

In his talk at Devcon1 Vinay Gupta (2016: 00:00:21:10 – 00:00:21:24) starts by referring to the Cypherpunk vision which states that “individual-to-individual communication was going to result in the magical ability to construct increasingly complex social structures that would eventually rise to the point of being institutions”. As the internet itself alone is constituted of info-based communication the Cypherpunk vision has not completely come to fruition. Gupta assumes this is because “if there’s any degree complexity, you end up building things which are meta-structures on top of your initial core structure” (ibid. 00:00:21:35 – 00:00:21:44). Gupta then proceeds to describe blockchain as an “endless Swiss army chainsaw for building meta-structures” (ibid. 00:00:24:31 – 00:00:24:37) that permits building complex social machinery in the form of meta-structures which would ultimately unfold useful governance structures:

„We understand that keeping these systems running is as much about social compacts and, you know, social contract theory as it is about a given piece of technology. It’s about ongoing continual innovation. It’s about cooperation between open source, between commercial enterprises, between charities, individual activists, and everybody else. But if you’re gonna build this kind of „road to the future“-stuff, you end up needing systems which look a lot like local government. [...] The Cypherpunks had nothing between open source and proprietary. And as a result they took on the challenges, which would have made them kind of sort of peer to government, but didn’t have to stay in power to finish the job, which is why there was a ten year dead-period from 09/11 until Bitcoin. And what they kind of created, because it put an enormous injection of capital into this space where people are writing code to ensure human freedom, was that it created this enormous spike of innovation and we’re in the middle of the ongoing, you know, boom period” (ibid. 00:00:27:26 – 00:00:28:50).