MicroProfile voting software

Resercher: Rudy
Contributors: Edwin, Amelia

Question

Research possible tools to conduct voting within the MicroProfile group. It should be able to vote for a Committer representative and to vote on decisions with multiple answers.

A very important criterion is the ability to have the results of the voting made publicly AFTER the voting period is finished. But during the voting period, the votes of other people should not be visible yet.

Findings

Most voting software has the following properties
- Registration of the people who are eligible to vote
- Making sure the vote is correctly received by the server
- A vote is stored securely and can't be changed
- Votes are anonymous

I found "Election runner" which has an add-on to make the voting results public. But you need to specifically ask the owner to activate it and explain why the votes are not anonymous.

I also listed some other options that don't require any specific software and the pro and contra of each.

Tool 1: Election runner

Pro :
- Each voter gets an Id and Key so that (s)he can only vote once.
- Encrypted connection
- Easy vote results tabulation
- Email notification of votings and periods.
- Add-on for public voting

Contra :
- Maintain a list of eligible voters (no one else can vote)
- Not free

Tool 2: Doodle

Doodle has an option so that only a voter and the administrator can see a vote.

Pro :
- Easy to set up
- Everyone can cast a vote, not only listed people. The other persons can have a 'non-binding' vote.

Contra :
- Voting results are not entirely transparent (as the administrator needs to make the results public)
- Manual tabulation
- Premium is expensive and required to remove the annoying ads.

Tool 3: Private Google Groups

You can define that only the owner sees the messages sent to the group and not anyone else.

Pro :
- Easy to set up

Contra :
- Voting results are not entirely transparent (as the administrator needs to make the results public)
- Manual tabulation
- Not everyone can vote, only people added to the group.

Tool 4: Google Group with Moderation

You can define that easel messages to the group need to be moderated before visible to other people. This allows the option that moderation 'approves' all messages at the end of the voting period.

Pro :
- Easy to set up
- Transparent as everyone can see all votes at the end of the period
- Everyone can vote and have a 'non-binding' vote

Contra :
- Manual tabulation

Tool 5: Election Buddy

This is being used by the Eclipse Foundation for official working group voting/elections.

Pro :
- Calculates and applies the Single Transferable Vote (STV)

Contra :
- Associated cost involved depending on the size of the election