UOCAVA Roadmap Activities

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Goal

- The establishment of guidelines for electronic absentee voting systems

Background

- The National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 required the EAC to submit a report to Congress within 180 days after enactment if "… EAC has not established electronic absentee voting guidelines"

- The report outlined a deliberative and iterative approach to develop guidelines for electronic absentee voting systems

Who Conducts Roadmap Activities

- Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
- Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC)
- DoD Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Major Activities

- Perform initial research and create initial guidance

- Identify and specify aspects of remote electronic absentee voting that can be implemented immediately

- Execute a phased, iterative approach for remote electronic voting pilots

- Development of final guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems

Initial Research

- Collect and compile information on previous international Internet voting efforts

  - Final report scheduled for release in Spring 2011 by EAC

- Detail the extent and nature of UOCAVA voter success and the applicability of historical programs to address the causes of lower success rate

  - Found in FVAP's 2008 Post Election Survey Report

- Update recommended metrics for UOCAVA voter success

  - Completed by FVAP in 2010

Initial Research, Cont'd

- **UOCAVA Solutions Summit in August 2010**
  - Sponsored by EAC, FVAP, and NIST
  - Final workshop report released by March 2011
- **EAC and NIST developing an approach to work with election officials on risk management**
  - Completed by Summer 2011
- **In January, the TGDC passed a resolution for its UOCAVA working group to prepare a narrative risk assessment**
  - Comparing the current UOCAVA voting process to electronic absentee voting systems
  - Completed in Spring 2011

Initial Research, Cont'd

- Workshop on end-to-end cryptographic voting systems to support UOCAVA voters
  - In the process of being organized by EAC and NIST
  - August/September 2011

Initial Guidance

- EAC, FVAP, and NIST to provide EAC's advisory boards with information about legal, technical, and policy issues associated with remote electronic voting systems

- Update existing EAC UOCAVA best practices documents

- *Security Considerations for Remote Electronic UOCAVA Voting*

  - Finalized and available

- In January, TGDC approved the Draft *Accessibility and Usability Considerations for Remote Electronic UOCAVA Voting* for delivery to the EAC

Initial Guidance

- **Security best practices documents**
  - *NISTIR 7682: Information System Security Best Practices for UOCAVA-Supporting Systems*
  - *NISTIR 7711: Security Best Practices for the Electronic Transmission of Election Materials*
  - Release for second round of public comments in February 2011
  - Documents finalized by May 2011
- **Develop high-level guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems**
  - In January, the TGDC passed a resolution tasking its UOCAVA working group to develop high-level guidelines
  - Completed by Spring 2011

Areas Prime for Implementation

- **Secure ballot delivery workshop in March 2011**
  - FVAP helping to organize
  - NIST to participate
- **Common data format for blank ballot delivery systems**
  - EAC, FVAP, and NIST working with IEEE P1622 to modify OASIS election markup language (EML) to support blank ballot delivery
  - Draft finalized by Summer 2011

Phased, Iterative Approach

- Identify pilot projects with specific set of goals that advance existing guidelines and technology
- Develop materials to support the pilot projects
- Conduct the pilot projects
- Perform lessons learned analysis of pilot project
- Determine if additional pilot projects are needed

Pilot Project(s) Identification

- In January, the TGDC approved the whitepaper *Possible UOCAVA Pilot Projects for the 2012 and 2014 Federal Election* for delivery to EAC

- Lessons learned from 2010 election related to FVAP wizard applications: *Federal Postcard Application*, *Online Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot*, and *Online Ballot Delivery and Marking*
  - Data being analyzed and collected

- EAC and FVAP review of 2010 state activities for UOCAVA voters
  - Complete by April 2011

Pilot Project Material

- Testable guidelines for kiosk-based remote voting pilot projects issued by EAC in August 2010
- In January 2011, the TGDC passed a resolution for its UOCAVA working group to develop guidelines for a demonstration project for military voters only
  - Assumes voters have a Common Access Card and professionally-administered systems with appropriate accommodations
  - Assumes voters will be choosing between this method and other methods currently available to UOCAVA voters
  - Consideration should be given to the ability to extend the guidelines to a broader segment of the UOCAVA voting population
  - Initial draft completed December 2011

Final Guidelines Development

- Create final draft of guidelines
- Release draft guidelines for public comment
- Update guidelines based on public comments
- Issue final guidelines for remote electronic absentee voting systems

Questions