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Richard Almeida

Proposed by: XO Communications (UK) Ltd

Seconded by: Sandco 684 Ltd., t/as Onyx Internet

Richard is currently the Chair of the PAB. He was a founding director of Nominet and has been a member of the PAB since it's inception.

He has been involved in the European Internet since 1989 and founded a large UK ISPs. He has seen the domain name system grow starting from before the naming committee.

His experience helps him to understand the requirements of the range of members of Nominet, as-well as the technical realities of running large scale technology and customer oriented businesses.

My personal goal when I was first elected remains: "that Nominet's Policies ensure that the growth of the UK internet market remains unhindered and that resources that should be made available to all (in order to maintain the best deployment of the Internet) remain that way".

Issues close to my heart include:

- Fair domain name pricing to ensure maximum take up of the Internet
- Ensuring that policies adopted don't expose the DNS system to government regulation (due to monopolies etc)
- Ensuring that the DNS system stays intact through rapid growth periods, slower growth periods and changes in the industry
- Ensuring that all members are fairly represented, not just the largest or the loudest.

I believe that the other PAB members value my contribution and as I am not aligned to a single company, I am able to represent the views of all members, from large domain registries to those members that do not register domains at all. Please re-elect me.

Andrew Banner

Proposed by: TwentyTwentyMedia Ltd

Seconded by: (aq) Ltd

Having been involved with computing for over 20 years and an active member of the Internet community for around seven years, my experience is quite considerable. Previous roles within the Internet world include Internet Manager for Dow Jones Markets (EMEA), Managing Director of a small Internet development company and then selling out to a larger Software and Internet developer. Now as owner of Net Achievement and partnering with 2020Media, I have been involved with over 60 developments over the last four years for a range of companies from very small firms to the likes of Daimler Chrysler, local government and the Meat and Livestock Commission.

My commitment to the Internet is unquestionable and with the vast majority of my developments being in the .uk namespace I, like all members of Nominet, have a vested interest.

The introduction of the .me.uk second level name recently shows that new name spaces can not only help to open an increasingly saturated market but also be lucrative for the players within it. With a number of other second level names being tabled, it is important that the right decisions are made to stabilize the market without introducing unnecessary confusion of the general public, many of whom still don't know the difference between a domain name and an email address. It is also vital that the introduction mechanism for new names actually increases the market rather than simply allowing those with the deepest pockets to squat on potentially valuable names.

Ray Bellis

Proposed by: Community Internet PLC

Seconded by: Andrews & Arnold Ltd

I have been responsible for the systems and network engineering at Community Internet since just after the company was founded in early 1996, and have been the Technical Director for the last four years.

I am also responsible for providing the same services to our sister company, ticketingsolutions.com Ltd. At the start of 2001 we became the first ASP outside of the US to gain "Cisco Powered" accreditation, and the company also won the "Best ASP" category at the 2001 ISPA awards.

For the five years prior to that I supported an MRC-funded network of researchers across several departments at the University of Oxford. Whilst employed at Oxford I sat on several workgroups and committees, including the Network Advisory Group which advised on all aspects of the use of University-wide networking facilities. I also ran the first experimental Gopher and WWW services at the University.

I believe that the PAB can benefit from both my extensive technical experience, and my experience working with Nominet, having been a member since Nominet's foundation in mid 1996.

If elected to the PAB, my aims are to support (and introduce where necessary) policies which:

- are equitable to members of all sizes
- promote acceptance of INCOP

- abolish abuse of the automaton
- mitigate the costs incurred by Nominet in processing incorrect applications for restricted SLDs (ltd, net, etc)

Denesh Bhabuta

Proposed by: UKERNA

Seconded by: Name Dropper

I am determined to continue my close involvement with Nominet. The past few years have confirmed that Nominet:

- is a not-for-profit organisation within a fast-paced profit oriented industry
- is the guardian of a national resource, consequently having serious responsibilities
- membership consists of individuals, small and large private organisations and corporations. Each have an equal say in 'steering' Nominet.

I would like re-election to continue work arisen during my time in office. Having completed pledges I made last time, my aims are to:

- Investigate further efficiency:
 - more automation of administrative and operational tasks
 - web based tools for administering membership accounts in real time
 - more online help/resources on Nominet's web site
 - staff availability outside standard office hours
 - electronic certificates
- Push for a more transparency,:
 - more communications with the stakeholders
 - performance measurements and reporting to the membership
 - tracking system
- Examine non-core activities to expand into
- Examine Global naming issues
- Nurture Nominet's support of Industry 'Good Practice'

I bridge the gap between business and technical people in this industry. Having worked for small, large and educational Member organisations, I have over a decade of Internet experience and understand issues they may have in the current economic, competitive climate.

I believe my positions as Co-Chair of the LIR Working Group at RIPE (not-for-profit member based organisation), and Nominet PAB member since inception allows me to bring the desired experience to the committee.

Mike Blanche

Proposed by: Global Gold Network Ltd

Seconded by: Gordon Dick

I am standing for re-election to the Policy Advisory Board. My past two years work on the PAB has included chairing the sub-committee on the development of a Code of Practice to improve standards in the UK domain registration industry, which has led to the appointment by Nominet of Fay Howard who is now working on the further development of an industry Code of Practice.

Nominet continues to be one of the better-run domain registries in general, but I believe we can help improve Nominet further, and also make life easier for members. Issues include:

- improving communication to both members, domain registrants and other stakeholders
- improving billing and other systems including online interfaces to Nominet's systems

I have seven years experience in the UK Internet industry, firstly with my own web hosting company, and subsequently as a director of Onyx Internet after my company was acquired in June 2000. I also have experience working with ISPs, IP registries and Internet governance organisations in other countries including the USA and the Far East.

I try to maintain an active presence on Nominet mailing lists, Usenet newsgroups and at Nominet Annual General Meetings and "Talkback" sessions, and would like to think I am approachable, and can represent the views of Nominet's stakeholders, in particular the smaller members who make up the vast majority of the membership. I hope you will allow me to continue to represent you on the PAB.

Steve Bowbrick

Proposed by: Bowbrick Ltd

Seconded by: Mailbox Internet Ltd

Domain names are important. I don't need to tell you that. Recently, though, they've jumped from the business world into the cultural and commercial mainstream. As founder/CEO of another.com, I reckon I'm allowed to claim some credit for this. Our users (1.8M registered users and, at peak, 600,000 unique users per month) have created, between them, well over 6 million unique email addresses using more than 17,000 domain names (most of them in the .uk TLD). For these customers domain names are no longer an arcane function of the Internet or the business only of mega-corporations but a flexible, fun addition to their daily communications.

Having pioneered domain names as rich, meaningful and open-ended digital IDs for modern youth (back in the boom times - do you remember the boom times?)

I'm now pushing another.com into the uncharted realm of paid-for Internet services. On 18th February another.com stopped being a free service. Predictably our user numbers have fallen sharply. Perhaps less predictably the subscriber conversion rate so far is much better than forecast - proving again that domain names are relevant and useful for ordinary Internet users.

My experience of running the number 1 UK email service (our ranking immediately prior to switching off the free service) and now one of the small handful of viable subscriber-funded businesses on the net in the UK will enhance the PAB. My ten years in the industry, my commercial and consumer nouse and my dot.com battle scars may also be of use.

James Conaghan

Proposed by: Namesweb Ltd

Seconded by: Gillett Multimedia Ltd

Name Dropper, has offered domain name registration, hosting and web design to the SME market since 1998. I became a member of Nominet in June 1999 and have taken a keen interest in the discussions on 'nom-steer' ever since.

In respect of Policy issues, I am committed to a member-led Nominet that reflects majority opinion. The Code of Practice seems to have floundered but I believe there is strong support for self-regulation within the membership and we must find a way to implement the recommendations already made, in a manner that is acceptable to the majority. I am concerned, that if we do not take responsibility for self-regulation, we will lay ourselves open to increased Government scrutiny. Responsibility and representation go hand in hand. If members do not vote they will not be represented. This PAB election comes at a time when it is crucial for members to act together and build for the future.

In respect of Administration issues, I believe Nominet should make a positive move towards on-line accounting facilities for members and re-assess labour intensive tasks like paper registration certificates. There is always room for improvement in efficiency and communication but I believe this will follow greater member involvement and cross-fertilization of ideas.

If you would like to throw any questions at me, feel free to email them to:

Jac@namedropper.co.uk

James Cronin

Proposed by: Thus PLC - Demon Internet

Seconded by: Easynet Group PLC

James has been active on the UK Internet scene since 1993 working as developer, systems administrator, technical director or CTO for several top UK's ISPs and new media companies. He is currently consultant technical architect for BBC News Interactive and BBC New Media/BBCi.

He has been involved in Internet development at all levels from technical server management and programming to strategic development and implementation of new business models. He has won numerous awards over the years for his work, including recently New Media Age's "Best Use of Web" and the BT/New Statesman "Overall Merit" in their 2001 New Media Awards.

James participated in the UK Naming committee before Nominet was founded and represented Easynet at the first Nominet AGM and meeting of the Steering Committee. He has been a personal member of Nominet since 1998.

James would bring a technically expert viewpoint supported by a considerable background of commercial and non-commercial experience. He represents no corporate interest and so would participate in debate and policy making completely objectively with no danger of compromise. He would like to focus his initial efforts on increasing the transparency of Nominet's business including regular reports to the full membership. He will commit enough time to realise this. In his spare time he runs a number of highly successful websites including FaxYourMP.com and stand.org.uk, is involved in a number of e-democracy and e-campaigning projects and is a wine and single malt whisky freak. James will strongly represent your and the community's interests on the PAB.

Sebastien Lahtinen

Proposed by: Nildram Ltd.

Seconded by: Zen Internet Ltd.

I am a founding director of NetConnex, a small service provider that joined Nominet in 1999. I have since followed and participated in discussions surrounding UK domain name policy both through the nom-steer mailing list and in person at the AGMs and other meetings. During this time, I have witnessed improvements to a registry (open forum meetings, new member workshops, etc.) which I believe is an example to be followed by other gTLD and ccTLD registries. I hope to be elected to the PAB to represent members of all sizes.

Despite occasional problems all businesses experience from time to time, I believe that Nominet is fundamentally a well run operation. This should not however be a barrier to change or further improvement both on policy and operational issues. I believe it is important that elected PAB members (as representatives of the collective membership) keep in regular contact with members both through the nom-steer mailing list, open forum meetings and the AGM. Issues I have followed closely are the .me.uk application, CoP, DRS and changes to the WHOIS.

Aside from policy, most of the membership registers domains through Nominet, and thus we should endeavour to make their operations as efficient and easy as possible. To that end, I would seek measures to improve response times on e-mails sent to Nominet by tagholders, a better on-line accounting system showing tagholders the status of their account and any other measures to decrease the support load.

I welcome any questions or suggestions to seb@ncuk.com

Ben Laurie

Proposed by: A.L. Digital Ltd

Seconded by: Gradwell.com

I am a founding director of the Apache Software Foundation (<http://www.apache.org/>), a not for profit organisation promoting and supporting free software, perhaps best known for the Apache webserver, which is the world's most widely used webserver. I am also a core team member of the OpenSSL Team (<http://www.openssl.org/>), which is the world's most widely used free cryptographic library. I am also technical director of A.L. Digital Ltd. (<http://www.aldigital.co.uk/>) and The Bunker (<http://www.thebunker.net/>).

I believe strongly that the critical infrastructure of the Internet should be run for the good of the Internet as a whole and should be done as cheaply as possible and not merely as a vehicle to generate revenue. Clearly Nominet is part of that critical infrastructure and it is for that reason I am seeking election to the Policy Advisory Board.

Matthew Thompson

Proposed by: A.L. Digital Ltd

Seconded by: Fairplay Publications Ltd

I wish to stand for election to the PAB for a number of reasons however primarily I would like to represent the views of companies whose main business is not Internet services or domain registration, of which make up sizable portion of Nominet's membership but have little or no direct representation

My background is a mixture of Internet and non Internet companies and I currently hold a position within a marine data provision company who have been Nominet members since 1999.

I would aim to ensure that Nominet's public image continues to be one of an effective registrar and that to it's members it is responsive and efficient. I would also hope to ensure that non "registrar focussed" businesses, those who do not register domains for customers on a day to day basis, are catered for as much as the needs of businesses where domain registrations make up a portion of everyday business.

David Thurgate

Proposed by: Internetters Ltd

Seconded by: Vital Domains Ltd

Working originally as a programmer, system administrator and analyst for Barclays Bank, and in more recent years as a freelance consultant and for the "Name-Shop", I've come to a very strong appreciation of just how important domain names are for business.

Nominet has a key role to play in the promotion of on a healthy .uk namespace for British businesses, as well as serving its members by being the best and most efficient registry possible.

My priorities for the PAB over the next couple of years would be:

To help Nominet to continue to promote ".uk as a good place to do business";

To stimulate greater member involvement in Nominet, and greater awareness by the membership of key policy issues and decisions;

To give the PAB a better balance between those with technical knowledge, and those with commercial and administrative knowledge;

To encourage Nominet to keep the tightest possible control of its cost base;

To encourage Nominet to reflect its true costs in its charges, thereby encouraging members to deal efficiently with payment and processing, especially of large batches of names;

To encourage Nominet to use efficient and secure electronic communication for registration and accounting systems;

To ask that Nominet should review its constitution and procedures to ensure that only really popular second level domain names are introduced;

To promote greater commercial realism and awareness within Nominet

Shirley Wood

Proposed by: Gordon Dick

Seconded by: Cyberstrider Ltd

Shirley Wood has been involved in networking since the early 1980's. She has implemented file transfer protocols and been responsible for the maintenance of early mail and interactive terminal software for a network of computers. Since 1986 she has been working on the JANET network where her prime interests have been in promoting the use of the network in the education and research community.

Shirley is currently Customer Support Director for UKERNA, covering a range of activities including publicity, help desk services, training and workshop organisation in the Higher and Further Education communities. One of her specific responsibilities is the administration of the ac.uk names, including the definition the rules for the domain as well as its routine administration. She is also responsible for the administration of the gov.uk domain on behalf of the CCTA. Shirley is a strong believer in providing a good service and if elected to the PAB for a second term she would work to improve the services that Nominet offers to its members and the perception that the wider public have of the naming market.

