

Token Engineering Ethical Principles (WIP)

These initial principles emerged through focus group and analysis in Working Group Omega. Here we give a short description of what these principles convey. They are not prescriptive. However, facilitators in WG Omega are preparing practice sessions for each, such that token engineers and token economy participants become familiar with typical situations in which awareness of these principles can lead to ethical conduct that is contextual.

Host multiple different worldviews

Aiming to create permissionless global networks of value requires alignment. The more the values are differentiated, e.g. beyond the yield in a DeFi protocol, the more difficult but also game changing it will be to make use of the “social scalability” aspect of web3. Identifying common incentives and mechanisms such that participants with different worldviews can effectively coordinate towards a common goal is the result of this principle. It requires transcending paradigms, by making the various worldviews accessible and actively changing perspectives.

Practice Session “[World of Worldviews](#) (in Review)”

Navigate the dynamic landscape

The process of decision making and quality of the decisions depends not only on participants and their faculties but also on the dynamic landscape. It is important to acknowledge within token network life cycles there are different landscapes reaching from: simple, chaotic, complex to complicated. Processes and tools that are effective on one landscape can wreak havoc on others. This principle requires knowledge of useful decision making frameworks and heuristics, and the ability to scan the landscape for changes.

Practice Session “Intro to Mental Models & Decision Making Frameworks”

Beware of social engineering

Incentive mechanism design, behavioral game theory have their origin in Skinnerian behaviorism - indeed “[Token Economy](#)” has been coined to describe this approach of treating inmates of psychiatric institutions. Indeed, ethical token engineering strives to achieve greatest possible participation and agency in co-design of the token economy with its participants. Ethical token engineering values self-sovereignty and agency above all else: it is aware of the power that engineering incentives in value networks for global coordination means, and strives to require the wisdom how to distribute that power. We acknowledge that the simplistic assumptions that smart contract systems “can’t be evil” are dangerous.

Practice Session “Crazy Wisdom /TRIZ”

(Enable) Informed participation

“Do your own research” is a call for informed participation. The fundamentals of a token economy are determined by the collective decisions of its participants

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Practice Session “Capabilities Approach”