Electronic Voting

CS 161: Computer Security Prof. David Wagner

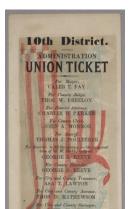
April 18, 2016

Security Goals for an Election

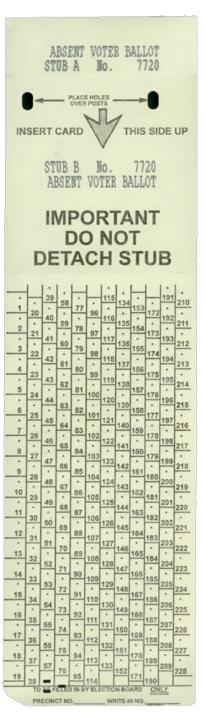
- Integrity: No election fraud
- Transparency: Everyone especially the loser – must be able to verify that the election was conducted appropriately

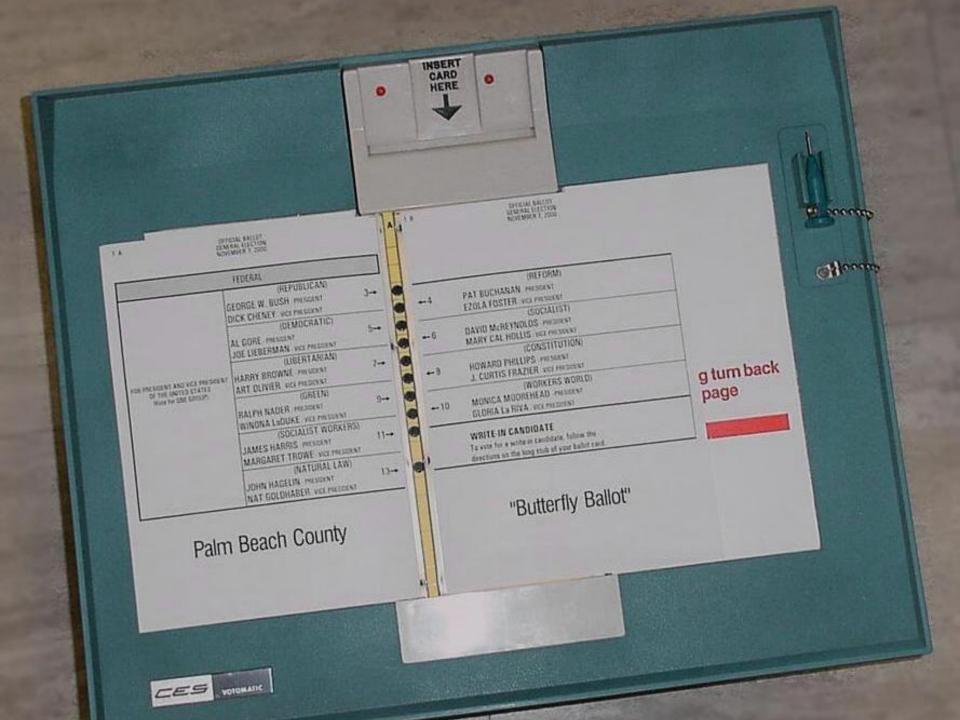


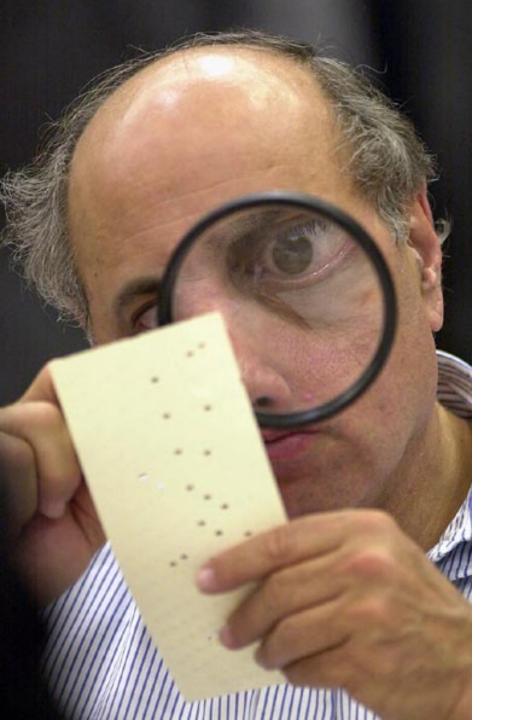
 Privacy: No one learns how the voter has voted



 Secret ballot: Voter cannot prove how she voted





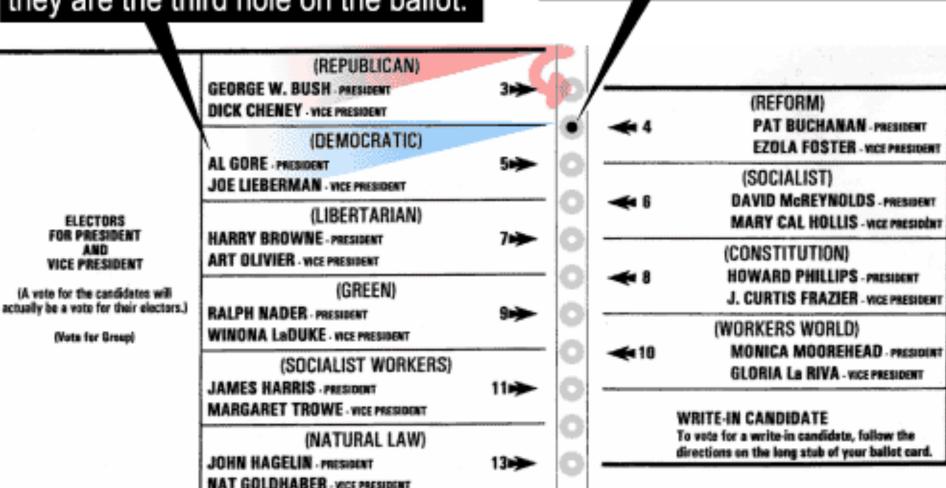


Confusion at Palm Beach County polls

Some Al Gore supporters may have mistakenly voted for Pat Buchanan because of the ballot's design.

Although the Democrats are listed second in the column on the left, they are the third hole on the ballot.

Punching the second hole casts a vote for the Reform party.



Another anomaly during the 2000 election

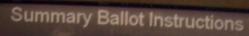
From: Lana Hires

Subject: 2000 November Election

I need some answers! Our department is being audited by the County.

I have been waiting for someone to give me an explanation as to why Precinct 216 gave Al Gore a minus 16022 when it was uploaded. Will someone please explain this so that I have the information to give the auditor instead of standing here "looking dumb".





Press the candidate name or contest title to return to a contest.

Vote button will light up when you may cast your ballot.





Back





Question: What are the security requirements for electronic voting machines?

- 1. Machine must allow each authorized voter to vote exactly once; must prevent tampering with votes after they are cast.
- 2. Machine should be verifiably trustworthy.
- 3. Machine must randomize the order in which votes were cast.
- 4. Machine must not give voter a "receipt".
- Security goals for an election:
 Integrity, Transparency, Privacy, Secret ballot

Nov 4, 2002:

State of Georgia votes on Diebold DREs.

March 18, 2003:

Diebold source code leaks.

July 23, 2003:

Tadayoshi Kohno, Adam Stubblefield, Avi Rubin, Dan Wallach, "Analysis of an Electronic Voting System".

The voter authorization protocol





ACTIVE (0x01)

(record vote)

smartcard

SetStatus CANCELED (0x08)

Status = CANCELED

Succeeded

The voter authorization protocol



```
Querystatus [Are you a valid card?]
```

```
ACTIVE (0x01) [Yup.]
```

(record vote)

smartcard

```
[Please cancel yourself.]
SetStatus CANCELED (0x08)
```

Status = CANCELED

___Succeeded [Ok.]

Attack!

```
QueryStatus

ACTIVE (0x01)
```



(record vote)

SetStatus CANCELED (0x08)

Succeeded malicious

smartcard

QueryStatus
ACTIVE (0x01)

(record another vote)

SetStatus CANCELED (0x08)

Succeeded

Authenticating election officials



What kind of card are you?

An administrator card.



What's the secret PIN?

2301



What's the secret PIN?

2301

Ok, you have admin access.



Source code excerpts

```
#define DESKEY ((des_key*)"F2654hD4")
```

```
DESCBCEncrypt((des_c_block*)tmp,
  (des_c_block*)record.m_Data, totalSize,
  DESKEY, NULL, DES_ENCRYPT);
```

Source code excerpts

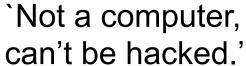
```
// LCG - Linear Congruential Generator -
// used to generate ballot serial numbers
// A psuedo-random-sequence generator
// (per Applied Cryptography, Bruce Schneier)
int lcgGenerator(int lastSN) {
  return ((lastSN*1366) + 150889)%714025;
}
```

"Unfortunately, linear congruential generators cannot be used for cryptography."

— Applied Cryptography, p.369

Vendor reactions







Yes it can!





More than 4,500 North Carolina votes lost because of mistake in voting machine capacity

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP) — More than 4,500 votes have been lost in one North Carolina county because officials believed a computer that stored ballots electronically could hold more data than it did. Scattered other problems may change results in races around the state.

Officials said UniLect Corp., the maker of the county's electronic voting system, told them that each storage unit could handle 10,500 votes, but the limit was actually 3,005 votes.

Machine error gives Bush 3,893 extra votes in Ohio

By John McCarthy, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An error with an electronic voting system gave President Bush 3,893 extra votes in suburban Columbus, elections officials said.

Franklin County's unofficial results had Bush receiving 4,258 votes to Democrat John Kerry's 260 votes in a precinct in Gahanna. Records show only 638 voters cast ballots in that precinct. Bush's total should have been recorded as 365.

Fall 2003, Ohio

"I am committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president."

-- Wally O'Dell

CEO of Diebold











SECRET SOFT WARE SECRET GOVERNMENT



California Top-to-Bottom Review

In 2007, California Secretary of State Debra Bowen commissions a review of California's voting systems.

43 experts (led by David Wagner & Matt Bishop) examine voting systems used nationally.



Technical findings of the CA TTBR

All voting systems examined have serious security problems:

- None followed sound engineering principles expected of security-critical systems.
- All were vulnerable to viral attacks: one outsider could subvert all voting machines countywide

Example flaw (Diebold/Premier system)

Bug: The code that reads data off the memory card has buffer overrun vulnerabilities.

Attack:

- 1. Attacker writes malicious code onto 1 card
- 2. When central PC reads votes off card on election night, it gets infected
- 3. Infected PC writes malicious code onto all cards used in the next election, infecting entire county

Quotes from the reports

"We found pervasive security weaknesses throughout the Sequoia software. Virtually every important software security mechanism is vulnerable to circumvention."

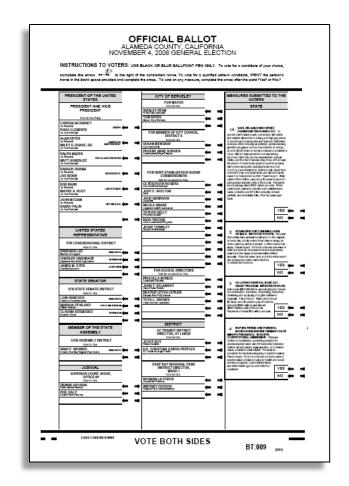
"Our study of the Diebold source code found that the system does not meet the requirements for a security-critical system. It is built upon an inherently fragile design and suffers from implementation flaws that can expose the entire voting system to attacks."

"The Hart software and devices appear to be susceptible to a variety of attacks which would allow an attacker to gain control of some or all of the systems in a county. [..] Many of these attacks can be mounted in a manner that makes them extremely hard to detect and correct. We expect that many of them could be carried out in the field by a single individual, without extensive effort, and without long-term access to the equipment."

Outcome of the CA TTBR

Bowen decertifies most touchscreen e-voting machines and imposes strict new procedural protections.

Result: Most Californians now vote on paper ballots.



Trojan Horses and the Insider Threat



Ronald Dale Harris

Employee, Gaming Control Board, 1983-1995

Arrested, Jan 15,1995 Convicted, Sept 23, 1997, for rigging slot machines

Attempted Trojan Horse in Linux Kernel

```
schedule();
      goto repeat;
if ((options == (__WCLONE|__WALL)) && current->uid = 0))
      retval = -EINVAL;
retval = -ECHILD;
end wait4:
current->state = TASK RUNNING;
```

Cyberattack on Google Said to Hit Password System

By JOHN MARKOFF

Ever since Google disclosed in January that Internet intruders had stolen information from its computers, the exact nature and extent of the theft has been a closely guarded company secret. But a person with direct knowledge of the investigation now says that the losses included one of Google's crown jewels, a password system that controls access by millions of users worldwide to almost all of the company's Web services, including e-mail and business applications.

The program, code named Gaia for the Greek goddess of the earth, was attacked in a lightning raid taking less than two days last December, the person said. Described publicly only once at a technical conference four years ago, the software is intended to enable users and employees to sign in with their password just once to operate a range of services.

Trojan Horses and Voting Machines

Malicious logic hidden by an insider might, e.g., record votes incorrectly to favor one candidate. How would we defend a voting system against this kind of insider threat?

Potential solutions:

Verify that the software is free of Trojans and will work correctly on all future elections.
 (beyond the state of the art)

Voting on Same

Voting on Satan's computer.

 Assume sw might contain Trojans. Verify that sw worked correctly in this particular election. (voter-verified paper records + random audits)



SAMPLE BALLOT

| N.C. STATE SENATE | | DISTRICT COURT JUDGE | AMENDMENT II |
|--|-----|---|---|
| DISTRICT 25 | | DISTRICT COORT JUDGE | AMENDMENTI |
| You may vote for ONE | | You may vote for ONE | Constitutional amendment to provide that the |
| WILLIAM R. (BILL) PURCELL | DEM | ☐ HUNT GWYN | General Assembly may place the clear proceeds of civil penalties, civil forfeitures, an civil fines collected by a State agency in a State fund to be used exclusively for |
| 0- | | DISTRICT COURT JUDGE | |
| N.C. STATE HOUSE | | DISTRICT 20 | maintaining free public schools. |
| DISTRICT 69 | | You may vote for ONE | FOR |
| You may vote for ONE | | C LISA BLUE THACKER | □ AGAINST |
| PRYOR GIBSON | DEM | DISTRICT COURT JUDGE | AMENDMENT III |
| C HILDA L MORTON | REP | DISTRICT 20 | |
| REGISTER OF DEEDS | | You may vote for ONE | Constitutional amendment to provide for the first term of office for magistrates of the |
| You may vote for ONE | | C TANYA WALLACE | General Court of Justice to be two years and |
| JOANNE S. HUNTLEY | DEM | DISTRICT COURT JUDGE | for subsequent terms to be four years. |
| NON PARTISAN OFFICES | | DISTRICT 20 | FOR |
| | | You may vote for ONE | □ AGAINST |
| Non partisan offices are not included in Straight Party voting and must be voted | | W. DAVID McSHEEHAN | |
| separately to be counted. | | JOSEPH J. WILLIAMS | |
| | | NON PARTISAN OFFICES | 1 |
| ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF | | Additional instructions to Voter | 1 |
| SUPREME COURT | | | 1 |
| You may vote for ONE | | If you wish to write in a name for any of the following offices, write the name in the blank | 1 |
| SARAH PARKER | | space provided and completely fill in the oval | 1 |
| O JOHN M. TYSON | | to the left of the name in order for your vote to count. | 1 |
| ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF | | COURL. | |
| SUPREME COURT | | BROWN CREEK | 1 |
| You may vote for ONE | | SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT | |
| RONNIE ANSLEY | | SUPERVISOR | |
| C RACHELLEA HUNTER | | You may vote for ONE | |
| → HOWARD E. MANNING, JR. | | JOHN C. SPRINGER | |
| ○ BETSY McCRODDEN | | | - |
| FRED MORRISON, JR. | | STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA | 1 |
| PAUL MARTIN NEWBY | | CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS | 1 |
| MARVIN SCHILLER | | AMENDMENT I | |
| JAMES A. WYNN, JR. | | Constitutional amendment to promote local | |
| JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS | | economic and community development projects by (i) permitting the General Assembly to enact | |
| You may vote for ONE | | general laws giving counties, cities, and towns the | |
| C LINDA MoGEE | | power to finance public improvements associated with qualified private economic and community | |
| ◯ BILL PARKER | _ | improvements within development districts, as long as the financing is secured by the additional tax | |
| JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS You may vote for ONE | | revenues resulting from the enhanced property | |
| | | value within the development district and is not secured by a pledge of the local government's faith | |
| ○ WANDA G. BRYANT ○ ALICE C. STUBBS | | and credit or general taxing authority, which financing is not subject to a referendum; and (ii) | |
| | 1 | permitting the owners of property in the | |
| JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS You may vote for ONE | | development district to agree to a minimum tax value for their property, which is binding on future | |
| BARBARA JACKSON | | owners as long as the development district is in existence. FOR | |
| ALAN THORNBURG | | | |
| The state of the s | - 1 | ☐ AGAINST | |
| DISTRICT COLIST HISCS | | | |
| DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 20 | | | 1 |
| DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 20 You may vote for ONE | | TURN OVER TO | , |





Statistical audit

- After election, randomly choose 1% of machines and manually recount the paper records on those machines. If paper count ≠ electronic count, there was fraud.
- If » 100 machines cheat, detection is likely.
 Consequently: If paper count = electronic count, then no more than ~100 machines cheated.

Prover (Elec. Official)

The tallies are t₁, ..., t_n

Show me the paper for machine i.

(voter-verified paper audit trail)

Verifier (skeptical voter)

Conclusions

- E-voting security is hard, but...
- E-voting can be made secure and trustworthy, if it can be audited.

- Technical principles:
 - Two-person control, separation of duties
 - Statistical audit
 - Security against malicious insiders

Lessons

- Understand security requirements before you design & deploy an information system.
- Independent review is valuable.
- Sometimes technical threats can be handled through non-technical defenses.
- Seek independent, end-to-end checks that the system is working properly.
- Securing systems against malicious insiders is extremely challenging.
- Business structure determines the technology that is built & deployed. If buyers cannot measure how secure a product is, be prepared for market failures.

Extra Material



Can I get a volunteer?

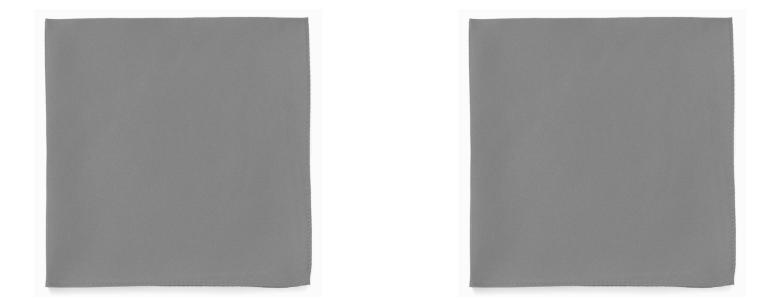
Interactive proofs





Here are two cloths.

Interactive proofs



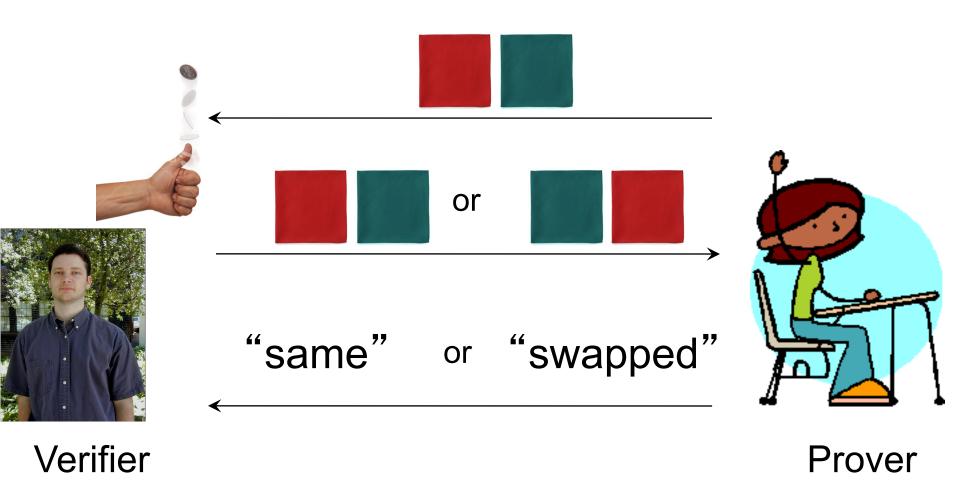
Imagine that I am red-green color-blind...

Interactive proofs



How could you prove to me that you can distinguish the red cloth from the green cloth, if I am red-green color-blind?

An interactive proof



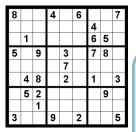
Sudoku

| 8 | | | 4 | | 6 | | | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 4 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | 6 | 5 | |
| 5 | | 9 | | 3 | | 7 | 8 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| | 5 | 2 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | 9 | | 2 | | | 5 |

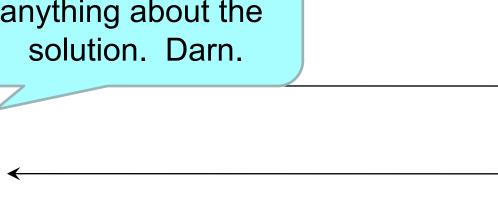
Sudoku

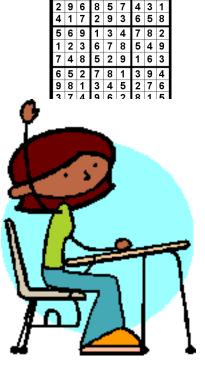
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 |

Goal: Prove the puzzle is solvable



But I haven't learned anything about the solution. Darn.





Verifier

Prover

You prepare your proof

| 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7 | - | | | 0 | 9 | _ | • |
| 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 |

| 8 | | | 4 | | 6 | | | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 4 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | 6 | 5 | |
| 5 | | 9 | | 3 | | 7 | 8 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| | 5 | 2 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | 9 | | 2 | | | 5 |

| 1 | \rightarrow | е |
|---|---------------|---|
| 2 | \rightarrow | h |

$$3 \rightarrow c$$

$$4 \rightarrow f$$

$$5 \rightarrow i$$

$$6 \rightarrow d$$

$$7 \rightarrow b$$

$$8 \rightarrow a$$

$$9 \rightarrow g$$

You prepare your proof

| а | С | i | f | е | d | g | h | b |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| h | g | d | а | i | b | f | С | е |
| f | е | b | h | g | С | d | i | a |
| i | d | g | е | С | f | b | а | h |
| е | h | С | d | b | а | i | f | g |
| b | f | a | ·= | h | g | е | d | C |
| d | i | h | b | а | е | С | g | f |
| g | а | е | С | f | i | h | b | d |
| C | b | f | g | d | h | а | е | i |

| 8 | | | 4 | | 6 | | | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 4 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | 6 | 5 | |
| 5 | | 9 | | 3 | | 7 | 8 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| | 5 | 2 | | | | | 9 | |
| | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | 9 | | 2 | | | 5 |

| 1 | \rightarrow | е |
|---|---------------|---|
| 2 | \rightarrow | h |

$$3 \rightarrow c$$

$$4 \rightarrow f$$

$$5 \rightarrow i$$

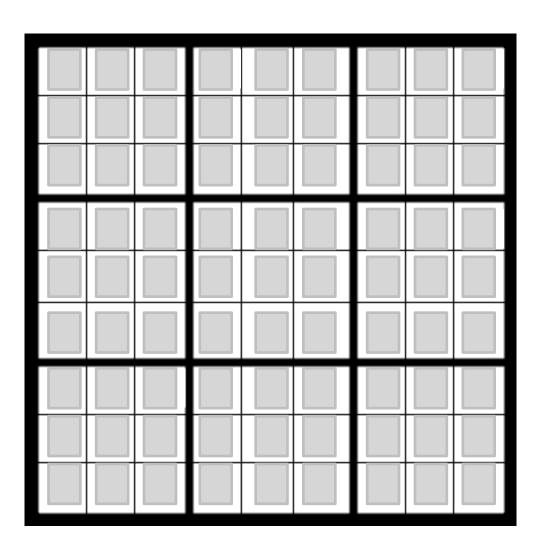
$$6 \rightarrow d$$

$$7 \rightarrow b$$

$$8 \rightarrow a$$

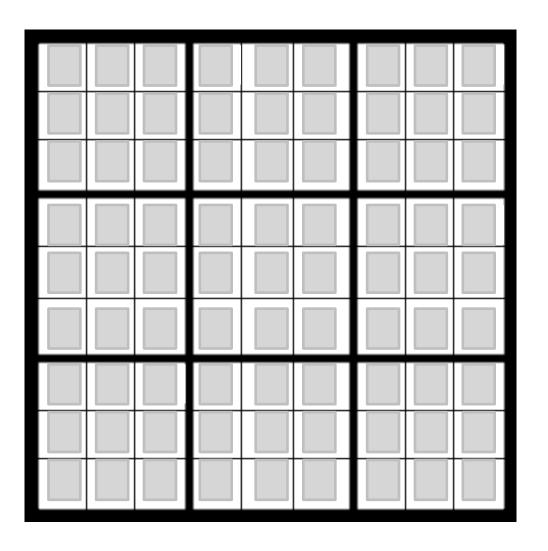
$$9 \rightarrow g$$

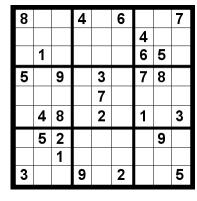
You prepare your proof



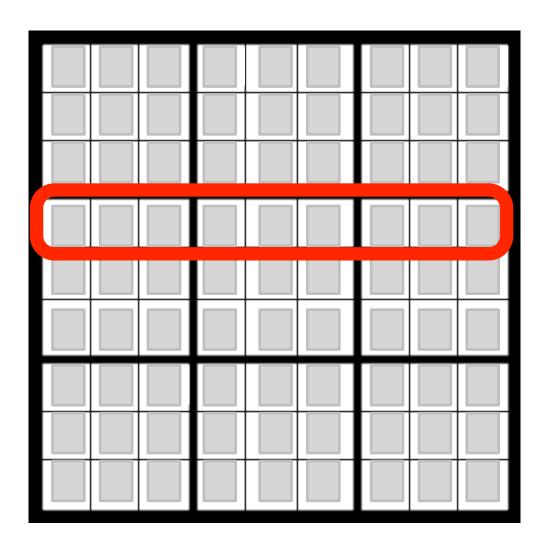
| | | 6 | | | 7 |
|---|---|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | | 4 | | |
| | | | 6 | 5 | |
| | 3 | | 7 | 8 | |
| | 7 | | | | |
| | 2 | | 1 | | 3 |
| | | | | 9 | |
| | | | | | |
| 9 | | 2 | | | 5 |
| | 9 | 3 7 2 | 2 | 3 7 7 2 1 | 6 5 3 7 8 7 2 1 9 |

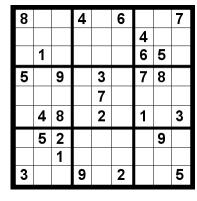
My turn: I keep you honest



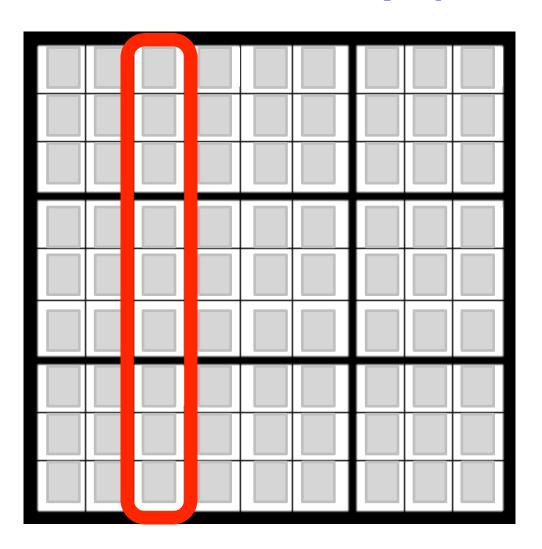


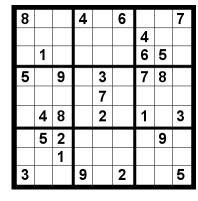
My turn: I keep you honest (option 1)



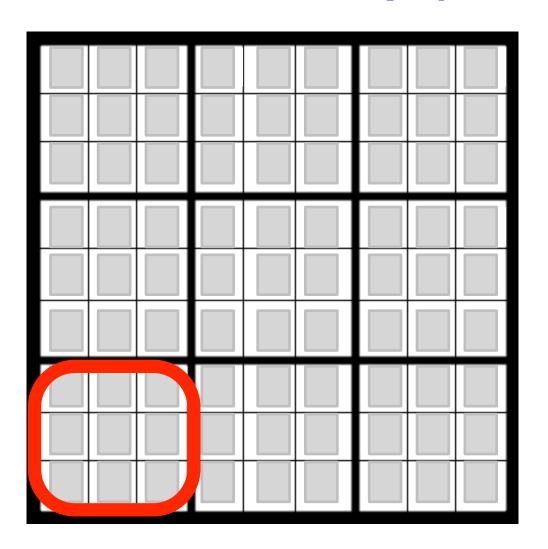


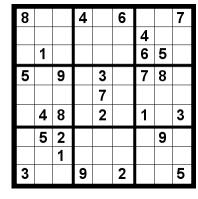
My turn: I keep you honest (option 2)



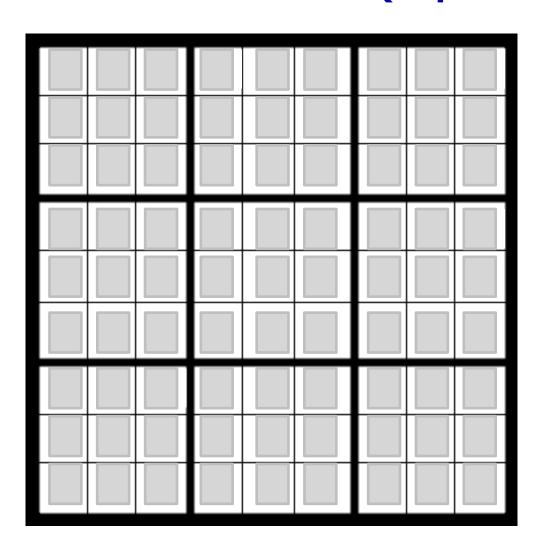


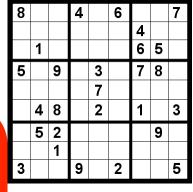
My turn: I keep you honest (option 3)



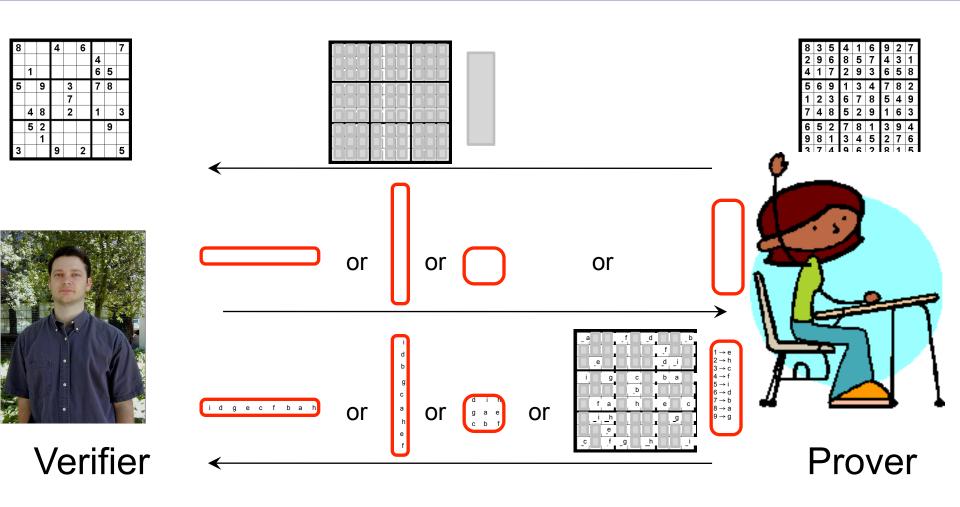


My turn: I keep you honest (option 4)



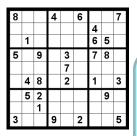


Zero-knowledge proof: puzzle is solvable

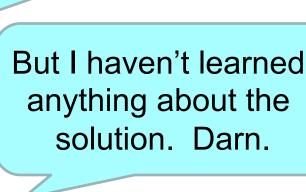


Repeat 1000 times

Goal: Prove the puzzle is solvable



I'm convinced!
It can be solved!





Verifier

Prover

Summary

Alice can prove to Dave that the Sudoku puzzle has a solution.

Dave gains zero knowledge about the solution.

Sudoku isn't special:

Theorem. If I can prove it, I can prove it to you without revealing the proof.

Summary

Theorem. If I can prove it, I can prove it to you without revealing the proof.

Electronic voting



For 25% of overseas and military voters, their vote doesn't count, because the mail is too slow and unreliable.

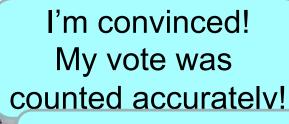


Electronic voting

What about voting over the Internet?

It solves the problem with the mail, but introduces new problems: how do we trust or verify the result?

Research: Trustworthy Remote Voting



And no one else can learn how I voted.



Voter (Verifier)

Server (Prover)