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Election Security Pilot Event Convenes Builders and Breakers

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 20, 2023 – The <u>Information Technology - Information Sharing Analysis Center</u> (IT-ISAC) hosted a first-of-its-kind pilot event, the Election Security Research Forum, from September 18 - 20 to strengthen U.S. elections. Hosted at <u>MITRE</u> Corporation, this program culminates 5 years of planning by the IT-ISAC's <u>Elections Industry Special Interest Group</u> (EI-SIG) and an independent advisory board composed of security researchers, security companies, nonprofits, and former state and local election officials.

As part of the forum, election technology manufacturers provided trusted security researchers access to modern election technology with newly developed and not yet fielded configurations of resident software under the principles of <u>coordinated vulnerability disclosure</u> (CVD). The robust offering collectively included digital scanners, ballot marking devices, and electronic pollbooks with a primary focus on the technology that voters may encounter at a polling site.

The event built relationships between security researchers and election technology providers, which will bolster the security and resilience of voting technology and increase overall voter confidence in U.S. elections in the immediate and longer term.

"This forum was a long time in the making and we are grateful and thrilled that it has come together. We are thankful to each election systems provider, researcher, and advisory board member who has worked tirelessly to make this happen," said **Scott Algeier, Executive Director of the IT-ISAC**. "The experience and lessons learned from the last three days are invaluable to the elections industry and to democracy. We look forward to the lasting relationships this forum has provided and what the future holds for more Election Security Research Forums."

During the event, researchers were given access to election technology from Elections Systems & Software (ES&S), Hart InterCivic, and Unisyn Voting Solutions for a day and a half at MITRE Corporation in McLean, Virginia. MITRE and its National Election Security Lab (NESL) were essential partners in bringing these diverse stakeholders together and ensuring the safety and

security of the equipment used. The <u>Center for Internet Security</u> provided financial support to cover the travel expenses of researchers.

The forum also enabled the security researchers to engage with the individuals and companies who create these essential systems. The three-day event concluded with discussions on the various components of America's election infrastructure and explored how to leverage the momentum of the event to improve the security and resilience of elections.

The advisory board who worked with the EI-SIG to advance this event included:

- Jared Dearing, Center for Internet Security
- Casey John Ellis, Co-Founder and CTO, Bugcrowd
- Matthew Masterson, Microsoft
- Chloé Messdaghi, Head of Threat Research at Protect Al
- Jennifer Morrell, CEO & Co-Founder, The Elections Group
- Alex Rice, Co-Founder and CTO, HackerOne
- Michael A. Specter, Security Researcher
- Trevor Timmons, Chief Technology Officer, The Elections Group

Additional information or inquiries about the Election Security Research Forum can be directed to the contact listed above.

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ABOUT IT-ISAC: Founded in 2000, the Information Technology - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IT-ISAC) is a non-profit organization that augments member companies' internal capabilities by providing them access to curated cyber threat analysis, an intelligence management platform, and a trusted forum to engage with senior analysts from peer companies.

ABOUT EI-SIG: The Elections Industry Special Interest Group (EI-SIG) is a part of the IT-ISAC and supports voting technology providers by giving them an industry-only forum to share information about threats to their enterprises and systems and collaborate on election security challenges.

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