A decentralized database committed to preserving the original account of global history

Website | Historia.Network

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Abstract

Historia is a blockchain-based database focused on preserving the original account of history. Our aim is to incentivise the contribution of accurate historical events that will be reviewed by a diverse, globally distributed pool of voters. Historia decentralizes the recording of history from the few to the many, providing a change log to history and a platform to combat censorship and bias.

Forward

Problems Throughout History

> "Many of the ugly pages of American history have been obscured and forgotten. A society is always eager to cover misdeeds with a cloak of forgetfulness, but no society can fully repress an ugly past when the ravages persist into the present."
>
> *Martin Luther King, Jr.*
> *American clergyman, civil rights leader, orator*
> *Where Do We Go from Here:*
> *Chaos or Community? (1967)*

History and the events that comprise it-- the triumphs, the mistakes, the acts of goodwill and bad-- all require accurate documentation to remain intact throughout time. These records serve as a moral and economic guidelines for humanity to advance forward. The allowance for any one person, group of people, or government to manipulate, obscured, or delete historical accounts facilitates ignorance and hinders advancement of civilization.

There are substantial gaps throughout the history of civilization. Opposing sides of war write or rewrite history. The events of the Holocaust are well documented both from historical records and personal accounts but there are groups who deny it ever happened. These denials, supported by "misinformation and false claims," are used to question the validity of the historical genocide. Deniers use fantastical explanations of previously recorded event, like Arthur Butz, who accounted for the "'disappearance' of millions of Jews" as an escape from poor marriages and are actually alive and well (Lipstadt 2011). It isn't only the false claims of historical events that riddle our records with inaccuracies, but also those who own monopolies over mainstream media. Governments and companies with monopolies over media outlets can introduce real-world threats of information suppression, censorship, and bias. The Chinese government is well known for its control and censorship over "both traditional and new media" outlets (Xu & Albert 2017). Sinclair Broadcast Group is "one of the largest owners of local news stations in the (United States)" and has sparked mass controversies over the bias propagated by their media

outlets and the impact their monopoly will have on the general public (Wichter 2018). To make matters worse, these entities do so under the guise of neutral and objective reporting.

In the present, history is being told online by an ever growing number of outlets. What can we do to validated and trust these recorded events? How can the events of the past and present be recorded in a way that is uneditable to help prevent future censorship and bias?

Historia Solves the Problems

Historia is a blockchain based technology for ensuring accurate historical facts are protected from perversion by employing a governance and voting system combined with an immutable file storage system. Playing off the idea of “wisdom of the masses” and combining a governance and voting layer with immutable file storage system will allow for the recording of current events or future history to be as accurately recorded as possible.

Users vote on content submitted through the blockchain with rating guidelines including accuracy, references, relevance of references, imparity, and preclude records that constitute as an advertisement, bias, or just outright lies. If the proposal is passed, it is added to the Historia blockchain for permanent storage and cannot be altered. An approved record can be amended with later submissions, but the original content can never be altered.

Users’ are incentivized to submit current events that are as accurate as possible. If a user was to submit an article that is biased and inaccurate, the governance layer should vote this content down, and it not be added to the permanent archives. To submit a current event for a vote, the submitting entity is required to pay a small fee. The cost is not refundable, even if the record proposal is voted inaccurate, and denied entry into the Historia blockchain. If the record proposal is accepted, the submitting entity will be rewarded a number of Historia coins as originally requested. This allows for a greater accuracy in submitted content, as well as competition to submit the content at a competitive price.

Since much of the historical record of the world is debatable, the Historia team has chosen to focus on the additions of recent events, current events, or future history to our blockchain, and not try to rewrite the historical record again.

What Historia is Not

There are many repositories of data that are publicly available for content submission on the Internet, as well as other blockchain applications. Wikipedia is one application that fits this example. It should be noted that Historia is not trying to be a repository for all of human

knowledge, but rather significant cultural and historical events that are important to secure in a immutable manner for the further expansion of the human race.

A major weakness the Historia team noticed in other blockchain applications that store records was the lack of incentivized nodes to decentralize the data far and wide. While some might think this is not a major issue, if data is centralized to an organization that is themselves decentralized, this is no better than having a database across multiple datacenters around the world. Another issue that the Historia team has seen is the ability for editors, not users, to control the content of the network.

Features

To Fork or not to Fork?

During the research phase of the Historia project, the Historia team researched different blockchain technologies (Ethereum, EOS, Dash) to determine which would be best suited for the Historia project or if a completely custom blockchain would be needed. For the Historia solution, we chose the Dash 14.0.0 codebase as a starting point. Not only is Dash a mature project under active development, but Dash also created the first user voting governance layer via their Masternode system. This was an important evolution that created an incentivized treasury system to support the network nodes, as well as other various services within the ecosystem. Other important features that drew the Historia team to the Dash codebase include increased transaction speed over Bitcoin, built-in privacy protections, and low transaction fees.

Historia maintains all of the Dash features and will further evolve the code base to include several important additions. These will include, but not are limited to, adding locking record features, decentralized and immutable file storage system, treasury ratio changes to help further support content submission, and the X16RV2v2 Hashing algorithm that is ASIC resistant (Black & Weight 2018).

Genesis Block

As an example to the dedication the Historia team has to the accurate representation of history, the decision was made to call out one of the greatest known examples of false history. The Historia Genesis block will make reference to the events of Tieminan Square.

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6/4/1989 Tieminan Square: China reports 0-300 deaths, USA reports
10,000+ deaths
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The protests in Tiananmen Square, which took place in Beijing in 1989, was a predominately student-led demonstration that ended in a massacre ("Tiananmen Square" 2018). These

protests are shrouded in mystery as the Chinese government, who was responsible for “forcibly suppressing the protests” under martial law, downplayed the negative actions of their involvement stating that only 241 people died and about 7,000 were wounded. “Most other estimates have put the death toll much higher” and in the years following the massacre, the Chinese government has worked hard to suppress any references to the event ("Tiananmen Square incident" 2018). The United States and UK estimate the death count around 10,000 dead, highlighting the potential misinformation spread by the Chinese government (Burke 2017).

Governance Layer

The original governance layer allowed for voting on budget proposals that help with adoption and support of the network. The budget proposals are temporary and limited in content. The Historia team will evolve this governance layer to not only allow masternodes to vote for or against budget proposals to build the network, but record proposals to give an accurate representation of current events or future history. These record proposals, if adopted, will be permanently stored in the blockchain.

It should be noted that after the governance layer is running, the Historia team will have no control over it and no control over the direction of the Historia network. While the Historia team can make suggestions on the direction in which the Historia network will take, the team will defer to the masternode owners over development direction. Furthermore, the Historia team will not run any masternodes, nor make any votes for or against any budget or record proposals. The one caveat to this statement is that certain network services in the future may require the Historia team to run a few masternodes to properly support those services. If this happens, the Historia team will publicly announce how many masternodes are being run in support of those services. Even with those required masternodes for network services, the Historia team will abstain from all votes.

Consensus-based History

> “The main work of the historian is not to record, but to evaluate; for, if he does not evaluate, how can he know what is worth recording?”
>
> *E. H. Carr*
>
> *British historian, journalist, international relations theorist [Edward Hallett "Ted" Carr]*
>
> *What is History?, ch. 1 (1961)*

When recording history there are two schools of thought: technical and contemporary records. Technical history can be largely inaccurate because of the lack of accurate records from the timeframe in question. Contemporary history can also be inaccurate because the idea of the

historian as a participant can give an incomplete version of events. Our goal is that by allowing the masses to record consensus-based contemporary historical records as it occurs, future technical historians can produce a more accurate record of history. (Schlesinger "The Historian as Participant").

The Historia team holds the opinion that the best time to record an accurate view of history is when it's a current event, or shortly thereafter. By allowing the masternode owners to vote on budget proposals to help the growth of the network, as well as record proposals for the inclusion of current events, the world can truly have a consensus-based history, rather than one restricted by authoritarians, dictators, the political will of a specific country, or media bias.

The masternodes should be well distributed throughout the world, and can exist anywhere electrical power and access to the Internet is available. Since the masternodes encompass a large number of computers, no single individual, group, or national government can eliminate a record proposal once it is accepted into the immutable file storage system.

To become a masternode, in addition to maintaining a computer system with sufficient hardware in terms of storage, processing power, and reliable internet access, the masternode must hold a 5000 Historia coins. Masternodes verify the blockchain, and store a copy of historical records that are voted on and accepted into the Historia blockchain. Votes from masternodes can be one of the following: yes, no, or abstain. Masternodes are also paid for verifying and maintaining the blockchain and hosting the immutable file storage system.

Incentivised Content Submission

The Historia team does not want to rely on the good nature and free time of it's users to provide relevant content to the Historia blockchain. When a user submits a record proposal, they can also request payment on their submission. If the masternode owners consider this to be an appropriate fee for the content submitted, as well as meeting the other previously mentioned guidelines such as accuracy, evidence, references, validity of content, then the submitting entity will receive payment for their work on approval. This allows for a greater accuracy in submitted content, as well as competition to submit the content quickly, at a competitive and fair price. This is a network feature and payments are not based on the Historia team, company, or any future foundation. Even if the Historia team is eliminated from the equation, the network and Historia blockchain will live on to continue providing payments to both the masternode owners for hosting data, and the content submission entities.

Locking Record Type

In addition to having budget proposals to help support community network growth, the Historia team has designed and will implement a locking record type. While similar to budget proposals in nature, the locking record type allows the tying together of Historia governance layer with the immutable file storage system. Once the votes are in place for approval of permanent record storage, the hash addressable content cannot be removed or edited by any Historia team members, or the masternode owners themselves, even under distress via lawsuit or imprisonment. Once the record is locked, it is locked and stored for eternity.

The Historia team understand that sometimes the public may not be privy to all evidence to make an accurate decision based on what is known about current events surrounding the submitted record proposal in question. It is possible that the masternode owners may entirely vote yes on a false or inaccurate event. In the future, if the approved record was discovered to be false or inaccurate, Historia has devised a solution to amend the original record for content dispute and resolution. This will not change the original record, but instead maintain the integrity of the record chain. An addendum to previous records will be possible by tagging the appropriate record for addendum. It will be required to go through the same process as the original record proposal for submission since it is essentially a new record proposal.

Any record that is not officially approved will be removed from the governance layer and the immutable file storage system.

Immutable File Storage System

For the Historia solution, we chose the Interplanetary File Storage (IPFS) system ("IPFS is the Distributed Web" 2015). IPFS is a hash addressable peer-to-peer content storage system. IPFS provides Historia with both a storage mechanism, along with a secure method to confirm that any hosted content is immutable and provably unaltered. IPFS will be implemented into Historia to provide storage of the files which will be used as the basis for the record proposals. These files are referenced via hash in a locked record that is approved by a Masternode owners' vote. This is the key attribute to tying together the governance layer to the IPFS system.

All Masternodes are required to run IPFS in daemon mode. Therefore, the more masternodes running on the network, the more distributed the files will be stored. This helps to prevent censorship of the historical records.

It should be pointed out that masternode owners in blockchain hostile and historically hostile countries should take extra precautions when running a Historia masternode, as this could make the masternode owner a target for persecution. While the Historia team will attempt to do its best to support masternode owners in hostile countries, the masternode owner must take responsibility for their actions, even if the laws of those countries would be considered unjust. The Historia team is committed to supporting organizations that advocate for freedom of speech around the world and will continue to help fund their efforts.

Future code releases will include a size limit of 10 MB total per record. The initial file size limit will help to prevent file-based denial of service attacks against the masternode network, plus make best use of the masternode resources. As technological capacity increases with regard to both hard drive and bandwidth limits, masternodes will have the ability to vote to increase this file size limit to potentially include large audio and video files.

GPU Only Mining - Proof of Work

ASIC miners are a problem for most of the blockchain ecosystem due to centralization of miners. This centralization is, for the most part, detrimental to the economic model of cryptocurrency. For Historia, we chose a strategy of upgrading the X11 hashing algorithm to X16RV2 hashing algorithm which is currently ASIC resistant.

The Historia team also recognizes if blockchains are successful using the X16RV2 hashing algorithm, ASIC miners will eventually be released for this specific algorithm. The Historia team has made a conscience decision to publicly state that if and when ASIC miners are released for the X16RV2 algorithm, we will implement a hard fork to the next iteration of the hashing algorithm that is not capable of being mined by ASIC chips. We hope this will encourage further decentralization of the miners, and help to support the community that uses GPU mining.

Emissions Rate, Block Rewards, & Budget

Block Rewards

The Historia team aspires to have as many masternodes running as possible to distribute the Historia blockchain and approved record proposals as widely as possible. On the initial release, after masternodes are enabled the block reward is seen in Figure 1. The block reward has been broken down to encourage miners, masternode owners, and record proposals / content submission.

On the initial release, after masternodes and record proposals are enabled, each mined block will allocate up to 70% to miners, 32% (increasing every two months until 50%) to Masternode owners, up to 20% to record proposals. Currently as of this update to the white paper in March 2020, the block reward of 4.1 coins per block.

Budget and Record Proposals

Over the course of approximately thirty (30) days, any user can submit budget proposals for network growth, record proposals for content submission, or both. At the end of every thirty (30)

day cycle, superblocks will be created to pay out any approved budget or record proposals. All decisions to fund budget proposals or record proposals are the decision of the masternodes owners, and no decisions can be made concerning budget proposals or record proposals by the Historia team.

Emissions Rate

The Historia team understands that there has to be a balance between the amount of coins released to both maintain the network and keeping the amount of coins low to maintain value for the network owners, users, and record submitters. Therefore, we made the decision to start with a steep inflation rate, then transition to having it organically reduce to less than 1% as more coins are mined to the network.

After the masternodes and proposals are enabled, there is both a minimum and maximum amount of coins that are released per month. This is due to how the block reward is split between miners, masternode owners, and budget / record proposals. The maximum coin supply is 15.4 million.

Record Submission Process

The record proposal submission process will be very similar to the budget proposal submission process. From the user point of view, there is no difference between the record proposal submission process and the budget proposal submission process. From the algorithmic level, as previously stated, the record proposal submission process will implement a locking record mechanism, if approved by the masternode owners.

The following will be the step-by-step process for submitting a proposed record for permanent addition into the Historia blockchain:

1. A user, or group of users, will gather information and ideas for a record proposal to be added into the Historia blockchain.
2. The user, or group of users, will organize their ideas to tell the “story” of the record proposal. This should be done within the context of a HTML document where images are optional. This record proposal will then be stored in a user defined directory. The total size of this directory will be limited to less than 10 MB, otherwise, the masternode network will automatically reject the directory and no vote will occur.
3. The user, or group of users, will submit their directory to the IPFS network using the IPFS add recursive command. This will return a hash of the directory.
4. The user, or group of users, will then create a Historia JSON prepare call, including the IPFS hash in the URL parameter, and the payment requested for the record proposal.
5. The user, or group of users, will then submit the previously generated Historia prepare call via their local wallet. This will require a non-refundable fee of 5 coins (subject to

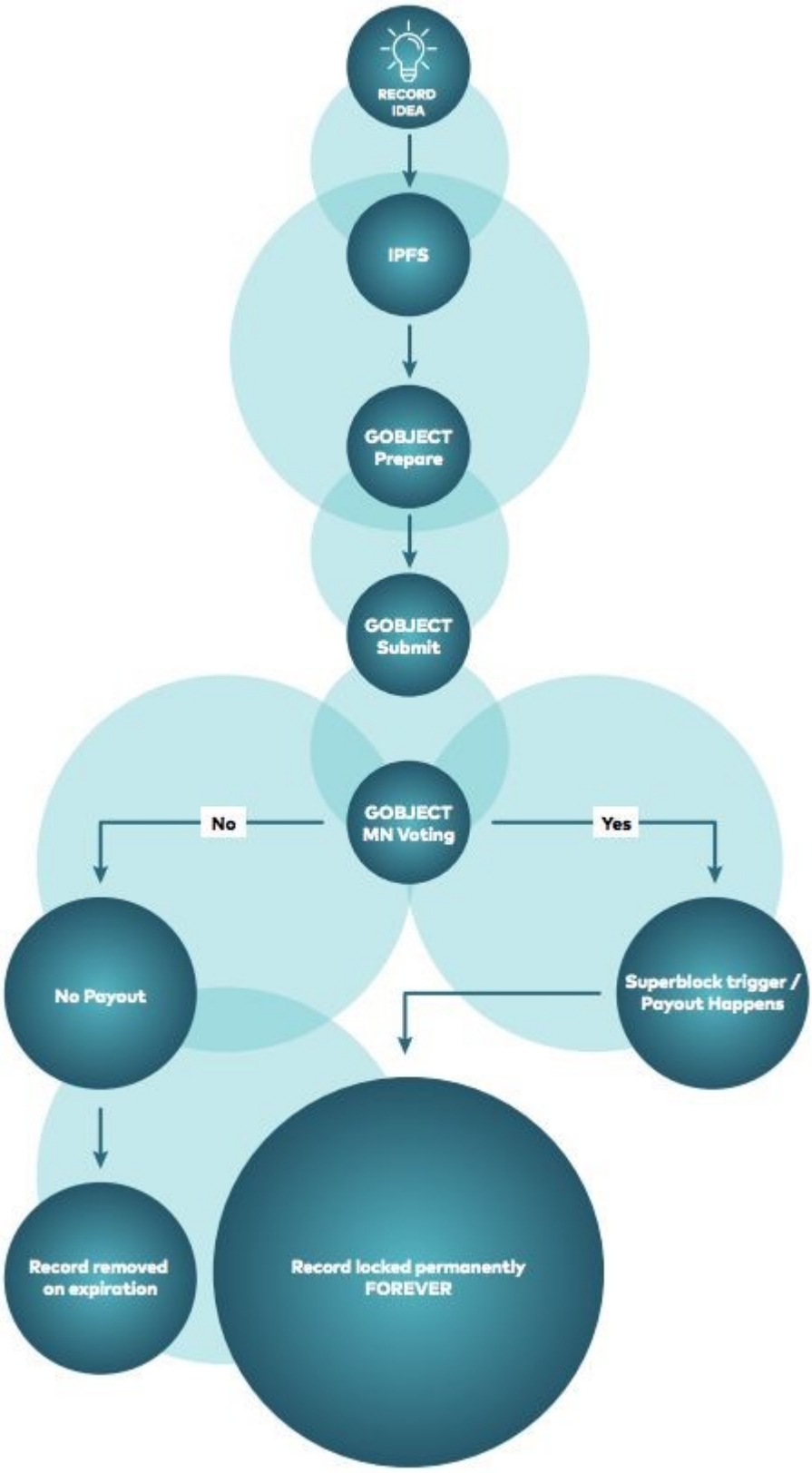
change) in their local wallet, or otherwise, the prepare call will fail. This will return a payment verification hash.

6. After confirmation of the payment from the Historia prepare call, the user, or group of users, will then make a Historia submit call via their local wallet with the payment verification hash. It's important to note that the IPFS hash and content must be online until it can be replicated across the network.
7. The user, or group of users, will then should lobby and attempt to gain support for their record proposal from the masternode network.
8. The masternodes will vote as to if the content should be added to the Historia blockchain. This process lasts no longer than approximately 30 days.
9. If the record proposal is approved via the masternode owner vote, it will receive a permanent locked status and therefore will be stored on the masternode network forever. If the record proposal is not approved via the masternode owner vote, the record proposal will expire from the network, and be deleted from the masternode network.
10. At the end of the cycle, if the record proposal is approved, a superblock will be generated and the submitting entity will receive the payment requested for the said content.

While the above content appears to be very technical process, the goal of the Historia team is to also have a web application and wallet interface that automates most of this process to be much more user friendly.

The following is a high-level overview of how a proposed record flow moves through the process.

HISTORIA


RECORD IDEA
IPFS
GOBJECT Prepare
GOBJECT Submit
GOBJECT MN Voting
No
Yes
No Payout
Superblock trigger / Payout Happens
Record removed on expiration
Record locked permanently FOREVER

Services

Wallets

The Historia wallet to access network services will be released for all major platforms including Linux, OSX, and Windows. There will also be mobile wallets for iOS and Android that will be eventually be released. Once the masternode network is up, all wallets will go through a major update to include ease of use for submission of both budget proposals and record proposals.

Web application

The Historia team intends to make the voting system as accessible as possible. There will be a web application that will released. Some features of the web application are as follows:

- Timeline of approved records
- Voting platform to make the system as friendly as possible
- User friendly GUI for submission of budget proposals and record proposals ● Collaborative record submission process - v2

Community

The community ecosystem is by far one of the most important aspects of the Historia system. To foster a healthy and diverse ecosystem, the Historia team welcomes individuals from all walks of life. To further this goal, we will have official channels of communication across the major social media platforms. This includes, but are not limited to the following:

- **Website** | Histora.network
- **GitHub** | https://github.com/HistoriaOffical/historia
- **Reddit** | https://www.reddit.com/r/HistoriaSys
- **Discord** | https://discordapp.com/invite/mjWdpcz
- **Twitter** | https://twitter.com/historiasys
- **Blog** | https://blog.historia.network

It is also important to have tutorials, how-tos, support, and a complete and through set of documentation for users to further understand how the network functions, including how to troubleshoot issues when they may arise.

The Historia team will work to publish approval guidelines which will assist the masternode owners, users, and community on what content to approve and deny. While these guidelines are not binding in any legal way, we hope they will become the basis of proper etiquette of the Historia ecosystem and network.

Risk / Disclaimer Section

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Please note that this is experimental software driven by open sourced community development.

Core Team

The Historia team is made of a group of technology and security experts, passionate about truth in history. The Historia project was designed, developed, and created by a multicultural team that hold various political beliefs, religious beliefs, sexual orientations, and genders.

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