

June 25 Week 2022

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Abstract

A summary of week 3 on the hunt of a decentralized social network, providing answers that were requested from the twitter QA. Highlights include why I'm moving on from CAW in pursuit of a pure vision, why I think humanity would benefit from cryptographically incentivized distributed social medias that are structurally designed to incentivize users to 'think slow',

1 QA

1.1 How do you determine and how do you implement ethics in a decentralized social network? Will moderators make this determination?

The image shows a tweet from the account @JBPetersonQuote. The profile picture is a small circular portrait of a man with a beard. The tweet itself contains the quote "There is no substitute for character" in a bold, black font. Below the quote is a large, rectangular photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background of the photo is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with warm lighting. At the bottom of the tweet, there is a timestamp: "4:03 PM · Sep 25, 2020 · Twitter for Android".

I do not attest to the assertion that ethics can be technologically implemented. In fact, in review of attempts to do so, I have witnessed an unvirtuous cycle where increased attempts at ethics implementation create more idiocracy, which in turn reduces ethics, creating more demand for ethics implementations. For example, the censorship of text deemed hate speech, has made individuals more sensitive to speech in general, reducing resilience to more neutral tones such as sternness or earnestness, all while polarizing those who fall under the ban hammer. the information siloing of tribal-like communities has reduced tolerance to not only the counter dialectical perspectives, but apprehension towards unbinary, synthetic or bridging thinking as well. The institution of fact checking dismisses and filters out the unknown-knowns and the known-unknowns in pursuit of a reduction towards a binary true or false answer, inhibiting the creation of new known-knowns. In short, just like Jordan Peterson says, there is no substitute for character, and the best thing one can do to implement ethics is to begin to tackling at the root of the problem, not a symptom, which in the end is an introspective journey each individual on earth has to find the will to portain- by cultivating environments that are better suited towards the building of character.

System 1 and system 2

Most importantly, the groundbreaking research of Daniel Kahneman showed that our brain has two operating systems. Which he called system 1 and system 2.

These are the differences between the two systems of our brain:

System 1



- **FAST**
- **DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS:** unconscious, automatic, effortless
- **WITHOUT** self-awareness or control "What you see is all there is."
- **ROLE:** Assesses the situation, delivers updates
- Does **98%** of all our thinking

System 2

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- **SLOW**
 - **DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS:** deliberate and conscious, effortful, controlled mental process, rational thinking
 - **WITH** self-awareness or control, logical and skeptical
 - **ROLE:** seeks new/missing information, makes decisions
 - Does **2%** of all our thinking

This is at the heart of why I am building a decentralized and cryptographically incentivized social media, to break the unvirtuous cycle by offering a different set of tools that have the potential to aid an individual in the discernment and construction of their own character. When the only incentive is the like button, one doesn't need Kahnemans Thinking Fast vs Thinking Slow to know it is positively reinforcing visceral, emotional, unconscious, automatic, reactionary type responses that entrench ignorance. When there is monetary incentive however, it now becomes possible to incentivize a lot more 'slow thinking' behaviours that are deliberate, effortful, rational, self-aware, logical, and seeking of new thinking. By adding in smart contracts, we can even begin to imagine a whole new sort of incentive structures, eventually perhaps being able to target a decentralized peer review system that rivals major academic journals.

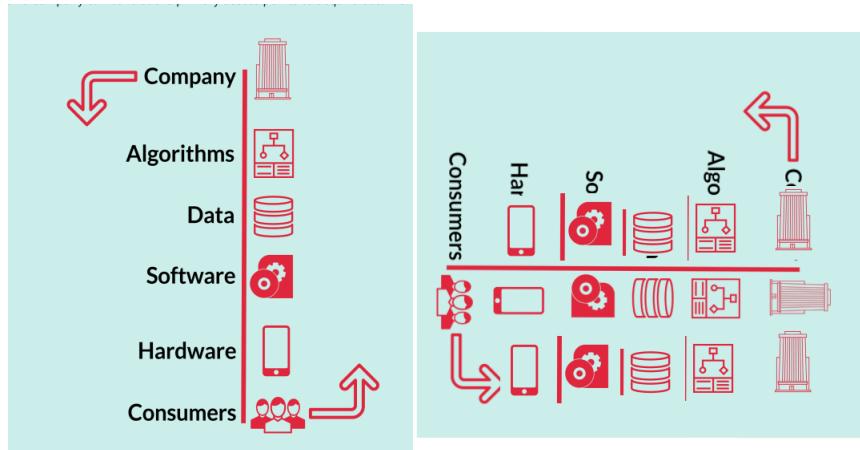


Figure 1: Vertical vs Horizontal integration. A user is either confined to a single tech stack, or can have a choice in a free market which parts of the tech stack he wants slotted in

That isn't to say that decentralized social networks will be without moderation. One key difference from centralized systems is that the responsibility of hosting content now falls on the individual, not the company in control of a monolithic server. If that server can be written too by an unknown third party, there are many combinations of bits that can be injected that makes legal ownership of that database impossible to host. The filtering of illegal content than, is a security problem just as its an ethics problem. The key benefit from a decentralized social media over the centralized ones is the break down of the vertical integration that occurred on these systems. If one is unhappy with the moderation a major platform, there really is no where else to go that keeps your connections and maintains your reach, a form of monopoly all of its own. Decentralized social media opens the door to horizontal integration, if one doesn't like the moderation service, just swap out the moderation service component, if one doesn't like the platform, all connection data is in a global meshnet so

you can transition from facebook to something else while keeping your network. If one doesn't like the material being manifested they can change the incentive structure. Every piece in the centralized tower now becomes exposed to competition in the free market, and can be made much more composable. So, to answer your question, I envision many moderation services competing for usage on many different social medias, all connected under a meshnet, giving a lot more choice to users on the content they see, and the content they feel impassioned to produce

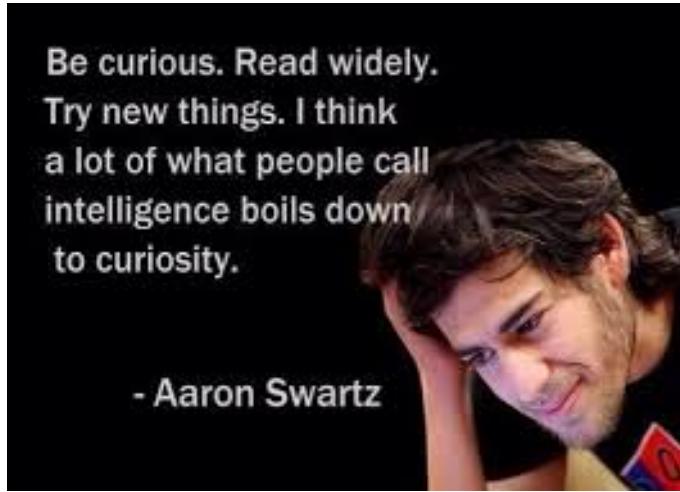
1.2 Can you tell us more about your future plans?



From a young age I was deeply impacted and inspired by technologies like Limewire and BitTorrent. The many seeders to many leechers information model, as opposed to one seeder, many leechers that makes Web2 did not just make more technological sense to me, but it was a creed. A creed for open access to information, a creed towards the commitment to both consumption and production of knowledge, A creed towards the ultimate futility and illogicality of copyright and proprietary bitstrings. The difference of HTTP and BitTorrent to me, is as stark as Big Brother vs Athenian Democracy. Projects like Guerrilla Open Access Manifesto by Aaron Swartz is what inspires me to create technology that can fund sci-hub, buyout academic journals, and create a decentralized peer review system.

At the heart of what I'm doing is hunting for a decentralized social media, finding the individuals who have an appetite for it, focalizing around communities looking at the technological and social hurdles to its implementation, and manifesting a network to create online social spaces that are more conducive to the culturing of individuals of outstanding character. I am looking to build a school of Athens for those who grew up on Tik-tok, a Library of Alexandria for intellectuals concerned with the foundations of knowledge that can't get funding by traditional means, and a Senate of the Roman Republic for individuals to debate and hone their rhetoric. By previous generations was the lapis quadratis beheld onto only the select and most astute philosopher, it is my dream to lay a cornerstone by which an environment is beheld to create it together.

In the near future I intend to keep writing an IPFS pubsub EIP-712 signature chaining system, regearing my socials towards the pure vision, drawing up a



**Be curious. Read widely.
Try new things. I think
a lot of what people call
intelligence boils down
to curiosity.**

- Aaron Swartz

real white paper and deploying an official site. After which I will be hunting for new focal points, perhaps in unexpected places, with a keen interest in the potentiality of heterogenous L2 networks like the Flow blockchain for the lite versions a decentralized social media.

2 Developer Update: Moving on from CAW and Moving into a Pure Vision

CAW was an interesting experiment and perhaps an idea even its manifesto creators failed to truly appreciate, but unfortunately the dynamics of having to float an ERC-20 before any earnest development on their manifesto has really begun created an environment which made it difficult to community dev. Simply asking questions in that chat that could even slightly be taken as doubt in the community was met with apprehension by those focusing on hourly candles instead of the manifesto. This lead to claims that an internal development team was building in stealth towards the target, I never met the devs, and the githubs were cold so i could not attest to their contributions, but this made it too difficult for someone on the outside to get feedback on the admittedly vague technology spec defined in the manifesto, and thus build effectively towards the target. Perhaps the right way to play it was beast raven, simply deploying the code myself and attempting to wield in users on the implementation of CawUsernames.sol I created instead of waiting on an anonymous dev that was inactive for 2 weeks, but i was there to learn about the team, and to work with them, c'est la vie.

I did however scavenge an incredible amount of feedback and network connections that hopefully carry through onto a true vision of decentralized social media, and am thankful for their support and interactions throughout this journey, I hope we cross paths again. But now, equipped with a much clearer idea

of what is to be built, and a good barometer for community sentiment towards organization and decentralization, I will be able to procure an even better decentralized social media in the months ahead. Still expect to see this technology, just produced and shown with a "dont talk, just act, dont say, just show, dont promise, just prove" mentality, no trying to front run beliefs of a technology stack by hoisting an ERC20 before one knows if their tech is even viable.

3 Conclusion

Never an uneventful week in crypto, after prototyping an omni-account signature chain system I sought guidance from the community on how to move forward as the other claimed developers were not community developing, but privately developing, but these attempts at facilitating consensus were not met well by the inner circle of CAW who seemed more concerned about hourly candles than a robust implementation of their manifesto. So in light I have left the CAW project to pursue a pure vision of a decentralized social media. Hopefully by this QA that individuals are inspired and feel a call to action to join us in this journey together, just without the perverse incentive of token go up and when lambo (until the time comes, of course ;))