

November 15, 2022

VIA EMAIL & TWITTER

Twitter Customer Service
@TwitterSupport
support@twitter.com

Re: Account @eth_classic now @Ergo_Platform

Dear Twitter Support:

I represent a member of the Ethereum Classic community: Bob Summerwill, the Executive Director of the ETC Cooperative, a non-profit organization supporting the Ethereum Classic ecosystem. Ethereum Classic is an open-source, blockchain-based platform (not to be confused with the Ethereum network). Ethereum Classic is governed and operated by its community of users. Ethereum Classic used the Twitter handle @eth_classic from July 2016 to October 6, 2022. On October 6, 2022, a former member of the Ethereum Classic community usurped the handle @eth_classic, and transferred it to another project in which he has an investment, renaming it @Ergo_Platform (the “Account”). We seek return of the Account to the Ethereum Classic community.

The Account was used and grown by the Ethereum Classic community

In July 2016, the Ethereum Classic community opened the Account, using the handle @eth_classic. The Account, until October 2022, was verified. The community organically grew the Account’s following to over 670,000 followers. During that time, the Account tweeted over 8,000 times.

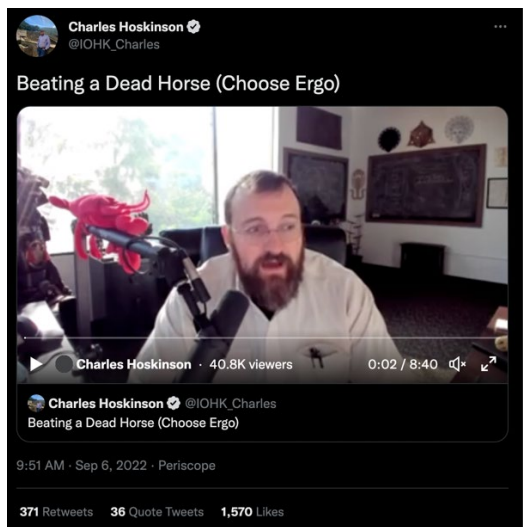
Members of the Ethereum Classic community operated the Account. The last custodian for the account was Charles Hoskinson, @IOHK_Charles. Hoskinson’s company Input Output Global, Inc. (“IOHK”) was previously involved with Ethereum Classic. In September 2021, IOHK left the Ethereum Classic community.

Members of the Ethereum Classic community, including Summerwill, attempted to recover the Account’s login information from Hoskinson, but Hoskinson refused to respond to the messages. On September 5, 2022, Hoskinson tweeted the following, clearly stating his desire to continue to squat on the Account:



https://twitter.com/IOHK_Charles/status/1566911099630387205.

In a September 6, 2022 tweet, Hoskinson disparaged Ethereum Classic and promoted instead another competing project, Ergo, which he often promotes and in which he has an investment.



See https://twitter.com/IOHK_Charles/status/1567163476908584965.

On September 25, 2022, Hoskinson responded to Summerwill's request that he return the Account to the Ethereum Classic community, tweeting "I should use the account for something," meaning that Hoskinson planned to co-opt the Account for his own projects.



The full back and forth of tweets can be found in a detailed thread compiled by our client: https://twitter.com/eth_classic/status/1578133771647610880.



Hoskinson changed the handle on the Account to one for Ergo

On October 6, 2022, Hoskinson passed control of the Account to the Ergo Foundation, who changed the handle to @Ergo_Platform. See https://twitter.com/Ergo_Platform. Hoskinson is invested in Ergo, which is the same project he promoted in tweets disparaging Ethereum Classic. See Sept. 6, 2022 Tweet.

Before the transfer, the original account for Ergo only had 65,000 followers. This original account is "eergoplatformorg". See <https://twitter.com/ergoplatformorg>. The subterfuge increased Ergo's following by a factor of ten.

The Ethereum Classic community recreated the account @eth_classic, but this account only has about 1,800 followers (as opposed to the 670,000 on the original Account) and has lost eight years of tweets and history on the original Account.

Hoskinson's actions are Twitter platform manipulation

Hoskinson's actions are a violation of the Twitter Rules and Policies and amount to platform manipulation.

Twitter's rules stated one "may not use Twitter's services in a manner intended to artificially amplify or suppress information or engage in behavior that manipulates or disrupts people's experience on Twitter." And, one "can't artificially inflate your own or others' followers or engagement. This includes: account transfers or sales – selling, purchasing, trading,

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or offering the sale, purchase, or trade of Twitter accounts, usernames, or temporary access to Twitter accounts.”

Hoskinson’s account clearly violate the Rules and Policies because co-opting the @eth_classic account, and underhandedly changing the handle to one for another project he supports, artificially inflated the followers for Ergo (by a factor of ten). This was a deliberate, misleading account transfer of an account with a robust, organically grown community and following to a project that lacked those elements. The 670,000 followers of @eth_classic now see posts relating to Ergo, a project that had only 65,000 followers before the account transfer.

The Ethereum Classic Community requests return of the account to them

The Ethereum Classic community requests that the Account be returned to them, to the members of the ETC Cooperative. The Account holds the history of the Ethereum Classic community and is a core part of the community’s collective memory. It was a trusted source of developments and news about Ethereum Classic. Hoskinson’s subterfuge promoted Ergo at the expense of the Ethereum Classic followers, who now see tweets relating to Ergo, a project most had not followed.

Should that not be possible, the Ethereum Classic community requests that the Account, now under the handle @Ergo_Platform, be closed due to it breaching Twitter’s Rules and Policies.

* * *

We are available to discuss solutions and look forward to working with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jason P. Gottlieb

Jason P. Gottlieb

cc: Bob Summerwill