

Nominet's "membership model" is compared by some to a club where "one member one vote" (OMOV) is often the norm. I understand where this is coming from, but I don't think it reflects the commercial realities. I think it is possible for a member based organisation to run on an OMOV principle and indeed LINX does this very well, but in the case of Nominet and the numbers of members involved, I am not sure this would give larger tagholders an appropriate voice in the governance.

Over time, we have seen that the largest member doesn't remain in that position, and short term changes in business models, etc. can have an impact in the voting power. It is therefore in the interest of every member, in particular the larger ones ones who have most to lose if Nominet is run badly, to ensure it is governed with broad support of the membership.

I therefore recommend OPTION 3.

My reasoning for this option (as opposed to Option 2) is related to the voting power required to block resolutions. I believe that the larger tagholders should have a greater voice, but that this power is not in the hands of an changing top few. I acknowledge some statistically valid suggestions raised by Clive Feather regarding non-linear approaches but these have administrative problems. Another option Clive pointed out was to adjust the 75/25 balance of weighted vs OMOV votes. Without doing the calculations I would only hazard a guess 50/50 might work, but the support for 3% cap of votes case is based on the assumption that the ratio remains 75/25.

It is my view that the PAB being OMOV balances out the weighted voting system for board elections. Since the PAB only acts in an advisory capacity, and includes two Nominet Board members in any case, I do not share the same level of concern at least one other respondent made. If larger tagholders have specific concerns, I would expect and hope they would raise those with the PAB through the mechanisms provided. As a PAB member I would certainly welcome any feedback from members who feel the PAB has not represented their interests.

I would also caution anyone considering supporting OMOV to "protect" Nominet. This is by no means a guarantee. A balanced approach is far better.

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