

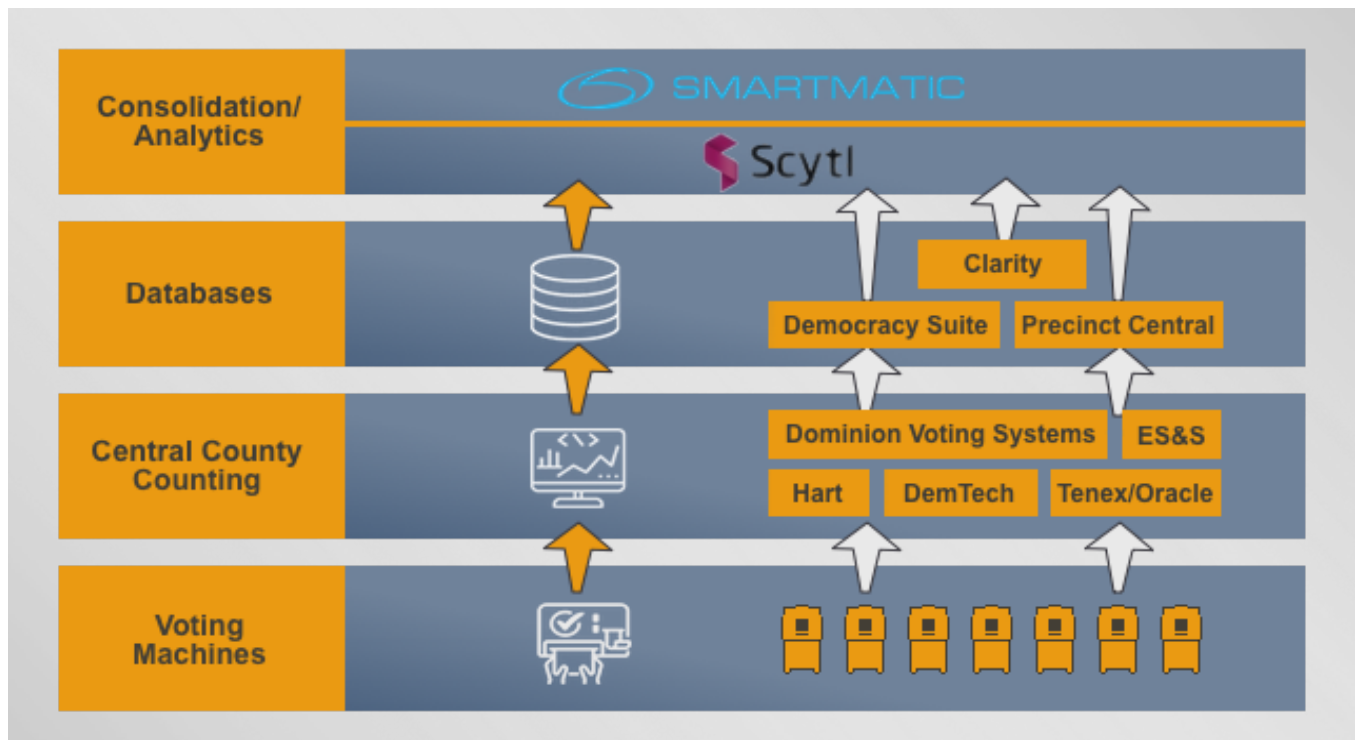
A Spanish Server

About Scytl and an election computer in Frankfurt

#Scytl #SmartMatic #Elections #Fraud

Many are familiar with Torrero events in Spain, in which a usually courageous man enters an arena to directly engage with a bull. Only equipped with a red tissue, the Torrero mostly manages to leave the bull entirely exhausted, enabling him to place lethal weapons into the bulls neck after many hours. One is almost reminded of such a spectacle when a US Congressman hinted in the middle of November 2020 that someone in Germany had spread the message the US Army had confiscated a computer server in the German banking capital Frankfurt on November 9, 2020, or had at least digitally obtained all of its contents. The server originally belonged to a company named Scytl, headquartered in Barcelona, Spain. Now in the hands of a bank, the Frankfurt server was allegedly connected to various US 2020 election result databases, run and operated by Scytl, which filed bankruptcy in the Summer of 2020 and was about to enter the final liquidation process.

Most US state counties use voting machines to count the millions of ballots and utilize a few important software systems to gather the electronic results submitted by these machines. The most widely used software systems utilized by the vast majority of US counties are either Dominion Voting Systems, Tenex, ES&S, Hart or DemTech. Once having received county ballots, the various software systems forward the voting counts and information to a handful of databases, run on Amazon's cloud IT infrastructure AWS and named Clarity, Democracy Suite, Precinct Central. While Clarity database is entirely owned by Scytl, the others are either operated or at least accessible by the Spanish company.



The company, located in the city center of the Catalan capital Barcelona, has an interesting history worth telling. It was founded in 2001 by electronic voting systems researchers Andreu Riera and Carles Rovira from the University of Barcelona right after the dot-com bubble had burst. The two carefully chose the

company name as an encryption of the **first known encryption method named Skytale**, used for military purposes in ancient Greece some 2500 years ago. Pere Valles joined the company early on, as did a local Financial Group. **In 2006, founder Riera died in a car accident**. A few years later, Nauta Capital became a shareholder, and in 2010 Scytl paid 10 million USD for the US-based company SOE Software, a major provider of electoral management solutions. Sales reached 25 million USD, the company had offices in Washington, DC, Toronto, New Delhi, Athens, Kiev and Singapore and a workforce of over 400 people. In 2013, Microsoft co-founder **Paul Allen invested 40 million USD** through his famous Vulcan Capital Fund.

Strangely however, despite plans to enlist the company at NASDAQ, Scytl's fame eroded in the years to come. The reasons are dubious at least: projects failed and strange re-organisational efforts were sabotaging Scytl's projected success. In December 2019, the company entered pre-bankruptcy proceedings, a Spanish court declared the formal and legal end of the Barcelona company on June 2, 2020. Earlier, Scytl's shareholders JB Capital, Vulcan Capital, Nauta Capital and Spinnaker could convince US fund Sandton Capital to take over bankruptcy proceedings and apparently, Sandton Capital did not hesitate much to reconnect one of Scytl's server in Frankfurt back to the Internet. Or came the order from **new owner Paragon Group**, which bought Scytl's business remains in a deal on October 20, 2020, coincidentally exactly 14 days prior to the US presidential election ?



Another company that is dedicating itself to global voting counts is **SGO Smartmatic**, in 2014 re-formed as a UK company under Chairman Mark Malloch-Brown. Connected to George Soros by having been the VP of the billionaire's Quantum Fund - now named Open Society Global - Sir Malloch-Brown is deeply tied to the UN, the Clintons and additional Soros organisations. Smartmatic came under scrutiny in 2005 when **it purchased a US company** named Sequoia Voting Systems. US Congressmen requested the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to take a closer look at the deal already back then, since Sequoia was alleged to have had ties to the Venezuelan government. **US officials declared in 2006** that "there seems to have been an obvious effort to obscure the ownership of the company", referring to Smartmatic's hidden **web of trusts and funds** that engage in the UK company.

In 2017, the Venezuelan general election was rigged by around 1 million votes, managed by Smartmatic software, which was in contact with the Venezuelan government since 2004. A total of 8 million people voted in that election, which **Smartmatic CEO Antonio Mugica referred to** in front of a baffled press corp in London, stating that "we know, without any doubt, that the turnout of the recent election for a National Constituent Assembly [of Venezuela] was manipulated". A whistleblower stated in 2020 that Smartmatic uses the same software as Dominion Voting Systems, the latter being used in nearly 30 US States, and that the software was instrumental in keeping Venezuela's longtime president Hugo Chavez

in power in the past:



An international group of election fraud researchers in Switzerland found in 2019 that Barcelona's Scytl software could easily be manipulated. The software auditors found that a backdoor glitch in the system **allowed legitimate ballots to be entirely replaced** with fraudulent ones:

The vulnerability is astonishing. In normal elections, there is no single person who could undetectably defraud the entire election. But in this system they built, there is a party who could do that.

Matthew Green, Cryptography Teacher at Johns Hopkins University

Scytl was quick to downplay the security vulnerability, stating that hackers needed access to the IT infrastructure of the Swiss Post, which **purchased the rights of Scytl's software source code** in April 2019. The claim was made that "help from several insiders with specialist knowledge of Swiss Post or the cantons" was needed, while at the same time ignoring the fact that the group of security experts had no such access when detecting the software problem rather quickly.

A similar incident happened in the aftermath of the US 2020 election event, when **Scytl was quick to debunk any allegation** about massive fraud, also on their Frankfurt server. A confidential **report about election irregularities**, conducted in the months ahead of the US 2020 presidential elections however states that election data was forwarded to multiple servers outside of the US, explicitly also to a server owned by the Barcelona company:

Voting records for the 2018 General Election was automatically forwarded from the clarityelections.com website to multiple domestic and foreign DNS addresses, including ES&S, Scytl in Barcelona, Smartmatic in London, and a Russian server at South Ural State University in Chalyabinsk, a known GRU installation.

Summary Report on Election Irregularities from August 2020

Additionally, ScytI itself hinted in 2019 that it is tied to the German city Frankfurt, despite **their claim from 2020** "we do not have servers or offices in Frankfurt". The company was selected to provide the IT infrastructure for the 2019 EU elections as well. **In a 2019 ScytI case study**, the IT provider stated the following:

To guarantee the success of this project [EU 2019 Elections], ScytI's team began preparing nine months in advance. Over this time, we conducted 3 separate trial runs, 5 user acceptance tests, and we set up the data collection center in Barcelona, as well as **an emergency back-up center in Frankfurt**.

ScytI Success Case Study for EU 2019 Elections, page 3

The Solution

To handle this demanding challenge, ScytI's election and technology experts deployed **ScytI Election Night Reporting**. After our partner Kantar gathered the results from each country, they were securely transmitted to the data center housed by ScytI in Barcelona. Then, our team processed the data and uploaded them to a cloud-based infrastructure where they were made available for review by European Parliament officials. Once given the go-ahead, the results were published on the Official European Union Election Results Website, hosted by ScytI, at both national and European levels. At this time, we were also able to automatically send updates through the European Union's social network channels.

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With **ScytI Election Night Reporting**, we were able to publish the results from more than 2.1 million voters across the 28 EU member states in all 24 official EU languages. After receiving the data from Kantar, it took less than 10 minutes to review, publish, and distribute the results. The official election results website received more than 300 visits per second on election night alone, and over 13 million visits in the 12 hours following the closing of polls. The results data was also leveraged by some 250 global media outlets. Most importantly, all of the data sent from Kantar to ScytI and then ultimately published by the EU were securely transmitted with digital signatures and certificates, ensuring their integrity and verifiability.



- 12 Million** visits to the results website
- 210 Million** voters
- 10 minutes** to publish the results
- 250 media** outlets that leveraged data
- 300 max** visits per second on the results site

Not dissimilar to Spanish torero events, where usually, at the very end, the bull is dragged through the streets for public display and hence everyone to see.

<https://www.sun24.news/en/a-spanish-server-about-scytl-and-an-election-computer-in-frankfurt.html>