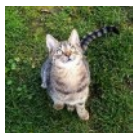


# Verifying Gentoo election results via Votrfify

By *Roy Schestowitz*

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Gentoo elections are conducted using a custom software called votify. During the voting period, the developers place their votes in their respective home directories on one of the Gentoo servers. Afterwards, the election officials collect the votes, count them, compare their results and finally announce them.

The simplified description stated above suggests two weak points. Firstly, we rely on honesty of election officials. If they chose to conspire, they could fake the result. Secondly, we rely on honesty of all Infrastructure members, as they could use root access to manipulate the votes (or the collection process).

To protect against possible fraud, we make the elections transparent (but pseudonymous). This means that all votes cast are public, so everyone can count them and verify the result. Furthermore, developers can verify whether their personal vote has been included. Ideally, all developers would do that and therefore confirm that no votes were manipulated.

Currently, we are pretty much implicitly relying on developers doing that, and assuming that no protest implies successful verification. However, this is not really reliable, and given the unfriendly nature of our scripts I have reasons to doubt that the majority of developers actually verify the election results. In this post, I would like to shortly explain how Gentoo elections work, how they could be manipulated and introduce Votrfify ? a tool to explicitly verify election results.

[2]

[Gentoo](#)

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**Source URL:** <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/125786>

## Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/109>

[2] <https://blogs.gentoo.org/mgorny/2019/07/09/verifying-gentoo-election-results-via-votrfify/>