

commission. As a result, it is unclear when the results of these initiatives will be available to assist state and local election authorities.

Nongovernmental Initiatives Are Intended to Improve Voting System Security and Reliability

In addition to federal initiatives, initiatives by various nongovernmental organizations nationwide have been established to address the security and reliability of voting systems. Professional organizations, academic institutions, and citizen advocacy groups have initiatives that affect several areas of the voting system life cycle, particularly product development, acquisition, standards, and management. Selected initiatives include (1) developing open designs for voting system products; (2) identifying issues and key questions to be considered by consumers of electronic voting systems; (3) defining international standards; and (4) supporting more effective management, including collecting, cataloging, and analyzing problems experienced during elections. Table 3 summarizes key initiatives.

Table 3: Nongovernmental Initiatives to Improve Voting System Security and Reliability

Initiative	Organization	Product or activity	Status
Product development			
Prototype for an open-source electronic voting application	Open Voting Consortium	Developed a prototype for an open-source electronic voting application that uses commercial hardware and operating system components and provides (1) an electronic voting machine that prints a paper ballot, (2) a ballot verification station that scans the paper ballot and lets a voter hear the selections, and (3) an application to tally the paper ballots.	Continuing to add functionality to prototype. No specific timetable.
A Modular Voting Architecture	Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project	Proposed an approach for building additional security features into electronic voting systems through an alternative voting system architecture.	Completed August 2001. Available for implementation.
Acquisition			
A Framework for Understanding Electronic Voting	National Academy of Sciences' Computer Science and Telecommunications Board	Defining questions to help policy makers, election officials, and the interested public understand the technology, social, and operational issues relevant to electronic voting, including security issues.	Publication expected in fall 2005.
Relative performance of voting system classes	Brennan Center for Justice	Started an independent assessment of electronic voting system security and plans to develop a report describing the relative performance of each class of voting systems.	To be completed in fall 2005.