

香港大學民意研究計劃

Public Opinion Programme, The University of Hong Kong



## **Electronic Voting and Civil Referendums in Hong Kong**

#### Mr Jazz MA, Mr Frank LEE, Dr Robert CHUNG Public Opinion Programme, The University of Hong Kong November 2014

#### Contents



- Design of an electronic voting system
  - Voting interfaces
  - Protections in place
- Impact of 6.22 Civil Referendum





## Electronic Voting System

#### **POPVote**



- Voting platform for mass engagement
- To construct a civil society by promoting civil participation
- To demonstrate an electronic voting system



## **IT Advisory Group**



Established since Jan 2013. 11 IT Professionals from the IT industry.

- Mr. S.C. Leung, Convenor of IT Advisory Group (Director, Internet Society Hong Kong)
- Dr. K.P. Chow (Department of Computer Science, The University of Hong Kong)
- Dr. Joe CK Yau (Department of Computer Science, Hong Kong Baptist University)
- Dr. Ricci Ieong (Director, Cloud Security Alliance HK & Macau Chapter)
- ■Mr. Henry Ng (Head of Consulting Service of an international consultancy firm)
- •Mr. Vincent Ip (Council Member of Information Security and Forensics Society)
- Mr. Eric Fan (Vice Chairperson, Professional Information Security Association)
- •Mr. Chester Soong (Chairperson, Internet Society Hong Kong)
- Mr. Ben Cheng (Vice Chairperson, Convenor, Startup Working Group, Internet Society Hong Kong)
- Mr. Sang Young (Director, Education; Convenor, Security & Privacy Working Group, Internet Society Hong Kong)
- Mr. Ken Lam (Director; Convenor, Internet Application Development Working Group, Internet Society Hong Kong)

#### **Voting Channels**



#### Website

HKID number

SMS verification



 PopVote 普及投票

 ● PopWote 普及投票

 ● PopWote 普及投票

 ● PopWote 第日公司

 ● PopWote Po

#### Mobile App

HKID number

SMS verification





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普及投票 PopVote



請選擇語言 Please select a language

#### **Polling Stations** HKID card verification

#### Tablets



#### **Three Large-Scale Events**



# 1st

(valid votes)

# 2nd

# 3rd

<b>3.23 Civil Referendum</b> March 23-24, 2012 Mock CE Election	New Year Civil Referendum January 1, 2014 Express views on the principles of CE Election	<b>6.22 Civil Referendum</b> June 20-29, 2014 Constitutional reform proposals
Web    66K      App    71K      Station    85K      Total    222K	Web19KApp40KStation3KTotal62K	Web235KApp486KStation70KTotal792K
(valid votes)	(valid votes)	(valid votes)





## System Design



#### 0. Download POPVote mobile app

- 1. Read the terms
- 2. Input HKID & mobile number
- 3. Send an SMS to POPVote system
- 4. Cast your vote

#### ●●●●● SMC HK 🗢 20:55





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普及投票 PopVote



請選擇語言 Please select a language





0. Download POPVote mobile app

1. Read the terms

2. Input HKID & mobile number

3. Send an SMS to POPVote system

4. Cast your vote

•••• SM	1С НК	Ŷ	20:05	5	٩	Û	65% 🔳
Back		Po	οpVα	ote			
Please read	>>	Input info	>>	Validate identity	>:	>	Please vote

System now opens for preregistration and trial voting from 13 June 2014 (Friday) 12:00nn to 18 June 2014 (Wednesday) 9:00pm.

Voters must input all information carefully because changes are not allowed after submission is "confirmed".

Voters must be Hong Kong permanent residents of age 18 or above on the day of voting.

Voters must ensure that all SMS messages sent do not contain any virus or element that will affect the operation of this voting or will

Decline



0. Download POPVote mobile app

1. Read the terms

2. Input HKID & mobile number

3. Send an SMS to POPVote system

4. Cast your vote







- 0. Download POPVote mobile app
- 1. Read the terms
- 2. Input HKID & mobile number
- 3. Send an SMS to POPVote system
- 4. Cast your vote

●●●● SMC HK 🗢	<b>20:06</b>
Back P	opVote
Please Input	Validate Plasse
6bbg	
Submit	Refresh
HK perm. resident aged 18 + ?	Yes No
1234	5 6 7 8 9 0
-/:;	() \$ & @ "
#+= . ,	?!' 🛛
АВС	space return



- 0. Download POPVote mobile app
- 1. Read the terms
- 2. Input HKID & mobile number
- 3. Send an SMS to POPVote system

4. Cast your vote



Please confirm your phone number is: 99900000

Click here to send SMS automatically





- 0. Download POPVote mobile app
- 1. Read the terms
- 2. Input HKID & mobile number
- 3. Send an SMS to POPVote system
- 4. Cast your vote

#### **Polling Station**



 $\equiv$ 

#### - Local Area Network



如果政府方案不符國際標準讓選民有真正選擇 立法會應予否決。本人表示:

#### **Snapshots – 3.23 Civil Referendum**





#### **Snapshots – 3.23 Civil Referendum**





#### Snapshots – New Year Civil Referendum <sup>普及</sup> 投票



#### **Snapshots – 6.22 Civil Referendum**





Images from Google Images results - www.bastillepost.com



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## Protection

#### Cyber attack – 6.22 Civil Referendum







Matthew Prince @eastdakota



Battling 300Gbps+ attack right now. Knew it was coming so well prepared. Helluva story someday.

#### Protection





Shielded by CloudFlare Firewall

Whole AWS infrastructure is isolated from the public, using AWS Security Groups



Captcha to protect API endpoints



All transmitted data are SSL encrypted

#### Protection



f12443ffa921ea97dca00811744 f8784f3e8b494736d1164b3898 c5892b0f6a27c9895b175e651d 8214c4825027f47e74ae422d80 e05c712bce18f0cda6d878c

#### All HKID and Phone numbers are hashed



All ballots are encrypted using PKI

#### Protection





Private key is divided into 3 and held by 3 non-technical workers

Redundancy is added to avoid the corruption or loss of the key

Gathering the portion from at least 2 holders is required to merge a private key for decryption







# Impact of 6.22 Civil Referendum







#### **Polling stations**











#### Result



- A historical 792,808 people participated, by either voting online or attending physical polling stations.
- Voting result:

•	Motion 1		No of votes	Vote share
		Proposal 1	331,427	42.1%
		Proposal 2	82,003	10.3%
		Proposal 3	304,319	38.4%

• Motion 2: If the government's proposal fails to meet international standards, then Legislative Council:

	No of votes	Vote share
Should veto	696,092	87.8%
Should not veto	59,897	7.6%
Abstention	31,294	3.9%

• Source: https://www.popvote.hk

#### **News reports**





How to pass on your ambition as well as your wealth >>

#### FOLLOW SCMP



### **Reactions from pro-China camp**



- Mainland officials and newspapers called the civil referendum "illegal", claimed that Occupy Central was motivated by foreign "anti-China forces" and would damage Hong Kong's economy and its image.
- In August 2014, the pro-China camp launched a petition campaign and claimed to have collected <u>over a million</u> <u>signatures</u> from citizens to support their stance of anti-Occupy Central movement.



### China's decision on 8.31



- China's (NPCSC) decision on 8.31 in response to constitutional reform consultation in 2014:
  - imposes the new standard of "*loves the country and Hong Kong*" for CE candidates
  - a nominating committee will be formed to nominate
    2 to 3 candidates, each of whom must receive >50%
    support of the nominating committee.
  - the basic framework of nominating committee would be unchanged, i.e. to keep 1,200 committee members to represent over 5 million voters.

=> Set strict restrictions on universal suffrage

#### **Reactions from HK public**



#### • Students on strike since 9.22



#### **Umbrella Movement**





#### **Summary**



- Equivalent to a fifth of the registered electorate participated
- All 800K votes can be counted within 5 mins
- Remove duplicated votes automatically
- More accurate than manual counting
- Future trend for collecting public opinions





## Thanks for listening.

Q & A