Podium

Open social network.

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https://podium.town
https://apps.apple.com/pl/app/podium-open-social-network/id6444365765
https://github.com/podium-town
https://etherscan.io/address/0x0da957e90b596ae973661dd745e5b55a4e7e01e9

1. Motivation

The motivation behind creating Podium was a simple need to make ad-free, free speech, open source, and govern in a decentralized manner social network where people decide on features and algorithm and no singular party can disturb or own this process. There is ongoing discussion on the internet around free speech, cancel culture, hate and healthy conversation which needs to be finally addressed and fixed. I (not as a company rather as a person) believe in an open source platform that serves humanity and global discourse while supporting free speech but at the same time disallowing breaking the law and hate speech. This can be achieved when power lies in the hands of the people not organizations.

2. Technology, open source, algorithm

Podium is fully open source and all of its code is available on https://github.com/podium-town. So far native iOS and Web applications (respectively *ios* and *web* repositories) are created and are already available to use for free on the App Store and https://podium.town. Podium is using Google Cloud Services as a backend to provide fast, secure and scalable architecture (possibly in the future it will be migrated to blockchain once certain milestones will be hit - see Chapter 6. Future). Since the backend and architecture portion can't be open sourced, Podium will have to have a core team which maintains and manages those services. Each core team member will be elected by people and be fully visible on GitHub (see Chapter 3. Voting process, algorithm shaping, feature design).

3. Voting process, algorithm shaping, feature design

Everyday a bunch of features and algorithm changes will be voted on by people. This process is critical to provide free speech, healthy community and give people power. Everyone can vote simply by using Mobile or Web applications by going to the 'Explore' tab. A vote is open and cannot be interfered or malformed because it's happening on blockchain. A vote topic can vary from banning a certain profile to changing algorithm rules or features. Once the vote is passed and ended, blockchain smart contract automatically and immediately introduces changes to the algorithm and thus it is reflected in Web and Mobile apps. The Algorithm alone lives inside a smart contract (blockchain) and consists of a set of rules and configurations which are actively evolving. In terms of new features and changes applied to Mobile or Web apps (not algorithm itself) the voting also takes place and the code is being developed and merged on GitHub by people.

4.Privacy, data ownership

One of the biggest concerns about the current state of social networking is data ownership and privacy. Podium is not and will never ask for your real name, address, birth date and any other sensitive data. You are the owner of the account and all content you share and can easily delete each data point or whole account without any process in between and any waiting time.

5.Minimum profitability, maintenance

Podium is designed to be free forever for everyone. It's ad-free so there is no stream of revenue yet the infrastructure behind it needs to be somehow maintained. The idea to achieve minimum profitability and cover infra costs is to introduce optional paid subscription. The subscription will not be favoring one user over another and will not strip or limit available features. It introduces some cosmetical options and enhances currently available features in a fair way. Subscription feature is under active development. The targeted cost to be $5 per month (also a suspect for voting).

6.Future

Future roadmap is constantly evolving based on community needs and current development. Podium is aiming to be a fully decentralized, blockchain based social network to achieve total transparency and independence. As promising as the current state of blockchain technology is, current transaction prices are very high and wallet mobile experience is not ideal. Current development queue:
- Advanced Search (90%)
- Native Android app (0%)
- Optional subscription model rollout (10%)

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