

gov4git

practical, secure, programmable
governance for open-source communities

Petar Maymounkov

Protocol Labs / Microsoft Research / GitHub / RadicalXChange

There is a large unaddressed market of collaborative open-source communities who need governance, but for whom blockchain-based DAOs are a non-starter solution.

Problem: Effective communities need formal, transparent, secure, evolvable governance

- referendums for code changes
- polls for prioritizing work
- modern voting systems (quadratic voting, diversity discounting)
- community-scoped tokens to reflect contributions (voting credits, badges, SBTs)
- member token account services
- member roles
- interop with intersecting communities and public blockchains

There are no
accessible, cheap, comprehensive
solutions.

We want to bring barrier-to-entry to zero
with a flexible, out-of-the-box solution.

Market: Needs for governance automation are largely unserved

- early stage pre-funding projects
- poorly funded initiatives (labor unions)
- non-technical communities (journalists, activists, authors, artists)
- developing world
- authoritarian and censored regions
- disaster and war zones
- infrastructurally autonomous communities

Value: Practical blockchain-level transparency, trust and security at a fraction of cost

- commodity hardware (phone, raspberry pi)
- zero financial cost
- no connection to public Internet required
- deployable by non-technical users
- easy policy and mechanism development

Technology: Architecture for building decentralized applications over git as infrastructure

- building blocks
 - identity (DNS → git → public keys)
 - communication (write to git, read from git)
 - trusted computation (Byzantine consensus across git repos)
- infra
 - git as backend
 - computation on the client

Differentiation: gov4git vs blockchains

Abstraction		Trusted Computation		
Tenancy		Single smart contract	Multiple smart contracts	
Applications		Single community governance	Cross-community transactions	
State Machine Replication Technology		Byzantine broadcast	Tendermint HotStuff	Proof-of-??? Longest chain Nakamoto Consensus
Products		gov4git	Cosmos, Polygon	Ethereum, Filecoin, etc.
Trust model		honest majority		highest power
Infra	Storage	networked git	high-end custom servers	high-end custom servers
	Compute	commodity client (web, mobile, home)		
Latency		minutes	seconds	seconds
API		file-system protocol	network protocol VM	VM
Programming Technology		any	Go, Protobuf, Move	Solidity, WASM, AssemblyScript, etc.

Economics: A decentralized public protocol

- gov4git foundation, steward of protocol and implementation
- token representing voting rights in gov4git development
 - planning and roadmapping
 - feature and product proposals
 - specifications
 - work prioritization

Team: Roots in Web3 and digital democracy

- Petar Maymounkov (Protocol Labs)
- Evan Miyazono (Protocol Labs)
- Glen Weyl (Microsoft Research, RadicalXChange)
- Kasia Sitkiewicz (GitHub)
- Leon Erichsen (RadicalXChange, GitCoin)
- Sangeet Parashar, Shivani Thakur, Jason Entenmann, Siddhant Kasat (Microsoft)
- Austin Akers

Ask: What we are looking for

- \$3M funding
- 2 year runway
- engineering / product / pr / customer support / community relations

Thank you!

- Email petar@protocol.ai
- Github <https://github.com/gov4git/gov4git>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/gov4git>

- [Whitepaper](#)
- In the media
 - https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/?post_type=msr-blog-post&p=928248
 - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/research/group/decentralized-social-technology-collaboratory/>
 - <https://protocol.ai/blog/protocol-labs-and-plurality-book/>