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清澈下天建煌信息

2018年5月6日,我出差飞往芬兰,在一万米的高空,有十个小时的飞行时间,正好可以用来完成这篇前言。芬兰首都赫尔辛基(Helsinki),我此行的目的地,对于区块链行业来说具有非常特殊的意义。2009年1月3日,中本聪在位于芬兰赫尔辛基的一个小型服务器上挖出了比特币的第一个区块——创世区块(Genesis Block),并获得了奖励——50个比特币。赫尔辛基也因此成为比特币的第一个创世区块的物理位置,被记入区块链发展史册。比特币的创世区块是一个起点,到2018年,比特币区块链已经运行了9年多,在这9年多的时间里,它没有出过一次错,没有宕过一次机,其算力规模已经达到了30000多P,这是一个奇迹!信息技术发展到现在,还没有一个人造的系统具有这样的属性。它是去中心化的,它也是自成长、自激励、自运营的。人类在维护这个网络,在推动它扩张,但个人或者组织却不能主导或者控制这个网络,"它"是与人类平权的。

很多人在质疑比特币网络消耗那么多的能源却只是进行着简单重复的解密运算,这是否有意义?"矿工"的行为是单纯的投机,还是理性的新经济模型?这个问题我也问过自己很多次,我觉得对于比特币网络这个全新的物种,我们至少可以从正反两个方面来进行解读。

从反面来解读,比特币网络的耗能确实不科学。如今比特币的算力规模,每年需要消耗 200 亿元人民币左右的电力资源,而比特币网络的记账容量极限也就约每年 2 亿笔记录,这就意味着,每一笔记录平均需要消耗约 100元人民币的成本,显然,这并不经济。同时,目前比特币网络拥有的 10 000多个超级节点、30 000 多 P 的算力已经能够确保这个分布式账本的安全性,节点的增长与算力的增长并不同幅,当算力达到动态平衡时,比特币网络再继续扩张就失去了现实意义。

从正面来解读,我们将比特币和法定货币进行对比。大家知道,法币的构建基础是国家机器。从社会成本的角度来看,军队开支、执法费用,都是法币的社会成本。进一步来说,维持整个金融系统正常运转所需要的设备、技术、人力、监管及审计等方面的投入,都是法币的社会成本。而从比特币的设计思想来看,它所构建的自信任体系、UTXO 记账机制及单交易(清算)特性,就足够"颠覆"传统的金融系统。这种去中心化的设计思想,能够大大降低整个人类社会各种互不信任的中心化系统的协作成本。最让我们受到启发的是,比特币网络系统让整个地球的人,不分国家、民族、语言、文化、信仰,都能够认同一串数字是唯一、有价值的,可以当作交换的媒介或是配置资源的工具。而能达到这样的目标,它依靠的不是战争、霸权,也不是西方金融家或政治家们的精心谋划。技术改变世界,从来没有哪一刻会像今天这样让极客和程序员们兴奋,我们完全可以下这样一个结论:比特币(区块链)网络是人类文明史上第一个用最低的社会成本构建出来的超大规模的协作与共识系统。

协作与共识是理解区块链技术的最重要的认知之一。从 2017 年年初以 来,区块链已成为互联网、投资圈最热的名词之一。然而到目前为止,除 了数字货币和 ICO 之外,并没有出现能够产生大规模用户的区块链商业应 用场景。从数秦科技这五年来的实践来看,区块链的应用要能够落地,必 须把除了"炒币"之外的价值开发出来。定位非常重要,并不是所有的事 情都可以 "区块链+"的,从 IT (信息技术)的架构角度而言,区块链不 可能是无所不能的。对创业者来说, 更不是沾上区块链的概念就能够轻轻 松松地实现财富自由的。中心化解决中心化的问题,去中心化解决去中心 化的问题, 千万不能混为一谈, 更不能用去中心化的方式来解决中心化的 问题。有很多银行在实践了区块链的 POC 项目之后,都给出了效率低下、 无法落地的结论。实际上,在一个中心化的框架里强推区块链项目意义不 大。我们的建议是,区块链应用一定要满足超限和跨域的特征,否则它的 价值就体现不出来。所谓超限和跨域,就是要超出中心化的边界,建立更 大跨度的协作,比特币可以在全球范围内进行转账,以太坊可以在全球范 围内进行众筹,相对于传统的金融机构和资本市场,它们都符合超限和跨 域的特征。我们在设计区块链的解决方案时,首先思考的问题就是为什么 一定要有区块链?我们的视野一定要更加宏观,才能真正地挖掘出区块链的非货币类的"杀手"级应用。

区块链的应用、发展, 至少还需要突破三个至关重要的瓶颈。

第一,需要更加完善的基础设施。如果我们把公链想象成一座桥,那么 联盟链则更像是桥墩,推动联盟链的建设至关重要,只有不断完善联盟链 这一"基础设施",公链上才能产生新的应用、新的场景。当然在技术上, 目前最大的技术难点之一,就是如何安全高效地实现跨链协议。此外,联 盟链的竞争,其实质就是现在互联网的入口竞争,谁拥有更多的"基础设施",谁就能在链网的商业环境中胜出。

第二,虚拟世界需要建立新的"秩序"。在虚拟世界,也不能为所欲为,在由区块链构建的价值互联网这一虚拟世界里,更加需要现实世界当中的社会规则和司法体系的认可和加持。智能合约无论多么智能,其本质还是合约。现实世界当中的合约受法律的保护,有契约精神的约束,有商业环境的正向激励,人类对于合约形成的共识也是随着文明的长期发展而逐步形成的。在价值互联网里也同样需要这样的"秩序",绝不仅仅是"代码即是法律"那么简单,这也是目前行业中的一个共识。目前在这个方向上,我们保全网(BaoQuan.com)坚持进行了四年的艰难探索,也取得了很多富有建设性的成果,在本书中也会做详细的介绍。

第三,以明确的规模边界进行应用开发。每一个区块链系统都是一个共享与连接的生态,区块链创业者一定要有精准的定位,要找到合适的规模边界。这个规模不能太大,毕竟共识是稀缺的,需要成本,太大了成本太高;规模也不能太小,太小就失去了超限和跨域特征。新技术的落地是一个长期的新陈代谢的过程,目前大量的ICO项目,其核心的工作目标就是撰写白皮书和到交易所炒作 Token。在这个虚拟且没有边界的世界里,看起来"海阔天空",貌似各种"空气币"都会有市场,但实际上已经非常"拥挤"。在创业实践中,我们发现了大量非常有价值的能够落地的切入点和创业机会,期待有更多的技术创业者投身到这个领域,能够耐心和执着地去推动应用落地,我们的区块链产业基金将非常乐意参与种子期的投资。

在区块链领域创业,我们一定要"看多"中国,中国是一个日益强大的大国,具有非常典型的"巨国效应"发展特征。在这种效应中,受制于原

有的物理技术与社会技术,国家治理体系的纵向效率特别高,而横向效率就相对较低。很多的问题,如市场矛盾和用户"痛点"都和这种横向的低效率有关。有"痛点"就有市场,在这样的市场需求面前,区块链将大有用武之地,所以中国将是区块链行业发展最重要的舞台之一,"撸起袖子加油干",不要错过这个黄金时代。

### 展望一下更远的未来吧!

在未来,计算能力将是最核心的生产力要素之一,数据会成为最重要的生产资料,一部分人类的智慧会转化为算法,而区块链就是重新配置算力、重新调度数据资源和重新组织人类智慧的一种全新的社会关系。在这种全新的社会关系下,原子世界将会和比特世界进一步融合,新的商业模式将会进一步涌现,所有有价值的资产都有可能被 Token 化,而数据交易、算力共享、算法分享将会进一步释放人类的创造力,更大规模的协作将会创造出更加伟大的科技成果。

自 2013 年撰写《数字货币:比特币数据报告与操作指南》以来,我和 俞学劢、王毛路两位合伙人基本保持着一年左右的时间出版一本书的节奏。 相继出版了《区块链与新经济:数字货币 2.0 时代》《从零开始学区块链》,以及这本即将与您见面的《区块链与人工智能:数字经济新时代》。我们不是一个专业的写作团队,在快速多变和高负荷的工作状态下,咬牙坚持着创作,实在不是一件容易的事情。我们只是想把在区块链行业中的创业体会和感悟记录下来,把我们在实践摸索中学到的知识分享出来,可能在很多表述上不是那么严谨和专业,只是贵在真实的体会和具体的实践。本书中存在的不足之处在所难免,也请读者朋友们多多包涵。

最后,要感谢我的家人,特别是要感谢我的太太对我的支持和付出!!!还有我的儿子,棒棒和球球。创业艰辛,陪伴太少,老爸爱你们。

高 航 2018年夏

# 推荐序

# See the past, present and be the future yourself (回溯过去,看见现在,参与未来)

Vitalik Buterin Founder of Ethereum (以太坊创始人)

When I first discovered blockchain technology through Bitcoin in 2011, it took some time for me to realize the full potential. Like many others at the time, the aspect that stood out to me the most was Bitcoin the currency - a currency which I initially rejected as doomed to failure, as it was not backed by anything and had no underlying value. After hearing about it again a few weeks later, I realized that there was genuine potential, and so I started actively exploring, reading, earning, spending, and writing about Bitcoin. However, it took until visiting the blockchain community in Israel in late 2013 before I saw the fundamental truth that would eventually guide me to creating Ethereum: it was Bitcoin's underlying technology, the blockchain, that was the larger story, and it has applications that stretch far beyond peer-to-peer currency. Crowdfunding, insurance, financial contracts, identity management, supply chains, land registries and many more applications could be affected, and someone, somewhere comes up with a new way that blockchain technology can improve our lives every week.

(当我在 2011 年第一次通过比特币发现了它背后的区块链技术时,我花了一些时间才意识到它的潜力。就像那时候的许多其他人一样,起初出现在我眼前的是作为"货币"的比特币,一种被我认定为必然失败的货币,因为它没有任何

内在价值。但是,几周以后,我意识到它具有的真实潜力,也因此我开始积极地探索、阅读、编写、获取和消费比特币及它所相关的一切。然而,直到我 2013 年在以色列访问了区块链社区,我才看到了最终指引我走向创造以太坊的根本性真相:比特币的底层技术——区块链,有着更为广阔的未来,并且有着远远超出点对点货币的大量应用场景。众筹、保险、金融合约、身份管理、供应链、土地登记,以及除此之外更大更多的用武之地,而地球上每周都有人在某些地方创造出了新的区块链应用场景,来提升我们生活的品质。)

Decentralization and cryptography, two fundamental building blocks of Bitcoin and Ethereum-like systems, are not new. Decentralized networks such as BitTorrent have existed since the early 2000s, and cryptographers, mathematicians and software engineers have been working on increasingly advanced protocols in order to get stronger and stronger privacy and authenticity guarantees out of various systems, ranging from electronic cash to voting to file transfer and storage, for the last thirty years. However, the innovation of the blockchain - or, more generally, the innovation of public economic consensus - by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2009 proved to be the one missing piece of the puzzle that brought together both "strands" of research, and single-handedly gave the industry a giant leap forward.

[去中心化及密码学,作为类似于比特币与以太坊这样的系统的两大基础性模块,并不是新鲜技术。类似于 BitTorrent (BT 下载)的去中心化网络早在 21世纪初就已经存在了,而密码学家、数学家及软件工程师也已经努力了近三十年,致力于不断提升协议的先进性,从而实现从电子现金到投票再到文件传输存储等各类系统更强的隐私性、可信度保障。然而,区块链的创新,或者通俗地来讲就是中本聪在 2009 年所证明的公共经济共识的创新,才是那一片原本缺失的拼图,它将去中心化与密码学这两个研究方向拧在了一起,然后"抽一鞭子"让整个行业向前跃进了一大步。]

The ideological environment seemed to almost snap into place: the great financial crisis in 2008 spurred growing distrust in mainstream finance, including both corporations and the governmental institutions that are normally supposed to regulate them, and was the initial spark that drove many to seek out alternatives, and Edward Snowden's revelations in 2013 were the icing on the cake. Although so far blockchain

technologies specifically have not seen mainstream adoption as a result, the underlying spirit of decentralization, and building applications that put the user in charge, to a substantial degree has: applications ranging from Apple's phones to WhatsApp have started building in forms of encryption that are so strong that even the company writing the software and managing the servers cannot break it. On another side, the advent of "sharing economy 1.0" is increasingly showing signs of failure to fulfill what many had originally seen to be its promise: rather than simply cutting entrenched and oligopolistic intermediaries out, giants like Uber are simply replacing the middleman with themselves, and in some cases not particularly doing a better job of it.

(而意识形态的大环境似乎也恰到好处: 2008 年的金融危机刺痛了人们对于主流金融不信任的神经,也导致人们对于金融公司以及理应监管它们的政府机构失去了信心,而这也擦出了人们去寻找替代品的最初火花。2013 年爱德华·斯诺登的启示则更为原本的不信任雪上加霜。尽管到目前为止,区块链技术本身并没有出现主流的应用,但它所蕴含的去中心化精神以及将用户作为应用程序主体的程序开发思路已经深入人心: 从苹果手机到 WhatsApp,都开始通过用户加密的方式设计程序,从而实现即使是负责程序开发和管理的公司自己也无法破解用户设置的密码。从另一个方面而言,诞生不久的所谓"共享经济 1.0"正在逐渐显露出失败的迹象,因为它们难以兑现最初的承诺:不是简单地去除根深蒂固的寡头中介,像 Uber 这样的巨头反而选择了仅仅将原本的中介换成了它们自己,而在某些情况下也并没有做得比它们的前任更好。)

Blockchains, and the umbrella of related technologies that I have collectively come to call "crypto 2.0", provides an attractive fix: rather than simply hoping that the parties we interact with behave honorably, we build technological systems that inherently build the desired properties into the system, in such a way that it will keep functioning with the guarantees that we expect even if many of the actors involved are corrupted. All transactions would come with auditable trails of cryptographic proofs, decentralized peer-to-peer networks would be used to reduce reliance on any single server, public key cryptography could create a notion of portable user-controlled identities, and entire financial systems could be built in such a way that there is no single central party that needs to hold custody over other people's funds, and that other people need to trust not to go bankrupt, try to cheat them, or run away with their funds.

More advanced kinds of math, including ring signatures, homomorphic encryption and zero-knowledge proofs, would to guarantee privacy, allowing users to put all of their data in the open in such a way that certain properties of it can be verified, and even computed on, but without actually revealing any private details.

(区块链及与其相关的技术被我总称为"数字货币 2.0",它们提供了一个吸引人的解决方案:相比于仅仅寄希望于与我们产生互动的对手方行为良好,我们建立的技术系统将我们所需的属性先天性地嵌入系统当中,从而实现即便是系统中的许多参与方的行为不良,系统也仍然能够保证像我们所希望的那样正常运转。所有的交易都会以密码学证明的方式经历一次审计流程,去中心化的点对点网络将会被用于减少对于单一服务器的依赖,公钥加密能够创造一个便携的由用户控制的身份概念,整个金融系统将会被建立在一个新的体系上,在这种体系中,没有一个单独的中心化组织需要对所有其他人的资金进行监管,也没有一个单独的组织需要被相信是不会破产的,用户也不用担心被欺诈,或是遭遇卷款跑路。更为先进的数学方法,包括环状签名、同态加密及零知识证明体系,将会被用于保障私密性,保证了用户将他们所有的数据都公开并在针对数据的一些属性被验证、计算的前提下不泄露自身隐私的那一部分细节。)

What has impressed me the most about the last five years is just how far the technology has come, and how far the industry has evolved. From 2010 to 2013, there was a lot of excitement about the technology and its potential, and there were many startups being formed to try to build something on it. However, the technology was still in its early phase, and discussion about practical applications was rare; many startups would literally include as part of their pitch deck to venture capital firms an assumption that the bitcoin price would increase by a factor of four every year, and in some cases that was the closest thing to a business model that these companies had to speak of. In 2014, that model suddenly, but inevitably, began to falter, as the price went in the exact opposite direction to the three years before, and so entrepreneurs looking to change the world with blockchain technology began to look to a radical new strategy to earn their revenue: finding actual use cases, and working with actual customers and traditional enterprise to try to bring those applications from a concept in their heads, to a proof-of-concept written in code, and finally to a product that would

be used by millions of people. And it is not just startups that are getting involved; despite the anti-bank sentiment of many of the technology's earliest advocates, today it is the banks that are among the most prominent developers of blockchain applications. Blockchain technology is growing up, and is finally coming of age.

(于我而言,最让我印象深刻的是过去这五年来这项技术的发展速度,以及这个行业进化的速度。从 2010 年到 2013 年,关于区块链技术有许多令人激动和充满潜力的进步,许多初创公司正在逐渐形成并且尝试着在此技术之上建立一些新的东西。然而,这项技术仍然停留在它的早期阶段,关于实践应用的讨论仍然比较稀少。许多初创公司仅仅将"区块链"放入他们对风投公司的融资演讲稿中,并且假设比特币的币价每年都会上涨 4 倍,而在某些情况下币价与这些公司的商业模式密切相关。2014 年,这些模式突然间(也不可避免)开始走得颤颤巍巍,因为比特币的价格完全向三年前相反的方向发展。于是那些致力于使用区块链技术改变世界的企业家们,开始寻找一种激进的新策略来赚取他们的收益:寻找真实的应用场景,并且与真实的客户以及传统企业合作,从而将他们的应用从脑袋里的概念转化为证明概念的代码,最终成为能够被成千上万人使用的产品。事实上,参与其中的也并不仅仅是初创公司,连最初区块链技术倡导者们认为反对该技术的银行,今天反而成了区块链应用开发的中坚力量。区块链技术正在成长,也终于成长到了一个新的时代。)

Personally, at my age of 22, I do not have decades of experience in any industry, except perhaps the twelve years which I have spent writing code, the first six of which largely consisted of writing computer games that I would later spend thousands of hours playing myself; hence, I am not the person who will be working out the finer details of how blockchain-based timestamping can improve transparency in the supply chain, or how smart contracts can simplify the archaic processes that are currently being used in trade finance, or how decentralized clearing networks based on consortium chains can create a more egalitarian and efficient alternative to the central clearing parties that dominate many financial markets today.

(在我 22 岁时,除了 12 年的编写代码经验外,我并没有多少年的行业经验, 而这 12 年中的前 6 年里的大多数时间我都在写电脑游戏以及花上千小时玩它们; 因此,我也不是一个能够出色地解释基于区块链的时间戳能够如何增加供应链的 透明度的人,也不能完美地描述智能合约如何能够简化当前贸易金融中的陈旧流程,抑或基于联盟链的去中心化清算网络如何能够创造一个更为公平、高效的替代品来替换当前主导金融市场的中心化清算方式。)

Rather, the contribution that I aimed to make to society with Ethereum is the opposite: create a highly generalized platform that includes a highly flexible programming language, and so can be employed for any application in any industry with maximum ease. We would deal with the challenge of making the underlying blockchain layer as scalable, efficient, generalized and secure as possible, giving application developers the freedom to focus on building the business logic of their application itself. At the time that I originally came up with the idea for Ethereum, I expected that it would fail; it seemed too good to be true, and so I thought that within a week I would get five smart cryptographers replying back to the email containing my whitepaper, explaining to me some very good mathematical reasons why it could not work. And yet, that never happened; instead, after a year and eight months of development, the project launched, and the blockchain has been running smoothly ever since, with thousands of users, tens of thousands of transactions per day and over a hundred applications either under development or already deployed.

(然而,我所致力的通过以太坊向社会所做的贡献却恰恰与此相反:以太坊致力于创造一个高度通用化的平台,它包含了高度灵活的编程语言,从而不仅实现了各种产业的适用性,也最大限度简化了应用过程。我们所需要做的是处理好来自区块链层上关于延展性、效率、通用性以及安全性的挑战,从而给应用开发者提供足够的自由空间以专注于完成他们自身商业逻辑的构建。在我最初想到以太坊这个点子的时候,我觉得它是会失败的,因为它看起来太完美了,从而变得不那么真实,于是我认为在一周以内就会有5位聪明的密码学家回复我以太坊白皮书的邮件,并通过一些很好的数学原理向我解释为什么它不会成功。然而最终这并没有发生,取而代之的是,经过一年零八个月的开发,这个计划上线了,并且它的区块链从那以后一直很顺畅地运行着。链上聚集了上千名用户,每日上万笔的交易,以及超过一百个正在开发或已经上线的应用。)

The concept that Clearmatics CEO Robert Sams so correctly summarizes as "decentralized automation" - not just a decentralized ledger that would store the final

result of processes that are otherwise centralized, but a process re-engineering effort where the entire lifecycle of a financial trade, or a land ownership record, or an identity record, could be run on a decentralized platform, stands the chance to reduce greatly what Ronald Coase has called "transaction costs" - the bureaucratic and economic costs of managing an interaction, figuring out the details of the legal contract, making sure that the counterparty is trustworthy, and recording the results, that are the reason why so many people today prefer to instead interact by congregating into large, centralized firms. As a result, we may see an economy in the 21st century that in some ways resembles that of the 18th: one where, instead of a single company selling insurance as a product, we insure each other, instead of a central party clearing financial trades and payment transactions, such operations are conducted directly peer-to-peer, and even functions such as evaluating creditworthiness and reputation, quality control, and tracking property rights are done in a much more decentralized way - but at the same time, where the extreme efficiencies of 21st century information technology mean that we can have the benefits of running our society in this way without many of the costs.

(Clearmatics 的 CEO Robert Sams 将这个概念很正确地总结为"去中心自动化"——不仅仅是一个用于存储过程结果的去中心化的账本,而是一个经过过程重构了的多用途去中心化平台。它通过去中心化所重构的过程包含了金融交易的全流程、土地所有权登记的全流程以及身份记录的全过程。经过它的过程重构将实现Ronald Coase 所谓的"交易费"的大大削减,而这"交易费"指的是为了明晰法律合同的细节、确保对手方的可信、记录各种结果所进行的官僚化的管理互动而产生的经济开支。也因此,比起与聚集化、中心化的大公司互动,人们更愿意选择一个去中心化的互动模式。结果就是,我们或许能够看到 21 世纪的经济形态更像 18世纪的组织形态:以互相担保取代单一公司出售保险产品;以点对点的交易形式取代第三方中心化清算金融交易和支付;甚至于以一种更为去中心化的方式来评价信任度和名誉、完成质量控制、实现产权跟踪。而同时,21 世纪信息技术的极度高效也意味着我们能够以很低的消耗来实现这样的社会形态。)

Of course, it is decidedly not the case that absolutely every industry will become more decentralized, or even that those industries that will become more decentralized will do so through blockchain technology specifically. Every industry is its own special case, and it is, for example, hard to see how the construction of a billion-dollar rocket going to Mars could be economically managed by a decentralized automaton or smart contract running on Ethereum. However, the possibilities are many, and 2016 is the year where the initial proof of concepts for real-world use cases are starting to be developed and tested. 2017 will be the year where, just as is the case in any industry, over two thirds of them will inevitably fail, but the remaining third will be expanded further into real-world applications reaching millions of users - and that is when the next phase will begin.

(诚然,不是所有行业都会变得更为去中心化,而那些会变得更为去中心化的行业也需要通过更为个性化的区块链结构来实现去中心化。因为每一个行业都是自身的一个特例,也因此,举例来说,就是很难去预测如何通过在以太坊上运行的去中心自动化或者智能合约,来使得建造一个几十亿美元的火箭并把它发射到火星这件事变得经济实惠。然而可能性依旧很多,2016年,正是现实世界应用场景的概念性证明开发和测试开始的一年;2017年,在某些行业,将会有2/3的应用场景不可避免地失败,但剩下的1/3将会进一步扩张成为现实世界的实用性应用,并达到几百万的用户数量,而那也会是下一阶段的开始。)

I hope that you enjoy reading about the past, present and future of what blockchain technology has to offer, and that this book will inspire you to become part of that future yourself.

(我希望你会享受阅读这本关于区块链的过去、现在和未来的书,并且我相信这本书将会启发你,使你成为未来的一部分。)

April 24th 2016 (2016年4月24日)

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