We're excited to announce the third expansion of the stDYDX validator set - and its a big one!

To accommodate the anticipated increase in staked DYDX tokens from the recently passed community staking proposal, Stride is adding 9 new validators to the stDYDX set, bringing the total number of validators to which Stride delegates to 26 (43% of the dYdX active set).

Validators selected as part of this cohort include a diverse range of contributors from across the dYdX active set. From titans of validation infrastructure to smaller, community-oriented content creators, the latest cohort includes validators representative of Stride's commitment to be a positive force for decentralization of the dYdX chain.

Stride's Validator Selection Process

As set out in a previous post, Stride is effectuating a phased rollout of delegations to validators on the dYdX Chain. Stride initially launched with 10 validators in order to minimize the likelihood of a selected validator falling out of the rapidly changing dYdX active set. Additionally, Stride committed to periodically add additional validators to the set 3-4 at a time until Stride's traditional 32 validator active set was reached.

As with the initial 10 validators, subsequent validators are chosen according to factors that are most important to the health of the protocol. These factors were inspired heavily by the dYdX Foundation's published guidelines on best practices for dYdX validators and stakers. The recently published MEV Committee Validator Guidelines have also been taken into account. As additional community guidelines for best practices are released by various ecosystem participants, Stride will continue to adapt the delegation model to align closely with the community's criteria.

A few non-exclusive examples of factors taken into account include:

- The validators' respective contributions to dYdX in testnet and mainnet so far, including node and infrastructure operation, testing, maintenance, bug reporting, engineering contributions, dashboard and tooling maintenance, content creation, and more.

- Validator operations and security, to the extent that this is easily discoverable using publicly available means.

- Position in the active set. Because 33% of vote power is currently concentrated in the top 3 validators, no stake will be added to the top 33% of vote power until such time as stake weight distribution across the set improves

- Node performance and latency.

- Governance participation.

This model helps ensure minimum downtime for a validator to which Stride delegates and ensures maximum alignment with the dYdX's protocol's needs. Stride wishes to be a strong decentralizing force for the dYdX chain, and the validator selection process reflects those goals.

Validator Selection - Cohort 3

Stride has selected 9 validators to join the set as part of this cohort. They are:

- Stakecito

- Coinhall

- Coinage x DAIC

- Dora Factory

- Blockdaemon

- Chorus One

- Allnodes

- Nodes.guru

- Crypto Learning Club

With the inclusion of these 9 validators, the total set of 26 validators is as follows:

- Imperator

- Polkachu

- Kingnodes

- PRO Delegators

- Crosnest
- Strangelove
- Cryptocrew x Defi Dojo
- Enigma
- ECO Stake
- Smart Stake
- Lavender.Five nodes
- Kiln
- Meria
- Cosmostation
- Silk Nodes
- Informal Systems
- Provalidator
- Stakecito
- Coinhall
- Coinage x DAIC
- Dora Factory
- Blockdaemon
- Chorus One
- Allnodes
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Next Steps

Stride will begin the process of adding the above validators to the set in the coming days. Validators should note that due to redelegation limits coded into the Cosmos SDK it may take up to 2 weeks to notice changes in your delegations as a result of this expansion.

The community staking proposal is a testament to the dYdX community's confidence in Stride as a force for decentralization of vote power and enhancement of economic security for the dYdX Chain. As the stake weight distribution of the chain changes with time, Stride will continue to monitor delegations to ensure that the community's confidence is not misplaced.

Onwards and upwards!