

## Step by Step Instructions for the use of the OVC Voting Product

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Note: These instructions pertain to the laboratory exercise for the Penn CIS 700 class and are not intended for general use.

For this class exercise you will be provided with a bootable Linux CD containing the .iso for the OVC voting product, version 5. This can also be found at:

<http://www.openvotingconsortium.org/ad/ovcdemo5.iso>

Further info on this download can be found at: <http://www.openvotingconsortium.org> and [http://www.openvotingconsortium.org/blog/2008-feb-26/ovc\\_demo\\_gaining\\_exposure](http://www.openvotingconsortium.org/blog/2008-feb-26/ovc_demo_gaining_exposure)

1. The OVC CD contains an Ubuntu version of Linux along with the OVC files.
2. Boot the CD from a cold start (or PC reboot). (It is not for use with a Mac, except perhaps with a Mac that thinks it's a PC.) When the Ubuntu logo shows up, you may need to press enter to get things rolling (if you don't hear any sound from the CD drive, try pressing enter, just once should suffice). After the boot finishes, you should be on the Ubuntu desktop where you will see documentation and software for the OVC voting product.
3. Read the README file. Take a look at what's in the various folders on the desktop.
4. Since we will be sharing printers, you may not have a printer available for your testing. See if you can figure out how to get OVC to run in a printerless configuration.
5. After running an OVC election, see if you can figure out two ways to alter the ballot that is used in the election. Try to do that.
  - o One way would involve using another computer to change the .png files.
  - o Another way would involve altering the source code and recompiling a new Python application.
6. The OVC software will allow multiple voters to create ballots in the same session. You can terminate the session by pressing the ESC key. Then you can start up a new session. Do you think this is a valid way to run an election?
7. Look inside of the ballot\_images folder after running an election. Consider (and test) what happens if you run another election. Can you think of any problems with this?
8. The actual election that this software simulates had 136 candidates for Governor. Would this software be able to handle that contest? Can you imagine any issues that could arise with the way OVC works, or the way voters would use it, if the full contest had been implemented?
9. Try to tabulate some ballots. Since we do not have a barcode scanner, try to follow the instructions in the README file to see if you can figure out how to get the software to perform the tabulation function.
10. Do you think it is possible to create an OVC-like ballot without using the OVC program? Could you "fool" the system with such ballots? How?
11. When you have finished working with OVC, you can shut down by going to the System pull-down menu at the top of the Ubuntu desktop and clicking on Quit, and then tap the Shut Down icon. The computer should eject your CD and then shut down.

***If your team created an OVC voting product, be sure that answers to all questions above appear somewhere in your report.*** Your team does not have to agree on the answers, but you can discuss them (just the ones on this page, not the other ones on the assignment sheet).