



FOI: Decentralized Message Board

Freedom of Information

www.FOIchain.com |
Minty Networks, LLC. |

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all are created equal, that they are endowed by The Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, **Liberty** and the pursuit of Happiness.”

As the internet grew, it grew with a dream of liberation, for the world as a whole, from any powers that may inhibit the God-Given rights of mankind—one in particular, freedom of speech. Since its inception, on more than one occasion, sites have been seized, censored, and/or shut down in most all countries by varying government organizations of the world. Freedom of speech is, so to speak, a *double-edged sword*—both good and bad things can come from it. We believe, however, that it is up to the individual to decide what texts they shall censor for themselves, not a ruling entity (appointed or not).

With the age of blockchain technology has come an unprecedented ability to liberate societies from centralized institutions and their interferences in free-exchange. With Bitcoin came liberation from financial institutions, with FOI comes liberation from communications channels. Had George Orwell known of the tech that was to come, he might have writ one less book.

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Overview of System

The FOI system works in two parts:

- Smart Contract and Web App. The Smart Contract handles issuing of tokens and validation of posts (messages). The Smart Contract will be deployed on Ethereum for all to use.
- The Web App handles parsing and categorizing of posts as well as post-data generation. The Web App will be released to the public, in the form of a skeleton-framework source code, so that anyone may host a message board browser.

FOI is a decentralized message board platform [utility] running on Ethereum. FOI allows anyone to publish messages to given message boards of their choice with anonymous identification. Message board browsers will be deployed privately or publicly for reading said messages. FOI utilizes a collateral-based system to prevent message spam, a guarantee of perpetual posting permissions for FOI holders (to prevent seizure of the decentralized communication channels), as well as an optional encryption support for broadcast messages.

Overview of Smart Contract

The Smart Contract will issue FOI Tokens during the ICO phase (See 'Smart Contract, ICO'). 250,000 FOI tokens will be created one-time upon deployment. Of these 200,000 will be for sale and 50,000 will be held in reserve by FOI to fund future development of the Web-App front end. FOI tokens are indivisible, so the smallest unit is 1 FOI token.

After the ICO phase, FOI transitions into a message processing smart contract. Posting to an FOI message board is free (apart from Ethereum processing fees) and operates on a proof-of-collateral system. To post a message to a message board, a publisher shall transfer 1 FOI token to the smart contract with pre-processed data that shall include the name of the FOI message board to which they are posting, the body of their message, as well as a Boolean flag indicating whether their message has been encrypted or not. The Smart Contract will publish one's message and hold onto their FOI token for 1 month, after which time the token will be transferred back to the address from which the publication came.

The Smart Contract holds FOI tokens for a one-month period as a proof-of-collateral to rate-limit spam. Possessing 1 FOI token grants one the interminable right to publish to an FOI message board once per month, forever. Possessing X FOI Tokens allows one to publish X posts per month. When one is done spreading their messages, they may transfer their token (posting

rights) to another party (likely via a third-party exchange) if desired. Publications remain available under the original holder's anonymous ID in perpetuity, even after transfer. It is not possible to "delete" or alter publications from the block-chain, even if the token is transferred.

Overview of Web App

A front-end *explorer* will be created to process/parse FOI messages published on-chain. This browser code will allow anyone to explore the FOI message boards and filter by criteria such as Message Board ID, date, anonymous-poster ID, etc.

The web app code shall be released, for free, to the public, so that anyone may deploy their own FOI message board explorer, either privately or publicly.

The web app explorer will display the home message board showing all posts that have been made by FOI holders. All messages are posted to a message board of the poster's choice. On the explorer, users can view specific message boards to view all publications pertaining to that topic. A publisher's user identification is their public Ethereum wallet address. On the web app explorer, one can click on a publisher's anonymous ID to see all posts anonymous made by said publisher. If a message has been published anywhere as encrypted, the web app will allow viewers to [locally] enter a decryption-key to view the message. Distribution and security of encryption keys is not under FOI management.

Additionally, the web app will contain a post-generation tool which will encode one's message components into a data-field for use with the smart contract. This post-generation tool will support [local] message encryption as well. This tool allows any FOI token holder to easily interact with the FOI smart contract and publish their messages without technological-know-how.

Smart Contract

ICO

250,000 FOI Tokens will be issued. They will go on sale in two phases:

- Phase 1—Pre-Sale: 200,000 FOI tokens will be for sale starting August 13, 2018 12:00AM GMT, they will be sold at a rate of 0.05 ETH per FOI token. This rate will linearly increase over time, until the conclusion of the sale, on October 12, 2018 11:59PM GMT, at which point the exchange rate will be 0.25 ETH per FOI token.
- Phase 2—Sale: 50,000 FOI tokens will be sold (partially or in-full) via third party exchanges indefinitely to fund the on-going development of the Web-App front-end, which will always be released, open source, to the public, so that anyone may host their own FOI Message Board explorer, publicly or privately.

Those located in the USA **CAN** participate in the pre-sale of FOI tokens. FOI is a utility token, not a security token. Purchase of FOI tokens is permissible under current U.S. Security laws!

Funds raised from the ICO will be used to offset development costs of the platform as a whole, as well as support server costs of running FOIchain.com's localized version of the web-app explorer. Others are encouraged to host their own explorers for the public to use as well, and source code will be provided, for free-use, by FOI for such purposes.

Tokens

FOI Tokens are indivisible, fungible, and hard-capped. A single token grants the possessor an immutable right to post a single message [per month] on an FOI message board. The supply of FOI Tokens is set at 250K, allowing for a theoretical maximum of 250K messages posted per month on all message boards combined. Tokens (posting-rights) can be exchanged freely (apart from Ethereum processing fees) between individuals or entities.

Message Processing

To post a message to an FOI message board, the publisher simply transfers 1 FOI token to the FOI Smart Contract along with post data (which can be generated via the web-app). This post data will include the name of the FOI message board that one wishes to post on, the body of one's message, and an encrypted-flag.

When posting a message, a publisher shall indicate the name of the FOI message board they wish to post to (e.g. 'World News'). The post will be published to said board. If one enters the name of a message board that has not been previously used by anyone else before, the board will be instantiated and said message will become the *first post*. Message Boards can be created for 'free' by anyone, by simply making a *first post* to the message board that one desires to create.

The identity of a poster is anonymous, but is unique, as it is tied to the poster's public Ethereum address. Therefore, one can post messages/information fully anonymously, yet can also continue to post future messages with proof that they are the *OP* (Original Poster) for a given communications thread/chain. Posters can have multiple accounts, each tied to a unique public address. This allows a poster to publish completely anonymously, under a pseudonym, or under the publisher's real name, with no ability (under the smart contract or blockchain) to relate the publications.

Posting is free (relatively)—one offers collateral of 1 FOI token upon making one's post as a proof-of-vested-interest (proof-of-collateral). After 1 month's time, said FOI token is transferred back to the poster via the Smart Contract. Proof-of-collateral serves as an anti-spam measure (See 'Proof of Collateral, Token Based Rate Limiting').

Web App

Message Board Browsing

The Web App will be an FOI explorer which can read and organize all published messages from the FOI Smart Contract. It can categorize messages by anonymous-poster, message-board name, time-stamp, etc. Messages can be read by anyone or they can optionally be encrypted by the publisher, at which point the web app can prompt for input of an encryption key and locally decrypt the message.

Naturally, users of FOI will publish their messages to a message board relative to the topic on which they are speaking. Anyone can create a message board, just as anyone can create a message. Message boards are decentralized and unmoderated, so anyone can post to any message board. The creator of a message board has no control or unique authority over the message board they created, or over messages posted to said board.

Message Data Generation

Anyone with an FOI token can publish to any message board for free. In order to do so, one simply transfers 1 FOI token, as collateral, along with data containing their post contents. The web app allows for easy post-data generation in which a user can create their post (along with info about which board it will be posted to, etc.) and the web app will auto convert the whole bundle into post-data that can be sent easily via the Ethereum network. The body/message can also be encrypted, in which the web app will ask for an encryption key and encrypt the message, along with setting a Boolean flag 'Encrypted' in the message data for FOI browsers to be able to categorize it as such.

Public Domain Release of Web App Source Code

A Web App (FOI Explorer) will be developed and released to the public, for free, so that anyone can host a public explorer or deploy their own personal private explorer to view FOI contents. Additionally, anyone can build/fork their own FOI explorer to allow for extra after-market functionality. A base FOI explorer web-app will be launched on our FOI token home page as well.

Proof of Collateral

Token Based Rate Limiting

One can make posts to the FOI platform for free (apart from Ethereum processing fees), but must adhere to the proof-of-collateral protocol. To make one post on the FOI platform, a poster must offer collateral in the form of 1 FOI token, which is to be held by the smart contract for one month before being transferred back to the poster. The poster's message remains forever, even after the one month holding-period.

If a bad actor wished to halt the spread of information via burying messages with spam, it would be a cumbersome task. Suppose someone posts a message for 1 FOI token—the bad actor may use 1K FOI tokens (of the 250K FOI tokens in existence) to attempt to bury said message. The original poster could simply re-post their message for just 1 additional FOI token. Because of cost, scarcity, and the 1 month hold time on FOI tokens, in practice, it would be too cumbersome for an entity to try and bury information by utilizing spam. Additionally, since messages are identified uniquely by the poster's public wallet ID, subscribers to a specific (anonymous) publisher are always able to filter and ensure that any publications they view are strictly from the owner of that particular ID or wallet.

Unseizable communication channels

If a bad actor were to try to use power-of-wealth to seize all communication channels, it would be in vain. Once an entity owns a communication channel (FOI token), they have the irrevocable right to post information once per month, forever. They retain the token (posting permission). Therefore, one actor could not use wealth alone to seize all communication channels (all tokens), because 100.00% of the *potentially* tens of thousands who are already publishing would have to unanimously opt out of their desire for free spread of information—which, for all intents and purposes, is chimera.

Closing Remarks

FAQ

Q: Can publications to the FOI platform be modified or removed?

A: The ability to publish on the block-chain via FOI tokens cannot be taken, limited or canceled. As long as the block-chain exists, FOI exists. FOI tokens provide a means to publish anything, anytime, by anyone, without censorship, now and into the future. With FOI, the message becomes entangled within the Ethereum blockchain itself. The blockchain is independent of any means of distribution or storage, and FOI published texts become and remain available to anyone, anywhere, anytime with no possibility of governmental or corporate censorship, allowing for true freedom of information.

Q: Should I buy the FOI token as an investment?

A: The FOI token is a token that grants an individual the right to post on and create message boards on FOI—powered the Ethereum Blockchain. The purpose of the FOI token is to facilitate the free dissemination of information without the ability for a third party to censor, alter, or suppress the information. FOI token has been created for utility purposes.

Q: Does any one entity control an FOI message board?

A: The FOI token holders have the ability to post and create messages on the FOI message board. No one person has control over the FOI message boards. Both the posting and viewing of the message posted to the FOI message board is entirely uncontrolled by any one entity.

Q: Can U.S. citizens purchase the FOI token? (Yes)

A: YES! The FOI token is not a security under U.S. Securities laws. In fact, it is best to think of the FOI token as a piece of code that grants the ability to post and create messages on the FOI message board. Purchasers of the FOI token are not granted any kind of profit sharing rights, only the right to post and create messages on the FOI message board.