

ETC Cooperative

2020 Roadmap

March 11, 2020



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2020 Annual Roadmap

Overview

This document details the specific goals of the ETC Cooperative for calendar year 2020. These goals are split into two sections - Technical and Organizational. This document should be read in conjunction with the “*ETC Coop 2020 Goals and objectives*” document, which outlines specific goals for each section.

2020 Technical Strategy

Here is what to expect from the ETC Cooperative this year:

1. Continued Protocol Stewardship
 - a. Active and deep participation in the ECIP process
 - b. Monitoring network health
2. Grassroots Communication and Marketing
 - a. Community-driven website with internationalization
 - b. Re-establishing relationship with ETC Consortium for China market
 - c. Hackathons, community conferences, “Bob and Yaz”
3. Partnerships and Outreach
 - a. Engagement with the Ethereum ecosystem, especially L2 projects.
 - b. Ethereum Magicians – modularity of specification for “Ethereum Stack”.
 - c. Enterprise Ethereum Alliance – Technical Spec WG, Testing WG
 - d. Hyperledger – Besu, Hyperledger Labs, TSC
4. Development
 - a. Hyperledger Besu
 - b. Ethercluster (now part of Hyperledger Labs)
 - c. BlockScout support
 - d. Supporting Keccak256 POW change proposal
 - e. Foster Ethereum LLVM community
 - f. Connex State Channels support

#1 – Continued Protocol Stewardship – The ETC Cooperative’s primary technical focus must always be on stewardship of the ETC protocol via active participation in the Ethereum Classic Improvement Process (“ECIP”) and in the social ecosystem around that process.

This can be a very time-consuming process which requires both deeply technical understanding and interpersonal skills – spanning two worlds. Bob and Yaz’s active and ongoing participation in the ECIP process is the single most important thing they do on a daily basis. A billion dollar plus economy sits on top of the ETC network and therefore, there are huge incentives for both technical and social attacks. We see the ETC Cooperative as one of the key guardians of the network.

Bob and Yaz invest significant time and effort in that process and in the social layers around that process, which are occurring on Github, in the ETC Discord, on Twitter, with blog posts, and to our mailing list. This is a grassroots engineering-led effort which is critical to everything else that we do.

Directly related to that participation is constant monitoring – both automated and manual – of the health of the ETC mainnet.

Goals/Measures – Goals # 1-4

#2 – Grassroots Communication and Marketing – For 2020 our focus will be almost exclusively on grassroots developer relations, developer support, community conferences and hackathons. We will focus on supporting community-driven work on the <https://ethereumclassic.org> website, including internationalization support.

We will work with the [ETC Consortium](#) group in China to rebuild our outreach there.

There will be minimal or zero budget allocated to advertising campaigns and sponsorships, unlike 2017, 2018 and 2019 where substantial budget was spend on sponsorships, advertising campaigns and on the ETC Summit conference.

While this grassroots approach can be very time consuming, it is critical to getting further traction on the ETC network. We still have work to do on the protocol and on infrastructure before it is in a state where we are ready for mass adoption. The grassroots engagements give the Coop the most “bang for our buck”. It demonstrates our integrity and willingness to do the do work, rather than trying to buy success.

We aim to establish a membership program (both individual and corporate) with the goal of raising \$50K USD outside of our Grayscale funding by the end of 2020. This program will follow the patterns established by similar programs run by the Linux Foundation, the Open Source Initiative, the EFF and other open source foundations. Swag and newsletters for individuals, logos on website, preferential treatment at events, and so on for corporates, and perhaps even board seats at the highest levels of corporate sponsorship.

Goals/Measures – Goals # 5-7

#3 Partnerships and Outreach

a) Engagement with the Ethereum ecosystem

It is our belief that the majority of the future ETC ecosystem will be formed by Ethereum ecosystem participants who engage as ETC proves itself a capable “sibling project” to ETH, with some compelling benefits for certain types of project which favor a hard money native token, which favor security and immutability and maturity of governance over scalability and “World Computer”.

In particular, all of the L2 projects will “just work” on ETC as well, and we anticipate those starting to “go live” on ETC during 2020. During January 2020 we hit the Top #10 in Coinmarketcap for the first time. This signalled a phase shift. As we move through our hardforks this year, we expect more of the same. There will be many talks and elevator pitches about “What is Happening With ETC?”. We have had very broad understanding and interest over the past few months and anticipate that accelerating through the year. This engagement will happen at hackathons and conferences, but also online, in the press, and via social media.

Goals/Measures – Goal #5

b) Ethereum Magicians - modularity of specification for “Ethereum Stack”.

The current canonical specification of public Ethereum (Yellow Paper, JSON-RPC API, devp2p wire protocol etc.) is intrinsically ETH-centric where it needs to be centered around “Ethereum the technology”. There are 40+ public permissioned instances of Ethereum and orders of magnitude more private and consortium chain instances.

The Ethereum Magicians is a non-membership organization seeking to produce high quality EIPs to augment and assist the Ethereum Core Developers and EIP Editors. The ETC Cooperative will be establishing a “Ring” within Ethereum Magicians at ETHCC in Paris in March which is focused on modularity of specification, such that the specifications become chain-neutral. That is requirement of the EEA “Enterprise Ethereum” specification too. See next section.

Goals/Measures – Goal # 8

c) Enterprise Ethereum Alliance and d) Hyperledger

We are moving to a phase of maturity in blockchain technology where maintaining client software and contributing to protocol discussions is becoming a professional undertaking. Volunteerism is insufficient to maintain working code.

Even professional software engineers with small teams struggle to keep pace (witness the sad decline in quality of Parity-Ethereum since 2017 despite the engineers working for one of the premium blockchain companies on the planet, with the Co-Founder having authored the specification and build the first client).

Enterprises will be the ones with the capital to fund work on the protocol and technology stack. We need to work towards “Ethereum the technology standard”, which is broader than \$ETH or \$ETC.

That is why we are favoring Hyperledger Besu. It has been developed by the PegaSys protocol engineering team at ConsenSys by a large team of world class engineers. It was written in Java, a very mainstream language, has permissive licensing and is under the mature governance of the Hyperledger Project at the Linux Foundation.

We believe that Geth and OpenEthereum will decline in popularity and could eventually die off, due to their GPLv3 licensing (both) and lack of IP protection (Geth). The projects downstream of Geth (Core-Geth, Multi-Geth, Turbo Geth, JPM Quorum, Clearmatics Autonomy and Axioni Axcore) would suffer too in that circumstance.

It is likely that Ethereum will become the de-facto standard for smart contract platforms, and we will end up with various flavors of that standard, much as POSIX sought to improve interoperability between UNIX, BSDs and Linux family operating systems. We believe that \$ETC could become more compelling than \$ETH as a public permissioned base for enterprises and seek to bring maturity to that discussion from the Greater Ethereum public sphere. Both Bob and Yaz will be spending substantial time within the working groups of both Hyperledger and EEA to work towards that goal.

Goals/Measures - Goals #9-10

#4 Development

a) Hyperledger Besu

In August 2019, PegaSys, the ConsenSys protocol engineering team announced the contribution of their Pantheon codebase to Hyperledger. It was renamed Hyperledger Besu, and Bob pledged to fund ETC support. Initial ETC support was delivered in December. With Classic Geth being retired the Phoenix hardfork, Hyperledger Besu will become the third ETC client behind OpenEthereum and Core-Geth.

ETC Cooperative is concentrating exclusively on Hyperledger Besu for at least the first half of 2020. We have signed multiple SOWs with ChainSafe, and just recently one with Whiteblock, and we will be putting a primary focus on encouraging adoption and doing whatever is necessary to mature the codebase.

Goals/Measures – Goal #11

b) Ethercluster (now part of Hyperledger Labs)

A major weakness of ETH is the complete reliance on Infura. Infura is a proprietary project which provides high-quality JSON-RPC endpoints for the convenience of smart contract developers. The major downside to Infura is that it is a centralized service which is dependent on ongoing funding from ConsenSys. There is no sustainable business model and more and more of the ETH ecosystem has become dependent on Infura over time. If it was “switched off” the ETH ecosystem would likely collapse. As the ETH chain has become more-and-more bloated it has become more and more onerous to run a full node, and so increasingly ETH dapps just rely on “trusted nodes” in the form of Infura.

The Ethercluster project is an open source alternative to Infura which is now being developed under the Hyperledger Labs banner. Anybody can host their own cluster using this software and there is a small instance which the ETC Cooperative hosts as a public service. That is now

being used by MyEtherWallet, MyCrypto and many other wallets or other infrastructure providers, but will never be scaled up to the same degree as Infura.

Maintaining and improving that infrastructure will be a key ongoing task this year. We will be migrating from the existing OpenEthereum nodes powering EtherCluster over to Hyperledger Besu nodes.

Goals/Measures – Goal #12

c) Blockscout support

For many years there was not a first-class open source block explorer for Ethereum Classic. The best we had was GasTracker, which was operated by Igor Artamonov of the ETCDEV team, with closed source code. This is a fundamental need. Thankfully the POA Network team built BlockScout, and operated an ETC instance free of charge as a public service throughout 2018 and 2019. As of early 2020, the ETC Cooperative have taken over operation of that service, and expanded the coverage so we have instances for the ETC mainnet and for the Mordor and Kotti testnets. This is a primary piece of infrastructure for the ecosystem. Where there are shortfalls in functionality, we will work to improve BlockScout. It is an open source project and is used by other EVM chains as well.

Goals/Measures - Goal #13

d) Supporting Keccak 256 POW change proposal

In the wake of the 51% attacks on ETC in January 2019, Alex Tsankov proposed a change of POW for ETC to Keccak256. The ETC Cooperative feels that such an embrace of ASIC-friendliness and move to be an “apex predator” within the nascent SHA3 mining ecosystem is the best possible path forward for the security of the chain. We want to test that hypothesis through experimentation and implementation, so have signed a contract with Whiteblock which will see them implement Keccak256 support in Hyperledger Besu and set up a test environment using their Whiteblock Genesis software. The ETC Cooperative will also be setting up BlockScout and EtherCluster instances for the Astor network. Beyond the initial engagement with Whiteblock we will be reaching out to miners, to mining pools, to the authors of mining software, and working through unknowns and areas of risk. We can do dry-run transitions from Ethash to Keccak256 on testnets and do everything possible to get better information on our hypothesis, with the goal of having a high-quality proposal with working code which is an easy choice for building human consensus around. Temperature check around Keccak256 at the time of writing seems to be “broad but not universal” support.

Goals/Measures – Goal #14

e) Foster Ethereum LLVM community

There is rapidly growing interest in LLVM-based Ethereum compiler technology, with Second State's SOLL, the work from Sean Young formerly of Monax on Solang and Alan Li of ETC Core's work on EVM_LLVM. ETC Cooperative have been fostering that collaboration with an end goal of gathering all the troops within Hyperledger Labs.

Goals/Measures – Goal #15

f) Connex state channels support

Connex have the most popular in-production state channels implementation on ETH. One of its first use-cases was for SpankChain! The ETC Cooperative signed a statement of work with Connex in February 2019 which will see Connex bring up an instance of their infrastructure for ETC which ETC Cooperative will then operate in collaboration with Connex from that point onward – providing some ETC for liquidity and for fees. This is very exciting and will be really impactful.

Goals/Measures – Goal #16

2020 Organizational Strategy

Beginning in Q4 2019, ETC Coop embarked on a project to improve upon its governance practices. This started with a clear plan of action, prioritization, and a presentation to specific stakeholders in mid December, outlining deliverables, objectives and timelines. In 2020, we are continuing on this path of continuous improvement and professional practices and have produced the following aims and objectives.

Aims & Objectives

1. Improve transparency & governance practices.

Clearly outline expectations and standards, by creating and adhering to a governance manual.

2. Adhere to best practices related to requirements/standards for a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Ensure the Coop is in compliance with the formal requirements of a 501(c)(3) entity such as specific policies, publishing the Form 990, grant process mid-point progress reports, and Board of Director (“BOD” or “Board”) approval.

3. Improve accountability and reporting.

Have a clear process and timelines for publishing reports/presentations, both internally and externally.

4. Formalize and stream-line work flow processes.

Creating and adhering to approval processes, vendor selection, grant process, expenditure approval limits, and post mortem reports.

5. Bring finance and accounting processes in-house and decrease reliance on Grayscale.

Transition the finance and business processes from Grayscale to the Coop, including banking, all bookkeeping, tax, and other processes. Follow best practices for accounting, given resources available.

6. Help to improve Board of Directors engagement and oversight.

Review current board composition and help recommend members who will bring added direction and expertise.

7. Create a fundraising strategy to decrease financial reliance on Grayscale.

Create a robust fundraising plan and strategy, including materials, to help the Coop become self-sustaining and less financially dependent on Grayscale.

To achieve these objectives the Coop has identified the following processes, reports, policies, and procedures to implement.

Processes, Reports, Policies, and Procedural Deliverables

Note that the dates reflect when the procedures/policy will be executed or first put into practice. Many of these items will be ongoing throughout the year and during the life of the Coop.

1. Formal policies and procedures, which will be executed at the 2020 AGM **(Q1 2020)**:
 - a. Whistleblower Policy
 - b. Donation Policy
 - c. Document Retention Policy
 - d. Donation/Gift Policy
2. A governance manual **(Q1 2020)**
3. A formal budget to be approved at the AGM **(Q1 2020)**
4. A monthly board package presentation **(Q1 2020 or early Q2 2020)**
5. Weekly team meetings using Jira Software **(Q1 2020)**
6. Quarterly transparency reports **(Q1 2020 to be produced in Q2)**
7. 2019 retrospective transparency report **(Early Q2 2020)**
8. 2020 Roadmap **(Q1 2020)**
9. Quarterly milestone reports (tracking KPI's against 2020 Roadmap) **(released in Q2 2020 for Q1 results)**
10. Monthly accounting packages **(Q1 2020)**
11. Formalized grant process and procedures (including related documentation) **(Q2 2020)**
12. Implementing a fundraising strategy **(Q2 2020)**

Implementation Plan

Most of the work is frontloaded to Q1 2020 and many policies and procedures will be executed at the AGM on March 17, 2020. Ongoing work will continue into the year, with many of the reports related to monthly or quarterly processes.

General guidelines

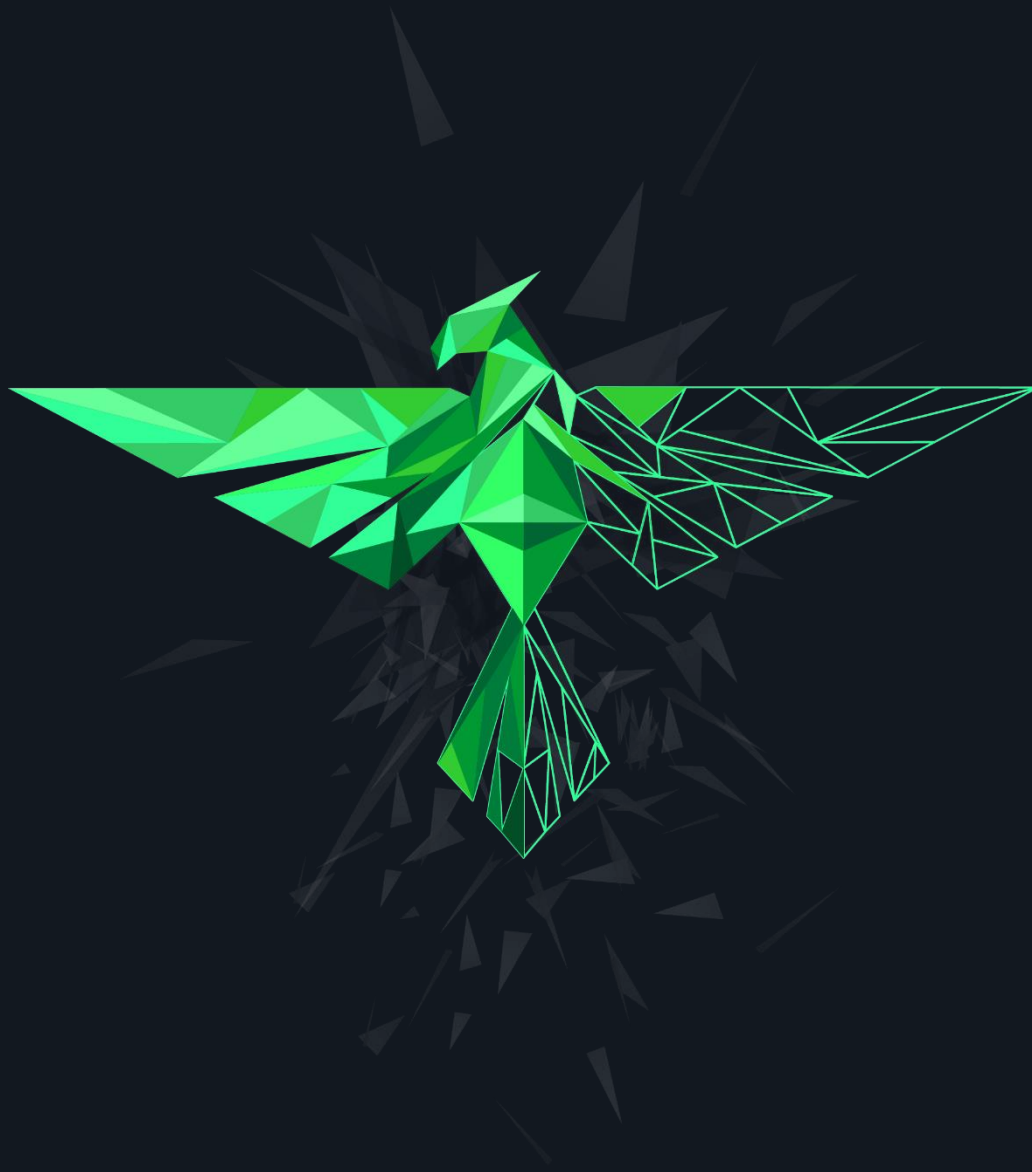
Item	Timeline
Monthly accounting package	Within 2 weeks of month-end
Board Package/Presentation	Within 4 weeks of month-end
Quarterly Transparency Reports (including milestone reports/KPI tracking)	Within 6 weeks of quarter-end
Annual Transparency/Retrospective Report	Within 3 months of year-end (2019 to be published within 4 months due to other timing issues)
Annual Budget	To be approved at AGM
Annual Roadmap	To be approved at AGM

See “ETC Coop Goals and Objectives” document for specific goals, related to the organizational governance section.



By putting together a comprehensive framework and metrics to measure our progress, we will set our own standards, using best practices from various industries.

As part of the Performance measurement framework, there will be organizational KPI's, which will be referenced in the overall strategic plan/direction as well as the annual roadmap, as well as individual KPI's for the Executive Director and staff.



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