

## HORTONWORKS, INC.

### CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

The Board of Directors (the “**Board**”) of Hortonworks, Inc. (the “**Company**”) has adopted the corporate governance guidelines set forth below to assist and guide the Board in the exercise of its responsibilities. These guidelines should be interpreted in accordance with any requirements imposed by applicable federal or state law or regulation, the NASDAQ Stock Market LLC and the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws. The Board may review and amend these guidelines from time to time.

#### I. DIRECTOR CRITERIA AND SELECTION

**Director Criteria:** The Board shall consider and approve from time to time the criteria that it deems necessary or advisable for prospective Director candidates. The Board shall have full authority to modify such criteria from time to time as it deems necessary or advisable. The Board has delegated to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (the “**Nominating Committee**”) the responsibility for developing and recommending to the Board for its consideration and approval such criteria for prospective Director candidates as the Nominating Committee deems necessary or advisable. The Nominating Committee will recommend to the Board from time to time such criteria for its consideration and approval. The Board may, however, rescind this delegation to the Nominating Committee and thereafter the Board shall have the responsibility for developing and approving from time to time such criteria for prospective Director candidates as it deems necessary or advisable.

**Process For Identifying and Selecting Directors:** The Board has delegated to the Nominating Committee the responsibility of identifying suitable candidates for nomination to the Board (including candidates to fill any vacancies that may occur) and assessing their qualifications in light of the policies and principles in these corporate governance guidelines and the committee’s charter. The Nominating Committee will recommend prospective Director candidates for the Board’s consideration and review the prospective candidates’ qualifications with the Board. The Board shall retain the ultimate authority to nominate a candidate for election by the stockholders as a Director or to fill any vacancy that may occur. In identifying prospective Director candidates, the Nominating Committee may consider all facts and circumstances that it deems appropriate or advisable, including, among other things, the skills of the prospective Director candidate, his or her depth and breadth of business experience or other background characteristics, his or her independence and the needs of the Board.

**Independence:** At least a majority of the members of the Board shall meet the independence standards of the Stock Market Rules of The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC NASDAQ (the “**NASDAQ Stock Market Rules**”) set forth in Rule 5602(a)(2) of the NASDAQ Stock Market Rules (or any successor provision thereto). The Board will periodically evaluate all relationships between the Company and each Director in light of relevant facts and circumstances for the purposes of determining whether a material relationship exists that

might signal a potential conflict of interest or otherwise interfere with such Director's ability to satisfy his or her responsibilities as an independent Director.

**Limit on Number of Other Boards:** Carrying out the duties and fulfilling the responsibilities of a Director require a significant commitment of an individual's time and attention. The Board does not believe, however, that explicit limits on the number of other boards of directors on which the Directors may serve, or on other activities the Directors may pursue, are appropriate. The Board, however, recognizes that excessive time commitments can interfere with an individual's ability to perform his or her duties effectively. In connection with its assessment of Director candidates for nomination, the Nominating Committee will assess whether the performance of any Director has been or is likely to be adversely impacted by excessive time commitments, including service on other boards of directors. Directors must notify the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee in connection with accepting a seat on the board of directors of another business corporation so that the potential for conflicts or other factors compromising the Director's ability to perform his duties may be fully assessed.

**Term and Age Limits:** The Board does not believe that arbitrary limits on the number of consecutive terms a Director may serve or on the Directors' ages are appropriate in light of the substantial benefits resulting from a sustained focus on the Company's business, strategy and industry over a significant period of time. Each individual's performance will be assessed by the Nominating Committee in light of relevant factors in connection with assessments of candidates for nomination to be Directors.

**Succession:** The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for developing succession plans for the Board as appropriate in light of relevant facts and circumstances.

**Directors Who Change Job Responsibility:** The Board does not believe Directors who retire or change their principal occupation or business association should necessarily leave the Board. However, promptly following any such event, the Director should notify the Nominating Committee, so that there is an opportunity for the Board, through the Nominating Committee, to review the continued appropriateness of Board membership under the new circumstances.

## II. DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPENSATION

**Role of Directors:** The business and affairs of the Company are managed by or under the direction of the Board, acting on behalf of the stockholders. The Board has delegated to the officers of the Company the authority and responsibility for managing the Company's everyday affairs. The Board has an oversight role and is not expected to perform or duplicate the tasks of the CEO or senior management.

**Attendance at Meetings:** Each member of the Board is expected to make reasonable efforts to attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Board and to participate in telephone conference meetings or other special meetings of the Board. In the event that Directors are unable to make at least 75% of those regular or special meetings (together with the meetings

of committees on which such Director serves), the Company will be required to disclose that fact in its annual proxy statement. In addition, attendance and participation at meetings is an important component of the Directors' duties and, as such, attendance rates will be taken into account by the Nominating Committee in connection with assessments of Director candidates for renomination as Directors.

**Time Commitment; Advance Distribution and Review of Materials:** Directors are expected to spend the time needed and meet as frequently as the Board deems necessary or appropriate to discharge their responsibilities. Senior management is responsible for distributing in advance information and data that are important to the Board's understanding of the business to be conducted at a Board or Committee meeting to the Directors. Directors should review these materials in advance of the meeting when reasonably practicable.

**Director Compensation:** The form and amount of Director compensation will be reviewed periodically and determined by the Compensation Committee of the Board except as otherwise determined by the Board.

The Company's executive officers shall not receive additional compensation for their service as Directors.

### III. BOARD STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES

**Size of Board:** The Board reserves the right to increase or decrease the size of the Board, subject to any relevant provisions in the Company's By-laws, depending on an assessment of the Board's needs and other relevant circumstances at any given time. The size of the Board may vary based upon the size of the business and the availability of qualified candidates. Board size should facilitate active interaction and participation by all Board members. The Board will review from time to time the appropriateness of its size.

**Board Leadership:** The Board shall fill the Chairperson of the Board and CEO positions based upon the Board's view of what is in the best interests of the Company. The CEO and Chairperson may, but need not be, the same person.

**Committees:** The Board intends at all times to have an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and a Nominating Committee. Each of these standing committees will have a written charter that sets forth the responsibilities of such committee and the qualifications for committee membership. The Board may from time to time establish additional committees as necessary or appropriate. Membership on such committees is limited to independent directors meeting the independence requirements of the NASDAQ Stock Market Rules, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and any other related rules or regulations promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Internal Revenue Service (as applicable). The Board retains discretion to form new committees or disband current committees depending upon the circumstances.

**Executive Sessions:** The non-management Directors will meet at regularly scheduled executive sessions without management participation and at least once each year an

executive session with only independent directors present shall be held. As long as the Chairperson of the Board is a non-management director and an independent director, then the Chairperson of the Board will preside at these meetings. If the Chairperson of the Board does not so qualify, then the Director who presides at these meetings will be chosen by the non-management directors. In either case, the Director who presides at these meetings, and his or her name, or the process by which he or she is selected, will be disclosed in the annual proxy statement or, if the Company does not file an annual proxy statement, in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC. In order that interested parties may be able to make their concerns known to the non-management directors, the Company will also disclose a method for such parties to communicate directly and confidentially with the presiding Director or with the non-management Directors as a group.

**Director Access to Management and Independent Advisors:** In carrying out its responsibilities, the Board, and each committee thereof, shall be entitled to rely on the advice and information that it receives from management and such experts, advisors and professionals with whom the Board, or any such committee, may consult. The Board, and each committee thereof, shall have the authority to request that any officer or employee of the Company, the Company's outside legal counsel, the Company's independent auditor or any other professional retained by the Company to render advice to the Company, attend a meeting of the Board, or such committee, or meet with any members of or advisors to the Board. The Board or any committee thereof shall also have the authority to engage legal, accounting or other advisors to provide it with advice and information in connection with carrying out its or their responsibilities.

**Director Orientation and Continuing Education:** The Company will conduct an orientation program for each new Director. The orientation will include presentations by senior management designed to familiarize the new Director with the Company's business and strategic plans, key policies and practices, principal officers and management structure, auditing and compliance processes and its code of business conduct and ethics. The Chief Financial Officer will be responsible for periodically providing materials or briefing sessions for continuing Directors on topics that will assist them in discharging their duties.

#### IV. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- **Annual Review of Chief Executive Officer:** The Compensation Committee will conduct a review at least annually of the performance of the CEO. The Compensation Committee will establish the evaluation process and determine the specific criteria on which the performance of the CEO is evaluated in accordance with the charter and principles of the Compensation Committee.
- **Succession:** The Board will work with the CEO to plan for CEO succession, as well as to develop plans for interim succession for the CEO in the event of an unexpected occurrence. The Board will also work with the CEO and appropriate members of management to plan for succession of each of the executives as well as to develop plans for interim succession of

each of the executives in the event of an unexpected occurrence. In addition to the succession planning, there should periodically be a report on management development by the CEO.

## V. OTHER CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

**Annual Performance Evaluations of the Board and Committees:** The Board will conduct a self-evaluation at least annually for the purpose of determining whether it and its committees are functioning effectively, and each committee of the Board will conduct a self-evaluation at least annually for the purpose of determining whether it is functioning effectively. The Nominating Committee will oversee the evaluation process. These evaluations will consider the performance of the board or the committee, as the case may be, as a unit.

**Communications with Outside Interested Parties:** The Board believes that the management should be responsible for communications with the press, media and other outside parties made on behalf of the Company, though individual Board members may, at the request of management or of the Board, communicate with outside parties on behalf of the Company.

**No Limitation on Other Rights:** These guidelines are not intended to modify, extinguish or in any other manner limit the indemnification, exculpation and similar rights available to the Directors of the Company under applicable law and/or the Company's Certificate of Incorporation and/or its By-laws.

**Securityholder Communication Policy:** The Board provides to every securityholder the ability to communicate with the Board, as a whole, and with individual Directors on the Board through an established process for securityholder communication (as that term is defined by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission) in the form attached hereto as Appendix A.

**Modifications to Guidelines:** Although these corporate governance guidelines have been approved by the Board, it is expected that these guidelines will evolve over time as customary practice and legal requirements change. In particular, guidelines that encompass legal, regulatory or exchange requirements as they currently exist will be deemed to be modified as and to the extent such legal, regulatory or exchange requirements are modified. In addition, the guidelines may also be amended by the Board at any time it deems appropriate.

ADOPTED: September 12, 2014

## **Appendix A**

### **Policies and Procedures for Securityholder Communications to Directors**