



Ministry of Foreign Affairs (France)

Validating Internet Voting for the Long Term

Description

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs selected ScytI, in partnership with Atos Origin, to offer a secure Internet voting platform to allow overseas voters to participate in the election of the representatives to the Assembly of the French living Abroad (AFE). 340,000 French voters living in Africa, North America and Latin America were able to cast votes over the Internet to elect their representatives to the AFE in May/June 2009. Poll-site voting was held on June 7, 2009. The AFE will then directly elect 12 Senators who will represent the French living overseas. Voters have also benefited from an online voter registration system that has remained open during the election. The Internet voting platform was available 24/7 to cover the time difference between the continents. This was a high-profile project in France in which ScytI has been selected because of the security, reliability, auditability and trust. The solution answered to high level requirements in terms of confidentiality, safety, audit and respect of the standards.

Objectives

The objective of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to address the difficulties that the overseas citizens have when it comes to participating in the country's electoral processes. A limited amount of polling places abroad and unreliability of foreign mail services have traditionally resulted in a very low participation rate. The objective of this internet voting project was to include more of the overseas citizens to participate in the democratic process, simplifying logistics, save cost, increase security whilst still protecting the privacy of the voters. The 24/7 availability of the e-voting platform - with a 99.7% high level SLA – was part of this main objective.

Another objective was to validate the electronic voting system before allowing all French citizens living abroad to vote through the platform..

Characteristics

ScytI was responsible for supplying and customizing the technology that was used to create the secure e-voting platform. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also contracted an independent company to audit the internet voting solution and to verify its compliance with the recommendations of the CNIL (Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés) in the 3 main steps of the electoral process - before, during and after the election. A risk assessment analysis was also made about the security processes implemented.