

Betoken Whitepaper Draft

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Introduction

Betoken is a decentralized hedge fund built on the Ethereum blockchain that invests in ERC20 tokens. It automatically redistributes control over investment decisions to managers who make the most profitable investment proposals, whose collected wisdom is compiled into good investment decisions, using a unique decision making system we call "Incentivized Meritocracy".

The core ideas behind an Incentivized Meritocracy is that control over decisions is tokenized, that the control tokens are valuable, that good decisions are rewarded with control tokens proportional to both the quality and the quantity of their benefits, and that bad decisions receive penalties in control tokens proportional to both how bad of a decision they were and how much damage they caused.

Betoken is for everyone: everyone can join, everyone can invest, everyone can make decisions for the fund and be rewarded for making good ones, and everyone can rise to the top if they have the merit. Betoken is unstoppable: it is a completely decentralized application built on the censorship-resistant Ethereum blockchain. Betoken is transparent: all statistics and decisions are publically available, and all fees and clauses are written in immutable open-source smart contracts.

1. The Betoken Model

1.1 Incentivized Meritocracy

An **Incentivized Meritocracy** is a system where

- The amount of control each actor has is proportional to their ability to make good decisions
- Actors are financially incentivized to maximize their control (therefore their decision-making ability)

The above definition is not rigorous, since "control" and "ability to make good decisions" are not clearly defined, but it provides a general idea of how an Incentivized Meritocracy should behave. To sum it up in one sentence: the best people are in charge, and everyone wants to be in charge. The first point is the desired result, and the second point is the means of achieving it.

Having the people with the most merit in charge is clearly good for an organization as a whole. In a hedge fund like Betoken, having the people who are the best at making investments handle the fund's investments means that the ROI of the fund is going to be pretty good.

Incentivized Meritocracies have never been successfully implemented before, since it is near impossible to have a centralized actor that can judge everyone impartially. However, newly-invented smart-contract-enabled blockchains such as Ethereum allow us to construct **decentralized** actors that can uphold unbreakable rules, making implementing an actual Incentivized Meritocracy possible. Betoken is the first decentralized application that incorporates an implementation of Incentivized Meritocracy.

1.2 Betoken's Solution

There are four central ideas behind Betoken's solution to Incentivized Meritocracy:

1. Control is denoted using a custom ERC20 token that must be staked when making investments for the fund, and the amount of the stake is proportional to the amount of investment.
2. The control tokens are valuable, in that holders of the token can expect income proportional to the amount of tokens they hold.
3. Good investment decisions are rewarded with control tokens proportional to both the quality (ROI) and the quantity (profit / prevented loss) of the investment decision.
4. Bad investment decisions receive penalties in control tokens proportional to both how far below 0 the ROIs were and how much money they lost.

We provide below a description of how Betoken functions and details of Betoken's Incentivized Meritocracy.

The Betoken fund runs in investment cycles, and at the start of each cycle there is a period of time where investors can deposit & withdraw their funds.

After that, users can propose investments into ERC20 tokens by staking some Kairo--the name we use for control tokens. You can stake Kairo into proposals other users made, which has the same effect as creating the proposal yourself. You can also stake Kairo on the opposing side of a proposal to bet on its failure, which doesn't have any effect on the investments being made but is important to keeping the Incentivized Meritocracy functional. There is a restriction where you must stake no less than a certain proportion of your Kairo balance when staking.

After a certain time has passed, any changes to proposals and stakes are no longer allowed, and existing proposals are turned into actual investments using the equation

$$\blacksquare \text{ investmentAmount} = \text{totalFunds} \times \frac{\text{proposalStake}}{\text{totalProposalStakeInThisCycle}}$$

Where **totalProposalStakeInThisCycle** is the sum of all Kairo staked in support of all investment proposals during the current cycle. The reason **totalKairoSupply** is not used as the denominator is that since it is unlikely that users would stake a large proportion of their Kairo, only a small fraction of the fund's assets would be invested every cycle, which will make the fund unprofitable. If you have Kairo and didn't stake anything during the staking period, a certain proportion of your Kairo will be taken away from you and be equally staked in opposition to all proposals.

After waiting for a certain time (ex. 30 days), the fund sells all tokens it invested in at the current market price. After the sell process is finished, the fund automatically determines how profitable each investment proposal was and redistributes Kairo based on the results. The amount of Kairos a user gets back for each proposal is **userStake** \times **(1 + ROIofProposal)** if they supported it, and **userStake** \times **(1 - ROIofProposal)** if they went against it, so if a proposal had a 20% ROI, everyone on the supporting side gets 20% more Kairos back, and everyone on the opposing side loses 20% of their stake.

At the end of every cycle, a certain proportion of total profits is set aside as commission and distributed among Kairos holders proportional to the amount they hold. A certain proportion of fund assets is also sent to Betoken's developers as a fee for using the platform.

1.3 Potential Problems

1.3.1 Cyclic Design

The reason that Betoken functions in rigid cycles rather than a more asynchronous manner is that it make the model much, much simpler. Asynchronicity will introduce many problems that we don't necessarily know good answers to, such as: How do we ensure that users can't just hold on to their Kairos without ever making investment decisions? How can we prevent users from canceling their stakes in a proposal that starts crashing right before its profitability is supposed to be evaluated? How do we evaluate the profitability of a proposal if anyone can stake in it at any moment before its evaluation? How do we handle investments if users can deposit and withdraw at any time? Each of the problems mentioned above has more than one potential solutions, thus many design choices will have to be made, often without a way of providing good justification. Further more, introducing additional complexity to a smart contract based system is often a bad idea, since computations and storage are expensive, and bugs are often deadly.

Due to the above reasons, Betoken employs a cyclic design. However, the lack of asynchronicity introduces a number of problems.

1.3.1.1 Short Term Decisions

Suppose each cycle is 30 days long. If some user knows that token A's price will rise greatly on the 10th day of the current cycle and drop soon afterwards, there's no way for the fund to utilize this information and sell at the peak. If another user knows that token B's price will drop greatly on the 10th day of the current cycle and rise back soon afterwards, there's no way for the fund to buy the dip either. This means that the fund misses out on opportunities shorter-term than the specified cycles.

//TODO: Add in more problems

1.4 Reasons Why Betoken's Model May Work

Since Betoken is something unprecedented, we do not have evidence that its model will work as intended. A formal proof of Betoken's plausibility also seems unlikely, since economics is still a fledging scientific field and available economic theories don't have the kind of predictive power and mathematical accuracy that laws of physics have. Therefore, we can only give here several possible reasons for which Betoken will work as intended.

1.4.1 Better Than Direct Investment

To be able to attract people with flair in investing, we must make participating in Betoken's investment process more lucrative than directly investing in the tokens oneself. Fortunately, it is easy to prove that the model satisfies this requirement (discounting the fluctuation of Kairo's price):

$$\blacksquare \quad ROI_{Betoken} = ROI_{DirectInvestment} + \frac{commission}{investmentAmount} \geqslant ROI_{DirectInvestment}$$

Therefore, investors are incentivized to join Betoken and make investment decisions. If Betoken does work successfully, this would be one of the main reasons.

1.4.2 Analogous to Markets

Betoken's Incentivized Meritocracy shares many similarities to markets of investable assets, such as the stock market and the cryptocurrency market. In fact, staking for a proposal is almost exactly the same as directly investing the token, except that the ROI is better. Therefore, we can estimate Betoken's success as a meritocracy by looking at how meritocratic the stock market and other markets currently are.

To our knowledge, there is no evidence that they are not meritocratic: no one's heard of a dumb and inexperienced investor besting market growth, and smart people (like those at Renaissance Technologies) have achieved amazing ROIs (71.8% annual on average! [[source](#)]). Thus, we can expect that Betoken will also be meritocratic.

//TODO: Add more reasons

2. Implementation Details

2.1 Cycle Phases

2.2 Oraclize

2.3 EtherDelta

2.4 Restraints In The Fund

3. Market Analysis

3.1 Competitors

3.2 The Cryptocurrency Market