

## Background

The “**eth\_classic**” twitter handle has been used by the Ethereum Classic [1] community since the inception of the project in July 2016. The twitter account has accumulated over 670K followers and was, until October 6th 2022, a verified account. The twitter account history documents the entire history of this open source blockchain community with over 8K tweets.

On 6th October 2022, Charles Hoskinson [2] transferred that handle into the control of the Ergo Foundation [3], a non-profit entity supporting a competing technology called Ergo [4]. The Ergo Foundation renamed “**eth\_classic**” as “**Ergo\_Platform**” and then transferred all of their social media activity onto that 600K+ follower handle. Ergo’s previous handle “**ergoplatformorg**” [6] had only 65K followers, so this transfer has given an artificial 10x boost in their follower count.

The Ergo Foundation created a brand new account and renamed that as “**eth\_classic**” and handed control of that to Bob Summerwill [7], the Executive Director of the ETC Cooperative [8], a US-based 501(c)(3) public charity supporting the Ethereum Classic ecosystem.

Charles’s company IOHK [5] previously contributed to the Ethereum Classic community and Charles was acting as a custodian for that twitter handle, which had always been used for the Ethereum Classic community. IOHK exited the ETC Community in 2021.

## Violation of Twitter Rules

This transfer was in clear violation of the Twitter Platform Manipulation rules, seeking to artificially boost their project and its commercial interests.

<https://help.twitter.com/en/rules-and-policies/platform-manipulation>

### ***Engagement and Metrics***

*account transfers or sales – selling, purchasing, trading, or offering the sale, purchase, or trade of Twitter accounts, usernames, or temporary access to Twitter accounts.*

## Suggested Remedies

1. Transfer the account to the ETC Cooperative, as the primary custodian of the Ethereum Classic ecosystem.
2. Transfer the account to the Ethereum Foundation, who hold the trademark for Ethereum and all derived trademarks such as Ethereum Classic.
3. Close the account due to violations of TOS.

## History and proof

Here are tweets documenting the history leading to this rules violation:

Sep 5th - Charles reacts to an ETC community member:

[https://twitter.com/iohk\\_charles/status/1566911099630387205](https://twitter.com/iohk_charles/status/1566911099630387205)

"Return? It's my account. As for return, I can't get back the millions of dollars of development we spent nor the years of time supporting a blockchain that didn't seem to want to do anything other than preserve a status quo. We'll call it even"

Sep 6th - "Beating a Dead Horse (Choose Ego)" in which Charles describes ETC as a dead project and promotes Ergo instead (a competing project in which he has an investment and is often promoting).

[https://twitter.com/iohk\\_charles/status/1567163476908584965](https://twitter.com/iohk_charles/status/1567163476908584965)

(In the video he calls the ETC twitter handle "a memento" and "a trophy")

Sep 25th - The threat from Charles

[https://twitter.com/iohk\\_charles/status/1574198923983405056](https://twitter.com/iohk_charles/status/1574198923983405056)

"You're right Bob. I should use the account for something.  
I'll assign our team this upcoming week on it."

Oct 6th - The "re-assignment" as it happened:

[https://twitter.com/Ergo\\_Platform/status/1578064961427103744](https://twitter.com/Ergo_Platform/status/1578064961427103744)

Oct 6th - Tweet thread from Bob Summerwill on the "new" eth\_classic account detailing the history leading to the transfer:

[https://twitter.com/eth\\_classic/status/1578133771647610880](https://twitter.com/eth_classic/status/1578133771647610880)

## Notes

- [1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethereum\\_Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethereum_Classic)
- [2] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Hoskinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Hoskinson)
- [3] <https://ergoplatform.org/en/blog/ergo-foundation/>
- [4] <https://ergoplatform.org/en/>
- [5] <https://iohk.io/>
- [6] <https://twitter.com/ergoplatformorg>
- [7] <https://bobsummerwill.com/about/>
- [8] <https://etccooperative.org/about/>