Factom Community,  
  
We are as excited as you about the forthcoming rollout of Milestone 3 (M3). It has been a long time coming and we have high hopes. However, we feel it is important that we set proper expectations. The M3 code is in early in its’ development; as such we will have more challenges early in this process. There are components that need more testing and unknown use cases that will cause issues. The rollout will be phased in over a period of time, so set your expectation appropriately. Not everyone who applies for an Authority Node will be approved and even selected applicants may have to wait in a queue before going live on the mainnet. As such, take this into account when deciding how much time, energy, and money you put into this project. In general, the protocol and community are moving as quickly and prudently as possible but all parties should understand everything is very fluid and delays will happen. In short do not take undue risks.

Sincerely,

The Factom Protocol Guides (this change is currently sign by David but not other Guides).

Factom Community,

We are as excited as you about the looming rollout of Milestone 3 (M3). It has been a long time coming and we have high hopes. However, we feel it is important that we temper expectations. The M3 code is experimental; it will have bugs and potential stability issues. There are components that have not been thoroughly tested or even properly communicated. It is not guaranteed that it will be functional even in the short term and the rollout could take a long time. Not everyone who applies for an Authority Node will be approved and even selected applicants may have to wait in a queue before going live on mainnet. As such, take this into account when deciding how much time, energy, and money you put into this project. Do not take undue risks.

Sincerely,

The Factom Protocol Guides (this is currently written by David and has been approved by Niels and Tor, but not yet by other Guides)

Pursuant to Section 3 of the [Factom Protocol Governance Document](https://bit.ly/2v4YpBS), the following is the process by which one may apply to be an Authority Node.

If an entity has performed reliably on the testnet and wishes to be considered for an Authority Node, they should contact any Guide who will provide access to a Google Form and provide a 80-100% weighting for the, “Node Reliability” variable. This variable will initially depend on the amount of time the applicant has been on the testnet which is capped at 90 days for max weighting. In the future, once, “Node Reliability” is better defined, the Guide will provide you a number to enter into the, “Node Reliability” field based upon the new criteria.

The Guide Team is open to having a 3rd party provide a better UI than Google Forms in the future which can be tied into the protocol.

The Google Form will contain the following information fields:

1. Name of the entity applying for the Authority Node.
2. Email and phone number of the entity applying for the Authority Node.
3. Primary contact name(s), email, and phone number of the person that should be contacted in case of emergency regarding the server such as downtime, emergency upgrades, etc.

The above information will be only available to Guides and Core Protocol Developers. In the future at an undetermined date when M3 rollout is complete and stable, contact information will no longer be requested as each Authority Node will be on their own to perform or lose their status. Existing contact information will be deleted.

The Google Form will contain the following mandatory variables to be entered by the applicant. The variables you enter into this field will not be revealed to others until a not-yet specified date to stop one-upping.

1. Node Reliability (3.3 of Governance Document) - Weight is X%
2. Proposed Efficiency (3.3.4 of Governance Document) - Weight is X% - 50% efficiency is the maximum weighting but Auth Node Operators may provide more if so desired.
3. Technical Specifications of Server (3.3.5 of Governance Document) - Weight is X% - At present, the discussion is along the lines of having a minimum, average, and max specification for various components which will be check-marked by the applicants. A set score will be applied for each variable.
4. Location (3.3.6 of Governance Doc) - Weight - X% - How this will be determined is still undecided.

The way the Governance Doc is currently written, at present, Guides/Standing Parties have no voting ability for the Authority Set. A proposed amendment will change that. Assuming some version of that amendment passes, the following information will be provided. Weighting of the following information voted upon by Guides initially and Standing Parties once the means is developed is X%.

The following information will be public for anyone to see.

Mandatory

1. Information about how you will monitor, handle and respond to unscheduled downtime for your node. In addition, how you or your team will make yourself available to Protocol Developers in need of an emergency update or reboot of the network. Include a maximum response time.

Optional

2. Any additional pertinent information such as a campaign document, video, or other items you feel showcase the potential of your team.