Election Technologies—Today and Tomorrow

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Lever voting machines (1892 Lockport, NY)
Punch card voting machines (1964 Fulton and De Kalb Counties, GA)
Optical scan voting systems (1962 Kern City, CA)
Broad Adoption of Voting Machines

Resistance to voting technology innovation
Tipping point for voting system adoption
Cycle of fraud and voting system reform
Why election reform policy is so difficult
Types of Ballot Fraud:

• Compromise voter registration
• Compromise chain of ballot custody
• Double voting
• Ballot box stuffing
• Ballot manipulation
• Voter Assistance
• Tampering with return totals
Locked in Time 1920s-2000

Not much happened
Election Administrators
Elected Officials
Voters

Voting system problems
Campaign experts/Candidates/Election Administrators
Chads, strings, empty ballot boxes
Outside and inside the margin of victory

The public view of the election process
Age of computing meet the 18th Century
Fix it now! (Help America Vote Act)
Voting system standards and Certification

1970s through 2012

- Punch Card Voting Systems
- Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines
  - Black Boxes
- Optical Scan Ballots
- Lever Voting Machines
Economics of Voting Technology Adoption

Single client base
About 3,000 Counties
Low Budget Priority

Voter opinion
Voter engagement in 2000-2008
Soft Opinion or no opinion

Tight local and state budgets
Weak Election Administration Officials
Economic downturn
Current system elected decision makers
The Politics of Voting System Adoption

Voting and Technology

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