ARIN Board of Trustees Expansion

Bylaws Change Proposal

• ARIN to increase the size of the ARIN Board of Trustees by adding three more elected voting seats, raising the current six (elected two per year) to nine (elected three per year)

Timeline

• February 2018 – Board approves conducting community consultation on the Board expansion proposal – staff conducts a 60 day community consultation of the proposed change (through and including the April ARIN Meeting)

• April 2018 – Community consultation period ends

• May 2018 – Board provided Notice and bylaw change text

• June 2018 – Board reviews consultation result and votes on bylaws changes (4/5ths vote of entire Board to approve)

• August 2018 – ARIN Election nomination period opens; potentially 3 Board members to be elected in 2019, 2020, 2021

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In 2017, ARIN conducted community consultation on this same question, noting that improving the size of the ARIN Board of Trustees could lead to improved *diversity of background* among Board members

- Mixed community sentiment – many clearly in support and many clearly opposed
- Some questions raised (as well as opposition positions) -
    - No reason to add Board seats unless there's more workload
    - Adding opportunities to elect people of more diverse background won't necessarily solve the problem – although it would be more likely if there were specific requirements for diversity placed on added seats
    - If the Board wants to simply add opportunity, they can do that by implementing consecutive term limits
    - Increasing Board size increases the concentration of power in the CEO
    - Lack of diversity of background is not problem – it's simply a reflection of the community itself
    - Is it diversity of background being sought, or is it more formal representation of various geographic sub-regions within ARIN?
    - What is the right number of Board members; i.e. what are the the tradeoffs of efficiency with a larger Board and at what number?
    - Does the current Board have adequate discussion of topics, or does it suffer from "groupthink"?

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Concerns with Present Board Size

- The direction of ARIN can have a very significant impact on the Internet ecosystem, and the ARIN Board of Trustees is a relatively small number of individuals who fully control this direction

- If ARIN were operating in typical business environment, this "concentration of power" [1] wouldn't necessarily pose any concern

- However, ARIN operates over uncharted ground while performing a key function for Internet, all done in cooperation/conjunction with many other ecosystem partners and absent any long-term roadmap for evolution on the system at time of significant change

- Under these circumstances, it is necessary for the ARIN Board to be able to routinely represent both the ARIN membership as well as the entire Internet community, as it is becoming increasingly necessary to engage the Board to navigate the most appropriate path forward.

- Due to the inherently sensitive nature of matters of future direction they must be handled in confidence by ARIN Board, and presently that leaves six elected board members having to represent an extremely diverse industry

- This situation is amplified by the very close nature of our Industry, including interpersonal and inter-organizational relationships (e.g. when one or more Trustees must be recused due to potential for conflict of interest)

ARIN
American Registry for Internet Numbers

Discussion?

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References

1. Caplin and Drysdale, "RIR Accountability Review Report for ARIN", 16 November 2015 [Board Strategic Topic Archive]