

**The  
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**databri-X – datathon  
a brief history of governance**

**Jon Crowcroft, 27.5.25**



# Localisation: physical v. legal

- Databox/hat/personal data stores
  - Databox principles (human data interaction) at Aarhus 2015
  - Lots of examples (Solid, bluesky PDS, Estonian digital citizen etc etc)
- Data lakes and data trusts
  - Alternatively, legislate/jurisdictional limits (not just GDPR)
  - Enforcement depends, and tends to be reactive where PDS proactive

# Trustworthiness

- **Key management**
  - Who creates & stores keys
- **Exfiltration detection and redress**
  - Spotting bad actors can be hard – maybe inference
- **redress?**
  - Ostracism was a thing in medieval societyⓂ

# Usability

- Federation v. Decentralisation

FL is not decentralised

- Coordination

But FL or DL both need coordination which is hard.

- Flower et al

FL platforms need to somewhat decentralise for scale anyhow 😊

# Towards Governance 2.0

- Whereby public infrastructure

Somehow, the Internet exists – why did that work?

- Wherefore profit/non-profit

They didn't just fence and steal the commons. They stole your personal data..

- Sustainability

Retaking and Retaining decentralised ownership is going to be hard☺

# Governance 2.0 Challenges

- Asymmetric Power

Hyperscalers are larger than countries/regulators; capture is almost total

- Asymmetric Expertise

- Without the expertise how is the lay person supposed to even understand..

- Asymmetry of Motive

As the Ais increase in agency, even their owners/keepers will cease to comprehend 😊

# Governance 2.0 is a Wicked Problem

- Unpredictable growth rates

Bluesky AT Protocol use, for example

- Adversaries

- at state actor scale..

- Political

- e.g. just look at Open Wallet Foundation & Global Digital Collaboration

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Questions?