Greetings,

Recently there has been discussion about what it would mean as a protocol to invest heavily into dev relations and hackathons. The primary of sources of funding on Secret Network are as follows:

- Grants (SLABs)

- Community Pool (Validators/Stakers)

- VCs (SLABs relations + independent connections + SF)

It would appear to me we are missing an entire vertical in the form of hackathons and developer relations - because Secret Network is a permissionless chain, the key to its success is building a bustling economy of apps and users. In order to discover killer use cases, we need to continually seek out fresh talent, reward them for experimentation, and give them a path to working on the protocol full time (from one of the above categories). Before I begin, I want to note that I believe the Terra Fund (run by SLABs) is making excellent progress, and I consider this part of the grants category.

The path in my mind is as follows:

(1) Dev checks out a hackathon for fun / because there are incentives

(2) Dev builds a proof of concept product during hackathon

During this stage, the protocol benefits from two things: (1) Use case experimentation (2) Talent discovery (3) Marketing of MVPs

The next step of the funnel:

(3) Dev post hackathon is approached

to complete a milestone based grant to flesh out their hackathon project into an MVP

(4) During the grant stage, if the product and builder is promising they are put in touch with (1) VCs (2) Incubator (3) Business partners (4) Fellow developers that could join them

(5) Dev chooses their own adventure from here, and are now able to build this full time.

What is important to note is that dev relations is the glue that connects each piece of the pipeline. We currently don't have an org solely focused on this

. Next, we need to ensure that someone is devoted to hosting hackathons, they are the top of the dev discovery pipeline

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I firmly believe that it is worth it for the protocol to heavily invest in an independent team solely focused on this. Focus is the scarce resource

- by having a stand-alone org working (symbiotically) on this function both SLABs and SF are freed up to do what they are best at.

Just some food for a thought.

-Carter Woetzel