Benefits of the Election Markup Language (EML)

EML has been designed to support most aspects of Election and Voter Services from electoral registration, through voting to counting.

EML is not restricted to electronic voting - many parts of the language are applicable to traditional voting methods.

EML has been designed to support many types of public and private elections, including parliamentary elections, presidential elections, company AGMs, referenda etc.

EML specifications are open standards managed by OASIS (http://www.oasis-open.org), the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards. OASIS is a well-respected not-for-profit, international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards.

The OASIS Technical Committee that manages EML has a wide international participation, including Governments, technology companies and election service providers world-wide.

EML facilitates multi-vendor systems, preventing lock-in to a single vendor for all parts of a registration/voting/counting system.

EML is being submitted by OASIS to ISO as a proposal for an international standard for Election and Voter Services messaging.

EML is based on a reference process model. This provides a context for the specifications without restricting their use in any way.

EML supports multiple voting channels, including postal, kiosks, internet voting, SMS etc.

EML has been proven by pilot use in public elections and forms the messaging standard for the UK Co-ordinated Online Register of Electors.

EML has been implemented by several e-voting and electoral registration systems suppliers.

The Multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Group of Specialists on Legal, Operational and Technical standards for e-enabled voting (IP1-S-EE) of the Council Europe (representing 44 European countries) has recommended that "EML shall be used whenever possible for e-election and e-referendum applications".

EML has a tailoring mechanism to allow additional constraints to be applied for specific election scenarios and processes.

EML is extensible, allowing additional elements to be added for specific uses without reference back to OASIS.

EML is responsive to changing requirements - additional requirements can be piloted using the extensibility of the language and added to the core specification if agreed by the Technical Committee.

EML has elements to support various mechanisms for voter authentication and rights management.

EML has elements to support advanced security features such as evidence of the right to vote and vote sealing.

EML has elements to support public verifiability of elections and election results

EML has elements to support audit requirements including cross-referencing the number of votes counted against the number of votes cast and tracking the systems used to handle each individual vote.

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