

SECURITY FACT SHEET

Poll Place Tabulators







DS300® Poll Place Scanner and Tabulator

Like all ES&S ballot tabulation equipment, the purpose-built poll place scanners and tabulators (DS200 and DS300) maintain the highest levels of physical and digital security controls. These paper-based systems maintain paper vote records and take digital images of each processed ballot.



Physical and System Access Controls

- To secure sensitive components and election files, poll place tabulators use physical and system access controls, including lockable doors, tamper-evident seals, access codes and a keylocked case for transport and shipping.
- Each administrative function requires password authentication for completion, and units are configured to require a passcode before polls are opened.



System Application Controls

- Each poll place tabulator is paired with an encrypted card containing the firmware inside the unit. This technology ensures the card cannot be taken out of the machine and altered, viewed or changed. If a poll place tabulator unit detects a counterfeit card, it will not boot up.
- The unit accepts only approved and certified USB flash drives to prevent unauthorized data transfers or uploads.



Encryption, Hash Validation and Digital Signatures

- The unit allows Election Officials to validate that all resident firmware matches the firmware version certified for use in that jurisdiction. For further validation, the DS300 uses Secure Boot and application allowlisting to verify only the certified operating system, software and firmware are on the unit. For more information, see Secure Boot & Application Allowlisting Security Fact Sheet.
- All data generated during the polls is digitally signed and encrypted at poll close.



Audit Logs

The poll place tabulator generates a detailed audit log, which can be printed at any time, of all actions and events that occurred on the unit. Every action and event — including access attempts, access of system functions and errors — is logged and time-stamped.

Post-Election Auditing and Paper Ballot Cards

ES&S fully supports the use of paper ballots and post-election audits to ensure accuracy and increase confidence in our country's election process. ES&S views paper records as critical for auditing. A physical paper record of the selected candidate names provides the means to a statistically valid post-election audit.



Is a Paper Ballot Card Auditable?

Yes. Just as hand-marked paper ballots can be inspected or audited by hand or by machine, so can ballot cards. A ballot card contains the same data as a hand-marked ballot, displayed in different ways. During a post-election hand-count audit, selected candidate names are used to count the vote.

ES&S Security Philosophy

Nothing is more important to ES&S than protecting America's democracy by supporting secure, accessible and accurate elections. That's why every ES&S product reflects our three-part security philosophy:

- **Design:** All products are designed, without compromise, to meet the latest and ever-evolving standards in security, accuracy and reliability.
- **Testing**: In addition to ES&S testing protocols, all tabulation systems are rigorously tested and certified by the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which reflects security and performance standards developed by scientists, academics and election officials. ES&S also takes security testing to the next level, executing penetration testing with independent, accredited laboratories. ES&S submitted our end-to-end voting configuration for Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) critical product evaluation (CPE) at one of our nation's leading research labs.
- **Implementation:** The entire ES&S team is devoted to ensuring that each piece of technology performs as expected on Election Day, helping election officials uphold the laws of their jurisdiction, which mandate strict physical security and tight chain of custody of all voting machines.

Perhaps most importantly, ES&S' essence — its very being — is predicated on supplying America with equipment and software for secure, accurate and accessible elections. All of us at ES&S hold ourselves and each other accountable for this mandate and are proud to serve a role in this noble purpose.