**Decentralized Network
That Comes With Serious Mission**

Cow Coin: Open Source Software Incubator

- Open Source Gurus -

1. Introduction

Free and publicly available source code is the foundation of the modern digital society, which remains essential to the functioning of governments, private companies, and individual lives. In fact, most of the open code is built and maintained exclusively by unpaid volunteers who put their hearts and effort into their work and ask for nothing in return except for recognition and help to improve their projects. Unfortunately, with working day jobs, these developers always struggle to find the spare time to fix critical bugs, all the while facing demands from users requesting free support. As a result, maintainer burnout is very common, then the project can be adrift quickly.

We can look at OpenSSL as an example: it is a library that powers a majority of encrypted communications on the web. After the public of the Heartbleed security bug, people discovered that OpenSSL was maintained by a very small team of developers, with only one of them working full-time on a very limited salary.

At the moment, very few lucky open source developers can depend on donation. However, in most of the cases the value they receive is not adequate and may not sustain for long term.

Cow Coin was born to solve this problem! We aim to provide financial support for open source developers, at a large scale, and maintain this effort in the long run.

Our initiative is different from the existing donation approach, in which we use blockchain and incentives to introduce a new model to change economics of open source software.

Cow Coin is a decentralized token to support open source development, in which we would distribute tokens to project maintainers, for free. Tokens can also be traded on public cryptocurrency exchanges.

2. Why should I support Cow Coin initiative?

Cow Coin would bring the following benefits to everyone involved: developers, supporters and users.

- Open source developers get free tokens distributed by our project as a financial reward to their effort. With time, the token value increases, they get more benefit. The tokens can be claimed multiple times in project life. We also have grants in tokens so the project maintainers can apply to get more tokens, which can be then exchanged to real fiat to further invest in their development.

- Open source supporters can buy Cow tokens to help the open source community in general, and their own favorite projects indirectly. These supporters also profit when the token value increases in the future.

- Open source users benefit from well maintaining software projects. If they are happy, they can become supporters and gain financial values as above.

3. Who is behind Cow Coin?

For some political reasons we would like to remain anonymous. Meanwhile, you are assured that we are a group of well known researchers and open source gurus, with good reputation in the community. Our own open source projects have been developed and maintained for many years, widely used in industry and running in billion systems. We are confident that even your PC and smartphone are currently using our own code deep inside. After decades of experience, we know very well how open source works, and the problems that the open source developers are facing. Cow Coin is our initiative to provide financial support to developers to reward their tireless effort, so they can keep building the foundation for modern computing and our daily digital life.

4. Token distribution

- Token name: CCT
- Total supply tokens: 1,000,000,000,000,000
- 60% tokens to distribute to the open source community
- 14% token sales
- 3% for marketing and partnership
- 3% for community contributions

- 10% for version 2 of Cow Coin development fund
- 10% reserve

5. Cow Coin development roadmap

For now whenever a project applies for tokens, we have Cow Coin project members to manually review and distribute tokens. We plan to perform this process automatically on-chain with the power of modern blockchain. Some of the features of version 2 of Cow Coin are as follows.

- Applications to get tokens can be submitted on blockchain.
- Token holders can vote for projects who deserve to get tokens.
- Tokens will be distributed automatically according to voting results.

Below is our tentative roadmap for version 2 of Cow Coin.

- Last quarter of 2021: finish design of Cow Coin v2
- First quarter 2022: public request for comment on the design.
- Second quarter of 2022 to early 2023: Implement Cow Coin v2
- Middle of 2023: launch Cow Coin v2

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the contract address of Cow Coin?

Cow Coin is built on ERC-20 smart contract, with address at
https://etherscan.io/address/0x7b3e4b1f0d30cd82d25daebd535b9c6c0519f334

Cool, I am maintaining an open source project. How can I claim Cow tokens?

We start distributing tokens to open source projects in May 2021. For now we only support projects having public repositories. If you are a project maintainer, follow instructions at https://github.com/cowcoin-io/apply to claim tokens.

How many tokens will I get?

For now we distribute tokens based on the number of stars/favorites that your project is having. This indicates how popular your project is.

- Your project must be open source software, with a recognized OSI license

- If your project has 300 ~ 499 stars, you will receive 1,000,000 tokens
- If you have at least 500 stars, for each 100 round-up stars, you will receive 1,000,000 tokens. For example:
    - If your project has 500 ~ 599 stars, you will receive 5,000,000 tokens
    - If your project has 600 ~ 699 stars, you will receive 6,000,000 tokens
    - Do your math if you have more stars
- To prevent potential abuse, we stop distributing tokens if your project has over 10,000 stars.
- You can claim again if in the future your project gets more stars. You will get the difference between the last time you receive. For example if you applied when you have 501 stars, you get 5,000,000 tokens. When you have 725 stars and apply again, you get 2,000,000 more tokens.

Beside stars/favorites, we are also looking at the other metrics of project popularity. Meanwhile, you can always apply tokens in the "Grant" category; see the next question for that.

Keep watching this space for future updates.

How to apply for a development grant?

Cow Coin continues supporting open source maintainers with grants that can help projects to invest more into their development effort. The maintainers can apply for more tokens, with the following condition.

- Your project must be active
- You must claim tokens before. See above question on how to claim tokens based on your project popularity.
- Follow instructions at https://github.com/cowcoin-io/apply to apply