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BLOGGED BY Brad ON 11/2/2006 3:32AM
HERE WE GO AGAIN: 'Just Push the Yellow Button and Vote as Many Times as You Want' on Sequoia Touch-Screen Voting Machines!
New Vulnerability Discovered on Touch-Screen Systems Made by One of Country's Largest Voting Machine Companies Will Affect Elections in Dozens of States!
California's Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Denies Knowledge of Vulnerability Well After His Office Had Been Notified...



"Just push the yellow button and you can vote as many times as you want," Tom Courbat, an Election Integrity advocate from Riverside County, California informed [The BRAD BLOG](#) tonight. Not that we're in any mood to report more such stories, but this seems to be a big

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one. A very big one.

It seems there's a little yellow button on the back of every touch-screen computer made by [Sequoia Voting Systems](#), that allows any voter, or poll worker, or precinct inspector to set the system into "Manual Mode" allowing them to cast as many votes as they want.

Concerns about the flaw were first reported some thirty days ago to California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson's office by Ron Watt, a Tehama County, CA precinct inspector who has been a poll worker in the county for the last fifteen years. And yet, as recently as a [radio interview](#) last Tuesday, McPherson — who has been crowing about having the country's most stringent security process for voting systems — denied he was aware of any security issues with Sequoia systems.



"They didn't care about it," Watt told us tonight about his "late September or early October" discussion with McPherson's voting systems chief Bruce McDannold. "He said he didn't think it was an important issue. He said I don't believe this is really a vulnerability."

Watt and Courbat disagreed and placed another phone call to the SoS' office on Friday after Watt received a copy of Sequoia's "Poll Workers Guide, Booklet #5: Troubleshooting" via a public records request in Tehama. On pages 19 through 22 of the booklet — which is marked as "Confidential and Proprietary" — he confirmed the simple manual override to the system. He'd learned about it years earlier and the new manuals confirmed that button was still in place. Even in the latest models of the Sequoia Edge voting systems (both models 1 and 2).

The complete sequence to override the system and enter manual voting mode, along with the Sequoia booklet received via Watt's public records request, is now [posted here at BlackBoxVoting.org](#).

Watt had been taught to be a poll worker trainer by [De La Rue](#), the former parent company of Sequoia, years ago when the systems were first brought into the county. The two men placed a conference call with McDannold last Friday after receiving the booklet. McDannold again reportedly downplayed the concerns, but said "he'd look into it," according to Courbat.



He called Courbat back on Monday afternoon to say Sequoia technicians had been in the SoS office and had confirmed the vulnerability. *(A complete transcript of McDannold's Monday phone message left on Courbat's cell phone, confirming the security issue and describing the actions — or lack thereof — being taken, is at end of this article.)*

Sequoia's voting machines are perhaps the most widely used in California, in some 19 different counties, including both Tehama and



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Riverside, which is known as the "Home of E-Voting" as it was the first county in the nation to deploy such systems. But identical Sequoia machines are also used in dozens of other states around the country including Florida, Illinois and elsewhere.

Thanks to the diligence of Watt and Courbat, it is now *confirmed* that *all* such systems are completely vulnerable to virtually anyone who wishes to cast as many votes as they please.

"I can do it in 18 seconds," says Watt. "I can train you to do it in 3 minutes. Just push the yellow button, wait 3 seconds and it chimes. Push the yellow button again, wait 3 seconds and it chimes again. Then it's all on the screen prompts. You're asked 'Do you want to enter manual mode?' and you push 'Yes'...And then you're on your way."

"You can then vote as many times as you want. You won't ever have to stop until someone physically restrains you from voting," he explained.

"But wouldn't someone hear the chime?" we asked...

"No, it's barely audible. Quieter than the beep on your computer when it boots up. The systems are usually kept up against the wall to be near a power outlet and away from the poll workers for privacy. Plus, if you really wanted to pull it off, just come in with a friend and have them talk to the poll workers to distract them. Nobody would ever know."



McDannold's message left on Courbat's cell phone Monday confirming the issue. "Sequoia was actually in here this morning giving us a demonstration of the feature and how it works and how you would set it up and put it into that mode," said McDannold.

He claimed that the SoS office had then contacted all California counties using the Sequoia Edge and said "they are all doing poll worker training" and "putting signs up to warn people about the severe penalties for tampering with voting equipment uh which is would fall under— most of them are putting signs actually on the machines."

"They are also being very conscious of the placement of the equipment so that they can observe, actually many of them are - have already planned to assign staff members to do nothing but just watch the machines for that purpose to make sure ah nobody is reaching around or doing anything," McDannold explained on the recorded message.



COURBAT

"It's not the voters we're worried about doing this," Courbat said. "It's the Precinct Captains and Elections Officials across thousands of precincts across the country. This isn't unique to Riverside or Tehama. Tens of thousands of votes can be stolen across the country," he added.

Courbat was furious at Sec. of State McPherson, who has been touting his record on security issues for

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voting systems on the campaign trail. A record, we might add, that seems to have little in common with McPherson's frequent public claims. He has certified system after system in the Golden State despite scores of vulnerabilities, inaccuracies, failures and malfunctions found in each of them.

McPherson is currently in a tight race with his Democratic challenger, State Sen. [Debra Bowen](#), who has been a long time champion of Election Integrity and security issues, as well as transparency for such systems and in government as a whole. She has also been critical of McPherson's lax security standards, such as allowing hackable Diebold voting systems to be sent home with poll workers on "sleepovers" for days and weeks prior to elections despite serious vulnerabilities, more than 16, found by McPherson's own team of computer scientist advisors at UC Berkley.

"If McPherson says he didn't know about this on Tuesday during that interview, *after* his office had been notified long ago, then he's lying," Courbat charged. "McPherson *had* to know by Monday. He either knew about it or his staff never told him, in which case they need to be *fired* on the spot."

But if Watt knew about this vulnerability for years himself, why didn't he say something prior to 30 days ago?

"Ya know, I always thought people were honest. I really did," he told us during tonight's phone call. "I didn't really think anybody would exploit something like this. I just thought the best of people. But now I feel differently. After this last election, the Primary Election on June 6th, I saw things I couldn't believe. After all this talk about security for these systems, and chain of custody stuff...I saw the chain of custody issues just thrown right out the window in Tehama County," he said.

"Maybe it was naiveté before, I don't know. But after what I saw in that election, it just suddenly dawned on me. We've got a very serious problem here."

###

The transcript of the phone message left by Bruce McDannold on Tom Courbat's cell phone follows in full...

T-R-A-N-S-C-R-I-P-T

10-30-06 Voice Mail Message from Bruce McDannold – CA Secretary of State’s Office, 4:34 p.m. [2 minutes, 40 seconds duration] left on cell phone of Tom Courbat.

Yes, Mr. Courbat. Bruce McDannold from the uh Secretary of State’s office. We spoke Friday night and I just wanted to get back in touch with you.

Since we spoke, we have ah reviewed the information. Sequoia was actually in here this morning giving us a demonstration uh of the feature and how it works and how you would set it up and put it into that mode [the manual mode that allows continuous voting on any

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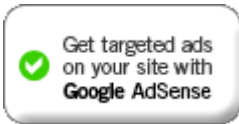
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Sequoia Edge I or Edge II machine]. We've reviewed it with them and have to at least notice or note that that's not an easy thing to reach around and go through that sequence unobserved.

We've also spoken with all the counties ah that are Sequoia users today and verified they were all aware of that as a feature for the backup purposes, of course, that we discussed and why that feature was put in. Uh, they're all aware of it, they have all of them been training their staff and are continuing to train their staff and their poll workers on observing that and watching the equipment um during the day for uh any use of that system or people reaching around certainly or too long in the voting booth or the audio beep that it automatically emits every time you try to put it in that mode there's also an audio warning that goes with that so, you know, it's an important kind of mitigation being aware.

They are all doing poll worker training ah they're all putting signs up to warn people about the severe penalties for tampering with voting equipment uh which is would fall under--- most of them are putting signs actually on the machines. They are also being very conscious of the placement of the equipment so that they can observe, actually many of them are - have already planned to assign staff members to do nothing but just watch the machines for that purpose to make sure ah nobody is reaching around or doing anything.

And then of course, um a final important component is, they're all required to do balloting accounting afterwards to verify and demonstrate that no one has ah tampered with the machines or put any extra votes on it. So ah we're confident at this point that there are effective mitigation strategies out there --- everybody's clear that the essential [potential?] danger and alert to it, confident that it won't be affecting the election. Hopefully that answers your questions and puts you at a little more at ease. If you have any further questions or want to get back in touch with me, my number of course is 916-653-7244.

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(33 Responses so far...)

COMMENT #1 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... [THE_ZAPKITTY](#) said on 11/2/2006 @ 5:32 am PT...

To hell with the Red Pill!
 To hell with the Blue Pill!
 I want the Yellow Button!

And then bring me... the bore worms.

COMMENT #2 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... [JUDGE OF JUDGES](#) said on 11/2/2006 @ 5:48 am PT...

Paperless Voting is Like a Paperless Toilet & is
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COMMENT #3 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... [GTASH](#) said on 11/2/2006 @ 6:35 am PT...

I am too lazy to go read the manuals, but I have to wonder: why is there a manual override button in the first place? I mean one that allows continuous voting, screen after screen, vote after vote? The location and accessibility of the button suggests that it is a kind of re-boot switch for machines that lock-up. But to allow continuous, successive votes on reset doesn't make sense to me.

COMMENT #4 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... [JUDGE OF JUDGES](#) said on 11/2/2006 @ 7:23 am PT...


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FBI in Maryland
<http://baltimore.bizjour...aily27.html?surround=lfm>
http://www.examiner.com/...y_at_polling_places.html

COMMENT #6 [[Permalink](#)]
... *JUDGE OF JUDGES* said on 11/2/2006 @ 7:44 am PT...

#5 Amy - Ya, bush's nazi gestapo will be @ the polls . . .
.. to insure fascist control . . .

COMMENT #7 [[Permalink](#)]
... *JOAN* said on 11/2/2006 @ 7:47 am PT...

Jeezus Christmas!
Are we sure this is not some Monty Python PARODY of American elections?? Because it is sure beginning to sound like one.
Unfreakingbelievable. Follow the yellow brick road & push the yellow button, kids.

Well, before I was knocked for a loop by this yellow button business, I really wanted to share THIS, which is o.t. but about damn time SOMEBODY investigated them for SOMETHING:

"..Two federal agencies are investigating whether the Bush administration tried to block government scientists from speaking freely about global warming and censor their research, a senator said Wednesday.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg [D-NJ] said...[that]...the Commerce Department and NASA had begun "coordinated, sweeping investigations of the Bush administration's censorship and suppression" of federal research into global warming..."

COMMENT #8 [[Permalink](#)]
... *SKPETIC94514* said on 11/2/2006 @ 7:53 am PT...

So what happens if I vote 100 times, do I get 100 Receipts? So much for paper trails.....hmmm.

If this is organized, than 3000 people overvote, 100 per machine for Arnold Schwarzenegger (or another candidate) and guess what?
300000 votes for Arnold

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- ["Take Your Country Back" Video](#)
- ["Wrong Choice" Video](#)
- ["Anything to Win" Video](#)
- ["Bush Priceless" Video Ad](#)
- ["W=Wrong" Video Ad](#)

- Other 2004 Must See Video...**
- [Rumsfeld Busted on TV!](#)
 - [The Movie Bush Does Not Want You to See!](#)
 - [Grand Theft America](#)
 - [Sleeping through Bush \(Letterman\)](#)
 - [150 Top "Bush in 30 Seconds" Videos](#)
 - [Bush on OB-GYN's](#)
 - [Bush's Mis-State of the Union](#)
 - [How Bush Did in Delaware #1](#)
 - [Running on the Bush Record](#)
 - [Lone Wolf](#)
 - [Start Over!](#)
 - [Jon Stewart on Crossfire](#)
 - [Asshole](#)

- A Few Great Blogs...**
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 - [Baghdad Burning](#)
 - [blogACTIVE](#)
 - [Bob Geiger](#)
 - [CannonFire](#)
 - [Crooks and Liars](#)
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 - [Nashua Advocate](#)
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- [Mark Foley](#) (10)

We have a Republican running California again!
And the handcount agrees!

The only issue is the overvote.

Look for that pattern..... but that would never happen.

COMMENT #9 [[Permalink](#)]

... *PAUL LEHTO said on 11/2/2006 @ 8:22 am PT...*

What did they know and when did they know it? (the elections officials that is). SURELY, Sequoia is fully aware of the design features of its equipment at all times, the question is one of disclosure of this defect, primarily.

Brad, I think it's worth your time a bit and Tom's time to continue to nail this one down. I can tell you when I knew it: in a couple weeks it will be the two year anniversary of my own yellow button discovery.

COMMENT #10 [[Permalink](#)]

... *JOAN said on 11/2/2006 @ 8:30 am PT...*

#5 Amy,

Re your first link, does anyone know this Maryland attorney, Rod Rosenstein? I notice he said:
"We will review all allegations [of election fraud] in a nonpartisan manner and pursue any evidence that warrants criminal prosecution."

While it sounds like mighty good news that "...the Maryland U.S. Attorney's office said Wednesday that federal prosecutors and FBI agents are prepared to review and investigate allegations of election fraud...", I have a few dozen questions, such as



Will they only be looking at Maryland? And only at current allegations? What about the truckload of allegations from other states & other elections?

Brad, I hear Maryland is lovely this time of year....

COMMENT #11 [[Permalink](#)]

... *JOHN WRIGHT said on 11/2/2006 @ 8:32 am PT...*

I thought that I had already heard it all. Now, a yellow button on the back of voting machines....just there for overriding votes, or voting as often as you want? The integrity of the American election process is gone!!!

- [Kangaroo](#)
- [Talking Points Memc](#)
- [Tom Tomorrow](#)
- [Toolz of the New Sch](#)
- [TPM Muckraker](#)
- [TV Newser](#)
- [We Do Not Consent](#)
- Other Sites of Note...
- [RAW STORY](#)
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- [VoterAction](#) (15)
- [Voting System](#)

John Wright
Oakland Park, FL

COMMENT #12 [[Permalink](#)]
... TOMR said on 11/2/2006 @ 8:46 am PT...

I can't believe they are still going forward with using these machines for the election. What would it take for a machine to be considered disqualified?

Note to self: check for yellow button on ATMs. Mmmmm, free cash.

- Tom

COMMENT #13 [[Permalink](#)]
... FLORIDIOT said on 11/2/2006 @ 8:54 am PT...

TomR said, "What would it take for a machine to be considered disqualified?"

Answer: a big hammer hole in it

COMMENT #14 [[Permalink](#)]
... BLUEBEAR2 said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:02 am PT...

Joan #7

Thanks for the tip about the Commerce Department and NASA.

You may be interested in [This](#)

COMMENT #15 [[Permalink](#)]
... ROB said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:10 am PT...

Hallelujah! This is it, our big chance! Now the Democrats can WIN!

Only evil terrorist-comforting blogs like this one will report this voting machine flaw. America-loving sites like RedState, etc., will not. So only us evil Defeatocrats will know about the yellow button. Ha ha ha!!!

Get out and vote, fellow terrorist comforters, and PUSH THAT BUTTON!

- [Chan Lowe](#)
 - [Paul Conrad](#)
 - [Jeff Danziger](#)
 - [Ted Rall](#)
 - [Doug Marlette](#)
 - [Tony Auth](#)
 - [Stuart Carlson](#)
 - [Bill Deore](#)
 - [Doonesbury](#)
 - [The Boondocks](#)
 - [Not Banned Yet](#)
 - [This Modern World](#)
 - [Non Sequitur](#)
 - [Glenn McCoy](#)
 - [Thomas Burns](#)
 - [Joel Pett](#)
 - [Cagle's Index](#)
- About Brad Friedman. Brad is a freelance writer, investigative citizen journalist/blogger.

Just some of the many notable national stories broken on his blog include ["The White House We Scrubbing"](#), the ["Tom Feeney/Clint Curtis/Y&A Enterprises Vote-Rigging Scandal"](#), the story of the phony GOP front group ["American Center for Voting Rights"](#), the [E-Voting Machine "Sleepover" controversy](#), San Diego's Busby/Bil U.S. House Special Election and his continuing coverage of Electronic Voting Machine companies such as [Diebold](#) who are destroying American democracy. He has been reporting on other stories closely related to Elect Integrity since at least November 3rd, 2004.

Reports and breaking news from his popular website [The BRAD BLOG](#), are frequently cited by the national media, and can be read at www.BradBlog.com.

He has appeared on AI

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- [War On Terror](#) (15)
- [Washington Post](#) (4)
- [Washington Times](#) (1)
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- [Whistleblowers](#) (6)
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COMMENT #16 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... **SEND \$\$\$ TO BRADBLOG - TO STOP THE FRAUD**
- **OLDTURK said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:11 am PT...**

The "CHIME" the "AUDIBLE SIGNAL" that is activated when the yellow manual over ride button is pushed can be easily circumvented so that the "CHIME" noise does not alert election monitors. If the Sequoia electronic voting machine has an earphone jack and it is inserted this will shut off the chime sound from coming through the built in speakers. The audible signal to alert the election monitor has now been by passed,.. one is now free to tamper with the equipment to enter multiple votes. The election has now been fraudulently been mucked with,.. the count of the vote becomes bogus,.. everyone remains clueless of the fraud having been perpetrated.

COMMENT #17 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... **BLUEBEAR2 said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:16 am PT...**

In the past I have joked about flinging shoes and other objects at my TV over various subjects.

Well last night it happened for real. CBS Nightly News was on and Katie Couric brought on a story on electronic voting machines.

I thought "great the MSM is picking up on it" Well as the report went along they talked about poll worker errors, voter errors, etc. etc. The only mention of machine errors or fraud was to bring on a Diebold rep to proclaim how their machines were the most secure of all and how they have been certified as such all over the country.

At that point a slice of 4 cheese pepperoni pizza left a greasy skid mark across the screen.

My dog thought it was great!

COMMENT #18 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... **JOEL said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:30 am PT...**

Is it possible they just track every vote made by manual mode and have to have a corresponding paper ballot? Maybe every time a manual vote is processed, there is a special audit trail?

COMMENT #19 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... **SEND \$\$\$ TO BRADBLOG - TO STOP THE FRAUD**

News, CNN and Court to discuss his reporting expertise on a variety of issues.

He has written articles editorials for *Mother Jones*, *Editor & Publisher*, *Columbus Free Press*, *Salon.com*, *TruthOut.com* Harvard's Nieman Foundation of Journalism *Hustler* and other non-pornographic publications and websites.

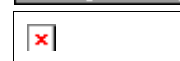
In addition to live speaking engagements around the country, Brad is also the host of [The BRAD SHOW](#) a radio program co-produced with Internet news site [RAW STORY](#). As well, he is a frequent Guest and Guest Host on radio shows around the country. More information online listening links, and archives to previous BRAD SHOW's can be found [www.BradShow.com](#).

Still wanna know more? His personal webpage [www.BradFriedman.com](#)

You may [Email him here](#). He may answer.



Link to...



[» Blogs that link here](#)

- *OLDTURK said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:35 am PT...*

Technorati

BB-2,... Comment # 17

that's funny,...

just imagine the MSM food fight going on over at the **BIG DAN** household. He must have to scrape off the boob tube screen with a putty knife or industrial squeegee 10x a day.

I myself prefer bricks,.. cobble stones,.. and cinderblocks.

COMMENT #20 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *JOEL said on 11/2/2006 @ 9:36 am PT...*

I also want to say I am not trying to be a troll...I hate the vulnerabilities of e voting as much as everybody here, but I hate ill-concieved rhetoric even more.

COMMENT #21 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *PAUL LEHTO said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:09 am PT...*

Joel, it's quite ok to hate ill-conceived rhetoric but you really should re-evaluate the notion that rhetorical "crimes" are worse than e-voting and its implications/destruction of democracy generally. The damage to democracy is clearly far worse than zealous exercises of constitutionally protected free speech rights, even if considered over the top sometimes.

COMMENT #22 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *[ECONATHEIST](#) said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:17 am PT...*

Catching you on Thom Hartmann's streaming radio show right now, Brad.... you're really doing a good job - concise and brutal... **brutal**.

COMMENT #23 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *DEE BOLD said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:20 am PT...*

I received the pollworker training in my county, which uses Sequoia touchscreens. I also received the special training to be that person who stands beside the touchscreen machine and sets it up for each voter. I do not remember being told anything about the severe dangers of letting the voter near the yellow button. I do remember that the instructions about the yellow button



Admin

- [Login](#)

were very confusing, because there are lots of different reasons the pollworker has to push it. Sometimes you push it quickly, sometimes you hold it down...

I checked the manual given to me at the training and find nothing about the yellow button, which is called the "activate" button.

However, a supplement was mailed that says, in the GLOSSARY only, as far as I can tell: "Activate Button: The yellow button on behind the touchscreen [sic] unit that will activate the ballot for the voter. DO NOT EVER ALLOW ANYONE OTHER THAN A PRECINCT OFFICER TO ACCESS THE YELLOW ACTIVIAE [sic] BUTTON. GUARD THE UNIT AT ALL TIMES." [Emphasis in original.]

This glossary was part of an approximately 50 page "updated version" of the manual. The instructions that came with the update did not even request that pollworkers read this manual, simply that they discard the original version [oops!] and add this one to their binder.

This crucial and useless information is conveyed in the new materials, it is well-hidden in the glossary that I'm guessing—due to two typos that would have been caught by a spell-checker—was hastily assembled.

Why am I calling this crucial information useless? How many pollworkers do you know, paid a whopping \$60 for working a 14+ hour day—are going to be willing to physically restrain a voter trying to push the yellow button? And what if the pollworkers themselves were to want to cast a few extra votes?

I personally think that this renders the machines non-compliant with HAVA, as this yellow button does not provide equal opportunity for vote stealing to the blind and disabled. The button is only marked by color, has no braille label, and is extremely hard to reach, creating unfair and unequal barriers to blind and mobility impaired voters who want to steal votes as privately and independently as anyone else.

Oh, and by the way, it doesn't make a bit of difference whether people actually steal votes this way or not, because the fact that we **could** means that we can't trust the announced results of the election.

COMMENT #24 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... PAUL LEHTO said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:29 am PT...

News Flash: on the issue of the yellow button, sequoia and elections officials have almost undoubtedly known

FULL WELL for well over a year and a half. At least, that's how long i've been publishing scientific studies and suing Sequoia and their county customer(s) for various reasons, specifically including the YELLOW BUTTON issue. There's even more to this than at first meets the eye:

I originally discovered the "yellow button twice" function a few days or a couple weeks after the November 2004 election by examining a Snohomish County pollworker troubleshooter's manual that warned pollworkers to "watch the voters carefully" to ensure that they don't "vote repeatedly" when in Manual Mode, the mode triggered by two pushes of the yellow button. Bob Terwilliger, chief elections official in my county of Snohomish, confirmed that the beep heard is not very loud and likely would not cause alarm when pressed or necessarily be noticed.

Even if it were noticed, the yellow button ALSO triggers the recalibration functions as well as the disabled voting access functions, so there's good reason for disabled folks to be fumbling around the back of the machine (Pretty bad design if you're blind, eh? Guess you just can't vote "independently" after all, with Sequoia)

There's a discussion of the yellow button that you'll definitely want to look at in paragraphs 5.20 - 5.24 of my complaint which is located here <http://www.votersunite.o...vSequoiaVoting4-7-05.pdf>

Although 5.24 is a discussion of ballot secrecy, the manual I have, by suggesting that voters be watched closely to ensure they don't vote repeatedly, appears to require pollworkers to invade the secrecy of the voters ballot by watching either the screen or the paper trail, when they're not supposed to. Nice feature.

This story is very rich and deserves follow up. For example, they probably have (though you never know) changed the audio track for the disabled access features, but for sure in 2004 they literally told BLIND voters to "press the yellow button" to access disabled features! It sure is helpful to specify that color for the blind! Especially since HAVA specifies adaptability for the "blind and visually disabled" it doesn't look like a lot of legal thought or a lot of disability-design thought was put into this.

SO: What do you think Sequoia would say if there showed up 10 manual votes on a printout log? Yup, they'd claim a blind voter fumbling for the "hard to reach" yellow button triggered it. In the transcript above, the phone message claims that the button is not easily reached, which is a tiny fact supporting an anti-fraud inference, but is a HUGE problem for disabled voters for whom it may well be an illegal barrier to access to

voting! Alternatively, Sequoia would try to explain the manual votes by saying an attempt to recalibrate the screen triggered manual mode.

If you think about all of these independent features being accessible through the same yellow button is a major design foulup, you would be correct.

And Sequoia's been sued on this by yours truly, so they most certainly can't claim to not be aware of this. Moreover, evidence of post-filing remedies to fix a dangerous situation are not admissible for policy reasons (to promote fixing dangerous stuff) so there's really no excuse for Sequoia to continue to have this feature.

Sure they could password protect it, but even then the passwords are in the control of the most dangerous election fraud suspects: the officials themselves, who have full access and can sell elections that are electronic with their secret vote counting at will to the highest bidder. Not to mention the fact that a successful election fraud expert quickly BECOMES an elected official and makes policy for elections. While bankrobbers never get to be bank president, election stealers do get to be president or some other official with an influence on elections.

SO when did the elections officials know, and what did they know, and when did they know each element of the above facts regarding the yellow button? What mitigation and disclosure remedies did they take upon learning the above? If they claim that they don't want to let "bad elements" know about this capability, what in the world are they doing sleepovers for? Do they REALLY think that election criminals don't know about the "yellow button" when it's on the internet and in public record lawsuits like mine, plus among the knowledge of at least several thousand random pollworkers across the country, each of whom talks to other people?? (I could get tapes and CDs of talks where I've mentioned this capability like the one I did with Thom Hartmann in Portland to further show that there is every reason to believe that word has gotten around).

It's like the lock on your car, the average citizen needs to know what it's strengths are and also the fact that it can be jimmed using a slim jim, in order to intelligently assess the risk of, say, storing gold bullion on the front seat. The notion that basic safety issues about common devices can be reasonably withheld from the public is yet another flavor of the incredible BS and pablum we are daily fed by "elections" "officials."

Properly developed, we've got them on the horns of a dilemma: they are either screwed by nondisclosure problems, or they are screwed by a disclosed security risk and design defect that they refuse to correct for

YEARS, even after being sued in my lawsuit and losing the touch screen business contract in Snohomish county. Don't they ever learn? Perhaps they do, and they just want plausible deniability for any problems that occur, because it "coulda been" any number of yellow button "issues?"

If Sequoia remembers or recalls when they lost the touch screen business in Snohomish county washington and they went back to their old optical scan business, that may "refresh" their memory about this lawsuit that their appellate briefs are due on now in a couple weeks or so. Our appellate brief is posted in the legal section of www.electionfraudnews.com under Lehto v Sequoia.

COMMENT #25 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *FURGAIA said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:40 am PT...*

Brad, considering [this link](#) provided in a comment on this story published at Smirking Chimp, could this be a roviaian trick to contest or cast doubt on pro-democrat election results? Or is that too far out? Just asking.

Link to the Smirking Chimp post: <http://www.smirkingchimp.com/thread/2546>

COMMENT #26 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *JIM SMITH said on 11/2/2006 @ 10:44 am PT...*

So, if they do a crosscheck when the voting's over and discover more votes then people, what then? You can't correct the votes so all you can do is void them. Saying that canvassing will catch the tampering isn't an answer unless you can identify and remove the illegal votes.

COMMENT #27 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *BVAC said on 11/2/2006 @ 11:42 am PT...*

This has Hugo Chavez written all over it. I hope everyone is ready for the November 6th invasion of Venezuela.

COMMENT #28 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *PAUL LEHTO said on 11/2/2006 @ 12:04 pm PT...*

Sure, when the Repubs lose, they could try to challenge the elections too. Would they? WOuld REpublicans use the court system to their advantage? (the question answers itself).

If one is the incumbent, one has two routes to political office: (a) win re-election and (b) invalidate the election, in which case no mechanism for replacement exists.

So yes, the fact that an election is hacked doesn't truly tell us WHO the election was hacked or rigged FOR, especially if it is done in a way that DOES leave evidence, like too many votes compared to voters...

COMMENT #29 [[Permalink](#)]
... GEORGE RIPLEY said on 11/2/2006 @ 12:11 pm PT...

As yet, many Americans find it too difficult to believe in the dreaded "C" word,..whisper it, "conspiracy". Our nation's founders knew of the possibility of "enemies, external or domestic", but all too many citizens are content to disbelieve in the possibility that the stakes are high enough for serious players to actually cheat. (Need I mention 911?)

Has anyone yet addressed the question as to why Sequoia felt the need to put this "yellow button over ride" in place to begin with? What internal memos address the purpose of this design function?

"Hidden in plain sight" is an amazingly audacious strategy for fraud, but it is not unheard of in these days of knee jerk patriotism.

COMMENT #30 [[Permalink](#)]
... VALERIEF said on 11/2/2006 @ 12:12 pm PT...

I know why the button is yellow. It's yellow for banana, because we are most assuredly a banana republic now!

COMMENT #31 [[Permalink](#)]
... ART CASSEL said on 11/2/2006 @ 12:25 pm PT...

Riverside County, California routinely shows discrepancies between sign in logs and vote counts as do probably most counties in the US. They are dismissed with the wave of a hand as human error, too small to be important. In other words they would not be checked. Consider the idea of a rogue "range inspector," running five precincts of five machines each. He has the ability to add eight to ten votes per precinct without arousing suspicion. Imagine planting 20 range inspectors in the system, not hard to do considering they are temporary employees with minimal, if any, background checks and that there are over 100 of them hired. They could again, without arousing suspicion, cast 900 ballots for candidate X that are bogus. Considering the fact that

many elections on November 7th will probably be very close. 900 corrupt votes could easily swing an election. If they weren't full of so many toxic chemicals, DRE's would make great starters for coral reefs.

COMMENT #32 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *PAUL LEHTO said on 11/2/2006 @ 12:59 pm PT...*

True.

but then, there was no basis for confidence in the results of these machines a long time ago, many arguments before all of these...

COMMENT #33 [\[Permalink\]](#)

... *WHIG said on 11/2/2006 @ 1:14 pm PT...*

So if everyone were to overvote and create a clearly insane voter turnout count, what then?

YOUR COMMENT ON

"HERE WE GO AGAIN: 'Just Push the Yellow Button and Vote as Many Times as You Want' on Sequoia Touch-Screen Voting Machines!"

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