

Secretchronicles Project Voting Rules

July 16, 2015

Preamble

This document outlines the modus, rules, and majority requirements for any votes taken in the course of the development of the Secretchronicles project. It is intended to minimise possible conflicts due to disagreements on the voting procedure by being a democratically legitimated, definitive description.

I. General

§ 1 Team member

Team member is for the sake of this document who is listed publically as a member of the "Secretchronicles" GitHub organisation.

§ 2 General Rule of Consent

All decisions are to be made in consent of all team members. Only if it is impossible to reach a consent even by means of compromises, a voting shall be held.

II. Voting process

§ 3 Announcement of Vote

(1) Any team member (proponent) can request the project lead to organise a vote on a subject the member deems impossible to decide on in consent. The project lead then announces the upcoming vote sufficiently early so that every team member has time to prepare, at least two weeks in advance (Announcement of Vote).

(2) The announcement must include:

1. The proponent,
2. The vote subject,
3. The vote options, and
4. The beginning and ending dates of the voting period.

(3) If the project lead is unavailable, the assistant lead guides the process instead.

§ 4 Open Vote

The default open vote happens openly on any of the project's communication channels, e. g. in IRC or on the tracker. Each team member votes by stating the option he wants to vote for.

§ 5 Covert Vote

(1) After the Announcement of Vote has been published, any one team member can request a covert vote. The request must be honoured by public announcement.

(2) In the covert vote each member votes by means of a technical procedure that ensures nobody can find out later who voted on which option.

§ 6 Technical details

The technical details of the open and covert vote are worked out by the project lead and announced prior to each vote.

§ 7 Call for Votes

(1) When the voting period has started, the project lead publishes this fact in all communication channels where the original Announcement of Vote was posted (Call for Votes).

(2) The Call for Votes must repeat the termination date of the voting period.

(3) Any votes made before the Call for Votes has been published are invalid.

§ 8 Results

Unless otherwise demanded by this document, the option that receives the simple majority (i. e. most votes) is the winner option. It is a binding decision that determines how to proceed in the given topic and prevents any further vote on the topic given all circumstances equal.

§ 9 Second Vote

If no single option receives the most votes, a second vote is held with the set of options reduced to those options that received the most votes. The preceding clauses are in force ac-

cordingly.

§ 10 Failed vote

(1) A vote is failed if nobody participates, no single option receives the most votes in the second vote, the proponent revokes the voting suggestion, or the winning option does not receive the majority required.

(2) A failed vote has no binding effects; the same subject might be voted over again.

§ 11 Declaration of Results

After the vote is over, the project lead announces the result, if any.

III. Complaints

§ 12 Right to Complain

Until 14 days since the declaration of results have passed, each team member has the right to request a check as to whether the voting procedure outlined by this document was followed properly.

§ 13 Procedure

(1) The team member directs his complaint to the project lead or to the project assistant lead (examiner) and has to state why he thinks this document has been violated. The project lead and the assistant lead may not decide about their own complaints; if they're both involved, a person is randomly chosen from a set of noninvolved volunteers.

(2) The examiner has to forward it to the team member being complained about without further comment, and has to ask him for a statement on the issue within a reasonable time-frame. This statement, and any further replies, must be made available to all parties involved.

(3) If the examiner deems it necessary, he can request a live chat in IRC in which all parties participate prior to a decision.

§ 14 Decision

(1) The examiner has to decide within reasonable time, but at most within two months after the complaint was filed.

(2) The decision needs to contain the reasons for why or why not the complaint is valid.

§ 15 Effect

A successful complaint results in the vote being failed as per § 10. The examiner should state this effect in his decision.

§ 16 Ne bis in idem

The same vote may only be complained about once. If multiple persons complain about the same vote, the examiner has to merge all complaints into one and decide on all of them together.

IV. Final clauses

§ 17 Archive

All votes, their results, and their associated complaints and their results, are for reference archived publically by the project lead.

§ 18 Changes

Changes to this document require a vote whose winning option passes with at least two thirds of the team members being in favour of it.

§ 19 First Date of Force

This document is in force from 2015-07-20 midnight UTC.