

Participant 8 and TE Stakeholder Study (Cleaned)

Livia 3:21

So yeah, first, first question just on your story and individual profile. Just if you can share a little bit about your personal journey of how you got involved in your field of work.

participant 8 3:41

I I enjoy doing many things. Currently, I am mostly spending most of my time making art with NFT's and then also have a publishing company where we produce short science fiction stories and trying to support writers and storytellers with NFTs. Also trying to further my own skills and storytelling and writing but for a very long time, I was very much interested in how we use this. We use blockchain technology and crypto to forward the the goals of creators to make sure we can improve their ability to earn a living and that's very much what originally contributed to

recording in progress. That's what originally contributed to getting involved with,

you know, thinking about new ways to organize using crypto technology and that led to in 2016 to invent bonding curves. There was sort of a simultaneous invention with various people thinking about automated market makers, bonding curves, community organizing using these tools. And so my field of work has just really been about being a creator myself, and figuring out how to build tools that support creators with this new technology.

Livia 5:13

Thank you,

and on the invention of the bonding curve, it's it's lovely how everyone we interviewed so far has mentioned you as a seller talk to as a token engineer. And I think the the invention of bonding curve has been a major contribution to the field. can you share a little bit on what was the process of creating that?

participant 8 5:40

Yeah, I think it came from,

you know, originally this was back in 2013 and 2013, when \$name first launched. What was exciting about it for me was that this represented a currency that represented an idea rather than a technical improvement at the time, that wasn't yours and your hashing algorithm or something else. It was just like this is a copy technical copy, but it had a mimetic idea behind it. And from there, it made sense to me that this technology would then be able to be used to support a lot of different endeavors have different ways to organize around shared goals, you know, if that goal is a funny dog to token engineering on the other end, you know, and everything in between. And so from that point in 2013 of 2013 and started like actively getting involved in development in the space including then eventually participating early on in the ethereum community, helping to design the ERC 20 standard because it was all we needed to

make tokens, the thing that exists and I help co design the ERC 20 standard, I help support idea of tokens and tokenization. But through that process, it was the early days it was all very much like there's an entity or someone or some person or some organization that created a token and then try to figure out how to distributed amongst people. Either through ICOs or like contribute contributors were given these these tokens or some form of proof of work in different facets. were then used to distributed tokens. And then what I wanted to figure out is like, is there a way to sort of mimic the idea of proof of work, but the proof is essentially just a financial contribution, but in a way to distribute new tokens through a decentralized mechanism where there's no specific owner, but the owner. It's essentially a smart contract that issues issues new tokens. And so over time in 2016 I devized different, what I call them continuous token models, where token suppliers would inflate and shrink based on demand from like, coupons to various different designs and then eventually got to what I call the bonded curation community because the goal was to, for people to add some funds into it, get some tokens that that can be used in that community and so it was really a process of, of trying to get to a system which is independent of one institution being the primary issuer, but rather the smart contract that stands by itself, and it's merely the sort of mimetic shared goal or idea that it represents that would allow people to come participate and say, we have the shared goal. This is what it stands for. Let's Participate together and now you didn't need like a separate institution to issue these tokens. Thank you.

Livia 8:56

And where would you why would you define token engineering? I

participant 8 9:01

think, I think

it's it to me, it's still the discipline of taking the various philosophical, the various mathematical various economic

ideas and actually putting into practice.

To me that's what engineering represents. It's taking the the sort of metaphoric metaphysical and actually putting it to practice and then having it interact with the world and then analyzing, doing research and understanding about how these systems interact with the real world, among people, and so forth. So, token engineering to me, represents the continuation of the analysis, research and understanding about how tokens and tokenization interacts with the real world.

Livia 9:56

Thank you.

Yeah. So we are also trying to understand what are the practices that involve the field and in its diversity, and can you share what what is your daily work routine? Like what are examples of tasks and rituals and processes that you handle?

participant 8 10:19

Um, currently, I mean, because I spent sort of a lot of the earlier days in

this industry being more at the, like, technical protocol level,

the standards level, and then also like early implementation level sort of execution. Once I that was sort of established, and applications were built and the infrastructure was good enough to support things I kind of like, for me, the goal was always as a creator to get that baseline there and then actually become the person that uses this baseline. So the day to day for me, now is a bit different than it was a few years ago. Now, I'm just really focused on using the technology that's available and trying to code as less and as little as possible. And just focusing on the product layer actually making things that people want to use, and then trying to not all new platforms, new protocols, and rather just focus on need to make something that people want they really appreciate. So, day to day I'm not doing that much thinking anymore about like, is this the right model or not? But, you know, that being said, you know, for the business that I have now, Untitled frontier. You know, I tried a new kind of business model with that, that has NFT's being issued in an open addition, but it's generated art in an open edition for like a four week campaign. And that just came from it being sort of trying to mimic what traditional merchandise was like. So you know, when something new is released, then you have merchandise available for people to buy. So we're just sort of yours in the store that's released, and yours NFTs is available in like four week campaign window after the new story is released. So that's like really the only kind of token engineering things I'm thinking about is like, how do I price these NFT's? I tried to make it as like, cheap as possible. Because it needed to mimic like a merchandising relationship to like, like how ways to reward loyalty. If people buy an NFT from each story, how do I reward them? So that's really the sort of day to day thinking around token engineering. It's just how do I maintain relationships with people that support the projects in the stories and continue to continue to have their support and also like figuring out the relationship between the money that comes in and how I support the production including me and the business and also the collaborators? The writers, the visual artists, the narrator's and so on? Yeah.

Livia 12:56

What would you say are two polar opposite projects that you have worked on like token engineering projects,

participant 8 13:03

like polar opposites, like

different types?

Livia 13:06

Maybe Yeah, but in the in the whole spectrum of token engineering, how you got involved, are involved with token engineering. Is there projects that you work on that you consider them token engineering projects, like the one you described now? But that are very different from one another?

participant 8 13:34

Yeah, it's kind of

interesting. It's an interesting question because I feel like ultimately, it's in service of supporting a community or some people you know, in some facet, you know what to think about? And you're on this side. It's like writers, storytellers. You know, but on the other side, it's something like I've with with \$name\$, and some of the stuff that I've done in Kenya on the ground with like community based currencies, you know, that seems like it's a polar opposite, but is it really it's really just about supporting, trying to support a community and building a local economy for people to support themselves and and each other.

But I would say that's like kind of like

I haven't been that actively involved in that space. But early on, I didn't participate in some discussions about these kinds of community based currents, which is just local, local currencies in parts of the world. That is, I would say, Once can say is sort of a polar opposite to you know, working with storytellers that's distributed globally. Because I work with storytellers that and collaborators come from different countries from Kenya to the US to Europe.

Wherever they are, yeah.

Livia 14:56

Yeah, I like that. The polar opposite question brought up a similarity that that you saw. So would you say that building community is somehow a part of token engineering? And what what is token engineering solving that other fields are not solving?

participant 8 15:15

Yeah, I think it's still

it's still ultimately about you know, I when, when I, when I think about this technology, and one of the reasons why it fascinates me still today, and has fascinated me in the past, is that there's this goal that I want from society as a whole is that where individual goals and desires is compatible and in alignment with group goals and group desires. So where the individuals need for something is not a cost of the group. So to me, it's like token engineering is about thinking, my individual

behavior that I feel

is positive for me, not necessarily be at cost of the benefit of the group. It shouldn't be exploiting the group. It shouldn't be a tragedy of the commons. Where my best choice for me myself is also the best choice for the people around your community. So I would say, you know, Token Engineering really, for me is about thinking about that. It's like, it's like how do we build sort of these pro social communities that benefits both the group and individuals involved in it?

Livia 16:29

Thank you. And maybe that that question is down the line, but I'll bring it up now around ethics because I think you're mentioning something around it. So what, what do you think is the role of ethics and token engineering?

participant 8 16:45

I think ethics is always important, I think sometimes as as technologists, and as engineers and mathematicians. I think we sometimes neglect the impact that technology can have. And so it's important to always consider the broader impacts that a technology can have in terms of its externalities, or even just, you know, disruption in itself, like, disruption can be positive, but it's still disruption in established norms and practices and relationships. It's like when we think about

why people

were against NFTS is because in part, it rewired our relationships in creation and publishing works. And sometimes there's just fear about how relationships will be rewired, even though, that struggle and stress comes out to something more positive at the end of it. So there's resistance to change just because my relationships will change. So I think ethics is ethics is always important and often neglected.

And I'm not sure

always what the right answer is and how to do it properly. But at least having a sense of self awareness that once technology is not politically neutral, it's not. It's not in its own vacuum, it will always have some kind of impact. And it could have an impact that you don't anticipate. And that's part of the process is just having at minimum a self awareness about the impact of the technology and and best is to continue to participate in discussions of

the impact. Yeah.

Livia 18:46

Do you have something that keeps you up at night? Like an ethical concern on token engineering?

participant 8 18:56

Yeah, I think I think I think about this a lot because I've participated a lot in building technology that allow new kinds of financial markets to function and my biggest concern, again, I think it's about markets. The negative side of market based technologies on markets in general, is that it replaces relationships with markets, right. So in the past where people got by using only their trust in each other, or their

local relationships,

it was now replaced by market and sometimes a market based relationship takes away the trust in the people around you. Like a good example that I always go back to in terms of economic research was this experiment where if you ask someone for help, we want to be good people. We want to help others around them around us. Generally. If you ask for help, people will be willing to help you but if you then go and say, I want you to help me, like clean up my garage, year is like \$5. Then people change the relationship with you to market based relationships and then they think that what it's worth only \$5 to help you just just don't do it. Like you're ruining this relationship by bringing in financial information to this exchange. Like, I want to help you to be a good person. Don't pay me \$5 To do this. Like that kind of thing I always think about it's like, is it net positive that we introduce markets into more things that don't necessarily need markets? So I think that's why there was also this pushback against NFT's it's like there's a large portion of culture that just thrived on there being no markets, right? The second look at this beautiful picture that I drew, but not just like, Oh, now I can actually solve this digital painting. I don't have to make a physical print of it. Now I am forced to reconcile my own relationship to my work and how this interacts with other people through the market, not through the previous relationships that I that we built. So I think that the thing I always think about is like, is like be trying to be careful about where we insert markets in relationships, and markets. Again, thinking about markets are good ways to get information out of the system. But it shouldn't be the only way we relate to other people.

So that keeps me up at night sometimes. Yeah. Thank you. Yeah, I

Livia 21:41

do think a lot about this negative effects on intrinsic motivation as well. Exactly. Yeah. How do you do you have thoughts on how to increase diversity and inclusivity within the field?

participant 8 21:59

Think it comes back to

that, that that sense of self awareness, it's just to understand that that like, a part of any technologies implementation requires literally just talking to more people. And that doesn't come from at the execution or implementation phase that comes from living a set of cultural values and principles of, you know, increasing diversity and inclusion in all facets of one's life. You know, it's not just to go and say, Hey, this is going to be better, better for my bottom line to increase diversity. It's like no to come way earlier than that, you know, it should be about the lived example. of who you are.

But in practice in practice,

that the reality for me is always like, I think, I think we have a sort of moral responsibility

to to increase diversity

and inclusion by taking more chances on more people, you know, that that's it some sometimes you can only hit up at a certain limit of trying to be quote unquote, objective about one's choices, but sometimes it just literally to say let's take more chances or more people.

And that's what we should do. Yeah.

It's also sometimes in it's kind of tangentially related it's like the problem sometimes with quote unquote, objectivity in one's decision making is that there's sometimes this imbalance where if you have a metric, one can say metric is objective, but sometimes the metric itself

can, can result in like, in like,

absorbing one's own decisions about making certain making certain choices. One could say, we didn't find this diverse candidate because the metric said it's not a good choice. So now I'm like cleaning my hands of my moral responsibility of increasing diversity inclusion, because now there's this proposal objective metric, right? But we also created that metric, right? So there's kind of this this thing where you sometimes have just to balance this sort of objectivity with like subject subjective pursuit of principles and values.

Livia 24:32

Thank you.

Yeah. Thanks for elaborating on that. I think that brings us to the challenges also on a lot of those aspects you're mentioning could be built into the design of an economy. What would you say are the challenges that you personally and also off the field but we can start personally, challenges you personally faced in token engineering?

participant 8 24:59

Just just generally? Yeah. Generally, personal challenges. I think something

that's always difficult in token engineering and I think broadly, the cryptocurrency space as well is that there's often an attempt to innovate at different levels. And that's then sometimes difficult to analyze, because you're sometimes innovating at the protocol level, or sometimes innovating at like the economic or token engineering. level. And then you're trying to innovate in implement implementation, right. So when something fails, is it because your website was awful and you didn't explain it properly? Or like it wasn't intuitive enough, did the wallets suck or whatever? Like was the implement the specific parameters that you chose? Like with the augmented bonding curve, all the different parameters that are available? Did we choose the wrong parameters, right, was that the reason that we fail, right is the protocol level things like oh, the gas fees were just too high and that's that that was that was not up to us, right? Is there other market conditions that cause people's interest to wane or not? What allow people to participate in sometimes one can be at the right place at the wrong time. And that, that's sometimes the personal challenge, especially earlier on when we were building new. The lot of the infrastructure is that we think back and a lot of the earliest stuff that was done is like, oh, did

it fail because we were just at the wrong time? Or did we fail because we actually just suck you know, sometimes the, the analysis is difficult, because you're innovating a different layers. And that's why with my current business, I'm like, I am focusing on innovating at one piece here. And that's just hopefully primarily just about getting people to enjoy good stories. If I can get that right then hopefully the rest have kind of fallen by more. So that's, that's what I would say. It's like the biggest personal challenge sometimes with these things is trying to understand where like, where you're seeing, we're failing, because even like a good example, like I started this business in 2021, right. 2021 was a great year for NFTs like people, some bought anything that just looked like an NFT. And then you could have said, Oh great, this model is working, right? People are participating. They're buying these tokens and supporting these writers. That's so great. And now in 2023, it's like, but a lot of people are not around anymore and supporting the same thing. So now you're considering when actually maybe if the model had nothing to do with this at all, right? This was not whether the model was good or not. It was just like the market conditions were different. And people actually didn't participate because they cared about what you're doing your story or whatever. It's just like speculation. And so there's a lot of these days thinking about how to evaluate implementation execution and what layer doesn't matter.

Livia 28:12

What do you see as the most pressing needs for the token engineering field to address maybe that being one of them on like better analysis?

participant 8 28:27

I think I think

something that that I think I would be interested in because with token engineering, as I said earlier, you know, I'm, I'm not participating as extensively as it did before. So one thing I'd be curious to know and get an understanding of, is what has been the success stories, right, what has been the sort of success stories that we can say, like these things succeeded, or at least sustains itself? And like, what are those success metrics? How are we defining that success? I think that was his question. I might have just forgotten exactly what they asked.

But yeah, yeah.

Livia 29:13

Yeah. So how to bring better stories.

participant 8 29:17

Yes, yes.

I, you know, because I think what token the token engineering community is doing well it's things like this, right. So it's like psycho studies, research, continuing analysis and understanding. There's a lot of process and improvement, on like this a lot of conversation, right? So it's just this this this is always this mixing of information and this cross pollination of ideas and implementations and so on.

And surfacing that positive

summaries of the conversations could be useful, but also again, just like what has been the success of all this cross politic, pollination and implementation has happened over the past few years. Like, is there sort of like a, you know, check point where we can say, let's take a look back where we are, what has happened and what is this achieved?

I think could be useful.

Livia 30:22

Can you expand on what areas of knowledge do you consider essential for the token engineering field? Because you're mentioning storytelling now that is something nobody else has has mentioned so far. So I'm curious on what what the others you think are important

participant 8 30:44

Yeah, I think that,

you know, storytelling comes hand in hand with like marketing and like understanding how to sell something I mean, that could always be an improvement in any domain or industry or whatever. But specifically

in token engineering, so can you just repeat the question

again?

Livia 31:13

What areas of knowledge do you consider essential for the practice?

participant 8 31:24

I think it's

I think it really comes down to like, the knowledge of like, like, where, where's this technology going to make the biggest impact? And that's sometimes knowledge. We sometimes build first and then we have this hammer and then we go around looking for nails right.

So like, ultimately at the end

of the day, it's like we're, we're engineering something for some positive goal that we have. But where does that slot in? And where does it fit in? Like, that's sometimes I feel like a missing link in terms of what good knowledge to bring to the token engineering community.

Livia 32:06

Do you have some examples of this? Yeah, I think it's just

participant 8 32:14

I think it's just generally I think, generally it's like the technology that's been built already and the token engineering community that exists and is such great

tools. But But have we tried it? Have we tried

doing this in a lot of different places, or potential places, right. So I don't know what that answer is. I'm also saying because it's what is sometimes lack is, is that it's a natural fit to apply token engineering to its own domain. You know, like the name,

but is there

other domains where this technology can actually work? Really well, but we haven't found that yet. And I think it comes back to the discussion on diversity and inclusion is like, Where can we take chances with this technology to learn from it? I think that's what's sometimes missing but I would also say that's generally the case with crypto in general. Right? It's a very

it's sometimes a very it's a economy in

in and of itself sometimes. These days, it's getting better at like infiltrating into existing relationships and networks, actually supporting people. But for a very long time. It was like its own thing. You know, if it been boom and bust, there was no systemic risk to the rest of the economy. You know, so I think that that's sometimes I think what could be meaningful is just

a better knowledge or better

or maybe it's more a case of a knowledge of knowing the right people, such that they can connect this technology with on the ground implementation. Yeah.

Nathalia Scherer 34:05

Thank you.

Livia 34:06

And now we'll move over to finances. I think also because it's such an emerging field. There's such confusion on what are the incentives to be a practitioner, token engineering. Can you speak a little bit

on that? In

the incentives that in rewards in terms of value and form that someone receives for participating in the field?

participant 8 34:37

As a practitioner, I mean the value it's kind of hard

for me to divorce it because like there is an inherent interest intrinsic motivation. On like, I've find systems interesting from urbanism and city design to the art world to the music industry, to publishing to smart contracts to tax law. What I find everything interesting because it's just one system. So for me, there's like there's a lot of intrinsic value and just about understanding ways to design better systems of organization. But as a, as a practitioner, it's like it's great that we have some of these systems set up such that we can actually just financially reward people with, you know, staff coming out of the name or other DAOs that are out there to reward practitioners, like actually physically allowing them to go actually buy food, not intrinsic motivations, not going to put food on the table. Yeah.

Livia 35:47

On that note, how do you think is the average salary of a token engineer? I

participant 8 35:54

have to be honest, actually, I have no idea. I have no idea. I think it can probably probably range quite wildly because if you're like, if you're a token engineer, hired by paradigm, you're probably gonna get paid very well. But if you're a volunteer that just wants to be part of community and participate and get funding from DAOs. Like it might be less, probably vary quite wildly, but actually don't know in practice,

what is the range?

Livia 36:27

Can you share a little bit on what is your understanding of the process of token engineering like whether what do you see as like from beginning to end what does it take?

participant 8 36:43

The process, it's sometimes a bit odd with my approach, but But I understand why this is necessary because it's primarily based on sort of more of an engineering discipline approach, but it's in token engineering as I understand the process. It's really about

first

undergoing a lot of modeling and understanding before you get to execution and implementation. You know, so you try to like what the name did like running different getting people to understand how different parameters will change outcomes in using CAD CAD and so on. So there's there's initially a sort of process around analysis and understanding the goals and the problems and potential stakeholders, and how this economy might function in practice, before we get to the implementation stage, and then once the implementation stage exists, it is the process of continuously learning and getting feedback and analysis back into it such you might have to change parameters

or having some,

some artifact come out of this process to learn for a future implementation. So this sort of process of analysis is important throughout the steps involved.

Thank you. Yeah,

Livia 38:10

thanks for articulating that. It's great for us to be gathering like some type of consolidation on what is the process because that feels unclear for many people still, and moving over to the future. I'm excited to ask you that as a sci fi writer, what do you wish for the future of the field and how do you see in three years from now let's see.

participant 8 38:42

I think I think

something that I've recently been thinking about more is understanding. And I don't know how to answer this question, but understanding how using this kind of way of organizing has benefited based on has been beneficial compared to traditional ways of organizing, like, is there a way to actually compare the success of like, say something like the name, versus if you had to replicate this using traditional models of finance and organization? Like, you know, what, how would this have worked if we didn't have the set of smart contracts and these automatic parameters, like, like, can we then say this was better right?

So in three years from now, because it's

still somewhat nascent. It's just, it's just like one of what have we gained, you know, what have we gained from this technology and the set of implementations and processes and can we say, by looking at it objectively as possible to say, did we make an impact that was positive, over the alternatives that are available. And I know a lot of us will say, Yes, we can say that maybe subjectively, that we're only here. We're only able to have this discussion because this stuff exists. But But can we put this into metrics or understanding such that we can show to the world like look like? This is the things that we did that allowed us to thrive and support people? I think the question also relates more about how cryptocurrencies for me fit in and like the three to five year timeline,

I think, I think

something I've also expressed to other people.

My I feel like I

had like a vision of where this technology was going to go quite early on. And then when it when I got to where I could see, it was like, great. I think I was directionally correct on a lot of things

and that made me happy to see and happy to help bring this future to fruition. But I feel like I've reached sort of the edge of it. And maybe it's just allow me to allow other people to imagine the future and I'll be there to support them. And, and in some sense, that's exciting in a different way, because now I get to be surprised. Sometimes I don't know what the future will look like. And where we're going from here, but I'm happy to be surprised. But at the end of the day, it's still really about like, like knowing and understanding that this technology can fit into various corners, niches of the world where existing systems will fail to produce

the shared goals that people have. Yeah.

Livia 41:55

That's lovely. Thank you then are there any specific developments or innovations that you would love to see? Like?

participant 8 42:06

Yes, actually do have one. I think, I think something that the entire space has kind of neglected and that I'm starting to pay attention to more which I think is as is very important that that needs to be surfaced more, is that over time as this technology has existed? It has built up history and provenance about how things had happened and we have this record of stuff that has happened and that needs to more and more over time become the primary sort of selling point of why this technology matters. Because kind of by necessity, necessity, it thrived based on a mix of speculation and market based incentives, where it's just like, this works because we have to incentivize people into believing these things will be valuable into the future,

through shared combination of

of inputs and resources and time that people have. But not if we built up this record and say, Look at this record that we have that is so unique and valuable, that doesn't exist in any other

system quite as good

as this. So in NFTs, it's a very straightforward but it's like are part of the value of art is that it has a record of provenance in the traditional art world. It's like a set of archives that come with the artwork, and sometimes that stuff get lost, sometimes it's damaged or what have you. But now we have this great record of provenance about people that participated. And do we have their signatures it's on-chain like that should become a primary part of the experience like provenance first experience versus a market first experience of this technology. I don't even know at all what it looks like in DAO in the context of DAOs, right? Like, what can we what can we surface about the history of an organization that allow people to understand the context and the value of these things by focusing on the provenance not Oh, what is the current price or like here's what is in the reserve. Right? What is what is our history telling us? And we're, and we're slowly but surely collecting more in this history. And it's time to go and say, the value of this technology also lies in its provenance, but we could only get here by first building up some history. So I feel like in the next five years, I want to see a lot more kind of projects that focus on

either like protocol first approach to provenance, or just the fact of going here's stuff that already happened. Like how do we show the stories behind these things? In a something simple, like? Something I'm considering doing is like just going and saying like here's my favorite NF T's like let's go look at the history of this thing. Let's actually go to the block floor and say, This was owned by this person at this time, and was then tried to solve for that thing, and then it was kind of in this lending protocol and came out like, here's the interesting provenance of this thing. The thing that you see is only the picture in open sea but damn, there's so much story here that's just not shown that you have to go like digging to go see. So something like that is just hey, let's give context. Let's show provenance more.

Livia 45:39

Thank you.

And as AI technology continues to advance, there's a potential for it to significantly impact the development and implementation of token engineering. Do you have thoughts on how you see it being used or even for what you spoke or ideas developments of how do you see that integrating?

participant 8 46:04

That's a very interesting question, I

think because sometimes the

the difficulty I have with with AI tools, especially in the objective domains, is that it is faulty right? It it bullshit a lot. It pretends to know what it's doing. But your your responsibility then as the person using this tool, is to verify if it's correct or not. And sometimes we are unable to understand what we should be verifying. Right? It's like great news. It's like

it's like having a

very confident liar who knows everything about the world. telling you everything and you have no idea how to verify if they're correct or not. Because I recently saw someone using the thread where they're going here's like spreadsheet, make some graphs from the spreadsheet. And then halfway through the thread, they're like, oh, yeah, academically tell some numbers are wrong here. So it's obviously if people if we're going to use this tool to say like, scaffold visualizations, and visually help for like analysis. We don't have tools to understand how in which ways it's more be like, lying to us or be incapable of actually making a, like legitimate objective calculation. It's like humans already faulty at this genuinely now. We're also using AI tools, which we can't even verify if it's faulty or not. So I think there will be a lot of value in building potentially, like tools that help us verify, you know, because the problem that we have when we're in using AI for new domains where we're not skilled at is, there's these unknown unknowns, we don't know how to verify it. Like a reasonable example of this is like people use I see a lot of people like using this technology for storytelling, right. But like, you know, I've worked now actively in storytelling for like four to five years. Like I've read a lot of books, I've failed at storytelling. I've

written a lot like I've developed a set of skill sets to understand and analyzing stories, scenes, characters.

And these things, like, I can look at the story and say,

but have you considered this right? Or did you think about that, right? But if you're new to this, you're not a storyteller. You don't have that skill set? You don't? You have this unknown unknown what what questions am I supposed to ask? So I think that's something that's lacking in general is like we don't we have these unknown unknowns. So if we're using our AI tools in token engineering, what are the actual potential token engineering tools? We can vote to verify the analysis that AI is AI tools produced? Like how do we know and understand is actually valid? Is there some way to verify this? There's smart people that know what those answers are.

Livia 49:11

I know this design \$name\$'s plan for further development of an AI journey she's creating but it's definitely Yeah, it feels like a bigger problem than what the solution is, right? Yeah, it

participant 8 49:26

gets it gets it gets to the point where it's just where it's, I think it's more useful in being an assistant rather than fully trusting the output. It's like saying, like, oh, how would I be able to generate this graph? But you have to reason from first principles, because if you don't know why it's making certain decisions, for you, you can't analyze or verify. So you can't trust your data output and especially in discipline, token engineering, where we need to rely on the analysis to be correct. You can't trust you can't trust it. So does the effort of verifying become as much effort as just doing it from first principles?

You know, who knows? So,

but maybe it just helps us to put some guardrails on like, what direction we should be thinking in. Because sometimes we do spend a lot of time reinventing the wheel when it could just be like, Oh, here's the wheel but it's it's pretty shaky. We'll just know this is not the best way to do it. But here's a way to think about it using direction to go.

Absolutely.

Livia 50:31

Yeah. Thank you. And coming to her last question, whose work do you admire in this space? And you think we should be speaking with us?

participant 8 50:54

These days,

I mean, I'm so admiring all the token engineering. stuff that's happening. Someone I've always had an ear for is \$name\$. always interested in his perspectives. Then there's also an artist that I liked, and it's been doing a lot of work. In visualizations.

I'm not sure if they are in the token engineering space per se.

But they've done a lot of work in using art to visualize relationships. And that comes from part of my wish for more provenance. Is the artist and \$Takens theorem\$. They've been doing a lot of interesting work in visualizing the blockchain in general, and I think sometimes the name yes, I can type it Yeah.

Sometimes I think sometimes just having a visualization. I say picture says

1000 words right. Sometimes a good visualization gets rid of 20 pages of analysis. Yeah.

Livia 52:14

Awesome.

That's great. Do you have anything else you would like to share with us?

participant 8 52:21

Um, in terms of the study?

I don't think so. But I'm just excited to see the outcome.

And I'm just,

I saw, there's a lot of times during the year where I can just touch base with the token engineering people. So part of this for me was just like, hey, I'm still here. And I'm curious

what's going on. So I I am saying thanks for the work that you guys are doing. Yeah,

Livia 52:52

thank you so much. It was really great to talk to you and to hear all your perspectives. And it's also refreshing to have someone that was very involved and then you've been taking different routes and this also informs the practice and how things are going and you have you will be one of the first people to have access to the analysis before republish it.

participant 8 53:19

Awesome. I'm excited.

Livia 53:22

Do you have anything you want to share Nathalia?.

Nathalia Scherer 53:27

Actually just one more question about learning. So do you have any suggestions for people that want to learn about the space about token engineering? Places that you think they could go to learn?

participant 8 53:49

it's also interesting question because sometimes sometimes when I've had people ask me, like, how do I get involved? Right, and sometimes it's difficult for people that are deeply involved in this space to understand how a beginner would see it. And, and that's what always struck me. I don't know where the tutorials are, are like I don't know where that is, because that's not what I'm thinking about.

So it's a good question. I I'm not sure where those places are. I did this morning. Just go back and do a bit of refresher and see what the current state of everything is. And it's, it's good, like, I mean, the name handbook. You know, it's a lot of good places. I think already. Like, give people some perspective. But in practice, if I would tell someone completely new actually, that's where I would point. Point, someone.

Livia 54:47

Thank you. We appreciate your time. Have a good rest of your day. Awesome.

participant 8 54:52

Thank you. Thank you. Very much.

Have a good day. You too. Bye. Bye.