Conclusion

A Security Flaw in the Verification Code Mechanism of the Norwegian Internet Voting System

#### Reto E. Koenig, Philipp Locher, Rolf Haenni

Bern University of Applied Sciences

#### 08.09.2013

#### . ₽

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Flawed Verification Code Mechanism...

## Outline

#### Introduction

- Problem Space
- Properties of the Norwegian E-Voting Protocol
- Implementation

#### Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

- Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer
- Adversarial Communication
- Adversarial Infection
- Counter Meassurements

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Problem Space

## Why This Talk?

Conclusion

The Norwegian E-Voting System...

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Flawed Verification Code Mechanism...

Problem Space

## Why This Talk?

#### The Norwegian E-Voting System...

- ...allows vote updating
- ...uses SMS as out-of-band post channel
- ...allows smart-phone as trusted device
- ...faces a secure platform problem
- ...cannot provide the required vote integrity by verification-code

#### ..can be fixed

Conclusion

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Properties

### Adversary Model and Trust Assumptions

The Norwegian E-Voting System...

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Attack

Conclusion

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## Adversary Model and Trust Assumptions

- ...assumes server side to be honest
  - ...accepts a malicious browser (MITB)
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Attack

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Attack

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#### The Norwegian E-Voting System...

- ...creates voter-individual and candidate based verification code (at the server side)
- ...sends verification codes to the voter via out-of-band channels
  - postal mail (secure printing)

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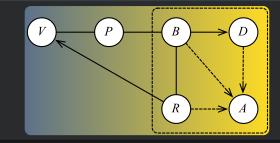
Attack

Conclusion

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## Adversary Model and Trust Assumptions





Conclusion

Properties

# Verification Code: Recoginizing an Attack

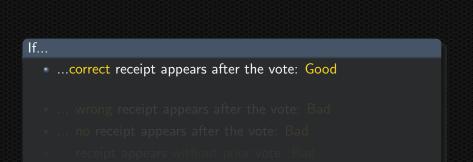
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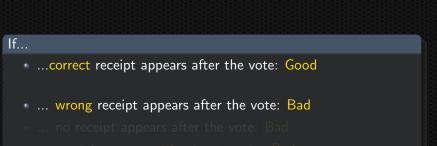


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## Verification Code: Recoginizing an Attack



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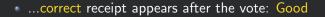
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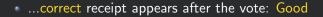
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If...

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Implementation

### Speciality

Attack

Conclusion

# The Norwegian E-Voting System... ...allows vote updating!

Attack

Conclusion

Implementation

## Out-of-Band Post-Channel

#### The Norwegian E-Voting System...

# ...uses SMS-channel

 Conclusion

Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

### Enhanced Adversary model

#### Man in the...

# ...Browser & SMS-Channe

 Conclusion

Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

Enhanced Adversary model

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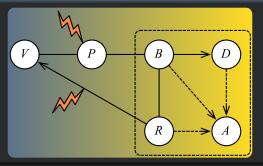
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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

## SMS-Channel: No more Out-of-Band

#### $MIT(B + S) + Vote-Updating \mapsto Compromized System$



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Conclusion

Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

#### Fake GSM Base Transceiver Dedicated Hardware

IMSI-catcher: Demonstrated live @ Defcon 2010

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Conclusion

Controlling the SMS-Channel: Network-Layer

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#### IMSI-catcher: Demonstrated live @ Defcon 2010

- Hardware: 1500\$ (off-the-shelf HW)
- Software: 0\$ (Open Source)
- Task: Proxy GSM-network  $\leftrightarrow$  GSM-phone
- Range pprox 35km

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# Malicious Browser (MITB) & Fake GSM Base Transceiver (MITS) *Dedicated Hardware*

#### Logic

• MITB informs MITS to withold every second SMS:

receipt generator  $\mapsto$  voter's phone

voter votes in an e-voting session (via MITB).

ightarrow Silent Vote Update

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Attack

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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

## Statement

Introduction of smart-phone technology results in a new environment with strong impact on the security model

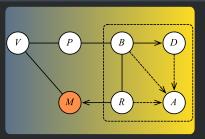
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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

## The Norwegian E-Voting System...

#### Introduction of Smart-Phone Technology to the Norwegian System



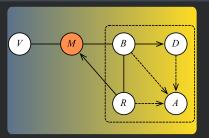
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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

## The Norwegian E-Voting System...

#### Introduction of Smart-Tablet Technology to the Norwegian System



Attack

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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

## Enhanced Adversary model

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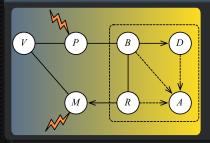
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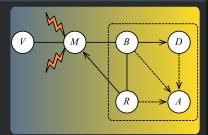
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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

## Malicious Browser & SMS-App

1

Web-Buddy (MITB) & SMS-Buddy (MITS) Demonstrated live @ SIC <sup>1</sup> 2013

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Attack

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Controlling the SMS-Channel: Application-Layer

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→ Silent Vote Update

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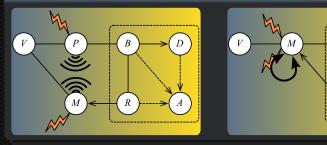
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Attack ○○○○○○○○○○●○○○○○ Conclusion

Adversarial Communication

## 'Silent-Channel' communication

#### How They Communicate



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Attack ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ Conclusion

Adversarial Communication

## Channel: SMS-App $\leftrightarrow$ Browser

#### How They Communicate

None SMS-App is programmed to block every second SMS from receipt generator

Implementation available

Attack ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○ Conclusion

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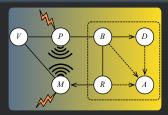
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Adversarial Communication

## Channel: SMS-App $\leftrightarrow$ Browser

#### How They Communicate: Two Devices (Smart-phone, Tablet)



ITB only allowed to use the internet

MITS only allowed to read/write SMS

#### mplementation available

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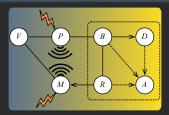
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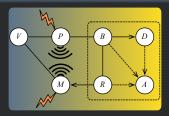
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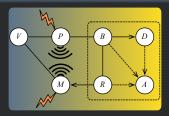
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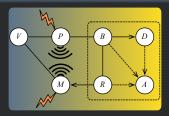
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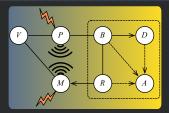
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Adversarial Communication

## Channel: SMS-App $\rightarrow$ Browser

#### How They Communicate: Two Devices (Smart-Phone, Notebook)



Ultra-Sonic MITS broadcasts via loudspeaker MITB listens via microphone

Proof of Concept available

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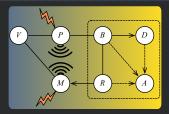
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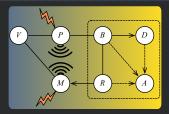
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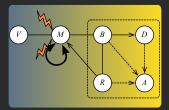
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## Channel: SMS-App $\leftrightarrow$ Browser

### How they communicate: Single device (tablet)



Inter-Process-Communication MITS & MITB on same device (Tablet)

Implementation available (SMS-Buddy, Web-Buddy)

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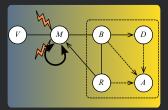
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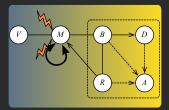
Attack

Conclusion

Adversarial Communication

## Channel: SMS-App $\leftrightarrow$ Browser

### How they communicate: Single device (tablet)



## Inter-Process-Communication MITS & MITB on same device (Tablet)

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Adversarial Infection

### How to Infect the Smart-Phone

Assumption: The browser is already infected

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## How to Void this Attack on the Norwegian E-Voting System

One Vote only...

Reto E. Koenig et al Flawed Verification Code Mechanism...

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Per Voting-Session MinID used to authenticate and authorize voter. Equal to e-banking mTAN. This is no real solution, as Web-Buddy and SMS-Buddy are designed to break e-banking mTAN → attacking MinID

No vote updating ... no successful attack

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Attack ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○● Conclusion

**Counter Meassurements** 

## How to Void this Attack on the Norwegian E-Voting System

Dedicated Hardware Device

shall remain. However, Fake GSM-Attack still poss Secure Display, Secure Keyboard Messages E2E encrypted (over the Internet).

Implementation available: ZTIC(IBM UBS) Cronto-Device (Steven Murdoch) Success-Story available: E-Banking (UBS)

Reto E. Koenig et al

## How to Void this Attack on the Norwegian E-Voting System

Dedicated Hardware Device SMS-Receiver A must, if MinID alike infrastructure shall remain. However, Fake GSM-Attack still possible. Trusted Hardware Token Secure Display, Secure Keyboard Messages E2E encrypted (over the Internet).

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### Smart-Phones Do Not Provide any Out-of-Band Channel

## Stop using smart-phones as trusted device

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### Smart-Phones Do Not Provide any Out-of-Band Channel

# Stop using smart-phones as trusted device

Your system will be grounded by a script kiddie