Voting in Uncontrolled Environment and the Secrecy of the Vote
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Kåre Vollan

1. Why is the secrecy an issue?
2. International commitments
3. Challenges
4. The Secrecy of the Uncontrolled Vote
5. Alternatives

Is voting in uncontrolled environment a secret vote?

- 'Family voting' and 'Pater familias'
- Group pressure
- Traceability

Uncontrolled voting

- The balance between participation and secrecy

- The security issues related to postal votes and votes by the Internet. Can be solved on Internet provided trust in the EMB.

- Why is the secrecy an issue? The OSCE/ODIHR and CoE positions

Secrecy of paper based systems

- The secrecy booth
- Numbered ballots
- Small batches of ballots accounted for

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 25:

"(b) to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;"

Obligation to states to always provide for a secret vote or just to offer secrecy to the voters?

Council of Europe
Recommendation Committee of Ministers 2004

"IV. Secret suffrage

16. E-voting shall be organised in such a way as to exclude at any stage of the voting procedure and, in particular, at voter authentication, anything that would endanger the secrecy of the vote.

17. The e-voting system shall guarantee that votes in the electronic ballot box and votes being counted are, and will remain, anonymous, and that it is not possible to reconstruct a link between the vote and the voter.

18. The e-voting system shall be so designed that the expected number of votes in any electronic ballot box will not allow the result to be linked to individual voters.

19. Measures shall be taken to ensure that the information needed during electronic processing cannot be used to breach the secrecy of the vote. "

Council of Europe
Venice Commission 2004

"1. In conclusion, remote voting is compatible with the Council of Europe's standards, provided that certain preventative measures are observed in the procedures for either non-supervised postal voting or electronic voting."

Types of Voting

	Controlled		Uncontrolled	
	Early voting	**Election day voting**	**Early voting**	**Election day voting**
Paper	At defined sites with regular paper ballots	Traditional polling stations with paper ballots	Postal votes	Postal votes
eVoting	Voting machines at defined sites	Voting machines in polling stations	Internet Voting	Internet Voting

Characteristics of types of voting

	Controlled		Uncontrolled	
Commitment	**Paper**	**Electronic**	**Paper**	**Electronic**
universal	Medium	Medium	High*	Very High*
free	Very High	Very High	Very Low	Low
fair	Very High (-)	Very High (+)	Low	High
secret	Very High	Very High	Very Low	Very Low
transparent	Very High	Low (-)	Low	Low (-)

Challenges to Internet voting

- Transparency
- Security
- Free vote
- Secrecy

Internet voting

- The security issues - The importance of trust

- The regret possibility – re-voting in polling station

  What is the difference between Internet voting and Internet banking?

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Why is secrecy of the vote important?

- The personal nature of the vote
- Intimidation
- Trading of votes
- The educational aspect
- Polling stations may become less controlled when the need is more controlled.

The Birmingham example

Alternatives for increasing participation

- Advance voting in controlled environment
- Used of technology in controlled environment.

Conclusion:

A renewed international discussion about the role of secret elections.