
Dr. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith
Costech,
Université de Technologie de Compiègne
Outline

• Introduction : Scope of the presentation
• Online voting in France
• Voting rituals as a symbol of citizenship
• The voter behind the virtual ballot box
• Conclusion
Introduction

• A theoretical (human sciences) approach to e-voting
• Much emphasis on security than on essential political issues: challenges several concepts (representation, citizenship)
• E-voting can be perceived as a threat for democratic practices
• Which relationship between the perception of citizenship and its material expression?
1- Electronic voting in France

- Nedap 2.07
- iVotronic (RDI consortium Univote)
- Point& Vote (Indra)

1980

Electronic Voting 2006, Bregenz

2004
On-line voting : a threat to democracy!

« The electronic vote strikes me as difficult to put into practice, even if remedies are found for the technical problems related to voting security. It questions the underlying principles of democracy: how can one imagine voting outside a booth and risk the voter be subjected to outside influence? » , T. Vedel. 1999.

E-voting technology is a symbol of the evolution of citizenship conception

A threat to voting rituals

A threat to citizenship
2- The paper ballot as a ritualization of citizenship

System of constraints

Set of procedures

Set of beliefs
The dramatic narrative structure

Pre-liminal phase

Liminal phase

Post-liminal phase
The voter behind the virtual ballot box

A new relation to time and space

An empowered citizen

A reflexive citizen

Electronic Voting 2006, Bregenz
# A new definition for citizenship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Administrative</th>
<th>Referendum</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Deliberative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship concept</td>
<td>Systemic</td>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Neo-Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship to decision-making</td>
<td>Action taken on application of the law</td>
<td>Action taken after national referendum</td>
<td>Action taken after non-binding consultation</td>
<td>Action taken after legally binding consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>E-gov.</td>
<td>E-voting, Fishkin-type polling</td>
<td>Forums, Gateway sites, public debates</td>
<td>Dedicated web sites, on-line debates…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

• How relevant are existing voting procedures?

• Voting technology have a social dimension and a political one: call for a new citizenship, a new representative system.

• A confrontation between systems is healthy for the social fabric: a symbolic transition is to be negotiated.