

ES&S SECURITY QUESTIONS FOR VENDOR

Karen Schutte:

- My question was whether or not the communication software and hardware is installed regardless, since we are not using it. If yes, can we deactivate it?

Arnie Urken:

- ESS told us they hire an outside company to test security by trying to break into their system. I recall that they said that they employ the same company used by Lockheed Martin. What is the name of the company? Is such "red team" testing done continuously or periodically? Does it include social engineering as well as attempts to break encryption systems? How would ESS know if an encryption code had been broken? Does ESS monitor the social and financial activities of engineers and others who might be vulnerable to outside manipulation?
- How are updates handled to enhance security? What media and protocols are used to preserve code integrity?
- Does ESS collect systems performance metrics that include aggregated statistics by voter type (mail ballot, precinct number)? If these types of data are collected, does ESS destroy the data once users have completed an election? Are backups of election reports saved on disk or remotely that enable ESS to compare elections over time, say Pima County school elections or Presidential elections?
- Are users (voters or governments) protected by a statement of user rights? What happens if machine or system failure requires the County to rerun an election? Who pays? Does ESS hold or offer insurance to deal with system failures?
- How does ESS inform systems users about best practices, alerts, current challenges, and future security goals?
- How does ESS integrate ideas for security into product/service development?