

BUILDING A DROPBOX REPLACEMENT ON IPFS & TEXTILE



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Permaweb Writer

IPFS Camp

Hello 🙌

Founded IPFS Diccord (+ Matrix/IRC bridges)

IPFS SF Meetup

Permaweb.io

Product, UX, Frontend

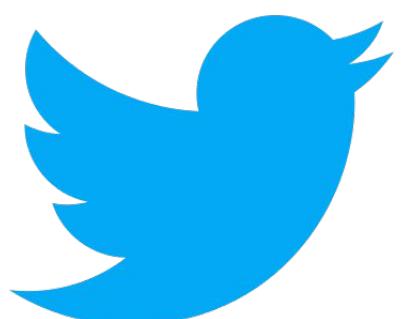
The web is not just centralized, it's gentrified.



NETFLIX



hulu



The permaweb is ideal for free speech

Self hosted

E2E

Resilient links

No single point of failure



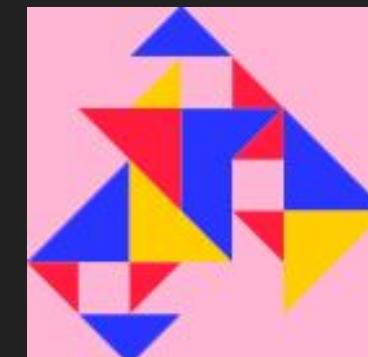
Permaweb Writer

Write Markdown

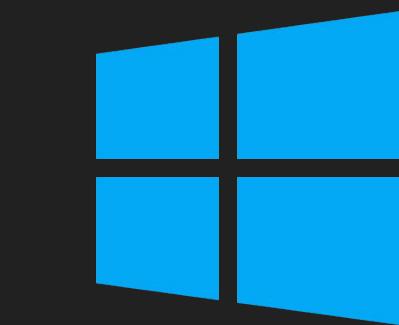
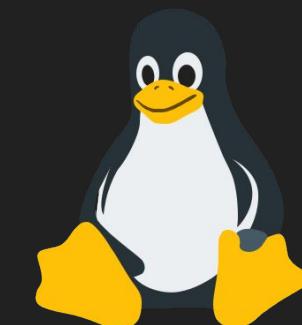
Get IPFS link

Self-hosted & resilient

Built with



For

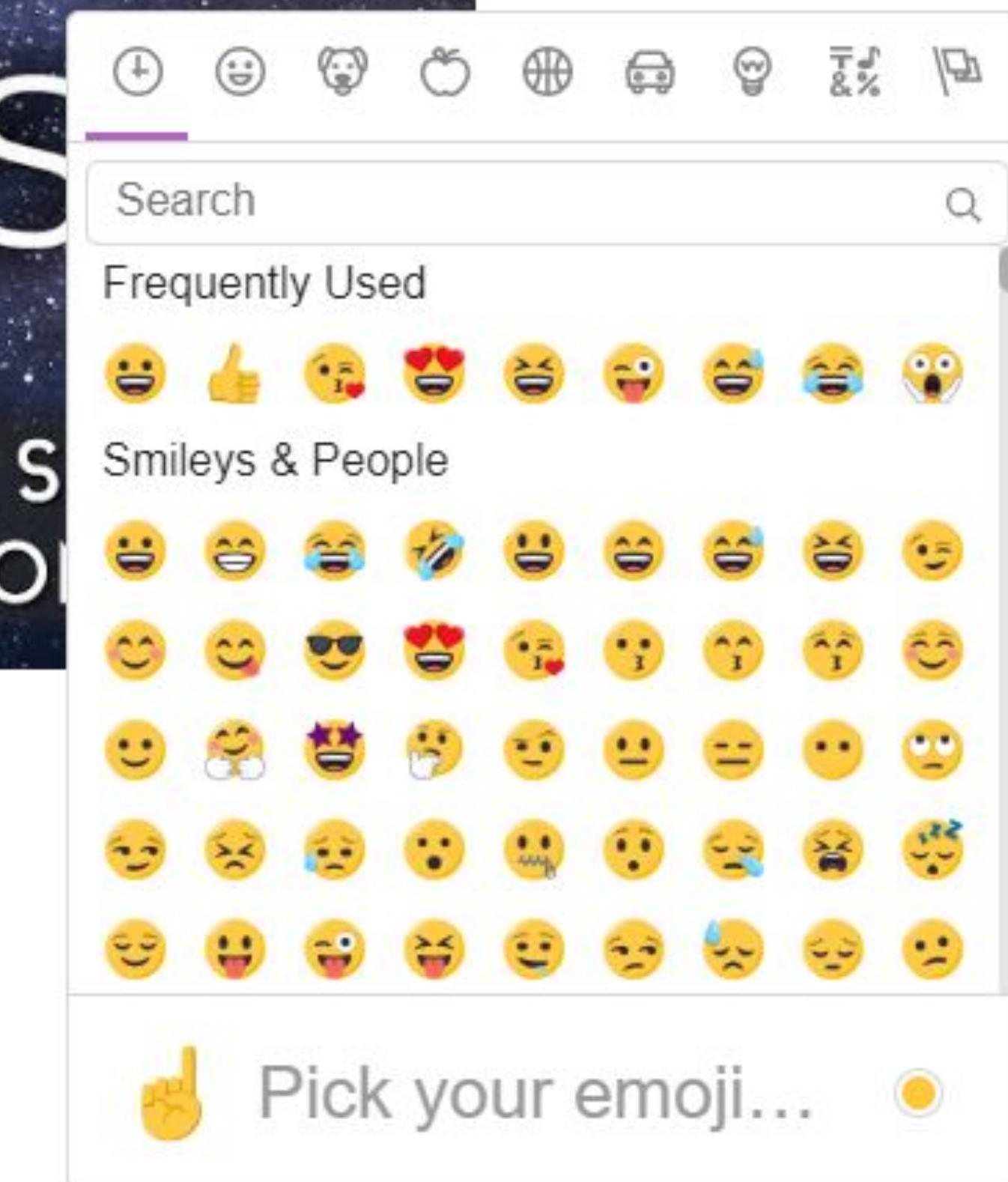


The screenshot shows the "Permaweb Writer" application window titled "Epona Js". It displays a list of three files:

File Name	Created Ago	Actions
Hello IPFS Camp! 🎉	3 minutes ago	Copy Link Show History Delete
Permaweb Writer prezo	a few seconds ago	Copy Link Show History Delete
Features to-do ✅	a minute ago	Copy Link Show History Delete

At the bottom of the list, it says "Updated a few seconds ago".

github.com/permaweb

[Back](#)[Toggle](#)[Save](#)**B** *I* U :)Permaweb Writer prezo

Embeds work nicely



3 files

- Hello IPFS Camp! 🍀 30 minutes ago
- Permaweb Writer prezo 6 minutes ago
- Features to-do ✓ 28 minutes ago

Epona Js

Back Toggle Save

a few seconds ago

```
1 Permaweb Writer prezo
2
3 Embeds work nicely
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
```

Gmail-like keyboard shortcuts!

Back Showing History: 6 versions

- Hello IPFS Camp! 🍀 43 minutes ago
- Let's see if history works 🍀 😊 😁 😃 😄 😕 43 minutes ago
- Hello IPFS Camp! 🍀 44 minutes ago
- Hello IPFS Camp!!!! 🍀 44 minutes ago
- Hello IPFS Camp! 🍀 44 minutes ago
- Hello IPFS Camp! 🍀 an hour ago

Automatic history!

WYSIWYG / plain text toggle!

Use for:

Notes

To-do

Pastebin

Basic blog

Headless CMS (soon)

Collaboration (soon)

The Decentralized Web (DWeb for short) is exciting, confusing, and very much talked about. During the past three years, blockchains have helped create interest in a new kind of web, one built on decentralized apps, free from the tyranny of "Big Brother's centralized Internet". However this new web has come with its own obscure jargon and some complicated technical assumptions, which we're going to attempt to simplify.

A simpler definition of Dapps

Most of the time, what people refer to as a Decentralized App (Dapp), is little more than a series of smart contracts (some business logic), running on top of a blockchain. Hardly the kind of thing that's going to replace your everyday web app.

The DWeb, like any new buzzword (I'm looking at you 'cloud'), it's introduced its own opaque developer lingo. The default assumption is that Dapps have to be smart contracts. They need to run on a blockchain, they need tokens. Looking by volume, the average Dapp out there is running on Ethereum, is built in Solidity, and involves some sort of token.

In our team's opinion, this kind of world view is extremely reductive. We think that for something to be part of the DWeb, it simply needs to meet on criteria: it is decentralized.

Why blockchains aren't necessary for the DWeb

We don't mean to dismiss blockchains. There are many interesting blockchains, such as [Steem](#), [NEO](#), [EOS](#), [Lisk](#), and [Blockstack](#). They all genuinely make it easy to create and deploy decentralized apps.

We just question: can this stack be simpler? Ethereum makes developing on top of Bitcoin feel like Web 1.0. Yet, writing Solidity, having to pay gas to run programs feels like a lot of overhead.

To understand why we think this, we need to question: why even use a blockchain?

The obvious benefit is that you get a series of nodes that can run your code, and therefore are decentralized. But the downside is that you're in crypto land. You're tied to the notions of coins, tokens, etc.

Blockchains are a great tool to have a chain of custody, which makes them great ledgers. But if you want to build an app that only has some user data (photos, videos, etc), all you really need is to store this data in a decentralized way. If you can fetch your content from nodes, even if it's without a chain of custody or tokens, it's still a Dapp. Just simpler.

The next generation of Dapps

Projects like Tim Berners Lee's Solid, Steemit or Gun understand this well. They are building platforms that make it easy to run nodes, develop apps for them, but discard the crypto bloat. For our app Epona, we've chosen Textile, because it is built on IPFS (which makes it really easy to create permanent links, more on why this is important in a later post), and because it comes with user roles, permissions, comments, likes, pub-sub natively. We think too many smart contract platforms force you to reinvent the wheel, so this is a nice addition. In this world, we're able to simply pick a wallet (in our case Textile, but it work the same with Solid), create an app that can save and encrypt content to the user's wallet, and that's it! No need for Metamask, no need for plugins.

It's not all perfect. The current state of these platforms makes it necessary to run a node on your computer (though it can be as simple as running a wallet program in the tray). So you can't just go on a website and sign up yet.

But the good news is that there's no need to have money involved or any KYC/AML, or even learning a blockchain specific language. We simply use Javascript, talk to the node, and that's it.

Get in touch

If you're interested in [IPFS](#), [Textile](#), [Epona](#) or generally building apps for the DWeb this new way, consider joining [our Discord](#).

We'd love to hear your thoughts on what we're building and what you're thinking of building too.

Help us!

We're the first to do self-hosting + E2E + Permaweb.

Tell us what you think!

We'll build features just for your team.

Push content on the Permaweb.

Contribute to github.com/permaweb