



Whitepaper

Introduction

Context

As of 2022, there are 300 million cryptocurrency users, more than 18000 cryptos, and a \$2 trillion market cap. This is undoubtedly a success, but crypto has not become mainstream yet.

The large majority of payments are still processed in fiat currency, and cryptos are mainly used for speculation and investments. Some issues prevent them from being used more broadly.

At the same time, cryptocurrencies are not seen anymore as the currency for the dark web or illegal transactions. They have become acceptable forms of investments.

In Switzerland, payment tokens can be freely created and traded:

<https://thelawreviews.co.uk/title/the-virtual-currency-regulation-review/switzerland>

Issues with Cryptos

Security

There is a significant lack of security: hacks, password losses, and hard disk crashes are permanent, and transactions cannot be reversed. You need to make backups, but not too many, and you can not trust a third party with them.

Hardware wallets are inconvenient, and you need to keep the recovery seed safe.

This prevents non-technical people from using cryptos or forces them to trust their coins to a third party.

Governance

A decentralized crypto needs to include governance and voting mechanisms. Otherwise, it would never evolve, or it would be, in fact, centralized (like when a core team decides on features).

Even when including the voting in the software, there is the complicated question of the software upgrade. A vote could cause the system to malfunction in such a way that voting becomes impossible.

Therefore most of the time, the voting is a different system and not directly linked, and you are back to using a centralized system.

Scalability

The current transaction limit and related fees are, most of the time, insufficient for usability and limit the possibilities.

Ideal Cryptocurrency

A perfect cryptocurrency would have the following properties:

- Zero transaction fees
- High capacity
- High security against destruction or hacking (similar to online banking). Note that no blockchain crypto provides this, as it is currently impossible to prevent both key destruction, and key stealing without a trusted third party, or allow reversing transactions in a decentralized manner.
- Decentralized governance. Given the issues with the blocksize debate with Bitcoin, and other crypto centralization, it is crucial to provide a legitimate decision process similar to a DAO for any long-term coin
- Support microtransactions

Decen tries to implement all these features.

Critics of Web3

There have been a lot of critics about web3 in 2021/2022. At Decen and Associate, we often share these opinions.

Web3 and Blockchain are great for investment and value storage, but applying them to more advanced scenarios (like building a decentralized Uber or Airbnb) is not yet possible.

This comes from a variety of problems, like governance mechanisms, incentives, and usability issues.

We believe a trusted third-party approach has much more chance to enable the decentralized internet.

Founder

Christian Bodt is a software engineer and entrepreneur based in Luxembourg. He became an early bitcoin and blockchain enthusiast and has focused on creating solutions in the cryptocurrency space since 2014.

Christian Bodt created first the Associate platform and later Decen as a first use-case for the platform.

About Associate

Associate, is a platform that allows users to create organizations similar to DAOs without the use of blockchain technology. These organizations allow users to collaborate and self-govern in a fully decentralized manner without the complexities associated with blockchain.

It solves the problem of giving indirect control over resources to members of a project. Resources are things like funds (EUR/USD), domain names, IT servers, code repositories (Github), and file repositories (Dropbox).

It is the equivalent of “articles of incorporation” in the form of a centralized smart contract.

As it is centralized, you need to trust Associate, but Associate has no interest in interfering with project decisions. Its only interest is to create an environment where voting is well organized, and many projects can be created.

Decen

Decen is a cryptocurrency solving issues with classical blockchains while still enabling decentralized governance.

It is a simple limited quantity payment token that can be used on the website <https://www.decen.com> or using its API and will be traded on crypto exchanges.

Creating an account and using it is free for everyone.

The decen doesn't require a blockchain. The innovation is in its fully decentralized governance and use of the Associate.com platform.

Roles

Decen has three different roles: Users, Members, and Administrators. A User is any person that signed, a Member is someone that pays for a membership in the association, and an Administrator is someone elected by the Members.

Together, Users, Members, and Administrators are responsible for keeping Decen a safe environment that does not violate laws or morals. In case of issues not being able to be resolved by these actors, the company Associate.com AG is also finally responsible.

Users

Users agree to be honest, make a moral use of the platform, and to not violate any laws. A list of excluded activities can be found in the user terms and conditions:

<https://www.decen.com/terms-and-conditions>. In case of violation, their account might be locked by Administrators.

Members

Members are responsible for electing and removing administrators in such a way that these administrators keep the platform safe from excluded activities, have the required skills and do not violate any laws. They are also the ones that together finance the platform with membership fees.

Members may be excluded by a vote of other members if they do not behave responsibly in the interest of the platform.

Administrators

Administrators must implement Member decisions. In case of violation, or lack of performance members are responsible for replacing them.

Associate.com LTD

In case the decentralized organization is not able to resolve issues by itself, Associate.com LTD could decide to remove administrators, exclude members, or suspend the Decen Association until issues are resolved.

Governance

To become a member and receive a voting right in the project you need to pay a monthly fee of \$11.99 paid on Associate.

These funds are used to run the pay for server costs, development, and operations.

The members of Decen govern and control the future of the project and any protocol changes. Voting power is not determined by stake, but each member gets one vote.

Any 20% of members are able to submit a vote on protocol changes, changes of administrators, or any other decision.

Some Administrators have extra permissions to access the IT servers, reverse a transaction or allocate funds for the team.

Voting Decisions

Members may decide anything, but a few realistic examples are listed below:

- Add or replace an Administrator. This is very important as Administrators might be able to revert transactions, or block accounts.
- Change the protocol in some way
- Modify the KYC provider
- Modify the IT provider
- Change the official currency comma placement (1 DCN becoming 100 DNC): something that was never possible with bitcoin or other cryptos.

Statutes

Adding or Removing an Administrator is decided by a vote of more than 50% of members.

Administrators can revert individual transactions in cases of hacks. But members remain the final decision-makers. If they don't agree on any decision, they always have the voting power to remove an Administrator and replace him.

You can find the full governance rules at <https://www.associate.com/associations/decen/statutes>.

Changing the maximum supply requires a vote of 66% of Members.

Specificities

As decen is using the Associate.com platform, decen is accountable for the laws of Switzerland.

Decen will include AML and KYC to prevent money laundering and other illegal activities.

Transactions will also be reversible by admin decision after hacks, or security issues.

And anonymity can be removed in case of illegal activity, fraud, or legal ruling.

These differences have a lot of benefits, like preventing criminal activities and frauds and being less prone to hacks.

Technology

Decen is running on top of AWS with a MongoDB database and implemented in python. This is not a fixed decision and might evolve. But the centralized approach is simpler and more powerful for implementing advanced features and usability.

It is centralized, but the access to the servers, domain name, and GitHub is decided by a vote of the members.

Decen is not open-source for security reasons but might become available at a later stage.

Trust

Verifiability

Decen publishes a ledger with all accounts and balances, allowing each user to verify that their DCN coins are counted as part of the total supply and that the total supply is not greater than agreed.

Audits

Decen will be audited regularly by community members and professional companies to guarantee fairness in its process, accounting, and security.

Security

Decen has some security features that other crypto cannot provide:

- Transactions can be reversed by an admin decision after a hack or legal decision.
- Users can protect their account by 2FA, which will be mandatory for larger accounts.

Regular backups guarantee that it is always possible to go back to a previous state. Decen will provide blockchain-like exports of the accounting.

Trading & API.

The website decen.com will not provide trading functionality but only a wallet and will provide a backend API for other wallet providers.

It will implement OAuth2 API to interact with the wallet on exchanges.

Decen will be traded on multiple crypto exchanges.

Token Supply

The maximum supply is defined at 1000 000 000 DCN. This can evolve by a member vote of 66% of members.

Community: 75% (New Accounts, Referrals, and Members)

Reserved for Public Sale 10%

Reserved for Private Sale: 10%

Team: 5%

Roadmap

1. Completed
 - First version online (main and decen.com and test test.decen.com).
 - Referral feature
2. April App is available on IOS and Android
3. June 22 Private and Public Sale
4. September 22 Traded on two exchanges
5. Q1 2023 KYC and AML implemented
6. Q2 2023 Payment Modules for common shopping software.