Paralelná Polis / Praha, Bratislava
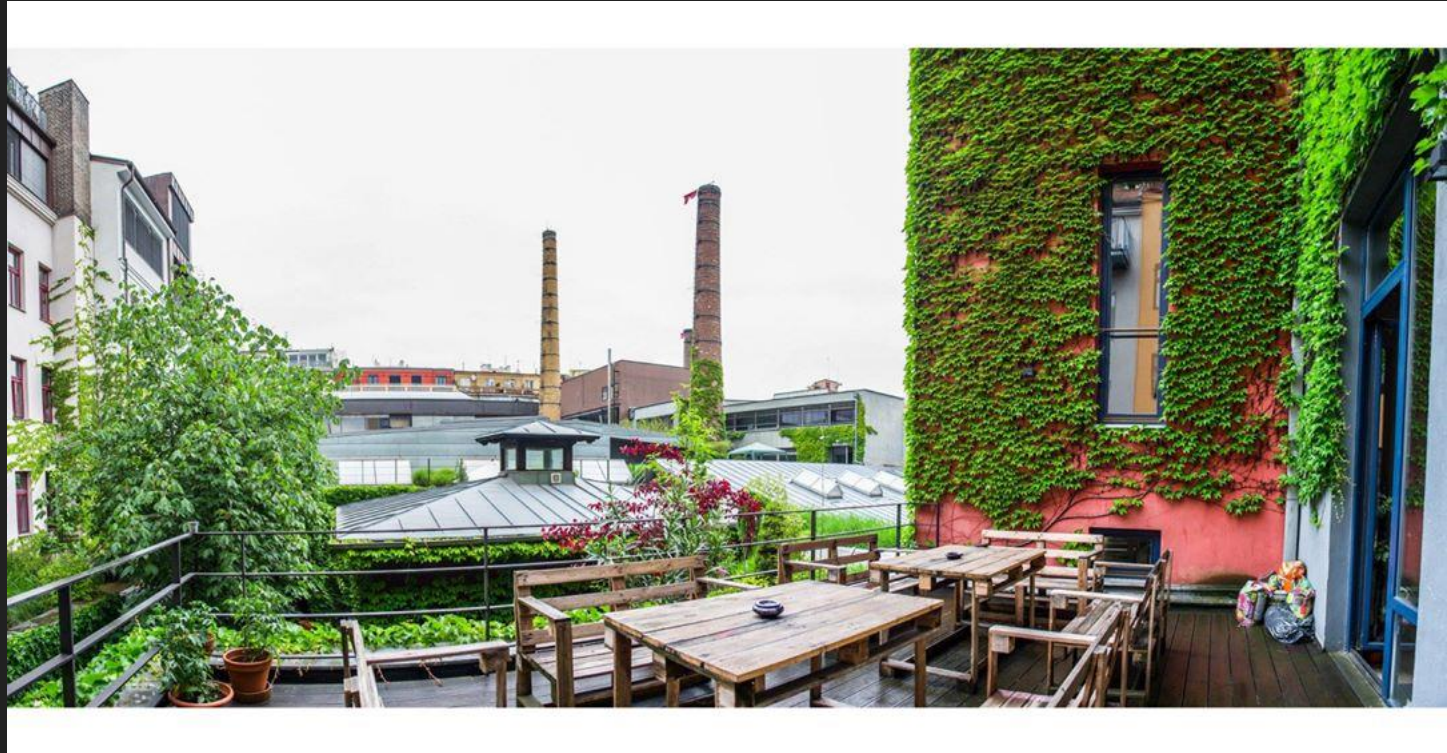
Paralelní Polis

- A house in Prague, Holešovice that consists of:

  - Bitcoin Coffee – first crypto-only cafeteria

  - Paper Hub – coworking space and soon-to-be CryptoHub incubator

  - CryptoLab - Crypto Hackerspace

  - Institute of Cryptoanarchy – educational institution and think-tank

  - Hackers Congress Paralelní Polis – cryptoanarchist conference (sold out in a few days, last ticket for 1BTC sold in 20 minutes)
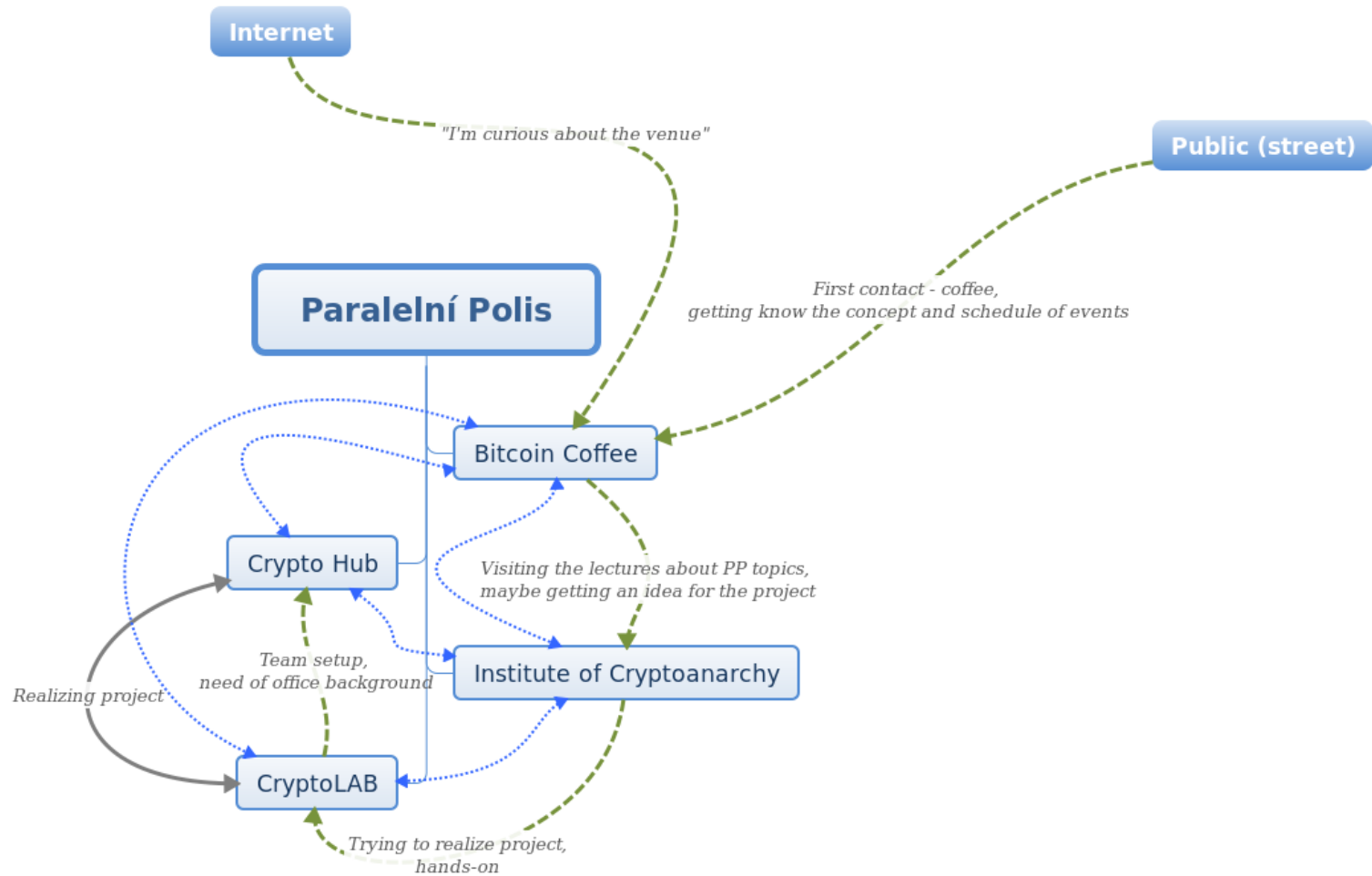
Practical Philosophy of Paralelní Polis

Paralelní = Parallel

Polis = City (Greek)

Totalitarian regime of communist Czechoslovakia => Charta 77 => rejection => Václav Benda's Paralelní Polis

Free education, religious expression, communication (information exchange), "black" markets, …

Cryptoanarchy

It's not a scary "let's burn everything down" philosophy

It is a reflection on how current technologies can be used to get to personal, individual freedom - right here, right now, without changing the world

Operates in a digital realm, it is a virtual Parallel Polis

Institute of Cryptoanarchy (practical joke) = can "anarchy" be "institutionalized"?

Cryptoanarchy manifesto

Timothy C. May, late 1980s

*… These **developments will alter completely the nature of government regulation, the ability to tax and control economic interactions**, the ability to keep information secret, and will even alter the nature of trust and reputation.*
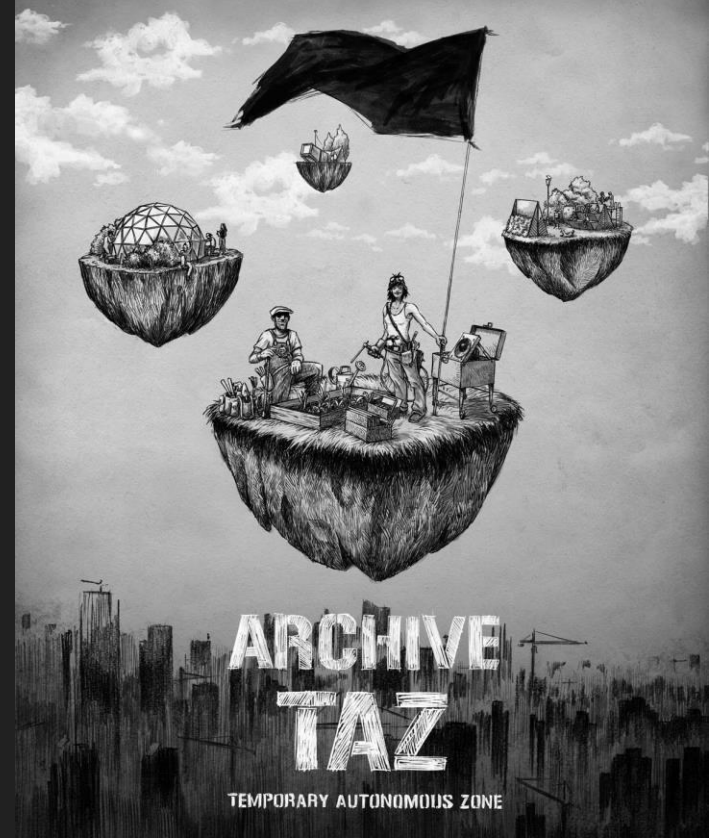
Cryptoanarchy manifesto

...The State will of course try to slow or halt the spread of this technology, citing national security concerns, use of the technology by drug dealers and tax evaders, and fears of societal disintegration. Many of these concerns will be valid; crypto anarchy will allow national secrets to be trade freely and will allow illicit and stolen materials to be traded...

This has already begun! States try to halt it (EU AML5 directive? Internet censorship?)

Hakim Bey's Temporary Autonomous Zones

One of the greatest advantages of Temporary Autonomous Zones is the ability to live as if you are **free -because you are, at least at that place and time**.

Hackerspaces

- Hackerspace movement - open source, hackerspaces.org
- Progressbar hackerspace in Bratislava
- Cryptoparties, workshops, lectures, tinkering, playing
- Every hackerspace is different and they are all really interesting - when travelling, visit one!
  - Especially visit the Amsterdam hackerspace http://techinc.nl/
- 1383 active hackerspaces!

Decentralization

Decentralization is inherently antifragile (see N.N. Taleb's Antifragile)
Many experiments at the same time

Paralelní Polis Decentralized

       Start your own PP! The first one is in Bratislava
       Open-sourcing all know-how, helping bootstrap parallel societies
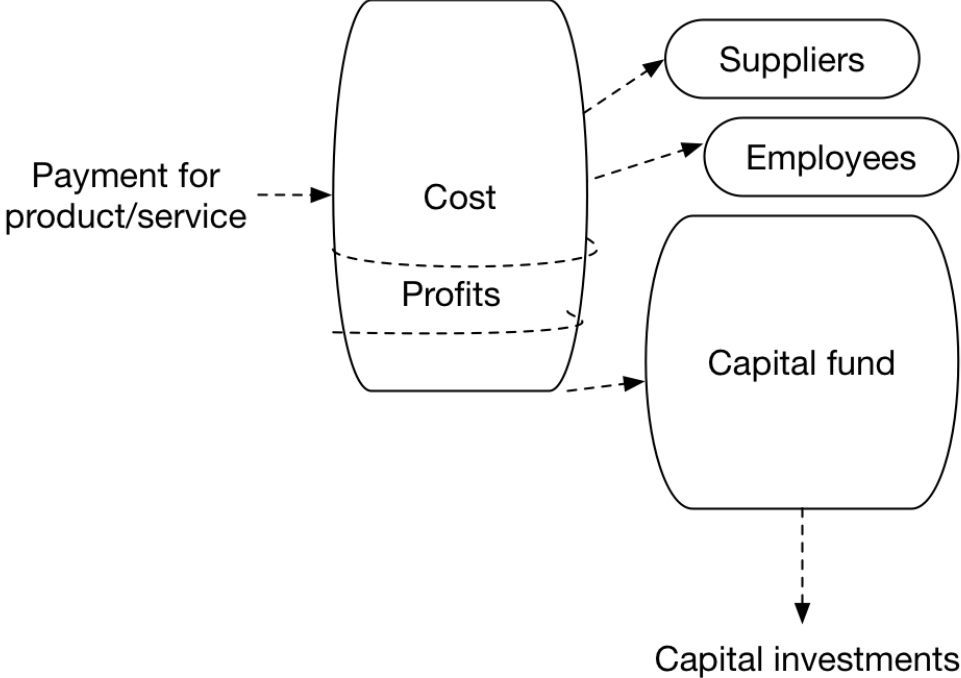   Also selfish incentive – bring more people to cryptos! HODL=>☺

Practical experiences in Pararelní Polis Prague

- Interactions with the state (Electronic Submission of Transactions)
- Real-world usability of cryptocurrencies

  - Old wallets, couldn't spend unconfirmed outputs

  - Large fees (or payments not confirming when a customer pays a low fee) => we had to start supporting Litecoin

  - Experiments with Monero – cannot spend an unconfirmed transaction (buy in ATM=>pay use-case not usable)

  - Paper wallets, NFCs, NFC implants (pay with your hand)

Practical experiences: How to survive volatility?

- All interactions are in cryptos, even if converting to fiat

    - Suppliers

    - Employees

    - Members of paper hub

    - Conference tickets

- How to survive this in volatile environment? Turn it into an advantage!

Practical experiences

- Collateralized loans – when crypto is low, you need to pay suppliers, but you don't want to sell cryptos

    - Use crypto as collateral, borrow money

    - Low-risk for both sides

Positive libertarianism

- Philosophy vs. practice
- Instead of "how should the world look like", ask "how can I get more freedom"?
- Instead of "what do you think" or "what do you believe", ask people: "What do you do?"
- If you feel that a major freedom in your life is lacking (taxation, relationships, education, freedom of movement, financial freedom, constrained time, freedom of expression, health problems, …) there is usually a way out. By entering a Parallel Polis, you can try to look for a way out there ("vejdiven" – "enter outside" is the wifi password in PP Prague ☺)

Welcome to the post-political world

We don't believe in lobbying, changing the current governments, not even in destroying them!

Like Rome - some people believed for centuries that Rome had still existed and that they had been living in the Roman empire.

Others understood that the system had been changed and they live under feudal rulership, emperor - if he had even existed - has been absolutely detached **"The future is already here, it is just not evenly distributed"** - William Gibson

Don't search for solutions to any kind of problems in politics, act!

Vision of Parallel Polis

- Our vision is a world where everyone can "exit" from the legacy (state) system to enter a voluntary world according to their wishes
- Opening of Paralelná Polis Bratislava, Slovakia (this summer)
- Decentralization of the concept (github.com/ParalelniPolis/ParalelniPolis-decentralized)
- PP in different cities
- More research
  - Decentralized justice
  - DAPPS
  - Cryptos for saving the world
    - More use-cases
  - Continuing the wild ride

"When you don't know what you're doing, they don't know it either" - Hagbard Celine (a character from Illuminatus!)

"Every city needs its own Paralelní Polis"

– Pamela Morgan, author of Cryptoasset Inheritance Planning

We <u>really</u> need your help!

https://paralelnapolis.sk/support-us

BTC →

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