

Ledgerback Labs

DAO Discussion Forums: Insights from Link Sharing Patterns in Radicle's Governance Forum Posts

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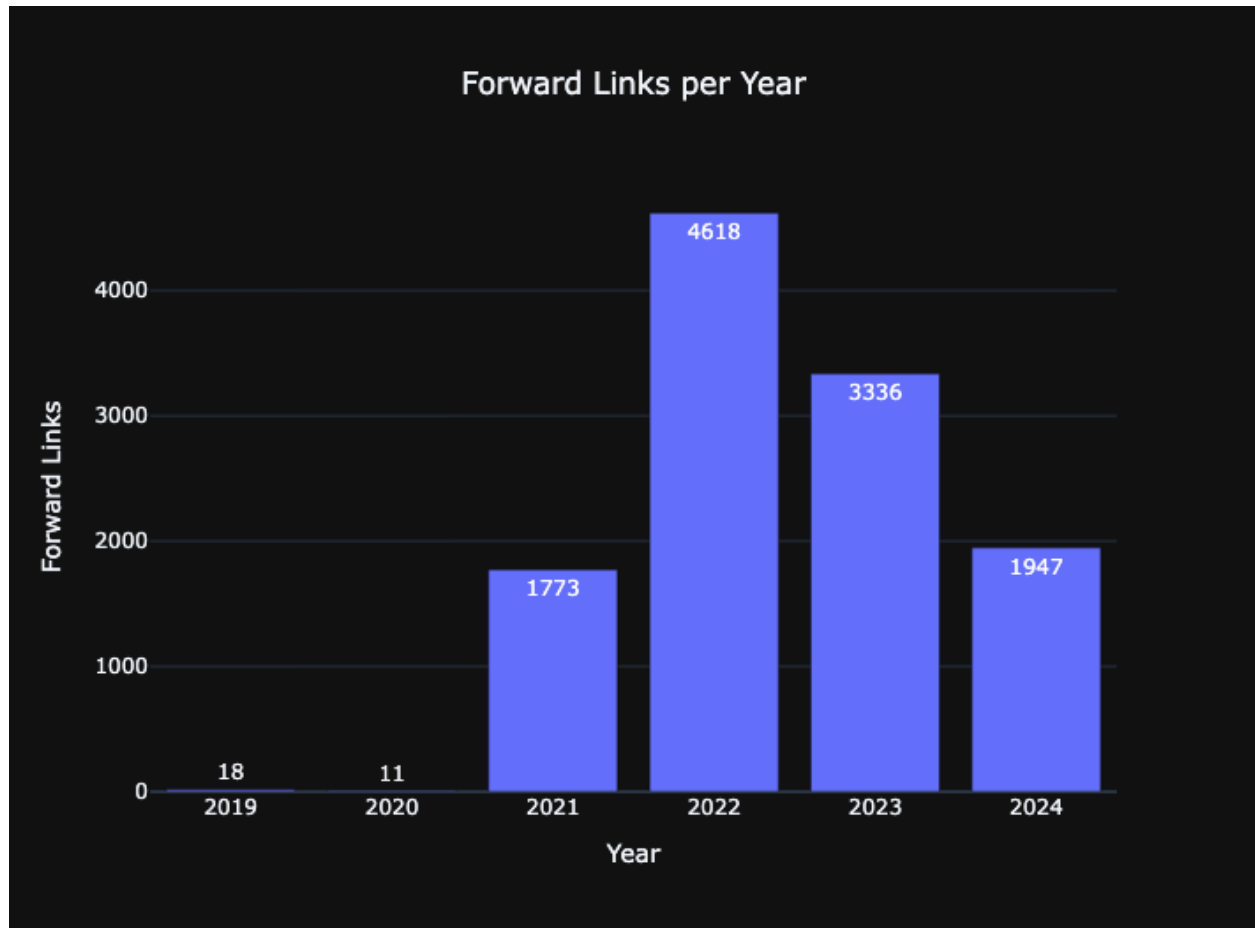
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Summary

In this article, I conducted an exploratory analysis of link sharing (i.e., forward links) activity in the Radicle governance forum.



I found that 2022 had the most forward links with 4,618, and 2020 having the fewest forward links with 11.

userName	URL	mentionCount
abbey	https://community.radworks.org/u/abbey	211
bordumb	https://community.radworks.org/u/bordumb	199
lftherios	https://community.radworks.org/u/lftherios	162

yorgos	https://community.radworks.org/u/yorgos	131
cloudhead	https://community.radworks.org/u/cloudhead	126

I found that the five most mentioned users were abbey, bordrumb, lftherios, yorgos, and cloudhead.

For more analyses and findings, please read the full article.

Introduction

In a series of pubs, I plan to document my explorations analyzing DAO governance forums to determine any insights that could:

1. be useful or informative¹ to the public, DAO operators and researchers, and other relevant stakeholders; and
2. provide guidance for designing and measuring (i.e., analyzing) DAOs.²

Here, I conducted an exploratory analysis of link sharing (i.e., forward links) activity in the Radicle governance forum.

I believe this analysis, and further investigations of this kind, will benefit the potential users listed in the [Appendix](#).

Data

Original Dataset

I collected forum posts from [Radworks' Governance Forum](#) from Boardroom's Governance API with the requests Python library, as of 2024-09-19.

You can find the dataset for forum posts below.

Visit the web version of this article to view interactive content.

Radicle Forum Posts Dataset (RFPD)

Transformation

As the content in the body field (i.e., column) is formatted in HTML, I used the BeautifulSoup 4 Python library to collect the href and class attributes in *a* tags.

I retained the id, topicId, and topicIdPostNumber fields from the RFPD for identification purposes.

Final Dataset

After manipulating the dataset with the Pandas python library, I arrived at the final dataset below.

For this post, just need the columns used in the final dataset for analysis.

Visit the web version of this article to view interactive content.

Radicle Forum Post Link Aggregation Dataset (RFPLAD)

The RFPLAD contains 11,738 rows and twelve (12) columns.

You can find the RFPLAD's data dictionary below.

Field	Description	Type
html	the a tag in HTML format	String
class	the class attribute of the a tag	String
id_	the post id	Integer
createdAt	the datetime the post was created	Datetime
userName	the username of the post's creator	String
href	the text of the href attribute	String
class	the text of the class attribute	String
domain	the domain of the href attribute	String
fqdn	the fully qualified domain name of the href attribute	String
href_rad	the text of the href attribute, after adding the radworks or forum's domain to href's that mentioned usernames	String
topicId	the topic identifier	Integer

topicIdPostNumber	the topic identifier combined with the post number	String
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Analysis

Through my exploratory analysis, I sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the most popular link mentioned in the forum?;
2. How many links are mentioned on a yearly basis?;
3. What are the five (5) most popular external domains by count?;
4. What is the most popular domain by linkCount?;
5. What is the average number of links per post?;
6. What are the top five (5) posts with the most links?;
7. What is the relationship between the number of links mentioned in a post and engagement metrics?;
8. What is the total number of links mentioned in the forum?;
9. Who are the top five (5) most mentioned users?;
10. Who are the top five (5) users by linkCount?;
11. Which users are sharing the most links?; and
12. What is the count of links per post?

Findings & Discussion

What is the average number of links per post?

The average number of forward links per post is 4.20 links.

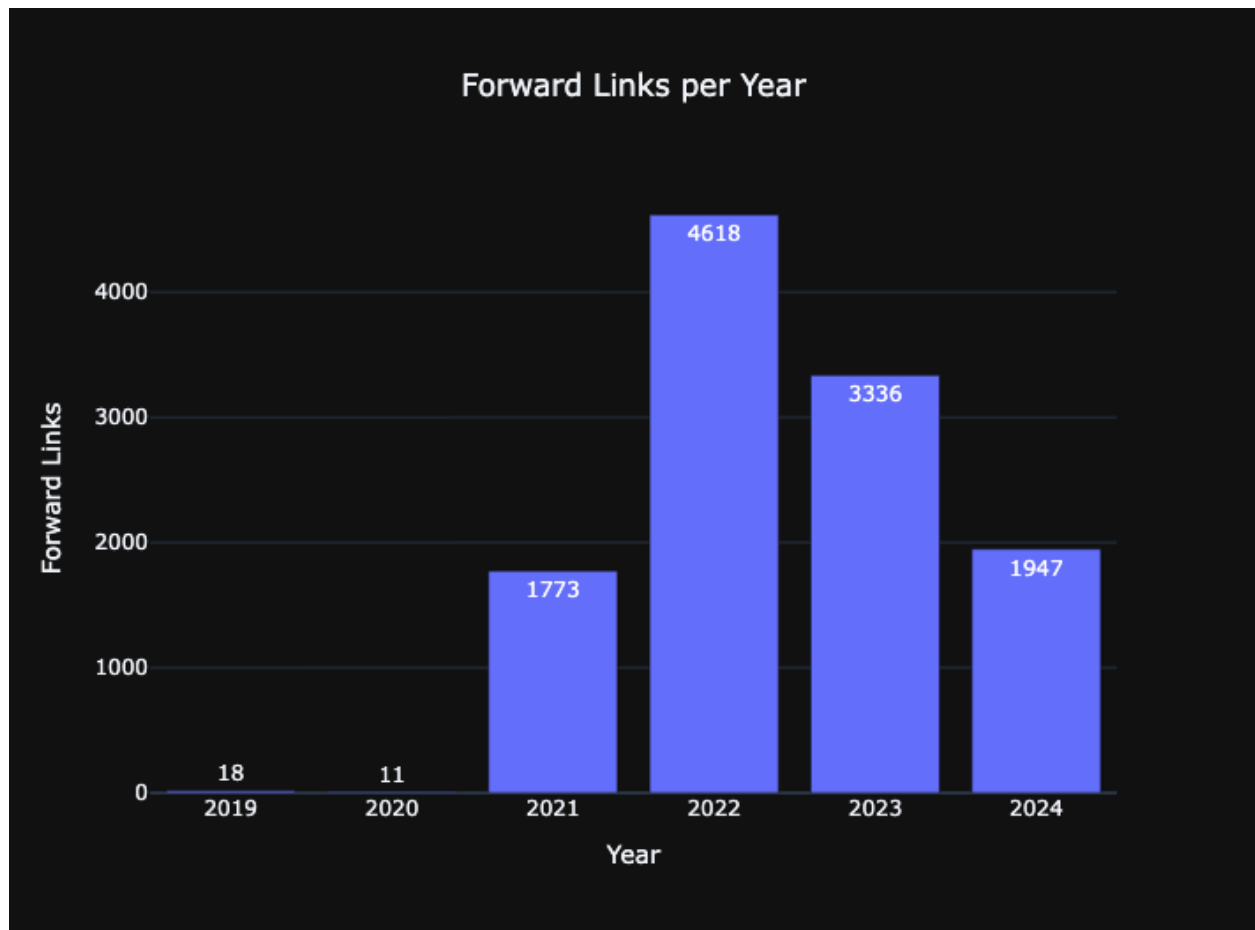
What is the total number of forward links?

The total number of forward links is 11, 703.³

What is the most popular link mentioned in the forum? (should this be a tag?)

The most popular link mentioned in the forum was <https://community.radworks.org/u/abbey>.

How many links are mentioned on a yearly basis?



Trend-wise, forward links have been on a downturn since 2022.

2022 having the most forward links with 4,618, and 2020 having the fewest forward links with 11.

The forward link count has not fell under the 2021 count of 1,773.

Who are the five (5) most mentioned users?

userName	URL	mentionCount
abbey	https://community.radworks.org/u/abbey	211
bordumb	https://community.radworks.org/u/bordumb	199
lftherios	https://community.radworks.org/u/lftherios	162

yorgos	https://community.radworks.org/u/yorgos	131
cloudhead	https://community.radworks.org/u/cloudhead	126

What is the most popular domain by linkCount?⁴

fqdn	linkCount
community.radworks.org	3475
github.com	1086
twitter.com	247
www.linkedin.com	148
snapshot.org	143
www.notion.so	116
app.radicle.xyz	82
docs.radicle.xyz	76
discord.gg	68

What are the top five (5) posts with the most links?

topicIdPostNumber	linkCount
16/31/3280/1	94
16/31/2582/1	85
16/46/3419/1	81
16/46/2548/1	78
16/31/3420/1	77

Unexpectedly, the first post for many topics was the post with the most links. So, it is possible to say that the original poster (OP) is most likely to engage in high-frequency link sharing behavior.

Is there a correlation between the number of links mentioned in a post and engagement metrics?

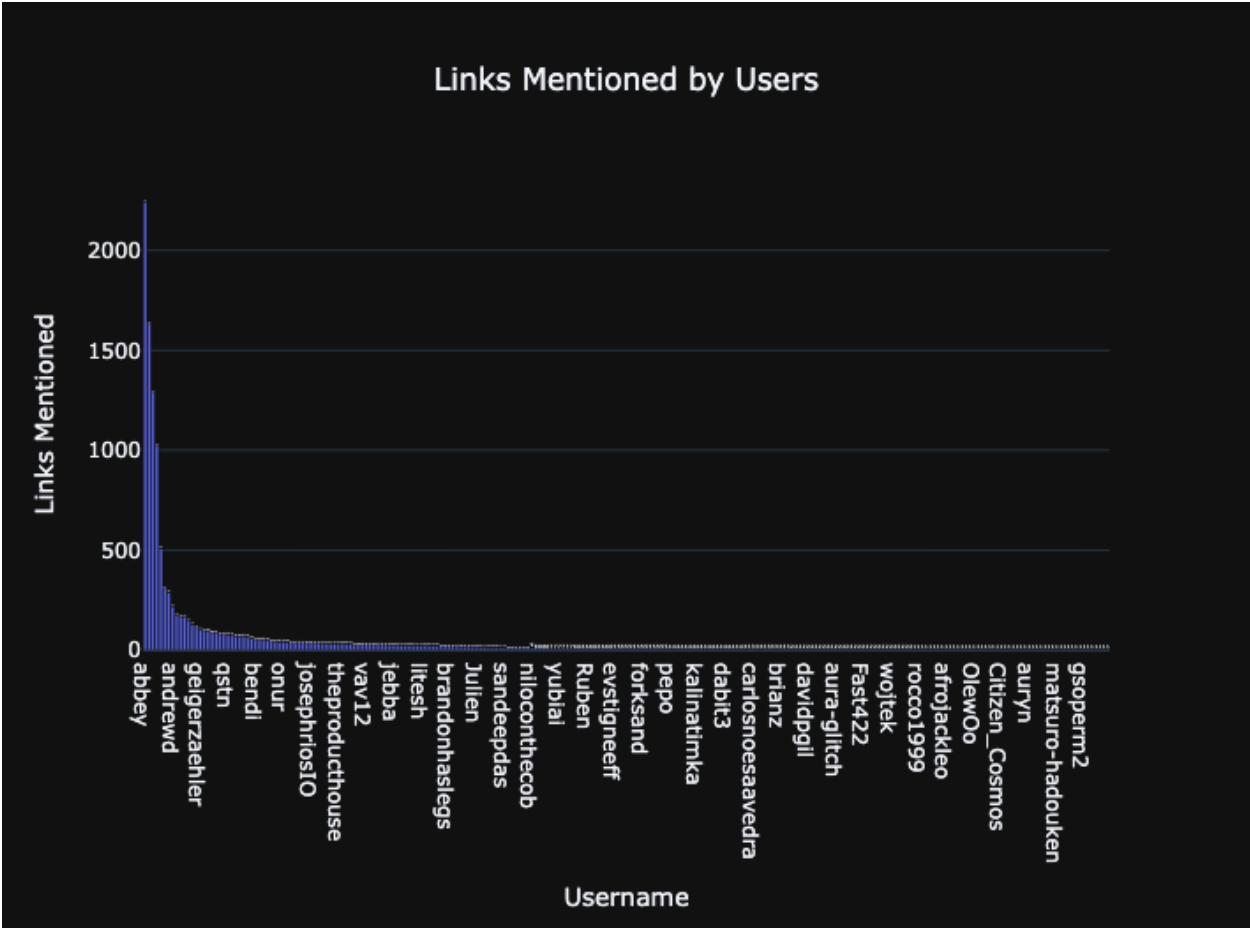
engagementMetric	linkCount
reads	-0.129947
readersCount	-0.129969
likeCount	0.208749
quoteCount	-0.068352
replyCount	0.023708
body_links_count	1.000000

The Pearson correlation coefficients between linkCount and engagement metrics is mentioned in the table above.

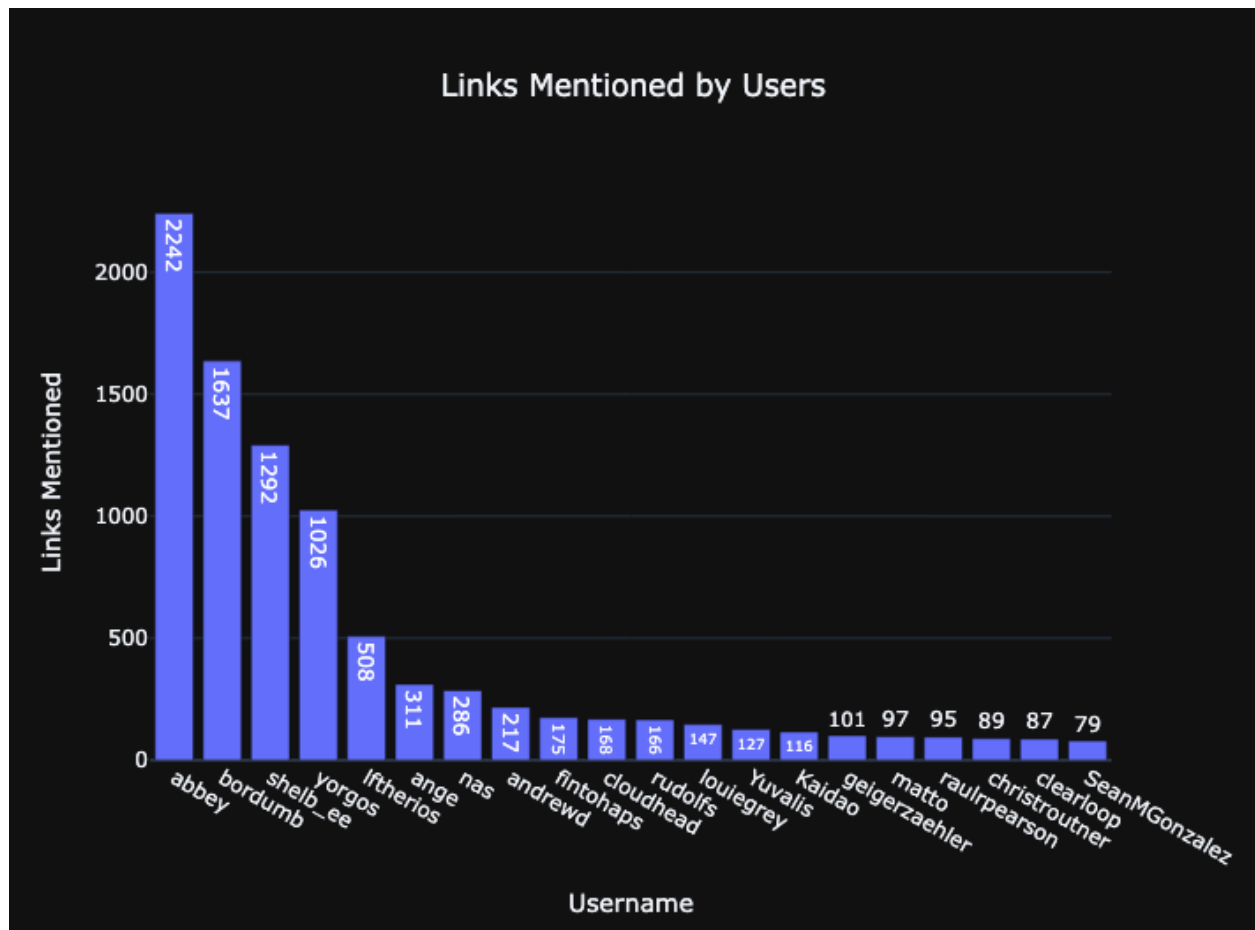
There was little to no relationship between linkCount and engagement metrics.

Which users are sharing the most links?

All Users



Top twenty (20) Users

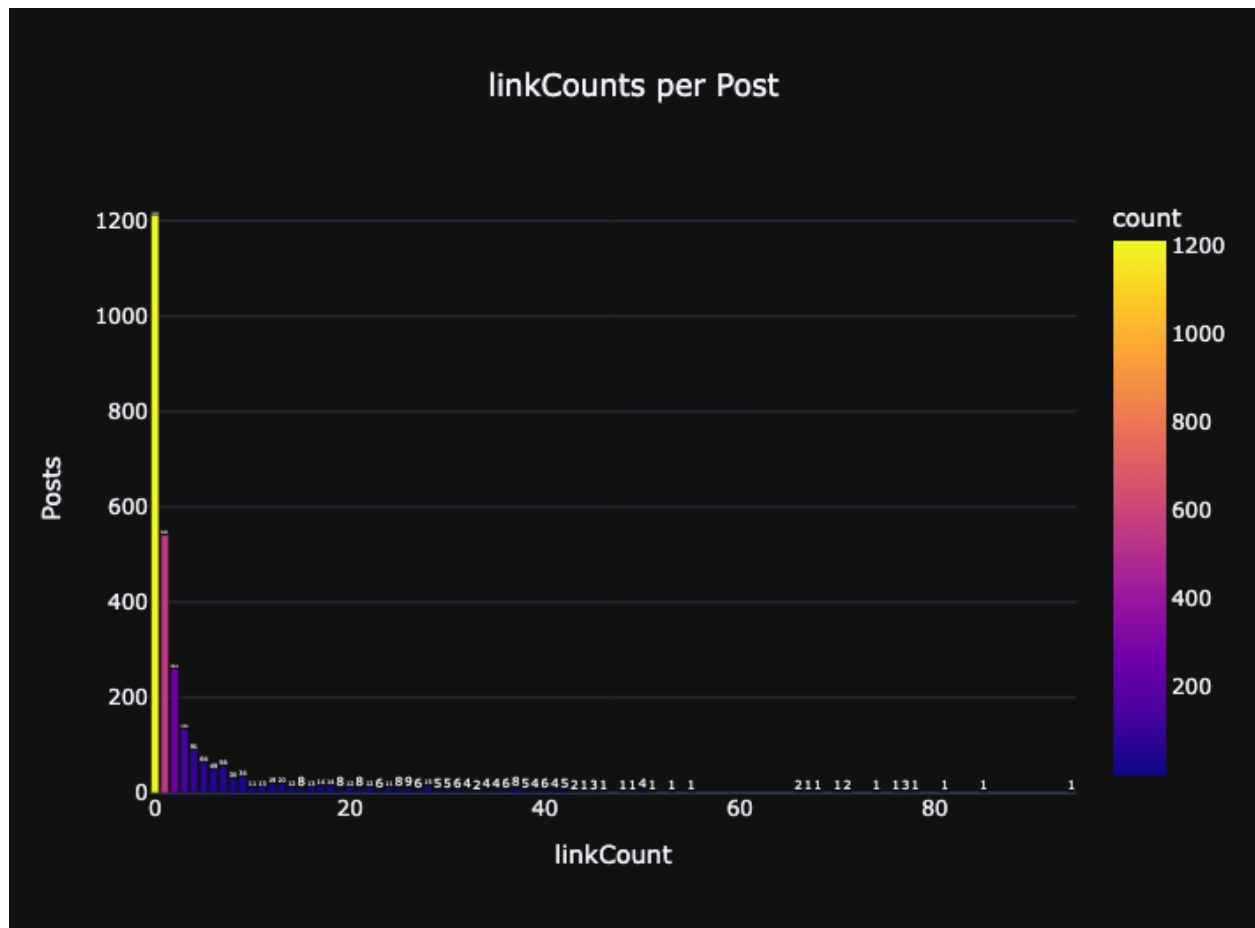


Most users shared less than five (5) links.

From the top twenty users, we see a sharp increase in the count of links shared.

Interestingly enough, the top five most mentioned users (abbey, bordrumb, lftherios, yorgos, cloudhead) are also among the top twenty (20) users sharing links.

What is the count of links per post?



The majority of posts had zero forward links. From those posts with a forward link, the majority had one to five links, with linkCount tailing off around forty (40) links.

Future Directions

Currently, I do not have any future directions I will take with this analysis.

Request for Comments

I am seeking feedback on this article for any improvements to make, errors to correct, questions to address, or other areas to explore.

Please leave your feedback here or [contact me directly](#).

Contact Information

1. [Twitter](#)
2. [Email](#)

Artifacts

Notebook Access

I completed the analyses and visualizations in a Jupyter Notebook.

If you would like access to the notebook, please [contact me](#) and I will share the notebook with you.

Data Access

All of the datasets used in this pub can be downloaded from the tables (i.e. Iframes) embedded in this pub as CSV files.

If you need any assistance downloading these datasets, please [contact me](#) and I will assist you.

Appendix

Potential Beneficiaries

Potential beneficiaries for this type of analysis includes:

1. Community managers & marketing teams
 1. Can use this analysis to develop a prospective contact list of DAO members;
 2. Can use this analysis to develop promotional materials for the forum,
 3. Can use this analysis to see how users are using forward links in the forum;
 4. Can use this analysis to find the most mentioned users; and
 5. Can use this analysis to see how users are interacting with each other in the forum.
2. DAO Researchers & Enthusiasts
 1. Can use this analysis to understand link sharing patterns in DAO forums and how DAOs are using discussion forums.
3. DAO Operators
 1. Can use this analysis to determine how DAO members are contributing to the DAO via their forum activity.
4. DAO Tooling Developers
 1. Can use this analysis to see if and how often DAO members are mentioning their tools like Snapshot in their forum.
5. The public
 1. Can use this type of analysis for greater insights into the inner workings of DAOs.

Footnotes

1. Or generally interesting. [↵](#)
2. More specifically, discussion forums for DAOs. [↵](#)
3. This statistic only includes *a* tags that had an href attribute. [↵](#)
4. This table only includes *a* tags that had an href attribute that had a properly formatted URL. Interesting enough, blank or N/A had the highest count with 3,975. Additionally, I did not include internal links unless they included mentions (anchors were excluded). [↵](#)