The Innovation Class

Resolution #03-06 directs STS to investigate

- high-level, guiding requirements for defining a path towards certification;

- approaches for reviewing, testing, and certifying systems.

General Goals

further the goals of holding fair, accurate, transparent, secure, accessible, timely, and verifiable elections;

help rather than hinder election administration.

Entry criteria I

- (different) there should be a reason for not pursuing the "standard" path towards certification.

Entry criteria II

- (feasibility of deployment) should not present excessive logistical complexities for deployment and maintenance.

Entry criteria III

- (end-usable) should not present an excessive burden on election administration.

- Not a backdoor for technologies that fail VVSG requirements.

- Technology on the horizon is based on multiple interacting components (e.g. infrastructure for managing cryptographic keys, smart auditing devices, etc.).

- Deployment and maintenance should not present insurmountable problems.

Entry criteria IV

- (VVSG compliance) technologies in the innovation class must meet the relevant requirements of the 2007 VVSG.

We expect most requirements to be applicable, a few may not.

Entry criteria V

- (secure relative to existing systems) method must be approximately as secure, transparent, and auditable as existing systems permitted by the 2007 VVSG.

Evaluation process

- Flexible
    - multi-stage, but stages can occur in parallel
    - possibly use accredited labs for "limited" certification or other types of testing that can ease market entry
    - allow use of performance data from small-scale tests

Evaluation process

- Transparent
  - only published cryptographic algorithms
  - expert review subject to NDA when appropriate

Evaluation process

- Multidisciplinary review board
    - security experts
    - election administrators
    - policy makers
    - usability and accessibility experts

Evaluation process

- When possible, allow input from
  - social scientists
  - law enforcement (e.g. the Election Crimes Branch of the Department of Justice)