

What Open Source Software Development can Learn from Decentralized Autonomous Organizations

Jan Gorzny

Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) are popular within many blockchain communities, having been instantiated for a myriad of reasons. These organizations may aim to manage investments, govern protocols, or produce software, among other use cases. Regardless of their use case, they are open, transparent, and aim to operate without strong centralized actors. DAOs have borrowed ideas from Open Source Software (OSS) development which also aims to be open and transparent, if not also decentralized, but is a much more mature industry. As a result, there has been efforts that compare (software producing) DAO governance models to those of OSS producing organizations. While these works have found that DAOs share many similarities, they are not identical. This work aims to investigate the differences in these models, and in particular, investigate the areas where DAO governance appears advantageous. We consider all DAOs (regardless of whether or not they aim to produce software) in order to determine where their governance (and their use of the blockchains). Our aim is to study successful and mature DAOs in order to make suggestions for governance in OSS.