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A voting systems certification examination was held at the Office of the Secretary of State Elections Division on Thursday afternoon, May 27, 2004. Accupoll Inc. submitted the Accupoll DRE Voting System 2.3.14 to the voting systems examiners for certification. This was the first Texas examination of the Accupoll system.

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 use the Linux operating system with proprietary Accupoll software. The devices are connected via Ethernet within a closed network with each device assigned a static ip address. 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 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 Election Central.

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 CVC software runs on the CCS (which is actually a Pentium class PC). The CCS acts as the central repository of the consolidated election results from precinct and absentee voting sources. CCS also supports election night reporting.

During the examination, it was determined that the CVS/CCS did not have a required real time continuous form printer. Because the CVC / CCS performs the actual tabulation of election results it is required to have this print feature. The vendor agreed to provide this capability and would return to the certification panel with this functionality. On the AVS summary screen, I recommend that party affiliation be noted next to the candidate's name. This screen is to be presented as the voter reviews their selection. Currently, if a voter chooses a straight party contest, the summary screen does not show the individual candidates' party affiliation.

At this time I recommend against certification of the Accupoll Voting System based on the absence of a real time continuous form printer as required by Texas Voting law.