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A voting systems certification examination was held at the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division on Wednesday morning, January 5, 2005. Accupoll Inc. submitted the Accupoll DRE Voting System 02.04.05 to the voting systems examiners for certification.

The Accupoll system is designed to be used in two places: the polling place and at central count. The polling place component consists of the Accupoll Voting System (AVS) and Voting Administrative Workstation (VAW). The central count components include the Central Vote Concentrator (CVC) and the Central Count Server (CCS).

The AVS and VAW devices are based on the Linux operating system with proprietary Accupoll software. The devices are connected via Ethernet within a closed network at the polling location. Each AVS contains an internal APC UPS for power disruptions. Casted votes are stored in 5 different storage areas within the AVS / VAW devices for redundancy. Each AVS is uniquely identified with a serial number which is keyed to votes for security and auditing purposes. After an election, several reports are generated and ballot data is created on a CD-ROM that is used for both an official record of the cast ballots and also to transfer the cast ballots to central count.

At central count, Linux based CVC and CCS computers are used to tabulate votes collected on the AVS and VAW system. The purpose of the CVC software is to load election results that have been stored on the Election Results CD-ROM into the CCS's MySQL database using MySQL security. The CCS acts as the central repository of the consolidated election results from precinct and absentee voting sources. CCS also supports election night reporting.

Accupoll submitted a list of system changes, many of which addressed and corrected problems identified in the previous May 2004 examination. I recommended against certification of the Accupoll voting system version 2.3.14 because of the system's failure to include a required real time continuous form printer connected to the CVS/CCS component. Now, Version 02.04.05 does include a real time continuous form printer attached to the CVS/CCS component for printing significant events as they occur. Also on the AVS summary screen, party affiliation is now noted next to the candidate's name as well as a display of all selected candidates.

After review of Accupoll's submitted documentation, Accupoll's presentation to the examiners and actual testing of the AccuvPoll equipment, I recommend certification of the Accupoll 02.04.05 Voting System.