

# Behind Zupass

Applied Cryptography For Consumers

**Richard Liu**  
OxPARC



Ethereum That People Use

# Ethereum That People Use

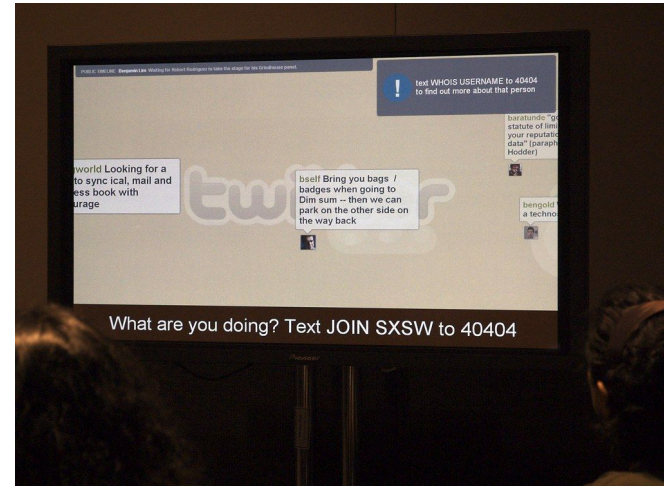
Today, the biggest challenge for Buterin and the ethereum community is making sure that it provides actual value to people.

“The way that I see the ethereum ecosystem in general is that the last decade was the decade of kind of playing around and getting ethereum right. This decade is the decade where we have to actually build things that people use,” Buterin said, hands clasped, as he leaned forward from his perch on an ergonomic-friendly kneeling chair.

# Conferences as Ground Zero

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- Conferences are early glimpses of what's possible
- Events can be an accelerated "contact with reality" for early-stage products with a particular audience



What did "going to an Ethereum conference" feel like 5-10 years ago?

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(from a technology perspective)

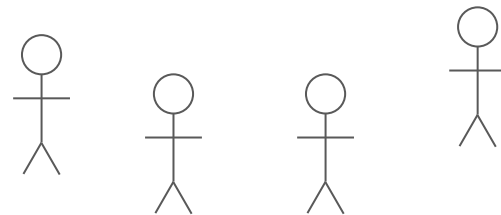
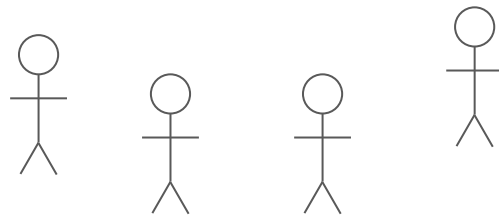
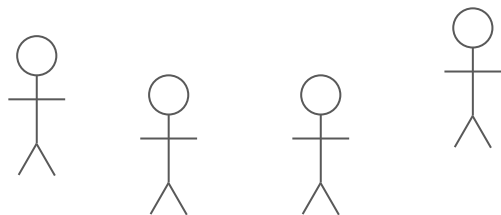
## Ticketing



## Communications



## Talks

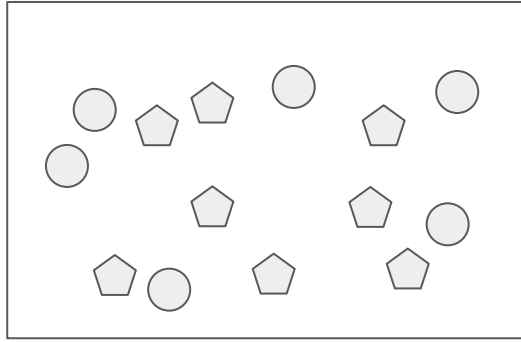




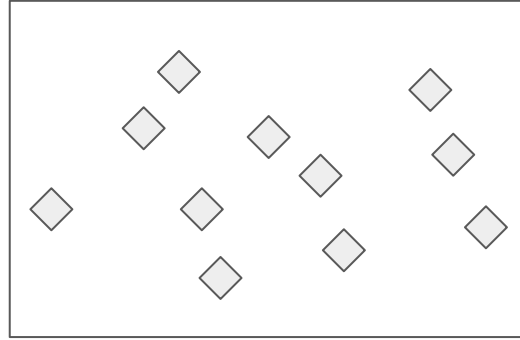
Transaction  
Attendance

Permission (QR)  
Role, e.g. speaker

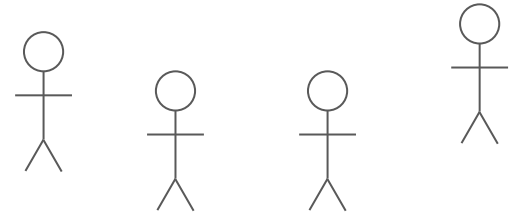
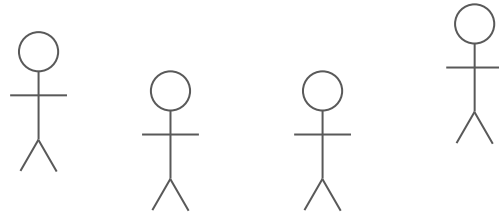
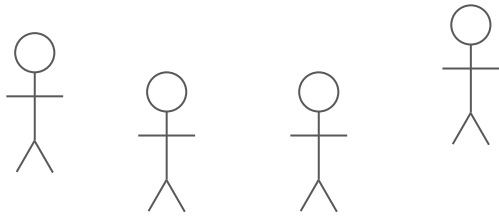
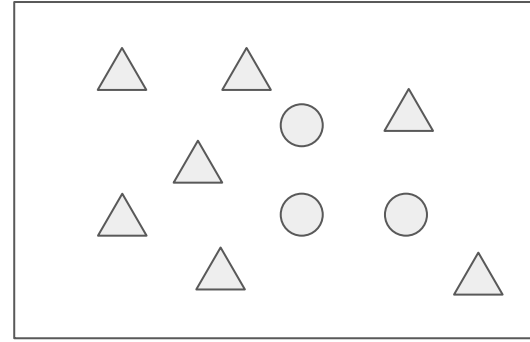
## Ticketing



## Communications



## Talks



What does “going to a Ethereum conference” feel like in 2023?

(from a technology perspective)



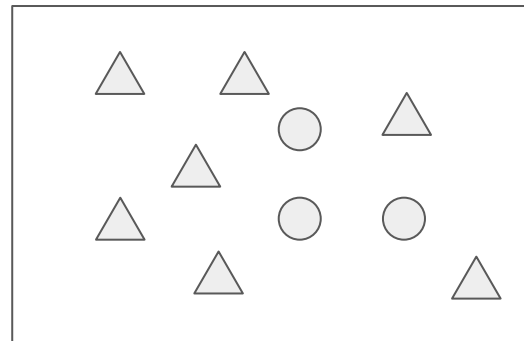
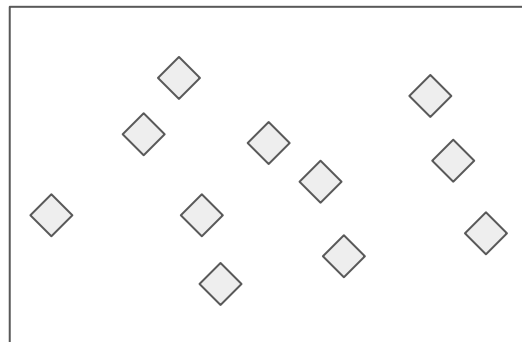
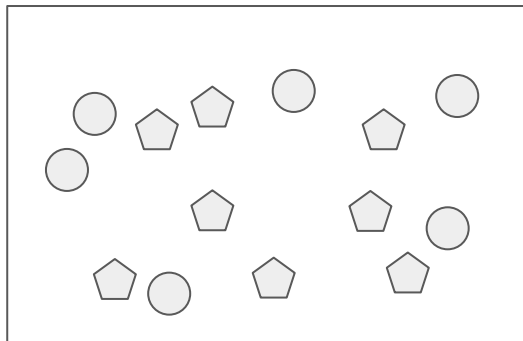
**Ticketh**

Transaction  
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Email + Telegram



**Talks**

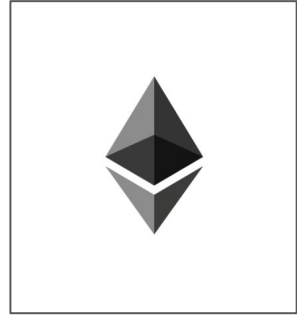


What could "going to an Ethereum conference" feel like in the future?

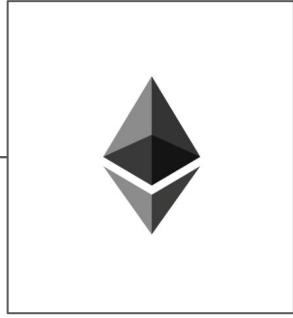
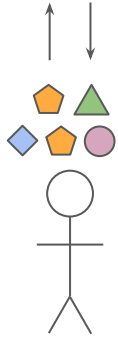
(from a technology perspective)

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 Attendance

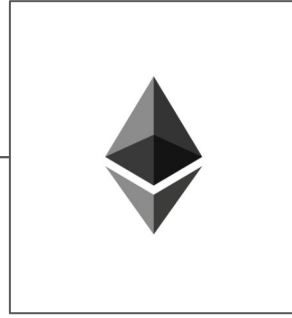
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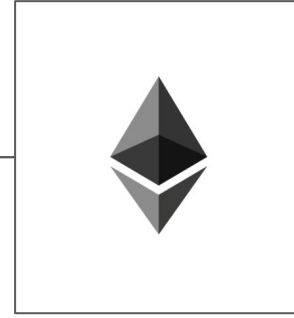
CheckIn.sol



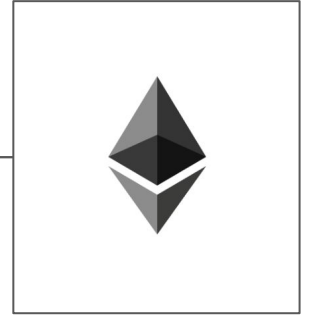
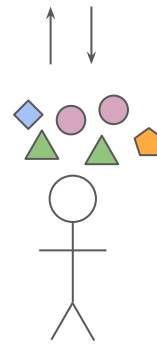
Messages.sol



Voting.sol



Faucet.sol



Games.sol



**Hot take:** If the Ethereum conference of a few years from now can't substantially "run on Ethereum," *something is wrong*.

**Thought exercise:** What would it mean to run conferences *entirely* on Ethereum mainnet and rollups?

# All-in on Ethereum

What are the benefits?

- Data is **owned by the user**, not a centralized intermediary
- Data is **composable** across different applications
- Apps can **permissionlessly** request data and compute
- All data and computation on top of that data are **cryptographically verifiable**



# All-in on Ethereum

What's holding us back?

- All state is **public by default** (sans cryptography)
- Most of the world's data still lives on web2 services
- Onboarding onto smart contract development is **hard**
- Computation on Ethereum is **expensive and high-latency!**

Action	Low	Average	High
② Swap	\$78.41	\$79.53	\$80.66
② NFT Sale	\$132.52	\$134.40	\$136.31
② Bridging	\$25.22	\$25.58	\$25.94
② Borrowing	\$66.52	\$67.47	\$68.42

In 2024, going all-in is too high friction

# What's a meaningful first step?

Today: Can we get **80%** of the way there with only **20%** more friction today?

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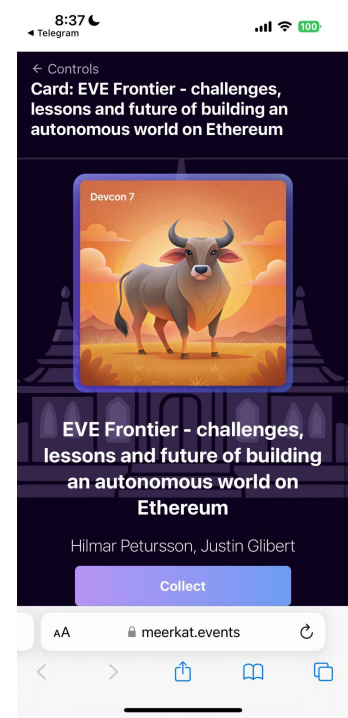
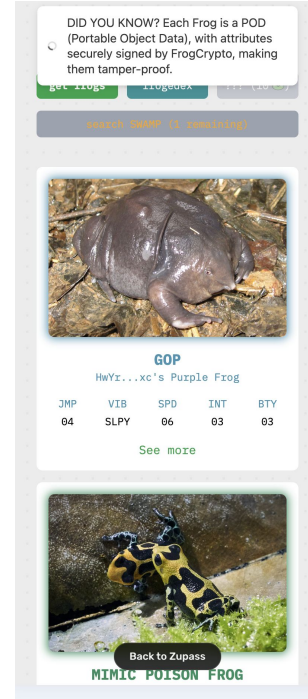
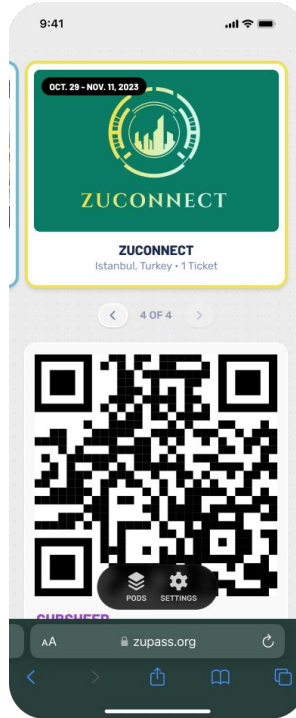
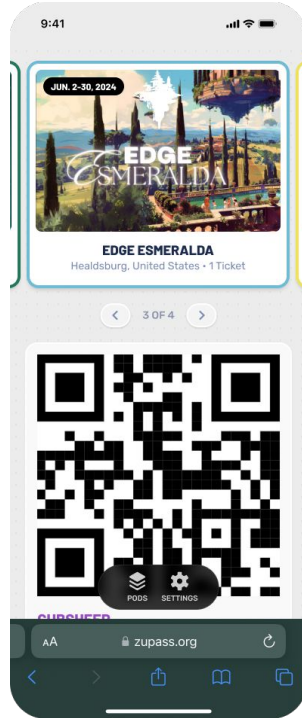
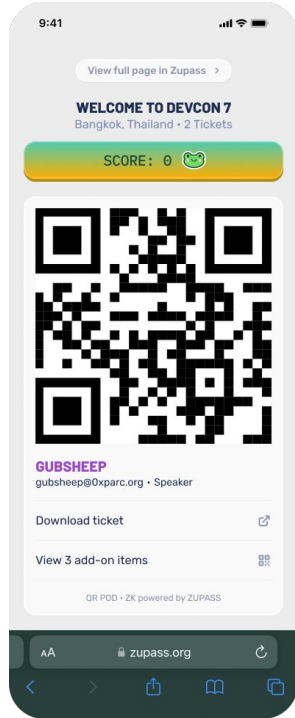
Data is not directly stored on Ethereum, but any computation over that data is easily cryptographically verifiable on Ethereum.

# Quick Primer

- **PODs:** Generic key-value data that makes statements about the world, and contains a proof of its own correctness
- **Zapps:** Applications that can request permissions to read, write, update, and request proofs from PODs
- **Zupass:** software for storing and manipulating PODs
- **GPC:** A highly efficient way to make proofs of PODs on lightweight devices by specifying a JSON

# Examples

# Examples: PODs





# Examples: Zapps

Welcome Richard!

Click the button below to join **Devcon Speakers**.

You will sign in to Zupass, then ZK prove you have a valid ticket.

4:23 AM

Join Devcon Speakers

You've proved that you have a ticket for **Devcon Speakers!**

Now, request to join the group

4:23 AM

Request to join

## Social Stereo

Play and experiment with the Ethereum stack and Programmable Cryptography. Use Zupass, EAS and Stamp to vouch for songs, DJs and Karaoke enthusiasts.

Login →

## Devcon 2024 Mekong Faucet

Don't forget to claim testnet funds on [Sepolia](#) & [Holesky](#) too.



Please enter ETH address or ENS name

Devcon attendee? Login with your Ticket. [Login with Zupass](#)

Request Funds

Squeeze Another Frog

You may only squeeze a frog once per day

Wapbloom Brightroot Sparkblade

Mindflare Squeglow

← Controls

QA: **Keynote: Programmable Cryptography and Ethereum**

Votes ▾

What do you think of TEEs as a pragmatic approach to these problems while ZK and FHE are in their infancy?

creative-jackal-b434

8 ▲

Is Zupass and POD proving going to be faster? On what timeline?

gentle-monitor-8f6e

4 ▲

Will quantum break most things in programmable crypto?

ambitious-banteng-9772

4 ▲

What are the current best solutions to improve proving time

unified-lbis-32ef

1 ▲

Will quantum break everything?

To participate:

Login with Zupass?!

**FROGCRYPTO**

SCORE: 2 🐸

get frogs frogedex ??? (10 🐸)

search SWAMP (1 remaining)

**GOP**

HwYr...xc's Purple Frog

JMP	VIB	SPD	INT	BTY
04	SLPY	06	03	03

See more

**MIMIC POISON FROG**

← Back to Portal

Welcome to the Devcon Collab Portal

Connect & collaborate with attendees. Find and create communal knowledge.

113 Members

Sign up (Devcon ticket holders)

OR

Log in (I already signed up)

Continue as guest

No ticket, Whitelisted

Connect your Zupass

Not right now

shulgin.<engine>ering

derive novel substances from frogs

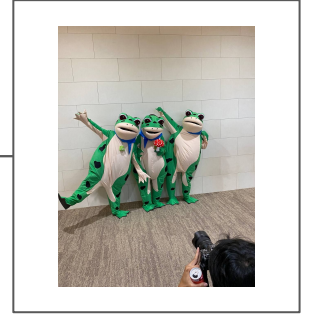
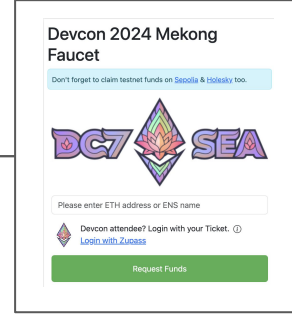
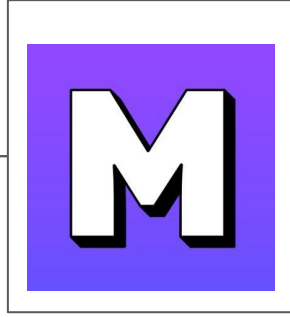
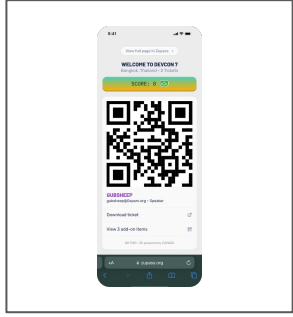
enter the lab

With these capabilities, what can “going to Devcon” feel like?

(from a technology perspective)

Transaction  
Attendance

Permission (QR)  
Role, e.g. speaker



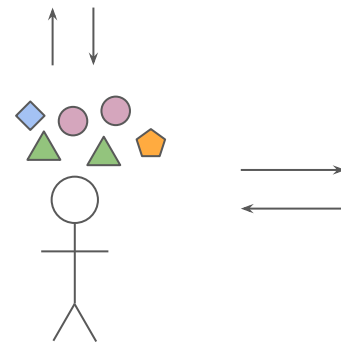
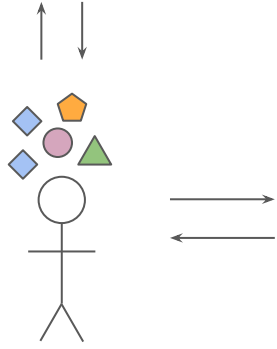
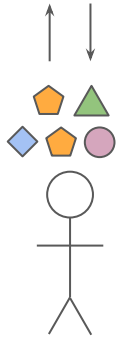
CheckIn.js

Messages.js

Voting.js

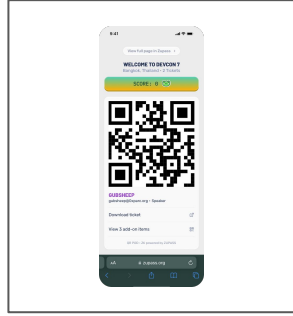
Faucet.js

FROGNET.js

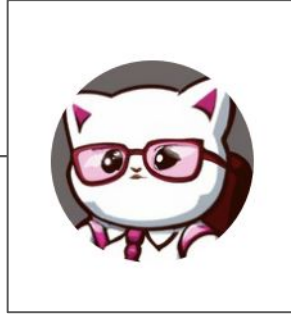
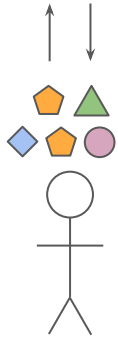


Transaction  
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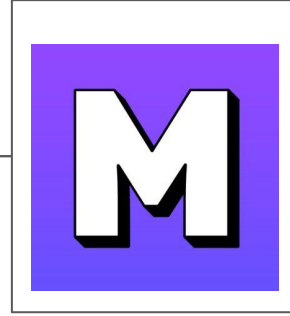
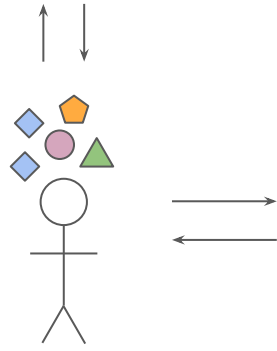
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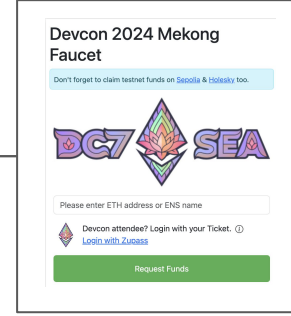
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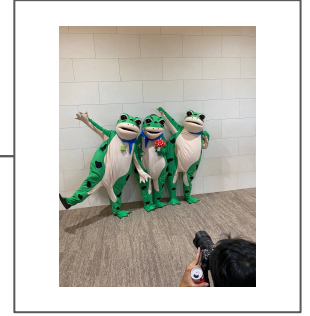
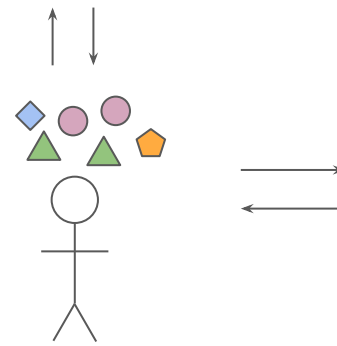
Messages.js



Voting.js



Faucet.js



FROGNET.js



Projecting with high error bars, what can  
"engaging on the internet" feel like?

(from a technology perspective)



Awards



Past tickets



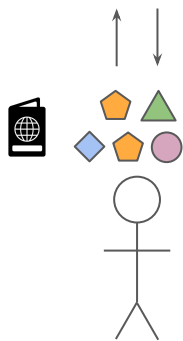
Third-party accounts



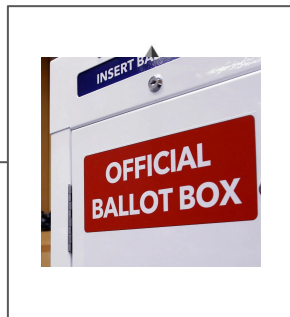
Signed IDs/passports



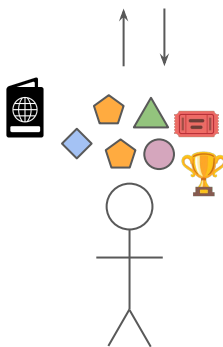
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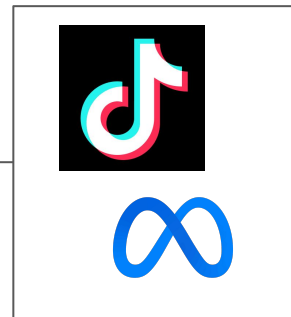
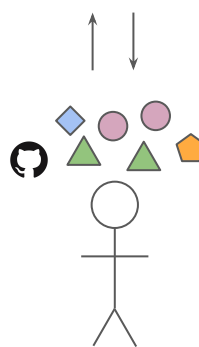
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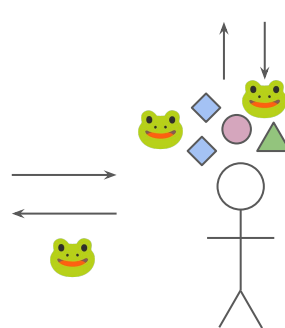
Voting.js



Faucet.js



FROGNET.js



# A Concrete Path Forward

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Three “project areas”:

- Upgrading core cryptographic technology
- Importing more useful and valuable data
- Expanding the Zapp developer ecosystem



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Three “project areas”:

- **Upgrading core cryptographic technology**
- Importing more useful and valuable data
- Expanding the Zapp developer ecosystem

# Upgrading core cryptographic technology

- We chose a stack in 2023 given the most feasible tech stack at the time
  - **POD/GPC** was our update in early 2024, but the technology continues to evolve!
- Improvements in **recursion** and development of the **PEX** framework allow us to import more data with complex proofs like ZKEmail or arbitrary zkVMs
- Continuing to improve performance and capabilities for client-side cryptography
  - We have upstreamed memory management fixes to the SnarkJS and Semaphore repos
  - More investigations into delegated proving, WebGPU, native proving (e.g. MoPro)

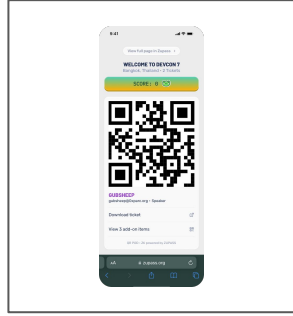
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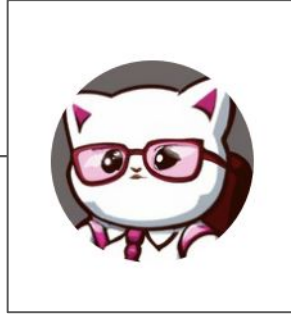
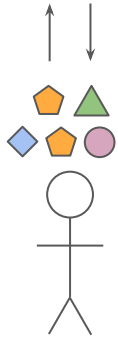
- Upgrading core cryptographic technology
- **Importing more useful and valuable data**
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Transaction  
Attendance

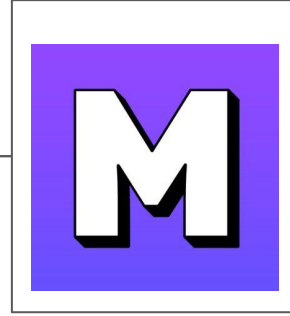
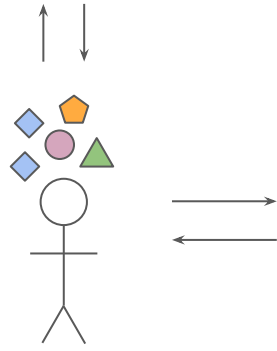
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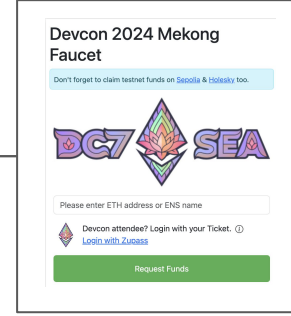
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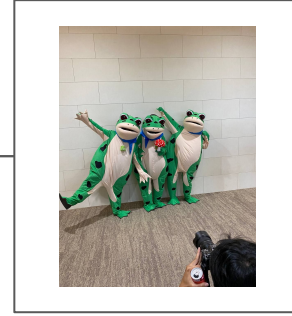
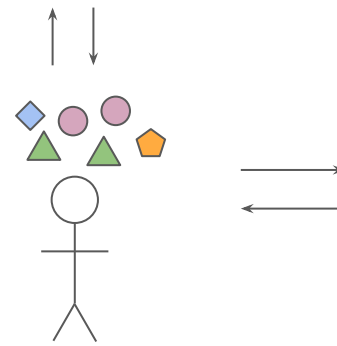
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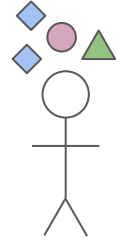
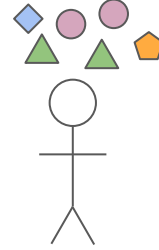
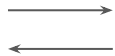
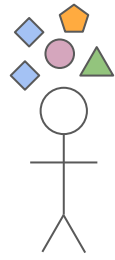
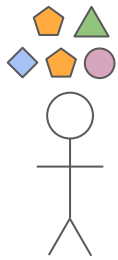


FROGNET.js



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Awards



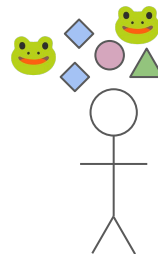
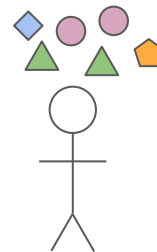
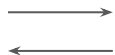
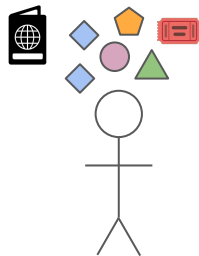
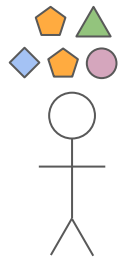
Past tickets



Third-party accounts



Signed IDs/passports



# Importing more useful and valuable data

- Kicking off conversations with various builders
  - Cryptographic government IDs (Anon Aadhar, OpenPassport, mDL)
  - Hardware attestations (miniPOD)
  - Online data (ZKEmail, TLSNotary)
- Identity and real-world data
  - Universities, governments, financial service providers
- Portability with platforms like Farcaster, Bluesky, X

# A Concrete Path Forward

Three “project areas”:

- ZK Proofs for Real Use Cases
- Issuing useful and interesting EZ Data
- **Resources for Zapp developers**



# Resources for Zapp Developers

- PC for generalist developers – cryptography expertise not required
- Starter kits and libraries for curious developers in <10 lines of code
  - Takes hackers hours, not weeks, to ship an exciting application
  - To learn more, **Building Consumer Apps with PC** workshop on **Friday @ 2:15pm**

```
// Fetch the serialized POD from the server
const response = await fetch('https://your-api.com/get-pod');
const serializedPOD = await response.text();

// Deserialize the POD
const pod = POD.deserialize(serializedPOD);

// Now you can insert the POD into the data store
await z.pod.collection("CollectionName").insert(pod);
```

# Resources for Zapp Developers

## Resources:

- Documentation at [pod.org](https://pod.org)
- Telegram group at [t.me/zupass](https://t.me/zupass)

## Upcoming sessions:

- **Today, 2:30pm:** Introducing Provable Object Data (POD)
- **Today, 3pm:** A Deep Dive into ZK Proofs of PODs
- **Tomorrow, 10am:** Programmable / Frogrammable Cryptography CLS
  - Build a Zapp with PODs @ **2:15pm**

*fin*

