

Touch-Screen Paper Trail Failures and Problems - in the News and Reports

Prepared by Joyce McCloy, Founder, NC Coalition for Verified Voting

ES&S discusses printer jams in its product slick:

ES&S knows this is a problem. See page two about its VVPAT printer (Real Time Audit Log) ES&S advises:

"For the election worker, the Real Time Audit Log requires less paper than a printed voter receipt, resulting in fewer paper jams and malfunctions." That product slick can be linked here.

http://www.ncvoter.net/downloads/ES_SiVotronicSlick.pdf

Nov 2006. The North Carolina State Board of Elections issues a memo on Procedures for Recounting Damaged VVPAT

http://www.ncvoter.net/downloads/Procedures_for_Damaged_RTAL_Paper_Rolls.pdf

Nov 2006. NC - 9% Failure Rate of Touch-Screen Printers in the Nov 2006 General Election.

"The system meant to produce a paper backup of votes cast on Guilford County's electronic voting machines failed in many cases during the election Nov. 7. ..

"He (Gilbert)knew that there would be problems," said Joyce McCloy, a voting advocate who has been critical of Gilbert on the paper record issue." He asked his county to buy these machines when he himself testified to the state that there would be problems with the paper backups.

<http://www.news->

[record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061215/NEWSREC0101/61215003/-1/NEWSREC0201](http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061215/NEWSREC0101/61215003/-1/NEWSREC0201)

May 4, 2006 10 touch-screen machines failed to print voter verified ballots in Mecklenburg County NC. Workers put the paper in wrong way.

"Few Voting Glitches Pop Up" Charlotte Observer.

http://www.ncvoter.net/downloads/May_04_06_Few_voting_glitches_pop_up.pdf

July 2005. In California, a 30% failure rate of 96 touch-screen voting machines with a voter verified paper trail, with a 1.37% loss of the paper ballots. Ten paper jams requiring re-booting the machines were registered for every 10,000 votes. The Secretary of State said, "Many of the printer jams caused a loss of VVPAT records. In total there were 21 lost VVPAT records, out of a total of 1535 ballots cast on those particular machines." See SOS report. http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/voting_systems/vstaab_volume_test_report.pdf

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June 21, 2006. Eminent Computer Scientist Criticizes ES&S Touch-Screen Paper Trail

"The Real time Audit Log places high cognitive burdens on the voter, is extraordinarily error prone for the auditor, and is possibly illegal in states that are strict about voting privacy."

http://www.votetrustusa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1414&Itemid=51

August 21, 2006 (Computerworld) -- Paper Trail Flawed in Ohio Election, Study Finds

E-voting has benefits, but still a calculated risk, report says. A report questioning the accuracy of Diebold Election Systems' e-voting equipment in a recent Ohio election gives more ammunition to critics who doubt the viability of electronic voting technology.

The report, issued publicly last week, was based on a study funded by the Board of Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. It claimed that even backup paper records meant to assure voters that their votes were tabulated correctly can prove inaccurate.

Nearly 10% of the paper copies of votes cast in the election were "either destroyed, blank, illegible, missing, taped together or otherwise compromised,"

The report said **that 72% of the polling places demonstrated a discrepancy** between the electronic record on memory cards and the paper ballots; 42% of the discrepancies involved problems with 25 votes or more.

The report also suggested that printer malfunctions could cause "profound" election problems. Such problems could be caused by paper jams or rolls improperly loaded on to the machines

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyId=13&articleId=9002610>

August 10, 2005 Guilford County Election Director warns against the touch-screen paper trail, says it will jam and fail.

<http://www.ncvoter.net/downloads/HouseElectLawAug10Gilbert.doc>