A call for an end to tribalism in Ethereum

Bob Summerwill
Sweetbridge | Varro Technologies

Vitalik "No I'm not giving away E... ✔
@VitalikButerin

The earliest emails from @gavofyork reaching out to me in Dec 2013. Thanks a lot for Gav's crucial contributions to ethereum!

w Wood sent you a message on about.me

essage

javwood.com <i@gavwood.com>   Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 11:!
ly-To: i@gavwood.com
vbuterin@gmail.com

me

Hi **Vitalik**!
View Dashboard

Gav Wood sent you a message

"" Johnny gave me the heads up - I can do C++ (e.g. github/gavofyork). How far are you with ethereum?

REPLY TO GAV

This email was sent to you by about.me/gavwood, and is not an official communication from about.me.

Cheers,
The about.me team

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10:35 PM - 9 Aug 2017

Ethereum launched at BTCMiami 2014 (February)

First schism - Charles Hoskinson = Emmanuel Goldstein

Second (lesser) schisms - Joe and Anthony - summer 2015
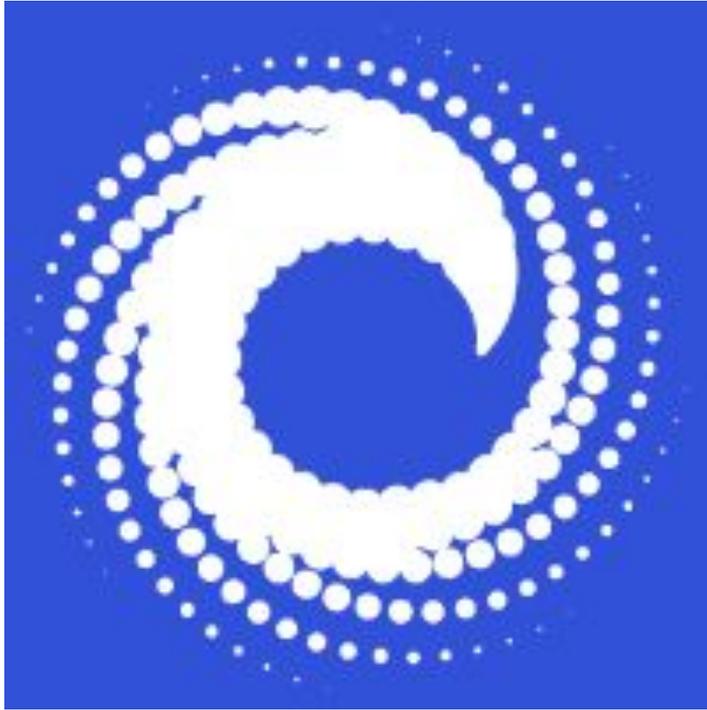
Third schism - Gav leaves EF (Geth vs Parity tensions) - late 2015

Fourth schism - Hyperledger and the EEA (mid 2016, early 2017)

So we end up with at least six "factions" and stereotypes

- Ethereum Foundation (Vitalik)
  - Dictator, bailed out the DAO
- Cardano and Mantis, IOHK (Charles)
  - Emmanuel Goldstein
- ConsenSys (Joe)
  - Empire builder, only cares about money
- Parity and Web3 Foundation (Gav)
  - Egotistical and non-collaborative
- Decentral (Anthony)
  - Opportunist, only cares about money
- Hyperledger and Enterprise Ethereum Alliance (Joe, Bob, Amber, others)
  - Trying to co-opt Ethereum for the banks and status quo

Under our tent, we have people who could be labelled:

- Autistic

- Sociopathic

- Egotistical

- Chronic social anxiety

- Severe depressive

- Suicidal

- Greedy

- Selfish

But on the upside:

- Autistic

- Genius

- Altruistic

- Visionary

- Selfless

- Fearless

And here's Bob's truth:

- Diversity is strength
- Everybody has a mixture of "good" and "bad" traits
- We are all misfits in some way or another (myself included)
- Neurotypical people would never have embarked on this project
- The Founders were just a bunch of dudes, trying their best
- To do something which was a complete moon shot.
- Many with poor interpersonal skills
- Stomped all over each other and didn't know how to say sorry
- But here's the thing - it has succeeded beyond any realistic expectation
- And we have no need to hate each other.

Ethereum Everywhere

JULY 12, 2016 / BOBSUMMERWILL / EDIT

"The Ethereum Foundation's mission is to promote and support research, development and education to bring decentralized protocols and tools to the world that empower developers to produce next generation decentralized applications (dapps), and together build a more globally accessible, more free and more trustworthy Internet."
From https://ethereum.org/foundation

Hyperledger Project reflects on blockchain politics

■ Hyperledger's Brian Behlendorf discusses abortive attempt to relicense the C++ Ethereum client to the Apache 2.0 licence.

By Ian Allison

Updated January 31, 2017 10:05 GMT

Ethcore blocked cpp-ethereum permissive relicensing reddit.com

24

Submitted 1 year ago by bobsummerwill Sweetbridge - Bob Summerwill

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[–] **bobsummerwill** Sweetbridge - Bob Summerwill [S] **5 points** 1 year ago

For anybody reading ... http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/hyperledger-project-reflects-blockchain-politics-1603381 ... and coming away from the experience confused as to what happened there.

It was Ethcore who blocked the relicensing.

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[–] **HodlDwon** **11 points** 1 year ago

I don't know how to feel about this. I can totally see Gavin being a bit of a pompous prick some times, but I can also clearly tell he has convictions and thinks ahead a few steps of the average person. He doesn't talk often here or really anywhere two-sided, preferring to blog I think instead of engaging in a debate. That's neither good nor bad, but perhaps dissapointing for many of us more vocal types... but at the end of the day, Parity delivers.

It's been shown to be a very efficient client and Gav really did a shit ton of heavy lifting in the early days of the EF writing the CPP client. I can't really blame him for having second thougthoughts about what is >75% (more? less?) his code being wrapped up and close sourced for the likes of IBM. Do recall IBM was awfully quite about their "Adept" platform being based on one of Ethereum's PoCs. I was actually the one that called it out in an anon comment of the article. The comment got picked up in the next article by someone else (it was coindesk / cryptocoinnews, can't remember who was first).

[-] bobsummerwill `Sweetbridge - Bob Summerwill` **[S] 3 points** 1 year ago

Saying up-front "I believe that GPLv3 is best for the community" would have been fine with me. That is not what happened.

Our multiple implementations, I think, are the best defense we have against co-opting. That, and the public chain. Compatibility with that public-chain is the test which cannot be cheated.

If corporations want to produce incompatible blockchain technologies for their own reasons, they will do so. Indeed, that is what is happening with Hyperledger Fabric. I would personally prefer those companies to be building on Ethereum - and many are.

The situation with Adept was more to do with internal IBM politics than anything specific to Ethereum, from what I understand.

Anyway - Enterprise Ethereum is coming our way soon enough, and I think that we are going to see some heavy-lifting from those resource-rich companies. Building a new client is unlikely to be a priority, though, IMHO.

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[-] shakedog 1 point 1 year ago

"Our multiple implementations, I think, are the best defense we have against co-opting. That, and the public chain. Compatibility with that public-chain is the test which cannot be cheated."

"Anyway - Enterprise Ethereum is coming our way soon enough, and I think that we are going to see some heavy-lifting from those resource-rich companies."

This is very insightful. Kudos to Evan Van Ness. His Ethereum email newsletter ensured I didn't miss this comment.

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On 31st October 2016 I stood on Granville Island bridge in Vancouver around 11pm, ready to throw myself to my own death, I felt so helpless and powerless. I had seen what I thought was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Ethereum to be the basis for all enterprise blockchain.

If we had just completed the relicensing paperwork there was an army of IBM engineers ready to jump into action and bring that codebase up to the standard which it so desperately needed to reach. We could have bridged Ethereum Foundation and Linux Foundation.

All with no risk to control of the public protocol, which was completely outside of any possibilities which relicensing of a specific codebase would have opened up. We were a hairsbreadth from glory. We just needed @gavofyork and @mkotew to sign and it was in the bag.

That was a hammer blow to me. I had been working 60+ hour weeks for months and months to help build this amazing dream. I was being paid the equivalent of $60K with no vacation, no benefits. No nothing. I had actually got myself and my family into financial trouble doing so.

I had spent 5 months working on the most dreary, thankless paperwork during that process. Why? Because the upside would have been world-changing, and (at the time) looked like a one-time opportunity.

My perception was that the answer had been "no" for selfish reasons. That bad old Gav saw that a revitalized cpp-ethereum with the resourcing of the Linux Foundation and hundreds of companies behind it would have been a huge commercial challenge to his Parity business.

And so that he selfishly "killed his first child to protect the second child". The utter selfishness of that perceived situation in my mind, together with my perilous financial situation, together with my perception of permanent missed opportunity to Ethereum was crushing.

Combine that with my financial pain, and the perception that I had failed my family and especially my wife in chasing this Ethereum dream which had turned into a nightmare. Was it all a delusion that this Ethereum dream could happen? It felt that way.

I felt a complete failure, and that my boys would be better off with me dead than continuing to screw up again and again in a way which damaged my family and spiralled me into depression. Well, I didn't do it. And I am so glad that I didn't.

And in Cancun at DEVCON3 I got to spend some time with some of the Parity developers and even a few minutes with Gav himself for the first time ever IRL. And it was lovely.

Over time I have come to realize that their actions in 2016 came out of fear that the beautiful Ethereum dream would be derailed and corrupted, and that they had to defend it, even with the collateral damage that caused. I understand that now. I really do, and I hold no ill will.

Last week I went to Miami and I gave @derose a big hug, kissed him on both cheeks and gave him a gift of a big bottle of maple syrup. And we did a podcast and it was lovely. Because EVERYONE in this blockchain ecosystem has way more in common that they have differences.

All we have to do is to open our hearts and to truly listen to others. If I can do that with Chris de Rose then I can most certainly do that with Gav and with Charles and with anybody at all in Ethereum and within blockchain as a whole.

So on February 5/6 I am going to Berlin. And I am going to give Gav, that beautiful, wonderful man who has been so instrumental to building this Ethereum dream a big hug, and I am going to kiss him on both cheeks. And I am going to give him a big bottle of maple syrup.

Because there is no more room in this space for hate, for distrust, for shit-talking and for judging people badly who we have not spent quality face-to-face time with. I will smoke the peace-pipe and I will revel in doing so. Because I love @ParityTech and I love @gavofyork.

They have done amazing work for humanity. All free of change. Often under heavy criticism which is so unjustified. And THEY have changed the world for the better. Love not hate.

Ethereum is just the start

- The same behaviours have happened time and again across blockchain
- There is repeated tribalism across projects
- "Your project is a scam"
- "You are idiots"
- "This is an ATTACK"
- We seem to have forgotten how science works
- In a quest to build a perfect machine we have forgotten to be human.
- We need to show leadership within Ethereum
- And then we can extend that pattern across the whole ecosystem
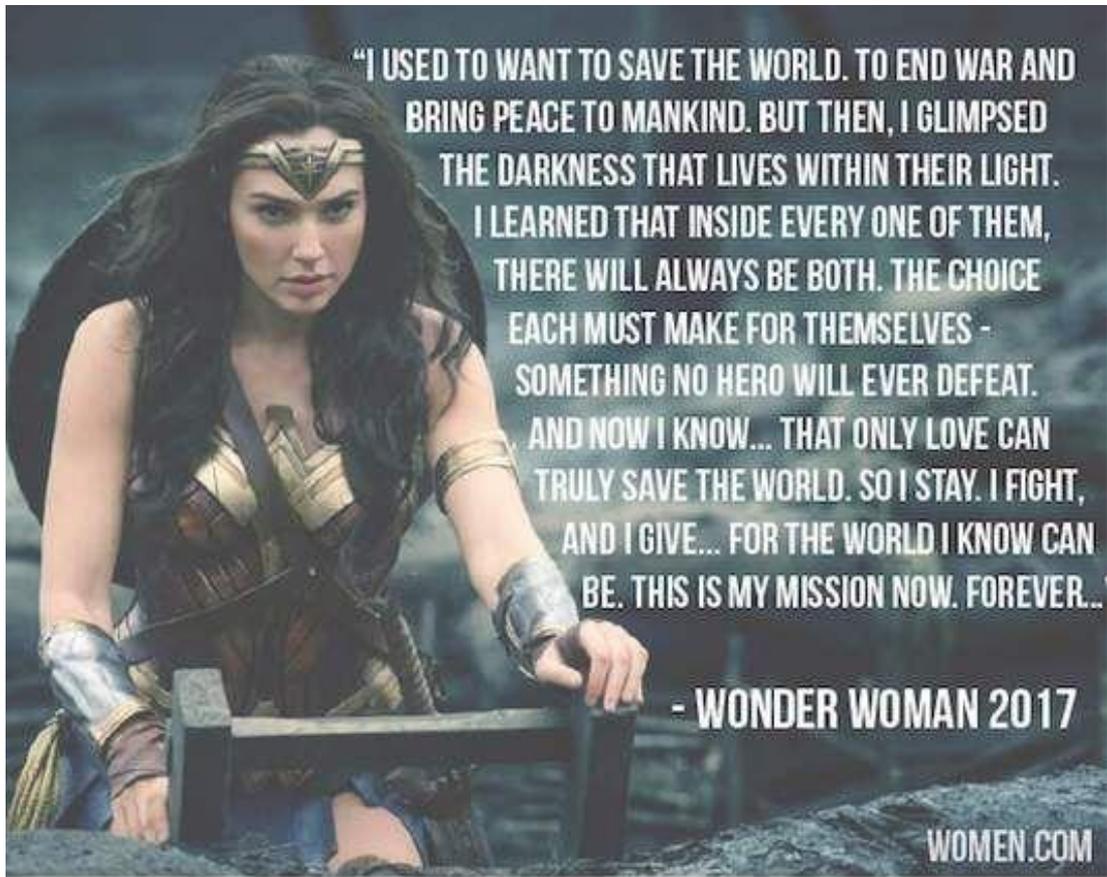
"I USED TO WANT TO SAVE THE WORLD. TO END WAR AND BRING PEACE TO MANKIND. BUT THEN, I GLIMPSED THE DARKNESS THAT LIVES WITHIN THEIR LIGHT. I LEARNED THAT INSIDE EVERY ONE OF THEM, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BOTH. THE CHOICE EACH MUST MAKE FOR THEMSELVES - SOMETHING NO HERO WILL EVER DEFEAT. AND NOW I KNOW... THAT ONLY LOVE CAN TRULY SAVE THE WORLD. SO I STAY. I FIGHT, AND I GIVE... FOR THE WORLD I KNOW CAN BE. THIS IS MY MISSION NOW. FOREVER..."

- WONDER WOMAN 2017

WOMEN.COM

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GANDHI

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