



# Blockchain Promises to Address Democracy

Behind and Beyond Bitcoin

If all you have is a hammer...



... everything looks like a nail



# Well... we may have other tools



<http://ongoingoperations.com/2013/05/09/web-applications-work-hosted-virtual-desktop/>



<https://www.ocrmobile.com/fr/ocr-api-cloud-salesforce.html>



<http://kodtips.com/kodi-p2p-add-ons-what-you-need-to-know/>

# But the new toy has to be tried!



# What is the Blockchain like?

A shared database (of tokens):

- Token (legally) =
  - donation,
  - “not a security”, 😊
  - “not an investment”



<https://aws.amazon.com/rds/>

# What are the tokens in fact?

Realized with either:

- colored coins, i.e.,

Bitcoins (satoshis)

made special

- a fungible amount in ETH smart contracts



# How to use tokens?

- Tokens
  - Informal agreement (on something external)
  - Intrinsic:
    - The key of a car
    - Currency of a closed community



# Types of Tokens

- In the database:
  - Intrinsic tokens: makes the blockchain work (BTC, ETH, ...)
    - Incentive for miners
    - Transaction cost
    - Pre-mined or generated
  - Asset/Utility tokens
    - Claims on assets
      - Goods, music, votes
      - Created, bought, transferred, redeemed
      - Can represent assets, or replace assets (if legally supported)



# Properties and Limitations

- Not guiding decision but making decisions
- Shared / Common memory (Consensus as a service)
- Public, Secure: Permission(less)
- Decentralized
- Persistent (10 years)
- Eliminates need of trust
  - No need of escrow



<https://aws.amazon.com/rds/>

Lost if you  
lose your keys

Mastercard	eCash
<b>UBS</b>	
Marius Silaghi	1998

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- Eliminates need of trust
- Fix update rate: 10min, 14s,...
- Max update size: 1MB, 1.5MGas



Many applications can work with these parameters.

3-6 BTC-ETH transactions/s

... more or less.

Expensive court system: use only for disagreements (“ETH founders”)

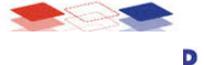
# 20 Applications of Blockchain - I

1. Banking --- sending Remittances: ABRA, Barclays, Ubin 
2. Cybersecurity (eliminates middleman): Namecoin, Blocksign
3. Supply Chain Management: Fluent/Hijro, Blockverify, 
4. Forecasting (placing bets): Augur 
5. IOT devices network (eliminate centralized communication)
6. Insurance (identity verification): Aeternity 
7. Private Transportation / Ridesharing (stable contracts): Arcade City, La'Zooz 
8. Cloud Storage: storj.io 
9. Charity (prove that recipients receive the funds): BitGive 
10. Voting: followmyvote.com, MiVote



# 20 Applications of Blockchain - II

GOVCOIN™

11. Government (avoid corruption, put data online): Dubai
12. Distribute public benefits (universal income): GovCoin, Circles
13. Healthcare (secure sharing of data): Tierion 
14. Energy Management: TransactiveGrid 
15. Music Licensing: Mycelia, Ujo Music  
16. Retail (smart contracts): OpenBazaar, OB1 
17. Real Estate (speed transactions and verification of ownership): Ubitquity 
18. Crowdfunding (trust via smart contracts, tokens with values, rules enforced in code): Consensys  
19. News (decentralized and less fake): DNN, Leeroy 
20. Political Parties: DemocracyEarth  

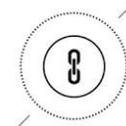
DemocracyEarth

# We hear talk about

- A virtual society
- Startup cities

# Virtual Society?

Bitnation (2000 people citizenship),  
Bitpesa (foreign currency exchange),  
Darknet: cjdns, Tor (NSA supported), Freenet  
(Exchanges have to comply with countries!)



Decentralizing pillars of a virtual society:

1. communication,
2. laws,
3. production,
4. finance (currency/contracts)

Seems to be almost done!

# Principle working with decentralization

*“You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.”*

by Buckminster Fuller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGmGWZCE4h0>



# Pre-requisites for Meaningful Voting

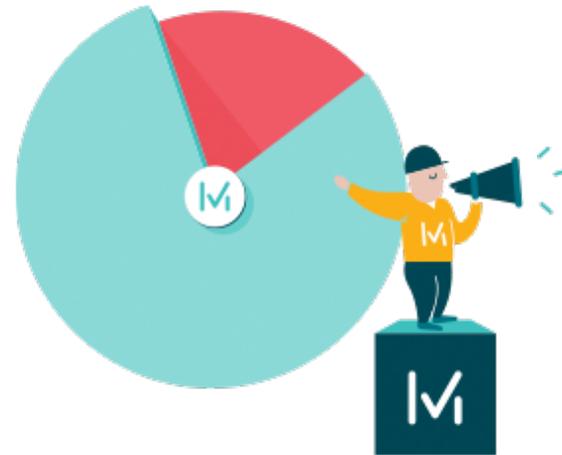
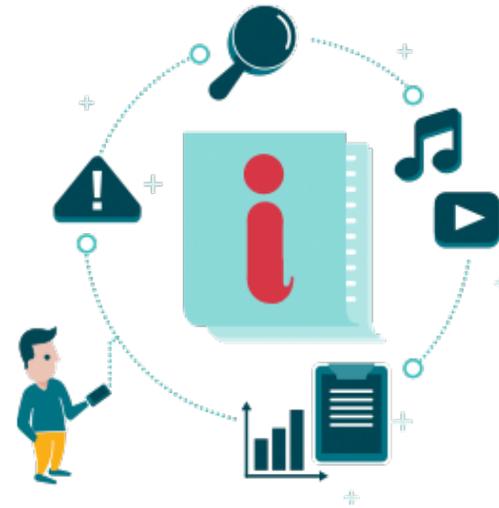
- Institutional commitment
- Identity verification
- Ballot counting



**Difficult!**

# Mivote.org.au

From team games!  
Horizon State  
Humans with Purpose



# Democracy.Earth



BLOCKSTACK

# Sovereign

Democracy of Democracy Earth x

vote.democracy.earth/peer/vladimir

Vladimir Putin

Julian Assange → Vladimir Putin 64 VOTES

Vladimir Putin 64 seconds ago

Shall we hack elections?

2 voters. ALWAYS ON

Yes. 214 VOTES (76%)

No. 66 VOTES (23%)

66 VOTES CAST 6% CAST

DELEGATES (1)

Vladimir Putin 64 VOTES

OTHER MEMBERS (2)

Julian Assange YOU

Satoshi Nakamoto

Pirate Party-like  
Under development

<http://sovereign.software>

# Mist: Build a Democracy in 100 lines 😊

The screenshot shows the Mist Ethereum Wallet interface. At the top, it displays 'Ethereum Wallet' and 'TEST-NET | 4 peers | 108,816 | a minute since last block'. The balance is 2,079.46 ETH. The active contract is 'DEMOCRACY 045D' with a balance of 10.00 ETH.

**Contract Parameters:**

- proposals: 256 bits unsigned integer (0)
- recipient: 0xce7e89700ac40d563b92d1684cfdb1aac52f47c6
- amount: 5
- description: My first payroll!
- votingDeadline: 1449001406
- openToVote: TRUE
- proposalPassed: FALSE
- numberOfVotes: 0
- proposalHash: 0x9c6f5b72698308db9489e349fdb73ef07db7263c64418d58396f2c14
- sharesTokenAddress: 0x8e92dd257f94f288723c23f5605c4252b0c6a094

**Function Selection:**

- Select Function: vote
- proposalNumber - 256 bits unsigned integer: 0
- supportsProposal - Boolean:  Yes

**Execution:**

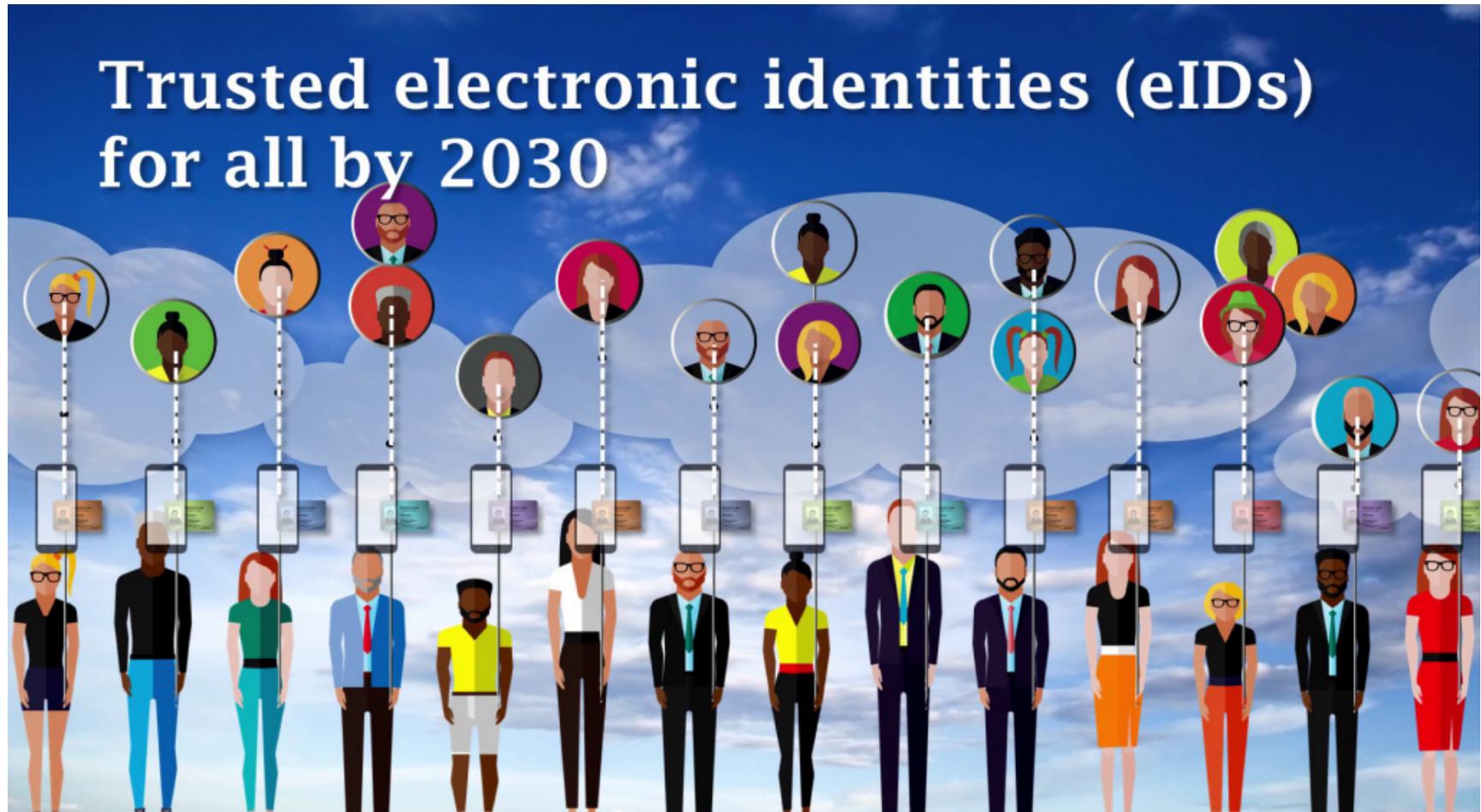
- Execute from: Etherbase - 1,889.31 ETH
- Send ETH: 0
- EXECUTE button

# I mean ... in 100 lines of code ☹️

The screenshot shows the Ethereum Wallet interface. At the top, it displays 'WALLETS', 'SEND', 'TEST-NET | 4 peers | 108,771 | 7 minutes since last block', 'CONTRACTS', and '1,944.44 ETH'. Below this, there is a section for 'AMOUNT' with a text input field containing '10' and a dropdown menu set to 'ETHER'. The current balance is shown as '1,754.28 ETH'. A confirmation message reads 'You want to send 10 ETHER.' Below the amount section, there are two tabs: 'SOLIDITY CONTRACT SOURCE CODE' (selected) and 'CONTRACT BYTE CODE'. The source code editor shows Solidity code for a voting contract, with line numbers 125 to 154. The code includes variables for quorum, yea, and nay, a loop to tally votes, and logic to execute the result based on quorum and majority. To the right of the code editor, there is a 'SELECT CONTRACT TO DEPLOY' dropdown menu set to 'Democracy'. Below that, there is a 'CONSTRUCTOR PARAMETERS' section with three parameters: 'sharesAddress - Address' (set to '0x8e92dd257f94f288723c23f560'), 'minimumSharesForVoting - 256 bits unsigned integer' (set to '500'), and 'minutesForDebate - 256 bits unsigned integer' (set to '10046').

```
125     /* tally the votes */
126     uint quorum = 0;
127     uint yea = 0;
128     uint nay = 0;
129
130     for (uint i = 0; i < p.votes.length; ++i) {
131         Vote v = p.votes[i];
132         uint voteWeight = sharesTokenAddress.balanceOf(v.voter);
133         quorum += voteWeight;
134         if (v.inSupport) {
135             yea += voteWeight;
136         } else {
137             nay += voteWeight;
138         }
139     }
140     /* execute result */
141     if (quorum > minimumQuorum && yea > nay ) {
142         // has quorum and was approved
143         p.recipient.call.value(p.amount*1000000000000000000)(transaction);
144         p.openToVote = false;
145         p.proposalPassed = true;
146     } else if (quorum > minimumQuorum && nay > yea) {
147         p.openToVote = false;
148         p.proposalPassed = false;
149     }
150     // Fire Events
151     ProposalTallied(proposalNumber, result, quorum, p.openToVote);
152 }
153 }
154 }
```

# Now the Internet is a masquerade (Ehud Shapiro'WEF16)



# How does it technically work?

- ICO (initial coin offering, not initial public offering 😊):
  - Laws don't apply... Documentation may be a webpage.
  - A certain number of tokens is put on the market
  - Amount of funds gathered cannot be checked (identity of investors; amounts, see Petro scandal)

# What are the Smart Contracts?

- They are addresses/accounts associated with code ... in a programming language: e.g., Solidity.
  - When bitcoins/ethereum (Gas) are loaded into the account, miners run it, to get the reward.
  - This obviates the need of contracting clauses

# Problems with Apps?

- Decentralized News Network, DNN: Promising freer thinking press, selected contributors, democracy, resistance to gag orders
  - Founders own 10% stakes continuously (right to write !!!!?)
  - Readers, writers, (Super!!-)reviewers, publishers (echoing classic journals)
  - Complex economy: tipping, pay for any right, get paid on reputation of agreeing with majority!!!? Payment proportional with capital. Cannot withdraw articles. Only sourced articles!!?
    - (Qvo vadis resistance to gag orders)

# Problems with the chain?

- Safety/cost for consensus:
  - BTC consuming as much as Denmark
  - And grows 25% per month
    - proof-of-stake (NXT) / importance (NEM)???
    - Centralization possible
    - Qvo vadis Democracy?!
- Smart contracts... need verification
- Scalability --- the bandwidth is small:
  - Additional buzzwords: Plasma, state channels, Sharding
  - Blockchain for decentralization....
  - ... Clouds for parallelism

... and, if it does not work



... take a bigger one

