
Proposal: Expanding the Polkadot ecosystem with Polkadot for Beginners v2

Proponent: 12WarfbFeUm5L9Fs5zkTaQQH7L5hqaGPEgM9vQ1UfK8kiUSK

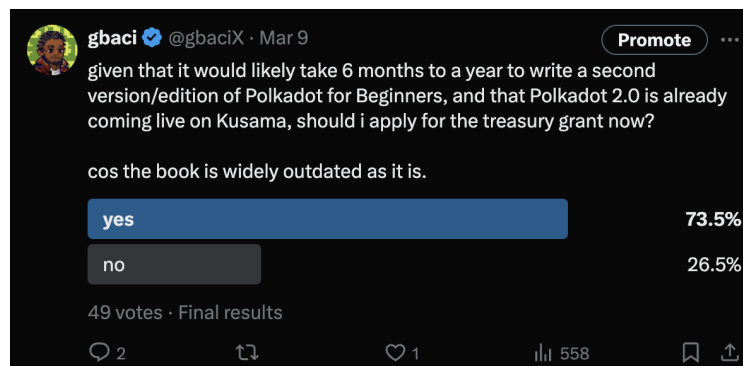
Beneficiary: 12WarfbFeUm5L9Fs5zkTaQQH7L5hqaGPEgM9vQ1UfK8kiUSK

<https://linktr.ee/polkadotbook>

Date: 6th June 2024

Requested Funds: \$40,000

Short description: This proposal aims to update the "Polkadot for Beginners" book to reflect recent developments in the Polkadot ecosystem. The new edition will include updates on OpenGov, Polkadot v2.0 features, and new parachains, ensuring accurate and comprehensive information for newcomers and driving community growth.



Context of the proposal

In June 2021, I applied for funding to write the *Polkadot for Beginners* book because I saw a need for one. [My proposal](#) was approved, and I wrote and [published the book](#). With the rapid development of Polkadot, particularly the release of OpenGov and the staggered evolution towards Polkadot v2.0 (Async Backing, Coretime, Elastic Scaling), it has become necessary to

create a new, more up-to-date version. This is why I am requesting funds to write a second edition.

Since its publication, *Polkadot for Beginners v1* has:

- Garnered over 6,000 views
- Gotten over 3,000 downloads
- Been translated into 7 languages by community members: Spanish, Chinese, German, Romanian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Persian

These modest numbers are significant because the book's reach was entirely organic. I wonder what could be achieved with a more concentrated marketing push, but this is a conversation better had when the book is ready.

Lifetime Analytics

● Views:	● Clicks:	● CTR:	● Subscribers:
6.09k	4.63k	76.08%	15

Problem statement

Given the pace of development over the last two years (even one year would suffice), it is safe to say that Polkadot is the fastest-evolving blockchain. While this is great from a technology perspective, it poses challenges for community acquisition and management. Information mutates faster than it can be disseminated, rendering parts of "Polkadot for Beginners" v1 obsolete. As the only book about Polkadot for onboarding newbies, it is important to keep it as up-to-date as possible to ensure new converts receive accurate and complete information.

Proposal solution and objectives

This proposal seeks funding to write "Polkadot for Beginners" v2, updating the book with current information about the ecosystem. Revisions and new additions will include, but are not limited to:

- Adding details about OpenGov to the governance chapter, including the deprecation of Gov v1 (Council, Technical Committee, etc.) and the primary role of OpenGov.
- Introducing the concept of Polkadot as a quality blockspace provider, as proposed by Robert Habermeier, to the chapter on the relay chain.
- Providing a short overview of new parachains in the chapter on parachains.
- Offering a deep dive into XCM and its various use-cases in the section on interoperability.
- Adding a section dedicated to JAM and the future of Polkadot.
- Including any other updates discovered during research.

Why write a book at all

I fell in love with Polkadot after reading Gavin's whitepaper. Its balance of simplicity and complexity, as well as the grandness of its vision, deeply impressed me. The whitepaper was like a book on Polkadot, guiding me from Gavin's vision to the technical aspects. However, it is incredibly technical for the average person and doesn't scale well in terms of accessibility.

The Polkadot wiki attempts to address this by consolidating information on one website, but there are two issues:

1. Information is still somewhat scattered.
2. The wiki, like the whitepaper, is written from a technical standpoint, which can be challenging for beginners to understand.

As it stands, learning about the Polkadot ecosystem in a holistic and non-technical fashion requires extensive research. This can be daunting for newcomers. To inspire others as I was inspired, we need a holistic view of the ecosystem, similar to reading the whitepaper but accessible to everyone.

A book about Polkadot written for beginners would provide a single, comprehensive resource for anyone interested in the ecosystem. It would:

- Reach a broad audience by being written for the lowest common denominator in terms of understanding, thus bringing more people into the DOT community.

- Potentially inspire professionals to launch their own parachains.
- Give the Polkadot community a simple resource to point to when asked about the ecosystem, why it matters, and how it works.
- Boost the profile of the Polkadot ecosystem because a book signifies importance and credibility.

Process

Book Creation Process

Total time

circa 6 months (could be less or more depending on certain factors)

- Pre-production — 2-4 weeks
 - Scoping out the book
- Production — 3 months
 - First draft — 2 months
 - Technical review
 - Peer review
 - Internal edit
- Post-production - 2 months
 - Book cover design
 - Professional edit (w/ AnaelleLTD—if she is available, given she edited the first version)
 - Book design—typesetting and formatting

Estimated Date of Completion: January 2025

Milestone	Deliverable	Link
1	Book outline	
2	First draft	
3	Second draft	

4	Third draft (if needed)	
5	Finished book	

Book Review Process

The review process will involve two separate but complementary processes.

1. Technical Review

A technical review of the book will be provided by someone more knowledgeable on the Technical side of Polkadot. I will reach out to people in the Technical Fellowship and Parity.

2. Peer Review

Using Google docs, community members will be able to leave comments on the drafts. I will then implement any suggestions I find useful.

Why Polkadot?

I believe in Polkadot. Putting my name to anything is a pretty big deal for me and so I need to have faith in the person or project. With Polkadot, my faith is doubled by my deep dislike for centralization. In Polkadot, I see the inevitability of the decentralization paradigm thanks to a governance process and forkless upgrades. In all my research on blockchain ecosystems, none impressed me with the completeness and cleverness of its design like Polkadot.

Payment

My proposed fee is **\$40,000** (to cover writing, book cover design, editing, formatting, and everything else needed to create the finished book).

Conditions

- Payment should be made to -
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- I can be contacted via email at gillianbacci@gmail.com

FAQs?

How are you sure this book will help?

Beyond what I've presented, I have no other facts to back up my claims. But rarely is a book the wrong option, either in reading it or writing it.

Although Ethereum is a much less complicated system, google '[books on Ethereum](#)', then google '[books on Polkadot](#)'. You'll notice that while there are more than 10 books on Ethereum, Polkadot (the network) has nothing. Of course, this is more a sign of age than anything, but I'm proposing a way to start our journey.

What makes you qualified to write this book?

The fact that I wrote version one and those who have read it loved it.

Also, I am not technical, hence I don't fall into the trap of thinking everyone understands what I'm saying when they don't. This may seem trivial but I believe it's not. It's hard to imagine not knowing something when you already know it, especially in a deeply technical sense.

Asides from that, I've been writing for over 12 years now, at some point creating written content for a tech startup in Nigeria. I spent two years at [DotLeap](#) and [RMRK](#) as a writer and editor. I've written about Polkadot in the past (enough to be promoted to the role of an ambassador) and feel familiar enough to venture into a book.

Plus, given how I write (from a more personal standpoint), I have direct experience with the horrors of centralization that make a great opener for a book on decentralization.

How I heard about the treasury

Through tweets from Bill Laboon that led me to the Polkadot wiki.