The On-Chain Press Foundation

2023 Litepaper
Prepared by The OCP Foundation
www.onchainpress.io

ELEVATOR PITCH

The On-Chain Press Foundation advocates for the return of honest journalism and news reporting by leveraging blockchain networks for information accountability and integrity.

What is OCP to a contributor?
A platform to sell your journalistic work directly to participating publishers using blockchain.

What is OCP to a publisher?
An information marketplace to source and lease work from citizen journalists.

What is OCP to a reader?
An accessible news aggregator where anyone can read a curated collection of honest news that is authenticated using blockchain technology.

ABSTRACT

The On-Chain Press Foundation is a for-benefit non-profit advocating for a new standard of journalism on blockchain. We are building a public utility smart contract (OCP) for news media and journalism where all contents are hosted on decentralized publicly accessible servers and recorded permanently into blockchain networks. Contents are stored as ERC-1155 Non-Fungible Tokens which can be leased and distributed by news publications of any size. This standard functions as a proof-of-source certificate that verifies the authenticity and data trail of published information for easy tracking and comparison of contents with previous and future public materials, applying to text, audio, and video in order to prevent fraud and mis- or disinformation. The wide adoption of this tool will create a new technology standard for journalism and reporting. For the trust of the public, everyone will want to be On-Chain Press.

THESIS

The aspect of accountability is something that is sorely needed in the modern digital age, considering the ease with which media can be manipulated to create false narratives, including audio and video that is doctored to make it appear as if individuals do or say things that they in fact did not. With the rapidly advancing pace of tech and manipulation capability even in real-time, a cryptographic certificate of authenticity for media should serve as verification of a source document. A proof of original, in a sense. Blockchain technology allows for a (theoretically) permanent code and record unless under very specific conditions, and can easily work as a peer-reviewed and verified system of media confirmation. All users on the network will essentially act as validators, fact-checkers, and monitors of the network to prevent content fraud, manipulation, abuse, and "fake news."

With the power and ability of this tool, OCP will be used for overall social accountability and will be great benefit to citizens of oppressive regimes, those whom are under- or mis-represented, and potentially all people who rely on accurate, accountable, and objective information. Over time the OCP Foundation will act as an aggregator and curated repository for journalism and reporting, with a permanent sharable and traceable on-chain address for each piece of reporting.

CONTENT RULES

Upon the first time connecting a wallet, user must agree to terms of service which includes an Oath of Objectivity and abide by a code of ethics.

All content submitted to OCP should be as objective as possible. Photos, videos, and audio content cannot be edited, composited, or retouched in any way that changes the meaning of the events portrayed or words stated in alignment with the National Press Photographers Association: Code of Ethics. Written news articles on-chain will carry an ability for corrections and will be noted in the article complete with updated ERC-1155 metadata or an additional NFT related to the correction linked to the original token.

OCP administrators reserve all rights to remove or append disclaimers to content deemed harmful, blatantly dishonest, or misleading. Violating wallets will be blacklisted from the contract and any additional features or platforms provided through contract access, and their violating content will be excised and the tokens burned.

Ideally the only moderation will be to ensure the limited accessibility of a subject's private information that is not related to the story such as personal contact info, and to filter content with excessive explicit content such as non-newsworthy violence or pornography.

PRICING

Through the inherent function of non-fungible tokens, creators retain rights and provenance of their own data and content. The cost of contributing content using the original OCP contract will simply be the current price of gas + 10% of the gas cost. When content is leased from the contract, the contributor receives 95% of the cost. These small percentages from the contributing and leasing transactions are sent to the Foundation treasury in order to fund advocacy for the OCP standard and to sponsor the journalism of the future in the form of on-the-ground reporting wherever stories may develop, including the purchasing of travel requirements, necessary equipment, and necessary expenses related to the creation of exceptional newsworthy content.

TECHNICALS

The OCP tool operates on the Avalanche blockchain with full cross-chain compatibility to all Ethereum Virtual Machine networks, enabling users to easily bridge contents to other networks as the standard grows and expands. The front-end GUI and website will enable easy contributing and leasing of content and will over time function as a feed and aggregator of articles and links mirroring published content.

The OCP tool itself is a publicly accessible smart contract accessible through the On-Chain Press website which allows anyone to connect their wallet, contribute content, and set their own prices for republication therefore creating a public marketplace for accurate information. The smart contract is open source and readily modifiable so that adopting newsrooms can adjust the tool for their own needs and purpose and to function efficiently within their existing publication pipeline. All iterations of the contract are aggregated by the Foundation to keep all parties accountable.

Content as NFT's are placed in decentralized storage with parallel backups and can be leased to users that wish to share or republish it, which will be traceable through the blockchain for content authentication. Payment for leasing content and the value is measured primarily with the AVAX token.

For content with multiple contributing authors, the 0xSplits platform will be used to ensure even distribution of proceeds. Contributors can modify the content and specifications of their respective NFTs for a set period of time to ensure the possibility of story updates, corrections, retractions, etc. Contributors will be able to modify only their own content. Once this time period ends, the token data is locked, and any further developments of the story depicted within the token will require the contribution of a new token.

Proof of Source in a public blockchain will provide verifiable point of origin for a specific piece of work. Source data will live on decentralized storage with parallel backups, be hashed and embedded into network block complete with any applicable metadata, with additional data pointing to original high-res or complete content. Ownership and authenticity will be publicly enforceable through transparency of minted network blocks and individuality of non-fungible tokens.

SOR TOKEN

Proprietary platform tokens SOR (Source) will be used to fundraise for the On-Chain Press Foundation administrators and treasury, and will be an option that users can utilize for leasing content on the network.

SOR are cross-chain ERC20 tokens compatible with any Ethereum Virtual Machine to give the broadest possible access and exposure for users. The total amount and initial value of SOR tokens is currently TBD, and will have a set amount.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Once the standard is firmly established the Foundation will launch a subscription service publication of aggregated exceptional content leased by the Foundation from contributors. The subscription model will function via a nested token distribution system, where a single token contains all featured content. The token self-immolates 31 / 91 / 183 / 365 days after mint. The Foundation will also release a public quarterly report outlining the progress and adoption of the OCP standard.

A browser extension which interacts with the OCP tool will also be built to scrape metadata of visited sites to detect if the content was published using the OCP standard. This extension will allow users to connect their wallet to upvote and downvote content to enable community curation of stand-out reporting. Contributed content can be tagged

with metadata for search functions, and users of the tool will be able to subscribe to tags or contributors directly through the Foundation website or extension. This extension will also give users access to a chat room to discuss the content that utilizes the OCP standard and participate in crowd sourced fact checking and moderation. With this in mind, the Foundation aims to let any sort of collective governance emerge naturally instead of being imposed from top-down.

The staked SOR token may be utilized in a profit sharing model for reporting sponsored by the Foundation.

By getting the public involved with the curation and distribution of real journalism, we allow the citizens of the world to become collective arbiters of truth and thus hold accountable the powers that be. The adoption process will begin with smaller publications and independent journalists, with the goal to return power to the people, and the new standard is applied.

DEV TEAM

Nathan Spotts, Founder and lead concept design
Josh [Prime] Kassabian, Lead blockchain developer and gentle motivator
Tina Baylocq, Operational lead and herder of cats
Josh [Motes] Smith, Community Manager and team-building glue
Christopher Fryant, UI/UX Designer and machine whisperer
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