

MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff
FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)
DATE: April 11, 2023
SUBJECT: Report on data storage devices handling practices by Davin Tormanen

Introduction

Anoka County's ES&S election equipment data handling practices.

Analysis

1. The county's ES&S election equipment uses many memory sticks which are vulnerable to security risks unless proper protocols are followed.
2. Many computer viruses and malicious software are passed between computer equipment via USB memory storage devices.
3. The Anoka County Elections office must practice in-house security protocols with all the USB memory storage devices used in the elections process.
4. The Dept. of Defense has a standard 5220.22-M which states a data storage wipe utility must be ran 3 complete cycles before the data storage device is considered free of intelisible data or computer source code.
5. In order to promote confidence that no malicious source code is present on any of the numerous USB memory devices used in Anoka County's elections, Anoka County Elections Office must oversee and administer the operatons of running a storage device utility such as Disk Wipe or Active Kill Disk on each of the USB memory devices used in the election system before chain-of-custody recording begins.

Conclusions/Recommendations

The Anoka County Elections office must take responsibilty and use secure data handling practices for all USB memory storage devices used for election purposes.

Attachments

Everything you need to know about DoD 5220.22-M

<https://www.blancco.com/resources/blog-dod-5220-22-m-wiping-standard-method/>

Note: This Memorandum and Report will be emailed to Board Members, County Administrator, PRT Division Head and Elections Manager.