



Thursday, October 15, 2015

Via Email

Ms. Christina Worrell Adkins
Elections Division
PO Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2062

Dear Ms. Adkins,

Since the announcement by Microsoft in April 2014 that Windows XP would no longer be supported, customers looking to replace or upgrade their computers have found it difficult to purchase computers that can support the Windows XP Professional operating system certified with the Unity 3.0.1.1 Voting System. Even though Microsoft has discontinued support for Windows XP, ES&S continues to provide the same continued level of support to our customers who are using the Unity 3.0.1.1 Voting System currently certified in the state.

In an effort to continue this level of support and provide solutions to our customers, ES&S engaged in a testing effort to assess the operation of the Unity software installed in a virtual Windows XP environment. The testing used new Windows 7 computers with *VMware Workstation 10* running a virtual copy of the Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 operating systems with the Unity 3.0.1.1 software.

Earlier this year, NTS Laboratories, an EAC accredited Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL), performed an independent test assessment of the Unity software operating in the Windows XP virtual environment. All testing was successful without issue or compromise to the accuracy, reliability, or operation of the system nor were any certified Unity 3.0.1.1 software and firmware versions modified. Attached is the NTS Laboratories Test Report detailing the results of their testing.

It is our recommendation *Windows 7 with VMware Workstation 10* (operating in the Windows XP virtual environment) be added as a certified configuration and be authorized for use in the State.

We understand how difficult (and concerning) it has been for our customers still using our legacy voting systems to maintain their aging equipment. We feel this added capability addresses those concerns until such time they are in a position to upgrade to the newer ES&S voting systems. Your consideration on this is very much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at 402-938-1335 or via email at chris.bruscino@essvote.com with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Chris J. Brusino'.

Chris J. Brusino
Quality Assurance Director