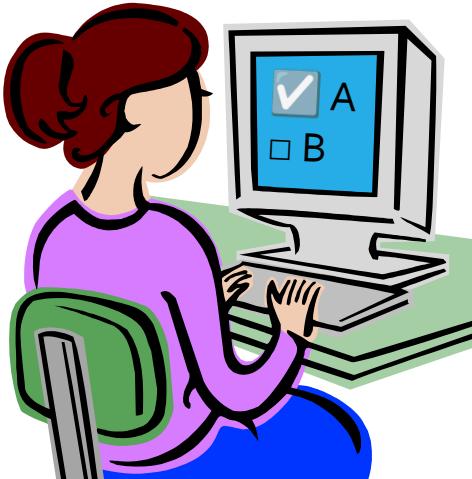
Remote Intrusion

Insider Attacks

Supply-chain Attacks

Denial of Service

Client-side threats to online voting



Coercion

Malware / Bots

Credential Theft

Imposter Sites



Case Study Washington, D.C. (2010)



DC Specific Election
November 2, 2010

Digital Vote-by-Mail Service

Here are the steps you will follow to complete your ballot. Once you have reviewed the steps, click Continue.

1

Check In

Enter name, ZIP code, voter ID number, and PIN

2

Confirm Identity

Confirm your identity
Affirm voting eligibility
Review attestation document (optional)

3

Complete Ballot

Download your ballot
View your ballot
Mark your ballot
Save your ballot (Do NOT rename the file.)

4

Send Ballot

Locate your ballot on your computer
Upload your ballot
Receive notice of ballot receipt

[Back](#)

[Continue](#)

Key Dates

October 1

Vote-by-Mail service begins

October 22

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

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.



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 secure means for overseas voters to obtain, print and mail their ballot...and, if the voter



DC General Election

November 2, 2010

The service offers two options:

1

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.

2

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.

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

[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.

1

Check In

2

Confirm Identity

3

Complete Ballot

4

Send Ballot

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

Check In

Please enter your name, address, and PIN.

Name:

Iva Pfannerstill

Zip Code:

20018

Voter ID Number:

272188488

Enter 9-digit Number Provided by BOEE

PIN:

1DCC58A2A9DD9B94

Enter 16-digit Number Provided by BOEE

[Back](#)

[Continue](#)

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.



DC Specific Election
November 2, 2010

Confirm Your Identity

To vote through the Digital-Vote-by-Mail Service, you must confirm your identity and your eligibility to vote. Select the checkboxes to confirm. You can also review the attestation document that confirms your voting eligibility by clicking on the PDF. (This step is optional.) [Keep this page open until you have finished viewing your attestation document.](#)

1 Check In

2 Confirm Identity

3 Complete Ballot

4 Send Ballot

Confirm

Confirm Your Identity

Please confirm your identity and voter registration address. If the address shown is incorrect, you will need to contact the BOEE to have it updated before you can mark your ballot. If the information is correct, check the box.

If this isn't you, press the Back button and re-enter your information.

Iva Pfannerstill
Addison Ave, Unit 261
WASHINGTON DC 20018



Check the box to certify that you are the person indicated.

Affirm

Affirm Your Eligibility

Review the text inline. Check the box to confirm statements are correct.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I am a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age, and I am eligible to vote in the District of Columbia; and



By checking the box above, I affirm that the information on this form is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge, and that I understand that a material misstatement of fact in completion of this document may constitute grounds for a conviction for perjury.

Review

Review Your Attestation Document (Optional Step)

If you would like to review your attestation document, click the PDF icon at the right. The document will open in your default PDF viewing application, or tap if you are using a mobile device.



Open
Attestation



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.](#)

1 Check In

2 Confirm Identity

3 Complete Ballot

4 Send Ballot

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

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.



Mark

Mark Your Ballot

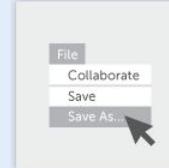
To complete the ballot online, click on the circles next to your candidates to select them. You can also type in candidates where indicated.



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.



Back

Continue

P69-SMD-11-ANC-5A.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Pro

File Edit View Document Comments Forms Tools Advanced Window Help

Text Edits Show

1 / 1 Find 100%

Please fill out the following form. If you are a form author, choose Distribute Form in the Forms menu to send it to your recipients.

Highlight Fields

PRECINCT 69 - SMD 11-ANC 5A

Official Ballot
District of Columbia Mock Election

Save As

Save in: My Documents

No items match your search.

Recent Places

Desktop Libraries Computer Network

File name: P69-SMD-11-ANC-5A.pdf

Save as type: Adobe PDF Files (*.pdf)

Save Cancel Settings...

1. TO VOTE
candidate inc.
2. Use only a
3. If you make
4. For a Write

DELEGATE
R
V

MEMBER OF ADVISORY
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5A
DISTRICT ELEVEN

MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL WARD
FIVE



DC Specific Election
November 2, 2010

Send Your Ballot

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

1 Check In

2 Confirm Identity

3 Complete Ballot

4 Send Ballot

Key Dates

October 1
Vote-by-Mail service begins

October 22

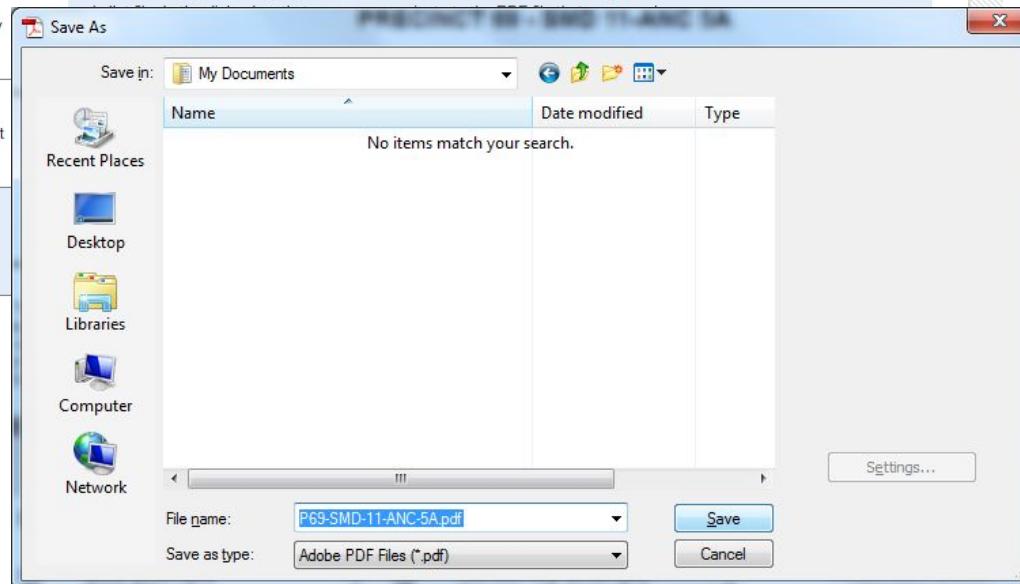
Last day to apply for a
Vote-by-Mail Ballot

November 2

Send

Locate Ballot PDF and Send

On the web page that is open, select the Choose File button to browse for your





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



Twitter

Recruit



README.md

DC Digital VBM

Requirements

- Ruby 1.8+ (tested on Ruby 1.8.7)
- RubyGems 1.3.6+ (tested on RubyGems 1.3.6)
- Bundler 0.9.26
- GnuPG (gnupg.org) with the public key for ballots signing

Installation (locally)

Get the Bundler:

```
$ sudo gem install bundler --version=0.9.26
```

Get the sources:

```
$ git clone git://github.com/trustthevote/DCdigitalVBM.git
```

Install gem requirements:

```
$ cd DCdigitalVBM  
$ bundle install
```

```
module Paperclip
  class Encrypt < Processor
    def initialize(file, options = {}, attachment = nil)
      super

      @file          = 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, 'gpg'].compact.join('.'))
      dst.binmode

      raise PaperclipError, "GPG recipient wasn't set" if @recipient.blank?

      begin
        run("rm", "-f \#{File.expand_path(dst.path)}")
        run("gpg", "--trust-model always -o \#{File.expand_path(dst.path)}" + @recipient)
      rescue PaperclipCommandLineError
        raise PaperclipError, "couldn't be encrypted. Please try again later."
      end
    end
  end
end
```

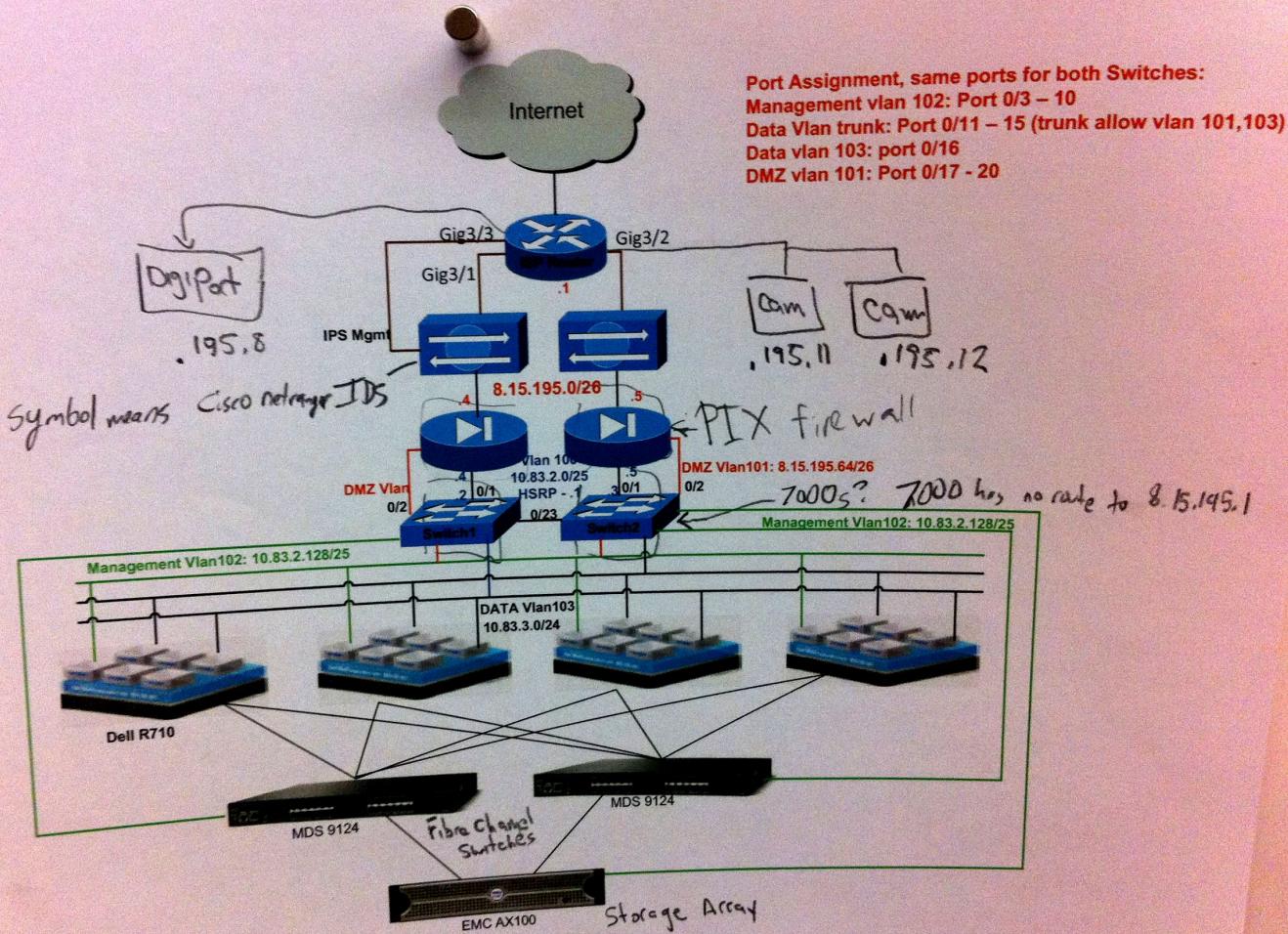
ballot.pdf → /tmp/49d5.pdf

ballot.xyz → /tmp/49d5.xyz

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

Surveil

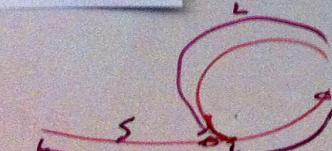
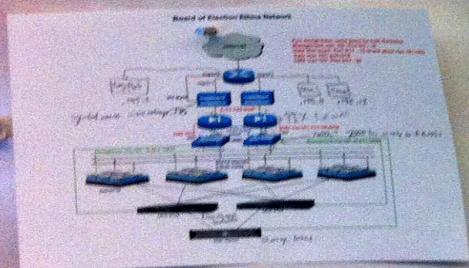
Board of Election Ethics Network



Mano!
Port is off
Alms

Georgia

A. Contactors
S: SW
E: HW?
A: Work w/lan
E: Look into Infast.



1. Find collision - in loop
2. find size of loop (L)
3. find collision: $N - L = S$

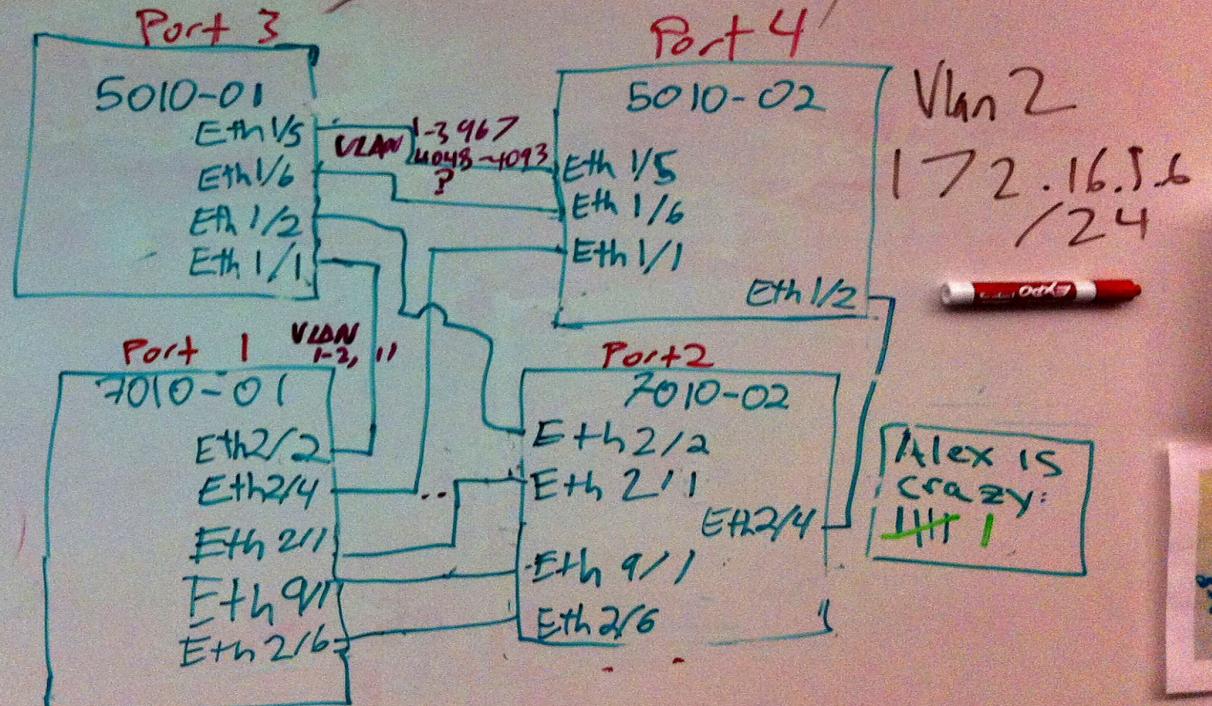
Switch TODO

1. get Port ↔ computer map (arp?) main?
2. find VPN
3. Tunnel

main?

172.16.1.4

172.16.1.5



Digi Configuration and Management - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

8.15.195.8 https://8.15.195.8/useradmin.asp?CURRENT_PATH=/admin/user_admin&conf_root:☆ i Google

Digi Configuration and Mana... +

Additional plugins are required to display all the media on this page.

Install Missing Plugins... x

Digi Passport™ 8 Configuration and Management

User : root

Network
Serial port
Clustering
Power controller
Peripherals
Custom menu
System status & log
System administration
User administration (selected)
Access lists
Change password
Device name
Date and time
Configuration management
Security profile
Firmware upgrade
CLI configuration

System statistics

Activate Passport Locator LED
Apply Changes
Login as a different user
Logout
Reboot

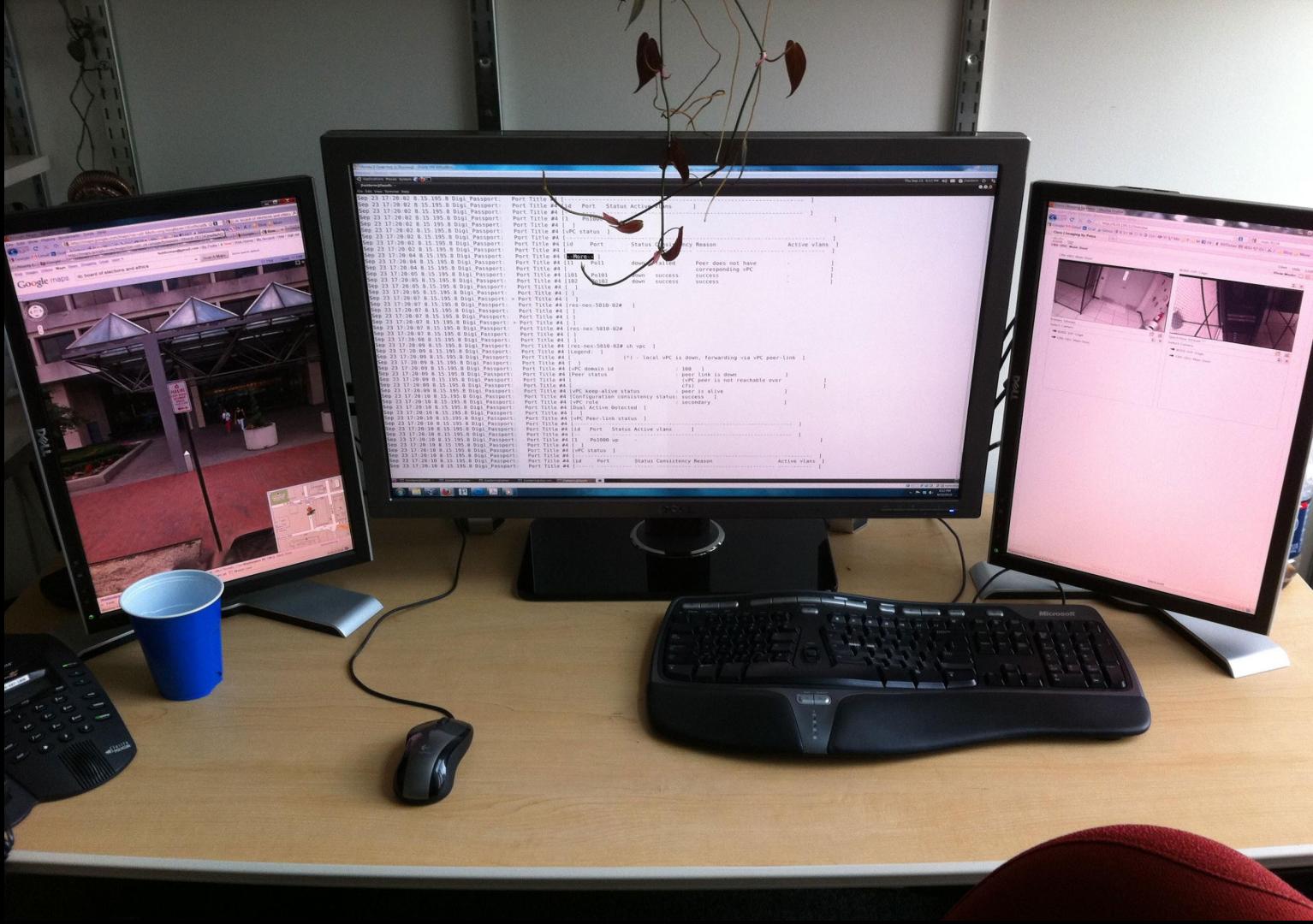
User administration
/ admin / user_admin

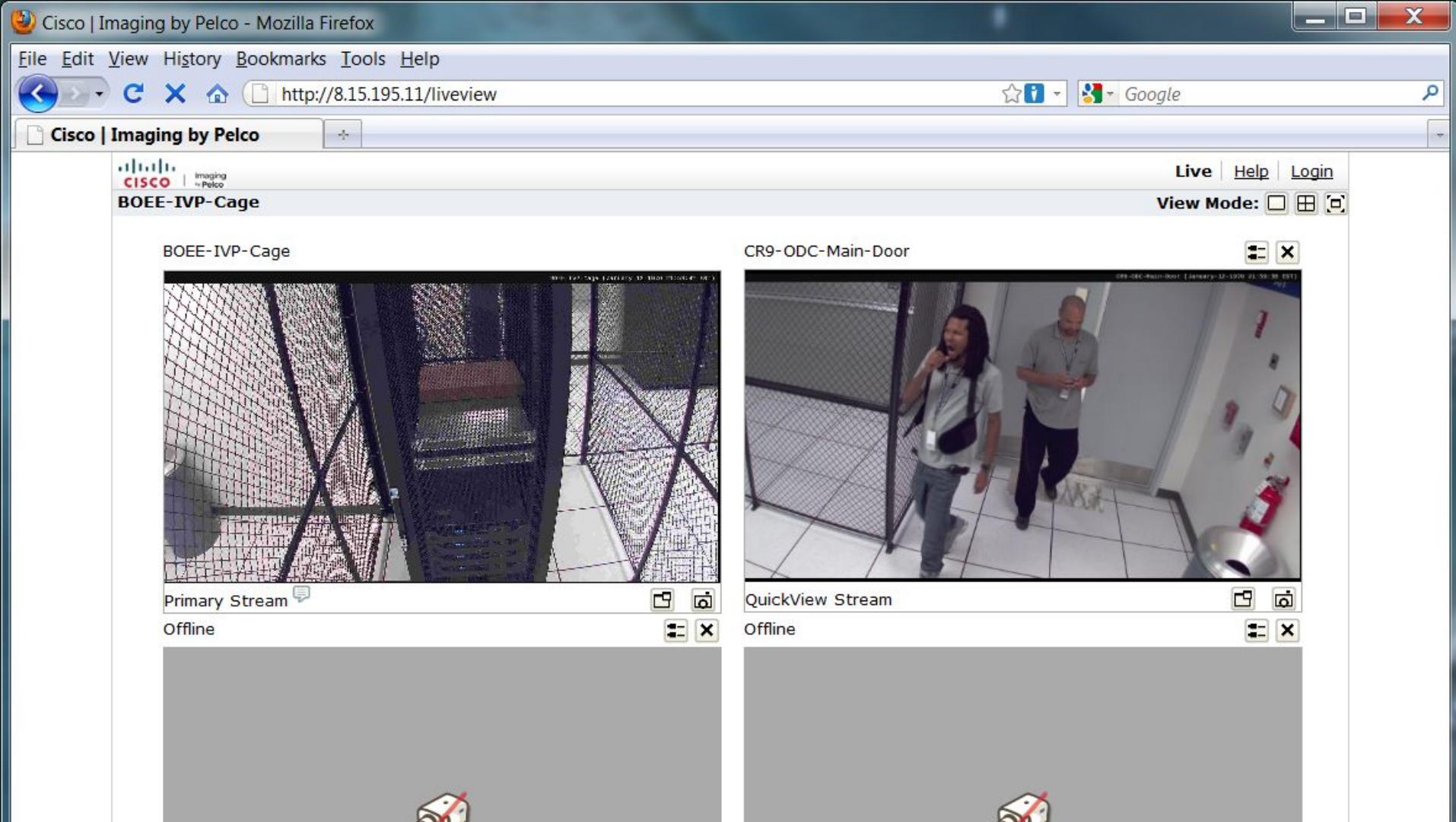
User name : User group : All group Locked

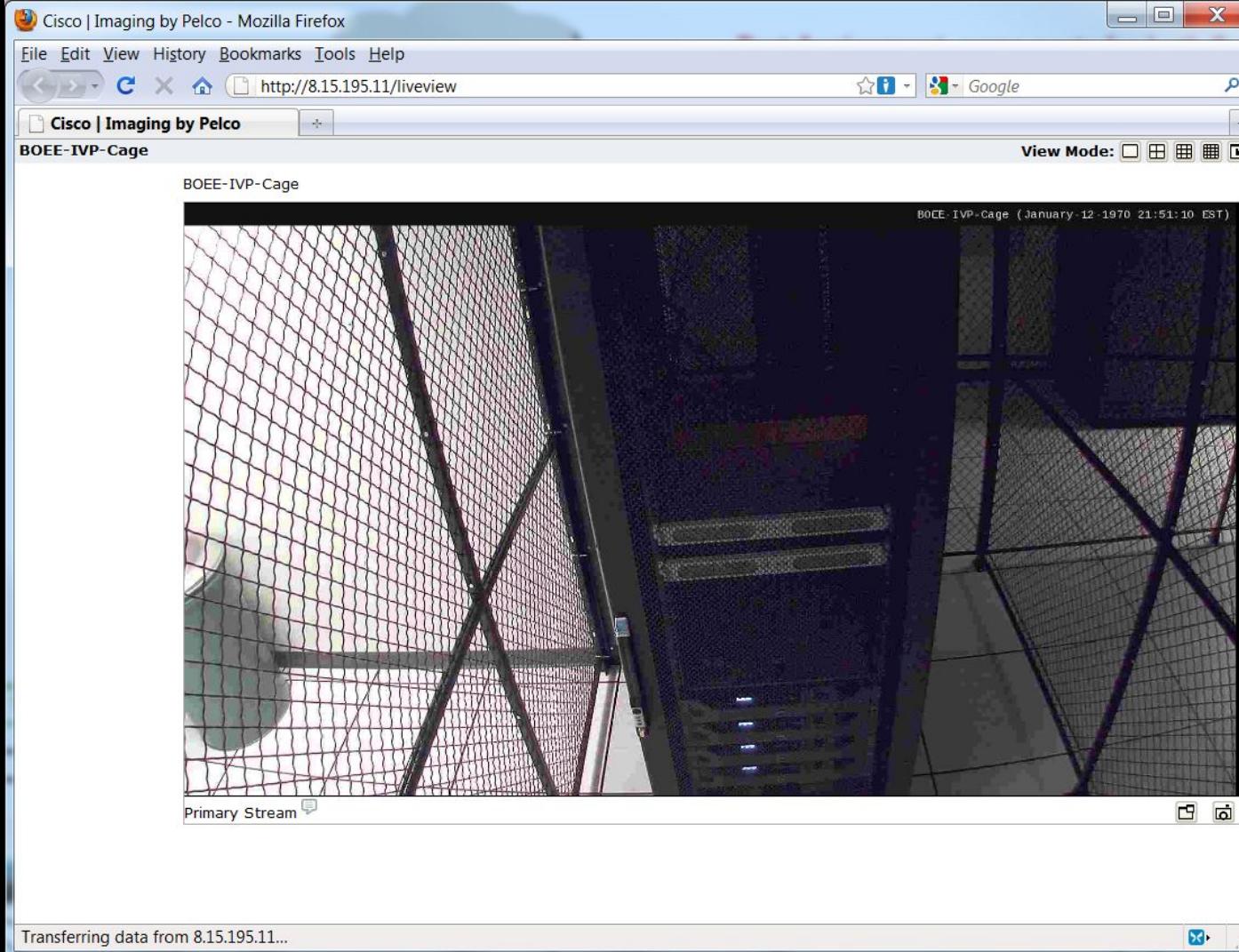
Current local users

#	User name	User group	Shell
1	Hoang	System admin	Configuration menu
2	admin	System admin	Configuration menu
3	lle	System admin	Configuration menu
4	oceee	System admin	Configuration menu
5	root	Root	CLI

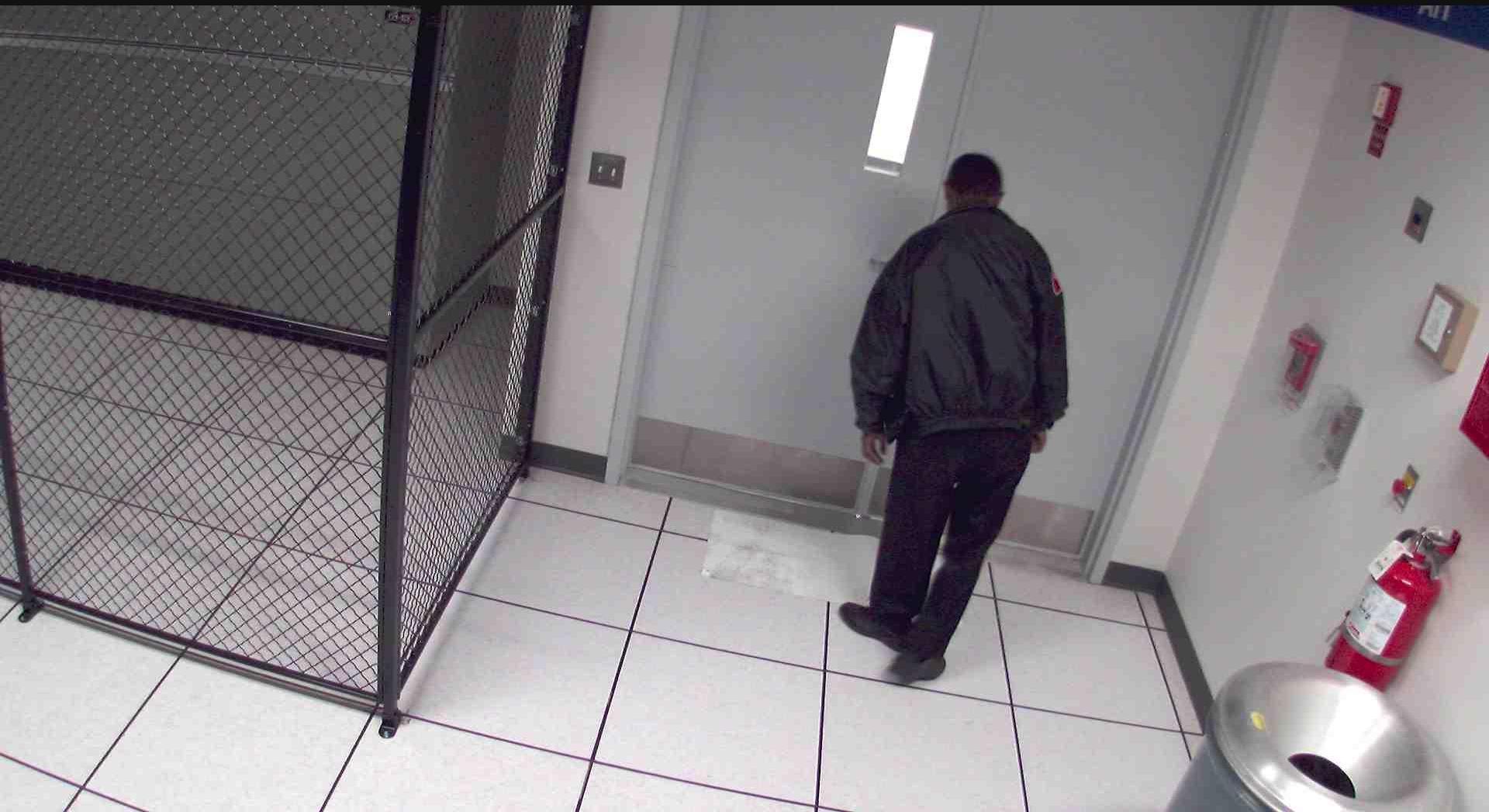
Copyright © 1996-2007 Digi International. All rights reserved.



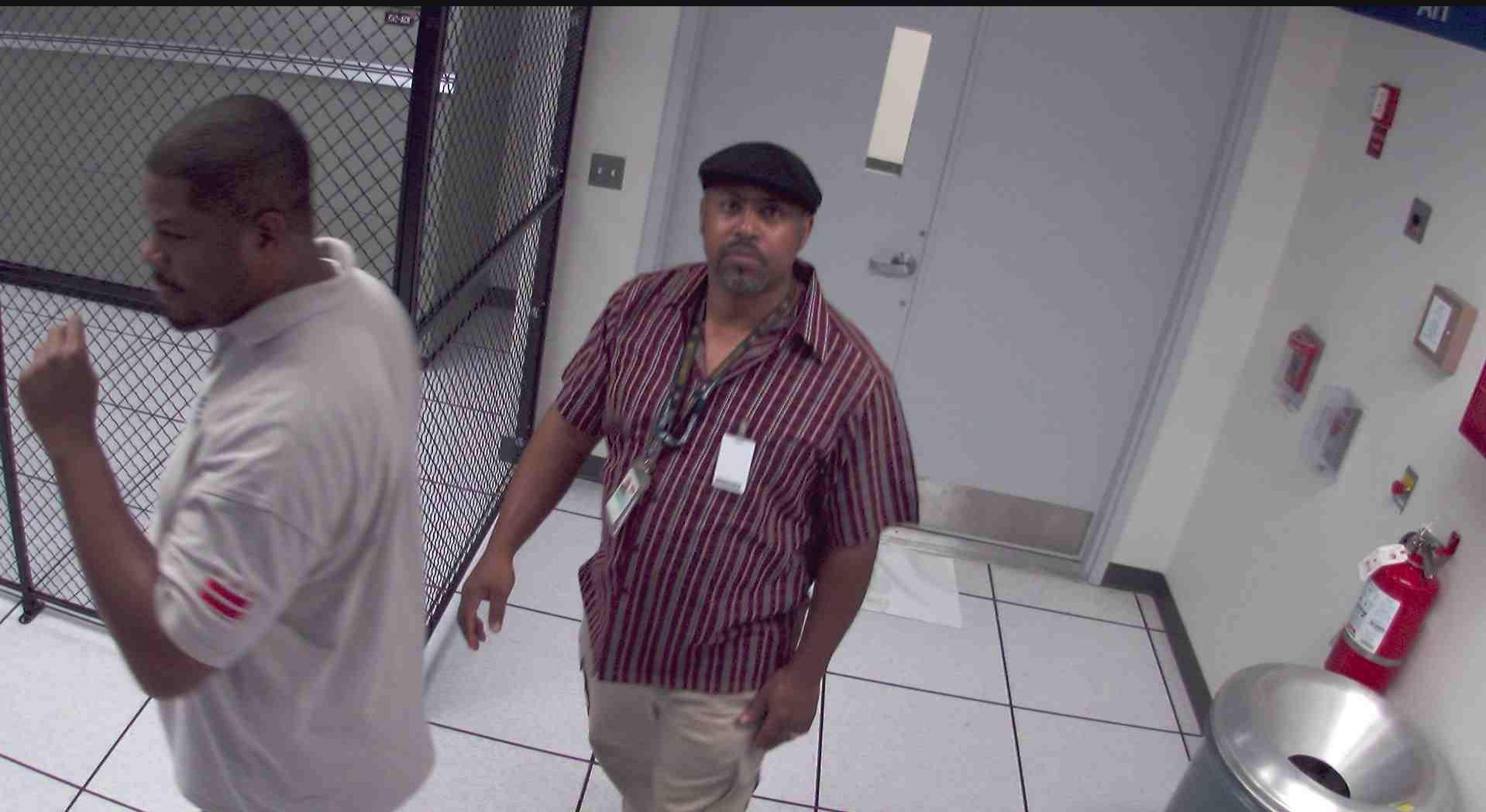
















Attack! Steal database credentials, keys, logs, etc.
Replace all existing votes with our choices

Official Ballot
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 REPRESENTATIVES

Vote for not more than (1)

- Alice Example**
Democratic
 Bob Example
Republican
 Carol Example
Statehood Green
 or write-in
Skynet

AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Vote for not more than (1)

- Joan Example**
Statehood Green
 Kimberley Example
Democratic
 Liam Example
Republican
 or write-in
Johnny 5

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Vote for not more than (1)

- Latoya Example**
Republican
 Marcus Example
Statehood Green
 Newton Example
Democratic
 or write-in
Colossus

MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Vote for not more than (1)

- Duane Example**
Republican
 Edward Example
Democratic
 Frances Example
Statehood Green
 or write-in
Master Control Program

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL WARD ONE

Vote for not more than (1)

- Mary Example**
Republican
 Nitan Example
Democratic
 Odell Example
Statehood Green
 or write-in
GLaDOS

MEMBER OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B DISTRICT FOUR

Vote for not more than (1)

- Orlando Example**
Democratic
 Phyllis Example
Statehood Green
 Quincy Example
Republican
 or write-in
Deep Thought

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Vote for not more than (1)

- Gregory Example**
Statehood Green
 Helen Example
Republican
 Inez Example
Democratic
 or write-in
HAL 9000

MEMBER OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WARD ONE

Vote for not more than (1)

- Abigail Example**
Republican
 Yvonne Example
Democratic
 Zachary Example
Statehood Green
 or write-in
Bender

**Thank you for voting.
Please turn in your ballot**

Attack!

- Steal database credentials, keys, logs, etc.
- Replace all existing votes with our choices
- Replace any new votes
- Back door to reveal new votes
- Clear logs
- “Calling card”

```
61<section id='main'>
62<section class='instruction'>
63<header>
64<h1>Thank You!</h1>
65</header>
66<div id='owned'>
67<embed autostart='true' hidden='true' loop='true' src='/victors.mp3' volume='100'></embed>
68</div>
69</section>
70</section>
71<section class='instruction'>
72<header>
73<h2>Ballot Received</h2>
74<h2>12:18 PM, October 01, 2010</h2>
75</header>
76</section>
77<footer>
78<p>Check the status of your ballot at any time at the Board of Elections and Ethics <a href='http://www.d cboee.us/' target='_blank'>website</a>.</p>
79</footer>
80</section>
81</section>
82<footer>
```

What about blockchain?

Blockchain solves stolen votes about as well as Bitcoin solves stolen money.

Safely voting online requires solving **three major challenges**:

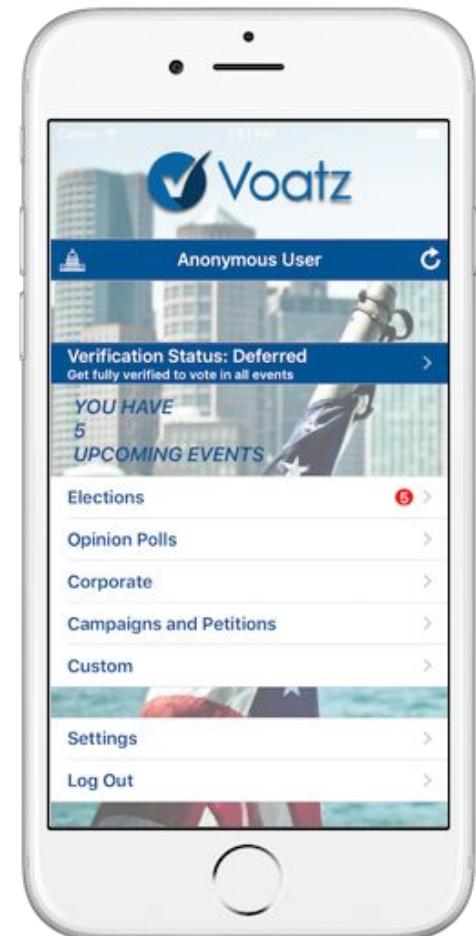
- Casting securely from untrusted user devices.
- Defending servers against nation-state attackers.
- Remotely authenticating voters.

Blockchain solves none of these.

Blockchain-based Internet voting piloted by West Virginia in 2018 for overseas voters

- MIT researchers found major problems
- Client doesn't actually use blockchain!
- Snake oil?

“The Ballot is Busted Before the Blockchain: A Security Analysis of Voatz” Specter, Koppel, and Weitzner (USENIX Security 2020)



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.

Research shows promise, but my take:
A decade or more until Internet voting can be adequately
secured, and not without major security advances.

End-to-End Verifiable Voting

End-to-End Verifiability (E2E-V)

As a voter, I can be sure that:

- My vote is cast as I intended.
- My vote is counted as cast.
- All votes are counted as cast.

Not a secret ballot!



Alice Johnson, 123 Main . . YES
Bob Ramirez, 79 Oak NO
Carol Wilson, 821 Market . NO

End-to-End Verifiability (E2E-V)

As a voter, I can be sure that:

- My vote is cast as I intended.
- My vote is counted as cast.
- All votes are counted as cast.
- No voter can demonstrate how he or she voted to a third party.



A Verifiable Receipt



How can the voter verify it's really an encryption of their vote?



Alice Johnson, 123 Main . . .



Bob Ramirez, 79 Oak



Carol Wilson, 821 Market . .



Checking the Result

Alice Johnson, 123 Main ...



Bob Ramirez, 79 Oak



Carol Wilson, 821 Market ...



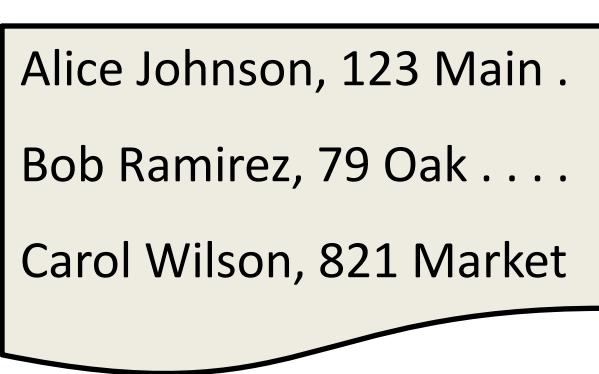
Mathematical
Proof

End-to-End Verifiable Elections

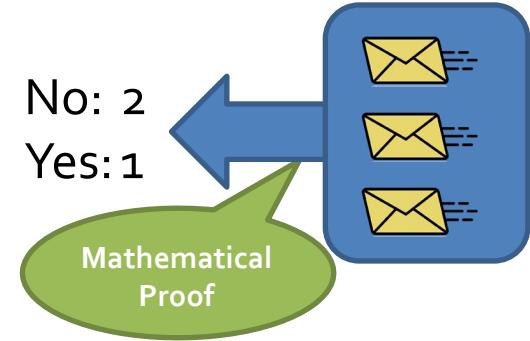
Anyone who cares to do so can:



Check that their own encrypted votes are correctly listed.

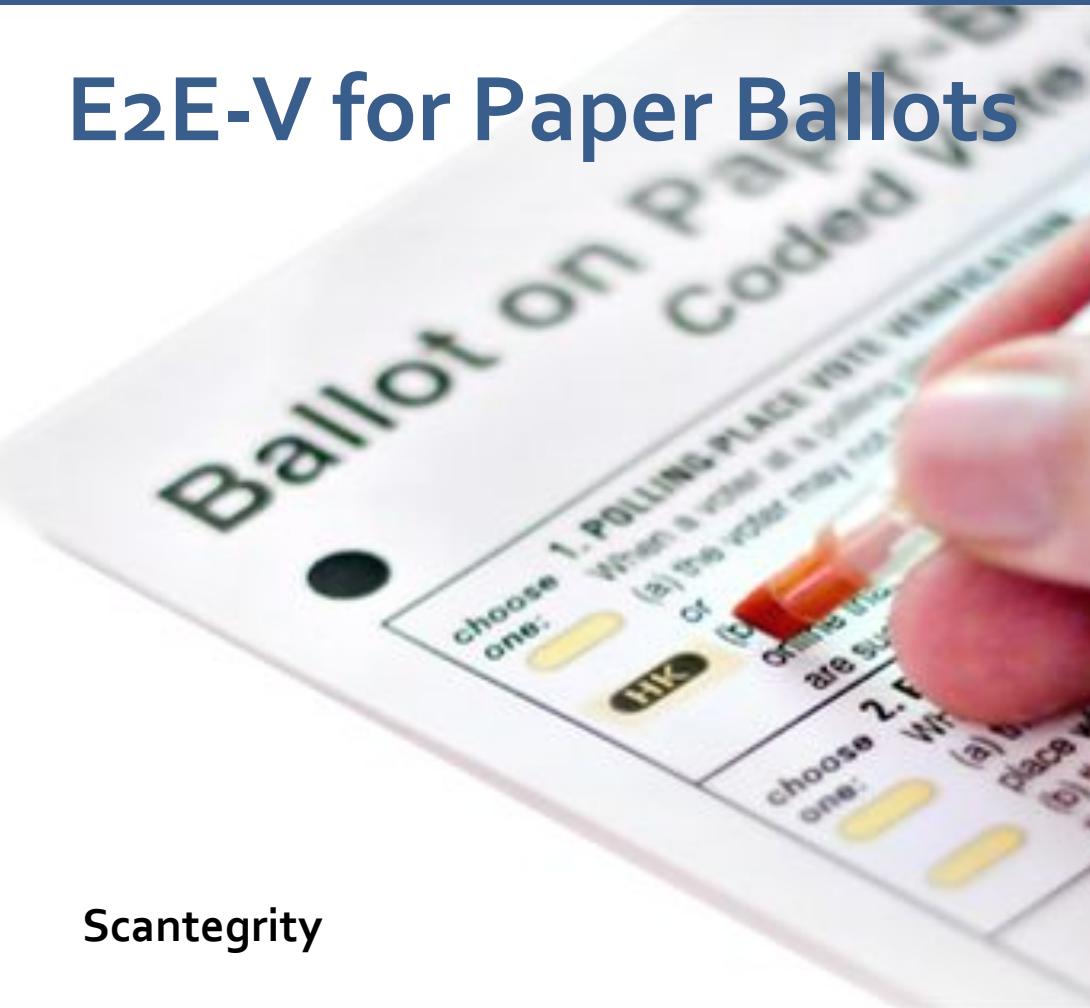


Check that other voters are legitimate.



Check the mathematical proof of the correctness of the tally.

E2E-V for Paper Ballots



Scantegrity





Questions for E2E?

Complexity?

Usability?

Comprehensibility?

Security?



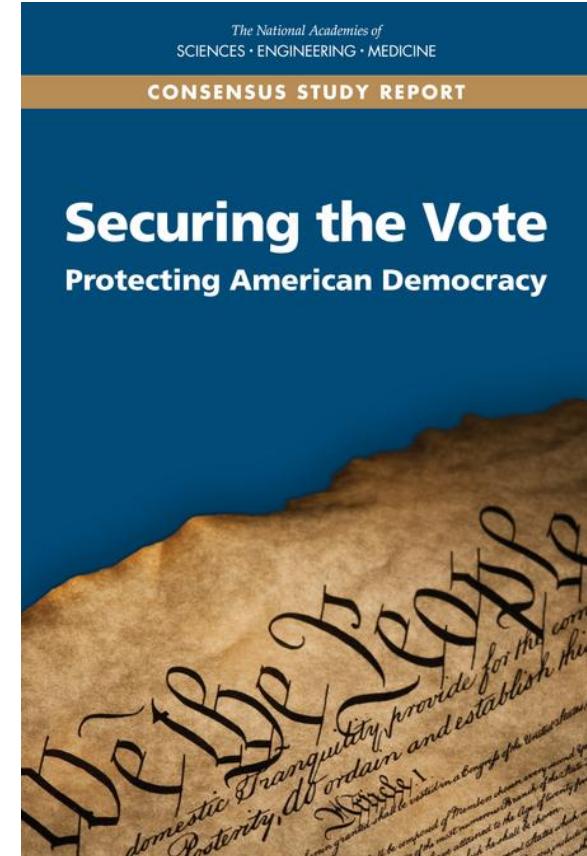
Defending U.S. Elections

Key Defenses

Consensus of security experts
and election officials:

Hand Marked Paper Ballots
+ Risk Limiting Audits

are a pragmatic, robust, and
necessary defense.



Federal Funds for Elections come without Standards

IN

GOD

WE TRUST

In 2018, Congress provided \$380M in new funding to states. **No security requirements.**

In 2019, Congress provided \$425M more, again with **no security requirements.**

In 2020, Congress provided \$400M more, but **no security requirements.**

In 2023, \$75M, **no security requirements.**

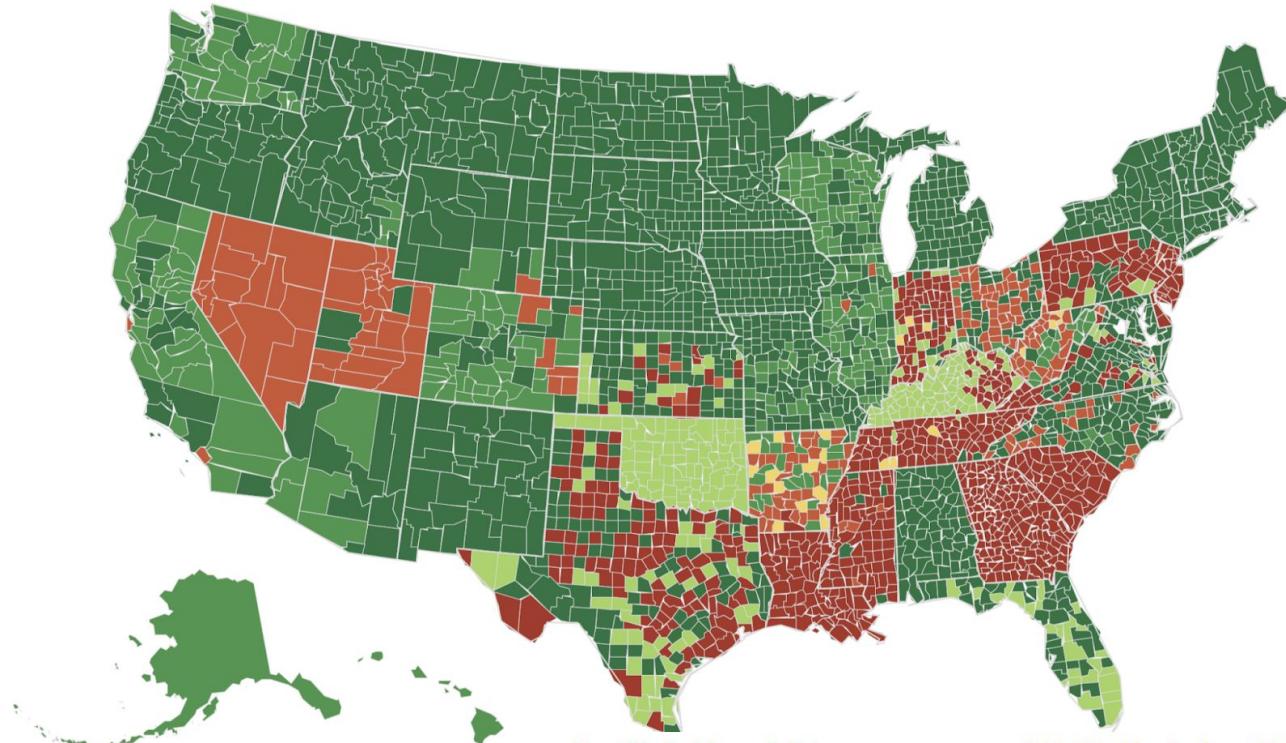
In 2024, \$55M, **no security requirements.**

“... states may use this funding to:

1. Replace voting equipment that only records a voter’s intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter-verified paper record;
2. Implement a post-election audit system that provides a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally;
3. Upgrade election-related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities [...];
4. Facilitate cybersecurity training [...];
5. Implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and
6. Fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for Federal office.”

U S CAPITOL

Election Equipment in 2016



Hand Marked Paper Ballots



70.4%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Hand Marked Paper Ballots for most voters

Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs)



0.7%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Ballot Marking Devices for all voters

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems



28.9%

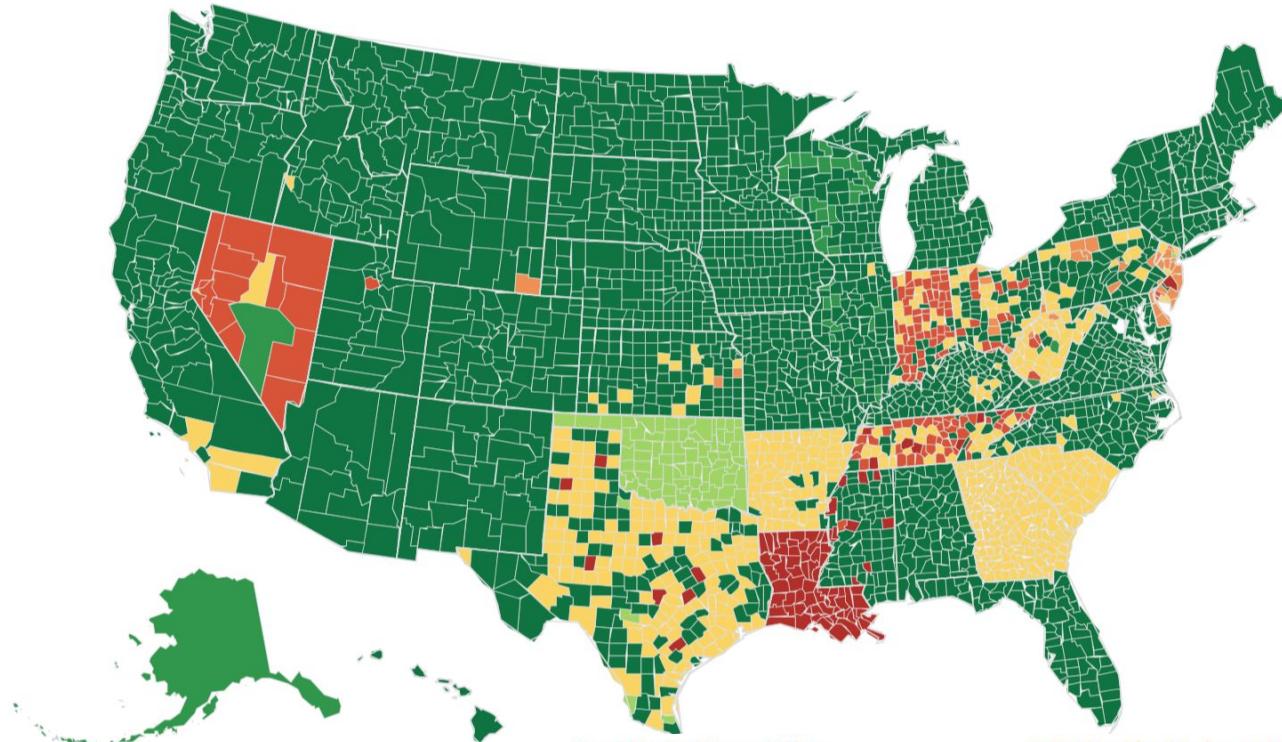
Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems for all voters

Verified Voting

Graphic: <https://verifiedvoting.org/verifier/>

Election Equipment Today

just one state fully paperless



Hand Marked Paper Ballots

69.2%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Hand Marked Paper Ballots for most voters

Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs)

25.5%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Ballot Marking Devices for all voters

Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems

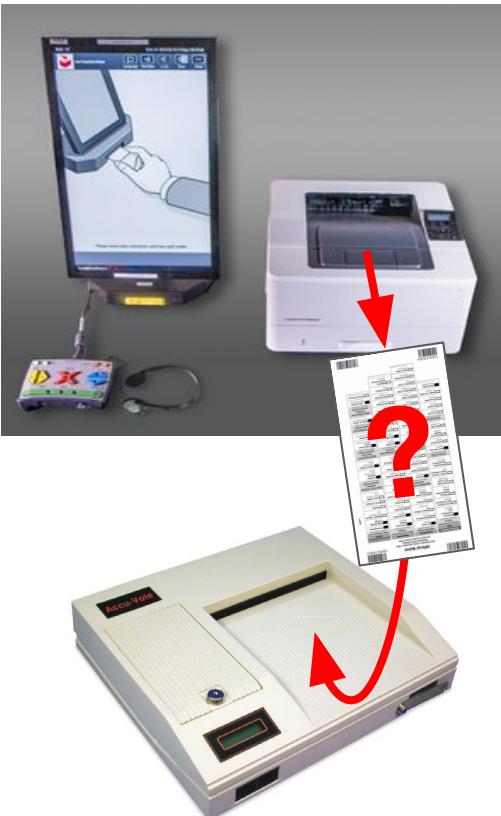
5.2%

Percentage of registered voters living in jurisdictions using Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems for all voters

Verified Voting

Graphic: <https://verifiedvoting.org/verifier/>

Universal-Use Ballot Marking Devices



22% of voters live in places that use BMDs for all in-person voting

Threat: Hacked BMDs can change close election outcomes, because many voters don't check the printouts

In a mock election we conducted, **voters reported <7% of errors.**

- In election with 0.5% margin, hacked BMDs could change outcome while resulting in only 1 problem report per 5000 voters
- **Steps to encourage verification can help, but not enough?**
If officials investigate when problem reports exceed 1% of voters, need voters to report >80% of errors to spot outcome-changing fraud
- **Using BMDs exclusively for accessibility is much safer**
If only 1.8% of voters use BMDs, need just 6.7% detection

How We're Doing in Michigan

Paper Ballots?

Yes



Michigan uses paper ballots statewide

Every vote in Michigan is cast on a piece of paper

Vast majority of ballots are marked by hand

Robust Audits?

Pilot



Michigan has been **piloting RLAs since 2018**, as recommended by the state's Election Security Advisory Commission

RLAs not completed until after certification, don't affect results

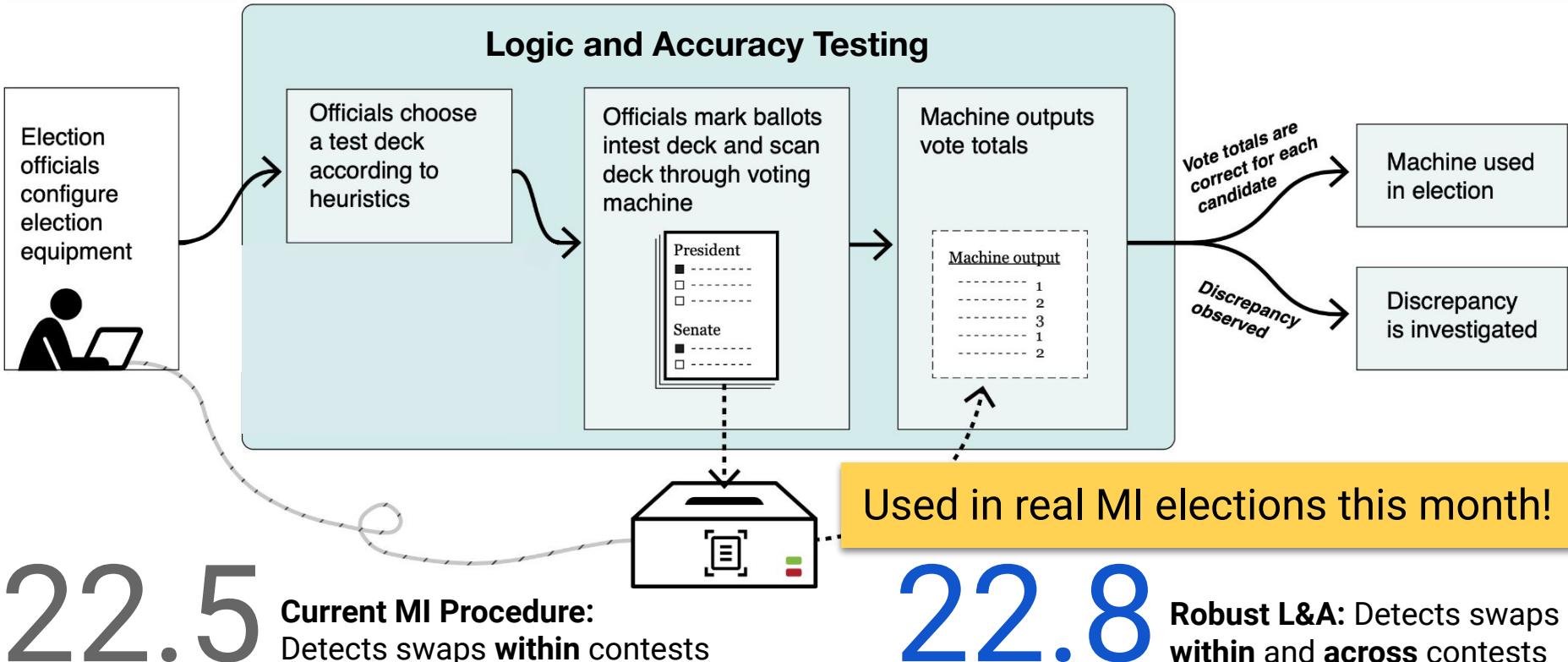


Overall Grade

B+

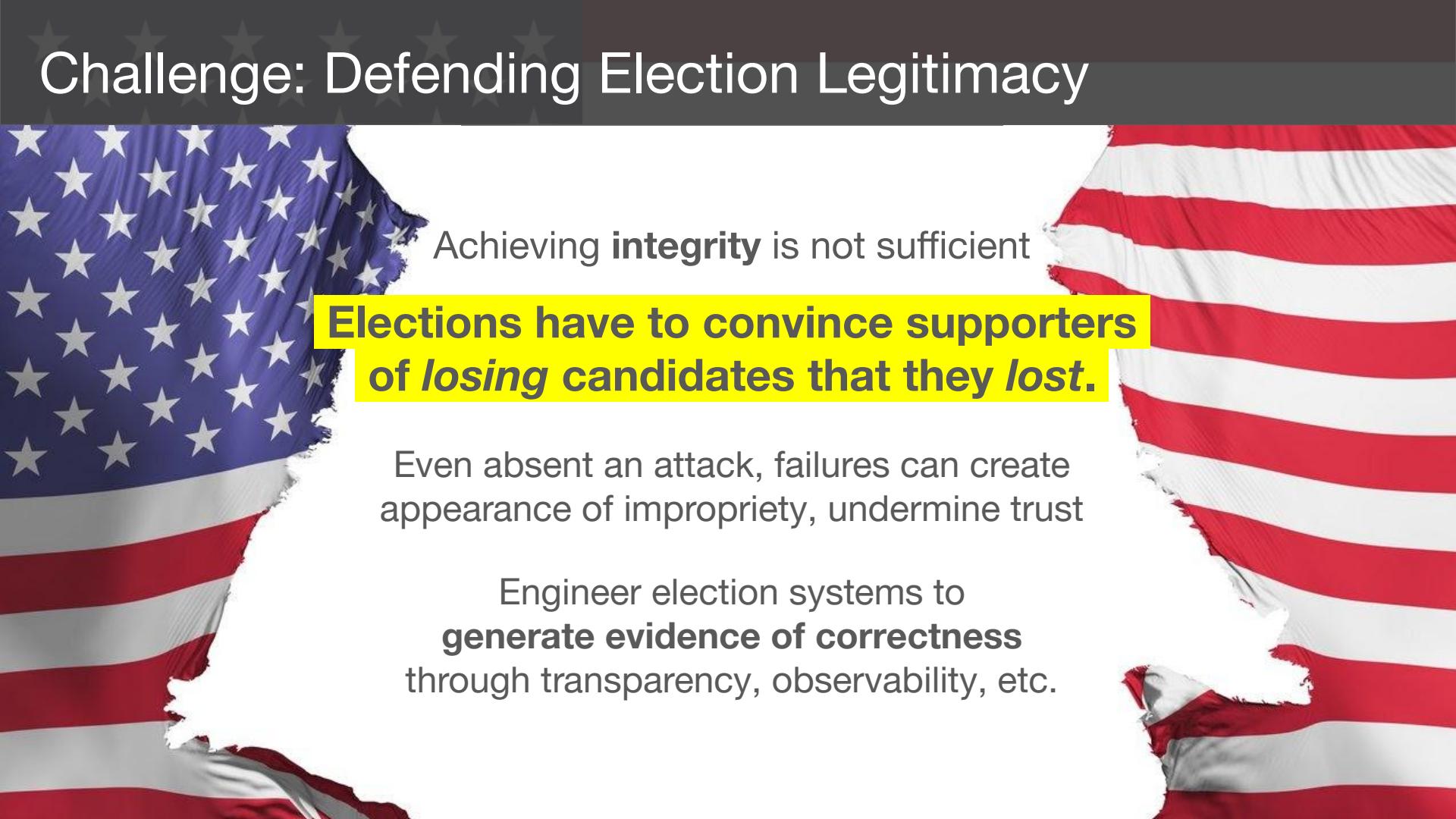
Should mandate pre-certification RLAs for major contests

Preventing Simple Attacks with Pre-election Testing



How many test ballots do officials need?

Challenge: Defending Election Legitimacy

A large American flag is visible in the background, with its stars and stripes partially torn or frayed at the edges, symbolizing damage or conflict.

Achieving **integrity** is not sufficient

**Elections have to convince supporters
of losing candidates that they *lost*.**

Even absent an attack, failures can create appearance of impropriety, undermine trust

Engineer election systems to
generate evidence of correctness
through transparency, observability, etc.

Election Security: A complex problem we can solve

Future elections face risks from *both real attacks and false accusations of fraud*

Evidence-based methods can show election outcomes are *correct*, not merely that there's “no evidence” they're fraudulent.

Key reforms:

- Make attacks more difficult: **Apply security testing and best practices**
- Ensure attacks are detectable: **Use hand-marked ballots for voters who can**
- Use the paper trail as a defense: **Run risk-limiting audits for every major contest**

What You Can Do

As a computer scientist:

- Accurately explain election security threats and counter disinformation
- Build technology to help make voting on paper easier and more efficient
- Engage with election officials and offer technical expertise

As a citizen:

- Volunteer as a poll worker. Get involved with local election integrity groups
- Urge officials to implement paper and risk-limiting audits
- Ask states and Congress to pass effective election security legislation
- Learn more! Sign up for **Securing Digital Democracy** on Coursera
- Most of all (if you're eligible), **Vote!**

Coming Up



Reminders:

AppSec Project due next week, November 14 at 6 p.m.

Thursday

**Programmable
in-network security**

Programmable networks,
in-network defenses

Tuesday

Censorship

Guest Lecture by Prof. Roya Ensafi