

Spoon,

Mike Connell in his capacity as operations manager for GovTech had contracts with the Secretary of State for three different functions that we are aware of: 1) the web interface for the elections function of the Secretary of State's office -- particularly for election night presentations, 2) assisting the Secretary of State with preparing a request for proposals for the integration of real-time voter files for the entire state in the Secretary of State's office, and 3) setting up a mirroring of the entire election function of the Ohio Secretary of State's office at the offices of SmarTech and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

All of this activity took place in advance of the 2004 election. Connell indicated that Triad got the contract for the statewide voter database based upon its market share in providing this function with the various county boards of elections. Thus, the web interface and the statewide voter database would have been part of what was mirrored on the servers in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

With respect to the design of the web site Connell indicated that he created an interface with the Oracle system so that queries and presentations of data could be made in a way that would bypass the limitations of the Oracle database system, which he described as a "resource hog."

When asked about security of the Ohio Secretary of State's systems and data at SmarTech, Connell said that he had nothing to do with that.

In order for SmarTech to function as the primary server during times when the Secretary of State's servers failed, did it not have to have the capability to input data?

Yes. They would have had data input capacities. The system might have been set up to log which source generated the data, but probably did not.

Is there any reason to believe that SmarTech did not have the ability to obtain and use data, as well as input data into the systems without the security protocols that might normally be required as part of the Secretary of State's original Oracle database system?

Nope. They had full access and could change things when and if they want.

Could this be done using whatever bypass techniques Connell developed for the Web Hosting function?

Yes.

Is there any reason to believe that SmarTech was not just a man in the middle of the 2004 presidential election in Ohio, but also the man in control, by virtue of its ability to control the input and output of data in the system without the kind of security measures one would normally have to prevent unauthorized access system, particularly by partisans in the election process that is being administered?

SmarTech was a man in the middle. In my opinion they were not designed as a mirror, they were designed specifically to be a man in the middle. Those two

By virtue of his contracts with committees of Congress Connell's GovTech had credentials for trustworthiness in performing sensitive and confidential governmental work. However, SmarTech did not have those credentials -- it was a partisan organization. Connell was emphatic in his assertion that it was Ken Blackwell who brought SmarTech into the picture and into the GovTech contract as a subcontractor.

I believe that. Blackwell freaked and refused to speak to me when I confronted him about it long before I met you, back the Sec. of State's IT Conference in Boston. I was there giving a seminar in data security for Sec. of States and State CIOs. I took this as Connell's way of saying that, if there was a problem of partisan being in control of government data related to an election in which that partisan was involved, the responsibility for that problem was Blackwell's, not his.

I agree.

Cliff