Panelists

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Questions

1. Cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum track transactions on what is called a *blockchain database.*

   In your own words, describe what a blockchain is and why you believe this technology is important

2. One of the most important properties of a blockchain is *immutability* – once data is added, it cannot be changed. This is true for all major blockchain backed cryptocurrencies, but not always for private blockchain applications.

   How are your projects designed to protect the immutability of your blockchain?

3. For applications such as healthcare and voting, there are serious privacy concerns.

   What are some ways that blockchain applications can protect privacy?

4. Part of the success of blockchain is the system of economic incentives provided by cryptocurrencies – miners that secure the blockchain are rewarded with new coins and transaction fees for expending their electricity and computing power.

   What ideas do you have for incentivising blockchain mining and protecting security without a cryptocurrency reward?

5. I know we're talking beyond cryptocurrencies, but they are certainly a large part of the blockchain economy.

   So what is your favorite cryptocurrency project, and why?

6. One of the great properties of public blockchains (including cryptocurrencies and other applications) is true censorship resistance. However, many believe there is a risk of government "bans" or interventions against decentralized technologies.

   Do you forsee a threat to blockchain projects from government powers or other public pressure?

7. Decentralized blockchains use algorithms such as Proof of Work Mining or the newer Proof of Stake to ensure that everyone on the network follows the rules.

   How do your projects enforce network consensus? What algorithms do you use?

8. And given that most major blockchains use a form of proof-of-work, do you see an alternative such as proof of stake or another alternative gaining popularity in the future?

9. With the concept of tokenization, it's easy to envision a future in which we transfer assets like home deeds and car titles to one another using a blockchain, rather than a government agency. I recently prototyped this concept by creating a tokenized "blockchain lawnmower" that will start with my crypto wallet, in fact.

    What are your thoughts on tokenizing and trading real world assets in this digital form?

10. All of us here are excited at the potential for decentralized and blockchain-backed applications. However, blockchain is not the solution for all engineering challenges.

    How do you know when to steer businesses and project *away* from using a blockchain?

11. Proof of Stake has emerged as a popular alternative to proof of work consensus algorithms.

    Can you describe some issues with Proof of Stake algorithms?