Sora: The Community-Embedded Token

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Abstract

Richard Stallman, the creator of GNU inspired the first movement of the free software movement that ultimately led to the creation of the Linux Foundation—the first non-profit organization that brought the open-source software community together to revolutionize what community-embedded software can bring to our society. Although cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology underlines much of the concept of open-source, transparency and decentralization, the communities within cryptocurrencies are often jaded by the financial benefits behind each token rather than the underlying value of the technology. We propose the "Sora" token as an attempt to rehabilitate the notion of *open-source software* through various techniques of community-embodiment.

The Free Software Movement & the Creation of GNU:

"I could have made money this way, and perhaps amused myself writing code. But I knew that at the end of my career, I would look back on years of building walls to divide people, and feel I had spent my life making the world a worse place." [1] Richard Stallman

In 1983, Richard Stallman released the GNU Project along with the Free Software Movement. [2] It was an attempt to disrupt the world of capitalism and the software industry that was highly monopolized by tech giants. His initial motive was clear: software brings value to society and therefore it should be free, open, and accessible to all—and not commercialized. This led to the idea that software and its innovations could potentially be distributed, open and more importantly shared.

The GNU project along with the Free Software Movement brought communities, software users and developers to see the possibility that software can be freely used, built and shared without the control of a centralized organization. This sparked the beginning of a long journey for the age of open-source software. The GNU projects eventually led to the founding of the Linux Foundation led by Linus Torvalds, the founding of the tech giant Red Hat which sold Linux and Unix software accessories, and the birth of The Hyperledger Project led by Brian Behlendorf.

Decentralized Technology with Centralized Governances

The rise of Bitcoin was an unforeseeable event that magically made thousands of early Bitcoin holders worth well over billions in less than a decade's time. The underlying technology, the blockchain, proved promising for the use case of the Bitcoin protocol and led to the creation of a thousand more blockchain projects within 5 years. In 2010, the creator of the Bitcoin protocol, Satoshi Nakamoto, disappeared and Bitcoin forever remained in the hands of the community. [3] Even today, Bitcoin remains to be a prime example of a decentralized technology governed by its community.

With all the features Bitcoin has to offer, undoubtedly its value or "price tag" element is what makes Bitcoin attractive today—so attractive that the

rise of Bitcoin politics frenzied over forums and communities.

On August 1, 2017, the Bitcoin scalability debate led to the first fork in the Bitcoin blockchain. [4] A new philosophy was born, a new community was formed and a new government was installed. This is an example of how the blockchain industry has evolved over time—an industry with decentralized technology that is driven by centralized power, returns, and governance.

Community Rehabilitation via Sora Token

Sora brings tremendous network effect to any project that attempts to rally a community. Although Bitcoin and other open-source blockchains promise transparency and community openness, the ideology is often centralized and only open to those who share the same value and philosophy.

Sora is the brainchild of the team at Sora Foundation, which composes of leaders and entrepreneurs in the blockchain industry. The mission of the Sora Foundation is to rehabilitate the notion of community embodiment through networks and connections that the Sora ecosystem is built upon. The Sora token acts as the medium of exchange for services and products in the ecosystem, where there is nothing underpinning its value which is tied to the prospect of membership in the community. That said, Sora is a

community embedded token that may be circulated as more blockchain projects, entrepreneurs and community leaders contribute their shares to the Sora Platform.

The Sora community will remain open to all other blockchain projects regardless of their protocol choice. There are no centralized ideologies within the tokens rather a share of every ideology.

The Sora Platform

The Sora Platform consists of three objectives: an industry data terminal that targets communities interested in blockchain investments; an exchange that serves the dapps and blockchain projects within the Sora ecosystem; and a membership that serves as the ticket to exclusive events.

The Sora Terminal

As more decentralized applications are introduced into the industry, there is a surplus of information that makes it difficult for retail investors to evaluate if the data are accurate or not. The Sora Terminal will work with several industry partners to create an easy-to-understand evaluation of the top blockchain projects in the blockchain ecosystem. It will give an internal rating evaluated by the partners and community leaders in the blockchain space to serve as a standard for Sora's

community. In addition, dapps and blockchain projects within the Sora ecosystem will be able to work with the platform to provide information on their progress in areas of technology development, business relations, and community development. These measures will be consistent with the data terminal to provide transparency on their purchasers and community. Finally, the terminal will serve as a research platform for professionals who wish to learn and evaluate the trends in the industry. This is intended to target users outside the blockchain community and serves as an entry platform for learning how to evaluate risks and returns. The platform will serve communities in various parts of Asia in addition to being the standard for evaluating blockchain projects.

The Sora Exchange Alliance

Sora will serve as a standard medium of exchange token, which allows Sora tokens to be exchanged with the Sora Platform for any dapp tokens introduced to the community. It will act as an alliance for all exchanges within the Sora ecosystem, providing discounts for transactional fees, loyalty points and other forms of rewards that strengthen the alliance.

The exchange alliance will also serve as a platform for dapps to leverage resources from other blockchain communities. Additionally, they can contribute to other blockchain

communities via the Sora Platform through various marketing strategies and promotions to spread their mission and values. All of the exchanges within the alliance will be able to vote on the listing of blockchain projects within the Sora ecosystem. Information from the terminal will be shared to further evaluate the qualities of blockchain projects. This will provide a more transparent, standardized and comprehensive method for attracting the best entrepreneurs to the Sora Exchange Alliance.

The Sora Network

The Sora Network serves as a bridge for the non-blockchain community entering the industry. It will promote and educate the use and value behind blockchain technology through conferences, meet-ups, exclusive events, and other forms of promotions to connect non-blockchain leaders and entrepreneurs with the dapps in the Sora ecosystem. The Sora token will remain as the primary medium of exchange for accessing these events or through the "proof of community" where community members would have to have over a certain amount of Sora to access exclusive events.

The Sora Network will bring in top entrepreneurs and businessmen into the network in order to connect with dapps to further solidify blockchain use cases in the business world. The network would be open access to the

community through the Sora Platform, whereby members would have to pay a fee in order to access the industry leaders they wish to connect.

Distributed Community as One

The blockchain community started with the Bitcoin community. As more blockchains were created, new communities were formed and the entire ecosystem became distributed across different regions of the world. The difference in geography make it difficult for communities to connect or collaborate as the culture, language and business strategies are different. Sora is an attempt to act as a bridge between blockchain communities, traditional business leaders, and blockchain projects so that they can come together as one community to further develop the use-cases of blockchain technology. The goal is to break down as many walls along the way and to encourage partnerships, collaboration, ideas through different communities, and to ultimately enhance the opportunities that Sora holds for the open-source community.

References

[1] Dibona, Chris, et al. *Open sources: voices from the open source revolution.* OReilly, 1999.

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[3] "Satoshi Nakamoto." Satoshi Nakamoto - Bitcoin Wiki, en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Satoshi_Nakamoto.

[4] "The Bitcoin Cash Fork Was a Dangerous Trick." Fortune, fortune.com/2017/08/07/bitcoin-cash-bch-hard-fork-blockchain-usd-coinbase/.