

Instead of location addressing which is native to HTTP, it uses content addressing. In short, address by “what it is” instead of “where it is”. Therefore “IPFS powers the creation of diversely resilient networks which enable persistent availability with or without Internet backbone connectivity” (ibid.). In IPFS, links between two nodes are in form of cryptographic hashes.. Typically, along with content addressing, all content is tamperproof and resilient against duplication (see e.g. Hackernoon 2018a; IPFS 2018).

Now, given the important technical aspects, the chances and risks of blockchains as an infrastructure for decentralized governance shall be further explored. Lindmark (2018) uses Tüfekçi’s theoretical framework for analyzing the impact of digital technology on social movements and maps it onto the blockchain platform to make an assessment. Lindmark’s central argument is that blockchain could offer new capacities to social movements as it „enables the construction of meta-structures“ (Gupta, quoted in Lindmark 2018). As already portrayed above, Gupta (2016) argues that a capital backed infrastructure, which blockchain became through cryptocurrencies, will unfold the capacity to result in institutions. This is the crucial difference, Lindmark (2018) and Gupta (2016) put forth, that will make e-governance possible.

Matthew Prewitt (2018) is more careful and skeptical with his judgment, pointing to the high risks, but also to the advantages. Referring to the intrinsic capacity for organizing transactions, Prewitt highlights significance giving the following analogy: „We might say someday that blockchains did to governance what the internet did to communication“ (ibid.). He goes on to explain how smart contracts can assist in organizing collective action, as in supervising well-defined problems on one level and managing collectively defining the problem on the other. Therefore, most of middle management would no longer be necessary (ibid.)

Not only can smart contracts, he argues, decentralize decision making. They can be used to organize consensus processes