

# E-voting in the Republic of Ireland *A Cautionary Tale*

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Irish Citizens for Trustworthy Evoting

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# Early History

E-voting in  
the Republic  
of Ireland  
*A Cautionary  
Tale*

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Intro

Dangers

History

- Dept. started with advice from vendors
  - No internal expertise
  - No cost/benefit analysis
- Centralised election organisation

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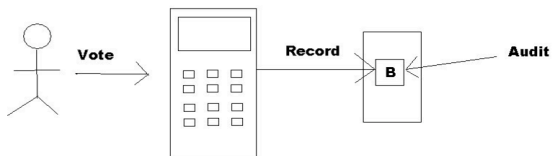
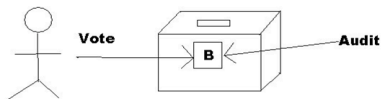
## Some of the dangers of e-voting

- Lack of transparency
- Conflict of interests

# Paper vs Computer

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Intro

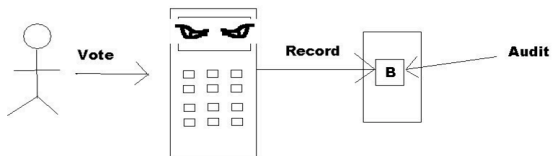
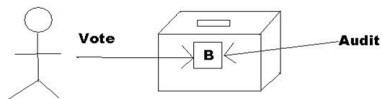
Dangers

History

# Paper vs Evil Computer

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# Democratic vs Commercial Interests

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## Legal position of count rules

- Paper - laid out in law
- Electronic - software is final arbiter
- Extraordinary situation: count rules
  - No longer belong to the people
  - No longer public
  - Subject to change without legal procedures

# Potential Turning Point

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- Experts offered advice
  - They wouldn't listen (their biggest mistake?)
- Cross-party committee meetings
- Became a political issue

# More and more evidence

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- First CEV report
  - Could not recommend use
- Second CEV report
  - Election management s/w must be replace
  - Machines must be modified
  - (Not said - not enough machines purchased)
- Wij Vertrouwen Stemcomputers Niet
  - Nedap hack
  - Final vindication - proof
- Minister still intends to use them in 2009

# Further reading

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<http://evoting.cs.may.ie>

Irish Citizens for Trustworthy Evoting

<http://www.cev.ie>

The Commission on Electronic Voting

<http://www.cs.may.ie/~mmcgalley>

My research

Intro  
Dangers  
History