



United States

Election Assistance Commission

*EAC Standards Board Meeting
Oklahoma City, OK February 24-25, 2011*

EAC COTS Roundtable Meeting Update

www.eac.gov



EAC COTS Roundtable

- Held at EAC offices February 14-15, 2011
- Participants:
 - Moderator = Merle King, *Kennesaw State University Center for Election Systems*
 - Voting System Manufacturers = Ed Smith, *Dominion Voting Systems* & McDermot Coutts, *Unisyn Voting Solutions*
 - Election Officials = Luis Torres, *Technical Service Manager, Orange County, FL Supervisor of Elections* & Paul Stenbjorn, *DC Board of Elections*
 - State Certification Tester = Glenn Newkirk, *North Carolina, PA*
 - DoD/Navy = Pete Marti, *Senior EM Spectrum Engineer, Member-Navy Tri-SYSCOM E3 Integrated Product Team*
 - FCC = Bill Hurst, *Chief, Technical Research Branch, FCC Laboratory Division*



Purpose

- Work towards a more realistic definition of Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS).
- Determine ways voting system manufactures use COTS products and interact with COTS product manufacturers.
- Discuss pros and Cons of COTS.
- COTS effect on voting system lifecycle and sustainability.
- Determine next steps.



COTS in Certification

- Lifecycle disconnect between COTS and voting systems.
 - Many commercial products have a production lifecycle of 6-8 months.
 - Voting systems should function for (at minimum) 6-8 **years**.
- COTS reality in certification.
 - ES&S Unity 3.2.0.0

Desktop ----- Dell GX260 computer desktop with monitor, keyboard & mouse

Dell PC, 1 GHz or faster processor, 512 MB RAM, 40 GB hard drive, 48x CD-ROM or DVD drive, 3.5-inch drive, Super VGA (800x600) or higher resolution video adapter and monitor, appropriate drivers

Laptop ----- Dell Latitude 600, Model #PP05L

Dell Intel Pentium Processor 1400 MHz 587 MHz 1.00 GB Ram



Defining COTS

- **2005 VVSG : commercial off-the-shelf (COTS):** Commercial, readily available hardware devices (such as card readers, printers or personal computers) or software products (such as operating systems, programming language compilers, or database management systems).
- **Next Iteration:** Software, firmware, device or component that is used in the United States by many different people or organizations for many different applications and that is incorporated into the voting system with no manufacturer- or application-specific modification.
- **COTS Roundtable:** Software, firmware, device or component, that is currently in use outside the elections industry and that is incorporated into the voting system with no modifications by the manufacturer.



Potential Next Steps for COTS

- COTS Wiki:

- What is a “wiki?” ...a website that allows the creation and editing of any number of interlinked web pages via a web browser using a simplified markup language or a text editor. Wikis are typically used by various groups to create collaborative works. Examples include community websites, corporate intranets, knowledge management systems, and note services.
- Ours would potentially could contain:
 - Test plans and documents
 - Searchable COTS database
 - Information on alternative COTS suppliers
 - L&A test information and models
- Develop Classification Schemes for COTS products:
 - Benefit as a documentation of system infrastructure for State and local election officials.
 - Identify potential substitute products for current COTS components.
 - Develop a prototype environment for using the classification scheme in pilot jurisdictions.



Potential Next Steps for COTS, Cont.

- Manufacturer/EAC Working Group to Identify EAC List of Acceptable COTS Manufacturers by Component:
 - LCD screens
 - Motherboards
 - E-prom chips
- EAC developed “best practices” for Configuration Management of COTS:
 - Understand what COTS components you have in V.S.
 - Could include keeping L&A test data on each unit & Service ticket data on each unit.