Ethereum Governance

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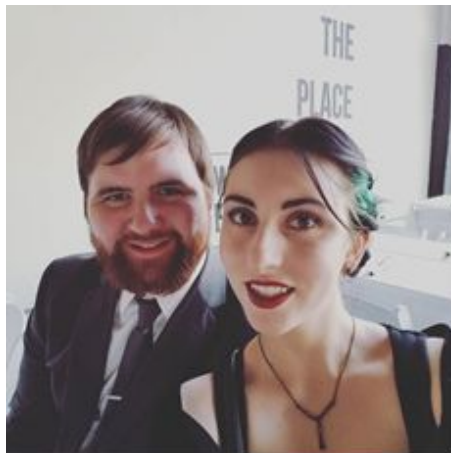Hudson Jameson

Hudson Jameson

Involved in cryptocurrency/blockchain space since 2011.

USAA: 2014-2016

Ethereum Foundation: 2016-current

Oaken Innovations: 2016-current

1 Wife & 3 Cats

Ethereum

- Open source peer-to-peer blockchain platform.
- Enables the creation and distribution of decentralized applications.
- Invented in late 2013 by Vitalik Buterin.
- Launched 2015.
- #2 cryptocurrency by market capitalization.

ethereum

Governance is the process by which we attempt to establish (and maintain/revoke) the legitimacy of decisions, decision making processes, and related governance norms/expectations.
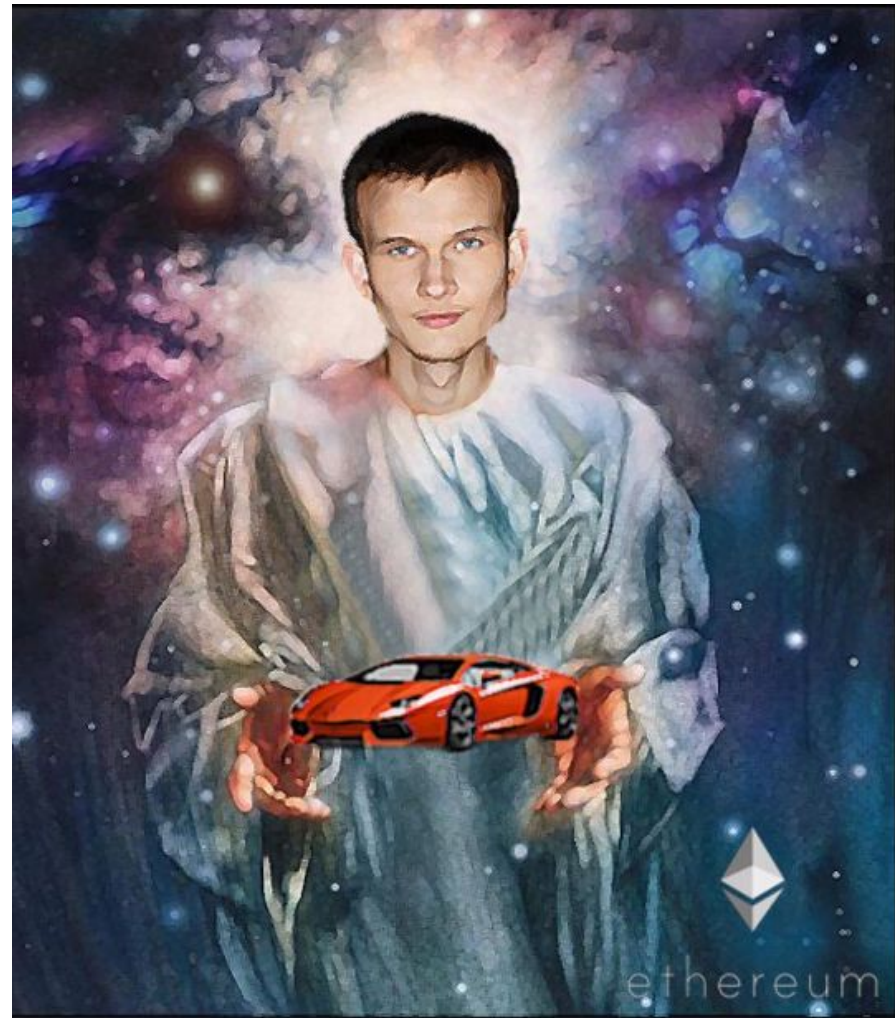
- Vlad Zamfir (Twitter)

What It Was

- 2014-Early 2015: Basically all clients and development tools were developed at the Ethereum Foundation.
- Late 2015-2016: Outside entities start to form as people leave the Ethereum Foundation.
- 2016: Beginning of Enterprise Ethereum discussions. More infrastructure being developed by 3rd parties.
- 2017: Enterprise Ethereum brings "traditional" companies into Ethereum. More visible government and academic interest.

What It Is Now

(Just kidding)

Current Major Players

- Consensys
- Web3 Foundation
- Parity Technologies
- Ethereum Foundation
- Enterprise Ethereum Alliance
- Fellowship of Ethereum Magicians
- Client devs (All Core Devs meeting)
- Ethereum Improvement Proposal (EIP) Editors
- Highly used infrastructure tools (Metamask, MyCrypto, Infura)

Problems

- EIPs and All Core Dev meetings are only formal way decisions are made for network upgrades.
- Problem with participation on the most technical discussions.
    - Same people making decisions over and over again because no one has the time or inclination to take the torch.
- Few good signaling systems or other methods to gauge community consensus on contentious issues.

Solutions?

- Involve more diverse groups and participants.
- Create safe places for discord.
- Encourage participation and outspoken opinions.
- Addition of more governance structures.
- Continuous improvement of current structures.

Is Ethereum centralized?

- No, not really. We are too disorganized to be centralized.

What Can Zcash Do?

- ~~Panic~~
- Study and develop good governance structures early on.
- Figureheads are good early on in a blockchain project, but influence needs to be lessened over time.
- Model pieces of your governance structures after other groups, such as IETF.

Thank you!

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