



# ***Electoral Cycles vs. ICT Life Cycles***

**How Sustainable Can ICT in Elections Be?**

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Spanish Ministry  
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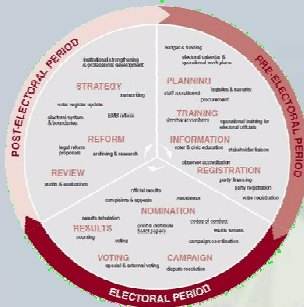
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# Comparing the Cycles



## Electoral Cycle

- Duration ~ 2 - 5 years
- Repeat everything (including ICT supported activities)



## ICT Life Cycle

- Duration ~ 3 – 5 years
- Replace/upgrade/write off everything

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## ***Example 1: Windows operating system.***

- ❑ 1985: Windows 1.0
- ❑ 1987: Windows 2.0
- ❑ 1990: Windows 3.0
- ❑ 1993: Windows NT 3.1
- ❑ 1996: Windows NT 4.0
- ❑ 2000: Windows 2000
- ❑ 2002: Windows XP
- ❑ 2006: Windows Vista
- ❑ 2009: Windows 7



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## Example 2: Data Transfer

- 1990  floppy disks
- 1994  Dial-up
- 1998  CD-R
- 1998  Broadband internet
- 2002  Satellite internet
- 2004  USB flash
- 2008  mobile broadband



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# Example 3: Mobile Computing & Photography over 5 electoral cycles



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# *Standards to the rescue?*

## Example 4: Biometrics/fingerprinting

- ❑ **ANSI/NBS-ICST1-1986**

minimum amount of memory for the exchange and storage

- ❑ **ANSI/NIST-CSL1-1993**

focused on formats for the exchange of fingerprint images

- ❑ **ANSI/NIST-ITL1a-1997**

addendum for facial image data

- ❑ **ANSI/NIST-ITL1-2000**

additional image details

- ❑ **ANSI/NIST-ITL1-2007**

new data formats (XML), image quality, image capturing best practices

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# Combining the Cycles

Election year	1992	1996	2000	2004	2008	2012
Operating System						???
Data Transfer						???
Mobile Computers						???
Biometrics Standard ANSI/NBS-ICST	1-1986	1-1993	1a-1997	1-2000	1-2007	???



# *What to do?*

- Ignore?
- Look for synergies?
- Build national ICT infrastructure where election applications are only one component?
- Avoid buying the latest and greatest (and most expensive)?

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# *What to do?*

- Build regular technology review and planning for replacement into the electoral cycle**
- Be critical about efficiency increases claimed only for the long term**

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# ***Thank You!***

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