

A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING CROSS-BORDER SHAREHOLDER ELECTRONIC VOTING

5 CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This patent application claims priority of Taiwan Patent Application No. 106138504, filed on Nov. 7, 2017, the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a system and a method for
15 shareholder voting, and in particular, to a method and system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting.

II. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] Recently, with rapid advances in technology, the development of
20 Internet applications has become more and more diverse. Things that were believed to be impossible in the past have been achieved one after another with the help of technology, and electronic voting is one of them. There are multiple mechanisms in the current technology for shareholder voting. Shareholder voting on each of multiple stock will make the shareholders exhausted, thus reducing the
25 shareholders' willingness to vote. Furthermore, in the current shareholder voting technology, shareholder voting on each stock is performed independently and the shareholder voting can be notified through papers, thereby causing the stockholders owning multiple stocks to have a lower willingness to participate in shareholder voting.

[0003] In order to execute the cross-border shareholder voting right, overseas shareholder must have sufficient information ahead of time for making the best decision for the cross-border shareholder voting. However, the deadline for the cross-border shareholder voting is shortened by a few days compared with domestic shareholder voting, resulting in insufficient time for communicating with the overseas shareholders. Furthermore, information in the English agenda of the shareholders' meeting is not standardized, resulting in waste of manpower, which in turn causes overseas shareholders to give up the shareholder voting rights.

[0004] In summary, it can be seen that there has been a long-standing issue that overseas shareholders have low willingness to participate in shareholder voting along with the inefficiency of the cross-border voting process. Accordingly, there is a need to find a new way to carry out the cross-border voting process to resolve the above-mentioned issues.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] One object of the present invention is to provide a method and system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting such that shareholder electronic voting across borders is automated so as to avoid human error and delay while allowing more time for the overseas shareholders to consider their decisions on the cross-border shareholder voting.

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[0006] One object of the present invention is to provide a method and system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting such that an English agenda can be obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda by

one of the domestic custodians according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translation work among the multiple domestic custodians, so as to save manpower of the domestic custodians and standardize the English agendas while making the communications with overseas shareholders easier and increasing the willingness of the overseas shareholders to participate in the cross-border shareholder voting.

[0007] One object of the present invention is to provide a method and system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting by using a single window for the cross-border voting process so as to establish a standard model for the operations related to the stock.

[0008] In one embodiment, a method for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting is disclosed, the method comprising: using at least one first server to connect multiple domestic custodians and an overseas international voting agency, wherein each of the multiple domestic custodians keeps shares of a first stock own by overseas customers; providing an agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency through the at least one first server; using the at least one first server to receive selected options in the agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international voting agency; and using the at least one first server to communicate with an shareholder electronic voting platform to complete shareholder electronic voting of the shareholders' meeting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the agenda.

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[0009] In one embodiment, the agenda is an English agenda obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the multiple domestic custodians is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda

according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.

[0010] In one embodiment, the assigned custodian is advised of the
5 information on the Chinese agenda by the shareholder electronic voting platform
via the at least one first server.

[0011] In one embodiment, the at least one first server verifies the English
agenda translated by the assigned custodian and then transmits the English agenda
10 to the multiple domestic custodians and the overseas international voting agency.

[0012] In one embodiment, the at least one first server and the first stock
issuing company completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock
owned by overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the
15 English agenda of the shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to
the overseas international voting agency.

[0013] In one embodiment, the at least one first server and the multiple
domestic custodians completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock
20 owned by overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the
English agenda of the shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to
the overseas international voting agency.

[0014] In one embodiment, the at least one server comprises at least one
25 server of a depository.

[0015] In one embodiment, the at least one server belongs to a depository.

[0016] In one embodiment, a system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting is disclosed, the system comprising at least one first server, the at least one first server connecting the multiple domestic custodians and an overseas international voting agency, wherein each of the multiple domestic custodians keeps shares of a first stock own by overseas customers; providing an agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency through the at least one first server; using the at least one first server to receive selected options in the agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international voting agency; and using the at least one first server to communicate with a shareholder electronic voting platform to complete shareholder electronic voting of the shareholders' meeting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the agenda.

[0017] In one embodiment, the agenda is an English agenda obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the multiple domestic custodians is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.

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[0018] In one embodiment, the assigned custodian is advised of information on the Chinese agenda by the shareholder electronic voting platform via the at least one first server.

[0019] In one embodiment, the at least one first server verifies the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian and then transmits the verified English agenda to the multiple domestic custodians and the overseas international voting agency.

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[0020] In one embodiment, the at least one first server and the first stock issuing company completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock owned by overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the English agenda of the shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency.

[0021] In one embodiment, the at least one first server and the multiple domestic custodians completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock owned by overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the English agenda of the shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency.

[0022] In one embodiment, the at least one server comprises at least one server of a depository.

[0023] In one embodiment, the at least one server belongs to a depository.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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[0024] The foregoing aspects and many of the accompanying advantages of this invention will become more readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

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FIG. 1 is a schematic view illustrating a system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a flow chart illustrating a method for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates a process of performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;
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FIG. 4 is a schematic view illustrating the architecture of a system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0025] The detailed description of the present invention is described below. The described preferred embodiments are for purposes of illustration and
15 description and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

[0026] FIG. 1 illustrates a system 100 for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting. As shown in FIG. 1, the system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting comprises: at least one first server 101,
20 wherein the at least one first server 101 connects multiple domestic custodians 102 and an overseas international voting agency 103, wherein each of the domestic custodians 102 keeps a first stock own by overseas customers, wherein an English agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company is provided to the overseas international voting agency 103 through the at least one
25 first server 101, wherein the at least one first server 101 receives selected options in the English agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international voting agency 103, and using the at least one first server 101 to communicate with a shareholder electronic voting platform 104 to

complete shareholder electronic voting of the shareholders' meeting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the agenda.

5 [0027] In one embodiment, the English agenda is obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the multiple domestic custodians 102 is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.

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 [0028] In one embodiment, the assigned custodian is advised of the information on the Chinese agenda by the shareholder electronic voting platform 104 via the at least one first server 101.

15 [0029] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 verifies the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian and then transmits the English agenda to the multiple domestic custodians 102 and the overseas international voting agency 103.

20 [0030] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 and the first stock issuing company completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server 101 provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency 103.

25 [0031] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 and the multiple domestic custodians 102 completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server 101 provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency 103.

[0032] In one embodiment, the at least one server comprises at least one server of a depository.

5 [0033] FIG. 2 illustrates a method for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting. Please refer to FIGS. 1 and 2. The method for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting comprises the following steps: in step S211, using at least one first server to connect multiple domestic custodians 102 and an overseas international voting agency, wherein each of the domestic
10 custodians keeps a first stock own by overseas customers; in step 212, providing an agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency through the at least one first server; in step 213, using the at least one first server to receive selected options in the agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international
15 voting agency; and in step 214 the at least one first server communicating with a shareholder electronic voting platform to complete shareholder electronic voting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the English agenda.

20 [0034] In one embodiment, the agenda is an English agenda obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, and one of the multiple domestic custodians 102 is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.

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[0035] In one embodiment, the assigned custodian is advised of the information on the Chinese agenda by the shareholder electronic voting platform 104 via the at least one first server 101.

[0036] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 verifies the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian and then transmits the English agenda to the multiple domestic custodians 102 and the overseas
5 international voting agency 103.

[0037] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 and the first stock issuing company completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server 101 provides the
10 agenda to the overseas international voting agency 103.

[0038] In one embodiment, the at least one first server 101 and the multiple domestic custodians 102 completes the reconciliation of the shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server 101
15 provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency 103.

[0039] In one embodiment, the at least one server comprises at least one server of a depository.

20 [0040] FIG. 3 illustrates a system and process for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting in one embodiment of the present invention. Please refer to FIG. 3. The at least one first server 101 has an interface of service information network 301 to communicate with the domestic custodians 102, and the at least one first server 101 has a shareholder electronic voting
25 interface/application such as shareholder e-pass 302 interface to communicate with the stock issuing company 105. As shown in step 1 in FIG. 3, the electronic reconciliation of shares is to ensure that information on shares of the first stock of the shareholders in the stock issuing company 105 is consistent with information

on shares of the first stock of the shareholders kept by the domestic custodian 102. For domestic custodians 102, one single shareholder account (or shareholder ID) may be owned by more than one overseas shareholders; therefore, when processing the voting, the mapping between the shareholder account (or shareholder ID) and the shareholders commonly owning the shareholder account (or shareholder ID) must be processed correctly so as to ensure the correctness of the number of the shares of each overseas shareholder for voting when the instruction to vote from the overseas international voting agency 103 is received. The stock issuing company 105 provides information, such as the overseas resident's tax ID number, account number, split note and the instruction for stopping share transfer, to the domestic custodians 102, and then the domestic custodian 102 downloads the information and adds ISIN code and account number of the domestic custodians 102 to the downloaded information for uploading to the at least first server. The at least one first server 101 verifies the share reconciliation data of the overseas shareholders uploaded by the domestic custodians 102 so as to reduce errors caused by discrepancies in number of shares for voting. As shown in step 2 in FIG. 3, the English agenda is transferred from domestic custodians 102 to the at least one first server 101, wherein the English agenda is obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the multiple domestic custodians 102 is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians. 33 days Prior to the shareholders' meeting, the assigned custodian is advised of the information on Chinese agenda of the shareholders' meeting by the shareholder electronic voting platform 104 via the at least one first server 101. The at least one first server 101 verifies whether the format and upload time of the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian are correct. Then, the English agenda is transmitted to the at least one first server 101 and the overseas international voting agency 103 up to

21 days prior to the shareholders' meeting. As shown in step 3 in FIG. 3, the English agenda is transmitted to the overseas international voting agency 103 through the at least one first server 101. Straight-through processing (STP), as shown in Step 4 in FIG. 3, means that the overseas international voting agency 103 transmits a voting instruction to the at least one first server 101 so that the at least one first server 101 can directly communicate with the shareholder electronic voting platform 104 to complete shareholder electronic voting of the first stock according to the selected options in the English agenda, wherein the at least one first server 101 can communicate with the shareholder electronic voting platform 104 through shareholder e-pass to complete shareholder electronic voting of the first stock according to the selected options in the English agenda, as shown in step 5 in FIG. 3.

[0041] FIG. 4 illustrates a system architecture diagram 400 for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting according to one embodiment of the present invention. Please refer to FIG. 4. The server 404 in FIG. 4 provides cross-border Straight-through processing (STP). The server 404 is connected to a security control and information service area 405 to communicate with a network certificate center 406, the overseas international voting agency 407 and the stock exchange 408 so as to complete cross-border shareholder electronic voting. The stock issuing company /transfer agency 401 and the professional institutional investor 402 in FIG. 4 can communicate with the server 404 using the computer 403.

[0042] The hardware and software architecture of the cross-border shareholder electronic voting system of present invention can use load balancing architecture with multiple servers to achieve high availability. Through this mechanism, the traffic load can be distributed equally to each server to achieve

load balancing. If one server is shut down in the group, the load balancing will direct the load of the failed server to other servers, thereby providing uninterrupted network services. The use of a server load balancing architecture provides the following benefits: increased reliability, improved server service
5 performance, easier server management, and independence of hardware architecture or operating systems.

[0043] The method and system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting of the present invention has many advantages, wherein
10 shareholder electronic voting across borders can be automated to avoid human error and time delay while allowing more time for overseas shareholders to consider the decisions on cross-border shareholder voting. Furthermore, an English agenda can be obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, and one of the multiple domestic custodians is assigned to translate the Chinese
15 agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians, thereby making the communications with overseas shareholders easier and increasing the willingness of the overseas shareholders to participate in the cross-border shareholder voting. Furthermore, the method and system for performing cross-border shareholder
20 electronic voting of the present invention can provide a single window for the cross-border voting process so as to establish a standard model for operations related to the stock. In addition, the agenda of the present invention transmitted to an overseas international voting agency is not limited to English, and it can be in any language.

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[0044] While the invention has been described in connection with the preferred embodiments, it is not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Any person skilled in the art can make some changes and modifications without

departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The scope of the patent protection of the invention hence shall be subject to the definition of the scope of the patent application attached hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting, the method comprising:
 - using at least one first server to connect multiple domestic custodians
 - 5 and an overseas international voting agency, wherein each of the multiple domestic custodians keeps a first stock own by overseas customers;
 - providing an agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency through the at least one first server;
 - 10 using the at least one first server to receive selected options in the agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international voting agency; and
 - using the at least one first server to communicate with a shareholder electronic voting platform to complete shareholder electronic voting of the
 - 15 shareholders' meeting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the agenda.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the agenda is an English agenda obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the
- 20 multiple domestic custodians is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one first server verifies
- 25 the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian and transmits the verified English agenda to the multiple domestic custodians and the overseas international voting agency.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first server and the first stock issuing company completes the reconciliation of shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency.

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5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one first server and the multiple domestic custodians completes the reconciliation of shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one server comprises at least one server of a depository.

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7. A system for performing cross-border shareholder electronic voting, said system comprising:

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at least one first server, connecting multiple domestic custodians and an overseas international voting agency, wherein each of domestic custodians keeps a first stock own by overseas customers, wherein the at least one first server provides an agenda of a shareholders' meeting of the first stock issuing company to the overseas international voting agency through the at least one first server, wherein the at least one first server receives selected options in the agenda from the overseas customers owning the first stock via the overseas international voting agency, and wherein the at least one first server communicates with a shareholder electronic voting platform to complete shareholder electronic voting for the overseas customers owning the first stock according to the selected options in the agenda.

8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the agenda is an English agenda

obtained by translating a corresponding Chinese agenda, wherein one of the multiple domestic custodians is assigned to translate the Chinese agenda into the English agenda according to a mutual agreement for distributing the translating work among the multiple domestic custodians.

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9. The system according to claim 8, wherein the at least one first server verifies the English agenda translated by the assigned custodian and transmits the verified English agenda to the multiple domestic custodians and the overseas international voting agency.

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10. The system according to claim 8, wherein the at least one first server and the first stock issuing company completes the reconciliation of shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency.

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11. The system according to claim 8, wherein the at least one first server and the multiple domestic custodians completes the reconciliation of shares of the first stock own by the overseas customers before the at least one first server provides the agenda to the overseas international voting agency.

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