VVSG Boundaries and Ballot Activation

Technical Guidelines Development Committee
March 22-23, 2007, Plenary Meeting

Contents

- Voting system definition
- New equipment and the VVSG
- Electronic pollbooks and ballot activation issues
- Discussion

Draft VVSG Voting System Definition

voting system:

Equipment (including hardware, firmware, and software), materials, and documentation used to define elections and ballot styles, configure voting equipment, identify and validate voting equipment configurations, perform logic and accuracy tests, **activate ballots**, capture votes, count votes, reconcile ballots needing special treatment, generate reports, transmit election data, archive election data, and audit elections.

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New equipment and the VVSG

- Issues of VVSG scope may arise with new equipment that fall under the VVSG's definition of "voting system"
- Epollbooks can perform on-line updates to voter registration DB and activate the ballot, e.g., write to a smartcard:
  - Ballot type, election information
  - Provisional ballot ID if DRE used
- How are epollbooks covered under the VVSG?
  - Yes: Ballot activation
  - No: voter registration administration - the TGDC has instructed NIST that this is outside our scope

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Possible options for VVSG and epollbooks

- Beef up requirements in VVSG for ballot activation
  - Ensure privacy is protected
    - o Create specific privacy protection requirements for ballot activation
    - o Require lower bandwidth mechanism than common smartcard
  - No ballot activation permitted by externally networked epollbooks
- Require an 'air gap'
  - Activate the ballot by some other means, e.g., handheld activator
  - Could be required in general or only for externally networked epollbooks

- Not an option: draft requirements for epollbooks
  - Not enough time, too many complicated issues
  - Delves into voter registration area, not in TGDC scope

Discussion