Voting by Internet

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Thesis: more effort should go into researching and creating an online voting system, no wide scale system should be used now.

Brief history of online voting

1996- Dem primary in Arizona used online voting: 40k votes cast

2000- FVAP used online voting in test project for overseas military
          - First votes cast in US election using internet: high satisfaction
          - Dept of defense had outsiders test hack the system.

2002- SERVE project begins: goal to expand on FVAP
          - Security the top priority, held to dod standards: examples include
          - digital certificates assigned to each voter
          - central server located in secure building with multi-layered security
          - jurisdictions where used had 1 laptop with access to server with encrypted data so specifics couldn't be read
          - SERVE separates vote from voter in the system

Present day- Small amounts of votes are cast online from overseas citizens

Issues with SERVE

2003- end of year SERVE is ready to use for 2004 primaries
- 10 person panel created: included harsh critics of online voting
- 4 strong dissenters post response to NYT. Gets shut down from
public dissent ⇐ big deal

Criticism- Server side good, issue is with how the internet works ⇒ security

- Anyone can attack
- Could be invisible
- Change the entire election

Problems with the criticisms

Problems with the critics

- No hard evidence for intense warnings
- Heavy use of "could" and "possible"
- Invisible attacks create no room for debate and doesn't consider
  security measures $\Rightarrow$ invincible argument

- Claim that it would be "easy" to hack
- Uses potentials as facts

Biggest takeaways

Top issues:

Identity verification- almost impossible to do online

Client side always an issue- "never trust the user"

Always a potential doubt in elections- worse than 2020 election

Reasons to pursue:

Voter mobilization/accessibility- still ⅓ of population not voting

            Specifically overseas and disabled citizens

Advances made in security- ex. Blockchain

Sources

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