Web3 and Internet Policy
SXSW 2022 Panel Proposal
Web3 Is Here

The decentralized Internet is here and it is growing

Staggering growth of decentralized apps & services over a decade

- Decentralized
- Verifiable
- Trusted & Secured
- Incentivized
Decentralization

- Decentralization is the natural state of the Internet
- Mainframes to TCP/IP
- AOL/Prodigy to WWW
- Walled gardens fall
- Web 2.0 is centralized and concentrated

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Mike Brock
@brockm

Replying to @brockm

I also believe that technology has always been a story of decentralization. From the printing press, to the internet to bitcoin -- technology has the power to distribute power to the masses and unleash human potential for good, and I'm convinced this is the next step.

6:08 PM · Jul 15, 2021 · Twitter Web App

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Web 2.0 & Internet Policy

**Government**
Lawmakers take issue with the concentration of data and centralization of Web 2.0

Internet regulation from federal, state, and international bodies accelerates

Privacy, security, content moderation, etc

**Civil Society & Academia**
Researchers detail the harms associated with concentration and centralization of Web 2.0

Civil society groups urge industry and regulators to create a more human-centric Internet
"Decentralization will push the power and decision making out to the ends of the network, rather than keeping it centralized among a small group of very powerful companies."

[Web3] "could help usher in a series of new business models that don’t focus exclusively on monetizing user data."

Mike Masnick, TechDirt
Reorient Lawmakers' Focus

Web 2.0 Regulation Will Impact Web3

- In recent years, lawmakers have focused on regulating Web 2.0 services and companies
- Such regulation will inevitably impact Web3, the development of which has potential to ameliorate the problems with the centralized Internet
- Lawmakers and civil society groups need to reorient their perspective to account for the potential of Web3
- Lawmakers must recognize that Web3 is so much more than cryptocurrencies and financial regulation
- Returning to an Internet of open protocols will empower consumers and policymakers alike
Conclusion

Done right, Web3 applications and services can enhance consumer privacy and security, diffuse toxic media, foster competition, and help preserve the world's information.

That will only happen if policymakers, civil society groups and Internet stakeholders open themselves to the potential for Web3 and work together for a better Internet.
Thank You

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