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Process Experiment: Expanded Qualification of Nominating Committee
Selecting Members
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Abstract

The criteria by which one qualifies to be a selecting member of the IETF Nominating Committee are somewhat limited, having been developed long before the current IETF meeting model that allows for greater remote participation both during and between organized meetings. This document describes a process experiment whereby those criteria are extended to meet the IETF's current participation model. If successful, the results of this experiment can be folded into our permanent NomCom procedures.

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Internet-Draft

NomCom Process Experiment

November 2016

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Definition of the Experiment	2
3.	Evaluating the Experiment	3
4.	IANA Considerations	4
5.	Security Considerations	4
6.	Normative References	4
Appendix A.	Acknowledgments	5
	Author's Address	5

[1.](#) Introduction

This document describes an IETF Process Experiment as described in [[RFC3933](#)]. The goal of the experiment is to test a new model for qualification as a selecting member of the IETF Nominating Committee ("NomCom"), which is defined in [[RFC7437](#)].

Since 1996, the criteria for qualifying as a selecting member of the NomCom required recent in-person attendance at several meetings; the first two NomCom documents said "two of the last three meetings", and the two that followed said "three of the last five meetings". The purpose of this constraint is to prefer community members that have had an opportunity to observe the contributions and conduct of other members directly rather than purely through remote participation.

This has served the IETF well, though recently it has been observed that this explicitly excludes participants whose contributions are primarily remote, and may select for people with the budgets to travel and pay registration fees yet actually contribute to the IETF less than some remote participants. This is the issue that this process experiment seeks to resolve.

[2.](#) Definition of the Experiment

This experiment is defined to last for one year, starting with the first call for volunteers to serve as NomCom selecting members, and ending when that NomCom has completed its work and thus dissolves.

The next NomCom after publication of this document is approved and published is the one that will carry out the experiment.

For the NomCom cycle conducting the experiment, the Chair of that NomCom shall permit into the volunteer pool any person that chooses

to volunteer. Language soliciting volunteers shall especially encourage those with substantial IETF experience to volunteer, regardless of their in-person attendance record.

The slate of selecting members shall then be chosen per the procedure in [\[RFC7437\]](#), but only after the various required Liaison seats have been filled, to allow for additional oversight of the experiment.

The Chair then announces the list of selecting members, as specified in [Section 4.17 of \[RFC7437\]](#), with the following changes:

1. Those members who have not attended three of the last five meetings of the IETF are explicitly identified in the list.
2. The challenge period is extended to two weeks.
3. A new reason to challenge a selection is that a specific member who has not attended three of the last five meetings of the IETF is not suitable for the NomCom. Such a challenge must be accompanied by an explanation of why that particular member is not suitable.

If it becomes apparent that this experimental process is being abused or is otherwise not working, the NomCom Chair can immediately declare the experiment aborted. In that instance, the pool of volunteers is purged of those who have not attended three of the last five meetings of the IETF, the seats held by selecting members not meeting that criterion are vacated, and those seats are then filled by the pure [\[RFC7437\]](#) process.

3. Evaluating the Experiment

Upon expiration or early termination of the experiment, the NomCom chair shall report to the IESG, to the extent practical given the NomCom's confidentiality constraints, the details for the success or failure of the experiment. This report and any community comment the

IESG wishes to solicit shall be used by the IESG to decide one of the following:

1. That the experiment has revealed that the selection criteria as they exist in [\[RFC7437\]](#) are serving the IETF well and no change is needed;
2. That the results of the experiment suggest an additional experiment should be run with different parameters;

Kucherawy

Expires May 19, 2017

[Page 3]

Internet-Draft

NomCom Process Experiment

November 2016

3. That the results of the experiment suggest that the changes made in [Section 2](#) should be made permanent via an update to [\[RFC7437\]](#); or
4. That the results of the experiment suggest that some variation of the changes made in [Section 2](#) should be made permanent via an update to [\[RFC7437\]](#).

[4.](#) IANA Considerations

This document contains no actions for IANA.

[RFC Editor: Please remove this section prior to publication.]

[5.](#) Security Considerations

This is an IETF process experiment related to the operation of the NomCom. Any security issues are already covered by [\[RFC7437\]](#).

The greatest threat is to the smooth operation of the NomCom and, indirectly, the bodies to which it appoints people. The "abort" provision included in [Section 2](#) allows the people already in charge of the operation of the IETF to close any loopholes the experiment introduces if it is perceived that they are creating a problem.

[6.](#) Normative References

[RFC3933] Klensin, J. and S. Dawkins, "A Model for IETF Process Experiments", [BCP 93](#), [RFC 3933](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3933,

November 2004, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3933>>.

[RFC7437] Kucherawy, M., Ed., "IAB, IESG, and IAOC Selection, Confirmation, and Recall Process: Operation of the Nominating and Recall Committees", [BCP 10](#), [RFC 7437](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7437, January 2015, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7437>>.

Kucherawy

Expires May 19, 2017

[Page 4]

Internet-Draft

NomCom Process Experiment

November 2016

[Appendix A](#). Acknowledgments

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