The Modern Ballot Box

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Abstracts

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Introduction

Across the US, elections are technology-heavy events. Election management bodies are using IT to develop and maintain voter lists, manage internal processes, and cast and count ballots. This report will discuss and analyze recent developments in the market for election technology, provide an overview and analysis of the 2010 US midterms, and offer recommendations for the industry.

Features and benefits

Understand recent developments in electronic voting.

Learn about what steps agencies and vendors must take to build confidence in electronic voting.

Highlights

Technology has permeated everyday life, including the election process.The 2000 US election marked a turning point for election technology.The 2010 midterms saw limited problems with voting machines.

Your key questions answered

What is the state of the industry for electronic voting in the US?

What steps should vendors take to succeed?

Contents

SUMMARY

Catalyst
Ovum view
Key messages

ELECTIONS ARE HIGHLY RELIANT ON TECHNOLOGY

Technology has permeated everyday life, including the election process
The 2000 US elections marked a turning point for election technology
There are a variety of systems used for electronic voting
Optical scanners
Direct-recording electronic machines

NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO ELECTION AGENCIES

Election agencies are hampered by tight budgets
Voting machines can make polling place operations more efficient
Well-designed machines can reduce the likelihood of spoiled ballots
Electronic voting systems assist disabled voters with casting ballots

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDUSTRY

Security vulnerabilities have been found in voting machines
In response, vendors have made significant investments in security
Overseas voting via the Internet is still not entirely secure
The recent midterms saw limited problems with voting machines

RECOMMENDATIONS

While voting systems have improved elections, ballot design remains an issue
Training for poll workers is the third piece of the puzzle
Implementing election technology must still adhere to basic democratic principles
The key to security is strong processes around auditing
Technology must be sustainable over multiple election cycles

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APPENDIX

Further reading
Methodology
Ovum Consulting
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