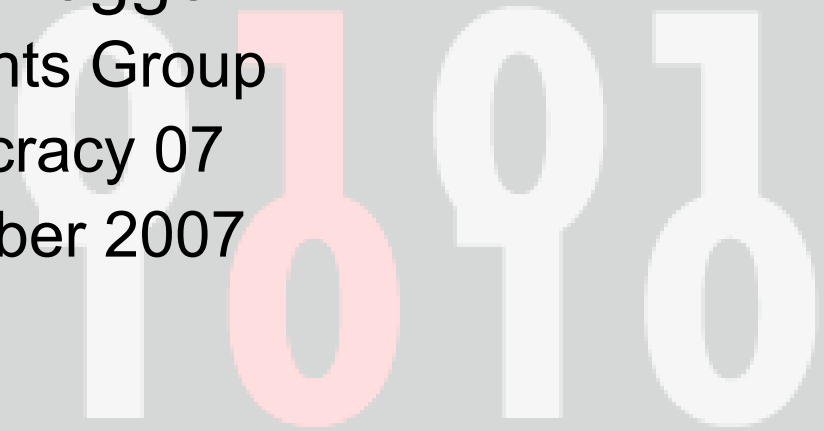


Electronic voting: an unnecessary risk?

Becky Hogge
Open Rights Group
E-democracy 07
8 November 2007

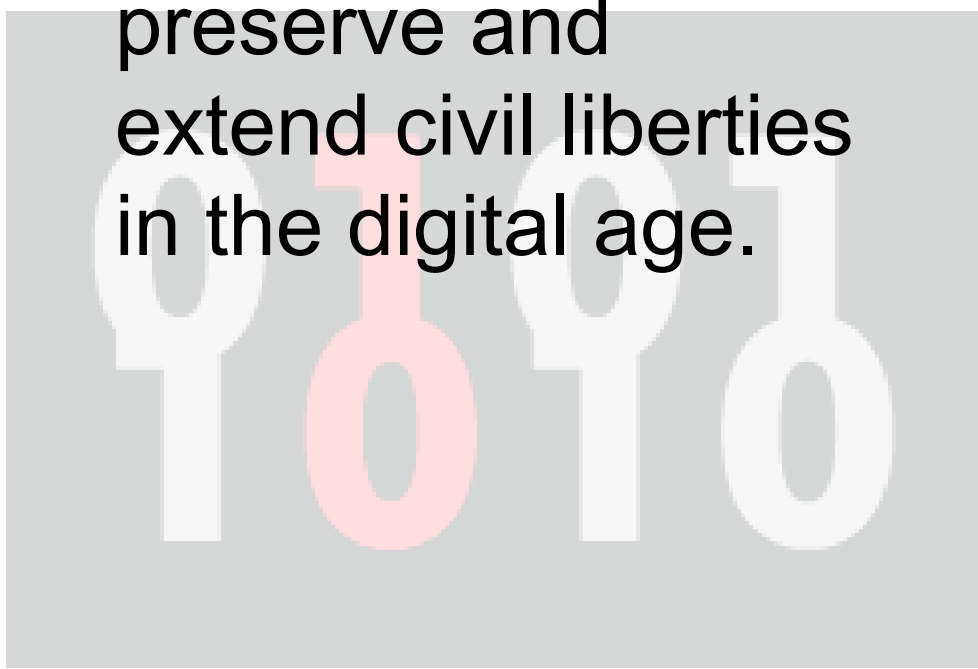


OPEN
RIGHTS
GROUP

The Open Rights Group



- The Open Rights Group (ORG) is a UK-based advocacy group which aims to preserve and extend civil liberties in the digital age.



The fundamental challenge

- Designed to high security standard
- Verify that you are eligible to vote
- Ensure you vote only once
- Ensure you can vote anonymously
- Ensure you can vote privately
- Allow for meaningful recounts
- Allow for audit and oversight



Remote electronic voting

“There really is no good way to build such a voting system without a radical change in overall architecture of the Internet and the PC, or some unforeseen security breakthrough.”

A Security Analysis of the Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment (SERVE)
20 January 2004

The May 2007 experience



- 25 volunteer election observers, officially accredited by the Electoral Commission



Findings

- Swindon: laptops down
- Rushmoor: ballot papers incorrect
- South Bucks: voter disenfranchisement



Findings

- Public scrutiny impossible
- Transfer of power, without corresponding transfer of responsibility, from public to vendors
- **Conclusion:** ORG cannot express confidence in results declared in areas observed



Where next?

- No further e-voting should take place until a step change in reliability, integrity and transparency has taken place.
- Considerable academic research and debate must be pursued before further trials are considered.

