

Simple elections at a lower cost thanks to an electronic voting system

LOCATION: Palos de la Frontera, Huelva

DURATION: 1'29"

SUMMARY: Diego Antonio López, a researcher from the Electronic and Mechatronic Systems Group at the University of Huelva, has created a new electronic voting system for general elections. Its simplicity is due to it needing only a low power computer server. Therefore, lowering its cost. At the same time, it has a user identification system with a double security filter that guarantees you being on the electoral register and your anonymity. The system will remain available to any organisation that wants to use it as free software.

VTR:

The way we vote could become a memory of the past. A researcher from the University of Huelva is installing an electronic voting system available on any device connected to the internet. He has developed a new low cost, more secure system that could be used in the near future.

DIEGO A. LÓPEZ
University of Huelva Researcher

"It allows the user to check that their vote is counted as and when it has been cast, that's not allowed with a traditional ballot box. So it's completely different, it's safer than traditional ballot boxes."

The user signs up using a digital certificate which in Spain is issued by the Fábrica de Moneda y Timbre. The first security filter. Then, its own system creates another in a matter of seconds.

DIEGO A. LÓPEZ
University of Huelva Researcher

"Then, there's a procedure which is called blind signature, which gives you the key, an alias created by the user. The system makes sure the voter is registered, guaranteeing privacy."

Which is vital in an electoral process. The system would work through a simple website designed for the election. It allows for voting and also idea input in an online open debate. As its simplicity requires a low power server, it's cheap. Cheaper, certainly, than a vote in person with ballots and all the infrastructure required.

DIEGO A. LÓPEZ
University of Huelva Researcher

"I would like to leave this as free software, so, everyone can download this system and apply it to any webpage they're developing. Which hopefully is in the public domain."

It's a contribution to political and social institutions by this professor from the University of Huelva.

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