



Ecosystem Process Design Working Group

Meeting session 1 – 22 Apr 2024

Version 1.0 – editable



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A key objective of the Ecosystem Process Design working group is to design a robust methodology of handling the backlog. This report explores the roles and responsibilities of the Ecosystem Process Design working group, key points worth addressing and actions to be taken to kickstart the backlog approach.

Agenda to agree on

- 1) Important matters to address
- 2) Proposed Working Group Roles
- 3) Actions Proposal
- 4) Appendix
 - a) Current position of Intersect and the Cardano backlog
 - b) Cardano Backlog Evaluation Approach
 - c) Backlog process draft (from the Cardano Ecosystem Operating Model workshop)

Important Matters to Address

ID	Issue	Reasoning
1	We need to agree a shared goal. Proposal could be “Our shared goal is for the Cardano Blockchain to fund its own future; self sustainability”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This shared goal helps to define the need to produce a definition of the blockchains future and a process for scope• On the Intersect website we’re planning to pull these threads together referencing the original designs (2017 White paper and other blogposts) - i.e. that the Treasury was designed to fund the future development of Cardano.
2	<p>To ensure that everyone is fully briefed on what Intersect’s current role with the backlog is designed to be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Intersect Pillar 3: Orchestrate delivery of the community approved Cardano Technical Roadmap.2. Intersect Pillar 4: Facilitate the continuity of Cardano for system stability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intersect is the servant-leader working on behalf of the community• An Intersect assumption is that “anything community approved in the backlog is an element on the Roadmap”.• An Intersect assumption is that “Continuity items that have been approved are backlog items and are elements of the Roadmap”.
3	<p>The definition of Cardano Continuity is as follows: “technical work required to keep the Cardano blockchain infrastructure running, including upgrades and necessary developments”.</p> <p>It is important for the parties involved to recognize the intention to educate the Cardano Community that there is an underlying cost to running the blockchain. And that multiple decentralized suppliers/Intersect members contribute to Continuity.</p>	<p>Some steps can be proposed to bring the community onboard:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Educate that there is an underlying cost to operating Cardano2. Educate that the original purpose of the Treasury was to fund the development of Cardano3. Educate that to be decentralized the community are responsible in deciding what is paid for from the Treasury to keep Cardano moving forward4. Develop a community backlog process to define scope

Important Matters to Address

ID	Issue	Reasoning
4	<p>Intersect and the DevTrust only have budget for 2024.</p> <p>2 main items to be voted on the AMM (Annual Member Meeting), which is organized on 3rd October are: 1) for Intersect to continue operations & 2) What the budget should be for Cardano in 2025 (inc. Intersect).</p> <p>We expect we may not have 1694/governance technology fully operational by this date. Hence, we expect and need to plan to provide our members with a different voting technology to enable this vote.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed budget to the community makes sense if it is based on an approved backlog of work• Partially complete backlog is still sufficient, as the proposed budget can be extrapolated• Learning from Catalyst vote experience, where we turned a function into a Treasury funded service, setting a deadline helps to focus the community. We all have a shared target.• The key risk is “If I haven’t paid for this backlog in the past 6 years why do I have to pay for it now” as a negative theme from the community - Catalyst experience
5	<p>Recognise the issues with the current backlog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The old google sheet backlog from Q4 2023 has a lot of useful ideas and data in it.• However, it is very complex and has not been evaluated via a common benefits framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intersect decided to start afresh and use the old backlog for reference like a pipeline• We took what we have in our Continuity contracts and added them to a new backlog to begin using a draft evaluation framework• The working group can use this framework and the process flow drafted during the Ecosystem Operating Model workshop (see Appendix) as a starting point

Proposed Working Group Roles

ID	Role	Scope of the Role	Who
1	Working Group Chairman and backlog process expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lead the working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ben (MLab/- Silona Bonewald (External/IOG)
2	Working Group Secretary and facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establish a code of conduct for group members to adhere to.- Implement a method to capture collective ideas, ensure all voices are heard.- Consolidate group discussion into objective output	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Voltage Control (External)/- Mlabs (External)
3	Process implementation and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Take the group ideas and implement them in practice- Share the group output publicly via the Intersect website so everyone can keep pace- Manage the process via chosen tooling- Manage quality on any submissions	<p>Intersect team. We have 1 process analyst that has started with us and we have 2 technical resources in the pipeline.</p> <p>We need the technical resources to ensure we understand submissions and can test benefit statements.</p>
4	Technical Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Develop evaluation framework for the backlog process	<p>Eystein (External)</p> <p>Silona Bonewald (External/IOG)</p>
5	Builders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Generate the pipeline of work using the designed framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Romain (IOI)
6	Observer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provide feedback and input on the discussions and decisions made- Oversee decorum and ensure working group operates within established code of conduct	<p>Intersect team</p>

Actions Proposal

ID	Actions	Description	Who
1	Agree on who should be on the working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure the working group has representation to the wider community and people who can contribute to the outcomes• List of recommendation can be reviewed in the next session.	Everyone
2	Communicate what we're doing and available support functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document onto Intersect Knowledge base on the meeting updates• Using backlog@intersectmbo.org email and agree on regular monitoring• Using an backlog Discord channel (#wg-backlog) to add working group members to chat about this work	Intersect team - we have drafted content and started publishing working group information
3	Agree on the working group schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working group schedule proposed to be twice monthly, one hour each session.• Our next session can be 26 Apr as per proposed schedule.• Intersect has key points where some of the working group could meet-up face to face, e.g. Longmont in April, Portugal in June, Las Vegas in August, Tokyo in October	Intersect through backlog@intersectmbo.org can set up the meetings
4	Work on an example through the proposed framework	Draft backlog evaluation framework. Exercise: Use an example to envision what a process might be	Everyone



Appendix



Appendix A: Current position of Intersect & the Cardano Backlog

ID	Position	Notes
1	8 Continuity Suppliers under contract delivering more than 8 different items of Continuity technology	Various Suppliers are delivering work under the Continuity Programme, e.g. the Governance Node, the new lighter ledger/LSM tree work, genesis and Govtool
2	Intersect Delivery Assurance function is “live” and operational. Service function plans in quarterly increments with each Continuity supplier, reviews milestones and evaluates delivery for payment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team of 2 staff
3	Started a backlog team to document and manage any agreed process	Team of 3 staff, 2 technical to help decipher any technical proposals.
4	A Cardano backlog approach is drafted using a preliminary evaluation framework to manage our backlog process. This approach facilitates collaboration with each Continuity supplier, enabling them to articulate their work in a manner that highlights the benefits to the Blockchain in clear and concise language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has helped us develop a training approach for new Intersect staff. Ensures that we minimize documenting highly complex technological jargons the staff do not understand.
5	An initial process flow was created during the London workshop to visualize of how a community driven Cardano backlog might be managed.	This can be used as a starting point for the working group to design the framework for the backlog approach.
6	Continual stream of documentation and publication on Gitbook to breakdown backlog concepts and explain it to the Members	<p>Intersect knowledge base is the designated place to try to work “out in the open” as much as possible</p> <p>Working publicly in draft increase transparency and reduces community frustration</p> <p>Current published work are:</p> <p>1) Ecosystem Process Design Working Group 2) Meeting Schedule 3) Treasury (In review)</p>

Appendix A.1: Continuity delivery partners (draft)

[Input Output](#) (IOG): Input Output's infrastructure group is developing and testing the Cardano governance node in readiness for [CIP-1694](#) and continuity maintenance.

[Galois](#): development of Zero-knowledge proofs (ZKPs) for future interoperability of the Cardano economy.

[Welltyped](#) is developing new Log Structured Merge Tree implementations. These will store the ledger's UTXO set on disk rather than in memory, substantially increasing the number of UTXOs—supporting many more users—while also allowing nodes to run on cheaper, lower-spec machines.

[Tweag](#): is developing the Ouroboros Genesis mechanism, which enables new nodes to join the Cardano blockchain and bootstrap themselves without relying on a trusted service. It also allows nodes to become disconnected and rejoin the network similarly.

[Vacuum Labs](#): ensuring the continued practical use of the Ledger and Trezor hardware wallets for the Cardano community and enhancements to support the Conway era.

[Byron](#): launch & beta testing period to discover, fix bugs, and collect feedback on the Govtool web app.

[DQuadrant](#): developing a range of web app-based tooling to support the emergence of governance on Cardano and creating testing strategy best practice documentation that can be shared and applied across current and future tooling.

[EMURGO](#): producing educational materials covering key aspects of CIP-1694 alongside the development, testing, and support of the Cardano Serialization library.

Appendix B: Cardano Backlog Evaluation Approach

Intersect's current approach to backlog:

The Cardano Backlog currently has 9 items within it, from the contracts initially novated to Intersect for continuity. These items are described by one or more of the economic variables and technical goals which underpin the Cardano economy.

Technical Goals that underpin the Economy:

1. Participation; growing global participation drives transaction growth
2. Collective Governance; decentralization means all participants manage the economy
3. Performance; speed, memory and throughput all contribute to transaction growth
4. Interoperability; widening the economy to join with other economies increases transaction growth
5. Transparency & Auditability; builds confidence to trade in the economy

The backlog recognises that Continuity items are necessary to keep the Cardano Blockchain infrastructure running. We also need to develop the processes to include Feature items that may not benefit the wider community but provide significant benefit to Cardano, and Research category for items with unquantifiable benefits or needs further challenge to prove value.

Exercise

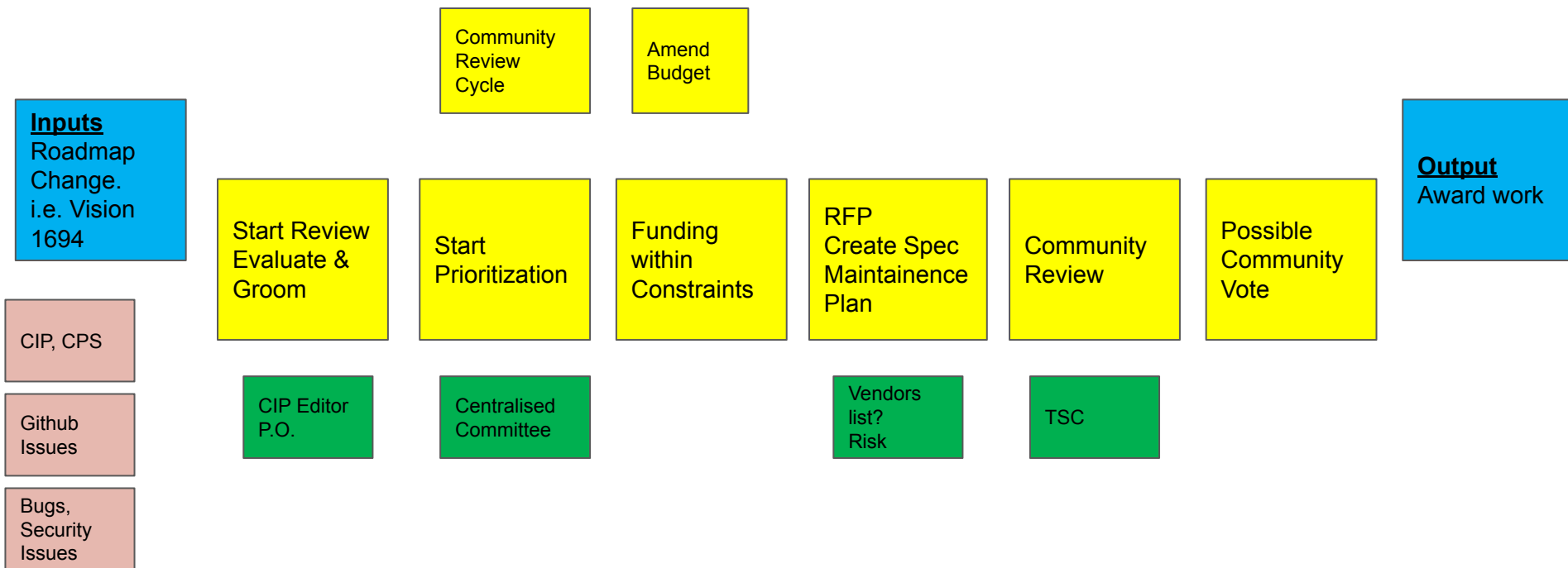
Item: Reduce the memory size of the UTXO set (ledger) that will allows us to potentially quadruple the transactions on the network without increasing memory cost.

Question:

- 1) Does this item belong to a requirement or a User Story?
- 2) What business benefit does this provide to Cardano?
- 3) Which of the 5 technical goals does this item align with, if any?
- 4) Can the deliverable of this item be measurable/quantified?
- 5) Does this item impact a subset of or the wider community of Cardano?

Appendix C: Process Evaluation Framework

From the Cardano Ecosystem Operating Model Workshop on Feb 24 (London):



Appendix C: Process Evaluation Framework (cont.)

From the Cardano Ecosystem Operating Model Workshop on Feb 24 (London):

