Acuity Decentralized Social Media

Acuity Regenesis

Acuity was previously implemented on a clone of Ethereum called MIX (in development since 2015).

On 1st September 2020 a snapshot of all MIX balances was taken and the new Acuity blockchain was born on Polkadot.

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Permanent

No need for Wayback Machine.

A record of all activities on the platform is publicly available forever. Furthermore, all content on the platform is stored on IPFS and can be "pinned" by anyone. This creates the permanent Web.

Having an indelible record of the past is essential for effective research.

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No Service Provider

Acuity has no terms of service because there is no service. Unlike other so-called decentralized social media platforms there is no active entity running the platform, just like Bitcoin, Ethereum and Polkadot itself. It really is fully peer-to-peer. There is no backend whatsoever.

No Downtime

Other social networks claiming to be decentralized still have downtime, this is a clear indicator that they are not decentralized.

Because Acuity is fully decentralized and has no backend whatsoever, it will never go offline.

Trust Network

Every account can maintain a public list of accounts that they trust. This trust network can be extended into who is trusted by the accounts they trust.

This has many use-cases including:
- pre-publication filtering, i.e. only an account in the trust network of a content author can post a reply (spam prevention).
- post-publication filtering, i.e. only content in the trust network of the viewer will be seen

Decentralized Hosting

All content on Acuity is stored on IPFS and the IPFS content id (hash) is stored in blockchain state.

In order for the content to propagate around the system and be kept "live", hosting nodes of accounts that have the publisher in their trust network can "pin" the content of those publishers. This means IPFS will retrieve the content from the network, store it permanently, and serve it to any other node that requests it.

Decentralized Search

While it is very easy to index Acuity in a centralized manner, such a solution will eventually be regulated by authorities. The solution is to have peer-to-peer search.

When Acuity is operating as a search node it can index part of the network. When a search query is made, nodes in the trust network of the user will be made recursively. It may take several hops through the trust network for good results to be found.

Decentralized Media Transcoding

When publishing media content such as video, it is necessary for it to be encoded into multiple versions for different resolutions, bandwidth requirements, etc.

Many users, such as those on mobile devices, will not wish to transcode themselves. In this situation anyone in their trust network running as a transcoding node can perform the transcoding for them.

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Mature Smart Contracts

The core social media functionality has already been implemented as Solidity smart contracts (with tests) for the previous implementation (MIX).

Now they will be re-deployed onto the Acuity blockchain via the EVM Substrate pallet.

Functionality currently implemented in smart contracts includes, but is not limited to:

- content revisions
- comments
- feeds
- trusted accounts
- emoji reactions

Federated

Acuity will later become a hierarchical system of blockchain social communities. Each community will be a Polkadot parachain.

This provides:
- shared security
- scalability
- customization

Multi-platform Browser

The Acuity Browser is currently being ported from the previous implementation on MIX (built over 5 years).

It is built using TypeScript, Polkadot JS, IPFS JS, Vue and Vuetify.

It will be available as:
- Web app (Progressive Web App - installable)
- Android app (Trusted Web Activity)
- Desktop app (Electron - Windows, MacOS, Linux)

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Data First

Unlike the legacy Web, Acuity is data-first. This has several advantages:

- Robust data access - Scraping data from HTML will never be necessary. Everyone has unfettered raw access to the underlying database.
- Separation of concerns - anyone can develop new ways to present the data.
- Accessibility - apps can be developed to accurately communicate information in other forms.

Permissionless Innovation

Censorship of innovation is the real censorship. We need to have freedom to develop better ways to collaboratively publish and curate content.

Any developer can integrate with Acuity at any level, both on-chain and off-chain, with complete confidence. The makes Acuity a more robust foundation to built our publication infrastructure than any other platform including the traditional Web.

Ungameable Metrics / Creator Funding

On traditional social media platforms metrics are gathered such as view count and like count. These are terrible measures because they can easily be gamed and are fairly meaningless anyway.

Acuity has a system where the metrics are based on real monetary value and actually generate revenue for content creators.

Atomic Swap Exchange

The Acuity browser will have a built-in atomic swap fully decentralized exchange.

It will be possible to trade ACU with ETH without any central authority.

Wrapped ACU

Using the upcoming Polkadot bridge functionality, it will be possible to convert ACU on the Acuity blockchain into WACU on the Ethereum blockchain.

WACU will then be able to be traded on Uniswap as an ERC20 token.

Links

https://acuity.social/
contact@acuity.social
https://twitter.com/acuity_social
https://github.com/acuity-social
https://t.me/acuity_social
https://discordapp.com/invite/GxD
7adN
https://www.youtube.com/channel
/UCkvRVEWnTPWWYJQqPbYwyi
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