



LIBERTAS

**Libertas is a decentralized audio
and podcast streaming service
built on the Ethereum Blockchain.**



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ABSTRACT

For freedom of speech to continue catapulting humanity into the future, we need debate and to make the most out of debate we most certainly need freedom of speech.

2020 is the year of the unexpected, the scary, the great and the sad. Most likely this year will go down in history as the year of Covid-19 as it is a global event.

Something however has been happening in the background for quite some time and it's very, very scary. Slowly but surely voices everywhere are being silenced giving rise to "Cancel Culture", allowing censorship to become a more widely accepted occurrence. Freedom of Speech is taking a hit and every one of us — whether we openly admit it, believe it, or not — is losing a basic human right. Slowly but surely our freedom of speech and expression is being eroded and taken away.

WHY IS THIS SO SCARY?

The right to express opinions without fear of criminal prosecution is an ideal that can be traced as far back as ancient Greece, the land of the fathers of democratic ideals.

Parrhesia, commonly translated to "free speech" or more accurately "to speak candidly", became a fundamental part of Classical Athens' democracy as far back as the 5th century BC.

In 1689 the English Bill of Rights ensured freedom of speech and debate were allowed in Parliament.

In 1998, Article 10 of the Human Rights Act stated: *"Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."*

The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public

*safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."*¹

In the United States of America, the First Amendment protects freedom of speech and it states:

*"The First Amendment provides that Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*²

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights we can clearly read:

*"Article 19 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."*³

Around the world democratic countries have measures in place to protect freedom of speech, and of course there are some limitations to this to protect the people, national security, public safety etc.

But, something has been slowly changing. In the last 20 years the grounds for overriding the right to free speech have broadened quite alarmingly with nasty consequences.

In 2012 famed actor Rowan Atkinson said:

*"The clear problem of the outlawing of insult is that too many things can be interpreted as such. Criticism, ridicule, sarcasm, merely stating an alternative point of view to the orthodoxy, can be interpreted as insult."*⁴

Mr Atkinson said he hoped the repeal of Section 5 (of the Public Order Act 1986) would pave the way for a move to "rewind the culture of censoriousness" and take on the "outrage industry — self-appointed arbiters of the public good encouraging outrage to



ABSTRACT

which the police feel under terrible pressure to react”.

The “Reform Section 5” campaign succeeded in its aim to amend Section 5. The change is now incorporated in Section 57 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 which came into force on 1 February 2014.

In 2018, Professor Nadine Strossen released a book titled: “Hate: Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, not Censorship”. In it, the professor made the case that hateful and extremist speech is most effectively undermined by counter-speech. However, things don’t seem to stay the way they are for long.

An example of how freedom of speech is at risk is currently taking place in Scotland where a free speech row has broken out over a new hate-crime bill.

In this case, the outlines of what constitutes a hate crime are so loose that although well-intentioned, it leaves everyone unsure of what exactly could see them facing a prison sentence.

Debate (something that soon could become a thing of the past) has started over what this could really mean for people.

Comedy has historically helped us cope with life and hardship, helped us live through good times and bad times, some maintain it has therapeutic value and I am sure most of us agree it helps us laugh in the face of despair and it helps us be bold in the face of danger.

This bill, if passed as currently drafted, could toll the death knell for comedy. Comedians could be too scared to make jokes that touch upon any subject anyone may find even remotely offensive if there are no clear definitions to what is actually considered a hate-crime, or abusive, threatening, insulting words or behaviour.

The president of the Law Society of Scotland, Amanda Millar, said it was right for laws to provide a message that hatred should have no place in our society.

“However, we have significant reservations regarding a number of the bill’s provisions and the lack of clarity, which could in effect lead to restrictions in freedom of expression, one of the foundations of a democratic society.

We have real concerns that certain behaviour, views expressed or even an actor’s performance, which might well be deemed insulting or offensive, could result in a criminal conviction under the terms of the bill as currently drafted.”⁵

While the Scottish government says it is prepared to consider making changes to the bill before it is passed by parliament, this is all terrifying.

Speech should not be censored based on its content, but rather only based on its context with clear guidelines in place.

Social media platforms and news outlets are also contributing to this climate of censorship and “Cancel Culture”. So many people have been silenced on social media that to list examples would be a lengthy affair.

Sure, private platforms have their own set of rules and as such can and do choose to ban / delete / silence / deplatform / demonetise anyone they want to, however, where does that leave the person who has been silenced because their point of view or opinions differ from those of the people in charge of such platforms?

Where is the opportunity for healthy debate between those who agree with the person who now has no platform, and the “enlightened” masses?

Debate should not be mistaken for trolling, threatening behaviour, abuse or violence. Intelligent debate is the way forward and people have known this since the 5th century BC!

For freedom of speech to continue catapulting humanity into the future, we need debate and to make the most out of debate we most certainly need freedom of speech.



WHAT IS LIBERTAS?

Libertas is a decentralised public blockchain and cryptocurrency project. Using blockchain technology content is distributed amongst many nodes in the network instead of a single source such as YouTube or Facebook - Libertas is politically unbiased, censorship resistant and immutable.

We are developing a smart contract platform which seeks to provide the world's first decentralised audio and podcast streaming service.

Content cannot be removed or deplatformed. Trustless ownership provides content creators and their audience with tokenized rewards.

DeFi allows us to cut out the middle man replacing centralized payment systems with permissionless transactions.

IMMUTABLE

By using Blockchain technology all content uploaded to the Libertas network is immutable and cannot be taken down.

DECENTRALIZED

The Libertas network will be running on top of the Ethereum network and use distributed storage to achieve full decentralization.

CONTENT REWARDS

Content Creators receive Libertas Tokens directly or indirectly when a user listens to a stream.

TRANSPARENCY

Transactions are visible on the blockchain so users can ensure their Tokens have gone straight to their favourite creator's wallet.

COMMUNITY OWNED

The Libertas Network will be owned by the community as opposed to a single corporate entity.

LIBERTAS PROTOCOL

Libertas will create a custom protocol that can talk directly to the blockchain to get around internet layer control.

WHAT LIBERTAS STANDS FOR

Our mission at Libertas is to ensure freedom of speech is protected. We believe that content belongs to the content creator and not the platform provider. Creators should be free to speak their mind without fear of being demonetized or deplatformed. Libertas is politically unbiased and does not believe that big tech censorship, cancel culture or deplatforming contribute towards a healthy debate or advancement of our society.

Using DeFi technologies listeners will be able to tip or subscribe to their favourite content creators, thus giving everyone a voice.



USECASE

**One token
to fuel our
decentralized
community
driven
network.**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS UNDER ATTACK

and Libertas provides an immutable solution. Here is a small list of online personalities who have either been deplatformed or are on the warning list.

JOE ROGAN

After multiple erroneous articles by CNN referring to Joe Rogan as a 'transphobe' for voicing his support for candidate Bernie Sanders, his videos have often been demonetized by YouTube based on his views, or his guests. In May 2020 Rogan signed an exclusive deal with Spotify that in the near future will see him move his content over to the new platform to escape YouTube's control.

ALEX JONES

Infowars and the Alex Jones Show were the first to be deplatformed by Apple, Google and Facebook simultaneously. Twitter followed soon after deplatforming Alex Jones, thus limiting his ability to speak his mind.

JIMMY FALLON

The American comedian and famed TV host is currently under fire for 'blackfacing' in 1990. He has since apologised and is currently still allowed to continue with the Tonight Show, however the backlash continues.

DR JORDAN PETERSON

Dr Jordan Peterson deleted his Patreon account due to Patreon altering their terms of service regarding political speech. He is currently working on a backup platform to Patreon with Dave Rubin.

DAVID ICKE

In 2020 YouTube removed David Icke's channel due to him disputing the science surrounding COVID-19. Mr. Icke did not agree with the WHO or the NHS UK and consequently was deplatformed.

OWEN SHROYER

Owen Shroyer's 'The War Room' channel has been permanently banned from YouTube twice.

CARPE DONKTUM

In 2020 Twitter permanently banned Carpe Donktum (real name Logan Cook) from the platform for repeated Copyright violations limiting his freedom of speech and expression.

DAVE RUBIN

Dave has had multiple warnings and demonetizations due to his political content. At the beginning of his show he has recently begun saying that he hopes it "is not his last".

Whether or not we agree with people's opinions we can all agree on one thing:

Freedom of speech / expression is a fundamental human right.

To this end, content uploaded to the Libertas network will be censorship resistant.



HOW IT WORKS

CREATE

Create your podcast or audio broadcast using your usual editing software.

UPLOAD

Upload your Podcast or audio broadcast to the Libertas Network.

GET PAID

Content Creators will get rewarded in Libertas Token per confirmed broadcast.

DISTRIBUTED

All content uploaded, automatically gets distributed amongst the entire Libertas Network.

TOKEN ACCESS

Tokens act as an access method to the streams. The content creator keeps your token.

SECURE

Streams can no longer be attacked by Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks or be removed by private companies.

CENTRALIZED VS LIBERTAS

IMMUTABLE	All centralized solutions can restrict, block, demonetize or delete your content without warning.	Libertas cannot delete or demonetize content once it is on the blockchain.
DATA BREACHES	Nearly all of the major players have had data breaches in the past few years.	Fragmenting the file amongst a distributed network ensures no single point of entry.
DATA OUTAGES	Dreaded DDoS attacks can leave you and millions of others without data.	Immune to DDoS attacks and 51% attacks while retaining 100% uptime.
STORAGE COSTS	Easier to attack which means high bandwidth transmission costs as well as security costs.	Impossible to attack, zero security costs and more availability can reduce costs.
LACK OF OWNERSHIP	Your personal private data is not owned only by you.	Libertas keeps no personal private data, nor does the community. Just access to file chunks.
CENSORSHIP AND MONITORING	Censorship and monitoring from Big Tech is reaching Orwellian levels.	Libertas censors nobody, and monitors nothing.



THE TOKEN

TOKEN INFORMATION

SCARCITY

The initial distribution of Libertas Tokens is 100,000,000. (One Hundred Million).

COMMUNITY OWNED

The Libertas Network will be community owned thus resistant to political bias. No more Cancel Culture.

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Tokens can act as a way to prove you uploaded the podcast to the network if desired. This feature is designed to combat Deep Fake Technology.

NO MIDDLE MAN

Tokens get sent from the listener to the content creator - no middle man.

TRANSPARENCY

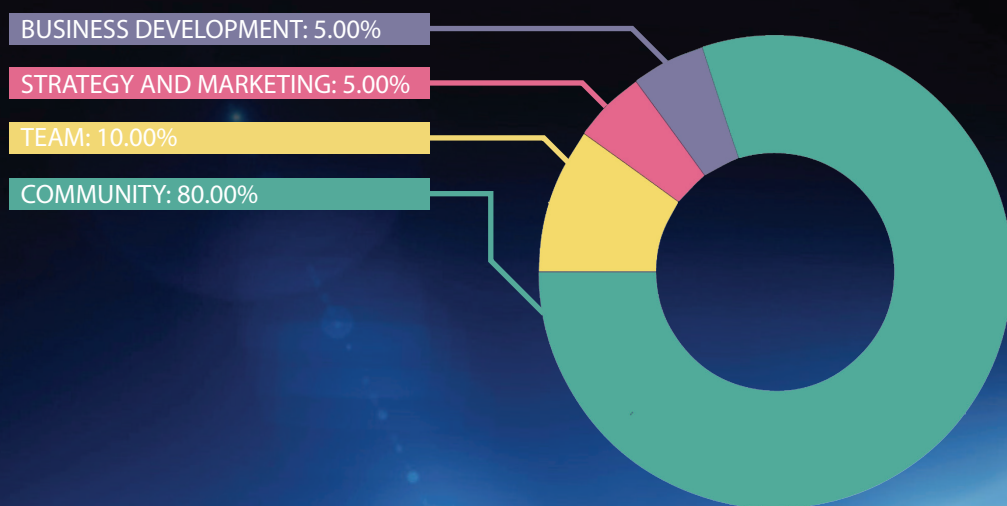
The Libertas Network uses Blockchain technology for full transparency. Watch as your tokens get sent publically to your desired destination.

AUTHORIZATION

Tokens can unlock audiostreams if the uploader has locked them, for example premium streams (subscription based model).

Please ensure you are using the correct contract address by verifying it on etherscan below.
<https://etherscan.io/address/0x49184e6dae8c8ecd89d8bdc1b950c597b8167c90>

TOKEN DISTRIBUTION





ROADMAP

AUG 2020

- Full working mirrors on our static dapp.

OCT 2020

- Ability to upload and stream audio files.
- Integration of Smart Contracts, IPFS and ReactJS.
- Tokens' first usecase: ability to: TIP CONTENT CREATORS.

JAN 2021

- Enhanced Smart Contracts will now cater for playlists.
- Ability to scroll through content.
- Creator playlists with basic search algorithms, UX features and filters.
- Secured a guest spot on a podcast and discussed the project on at least one small to medium podcast.

APR 2021

- Fully working DAPP Version 1 with responsive front end usable on all browsers.
- Encourage users to pin Libertas url to phone homepage instead of using iPhone/Google store to bypass censorship.

JUL 2021

- Full Infrastructure completed.
- Everyone can now upload an audio stream or podcast to the Libertas.

Network and the content will be immutable.

- Libertas V2 will be created to handle the new features of the infrastructure.
- Advertisers will now be approached.
- Advertisers will now be approached with revenue models to support the eco-system.

- Secured a guest spot on a large podcast and discussed the project.

OCT 2021

- Refactor origin code to cater for multiple revenue generating models.
- Configure the infrastructure to support three advertising models:
 - Self Funder
 - Ad Sponsored
 - Unser Endorsed
 - Combo

- This will be configurable by the content creators.

2022

- Extend the service onto Audiobooks. By then if cancel culture has accelerated books may be subject to deplatforming.
- Libertas Tokens will power the network the same way.

2023

- Continue growing the eco-system as we continue fighting for everybody's right to freedom of speech.



THE TEAM



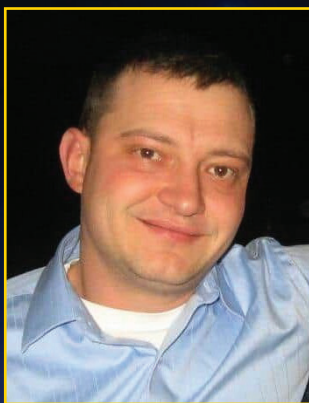
KYLE ALLBRIGHT

Kyle has sixteen years of experience of driving technology solutions and leading projects. He has devised architectures and designed, developed, tested and maintained several large and complex systems. In 2019 he began the creation of the Libertas Project.



EVELINA ELATTAR

Evelina has twenty years of experience in the IT management sector. She has worked for companies large and small and has configured complex network infrastructures. She has also run several successful businesses.



JOHNNY WEBB

Johnny is an established serviceman in the United States military who moved on to electronic engineering for several large-scale operations. He is a Bitcoin maximalist and has been mining Bitcoin since 2013. He has a deep fundamental knowledge of blockchain architecture and will be the second developer, specialising in Solidity.



AN ALREADY WORKING PRODUCT

The following link is a fully functional prototype DAPP running on IPFS.

<https://libertas.network/demo.html>

STREAMS HAVE UNIQUE CONTENT IDENTIFIERS

Content identifiers are used to point to files on the blockchain since they are not statically hosted. It does not indicate where the content is stored exactly but acts as an address based on the underlying content.

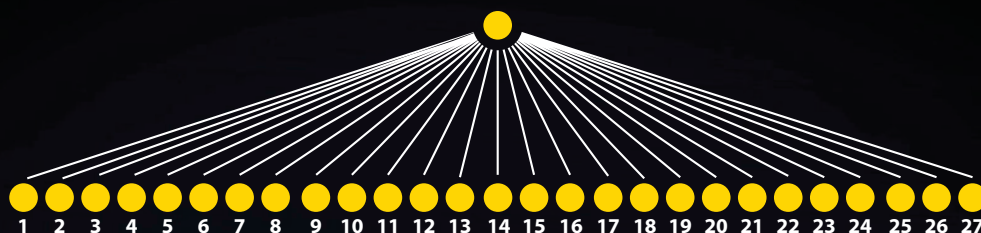
DISTRIBUTED IN CHUNKS

Stream segments are split into chunks with unique IDs so they can be found again on the blockchain.

Traditional methods of playing audio streams host the media file on a centralized server in one whole chunk. The screenshot below displays the segmented podcast output by the Libertas MP3 conversion script that was then uploaded to the blockchain.

By storing the streams as segments we are able to use pointers to quickly access our content from anywhere on the network making retrieval fast. The podcast in our demo is censorship resistant and the CID for it can be ran on a local node by downloading the desktop client: ipfs.io

At Libertas, we are creating a way for everyone to be able to upload content. Behind the scenes our technology will ensure you, the user, are given a seamless user interface without all of these technical aspects cluttering your experience.



PODCAST STREAMING FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES ON THE BLOCKCHAIN



CONCLUSION

The Libertas Project was born out of passion for free speech. It's a labour of love. It's a way to allow people to have a platform and a voice, without fear of being deleted, banned, deplatformed, demonetised or treated like pariahs.

Libertas is building a platform dedicated to decentralising the spoken word, to allow freedom of speech to continue unhindered, to help those who have lost their voice reclaim it, to stop censorship from becoming a way of life.

Anyone (big or small) will be able to upload their podcast and it cannot be taken down due to the immutable nature of the blockchain. Anyone from any country, including countries where freedom of speech is not protected and is not recognised as a right, will be able to have their voice heard across the globe, no more censorship.

Content creators will no longer need to host their own streams and incur costs such as hosting, maintenance, engineering, development or even deal with outages etc.

In 2019 Dave Rubin announced he was leaving the YouTube platform and was creating his own platform as a backup (centralised). The costs of this kind of move

are unaffordable to the majority of people. We, at Libertas, are offering a complete infrastructure for everyone to use whether they are into cryptocurrency or not. We offer an alternative to everyone who wants one or needs one. We are here to help YOU!

Content creators will be able to earn tips from the audience, or they can choose subscription models further down the line.

The Libertas network will facilitate the token transfers between the Ethereum main chain and the content creators via the use of smart contracts, our bespoke infrastructure and making use of DeFi⁶ functionalities to remove the middle man thus effectively removing the extortionate fees taken by large corporations for the use of their platforms and from advertising revenue.

The use of the Libertas token to tip content creators (with our first DAPP) or to pay for subscriptions to their shows (future releases) ensures that users of the platform can still earn a living through their content even if their bank accounts, bank cards or PayPal accounts are terminated — as has been the case for a few high-profile podcasters in the most recent years — because of their opinions.



REFERENCES/RESOURCES

- 1 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1/part/I/chapter/9>
- 2 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/the-constitution/#:~:text=The%20First%20Amendment%20provides%20that,the%20right%20to%20bear%20arms>
- 3 [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_217\(III\).pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_217(III).pdf)
- 4 <https://www.professorbainbridge.com/professorbainbridge.com/2012/10/rowan-atkinson-we-must-be-allowed-to-insult-each-other.html>
- 5 <https://www.scottishlegal.com/article/lack-of-clarity-in-hate-crime-bill-could-threaten-freedom-of-expression>
- 6 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffkauflin/2019/04/26/why-everyone-in-crypto-is-talking-about-defi/#:~:text=It's%20called%20DeFi%2C%20short%20for,companies'%20and%20governments'%20control.&text=Compound%20is%20a%20crypto%20version,fund%2C%20letting%20users%20earn%20interest.>

Website

<https://libertas.network>

Working Demo

<https://libertas.network/demo.html>

TWITTER

<https://www.twitter.com/@TheRealLibertas>

Telegram

<https://t.me/libertasproject>

GitHub

<https://github.com/Kyle-Allbright/Libertas-Static-Website>

LinkedIn

<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/kyleallbright>
<https://uk.linkedin.com/in/evelina-elattar-386125188>