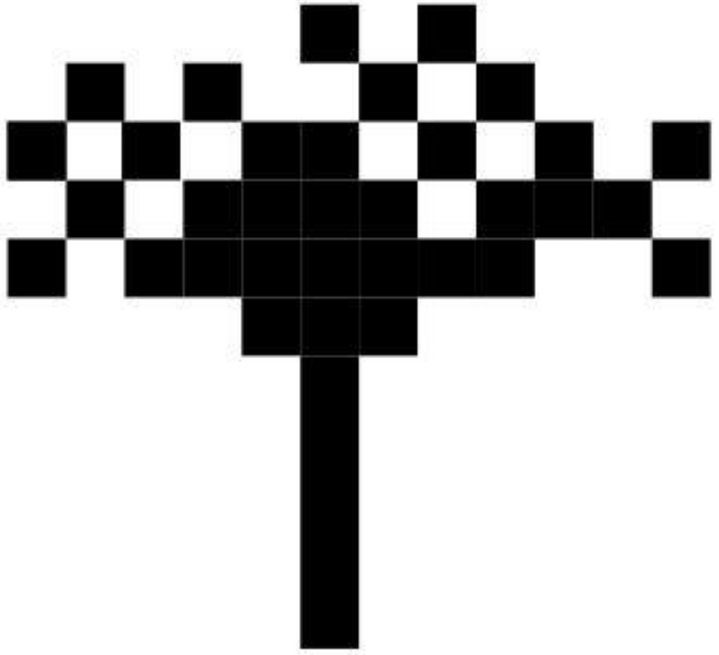
Open source as a career
Being a full time open source developer in the Bitcoin space

Find your passion!

Who are you?

Hi, I’m Calvin

- Working on layer 1 scaling



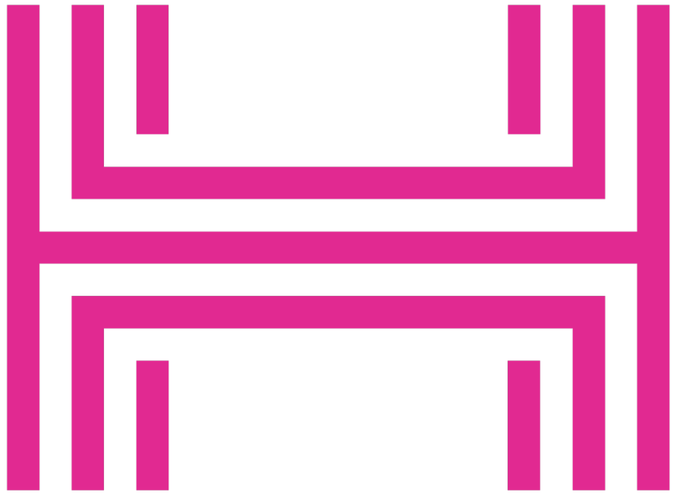
UTREEXO

Who are you?

Hi, I’m Calvin

- Working on layer 1 scaling
- 4th year of open source development

BitMEX →



Who are you?

Hi, I’m Calvin

- Working on layer 1 scaling
- 4th year of open source development
- Passionate about using Bitcoin trustlessly!

Bitcoin Core - [redacted]

Overview | Send | Receive | Transactions

Wallet: [redacted]

Balances

Available: [redacted] BTC

Pending: BTC

Total: BTC

Recent transactions

[redacted]

BTC

I wanted to run a node…

Was very difficult to do so!

I found my passion…

Make it *easy* for *everyone* to use Bitcoin trustlessly

It’s hard!

Being a funded Bitcoin open source developer

3 cons of open source work

My personal experiences

- Getting funding is not easy

Grantors expect prior contributions

My personal case

As a Utreexo contributor

- Started my contributions on August 2019

My personal case

As a Utreexo contributor

- Started my contributions on August 2019
- First PR merged in October 2019

My personal case

As a Utreexo contributor

- Started my contributions on August 2019
- First PR merged in October 2019
- First funding in August 2020

A year of contributing without expectations of getting funded

Years of contributing without expectations of getting funded

Passion required

Not profit motivated

3 cons of open source work

My personal experiences

- Getting funding is not easy
- Raises are *extremely* rare in OSS funding

My grant amount has been the same for 3 years

3 cons of open source work

My personal experiences

- Getting funding is not easy
- Raises are *extremely* rare in OSS funding
- Grants are unstable

Typically a year. Shorter grants are 6 months

Open source funding needs improvement

“I’m considering moving onto non-Bitcoin projects after Utreexo”

Me, a month ago

“You are gonna be bored”

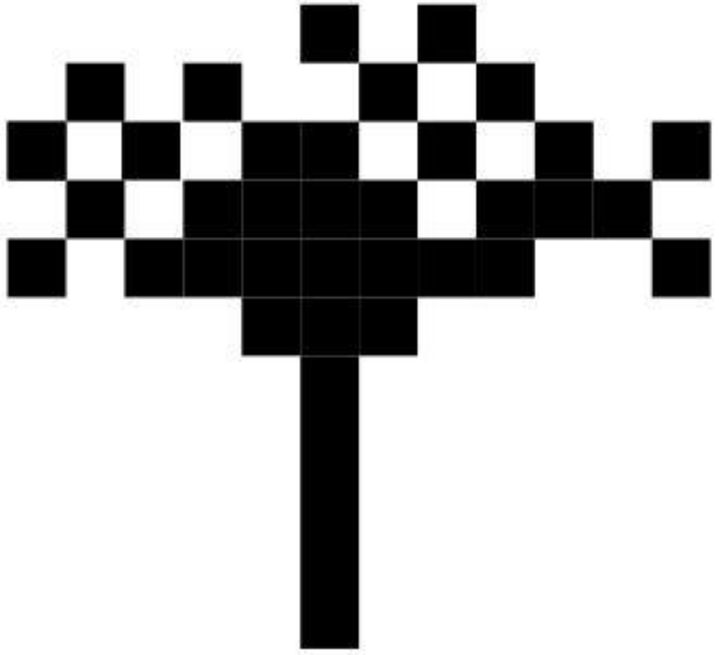
My friend

3 pros of open source work

My personal experiences

- Complete autonomy

I get to work on what ***I'm*** passionate about



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3 pros of open source work

My personal experiences

- Complete autonomy
- Solving fun problems

Out of Order Block Validation with Utreexo Accumulators

BitMEX Research 20 May 2021

Abstract: In this piece, BitMEX grantee Calvin Kim explains why the order in which blocks are validated does not

3 pros of open source work

My personal experiences

- Complete autonomy
- Solving fun problems
- Improving what I’m passionate about

I want a full node on my phone

I want a faster initial block download

How do I find my passion?

“I want to be a Bitcoin developer, where do I start?”

A lot of people

Did you ever use Bitcoin trustlessly?

Being a power user of Bitcoin helps you find pain points

Summer of Bitcoin

contribute.

a global, online summer internship program focused on introducing university students to bitcoin open-source development and design

Summer of Bitcoin

What is it?

- Internship program for university students

Summer of Bitcoin

What is it?

- Internship program for university students
- Mentors from different open source projects

Summer of Bitcoin

What is it?

- Internship program for university students
- Mentors from different open source projects
- Example projects for you to choose

Projects ***want*** new contributors

How do I get funding?

How do I get funding?

Application stage

- Look for grantors that share your vision

- spiral.xyz
- opensats.org
- brink.dev
- hrf.org/devfund
- vinteum.org
- bobspaces.net

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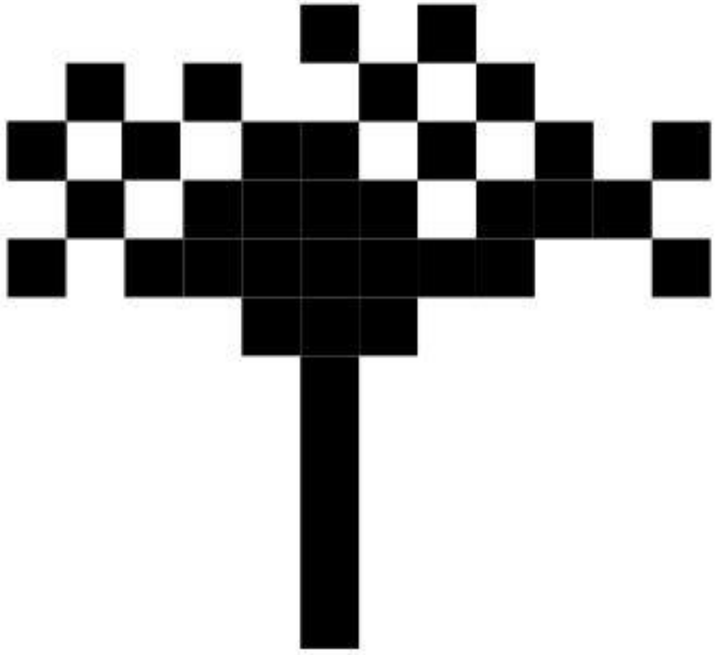
How do I get funding?

Application stage

- Look for grantors that share your vision
- How does your work help Bitcoin?



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How do I get funding?

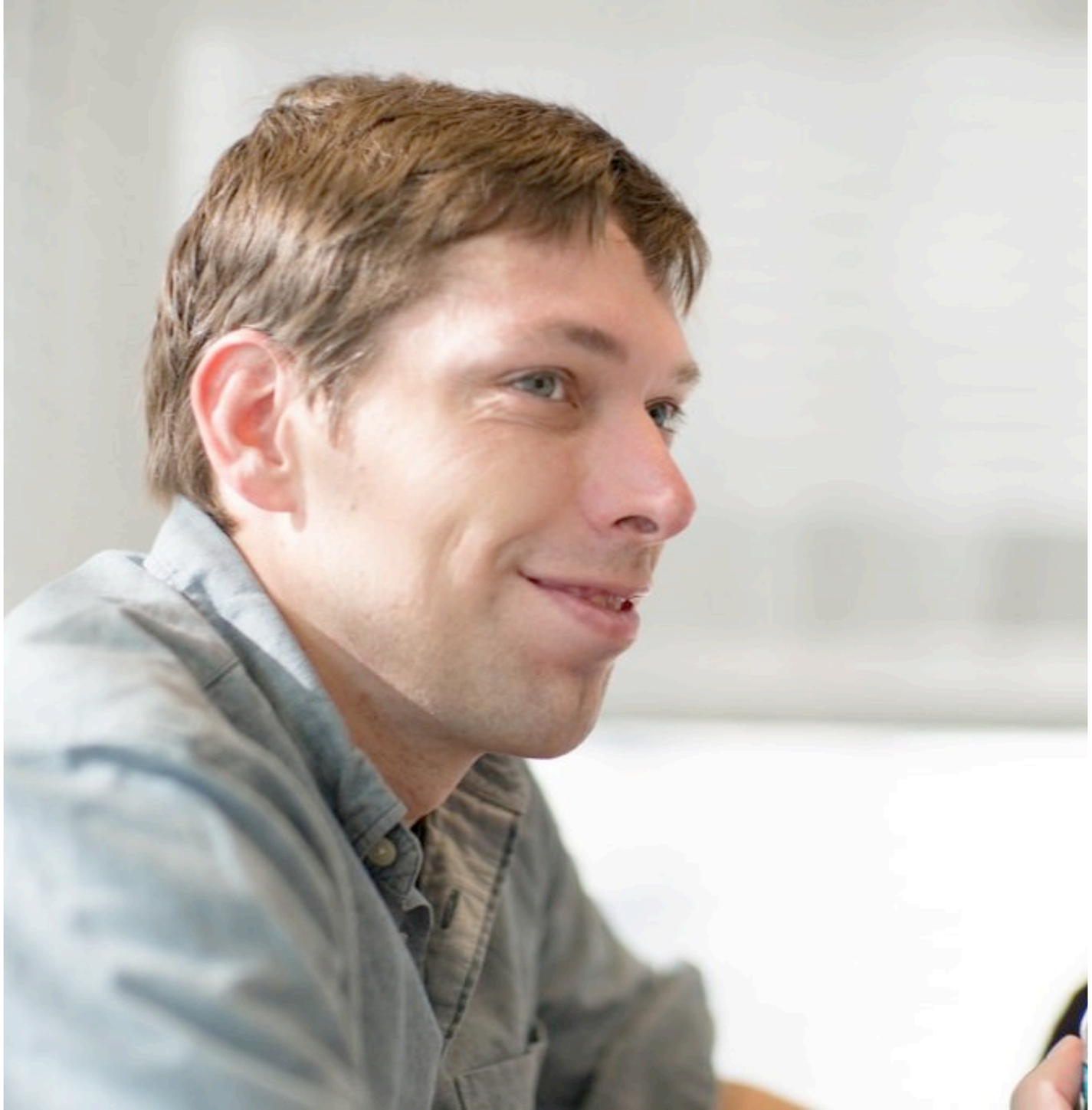
Application stage

- Look for grantors that share your vision
- How does your work help Bitcoin?
- Be steadfast

Steadfastness

Appreciated by all grantors

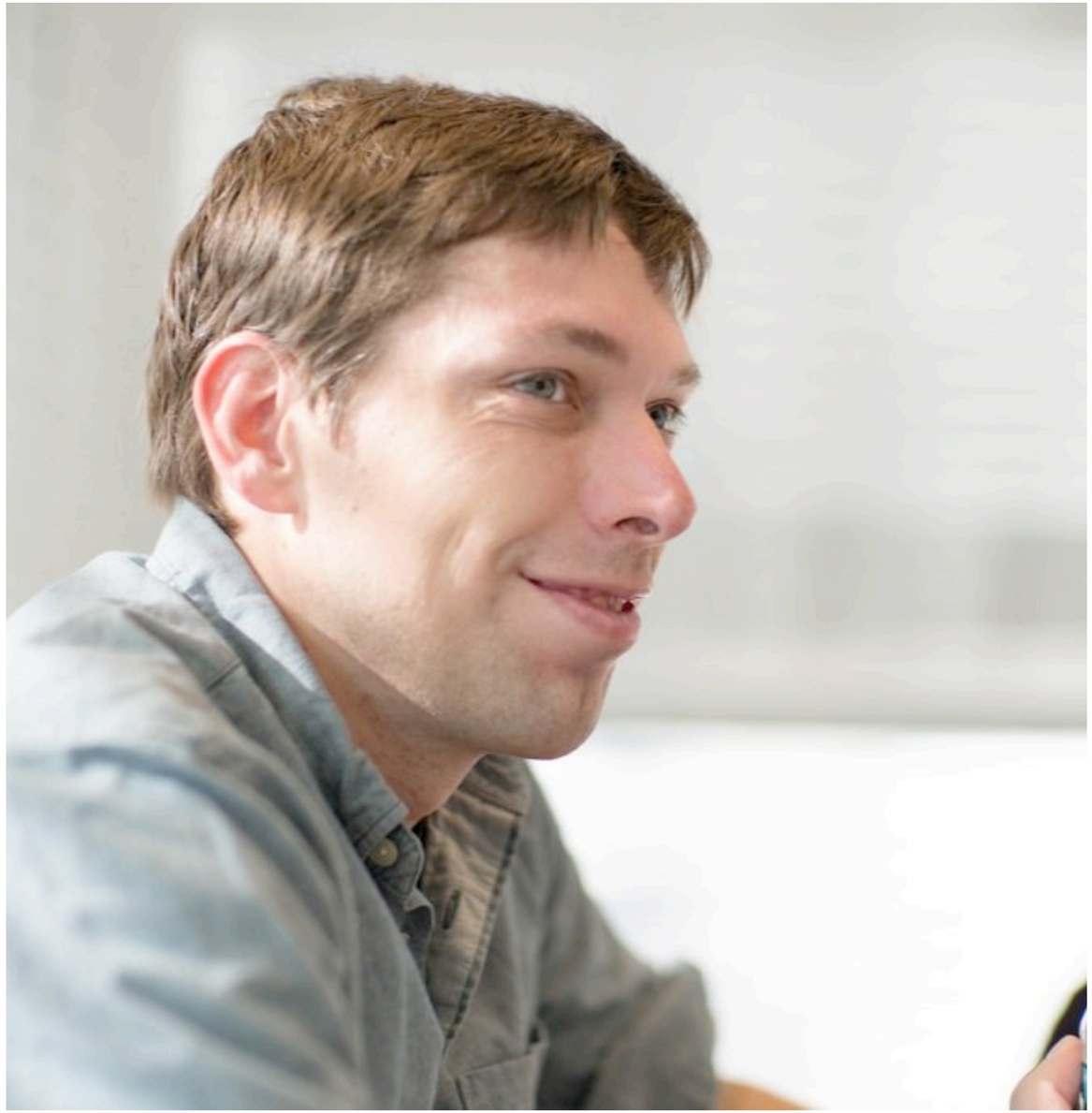
My secret sauce…



Tadge Dryja

Prominent Bitcoin developer

- Lightning Network paper co-author



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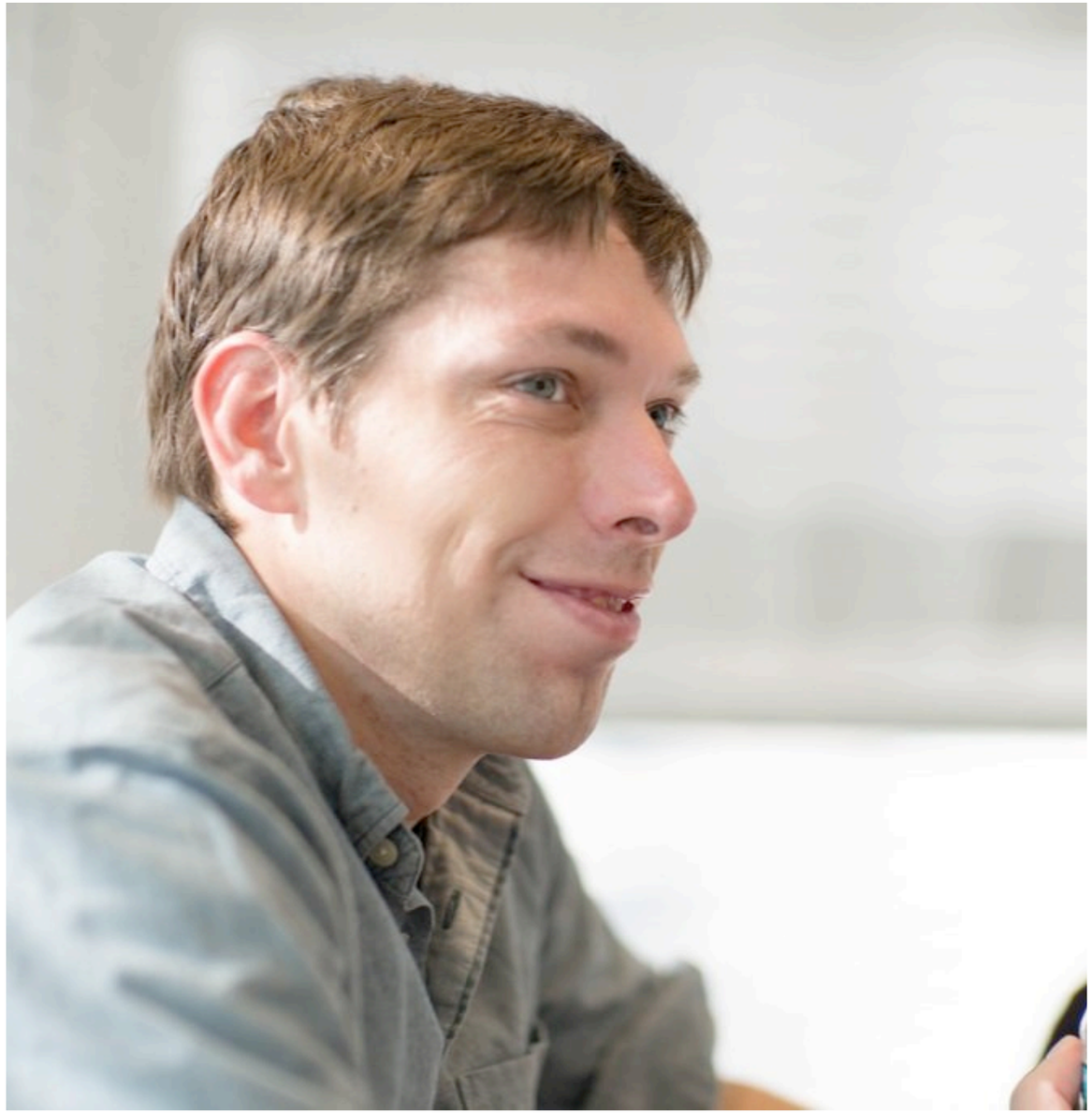

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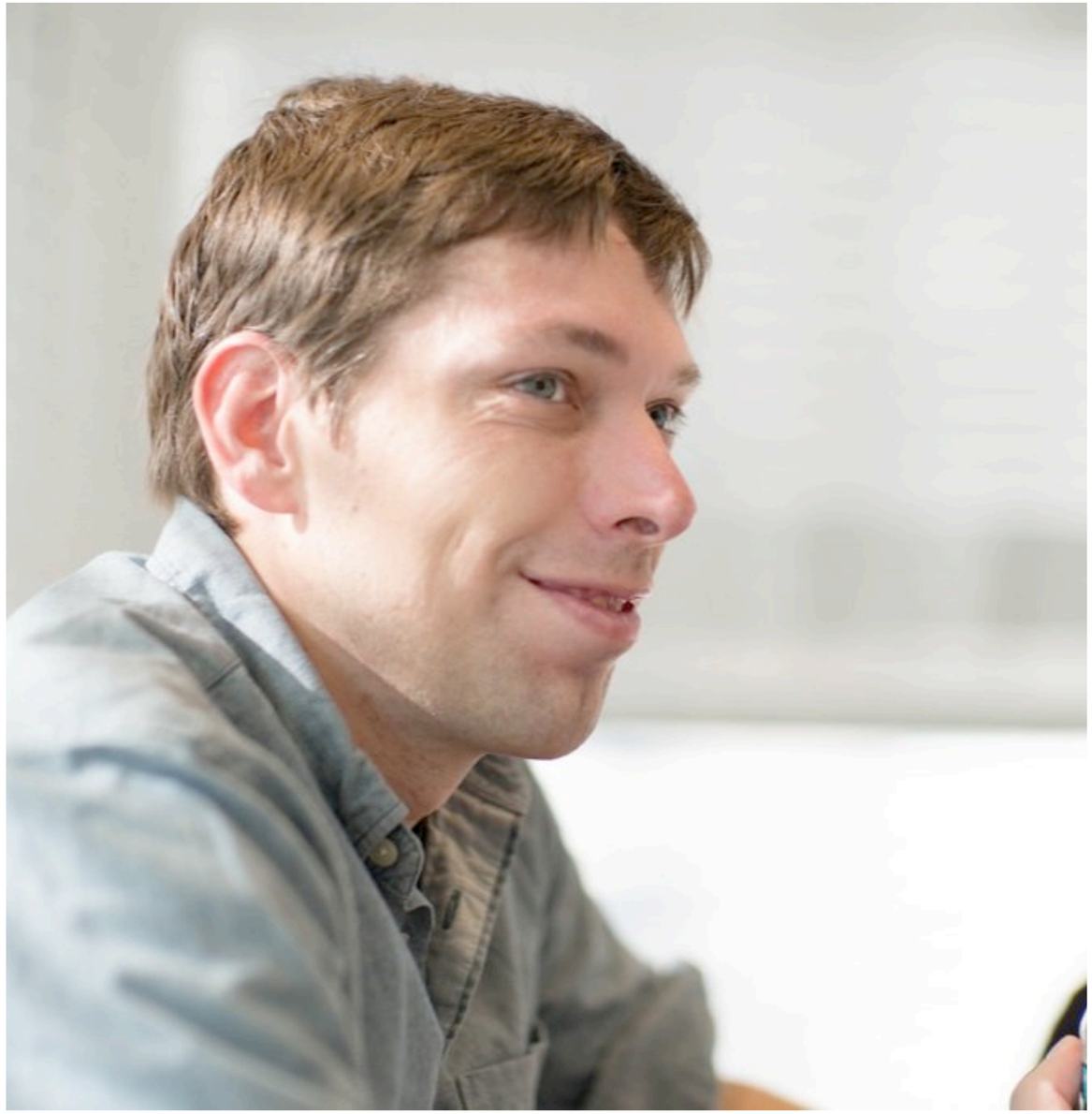

I didn’t have to sell Utreexo

Contributing to a project that has a prominent developer

Closing thoughts

Why do you like Bitcoin?

Improve what you like about Bitcoin

Those who do this well usually get funded

Slides

github.com/kcalvinalvin/slides-for-indonesia-bitcoin-conference-2023