

Townhall: Participatory Democracy

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Okay. So, welcome to another deep dive,

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you know, where we like to kind of cut through all the noise and get right to the good stuff. Yeah. You know. Yeah.

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Absolutely. And today we're we're going to be looking at something um I think that's that's pretty significant, you know, for for folks out there who are

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thinking about the future of communities, how they're run, how decisions are made. And you know, I I think this is going to be really interesting for investors in particular,

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okay,

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who, you know, see a lot of potential in open source solutions. Yeah. Because today we're going to be diving deep into

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how Okay. Web 3 DAOs. Oh yeah. And even AI are all kind of converging to change how we manage, you know, our cities and

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towns. I like it. And you know, we're we're going to really be focusing on like the actual real world applications that we're seeing with platforms like

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Decideum. You got it. Um yeah, you you put together a really thoughtprovoking series on web 3, I thought. Oh, thanks.

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And you know, one of the things that became so clear just going through all that material is that these decentralized technologies, they're not just like theories anymore, right?

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They're like giving us the the building blocks to actually make change happen,

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you know? Yeah. So, what we want to do today is unpack how these advancements in tech. Okay. Especially when you combine them with open- source platforms

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like decidum are leading to like way more transparent decision making and deeper citizen engagement. I like it.

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And in the end more efficient government at the local level. Yeah. And I think it's so important to emphasize that like

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we're we're focusing on these like fundamental shifts in how communities actually operate, you know. Absolutely.

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Not on, you know, these fleeting trends that kind of come and go. Exactly. Yeah.

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We're not talking about, you know, the metaverse or anything. Yeah. We're not going to be talking about, you know, Yeah. board apes or anything like that.

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Exactly. This is about like real systems change, you know. Absolutely.

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Fundamental stuff. Um, and I think a really key player in all of this is Decidum. You know, for those of you who may not have heard of it before, Deedum

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is a free Libre open and secure digital platform, okay, for empowering citizens to participate with real democratic

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safeguards in place. It's it's basically like re-engineering democracy. I love that. For the digital age and, you know,

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making it open source is a really core part of that. Absolutely. Um and what I think is really fascinating here, you know, speaking to the investor who's

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interested in open source is just how much deedum can actually do. You know,

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it's not just like one little tool. It's a whole toolkit that can handle, you know, everything from high level strategic planning where the community has input.

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Okay. All the way to like managing a participatory budget from the ground up.

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Oh wow. So you've got features for organizing citizen assemblies, launching local initiatives, you know,

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consultations, and then they've got all these really solid communication tools to keep everybody informed and connected. So this is a lot more than just like way more online surveys or,

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you know, just basic feedback mechanisms. Exactly. Yeah. This is the real deal. Yeah. decidum is built to help citizens, organizations, even

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public institutions, you know, to really self-organize democratically at every

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level. And what's key here is that it can implement a truly flexible democratic system, right? So whether

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you're talking about like a small neighborhood association or a huge metropolitan council, the platform can be tailored to support their specific

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needs and processes. that that adaptability I mean that just seems so valuable. It is and and for investors who are really focused on open source I

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mean the the principles behind have got to be like a huge draw. Absolutely.

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Yeah. The platform puts such a high value on transparency. Okay. And traceability and making sure that all the information is accurate and trustworthy. You know every action,

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every proposal, every single vote is recorded in a way that creates a clear and auditable trail. And then on top of

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that, security, privacy, and confidentiality for everybody who participates. Yeah, those are like paramount, right? This isn't about some,

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you know, proprietary algorithm that's hidden from view, right? It's about open and verifiable processes that actually

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build trust, you know? Right. And it's built on free software, right? Yes.

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Exactly. that that whole spirit of openness and collaboration. I mean that seems like but it's at the core it's so central. Yeah. It's developed using free

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and open source software and all the content is open and collaborative too thanks to the metadatum community and that communitydriven development model.

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That's like the heart of open source means that the platform is always being improved and adapted and refined by the very people who are using it and

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contributing to it. You know that's so cool. So for investors who prioritize sustainability and projects that are really backed by the community, this is

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a huge plus. Okay. So we've got this really robust open-source platform. We do. Now let's look at how it's actually

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being used to improve municipal management in the real world. Yeah. You mentioned some great real world examples. I did. Let's start with Merida

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Yucatan in Mexico. Okay. Merit is a really interesting case study. Okay.

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They implemented decidum. They called it decide Merida for their 2018 2021

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municipal development plan. Okay. And the results are really something they had over 3,000 Wow. distinct citizen interactions including proposals,

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comments, suggestions and expressions of support. Wow. All directly shaping a development plan that achieved a really high level of consensus in the

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community. So it's not just the sheer number of interactions. It's not just the number. It's that citizens were like right directly shaping their city's

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development plan. Exactly. Yeah. This is a huge shift from you know top down decision-m to a more collaborative approach. Yeah. That level of engagement

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is just incredible. It is. We even have a quote here from Renan A. Barrera Kuncha the municipal president who said

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that decide Marita offered an opportunity to open up citizen participation like never before. I love that. and that they were going to keep

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using it to make Merida an increasingly participative society. Wow. I mean,

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that's a powerful statement. It really is. Yeah. It highlights how a platform like Decidum can help create a more inclusive Yeah. and representative decision-making environment. Absolutely.

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Um, now let's switch gears a little bit.

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Okay. And talk about the NYC Civic Engagement Commission here in the US.

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Right. Right. Francisco Tenna from pipeline to power highlights something really interesting about this item.

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Yeah. He points out its flexible information architecture. Oh yeah,

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that's a good one. What's so important about that flexibility? So he emphasizes that the platform separates the basic steps of a participatory process. Okay,

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from the specific activities that happen within those steps. Now that might sound a little technical, but think of it like building with Lego bricks, you know? I

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like it. The steps are like the big goals like let's say creating a new community garden, right? The activities are the specific things you do to get

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there. Okay? Like public brainstorming sessions, design workshops, voting on where the garden should go. Decidum lets

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you arrange these building blocks in whatever order. Okay. And combination makes sense for your community and your project. It doesn't force you into some

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rigid structure. That makes a lot of sense. cuz you want a system that can adapt exactly to the needs of different communities. You got it. Not a one-izefits-all approach. Yeah. Yeah.

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Absolutely. Um now let's look at some energy. Okay.

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This example from the renewable energy sector. I think it's really interesting because it shows how Decidum can be used in all kinds of ways. It does. Yeah.

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Some Energy is a renewable energy cooperative. Okay. They've been using Decidum since 2018. Wow. And they're a great example of how versatile the

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platform is. Okay. It's not just for government. They've used it for their general assemblies, debates about their imagery design, and even for developing

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their educational initiatives, their school. That's really cool. Um, what kind of participation have they seen within their cooperative? So, Yisa

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Blanch from Some Energy. She says that in just a few years, they've had over 3,500 people participate. Wow. across

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five different participatory processes and three ongoing operating assemblies.

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That's amazing. And in their last general assembly vote alone, they had over 1,300 individual votes. That's a huge number. It is. Um she even said

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that Deedum has helped them create a kinder space for participation. Oh yeah,

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I love that quote. It really does kind of suggest a more welcoming It does and constructive atmosphere. Yeah, absolutely. for people to get involved.

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Mhm. And these aren't just isolated cases, right? No, not at all. In fact,

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our source material says that hundreds of organizations worldwide Wow. are using Deedum to manage their democratic processes. That's amazing. So, it's

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really getting global recognition and people see the value in this open-source solution. Right.

And and it's important to note that Decidum isn't just standing

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still, right? It's not. It's constantly being improved and updated. Yeah. the decidum revamp project which got some

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really important support from the NG10 Commons fund. That's a big step forward for the platform as of February 2025.

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Yeah. They've been focusing on consolidating all the platform's features and making it work better overall. Okay. And improving the user

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experience. So this continuous development, I mean that's a major advantage of open source. It is. Yeah.

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It's always being refined, right? and adapted based on what users need and how technology is changing, right? And and there's also a big partnership in the

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works with the Brazilian government. Oh yeah, that's a big one. Which is huge validation for the platform. It is.

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Yeah. In December 2024, the Decidum Association and the Brazilian government, they formalized their

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collaboration with a memorandum of understanding. Wow. Now, we don't have all the details yet on how they're going to implement it, but this shows a real commitment. Yeah. At a national level,

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okay, to exploring and implementing these elaborative frameworks. Yeah. For citizen participation. That's incredible. And Decidum will probably play a big role in that. Yeah. I mean,

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it seems like we're seeing this really interesting convergence. Yeah. You know, we have the core principles of web 3, decentralization, transparency,

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security, right? And the potential of DAO to make governance more community driven. Yeah. And then you add in a

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really solid and adaptable platform like decidum which gives you the tools and the framework. Yeah. It's like we have

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this incredibly powerful combination to change how our towns and cities are run.

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Right. And for investors who are really into open source. This is a really exciting area, right?

This is more than just theory. Way more. These are

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realworld applications that are already showing us what's possible. Exactly.

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when you have more citizen engagement and governance that's more transparent and efficient. Yeah. By investing in and supporting these open-source solutions that embrace the principles of web 3.

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Yeah. Investors are essentially backing technologies that give power to communities from the ground up and

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foster more democratic processes. It feels like a real shift away from those more traditional often centralized

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models of local governance. Right. These decentralized technologies, they offer the potential for solutions that are more resilient and truly driven by the

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community. So, this raises a really important question for you, our listener. Yeah. How might this increasing transparency and citizen

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control in local government facilitated by platforms like Deedum underpinned by these web 3 technologies? How might that fundamentally reshape the relationship?

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That's the question. between cities and towns and the people they serve and what new opportunities for investment in community development might emerge as we

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move toward a more decentralized and participatory future. That's something to think about. Yeah, it's definitely

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something to consider. Absolutely. All right. Well, that's going to do it for this deep dive. Okay. Thanks for listening everybody. Thanks. We'll catch you next time.

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