HATCH

Build a Blockchain Explorer

Your bigshot boss has commissioned you to build a blockchain explorer. *And don't give me any canned Etherscan.io bullshit,* he growls, *Gimme something innovative, something to impress the investors—Make it pretty and make it do something cool...*

Hmm, this is gonna be tricky. Your first thought *was* just to scrape Etherscan's (or some other block explorer's) HTML and plug it into their API. You could still use their API or Websocket and extend usability somehow...or—if you really wanted to impress him—you could structure a series of Web3.js calls (or establish a websocket) around the local full node you maintain as a good Ethereum developer.

Now what about the extended functionality? Here are a few ideas:

- **Active monitoring (Hacker Wallet Watcher):** Allow the user to follow the status of an account. When the account sends a transaction, the explorer sends an SMS to the user.
- **Follow the money (KYC):** Given a the balance in an account, allow the user to follow the accumulation and / or distribution of the payment. Where did it come from? Where did it go? Visualized in graph form.
- **Analytics (How Healthy is an ICO?):** Query the state, receipt or transaction tree for each new Ethereum block and visualize the data (growth / decline of accounts, number of transactions on a popular contract, etc.)

Let's get started...