Healing the World with Blockchain Technology:
A Chain of Forgiveness

forgivenet.co.uk

Abstract. As ancient and familiar human paradigms based on fear, aggression, and the drive for profit over all other considerations collapse around us, there remain human fields of endeavor seemingly impervious to change. Most prominent of these are finance, technology, and engineering; the very fields on which our species depend. Leaving the future in the hands of greed, narcissism, and predatory aggression is, at best, an extremely bad idea. Yet the trimtab that may quietly alter our groping course of destruction could very well turn out to be uncomplicated. The forgivenet offers the world a first, simple, technological step out of hatred. Users request forgiveness from a person, persons, or any viable entity they believe they have hurt in any way. Uniquely incentivizing the unburdening of heavy hearts and minds, each request for forgiveness mines one FRGVN token. With sufficient requests on the blockchain database, forgivenet will release its AI application which maps original forgiveness requests to acceptance for even greater rewards to both parties. Forgiveness is a universal human need. The forgivenet will bring cryptocurrency to the world outside the money markets while healing endless human hurts.

Summary

In recent years, alongside the unprecedented proliferation of social media and technological connectivity, the underlying hatred felt towards marginalized groups has become fever-pitched and extremely obvious. The daily violence African Americans have to put up with is no longer glossed over.[i] The resurgence of fascist politics across the globe should be worrying us all.[ii] And girls in the UK, subject to the sudden realization that their bodies are forever owned by often violent men, now have the option to no longer be female and are exercising it in extraordinary numbers.[iii] At the same time, voices that never existed before are clamoring for attention. Women, girls, and other marginalized groups report unparalleled levels of abuse[iv] in daily life, including in schools.[v,vi] The only thing new about these abuses is that we are hearing about them.[vii]

More curiously, even though there are always two sides to every one of these experiences, we never hear from the aggressors, as if they don't exist. Who are they? Where are their voices? Where is a mature recognition of the problem and the attempt to resolve it where it sits?

On the other hand, and as everyone knows, fear, aggression, and singular profit over all other considerations are motivations all humans share, regardless of our identifying characteristics. None of us has avoided hurting another, intentionally or otherwise, and regardless of the human mind's capacity to deny wrong doing and emphasize martyrdom, we all need forgiveness.

The act of forgiving will never be an option in the forgivenet. "I forgive you", is the ego's voice alone, and so extremely unstable. In contrast, requesting forgiveness is an act of humility, an offer to open dialogue, and a purifying energy exchange. We believe requesting forgiveness should be encouraged and rewarded, and the cold stony silence of aggressors may start to disintegrate.

We expect the forgivenet to induce incredulity and sneering even, at least in these early days, and certainly prior to involvement of heavy-weight spiritual, religious, healing, new age, political, financial, charitable, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. As the database fills up with requests, it will become clear that forgiveness has its place in the world.

The forgivenet is the first ever software technology designed with the aim of healing and world peace and possibly the birth of a new field of software engineering endeavor and focus. Like Facebook, no one will know they need it until they get it.

How it works

The forgivenet runs on two Solidity smart contracts deployed to the Ethereum network.[viii,ix] Given the open and inclusive nature of Ethereum and the blockchain space, these contracts, and all the transactions made with them, are public and available for viewing and analysis forever.

The current prototype web application supplying frontend user functionality can be found at https://forgivenet.co.uk/. The forgivenet is a registered trademark in the US and the UK and we are in the process of applying for an EU-wide trademark. Our partners will be welcome to code their own frontend application that mines FRGVN tokens, and tailor it to their specific areas of concern.

With the application, a user makes a textual request for forgiveness from any person, persons, group, organization, or any entity the user believes they have wronged in any way. The application enforces an upper and lower limit on the number of characters in the request.

For the gas price of an Ethereum transaction, plus a small cost to disincentivize bad behavior, the user submits the request and the app publishes it on the Ethereum blockchain, for all to see, forever. In return for this tiny act of courage, requesters receive one mined FRGVN token in return.

Requesting forgiveness is the forgivenet's mining protocol and the first mining protocol in the world that eliminates all associated and well-publicized risks, such as the wanton environmental destruction inherent in Proof of Work, and the problematic wealth hierarchy issues inherent in Proof of Stake. Moreover, anyone can mine crypto again, just like the old days, but we'll make it so easy that even our grandparents can do it.

The act of requesting forgiveness is an act of humility. From such a small gesture towards personal peace of mind, everything is possible. Like tricking children into eating their greens by blending them into smoothies with mango, the forgivenet tricks humans into healing their souls with cryptocurrency rewards.

The forgivenet has three phases. First, a simple web application. Second, a new AI smart contract feature which matches forgiveness requests to acceptance for enhanced mining rewards. And thirdly, a fully decentralized system to support FRGVN as a widely-accepted, global currency and a competitor to bitcoin. The last two phases may swap ordering, in terms of which comes first, and this will be dependent on the level success of the first phase.

Phase 1

The first phase is about fortifying the basic web application, generating interest, building up the database, and using revenue received from disincentive fees to put towards the next two phases of operation.

At the time of writing, Ethereum transaction fees have made it prohibitively expensive to use the forgivenet. However, we can use this to our advantage and take time to build resilience into the system before a wider public release and lower fees. When the crypto winter kicks in, the forgivenet, with its unique pace and lack of interest in getting rich quick, will be ready to start generating interest and activity.

Web application features will include a filter layer that scans input text for bad behavior, blocks malicious and spammy requests, and bans malicious user addresses from the application forever.

We will also log user IPs and other info, and impose a time limit on activity, i.e. one request per 24 hours for example. The overall system will impose a limit of seven forgiveness requests per user in total, further incentivizing serious requests. We expect users to use one address only, and we will ban any user found using multiple addresses from the network, and block their original request from future acceptance and enhanced rewards.

We will develop a frontend search functionality against the Ethereum block explorer, and include other data we collect at transaction time, as a first step towards Phase 2.

We will also focus on improving the smart contracts by adding functionality that lowers fees on the network whenever Ethereum becomes prohibitively expensive.

The aim is to make the application self-sufficient by designing a method that auto-sets the disincentive value relative to the current value of ETH, as well as to the current value of FRGVN, if any. We don't expect FRGVN to assume any value in the short or medium term, if ever, and the work of the forgivenet is complete without this happening. However, we do need to prepare for this outcome. If FRGVN does assume some monetary value, then we need to design a method that evaluates an appropriate ETH value for the FRGVN mining reward, i.e. some fraction of 1 FRGVN.

Infrastructure must be ready to accommodate a large number of requests when interest peaks. For this, we need to hire a dev ops team who can take care of scaling and system performance.

Another key aim is to make the forgivenet as usable as possible by the widest range of user types. This means a user friendly and haptic interface. The user interface will be available on web and mobile, and ideally hardware devices too. The application targets a global audience, with a focus on including the elderly, sick, and impaired. The app will also function as a wallet by storing FRGVN rewards. Partners may build their own FRGVN wallets for their unique user groups, maybe even as hardware gadgets for users to keep on their persons, such as pendants, bracelets, or rings. We see approaches like these having craze potential.[x]

Phase 2

The AI phase of the forgivenet operates initially as a further dis-incentivization mechanism for bad behavior at Phase 1. If you use the forgivenet now, and make a request for forgiveness that is sufficiently well-formed then, in the future, the entity you are requesting forgiveness from may accept the request and both parties will receive even greater mining rewards. To support this functionality, we will need to hire AI/ML specialists and web developers.

Phase 1 and 2 require minimal funding but could generate significant revenue. If that happens, the forgivenet pledges 50% of all profits to charitable purposes.

Phase 2 relies upon significant database entries so work shouldn't begin until we are confident in the application's future.

Phase 3

This phase is the most interesting problem from a software engineering perspective, and maps to the long-term goal of the forgivenet which is to be the only cryptocurrency in use in the world.

At the current time, the two features that the forgivenet lacks that would enable it to operate as a fully decentralized global network, like the Bitcoin network, are a decentralized network decoupled from Ethereum for managing FRGVN storage and transactions, and the transaction verification functionality.

We will design and build a cryptographic network to support mining and transactions of FRGVN tokens. A small number of global management nodes, sitting between the web functionality and the user wallets, will deal with tasking a user at random to verify a transaction with their wallet application. Users receive rewards for verifying transactions and they are therefore incentivized to stay online.

We know that randomness in decentralized, peer-to-peer networks is non-trivial, and that's what makes it exciting and worth working on. Moreover, the verification process on small hand-held devices with minimal memory is a similarly non-trivial problem.[xi]

One true currency

It's always good to remind ourselves that currency is a symbol of an energy exchange, i.e. work for food, and no currency has any intrinsic value without the transactions it represents.

The forgivenet allows us to mine FRGVN tokens using the most purified energy exchange there exists between human beings. If FRGVN ends up representing monetary transactions too, then we have built a global society based on love.

Forgiveness is an act of love, and love is the one true currency of human beings.

References

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