

WORKSHOP: How can Blockchain enable Elinor Ostrom's 8 commons principles?

<https://2018.open.coop/sessions/workshop-how-can-blockchain-enable-elinor-ostroms-8-commons-principles/>

Session notes: (please create your shared notes below)

Talks

Samer

Blockchain narratives

- Techno-deterministic
- Market-driven
- Silicon Valley (pyramid, success, ...)

Is individualistic, nothing to do with the commons

Now a lot of projects of blockchain are to create new markets.

How do we change the narrative of blockchain away from bitcoin and the Silicon Valley image?

Can we generate some narratives drawing on blockchain beyond the current dominant ones (market-drive, techno-determinist, silicon valley values)?

Does Blockchain implies structural changes in the basis of the different architectural paradigm (from centralised to distributed)?

Smart contracts are means to encode rules... which are in a network that belong to everyone and no one at the same time: no single owner of the infrastructure

Can we create another narratives about blockchain?

- 8 Ostrom's governance
- 6 blockchain features
- How to join?

Ostrom principles of governance (

<https://makewealthhistory.org/2018/01/15/elinor-ostroms-8-rules-for-managing-the-commons/>)

1. Clear community boundaries
2. Rules adapted to local conditions

3. Participatory decision making
4. Monitoring
5. Graduated sanctions
6. Conflict resolution mechanisms
7. Recognition by higher authorities; real autonomy
8. Multiple layers of nested enterprises

Blockchain

- No centralized (as Wikipedia, Google, etc) - distributed.
- Is an alternative to centralized websites. Network and not website to process and archive data.
- Smart contracts, we can call the agreements, ...[]
- There is not a single owner of infrastructure [who owns the nodes? Companies? Individuals? Is this a real collective ownership? Equity ownership? Or consolidate the unequal social situations?]

Features (to be discussed for commons narratives):

- Tokenisation: we can tokenise certain forms of value which were not possible before
- Self-enforcement and formalisation: whatever you write in the rules is executed by the contract automatically
- Autonomous automatisisation: software can also talk with other software
- Decentralised infrastructure: implications for power dynamics?
- Transparent Isation: whatever you write in the blockchain is visible for everyone
- Trust: beyond selfish individuals? For example among cooperative nodes, or a couple of fablabs
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Blockchain decentralises who controls the platform.

He shows a table matching 8 Ostrom with 6 blockchain features.

		Tokens	Self-enforce	Auton. Automat.	Dec. Power Infrastructure	Transp.	Trust
1. Boundaries		✓					
2. Local rules		✓			✓		
3. Participatory		✓			✓		
4. Monitoring			✓	✓	✓	✓	
5. Sanctions			✓	✓			
6. Conflict resol.				✓		✓	
7. Recognition			✓		✓		✓
8. Multiple layers				✓			✓

Daniel

In context of his previous ventures running ISPs and becoming an “open protocol evangelist”.

Open protocols and role of open protocols over time (e.g. tcp/ip)

How can disparate organisations talk to each other?

Language is an open protocol

Adoption is a problem.

Kendra can be plugged to many other services. Every time artists try to use a service (soundcloud, youtube..) they have to do things manually. Register to a service must be easy, just a click on a button.

Kendra.io:

Drives open protocols in media

Can be used by music and film makers

Biggest problem is how you get it adopted?

Funding from EU for another two years.

Manage copyright in media

For artists it is time consuming to manually upload your media to: Youtube, soundcloud etc...

Cutting down on admin is the first stage of app

Single sign on, then access dashboard

Adapters built in and a user (artist) can enable them for YouTube, apple music etc...

And upload their media to all platforms in one go with its meta data

DotBC project built on blockchain also included

Kendra.io is transferable to other services

Also can Backchannel too i.e. the data from many platforms can be accessed in one space within Kendra.io

As it is a unified service you can better understand what's going on rather than understanding separate data from all channels

Enables better understanding of what happens when you release a track and what the fan engagement is

Q&A

To Daniel: How do you relate various services to one?

1+3q: Who controls the central point then?...the "lord of the rings" question. What value is creating?

Continuing with that debate... what is the role of the artists in creating this type of platforms? I want to know the business model and be part of it, otherwise it does not end up serving the needs of the community.

4q: what is your business model for kendra?

We are a not-profit, also receiving funds from EU

To Samer:

2q How to cope with classic economic incentives in a permissionless network?

That refers to the lower level of the infrastructure, in which miners are competing in the network. There are great people working there, we are not... we built on the top of that, being agnostic in that layer.

5q (moderator) governance of blockchain

Daniel showed an interest showcase of where blockchain can help. We wanna hear about your problems, issues,... In order to generate new narratives

Final remarks

Daniel: interested on user interfaces

Sam: how can you imagine blockchain facilitating some of these issues

Workshop

Idea 1: The human dimension - what do we automate to the machines, as opposed to humans? Boundaries and conflict resolution? Where is the local in this distributed global network? Where are the bodies and the affected dimension? Where is the trust? We seem to be allocating trust and understanding to machines, to the confusion of humans. Do we want to delegate everything to Skynet?

Idea 2: interfaces, functionality, what is the kind of funcs that we want for applications with services. Come if you have a problem and let's take a look

Idea 3: is it time for a commons coin? Why is it the time? Because of the hype? The features? To what extent can we rely in the management of automatisisation?

Idea 4: what is the Holochain? Prizes in the blockchain, how can this be used to show of transparency for supply chains. Also, Brexit - as well as an obsessive focus on this, no one - Brexit and remainers - is thinking about what's coming next

Idea 5: hackspace creation in this context... a physical resource and role of embedding some of Ostrom's principles into this contextf - models and implementation

Group 1 (summary)

- We started with a discussion on the differences between blockchain at a lower level and the platforms being built on the top of that (e.g. ethereum or holochain)
- We proposed several case studies: a hackspace, role of blockchain in supply chains, housing
- For the case of hacklab we propose an example of a system: blockchain in a logging system to quantify participant's access to the physical space. Depending on that, there are smart contracts executing certain rules collectively chosen by the participants
- We went deeper into the supply chain system. We identified several issues:
 - How do we validate the identities? Do we really need to do so? The recording of the transactions is trivial, but the issue of verification is not
 - How does this affect the shift of power?
 - Then we have a recursive problem of validation: who verifies the verifiers? An evil company exploiting workers, for example, would never acknowledge that and put it into the blockchain
 - In the end, how to cope with credibility? We started discussing dynamics related to reputation economy
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Group 2 (summary):

- We focus more in questions than in providing answers?

- Where is the human tacit knowledge which is so key in Ostrom's work (regarding the blockchain)?
- Is this a new type of trust? More focussed on the artefacts than on the humans? What are the consequences of that?
- Governance will remain being a human process
- The softer is the harder: how can we cope with the human and affective part when creating blockchain-based artefacts for collaboration?
- Technology is not neutral: we need a conscious image of the blockchain