Roundtable Ep4
Group Discussion - Politeia Use Cases

What is Politeia?

- Stand-alone, off-chain, data storage system
- Open-source, cryptographically verifiable, public & private records
  - Time-stamped, version controls, permanently stored in repositories
- Decred will use Politeia in a public capacity
- Politeia also usable for private, unalterable, timestamped, store of data.

Why Build Politeia?

- Integrate a 'community-based governance system' *directly* into blockchain
- Protections to ensure sustainable and fair system of governance
- Keep Decred's development open and progressive
- Promote transparency
- Combat censorship
- Assurance that all records are independently verifiable and data is stored in a secure format that is difficult to forge

How does Politeia work?

- Decred's use: Proposals
  - anyone submits formal proposals
    - proposals, comments on proposals, and stakeholder votes
  - Proposals formatted as text with markdown and PNG images
  - Data is stored in Politeia which the system anchors the versions and time stamps in the Decred blockchain.
  - Within the anchors that connect Politeia to the Decred blockchain, includes a transaction hash, and a merkle path.
    - These verify that a previous hash existed before the time stamp on the next anchor in its repository

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Politeia Use Cases

- Document and record storage
  - Reputation and identity systems
  - Supply chains
- Land Rights
  - https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/09/brazil-demolishes-home-of-slum-resident-fighting-eviction-over-olympic-development
  - Displacement of people
  - Countries like Haiti that don't have the infrastructure resources to secure their data
- Product Rebates and Warranty Registrations
  - If a company makes an error, it doesn't matter because
  - Customer purchases product/service, completes the warranty form upon receiving product/service, it's placed into Politeia, secured, timestamped, etc. If there's a warranty claim, both customer and producer can recover the warranty claim to verify it's start date and information
  - Or event a rebate program. I know when I purchase computer products with a mail-in-factory rebate program, they are very time sensitive.

"It is kind of interesting to see how misunderstood the intention and required functionality of Politeia is though. I wasn't at all aware that there were people who thought it was going to somehow convert Decred into a system where the stakeholders (people who demonstrate skin in the game by locking up Decred in exchange for tickets) no longer had to actually have skin in the game to participate in the governance. Allowing anyone to make proposals and, upon stakeholder approval, be paid to implement (or manage a team that can implement it) in Decred, which then allows them to become a part of the system and vote on future proposals was always the goal."

- Jake Yocom-Piatt