

# Building UTxO-Optimized Dapps

Lars Brünjes & Marvin Bertin

# Introduction

# Outline

- What is a blockchain anyway?
- Smart contracts and DApps
- Accounting models - account based and EUTxO
- Advantages of the EUTxO-model

What is a Blockchain?

# Blockchain - A Ledger in the Sky



Ledger

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# Blockchain - A Ledger in the Sky

- **Decentralised!**
  - Everybody can participate.
  - Data is distributed.



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# Blockchain - A Ledger in the Sky

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- All the fancy crypto is there to make this possible!



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# What are Smart Contracts & DApps?

# “Vanilla” Cryptocurrency

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## Smart Contracts

- Payment validity is determined by “arbitrary logic”
- “Arbitrary” data can be stored and processed.

# DApps

- DApps (“decentralized apps”) are Apps interacting with the blockchain.
- They combine traditional components like a website and database with smart contracts and the ability to query the blockchain and submit transactions.
- They provide a user-friendly interface to the blockchain.
- Typical applications are DEX’s (“decentralized exchanges”), NFT marketplaces and multiplayer games, but we’ve only just begun to explore the realm of the possible.

# Accounting Models: The Current Standard

# The account-based model

- Used by Ethereum and others.
- Similar to how banks do it: Accounts have balances, and transactions decrease one balance and increase another accordingly.
- The state of the system is given by the current balance on each account.
- A transaction updates the balances.

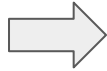


Alice starts with ETH 100, Bob with ETH 50

Account	Balance
Alice	100
Bob	50
Charlie	0

# Alice sends ETH 10 to Bob

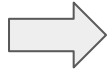
Account	Balance
Alice	100
Bob	50
Charlie	0



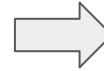
Account	Balance
Alice	90
Bob	60
Charlie	0

# Alice and Bob send ETH 55 each to Charlie

Account	Balance
Alice	100
Bob	50
Charlie	0



Account	Balance
Alice	90
Bob	60
Charlie	0



Account	Balance
Alice	35
Bob	5
Charlie	110

# Smart contracts in the account-based model

- Accounts not only hold value, but also optional functions and data.
- A transaction calls a function of an account, which can call functions of other accounts. If one of those functions fails, the transaction fails.
- The functions can transfer value and modify data.
- Functions “see” the whole current state of the blockchain.

# Accounting Models: Cardano's (E)UTxO-Model

# The UTxO-model

- Used by Bitcoin, Cardano and others.
- Somewhat similar to coins: Users control several UTxO's (unspent transaction outputs), who have to be spent completely or not at all.
- The state of the system is given by the current set of UTxO's.
- A transaction “spends” some UTxO's and creates new ones, but never modifies anything else.

Alice starts with ₳100, Bob with ₳50

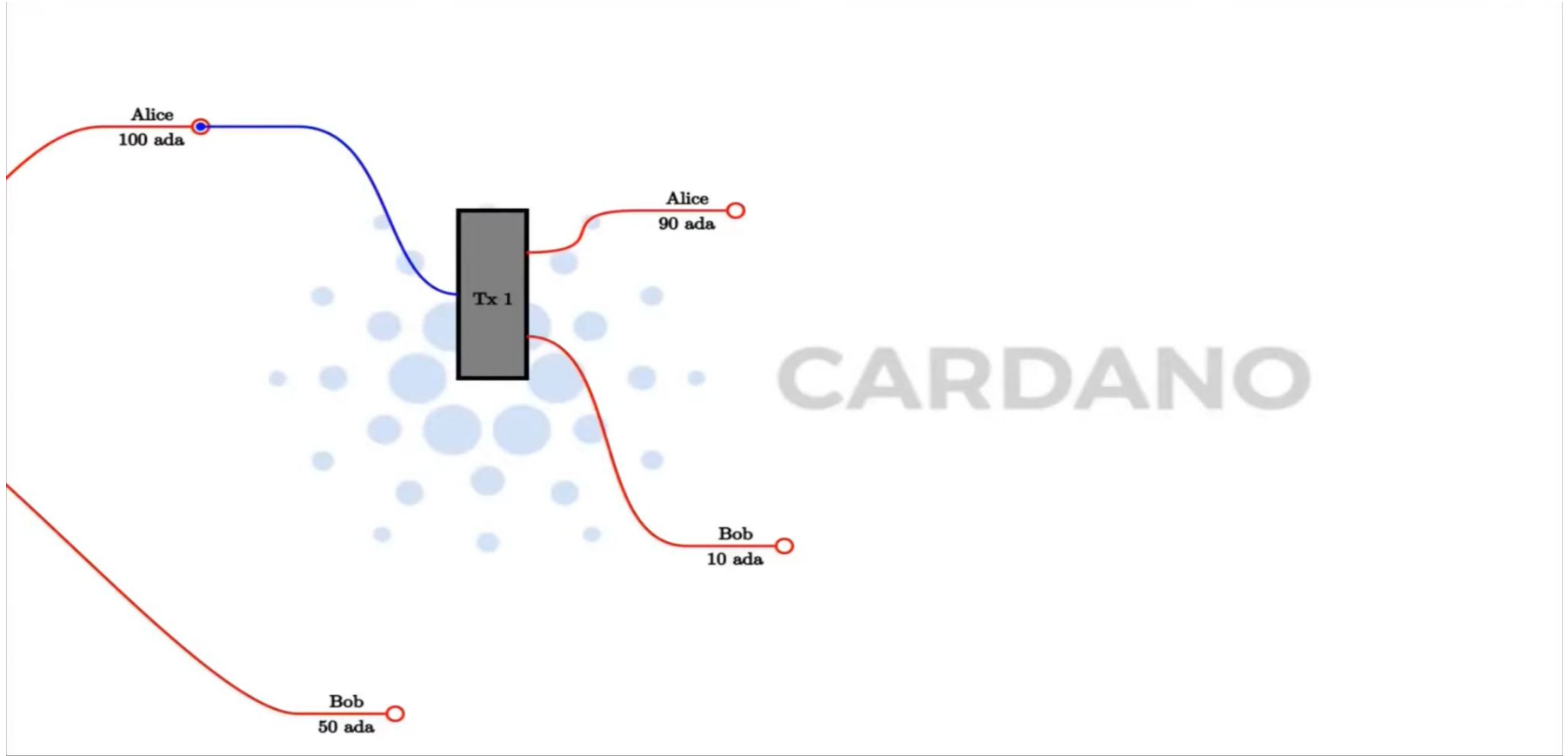
Alice  
100 ada



CARDANO

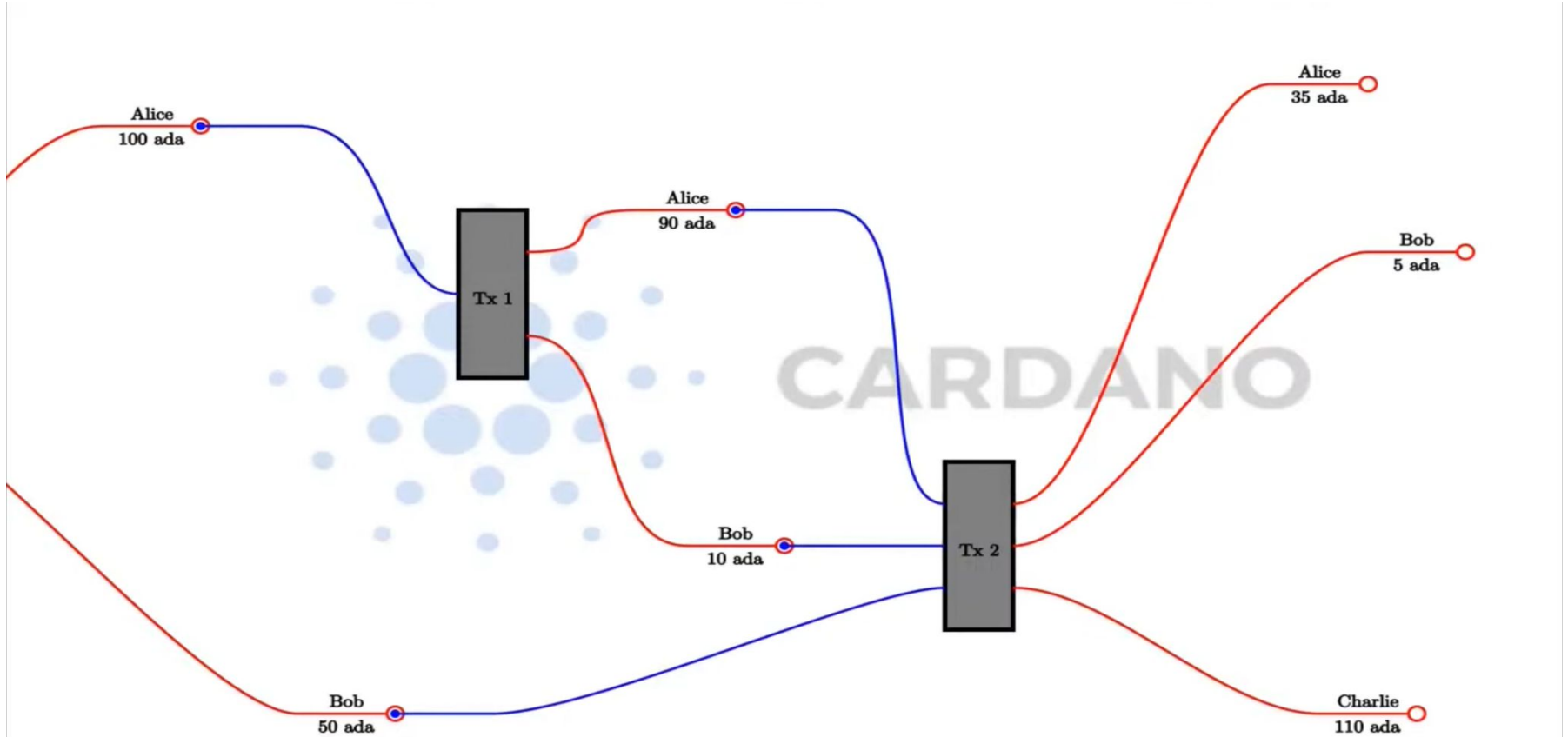
Bob  
50 ada

# Alice sends ₳10 to Bob





# Alice and Bob send ₳55 each to Charlie



# The EUTxO-model (extended UTxO-model)

- Adds smart contract capability to Cardano.
- In addition to value, Cardano UTxO's can optionally carry data.
- Instead of addresses given by cryptographic keys, UTxO's can “sit” at addresses given by a “validator”, a piece of code.
- During validation, that code is executed in the context of the transaction being validated (and nothing else).

# Advantages of the (E)UTxO-Model

# Key differences between the models

Account based	EUTxO
Transactions modify balances and data “in place”.	Everything is immutable. All that changes is the UTxO-set.
Whether a transaction is valid or not depends of the state of the whole blockchain.	Validation context is the transaction with its inputs and outputs and nothing else.
The effect of a transaction is generally not know upon submission.	The effect of a transaction is deterministic and known upon submission.
Transaction can fail and still cost money.	Failing transactions are free.

# Attractive properties of the EUTxO-model

- Since the validation context is restricted to a transaction with its inputs and outputs, it is much easier to understand and analyze what can and can not happen.

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- State can be split into many UTxO's, facilitating concurrency and enabling Layer-2-technologies like Hydra.
- This makes writing correct and highly performant smart contracts much easier, provided they fully embrace the model.



# How to build scalable UTxO-optimized DApps

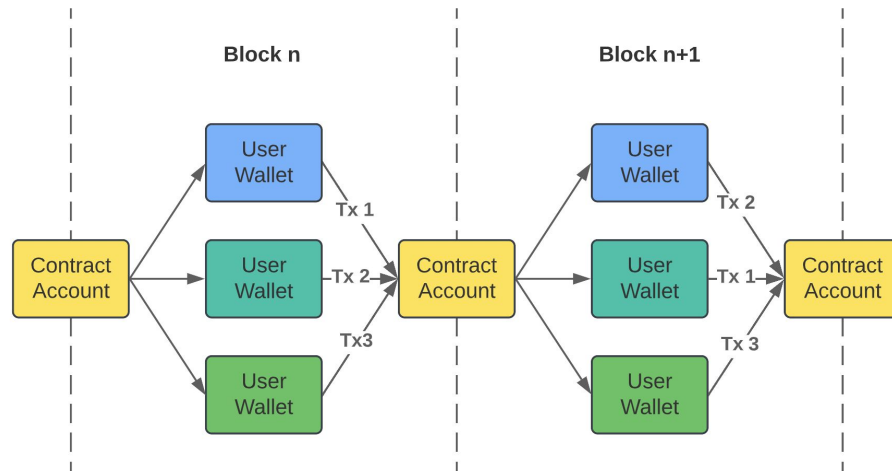
# Most Web3 DApps are specifically designed for EVM account-base smart contracts

## Account-based blockchains properties:

- Global state wallets & contracts
- Mutable account address
- Sequential single-threaded Tx
- On-chain computation
- Non-deterministic transactions

## Web3 protocol architectures are design to fit EVM paradigm

- Liquidity pools
- AMMs
- Monolithic dapps



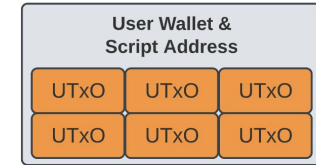
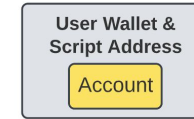
# EUTxO blockchains like Cardano employ a fundamentally different smart contract paradigm

## UTXO Properties

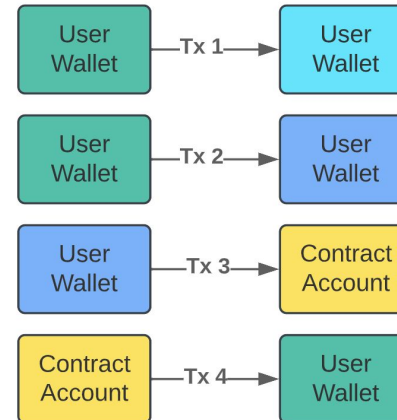
- Distributed state wallets & contracts
- Immutable UTxOs
- Transaction parallelism, multi-threaded
- Off-chain computation, onchain verification
- Transaction are deterministic

## Key Advantages

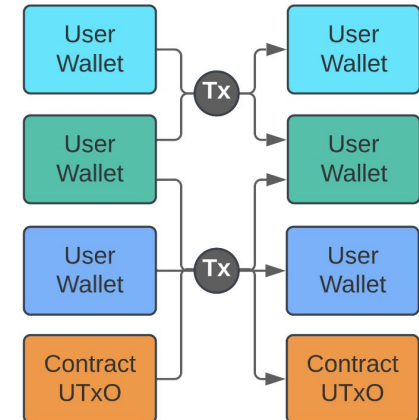
- 1 UTxO Tx = many account Txs
- Transaction multitasking
- Transaction parallelism



Account-based  
Transaction



EUTxO  
Transaction



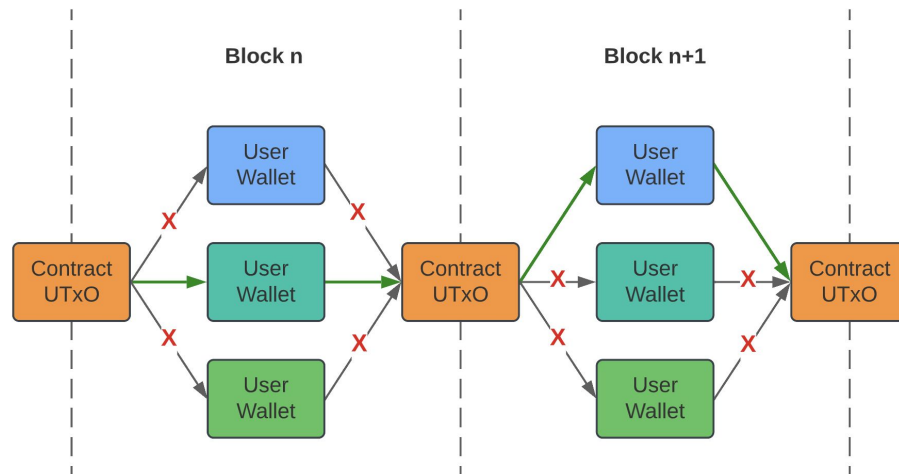
# Copying EVM dapp architecture is leads to anti-patterns and poor performance

## UTxO Contention

- A UTxO can be used once per block

## Anti-patterns to avoid on Cardano

- Track state in a single UTxO (global state)
- Many users need to interact with one UTxO

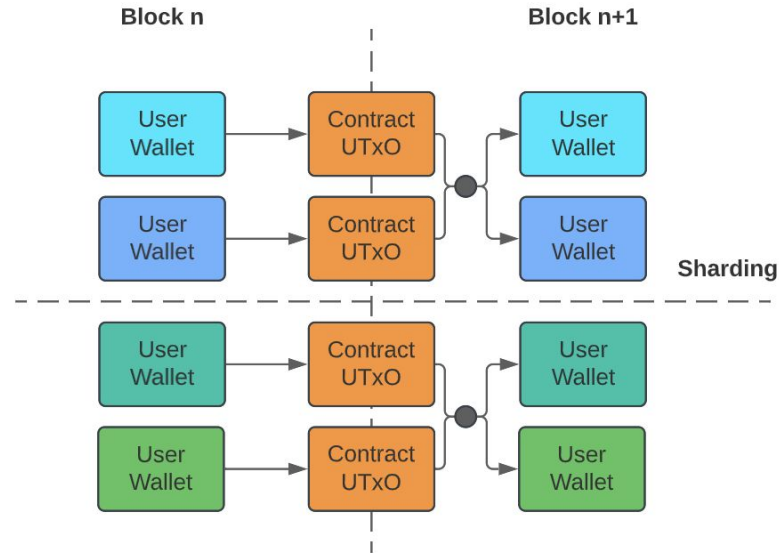


**A complete redesign of dapp protocol is required to take advantage of UTxO's unique feature such as determinism, parallelism, scalability and composability**

# A UTxO-optimized design makes for simpler & more scalable DApps

## Protocols architectures that benefit from UTxOs

- Highly parallelizable algorithms
- State fragmentation grows with number of users
- State machine models



**UTxOs are very powerful. If used correctly allow to build both different and better dapps compared to EVM dapps. However, novel protocol designs must be embraced.**

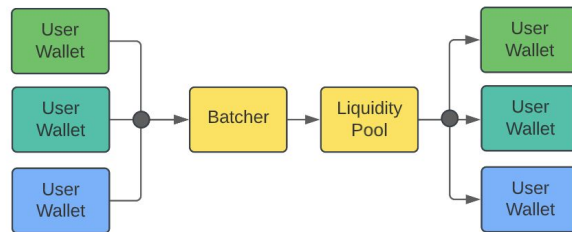
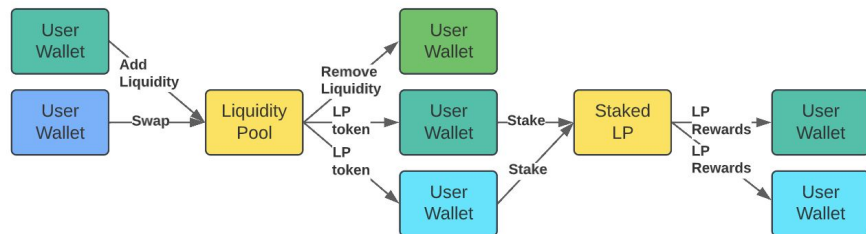
# Most DApps on Cardano are inefficient designed because they are inspired by EVM protocols

Automatic Market Maker (AMM) DEX is an anti-pattern on Cardano

- Liquidity pools => contention issues
- Yield LP tokens => unnecessary complexity
- Impermanent loss => pool artifact

Order batchers do not address root cause

- Add complexity
- Lead to centralization



**Cardano devs need to unlearn EVM-based design and build dapps from the ground-up based on first principles.**

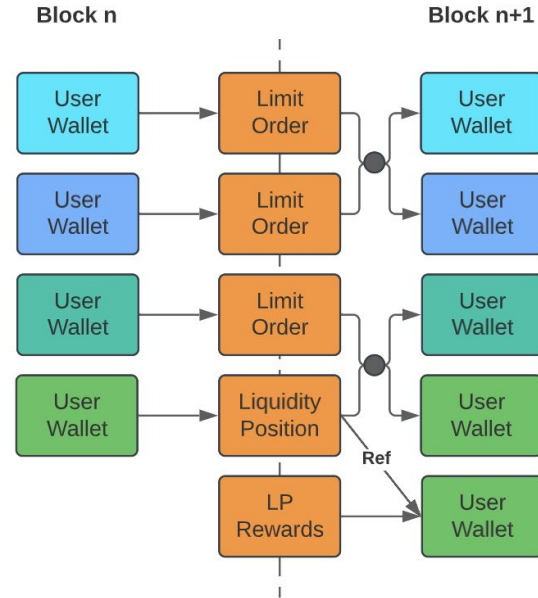
# UTxO paradigm is very powerful if used correctly

## Fragmentation smart contract state

- Each UTxO has 1 owner
- Split pools into individual liquidity positions
- Turn swaps into individual orders
- Replace LP token with UTxO reference

Fragmented dapp is easily compatible with Layer 2 solutions

- Hydra - Isomorphic State Channels
- ZK rollups - Zero-knowledge proofs



**UTxO fragmentation must grow with number of users. UTxO-optimized dapps are especially compatible with layer-2 scaling solution**

# Order-Book: The ideal UTxO design pattern

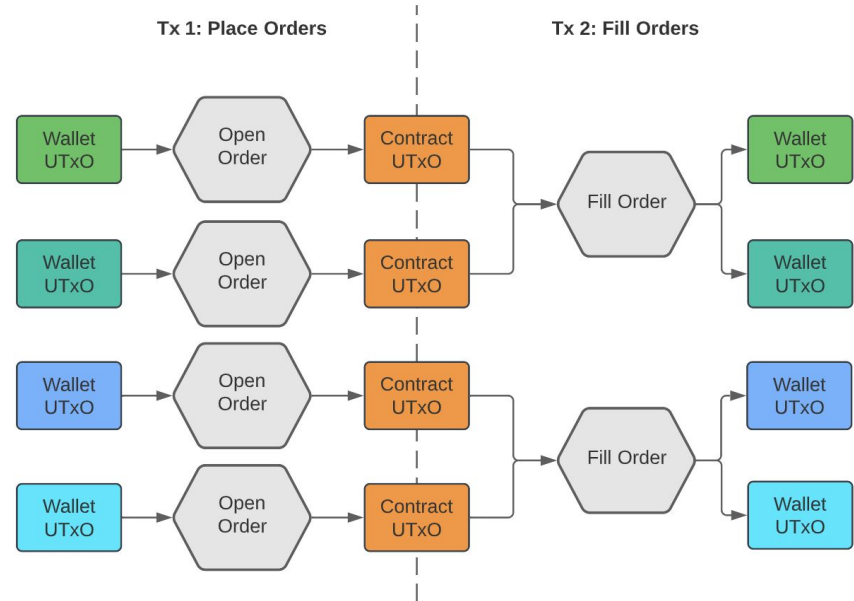
## 2 Step Process

- 1) Users place orders on-chain
- 2) Off-chain bots match & process orders

## Highly scalable & decentralized

- Decoupled order creation and processing
- Fully parallelizable user interaction
- Decentralized order processing

Maximize throughput without interference

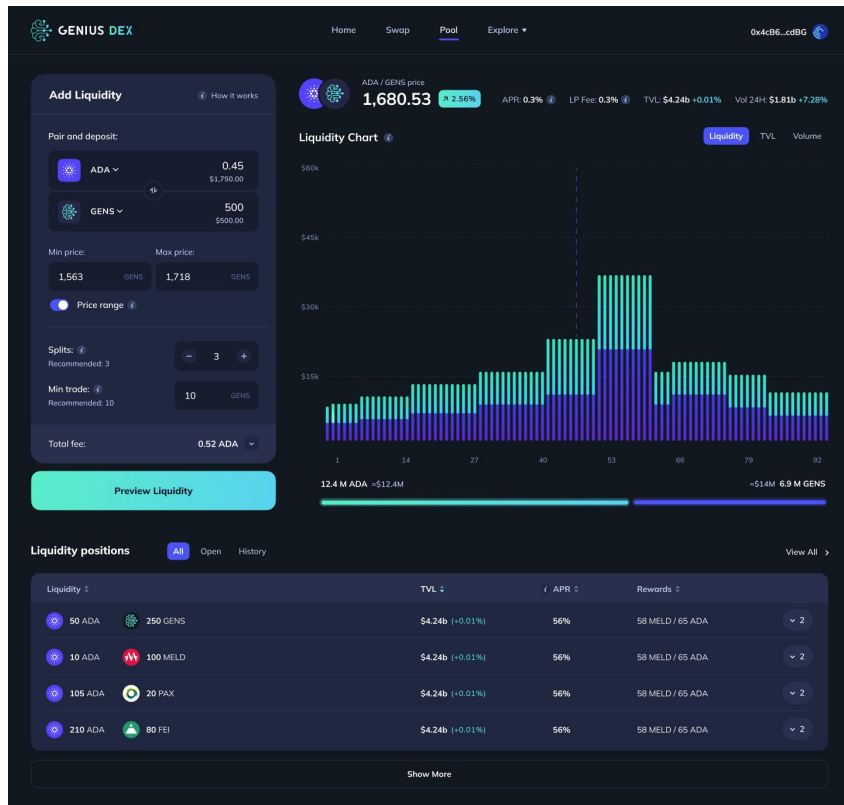
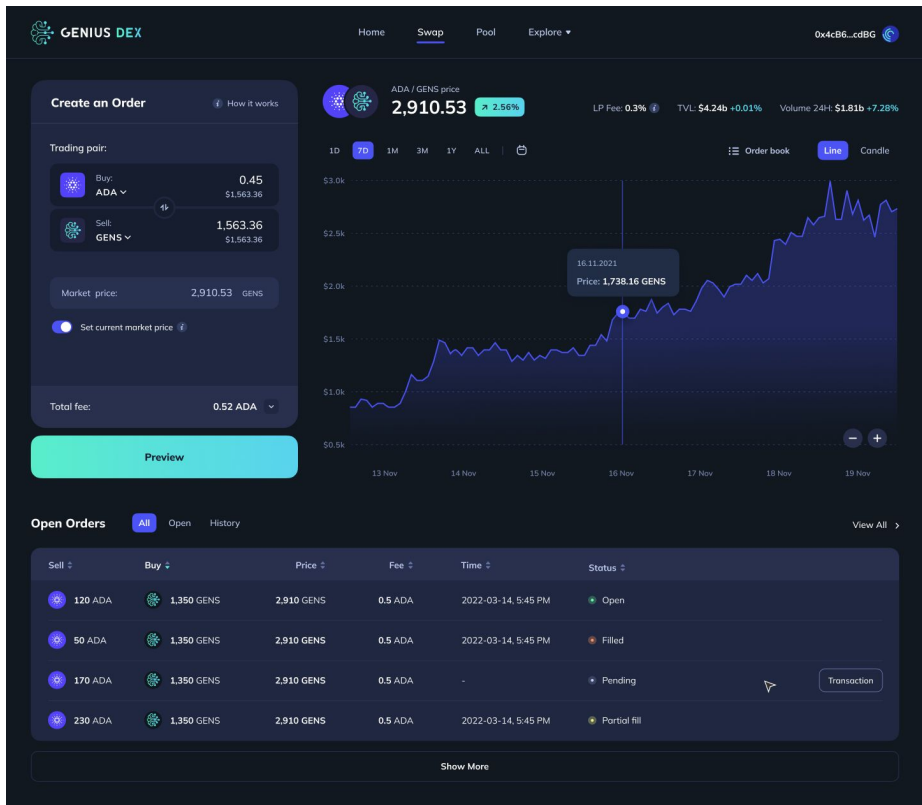


**Order-Book design pattern decouples the spending & the creation of script outputs, leading to a highly scalable and decentralized app.**

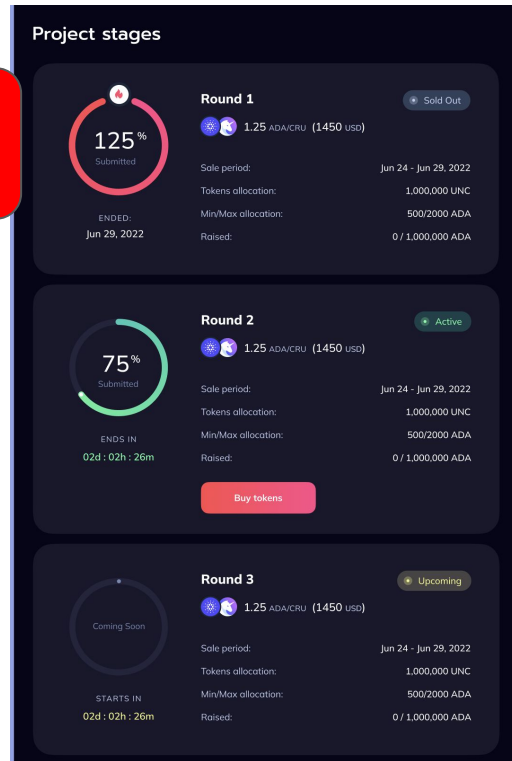
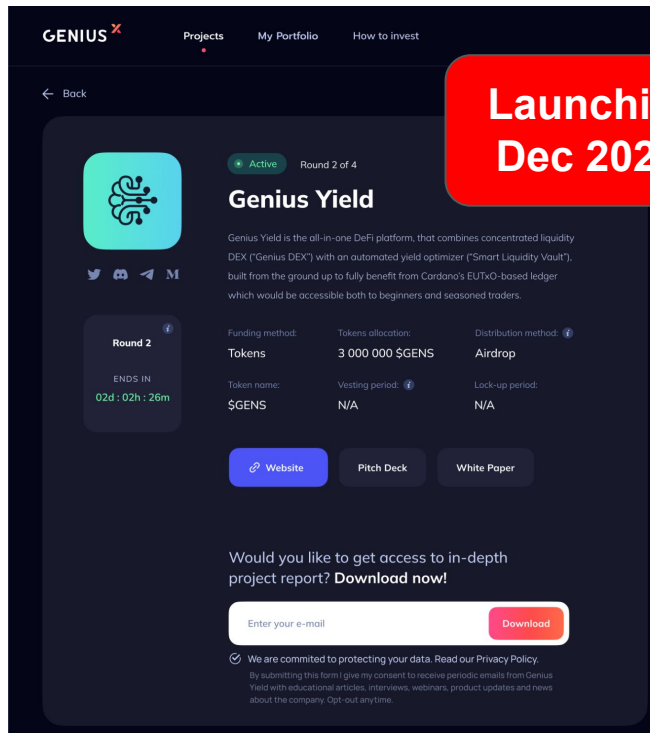
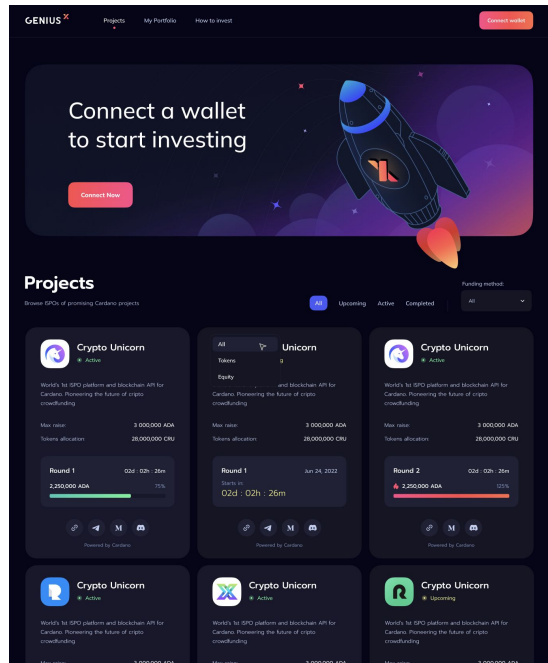


# Genius DApp Ecosystem

# Genius DEX: highly parallelized, decentralized & scalable



# Genius X Launchpad: the most advanced and regulatory-compliant Token Sale Platform on Cardano



# Genius Yield Farming & Staking: earn triple yield!

GENIUS DEX Home Swap Pool Explore ▼ Earn

0x4cB6...cdBG

## Earn

Vault Staking Yield Farming

How it works Batch Harvest + New Staking

**GENS** +

Staked: 3 000 GENS

NFT:

Vesting: 2340.00 GENS

APY boost +5%

Available rewards: 2 000 ADA 9.5%

Harvest

Unstake

**GENS** +

12 months Sep 13, 2022

Staked: 5 000 GENS

NFT:

Vesting: 2340.00 GENS

APY boost +5%

Rewards: 2 300 ADA 15.0%

Harvest

Unstaking isn't available

**GENS** +

12 months Sep 13, 2022

Staked: 8 000 GENS

NFT:

Vesting: 2340.00 GENS

APY boost +5%

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Harvest

Unstaking isn't available

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Harvest

Unstake

**GENS** +

12 months Sep 13, 2022

Staked: 9 300 GENS

NFT:

Vesting: 2340.00 GENS

APY boost +5%

Rewards: 8 000 ADA 15.0%

Harvest

Unstaking isn't available

**GENS** +

Staked: 9 800 GENS

NFT:

Vesting: 2340.00 GENS

APY boost +5%

Available rewards: 6 300 ADA 9.5%

Harvest

Unstake

**Launching Dec 2022!**

GENIUS DEX Home Swap Pool Explore ▼ Earn

0x4cB6...cdBG

## Earn

Vault Staking Yield Farming

How it works Batch Harvest + Add Liquidity

**ADA** **GENS**

3.5% APY 23.2%

10,234 Liquidity 9,345

5,201 Rewards 9,345

40.4%

+ Harvest

Position Details

**ADA** **MELD**

3.5% APY 23.2%

10,234 Liquidity 9,345

5,201 Rewards 9,345

55.3%

+ Harvest

Position Details

**ADA** **PAX**

3.5% APY 23.2%

10,234 Liquidity 9,345

5,201 Rewards 5,503

55.3%

+ Harvest

Position Details

**ADA** **ENS**

3.5% APY 23.2%

10,234 Liquidity 9,345

5,201 Rewards 5,503

45.2%

+ Harvest

Position Details

**ADA** **FEI**

3.5% APY 23.2%

10,234 Liquidity 9,345

5,201 Rewards 5,503

70.0%

+ Harvest

Position Details

# Genius' blockchain infrastructure is powered by Maestro!

Fund, build & scale

The developer  
platform for Cardano



MAESTRO PLATFORM

Cardano development made easy

[Client portal](#)

 **Fund your project**

#1 ISPO provider on Cardano, Maestro is the partner you need to leverage this revolutionary fundraising mechanism to raise funds and grow your community.

[Learn more](#)

**Build your dApp**

Get access to powerful developers tools & APIs and see your dapp come to life without worrying about Cardano infrastructure.

[Learn more](#)

 **Scale into the future**

Take advantage of blockchain-optimized infrastructure to scale your dapp and accelerate innovation on Cardano.

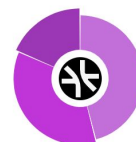
[Learn more](#)

**Launching  
Nov 2022!**

lagon  Active





- |               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Public        | 46.0% |
| Foundation    | 35.5% |
| Team/Investor | 18.5% |

Total staked  
**3,128,850 ADA**

Reward conversion: 0.02 IAG / ADA staked

Category: **infra**

Start date: Apr 20th, 2022.

End date: N/A

DYOR score: **56.67%**

**Delegate**

FEATURED ISPO



**SCAT DAO**  
Building a DAO for decentralized audits,  
research, and safety on Cardano.

# Thank You!

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[geniusyield.co](https://geniusyield.co)