

Video Introduction Script Opening

Opening

Hello, I'm Alex Novak, and I'm based in Prague, Czech Republic. I hold a Master's in Computer Science with a focus on Cryptography from Charles University. I've been working in blockchain and Web3 for over 8 years, since the early days of Ethereum. For me, blockchain isn't just about cryptocurrency—it's about building transparent, decentralized systems that give users true ownership and control.

Recent Experience

Most recently, I'm a Lead Blockchain Engineer at Polygon Labs, where I design Layer 2 scaling solutions processing over 1 million transactions per second. In this role, I lead a protocol development team of 12 engineers building zkEVM infrastructure, and I work on research challenges at the intersection of cryptography and distributed systems.

Leadership Philosophy

My leadership approach is research-driven and open-source minded. I believe in transparent development and community engagement—blockchain protocols succeed when they have active, engaged communities. I've learned that in Web3, technical excellence must be paired with clear documentation and educational content, because we're not just building for developers, we're building for an entire ecosystem.

Problem-Solving Approach

What sets me apart is my deep cryptography background combined with practical engineering experience. At Aave, I developed DeFi lending protocols managing over \$8 billion in total value locked, conducting security audits and formal verification to ensure funds remain safe. I always keep in mind that in blockchain, bugs can cost millions—security isn't optional, it's existential.

Full-Stack Blockchain Experience

I've worked across the entire blockchain stack: from core protocol development and consensus mechanisms, through smart contract development and auditing, to dApp frontend integration and wallet connectivity. My experience spans multiple chains—Ethereum, Polygon, Cosmos—each with different tradeoffs and design philosophies.

I believe strongly in security-first development and comprehensive testing. In smart contracts, you can't easily patch bugs after deployment, so getting it right the first time is crucial.

Technical Expertise

Over the past five years, I've primarily worked with Solidity for smart contracts, Rust for performance-critical protocol components, and Go for blockchain node software. I'm

experienced with development tools like Hardhat and Foundry, and I understand zero-knowledge cryptography deeply enough to implement zkSNARK circuits.

But my real passion is protocol design. I love tackling questions like: How do we scale without sacrificing decentralization? How do we achieve cross-chain interoperability? How do we design token economics that align incentives? These fundamental questions shape the entire Web3 ecosystem.

Personal Interests

Outside of work, I contribute to Ethereum research forums, participate in crypto communities, and stay current with academic cryptography papers. I also enjoy techno music, philosophy, and playing complex narrative games that explore interesting themes.

Closing

You can find my protocol contributions and technical writing on my Web3 portfolio, which I've linked in my application. I'd be excited to discuss blockchain scalability, cryptographic protocols, or the future of decentralized systems.