Escape Velocity

Scaling Software with Web3 (Pt. 2)

Not relevant for US-based companies/founders/readers.



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Token Launches COULD BE Next-Gen IPOs.

Common goal: bootstrap initial liquidity ...

...i.e., assemble a critical mass of buyers/sellers around a tight price range...

...so that entrepreneurs can finance growth businesses.

...But the Status Quo is Extremely Broken for Entrepreneurs.

<u>Centralized exchanges</u> require projects to maintain \$[1]m+ in average daily trading volume...

...plus, charge a \$[250]k listing fee of and take [months] to list a token, unless teams have prior relationships.



Market makers guarantee \$[1]m+ daily trading volume and expedite exchange listings...

...in exchange for [3-5]% of token supply on loan) plus another [3-5]% in equity/warrant upside.

In Fact, Token Listings Look a Lot Like TradFi IPOs.

Stock exchanges

- Listing requires minimum daily trading volume (\$100k+), market cap (\$100m+), share price (\$1+), etc
- Inclusion in the major indices (e.g., S&P500, Nasdaq Composite) comes with even stricter requirements
- Index inclusion ⇒ passive ETF flows ⇒ higher stock price ⇒ more exchange volumes



Investment banks

- Banks are gatekeepers to institutional investors: no bank
 ⇒ no roadshow / equity research / market makers ⇒ no large institutions buy the IPO
- Bank charge 3-7% of capital raised in underwriting fee
- Banks get a free option to upsize IPO by 10-15% if stock trades up, earning a riskless profit (greenshoe)

Yet Listing Tokens Is—Somehow—Much More Expensive.



■ Paid Up-Front ■ Loans/Upside

The Current Listing Process Sets Tokens Up For Failure.

Anatomy of the typical crypto listing process



Networks with Fiat Revenues Can Play a Different Game.

not reliant on speculative demand = not reliant on market makers & exchanges



A Simple, Flexible Issuance Curve Provides Decades of Runway.

Key Assumptions

- Network airdrops [5-10]% of tokens to its community at launch, then uses fiat cash flows to support token buybacks/burn from day one.
- Network issues [4] new tokens for every [3] tokens of buybacks/burn. (75% coverage ratio)
- Markets value the network at a [3-5]x fully-diluted cash flow multiple. (20-33% yield)

Implies 8-15 years of runway, assuming zero growth or multiple expansion.

Networks Can Feasibly Grow 80x+ Over a Decade, Financed Entirely by Token Emissions.

		Years											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Network launches with \$0.5m in	
Last Year Buybacks		\$0.5	\$0.5	\$1	\$1	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$9	\$15	\$25	annualized token buybacks/burns from day one, valued at 4x FDV.	
(+) Growth (from Incentives)		\$0.0	\$0.3	\$0.5	\$0.9	\$1.4	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$9	\$15		
This Year Buybacks	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.9	\$1	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$9	\$15	\$25	\$40	Assumes \$1 of new token issuance drives \$0.15 of new structural demand six months later.	
(x) Market Multiple	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x	4x		
Fully-Diluted Valuation	\$2.0	\$2.2	\$3.4	\$6	\$9	\$14	\$23	\$38	\$61	\$99	\$160	Path to 80x growth over a decade.	
(%) of Total Tokens Issued	5%	14%	22%	31%	40%	48%	57%	66%	74%	83%	92%		
Market Cap	\$0.1	\$0.3	\$0.8	\$2	\$4	\$7	\$13	\$25	\$45	\$82	\$146		
YoY % Inflation		170%	64%	39%	28%	22%	18%	15%	13%	12%	10%		

For Profitable Businesses, Token Networks are Actually a *Low-Risk* Way to Finance Growth.

What happens in a...

Economic Recession	Economic Expansion
Lower revenues ⇒ fewer tokens bought back ⇒ proportionally fewer tokens issued ⇒ lower network inflation.	Higher revenues ⇒ more tokens bought back ⇒ proportionally more tokens issued ⇒ higher network inflation.

Bear Market

Lower prices ⇒ higher net token issuance ⇒ adjust coverage ratio higher ⇒ lower net issuance/inflation.

Bull Market

Higher prices \Rightarrow lower net token issuance \Rightarrow adjust coverage ratio lower \Rightarrow higher net issuance/inflation.

What multiple will the market

support?

Networks Can Adjust *Coverage Ratio* to Respond to Changing Market Conditions.

Coverage Ratio 90% 75% 50% 20% 10% 1% 0.1% Ø helium 0.1% 9 25+ 25+ 25+ 25+ 25+ 1 liwepeer 🕑 - nar 1% 25+ 25+ 25 +0.2 23 10 Annualized Yield 25+ 5% 25+ 18 5 0.3 0.1 2 25+ 0.2 10% 25+ 9 2 0.1 (3) sweatcoin 25+ 11 0.1 0.1 25% 4 1 0.4 8 0.8 0.1 33% 25 3 0.3 0.1 16 5 50% 0.5 0.3 0.1 2 0.1

Implied years of runway for growth*

What is the right pace of net token issuance?

For Networks with Exceptional Growth Dynamics, Token Incentives Can Drive 500x+ Growth Over a Decade.

Buyback growth over a decade

			-				
		1	3	6	12	24	
Growth Efficiency	\$0.00	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	
	\$0.10	42x	31x	22x	13x	7x	How much new structural
	\$0.15	258x	149x	80x	34x	13x	demand (i.e., recurring token buybacks) is driven by every
	\$0.25	1,000x+	1,000x+	712x	155x	33x	\$1 of net token issuance?
Gr	\$0.35	1,000x+	1,000x+	1,000x+	513x	66x	

How many months between when token incentives are issued and the associated token buybacks begin? (payback)

Tokens Don't Create Value... They Unlock It.



How Tokens Unlock Value: 1P & 3P Products

First-Party Products



Third-Party Ecosystems



1P Products = Near-Term Cash Flow. 3P Ecosystems = Long-Term Growth. Data = Hedge.

	1P	3P	Data		
Business Line	Subscriptions & usage-based services.	Partner ecosystem & advertising network.	Data & analytics sales.		
Examples	WiFi Map - VPN (\$/mo) Helium Mobile - eSIM (\$/gb) Render - rendering (\$/frame)	WiFi Map - travel Dimo - auto React - energy	Planetwatch - pollution WeatherXM - weather 2blox - traffic		
Pros	(+) near-term cash flow for buybacks(+) sticky, with clear growth drivers	(+) biggest long-term opportunity(+) new web3 tools for driving growth	(+) unlocks new global use cases (+) long-term demand from AI/ML		
Cons	(-) limited ARPU ceiling(-) rug-pull risk for tokenholders	(-) requires lots of coordination(-) only works in huge verticals	(-) smallest near-term revenue pool (-) unclear long-term value		

Data is the Most Effective Hedge Against the "Singularity"

In a world where ChatGPT becomes the universal frontend, networks with *proprietary, community-built datasets* become uniquely valuable.



Engadget

Reddit will charge companies for API access, citing AI training concerns

Reddit will begin charging companies for access to the API and collections of data typically used to train large language models and related...

2 weeks ago

UJ WIRED

Stack Overflow Will Charge AI Giants for Training Data

The programmer Q&A site joins Reddit in demanding compensation when its data is used to train algorithms and ChatGPT-style bots.

2 weeks ago

VS

ML CNBC

Chegg shares drop more than 40% after company says ChatGPT is killing its business



Chegg beat first-quarter expectations on the top and bottom lines but issued a weak second-quarter revenue outlook.

2 days ago

How Tokens Unlock Value: Engagement & Growth

Growth



Sweatcoin employer referrals

Engagement



Tokens are the Least Saturated (& Therefore Most Lucrative) Channel for Acquiring/Engaging Users.



Channel Saturation

In 2023, Hundreds of Millions of Users will Experience Tokenized "Points" for the First Time.





E-Commerce Giant Mercado Libre Introduces Cryptocurrency in Brazil, Plans Wider Latin America Use

Mercado Coin will allow the company's 80 million users to make purchases and receive cashback.

By Rodrigo Tolotti (S) Aug 18, 2022 at 11:22 a.m. EDT Updated Aug 18, 2022 at 3:18 p.m. EDT



Nubank launches its own Nucoin cryptocurrency to 70 million customers David Feliba · Fintech · Mar. 6. 2023 · 2 min read



🤉 連用履歴を見る

March 18, 2021

Rakuten, Inc.

Rakuten Launches "Point Bitcoin by **Rakuten Point Club**"

- New service offers Bitcoin trading experience using Rakuten Points, provides even more options for point usage

As "Points" Become <u>Redeemable</u> & <u>Interoperable</u>, Mainstream Users will Inevitably Learn the Same Lessons as Crypto Users.







Only Web3 Software Networks Can Offer "Points" with Non-Speculative Utility <u>AND</u> Asymmetric Upside Potential.

Crypto-native apps



Networks rely entirely on speculative demand to fund early growth. Vicious cycle when hype subsides. Web3 software

🞯 WiFi Map 🖩 FEQCt 🛞 sweatcoin

Fiat-based token buybacks from day one \Rightarrow token prices are <u>resilient to hype cycles</u>.

Excess value accrues to tokenholders ⇒ tokens have <u>"home run" upside.</u>

Tokenized loyalty/rewards



Companies will never let networks get big enough to threaten shareholder value. **No "home run" scenario for tokenholders.**

We Believe There are Dozens of Such Networks with the Potential to Compound for Decades.

Non-US based community-centric mobile apps with \$0.5m-\$20m ARR

Yoga	Flights	Fishing	Plants	Travel	Shipping	Music	Parenting	Music	Hiking	Cosmetics	Farming	Outdoors
\$20m												
												\$0.5m
~		*	Planta	P				dB	PeakFinder	THINK DIRTY.	Z	Contraction of the second seco

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Website: <u>https://www.ev3.xyz/</u>

Twitter: <u>@DAnconia Crypto</u> and <u>@MoneroMahesh</u>

Telegram: @salgala and @moneromahesh