

# Sysadmin Proposal

*Changing how Sysadmins join CS++*

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# Why?

Where does this come from?

# Current Method

- Sysadmins elected by vote of members at General Meeting
- Sysadmins serve for life
  - Until graduation, resignation, or removal

## Identified Issues:

- Room packing
- Unable to vet applicants

# Case Studies (1/3)

## DCU RedBrick:

- Sysadmins must take 'Admin Exam'
  - Webmaster must take 'Webmaster Exam'
- Exam consists of 2 portions:
  - Written application (Take home, given multiple days to complete)
  - Practical application (SSH creds given, multiple days to complete)
- Only candidates who have passed the exam may stand for election

# Case Studies (1/3) ctd.

## Comments on RedBrick's impl:

- Admin & Webmaster exam good idea
  - Additional work to write 2x exams & marking schemes a year
  - CS++'s stack & sysadmin skills too immature to write relevant exams
- Candidates who pass the exam still need to stand for election, and have fixed terms (2 years)
  - Required by their constitution
  - Societies in TU Dublin can co-opt non-core roles
  - Maximum 2-year tenure can cause knowledge loss

# Case Studies (2/3)

## UG CompSoc:

- Two Sysadmin Tiers
  - Junior (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Year if no 1<sup>st</sup> running)
  - Senior (+1 yr of Junior, >2<sup>nd</sup> Year)
- Elected at General Meeting
  - Require nomination to run (Can self-nominate)
  - Nomination must be seconded (any member of the society)

# Case Studies (2/3) ctd.

## Comments on CompSoc's impl:

- Tiers antithetical to current CS++ ethos
  - Voted flat hierarchy in 23/24 academic year
  - CS++ Sysadmin team only 4 people
- Issues from having to be voted in, as noted earlier

# Case Studies (3/3)

## UCD NetSoc:

- Candidates fill out expression of interest form
- Chief Sysadmin interviews candidates
- Currently considering overhaul with small test

# Case Studies (3/3) (ctd.)

## Comments on UCD NetSoc's impl:

- Interview a viable way for identifying ideal candidates
- We do not have a Chief Sysadmin (Flat Hierarchy)

# How?

## Proposed Changes

# Appointment

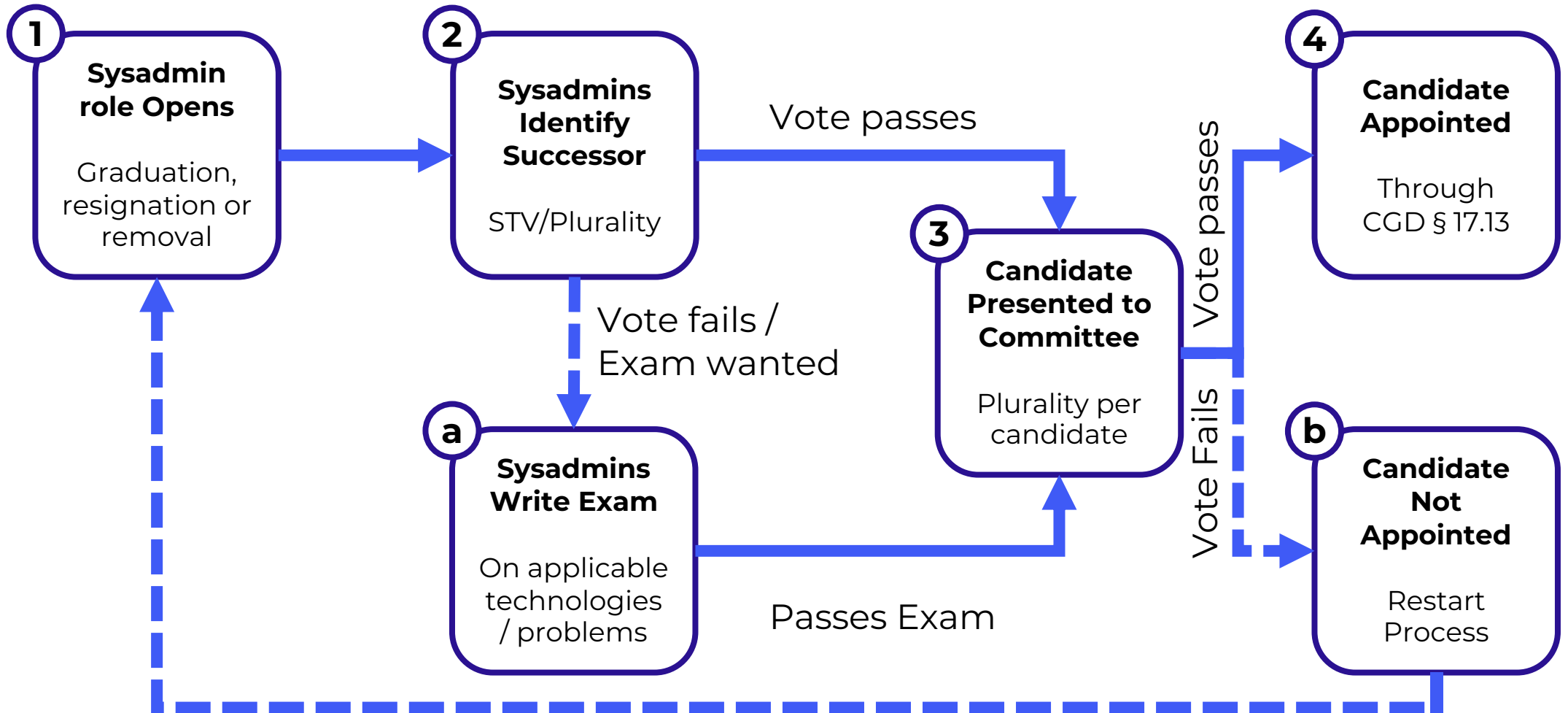
## Method:

- Implementation of 'Co-option'
  - Non-core committee roles may be filled without a vote of the membership (CGD § 17.13)
  - Optional Exam Component on Sysadmin / Committee discretion

## Justification:

- Sysadmins should have a stronger understanding of the technical stack
- Technical continuity shouldn't be left to chance
- In years of high demand / multiple strong candidates, applicable exams can be written to further identify the best candidates

# Approval Flowchart



Main Flow 

Alternate Flow 

# Notes on Approval Workflow

## Voting Method

- Sysadmins shall vote using the [Single Transferrable Vote](#) method, unless only one position is open (**CGD § 9.01**)
- If one position is open, a Simple Majority may be used (**CGD § 5.02**)

## Alternative Flows

- Failed Sysadmin Vote / Interest in Exam
  - Sysadmins to write exam, with whatever format they deem fit (Ideally Written & Practical)
  - Should exam be impractical to create at that time / not help with selection, voting is to be moved to whole committee
- Failed vote at Committee-level
  - Candidates rejected at CMT-level disqualified.
  - Should no candidate fill after 2 weeks, Sysadmins may vote with STV / Plurality to temporarily fill a position (**CGD § 17.15-16**)

# Other Notes on Sysadmins

## Continuity

- Terms last as is
  - No need for re-appointment every year
  - Leave upon:
    - graduating
    - resigned (CGD § 18.01)
    - or removed (CGD § 18.08-11)
- All current Sysadmins inherited without reappointment

# Constitutional Amendments

## Article IV. The Committee of the Society

Remove **4.14 – 4.15**

## Article V. Systems Administrators of the Society

**5.01.** The Systems Administrators, henceforth 'Sysadmins', shall oversee, maintain and manage the acquisition of all equipment held by the Society. Chiefly, the Sysadmins shall be rootholders on all technical hardware of the Society.

**5.02.** Sysadmins, upon appointment, serve from the date of their appointment until they resign, are removed, or graduate from the university.

**5.03.** Sysadmins are appointed through a two-step process, and not automatically available at General Meetings if there is a vacancy.

# Constitutional Amendments (ctd.)

## Article V. Systems Administrators of the Society (ctd.)

**5.04.** The first step of Sysadmin appointment is an internal vote of the current Sysadmins. Using Single-Transferrable Vote, or plurality in the case of only one vacancy, the Sysadmins vote to endorse their candidate(s) for the vacancy/ies.

**5.05.** Should this vote not pass, the Sysadmins shall create an examination which they must offer to all of the candidates originally identified by them.

**5.06.** The candidate(s) with the highest marks in this exam shall automatically be the Sysadmins' endorsed candidate(s).

**5.07.** Should an exam be impractical to create, or not help in endorsing a candidate, all originally identified candidates shall move to the next step for appointment.

# Constitutional Amendments (ctd.)

## Article V. Systems Administrators of the Society (ctd.)

**5.08.** If section 5.04, 5.06, or 5.07 be fulfilled, the candidate(s) shall be voted on by the Whole Committee of the Society using Single-Transferrable Vote, or Plurality in the case of only one vacancy.

**5.09.** If section 5.07 is the condition which triggered the vote by the Whole Committee of the Society, the Sysadmins are eligible to vote. Otherwise, they are not permitted to vote.

**5.10.** Upon the successful vote of the candidate(s), they are automatically appointed to the Committee as a Sysadmin.

**5.11.** Should this vote not pass, the two-step process must begin from step 1, and all candidates are disqualified.

**5.12.** If no candidate(s) are appointed after two calendar weeks of the Sysadmins starting this process, the Sysadmins may temporarily appoint candidate(s) to fill the vacancy/ies, with a maximum time of one month. Candidate(s) may not be temporary appointments more than once.

# Conclusion

With all that out of the way

# Conclusion

- Proposed implementation minimises 'chance' in the Sysadmin positions, allowing a more vetted / stronger group with improved continuity
- Sysadmins remain subservient and answerable to the Whole Committee
- Candidates continue to not require any knowledge, just dedication & willingness to learn
- Technical Infrastructure needs exceptional care when it comes to continuity, knowledge, engagement and trust