In the below advisory issued on October 8, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) used the term "vulnerability" to describe the issue regarding the voting system configuration. The EAC used this term based on how the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) defines "vulnerability" as a "(w)eakness in an information system, system security procedures, internal controls, or implementation that could be exploited or triggered by a threat source. Note: The term weakness is synonymous for deficiency. Weakness may result in security and/or privacy risks." The issue discussed below describes a potential privacy risk and does not represent a threat to voting systems that could impact the integrity or availability of the machine software or of any election results. Dominion submitted a system modification to the EAC that includes an improvement addressing this issue and it is currently undergoing testing at an independent accredited laboratory.

Colleagues:

The EAC has been contacted by a security researcher with a coordinated vulnerability disclosure (CVD), about a potential vulnerability with a Dominion voting system configuration, specifically configurations that utilize the ImageCast Precinct (ICP) or ImageCast Evolution (ICE) tabulators. We are sending this advisory as you may use an affected configuration.

The EAC is currently working through our processes with the manufacturer and our partners at CISA. The issue affects the file naming convention used for ballot images produced by these configurations. The vulnerability does not impact the integrity of the machine software or of any election results. Exploitation by a malicious actor could reveal the order in which ballots were cast and, potentially, how a particular voter voted if the ballot image files with unchanged file names are correlated with other data indicating when and where a ballot was cast.

If you have not already been contacted by or individually reached out to Dominion on this issue and believe you may be affected, please contact them for information on whether your systems are impacted and any mitigation steps that may be available.

This information has not yet been released publicly. The EAC has not been provided with details on when the security researcher plans to publicly release this information, but we have reason to believe it will be released soon.

Mark A. Robbins
Interim Executive Director
U.S. Election Assistance Commission