The Freedom Project - CODEified

Original document can be viewed at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BK6GJBbY6a2WvVgXhVfNibtTTsE45OVOjYjP8OiI2uo/edit?usp=sharing

**An Overview**

The Freedom Project is a multi-faceted idea to help remake government for the 21st century. It is, at its core, based upon transparent, direct democracy. Open discussion with people governing directly through voting, where majority rules. The major difference is that it seeks to create a decentralized structure. All governments, up to this point have been created from the top-down. This is where we will break with tradition. We will seek to form an organization from the bottom up. Grassroots. One based upon upward delegation of authority instead of downward delegation of responsibility. Technology will help us make this happen.

With that in mind, everything in this document is simply my opinion of how this thing could work. My best guess of how to organize our discussion and frame the a new Constitution. I am not arrogant enough to assume that I can do this by myself, nor that everything in here is “correct” or “fact.” It is simply my understanding of this idea. An idea I was blessed with having, but it could have been gifted to anyone. This is just where I have chosen to start. I pose that everything in this document, and the project should be open source and up for vote.

The Framework, CODEified, is the organization structure for the Constitution we are creating, not the law of the land. Just the framework to house each of our documents as well as the jointly CODEified Constitution. This is a critical idea that I will explain further. The other big piece of things is the discussion forum, ShareDiscussion, for us to have a Constitutional Convention for the 21st (and beyond?) century. The third piece of things will be a digital representation of us. The user database is a persistent social-media-styled information source that will house our public records (think passport, violations, legal documents and tax records). Together all of these things will work together to make up The Freedom Project.

**Fundamental Requirements**

* Transparent
* Secure
* Accountable
* Representative
* Works for All Use Cases (People and Places)
* Simple to Understand and Easy to Use
* Bottom-up Organization
* Balances Needs of the Individual With Needs of the Many
* Built From a Common Point of Unity
* Promotes Discussion not Argument
* Flexible to Allow for Mistakes and Changes Over Time
* Allow for Complexity of Current and Future Societies

**It all begins with an idea.**

*“We the People, in Order to find a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this* ***Constitution****.”*

The Preamble to the Constitution is a marvel even today and is as relevant as ever. Beautiful in its simplicity and thoroughness. It encompasses government’s purpose. Nothing more and nothing less. This is the end goal of The Freedom Project. Nothing more and nothing less. Thorough enough to cover all the necessities of a complex world and simple enough to fully understand so our interest in participation persists. A solid foundation upon which we can build, yet flexible to recognise that mistakes are made and opinions can change. After all we are human; all of us… We the People are just a group of humans standing in the shadow of something greater than ourselves.

Frustration is all around us. Government at the moment is both the problem and the purported solution. What I say is that we have not figured out how to make a “perfect” government, no less have we come to agreement on what government should even be doing. If you are reading this, may I assume that you agree? I do not have all of the answers. I do believe that, just like the framers of the original constitution, if we work together we can figure out a solution. The Freedom Project is my idea for how we can work together to find a more perfect union.

The only thing in The Preamble that was changed from the US Preamble was removal of “United States of America” and the changing of one word, “form” to “find.” Many point to America for being a great example of what government should look like but if it is soo perfect then why is there so much frustration. So much divisiveness on both sides of the isle. We need to figure this out and The Freedom Project’s aim is to create a map of sorts. A way to organize our ideas, beliefs, principles, rules and laws so that we may find a more perfect solution. Only after we get this roadmap, through a new Constitutional Convention, will we be able to move forward with formalizing it as our shared law. Again, democracy rules. If we are to hold our leaders accountable then we will need a measuring stick with which they guide the actions taken on our behalf. I pose that to make this plan it will take inclusive discussion. A major piece of this project is the roundtable at which we will sit to have this Constitutional Convention.

Our founders did it the old fashioned way. They got together in a room and hashed it out until they arrived at a solution and then they wrote it down. They reviewed it, hashed it out some more and changed what they wrote. They repeated that process until that came up with a solution that was worthy of codification. This is the basic premise that The Freedom Project will follow, with one caveat. Computers, and the internet have given us powerful new tools to communicate and organize. This is merely a modern extension of what was done the first time. It is both a forum with which we can discuss our ideas and a framework to document our will.

The system will be 100% transparent in its creation so nothing unwanted can usurp our will and CODEified by each of us so that we may hold ourselves, each other, and our shared institutions accountable to The Will of We the People.

**A Government of One, Then Work Up From There**

What I have found in talking with people is that most just want to be left alone to live their lives in peace. To live in their own way, how they have chosen, without anyone telling them otherwise. That is freedom if you ask me; freedom to choose what to think and how to live. Within the context of society we call it Liberty because no one should impinge on my right to choose, but in the same breath I should not be allowed to impinge on theirs all the same. If ya aint hurting anyone, you should be able to do what you damn well please.

What does the perfect government look like. As a starting point I began with a government of one. Me on an island, by myself. It was this concept that made everything click. Bottom-up authorization instead of what we have today in top-down delegation.

On the island, government would represent me. It would be whatever I willed it to be. My understanding of the world, my belief system and principles, would be used to make the rules and laws. This is the basis for CODEified. Government on the island would be a direct representation of MY will. If I were to digitize my will how would I go about doing that? This is where the abstraction of idea->law modeling came in. I created it to digitally represent my understanding of the world and thus how the government should execute my will.

What happens if someone else washed up though? Keeping with this example, there would be two governments of one. I guess we could live on opposite side of the island to eliminate conflict but what if conflict arose? How would differences be resolved? If I was physically bigger I could impose my will on them, if they were larger they could impose their will on me or we could agree to some common ground. You may replace bigger with smarter or better armed (build a better mouse trap to ensnare or kill the other). All are a forcing of one’s will on another and fly in the face of Liberty, and thus The Freedom Project. No one that is born free wants to have someone tell them what to do or think. Making sure they cannot do the same, should they choose to not be magnanimous, is another discussion but is covered under “provide for the common defense.” Our forefathers understood that and so should we.

In the first two examples you have the animalistic way of doing things, dominance methodology. If the goal is a civilized society, then the third option seems best. Now we add a third person or the 6 billionth.... The complexity of potential outcomes to each action or idea grows exponentially with each new arrival. The big thing to take from all of this is that what I want should matter. What you want should matter. Most importantly though what we want matters and there needs to be a way to decide how that is built from what each of us wants. There needs to be a way to both discuss and manages differences of understanding and opinion. Democracy as a fundamental concept will rule but in this example, instead of creating a “government” and then delegating authority down to lower jurisdictions it all starts with governments of one. Individually approved, CODEified, constitutions that delegate authority and responsibility upward through the organization. This is how I propose We the People is formed. Not with a single document that We have no direct access top but instead through each of us creating the law by which we will CHOOSE to live our life. I am most likely to follow the law if it is my own after all…

**Idea -> Law Modeling**

We are conscious beings. Our eyes see, our ears hear, but our consciousness is a black box, locked away in our brains. Our understanding of the brain advances daily and we now know how our visual and auditory cortices process the world. We understand how we connect information in our memory centers but we still don’t understand the nature of consciousness. What is inside the black box, nor from where “the spark” originates physiologically. It is this lack that forces me to use a metaphor to represent how I think my consciousness gets access to the world around me. How “I” use and access the physical structures in my brain and take that into my consciousness. I call it my “lens of perception.” To me the lens of perception is the physical wiring of our brain and how our consciousness is connected to the outside world. There is no direct connect per say. It has to use the visual cortex to gain access to the impulses delivered from our eyes. It has to use our stored memories to get access to our past experiences and it is the physical wiring of these experiences, and the physical structure of the rest of the organ that physically manifests this metaphorical lens.

While we don’t get to choose what inputs the environment provides us, we do get to choose what to do with it. This choice is a critical concept. The choices that we make with each idea that matters. Thus within the context of CODEified we will choose what to do with ideas. How the system will wrap their representations to become beliefs, principles, rules and laws and thus how the system will aggregate the information. For purposes of CODEified the following definitions will need to be specified: Idea, Belief, Belief System, Understand, Principle, Rule, Law and Will.

**Idea**

It all begins with an idea. I pose that ideas are the fundamental quantity on which everything else is based. Ideas are topics or concepts that may be incorporated into our minds and thus our representation of the world. Just because something is an idea does not mean that it has been comprehended, nor held as useful to an individual. In order for an idea to be used further we must process that idea, through belief and/or understanding. We must choose what to do with each idea. Again choice being critical to the process. Should we hold it, accept it, reject it, use it, act upon it or not to incorporate it further into our understanding of the world.

**Belief**

Beliefs are ideas at their core, but more importantly they are ideas that the individual has taken into their understanding. Ones that have been brought in and physically wired in our brains. It is only after an ideas is held as part of our understanding that we can build upon them to further our understanding of the world. We as humans use relation to understand the world around us. Our brains are non-linear, biological, relational databases. We relate one idea to another on a physiological level when the axon of one neuron connects to another neuron allowing association.

1. Pain is a physiological negative reinforcement to protect ourselves
2. Being hurt is painful
3. When my skin gets burned it hurts
4. Hot things will burn me
5. When things glow red they are hot
6. The stove glows red
7. If I touch the stove it will be a negatively reinforced action

While a juvenile example, it is one to which we can all relate. Relation is critical because of how our brain physically works and also the frame of reference from which we all understand the world. When we see something new our brains search through our understanding and relates it to our existing understanding. We can then choose to hold it so it can be incorporated into our overall understanding of the world or we discard it as non-essential. In kind a digital belief is the representation of this process. Only after something is held as a belief can it be related to other ideas and used to further our understanding or guide our behavior.

**Belief System**

Similar to the lens of perception, but more accurately it is the piece relating to ideas we have held or taken into “our understanding” of the world. In the physical brain it is how our consciousness views and comprehends the world around us. It is the sum total of information we have upheld and wired up, so to speak. It was formed by how ideas, memories, etc. were physically connected to each other within the mind. Within CODEified it represents the ideas we have taken in as beliefs along with their programmatic, relative associations with each other. The relationship they hold with each other is as important as the data points themselves.

**Understand**

Represents comprehension of an idea. Within the context of CODEified, an idea must believed in order to be understood, but we do not need to understand an idea to believe it; to be able to use it to build our broader understanding of the world nor guide actions. Understanding will be used to help asses expertise as necessary during topical discussion. I am not sure how this will play out, if it will be necessary nor if it will become a detriment to an open forum. I am concerned that for complex topics, complete understanding will be required however the idea of excluding people from the discussion is not a good idea nor the goal. I am also wary of those who think they know more than they do. I am wondering if this will be something that is assessed by others. For instance you may state you believe something but only others will be able to rate your understanding of the idea/topic from your comments during the discussion. TBD.

**Principle**

Principles are beliefs that we use to guide our actions. I wanted to separate these two and make this explicit. It is possible to live by an idea yet not believe it and we can also beleive ideas yet not live by them. Principles, however, will make up the law that we each will live our life by. This is where we get to the interesting part. Principles make up the basis for YOUR law. The one that you promise to live your life by, even when nobody's watching. Remember the part about you are more likely to follow a law if it is your own? Principles are laws by you and for you alone to follow. No one tells you how to live, you tell others how you choose to live. You choose to live by your own principles and principles are built on your belief system. Ah hah! That’s what i said when I thought of it at least.

**Rule**

Rules build on principles in that you think others should also guide their actions, live their life, by them. The reason that it wraps the concept of principle is because it would be oftly hypocritical for you to think someone else should live by a rule when you aren't willing to live by the principle yourself. We all get to lead by example.

**Laws**

Once a rule crosses the democratically determined threshold for a jurisdiction the rule will become law. Regardless of whether the individual has heard of the idea (ignorance of the law is no excuse) they will be required to live their lives by laws while in the jurisdiction for which the law applies. More on notification, how aggregation will help determine jurisdictions and how the democratic threshold determination is made below.

**Individual Will**

Everything, ideas->laws, taken as a whole for an individual. Will is the same this as the representation of how a “government of one” would work on the island mentioned above. If I was on an island my government would execute my Will as represented by beliefs, understanding, principles, rules and it would aggregate that to create the law of the land (island). In the example of one individual the laws would be the same as the principles set as rules in the system. The system would use democracy for a single voter to asses what rules become laws (all of them in this example).

**The Will of (We) the People**

The aggregation of individual Will once more than one person washes up on the island. The CODEified Constitution will be, in essence, this. Perhaps this term is just a “nice to have” but I like the idea of Will of the People. Has a nice ring to it... This is something in which I choose to believe <wink> <wink> <nudge> <nudge>.

========== Cut and Paste Working Area ============

Notice that I am avoiding the word truth and true here because holding something as false is the same as being not true. In programming terms it more similar to being defined or null. Null, non-existent is not the same as false. If we take something as pertinent to our understanding we incorporate it into our now expanded understanding of the world. The memory center of the brain wires the idea to the rest of our understanding on a physical level and we can then use this newly held belief for relating future ideas around us.

**How it works**

Each of us will CODEify our own Constitution. It will be the law that we choose to live our life by. All laws will be phrased from the perspective of the individual (I, My, Me, You, Others, etc.) so it is easy to understand.

Ex. “I will not kill another human” or “I will not steal”

As each of us agrees to live by a

Many smart, but more importantly learned individuals, have worked on this idea before us. It on the shoulders of these giants that we will stand. We the People is one of the most important ideas in governance and it is where I suggest we begin. The Preamble of the Constitution (the US Constitution has been used as a basis of liberty for most democratic constitutions currently in existence) is composed of six separate ideas. Each of these ideas will be a heading under which everything else will be filed. If an idea doesn’t fall under one of these topics than I pose that it should not be part of government.

t is beautiful in its simplicity and thoroughness for answering the question of “why?” “Why should I participate in this organization?”

By taking The Preamble to the Constitution and using it as a framework to organize our thoughts, beliefs, principles, rules and laws it will allow us to decide what government should do. All law should stem from the same why and this is how I pose we organize each of our CODEified understanding of how to lead our lives.

The Framework

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We The People…

* In order to find a more perfect Union
* Establish justice
* Insure domestic tranquility
* Provide for the common defense
* Promote the general welfare
* Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity

… do ordain and establish this Constitution.

That is the why, now we must talk with each other to figure out the how.

The discussion

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When the original framers created the above they did so through discussion. When emotions get involved, as they should when deciding the fate of each of our lives, there needs to be a way to organize the discussion. We need a proper round table, and a ma

The goal is a better format of democracy, if that is what we choose to call it.

One that works just as well “when you live under my roof, you live by my rules” as it does for solving global issues. I beleive that if we have a more distributed system, with less power at the highest levels it will make it more difficult for corruption to take root. One person will be one vote and each idea may be voted upon separately.

Humanity has attempted to organise itself throughout history. We have gotten some idea right and many more wrong but the end result is that we still haven’t figured it out yet. We haven’t found a government that works for all people, in all situations otherwise there would not be the confusion and frustration that we all see around us today.

The constitution of the United States was a marvel of its time. A guide to freedom. We the People. We still look at it with reverence but we also all realize that today is a new age. The world is changing soo fast around us that it is hard to keep up. It is hard for our governing structures to keep up as well. The beauty of The Constitution was its ability to represent We the People and to change with us as we grew and changed our minds and attitudes. This was the purpose of the Amendment process. To allow us to change our minds if We the People deemed it so.

If this was the original intention of the framers, that the document was flexible, then this should be our attempt to keep true to their original wishes. That our government, and those who govern us, represent us in our current form and with full view of our shared history. A keen on on the past and what has worked for us before is important to

I pose that ideas are a fundamental quantity that we can build upon. Ideas build on idea but first we must choose to accept them into our understanding of the world before we can use them as building blocks. Ideas are wrapped in acceptance and become beliefs. Beliefs that we guide our actions with are principles and principles that we think others should live by are rules. Once we democratically vote for a rule it become law. That is the tricky part.

Instead of building from the top down I pose that we build from the bottom up. I think we must begin with a government of one. CODEifiy our own law. The law that we live our life by and then the “system” (a DAO) will help us aggregate individual will into the Will of the People.

Each individual must buy-in on their own. Free will is the basis of all that we choose to share and all that we choose to not to share. We must each willingly join, or not, and we must all willingly accept The Will of the People. Without individual acceptance The Will will not be representative of our shared understanding (at our own level, paramount that each of us understand why we choose what we choose) of compromise.

**Functional Requirements**

* The system, process and results must be completely transparent
* It must be secure
* It must be simple so anyone and everyone can understand
* It must stem from common/shared cause
* It must adequately balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the many
* Aggregation of The Will of the People will coalesce from The Will of individuals
* Will shall use neurobiological organization to accurately represent human understanding
* System will use bottom-up organization instead of top-down delegation
* Jurisdictions shall be fluid and self-organizing/self-aggregating