

CS485 - Participation 8

Which technologies are currently used to facilitate democracy?

- Through the media: Creating an informed public (and advertising)
 - Telecommunications and broadcasting networks
 - Print and digital media
 - Design and publishing tools
 - Social media
- Various digital vote-counting systems

What benefits do these technologies provide?

- The media does a decent good job of media dissemination, better than at any other time in history
- Vote-counting systems are fair, unbiased and don't compromise voter privacy

What shortcomings and vulnerabilities do they have?

- The media is prone to biases, bad content, etc. and political ads are of questionable morality. Additionally the system can be abused by those in power to censor media they don't want the public to see
- Vote counting systems are electronic devices that have consistently proven to be vulnerable under the right circumstances although admittedly unlikely in a realistic voting environment

Is there a role for AI to help provide for a perfect democracy?

- Perhaps feeding large volumes of, for example, social media data into an algorithm would help politicians diagnose what the major issues are to focus on and even some minor issues that would be good to mention. In other words strategy

How has the pandemic accelerated the use of technology to support democracy?

- There was an increased volume of mail-in ballots delivered (not exactly technology apart from the fact that the postal system gets used)
- Campaign rallies remained fairly large despite the pandemic
- Everything has been televised and in the news as in previous years