Above the Page

THE META-LAYER AS CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A TRUSTWORTHY INTERNET

DWeb Weekend

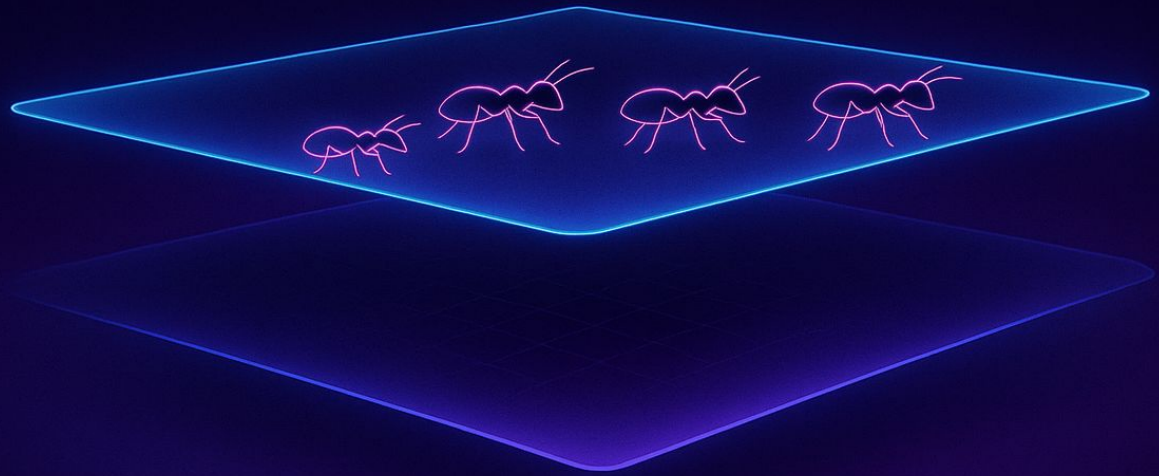
August 17, 2025

Crisis of Trust on the Web

- AI-generated content blurs identity and intent
- Existing trust mechanisms are easily gamed
- New trust signals are often isolated and incompatibile

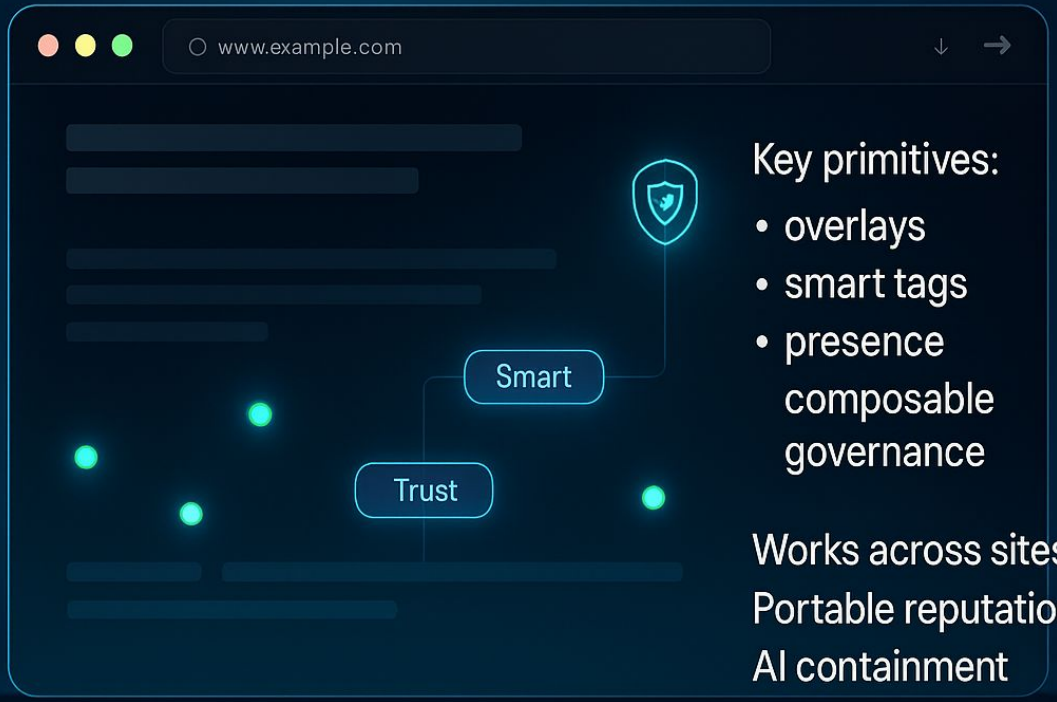
THE BIG MISSING FEATURE

There is space above the webpage.
This can be a civic substrate: overlays, presence and trust signals visible at the interface level.



What is the Meta-Layer?

A transparent, decentralized overlay above any webpage.

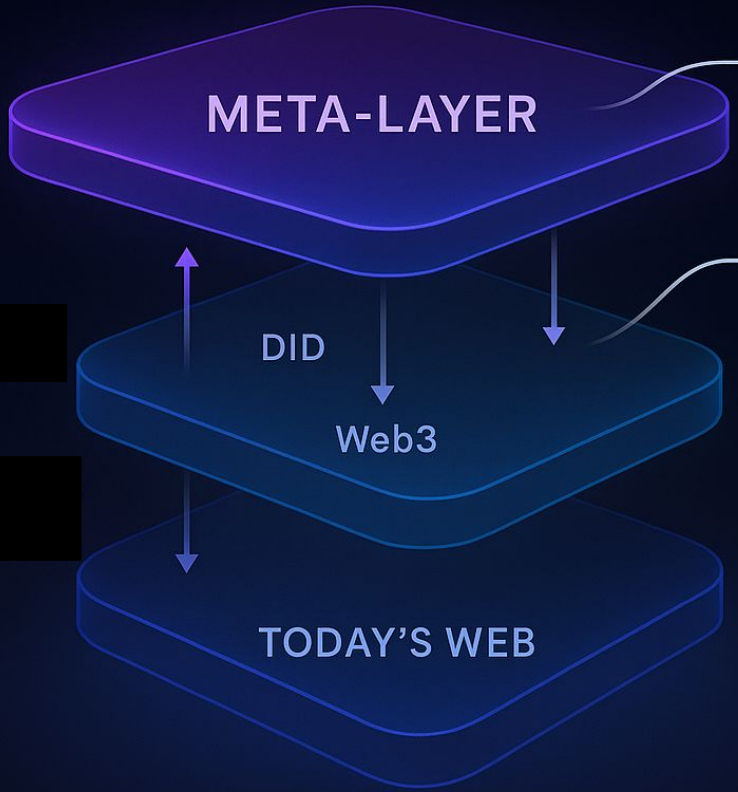


Key primitives:

- overlays
- smart tags
- presence
  composable
  governance

Works across sites
Portable reputation
AI containment

ARCHITECTURE



Integration with DIDs, cryptographic identity, and P2P protocols

Supports offline-first, permissionless participation

Trust orchestration at the interface level

Use Cases

Regional Zomes

- North American civic coordination, African tech commons, etc.

Topic Layers

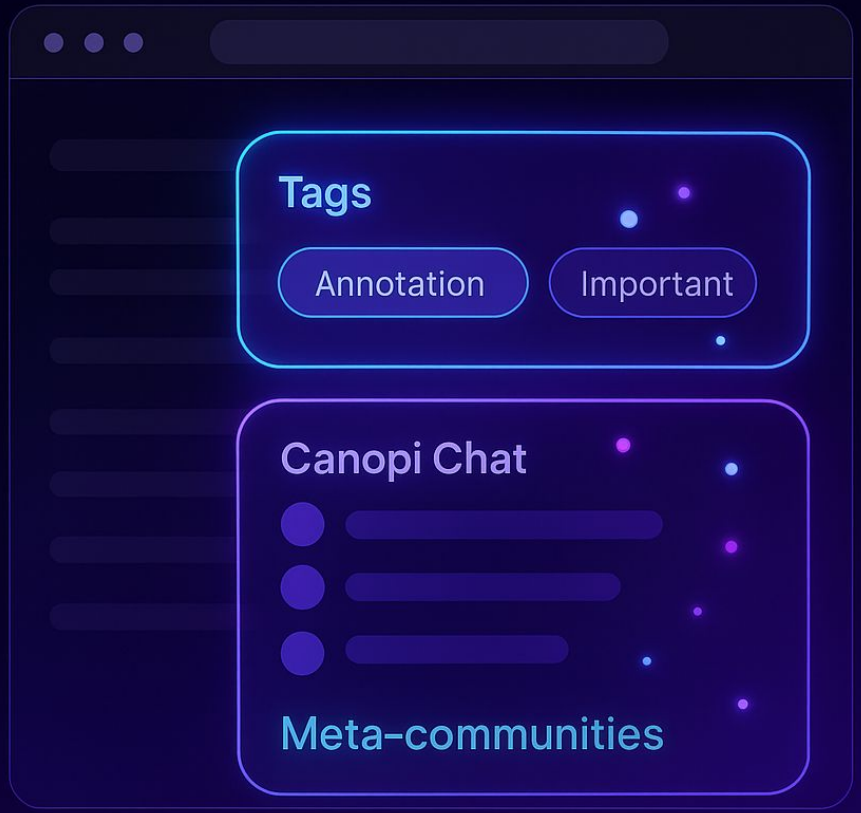
- Regeneration Layer
  Internet Sleuth Layer
  Health Layer

Event Layers

- Safe zones for conferences and summits

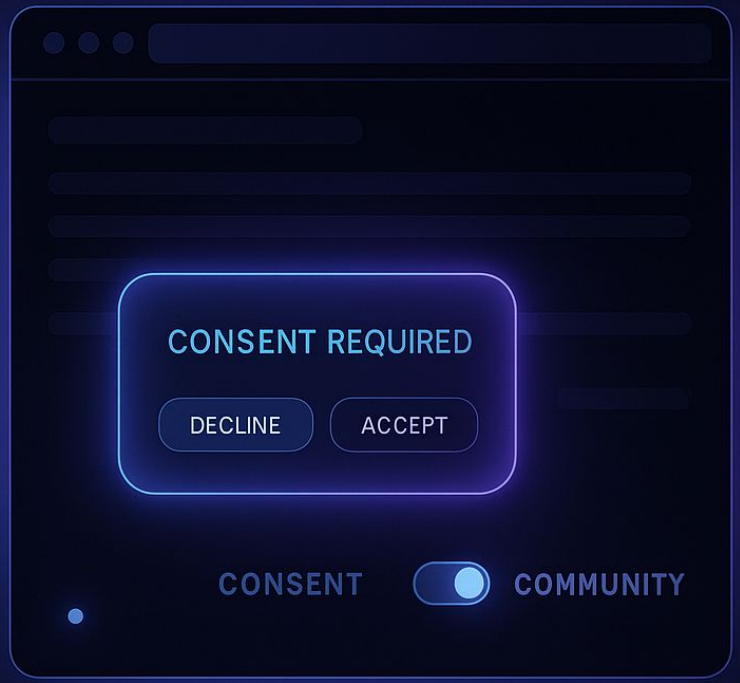
DEMO

- Visible list
- Canopi Chat
- Meta-communities



CONTAINMENT & SAFETY

- AI containment above the page via TEE
- Civic norms enforced at the interface
- Safe, transparent, decentralized governance



Join the Internet Society Meta-Layer SIG

Help design the civic interface layer of the future. Shape trust, governance, and safe diigital spaces.

JOIN US

https://themetalayer.org/meta-layer-sig

DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

Open floor for participant contributions.

What role could your project play in building the meta-layer?

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