

Foamspace is basically an art demonstration about decentralized networks. For anyone like me the idea of blockchains is already difficult to grasp. This public demonstration definitely helps put everything into working perspective. In this demonstration they used Geofoam blocks to create a physical demonstration of how blockchains work. The people attending and creating this festival were awarded with foamspace coins which exist in these bitcoin blockchains that were created out of foamspace.

The foamspace itself looked like big white blocks that were set up along the street on the sidewalk in little clusters. Some clusters looked like mini cities and some were simply placed in a random configuration. There were some clusters of blockchains that took on the ambiance of an “urban lounge” while others simulated an information kiosk or performance stage. The big white blocks that made up the foamspace were made up of EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) Geofoam, which is an invisible material that’s present in everyday life buried underneath many urban architectures such as: railway and road embankments, the materials retaining walls, and amphitheater seating. These blocks were kept at the products standard size and simply installed unaltered. After the demonstration these blocks were going to be sold back to the supplier on something called the “secondary use market.” This was going to signify, “the free circulation of physical matter on the emerging market for reused materials.” The proceeds that they made during this project would go directly back into future foamspace projects.

Working with this foamspace directly was something they installed, called the wallet, open to the public this application allowed the public to obtain a unique address and receive a foamspace coin that would be active, ready to trade and track, on the blockchain network as a token of their membership in the virtual community. The members that had originally helped setup the foamspace “blockchains” were awarded extra coins as a thank you for their work and to encourage them to help with future projects. This helped them establish a small community with this blockchain demonstration; once the festival took place this along with the already established community helped the online content grow.

The last main thing to take out of this demonstration would have to be smart contracts, the last step of this blockchain technology. These smart contracts are a new development in blockchain technology called Ethereum. These smart contracts aim to enable users to write contracts such as: mortgage, voting systems, crowd funding, etc. They propose to, “replace centralized finance, social networking, law and governance with a multitude of currencies.” This may be the beginning of a whole new global and financial networking system.