



JUSTITIEMINISTERIET
OIKEUSMINISTERIÖ

Ministry of Justice (Finland)

Simplifying Election Management

Description

In 2007, after a thorough review process, the Ministry of Justice of Finland selected ScytI's electronic voting technology to supply secure, accessible and scalable e-voting terminals connected to central servers over the Internet for the 2008 Municipal Elections – Finland's first binding electronic voting elections. In order to carry out these elections, The Parliament of Finland accepted to change to the election law.

The electronic voting system was used in 3 municipalities: Karkkila, Kauniainen and Vihti from 15 to 21 October and at the election day polling stations on 26 October. Traditional ballot voting was also allowed.

Objectives

By introducing e-voting, the Ministry of Justice of Finland wanted to make the voting process easier for citizens, while centralizing the tallying process. This centralization along with the digital nature of the votes will allow the Ministry of Justice to drastically reduce the time and effort needed to tally the results after the election. An additional objective was giving Finnish citizens a way to verify that their vote had been counted by the Electoral Board

Characteristics

ScytI was responsible for developing and supplying the technology that will be used to create the secure e-voting platform. This technology was certified by the Ministry of Justice.

When voting electronically, the voter received, upon establishing proof of identity, a voting card on which his or her data were recorded. The voter inserted the card in the card reader in the voting terminal, pressed the number of the candidate on the touch screen and approved it. These cast votes were then sent over the internet through a VPN to a centralized digital ballot box where they were stored until the end of the election, when they would be decrypted and tallied by the central electoral board.

