Additional Criteria for Nominating Committee Eligibility

Abstract

This document defines a process experiment under RFC 3933 that
temporarily updates the criteria for qualifying volunteers to
participate in the IETF Nominating Committee. It therefore also
updates the criteria for qualifying signatories to a community
recall petition. The purpose is to make the criteria more flexible
in view of increasing remote participation in the IETF and a
reduction in face-to-face meetings. The experiment is of fixed
duration and will apply to one, or at most two, Nominating Committee
cycles. This document temporarily varies the rules in RFC 8713.

Discussion Venues

This note is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

Discussion of this document takes place on the ad hoc mailing list
(eligibility-discuss@ietf.org), which is archived at https://
mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/browse/eligibility-discuss/.

Source for this draft can be found at https://github.com/sftcd/elig.

Status of This Memo

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

   According to [RFC8713], the IETF Nominating Committee is populated
   from a pool of volunteers with a specified record of attendance at
   IETF plenary meetings, assumed when that document was approved to be
   face-to-face meetings. In view of the cancellation of the IETF 107,
   108, 109 and 110 face-to-face meetings, the risk of future
   cancellations, the probability of less frequent face-to-face
   meetings in future in support of sustainability, and a general
   increase in remote participation, this document defines a process
   experiment [RFC3933] of fixed duration (described in Section 2) to
   use modified and additional criteria to qualify volunteers.

Also according to [RFC8713], the qualification for signing a community petition for the recall of certain IETF office-holders is that same as for the Nominating Committee. This document does not change that.

2. Term and Evaluation of the Experiment

The cancellation of the in-person IETF 107 through 110 meetings means that the current criteria are in any case seriously perturbed for the next two years. The experiment therefore needs to start as soon as possible. However, the experiment did not apply to the selection of the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee, which was performed according to [RFC8788].

The experiment will initially cover the IETF Nominating Committee cycle starting in 2021. As soon as the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee is seated, the IESG must consult the current and previous Nominating Committee chairs and publish a report on the results of the experiment. Points to be considered are whether the experiment has produced a sufficiently large and diverse pool of individuals, and whether enough of those individuals have volunteered to produce a representative Nominating Committee with good knowledge of the IETF.

The IESG must then also begin a community discussion of whether to:

  1. Amend [RFC8713] in time for the 2022 Nominating Committee cycle; or

  2. Prolong the current experiment for a second year; or

  3. Run a different experiment for the next nominating cycle; or

  4. Revert to [RFC8713].

The IESG will determine and announce the consensus of this discussion in good time for the 2022 Nominating Committee cycle to commence.

3. Goals

The goals of the modified and additional criteria are as follows:

  *Mitigate the issue of active remote (or rarely in-person) participants being disenfranchised in the NomCom and recall processes.

  *Prepare for an era in which face-to-face plenary meetings are less frequent (thus extending the issue to many, perhaps a majority, of participants).

*Ensure that those eligible are true "participants" with enough
    current understanding of IETF practices and people to make
    informed decisions.

   *The criteria must be algorithmic so that the Secretariat can
    check them mechanically against available data.

4. Criteria

   There will be several alternative paths to qualification, replacing
   the single criterion in section 4.14 of [RFC8713]. Any one of the
   paths is sufficient, unless the person is otherwise disqualified
   under section 4.15 of [RFC8713]:

   *Path 1: The person has registered for and attended 3 out of the
    last 5 IETF meetings. For meetings held entirely online, online
    registration and attendance counts as attendance. For the
    2021-2022 Nominating Committee, the meetings concerned will be
    IETF 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110.

   *Path 2: Has been a WG Chair or Secretary within the last 3 years.

   *Path 3: Has been a listed author of at least 2 IETF stream RFCs
    within the last 5 years. An Internet-Draft that has been approved
    by the IESG and is in the RFC Editor queue counts.

   Notes:

   *Path 1 corresponds approximately to [RFC8713], modified as per
    [RFC8788].

   *Path 3 extends to 5 years because it commonly takes 3 or 4 years
    for new documents to be approved in the IETF stream, so 3 years
    would be too short a sampling period.

4.1. Clarifying Detail

   Path 1 does not qualify people who register and attend face-to-face
   meetings remotely. That is, it does not qualify remote attendees at
   IETF 106, because that meeting took place prior to any question of
   cancelling meetings, so the rules of [RFC8713] apply.

   If the IESG prolongs this experiment for a second year, as allowed
   by Section 2, the IESG will also clarify how Path 1 applies to IETF
   111, 112 and 113.

5. Omitted Criteria

   Certain criteria were rejected as not truly indicating effective
   IETF participation, or as being unlikely to significantly expand the

volunteer pool. These included authorship of individual or WG-adopted Internet-Drafts, sending email to IETF lists, reviewing drafts, acting as a BOF Chair, and acting in an external role for the IETF (liaisons etc.).

One path, service in the IESG or IAB within the last 5 years, was found to have no benefit since historical data show that such people always appear to be qualified by another path.

Since the criteria must be measurable by the Secretariat, no qualitative evaluation of an individual's contributions is considered.

6. IANA Considerations

This document makes no request of IANA.

7. Security Considerations

This document should not affect the security of the Internet.

8. Acknowledgements

Useful comments were received from Alissa Cooper, Adrian Farrel, Bron Gondwana, John Klensin, Warren Kumari, Eric Rescorla, Michael Richardson, Rich Salz, and Martin Thomson.

The data analysis was mainly done by Robert Sparks.

9. Normative References

[RFC3933] Klensin, J. and S. Dawkins, "A Model for IETF Process Experiments", BCP 93, RFC 3933, DOI 10.17487/RFC3933, November 2004, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3933>.

[RFC8713] Kucherawy, M., Ed., Hinden, R., Ed., and J. Livingood, Ed., "IAB, IESG, IETF Trust, and IETF LLC Selection, Confirmation, and Recall Process: Operation of the IETF Nominating and Recall Committees", BCP 10, RFC 8713, DOI 10.17487/RFC8713, February 2020, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8713>.

[RFC8788] Leiba, B., "Eligibility for the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee", BCP 10, RFC 8788, DOI 10.17487/RFC8788, May 2020, <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8788>.

Appendix A. Available data

An analysis of how some of the above criteria would affect the number of NomCom-qualified participants if applied in August 2020

has been performed. The results are presented below in Venn diagrams as Figure 1 to Figure 4. Note that the numbers shown differ slightly from manual counts due to database mismatches, and the results were not derived at the normal time of the year for NomCom formation. The remote attendee lists for IETF 107 and 108 were used, although not yet available on the IETF web site.

A specific difficulty is that the databases involved inevitably contain a few inconsistencies such as duplicate entries, differing versions of a person's name, and impersonal authors. (For example, "IAB" qualifies under Path 3, and one actual volunteer artificially appears not to qualify.) This underlines that automatically generated lists of eligible and qualified people will always require manual checking.

The first two diagrams illustrate how the new paths (2 and 3) affect eligibility numbers compared to the meeting participation path (1). Figure 1 gives the raw numbers, and Figure 2 removes those disqualified according to RFC 8713. The actual 2020 volunteer pool is shown too.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 illustrate how the new paths (2 and 3) interact with each other, also before and after disqualifications. The discarded path via IESG and IAB service is also shown, as path "I".
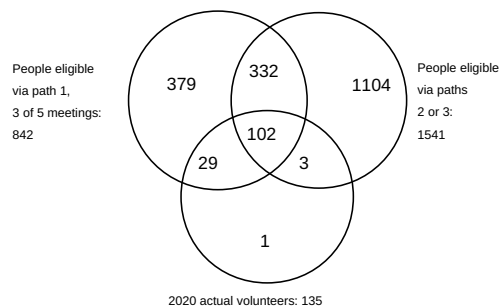

People eligible via path 1, 3 of 5 meetings: 842

379 332 1104 People eligible via paths 2 or 3: 1541

102

29 3

1

2020 actual volunteers: 135

Figure 1: All paths, before disqualification

Qualified via path 1, 3 of 5 meetings: 806

375 300 1104 Qualified via paths 2 or 3: 1509

102

29 3

1

2020 actual volunteers: 135
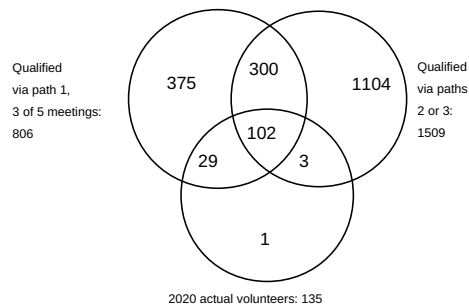
Figure 2: All paths, after disqualification

46 176 1266

29

2 22

2

People eligible
via path 2
Total:
253

People eligible
via path 3
Total:
1493

People eligible via path "I": 55
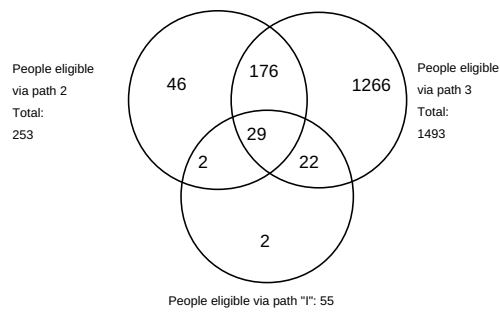
Figure 3: New paths, before disqualification

45 172 1264

16

1 11

0

Qualified
via path 2
Total:
234

Qualified
via path 3
Total:
1463

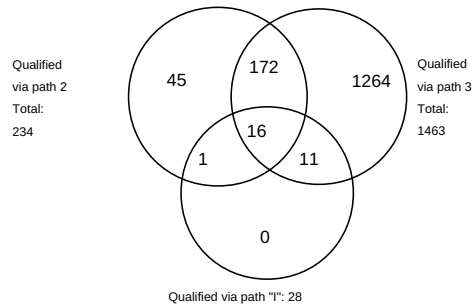Qualified via path "I": 28

Figure 4: New paths, after disqualification

Appendix B. Change Log

This section is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

B.1. Draft-05 to -06

*Allowed for IETF 110 decision

*Resolved open issue

*Removed "future work" section

*Editorial improvements

B.2. Draft-04 to -05

*Adjusted criteria according to comments received

*Removed previous path 3

*Renumbered paths

*Updated diagrams

*Editorial improvements

B.3. Draft-03 to -04

*Adjusted criteria according to comments received

*Shortened period to one year (initially)

*Renumbered paths

*Updated diagrams

*Editorial improvements

B.4. Draft-02 to -03

*Adjusted criteria according to comments received

*Added data

B.5. Draft-01 to -02

*Made this an RFC 3933 process experiment

*Eliminated path based on directorate reviews, used to be: "Has
 submitted at least 6 reviews as a member of an official IETF
 review team within the last 3 years."

*Other comments from IETF107 virtual gendispatch meeting handled

B.6. Draft-00 to -01

*Added author

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