A strategy for cod4lib voting, and some suggestions for improvement

Erik Hetzner

California Digital Library

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Multiple winner election

• Voting for c4l talks is like electing a parliament.

- 'Majoritarian': top-rated talks are chosen
- with no representation for small parties.
- Each voter is given unlimited votes, and can assign them 0-3 for each talk.

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This makes no sense.

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• Electing *n* winners.

- Each voter gets *n* votes to divide among candidates, 1 per candidate.
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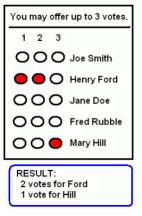
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Cumulative voting example

Cumulative Ballot



(from Wikipedia)

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• *A* < *B* < *C*

• As a voter, all you care about is seeing the talks you want to see.

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- Given them each 3 votes
- Every other talk gets nothing

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If everybody follows this strategy, c4l voting is reduced to plurality-at-large, because everybody will do this.

- Limit points users can assign (to number of candidates)
- and/or only allow users to give one vote (point) to each talk
- Or adopt a proportional representation system.

Szpiro, George. Numbers Rule: The Vexing Mathematics of Democracy. Princeton, 2010.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_systems