**Authority Node Criteria and Application Process**

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. 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

**Governance**

Pursuant to Section 3 of the [Factom Protocol Governance Document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RVaVR7lvfGgOBMG-7oca9TtpnR7qaEfr6XJVaZJwd3M/edit?usp=sharing), membership in the Authority Set will initially be granted by the Guides.

**Initial Authority Set**

The initial campaign process will see 21 Authority Set applicants selected. The top 11 will be "live" upon M3 launch. The remaining 10 will be in a queue waiting to be onboarded as the network proves stability. The 10 waiting parties will not receive FCT until they are live on mainnet. Each Entity will operate two servers with the knowledge that some point in the future, that will become one. Queue’d entities will be onboarded as Protocol developers at Factom Inc handling the rollout of M3 ok it, by score. Once the total queue nears completion, new campaigns will start. Newly elected Auth Node entities will fall in line behind the original Queue if any of those entities are not yet on Mainnet. Entities may be asked to run two Audit Servers initially rather than one Federated, one Audit.

**Scoring**

Each Guide will have 100 points they can award per Entity [using this scoring matrix](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zyc-DwbueZGxN94gUi-E7RYxmFaSwCHhNuIzOwixllg/edit#gid=0). The total of the five Guides scores will then be divided by five for the final score for the Entity that will be shared in this sheet. If a Guide or Guides have to recuse themselves, the total score will be divided by the number of Guides who were able to vote. Scores for each Guide and Entity will be posted at the same time and shared publicly [in this Google sheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S9R-qmRtaLgBuul5XdCu-1NF9WJhGpiU135meVKaQOQ/edit#gid=0).

Guides may discuss applicants and scores together, in public, or work separately. Guides will strive to summarize why they scored applicants the way they did. There will be no appeals but Applicants can re-submit in future elections.

**Criteria**

Due to time constraints, the initial campaign criteria will be 100% weighted on the decision of the Guides and a couple variables. A matrix Guides will use [can be seen here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zyc-DwbueZGxN94gUi-E7RYxmFaSwCHhNuIzOwixllg/edit#gid=0). Over time, Guides will add in additional variables and hand over voting control to the Standing Parties as outlined in the Governance Document. All information except for contact info will be made public once all submissions are received so do not include anything that is not for public consumption.

**How to Apply**

1. [Fill out this Google Sheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jQauGZU9PgxO8TCE1W0vP-bG8jwdMNchHM-KQkNCNw4/edit#gid=0) regarding your server’s location. While location will not be weighted initially, please strive to use different locations and providers.
2. [Review the technical specifications sheet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MF2E9G_hZ3bD0EwKlbsTNvaHMcHqJkLAIfYJb-AGJfg/edit?usp=sharing) to help you determine your server specs.
3. Fill out the following Google form with its’ mandatory information: **[link to Q’s Google Form]** and submit it by **[DEADLINE]**
4. [Join this discussion forum](https://factomize.com/forums/).
5. Create a thread in the “[Authority Node Applications](https://factomize.com/forums/factom/applications/)” forum at the top by **[DEADLINE]**. The title of the thread should be the name of your entity applying such as, “The Factoid Authority”. This thread will be public. Guides will use this thread to ask questions, please respond as quickly as you can prior to **[FINISH TIME]** as we will use answers as part of the scoring process.
6. At **[REVEAL TIME]** all applications will be made visible and Guides will begin the scoring process.
7. On **[FINISH TIME]** the Guides will populate [this Google Sheet](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S9R-qmRtaLgBuul5XdCu-1NF9WJhGpiU135meVKaQOQ/edit#gid=0) with their scores and the highest scores will be highlighted.
8. There will be no appeals but you may re-apply in the future.