

Shinkai Network Manifesto (Early Preview)

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1 Introduction

With LLMs proving themselves to be very capable in performing many of the core computing tasks we manually/programmatically perform every day, we are entering into a new world where an AI-coordinated computing paradigm is inevitable. To date, existing uses of AI merely take advantage of them as external APIs which are called to solve highly-scoped problems, or run as naive wild autonomous agents that lack any wider-scoped framework/system for them to actually be productive. From our point of view the latter is a dead end, while the former obviously improves existing workflows at the cost of continuing to trap us in the old user-coordinated paradigm.

In this paradigm (which has been with us for the last couple decades), the entire web and all existing software stacks have trended towards making things optimized for humans to coordinate/use. This has left us with a bunch of clunky centralized APIs that companies spend billions of dollars each year building applications on top of to provide users a semblance of "good UX". However, in a world where robust LLM agents exist which can on-demand understand speech, write code, use APIs, and automate large swaths of the computing stack, the old model of using countless millions to build single user-focused apps falls apart.

We are entering into an age where novel well-designed systems (rather than hyper-specialized apps) coordinated by AI will be able to deliver better UX and completely novel experiences which were previously unachievable. At a high level, one can understand apps in the modern world akin to static and clunky compiled code, while the AI-coordinated future will seamlessly integrate complex architecture (like blockchains, LLMs, image generation, AR, and more) dynamically 'at run time' to provide users with the exact experience they are looking for.

No longer will we need heavy up-front costs to build apps that allow users to use their money/data to interact with others in an extremely limited experience (while also taking away control from the user), but instead we will build the underlying architecture which unlocks the ability for the user's various AI agents to go about performing everything they need done and connecting all of their devices/data together.

Existing giants like Google/Facebook/Microsoft/etc. are clearly pushing in this direction, however focused on completely locking this up in their centralized walled-off gardens. Their monetary incentives lean towards having full control of all user data/capabilities, while providing this seamless AI-coordinated experience by plugging in a bunch of their own centralized services together. This is the inevitable destination from continuing on the current path of user-coordinated computing, which historically has traded off any and all negatives as long as at the end of the day the user experience feels good.

Surprisingly, with access to LLMs very quickly becoming open source in addition to the fact that these companies are competing with one another as well, access to robust LLMs is already leaning towards becoming commoditized. This means lack of ability to use LLMs is not going to be the problem, but in fact the unsolved part is how will the computing experience itself shift to becoming AI-coordinated? The megacorps will have their walled-off solutions which work out-of-the-box (like Google suite of tools today,

but 100x more lock in), however there must be a potential alternative that actually benefits end-users by taking advantage of the capabilities unlocked with this new technology.

With lessons derived from the P2P nature of blockchains, we in fact have all of the core primitives at hand to build a new AI-coordinated computing paradigm that takes decentralization and user-privacy seriously while offering native integration into the modern crypto stack. This paradigm is unlocked via developing a novel P2P messaging network, Shinkai, which connects all of their devices together and uses LLM agents as the engine that processes all human input. This node will rival the centralized approaches yet be truly sovereign, privacy-respecting, and ready to integrate with the on-chain world (without any of the risks of data leaks, loss of privacy, & potential front-running risk of crypto + centralized AI solutions).

Rather than being chained to a single centralized mega-AI that automates everything for the user, we instead architect a P2P network from the ground up made up of personal AI-powered nodes which deliver an equivalent if not better UX. Each node is tied to a unique blockchain-secured identity, with the the AI nodes/agents capable of seamlessly messaging each other p2p (with anti-DoS/spam mechanisms in place), unlocking the decentralized AI-coordinated future with personal sovereignty for every user.