📖 Dictionary of Terms (simplified version)

A tool to understand key concepts of blockchain, DAOs, and decentralized technology, designed for the FOSS community.

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Blockchain

What it is: A distributed database where information is recorded in chained blocks and cannot be modified without network consensus. It operates without a central server.

What it's for: It allows decentralizing any system that previously required a trusted intermediary: money, voting, identity, property, contracts. Not just finance; anything that can be centralized can be decentralized with blockchain.

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DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization)

What it is: An organization managed by rules written in code (smart contracts) rather than by people in authority. Decisions are made collectively by its members.

What it's for: It enables coordinating human groups without traditional hierarchies, managing shared funds transparently, and making collective decisions without needing a board of directors or a boss.

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DataDAO

What it is: A type of DAO focused on collective data ownership. Participants contribute data to a common pool and receive tokens in return, collectively deciding how that data is used.

What it's for: It allows communities of developers or users to own the data they generate, instead of large corporations capturing and monetizing it without sharing benefits.

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Governance Token

What it is: A digital asset that represents the right to participate and vote in the decisions of a DAO.

What it's for: Distributing decision-making power among community members based on their contribution, investment, or participation, rather than concentrating it in a leadership group.

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### Smart Contract

What it is: A program stored on a blockchain that automatically executes when predetermined conditions are met.

What it's for: It enables automating agreements without intermediaries, ensuring they are carried out exactly as programmed.

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### Zero-Knowledge Proof (ZKP)

What it is: A cryptographic method that allows proving that you know something (or that something is true) without revealing the information itself.

What it's for: It enables verifying identity, authorship, or rights without exposing personal data, which is essential for communities that need privacy and sovereignty.

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### Forks

What it is: Taking the code of a project (software or blockchain) and continuing it separately, sometimes with different rules.

What it's for: It's a community's ultimate defense mechanism: if you disagree with a project's direction or if a corporation captures it, you can copy it, improve it, and move forward without asking permission.

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### How to contribute

If you want to add a term:

1. Use the exact format: ### Title, then **What it is:**, then **What it's for:**, and finally ---.
2. Define clearly, without unnecessary jargon.
3. Explain its general purpose, without long examples or lists.
4. Open an issue or pull request in the repository.

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