Polkadot+Kusama Staking Update: April 2022

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See the full list of monthly staking updates here. Feel free to reach out to Kian Paimani from Parity Technologies (one of the teams implementing Polkadot) for feedback and suggestions!

Bags-List: One Step User Friendlier.

Something that has happened during the last months and deserves a shoutout is both Polkadot.js <u>apps</u>, and the <u>Polkadot.js plus extension</u>supporting bags-list <u>**</u>!

In both interfaces, nominators can ensure that they are:

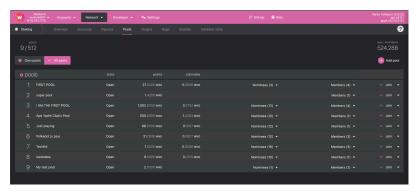
- 1. Placed in the best possible bag given their staked DOTs.
- 2. Places in the best place *inside the bag* to which they belong. This is particularly important for those who are near the minimum active nominator threshold.

See the new <u>wiki page</u> related to bags-list on the Polkadot wiki for more details on this!

Nomination Pools update: Wiki page out, Deployed to Westend.

Nomination pools have been the main topic for the last few months, and are becoming one stop closer to mainnet production! As of this writing, the 9.20

release of Polkadot has been finalized, in which the corresponding Westend runtime contains the new nomination pools pallet. Get some Westies (WND) and start experimenting with nomination pools!



Similarly, Polkadot.js Apps now has support for the pools as a new tab, and a new page about nomination pools has been created in the <u>Polkadot Wiki</u>. For other apps, explorers, builders and UIs who want to support nomination pools, you can

join the "Nomination Pools UI Support" matrix chat to connect to other builders and ask your questions form us!

We invite everyone who tries out the pools to report any potential bugs to us either via the <u>parity bug-bounty email</u>, or directly to <u>kian@parity.io</u>.

Nomination Pools: Why Bother?

This is a small note about why nomination pools are important for the Polkadot and Kusama ecosystem.

First, looking from the perspective of an **intending-nominator**, joining a pool has two main benefits:

- 1. The limits to receive rewards in the pools will be significantly lower than the limits to receive rewards as a nominator. For example, to be a nominator in Polkadot now, one needs 10 DOTs to nominate, and around 120 DOTs to actively receive rewards. We suspect pools to be deployed such that anyone with as low as 1 DOT can receive rewards.
- 2. You will have more control over your staking rewards: This may or may not be relevant, but one fundamental difference between the pool members and nominators is that nominators receive their rewards automatically by validators, whereas pool members decide themselves when to receive their rewards.

Next, looking at the **validators**, the existence of pools is a great opportunity for validators (or a group of validators) to open pools, and attract more staking input into their validators of choice. In essence, the inflow of DOTs into the staking system will inevitably increase with the deployment of nomination pools, and there is an incentive for validators to make sure this inflow is directed toward *their* validators. This can be particularly interesting to **waiting validators**.

Notable Contributions

The main code contribution of this month to the staking world has been the main staking-pools PR, along all of its sub-PRs being merged. The most notable of these is the ability of partial unbonding, which has been added now.

Moreover, <u>some changes</u> were made and merged into the details of the signed submission in the election provider pallet, improving the UX of the staking-miner application. More details and updates in the staking-miner coming in the following months!

Thinking about contributing? Look for issues in the Substrate repo with the <u>mentor</u> tag, or the <u>NPoS and Elections project</u>. All successful contributions will get an on-chain tip initiated by the staking team.

Also, if you are interested in contributing long-term, there's a "<u>Staking / PoS</u> <u>Engineer</u>" position available at Parity Technologies, targeting exactly those who will contribute to the staking system.

By The Numbers

Confused by the meaning of all these terms? What is "intention"? What is "electing/electable"? Then checkout the February update, in which we explained the new staking terminology.

Polkadot

Nominators	Stake	Count	
	Minimum	Current	Max
intention	10 DOT	26233	50000
electing	125 DOT	21654	22500
active	124.1 DOT	20878	22500

Validators	Stake	Count	
	Minimum	Current	Max
intention	0 DOT	1028	1200
electable	0 DOT	1028	1200
active	1.89 MDOT	297	297

Kusama

Nominators	Stake	Count	
	Minimum	Current	Max
intention	100 mKSM	7372	20000
electing	0 KSM	6612	12500
active	673 pKSM	6612	12500

Validators	Stake	Count	
	Minimum	Current	Max
intention	0	2036	4000
electable	0	2036	4000
active	4.39 kKSM	1000	1000