Q1 Roadmap Recap & Q2 Roadmap Chat with Aaron Welwood, XX Foundation Director

Fri, Apr 05, 2024 01:15AM UTC+1 • 1:07:13

SPEAKERS
Patcrypt, Aaron Welwood

Patcrypt 00:00
Hi, Aaron, how are you?

Aaron Welwood 00:02
I am really well. Thank you. How you doing?

Patcrypt 00:05
Good. Well you weren't so well, like a few days ago from what I heard?

Aaron Welwood 00:10
That is true. Relative to about three days ago, I'm doing exceptionally well, thank you. I was quite sick for about a week. And the timing was impeccable, of course, because we had numerous important things coalescing at the end of the quarter. And sure enough, I got like doggedly sick along with several members of my family. And it made for an interesting end of the month. Nonetheless, we pushed through and yeah, here we are. It's a new quarter. And I'm excited again, for the next several months as things are ramping up, again, with developments and all the things that I'm sure we'll talk about, so...

Patcrypt 01:04
So I am really excited to hear about what you're going to talk about today. It's been a really busy start to 2024. It sounds like there's a huge amount going on there at the foundation and in the dev teams beyond that. And I just thought before we get into the guts of everything. For someone who's listening, who is new to XX and doesn't know who you are, could you explain a little bit of your background and how you ended up talking to me today?

Aaron Welwood 01:32
Absolutely, it's been an interesting journey for me, personally. You know, going back several years, I was actually introduced to the XX Network through two of our community members, Robbie Schubert and Paul Schubert. And they're from... near Amsterdam. And they kept going on about David Chaum. And, yeah, they kept basically hounding me to research David Chaum and the XX Network. And so eventually I knuckled under and said, okay, okay, I haven't heard about it from just straight marketing.

Aaron Welwood 02:18
But I ended up looking into it. And sure enough, I was hooked, you know, the godfather of digital currency and whatnot. And I ended up, you know, going the route of running a node. So, as it turns out, running a node in the XX Network is actually fairly simple compared to many different projects out there. The documentation was really clean. And I've always been kind of a tech nerd, for hardware, so I built my own computer, ran Linux - had to learn a bit of that, got into it and yeah, there I was running a node earning coins in the betanet.

Aaron Welwood 03:02
So from there, I ended up getting involved in the community. I like to help people just in general, so you know, people would have questions, the devs weren't around. And, you know, basically like you, Pat, I just started reaching out to people, ask them if they needed a hand, answered questions, and help people along. That just sort of grew to the point where main net had already happened. And that was November of 2021. Then we moved into 2022. And then all of the developers were very busy. As you know, at the time, Ben Wenger was lead engineer of the Elixxir project and with the XX Messenger and such coming out at the time, they needed a lot of help. So Ben reached out and was asking me to do things, you know, fairly trivial things. But that just grew into the point where he reached out and asked if I wanted to work for them full time, and I was a little shocked. Pleasantly so.

Aaron Welwood 04:08
But that's where it started. I ended up working more as a community manager, I think my title was community liaison or something like that, basically sat in on all the developer meetings to find out what was going on and then relayed that back to the community. And then I relayed kind of the feel of the community back to the team and gave them suggestions on how they should communicate things to the community, so on and so forth. I then ended up joining the XX Foundation when that was created that year as well. And from there, it just kind of grew and eventually joined the Cayman Islands board, like the actual Foundation board the legal entity.

Aaron Welwood 05:02
And that's where I sit now as a co-director on that board. So I'm helping to shape some of the vision of the development path of the network. And I work directly with the developers on that. And running much of the network at this point, which is quite an interesting journey, like I said, at the beginning to come back around. It's like a fire hose of information at all times, to which you have to come up for breath sometimes, because you can get lost down the rabbit hole of crypto very quickly, as I'm sure you know. So there you have it. I hope that, you know, it wasn't too much. But there it is.

Patcrypt 05:47
No, it's really interesting, because I think it sort of exemplifies one of the key things about many crypto projects, especially ours at the moment where people within the community themselves can make an impact and pave their own path. And listening to that story. It's sort of mirroring other stories that you know, I know of, within the network of the people who make a difference, like FlowerTree doing the hackathon in India. Bulldog, who's just always helping people and trying to coordinate things and all the people in the council. You know, they're all just community people, aren't they that sort of came through and wanted to help?

Aaron Welwood 06:29

Yeah, I think most of our mindsets from, you know, the non crypto world, they're still alive and well within crypto. And typically, people are still of a centralised mindset, and it's not easy to shake. We really do try to empower people to become a part of building the XX Network. And that can take shape in several forms. I mean, look at what you're doing, you know what I mean? You're using skills that you had from prior endeavours in your, in your life and you're bringing those skills into the XX Network, and you're leveraging them in order to help the network grow, in your own way. FlowerTree does the same. Bulldog does the same.

Aaron Welwood 07:23

That's how Robbie joined. And that's what we really are trying to encourage more and more. The Turkish community is a great example of this as well, they've really stepped up and taken ownership of being leaders of the network in their own right, you know, albeit regional, but it's very important, the world is a big place. And a centralised entity, with limited resources has to leverage the strength of the people as it were (it's a little bit cliched), but it's really what we want and it was David's vision. He had no desire to try and centralise all the power in the hands of a few. And believe me, it was offered.

Aaron Welwood 08:15

There were offers made, that would have essentially centralised this network quite badly, and he didn't want that to happen. So, you know, kudos to David. Sometimes those types of ideals can make things challenging. It's, you know, I won't name projects, but I think most people know there are many projects that - they essentially become centralised through venture capital. And although maybe people don't see it on the surface of the project, they become quite centralised by the investments that are made into them. And the distribution of the tokenomics to very, very few people can centralise a project quite quickly. And that's something that we're strategically making sure that that doesn't happen as best we possibly can. So I'll leave it at that. But I think you can understand what I mean by that.

Patcrypt 09:22

Well, definitely. I mean, VC investment gets you that sort of quick, you know, injection of huge amounts of money to throw around in the crypto world. Yeah, and that's kind of a good segue, actually, although I was going to bring up the Turkish community as being like an exemplary group community effort as well. You said it for me. So just wanted to recognise them as well, because I've seen it firsthand. It's just - they're a nonstop machine. You know, they're incredibly enthusiastic and passionate. So I can't understate that enough. It would be lovely to have that in every region of the world.

Aaron Welwood 10:00

I think it is a byproduct of their cultural passion in general. But I think that we'll see it more. You know, they're a great example of that, but we're starting to see it. In India, you know, FlowerTree's, making some important strides there. And I think that we'll see more of that, in the coming months, you just watch and you'll see. India will start to get some traction there. And I think that there's many other areas of the world that we have community people in. And as they see that these other people are doing it, I think it will just encourage more and more people. So there really will be kind of a network effect as it were in, in regards to that.

Patcrypt 10:47

And I think I'll just put a plug in for the treasury, because I was, you know, this is one of those things that I want to say quite clearly, there's 13,000,000XX sat in the treasury waiting to be spent on community projects. And we're just waiting to vote on them.

Aaron Welwood 11:07

The interesting thing about the treasury is that - I'm not sure if people really understand this - the Foundation has finite resources, there are certain things that we could do in the future, that may change that to some degree, but with the treasury, that really is going to continue to grow. Because the resources that go into that pool, so to speak, they continue to be replenished, constantly, because it's essentially a tax on the nodes that goes into that treasury. Some of it is burned every month, if it's not used, but essentially, that will continue to replenish over time. And it's meant to do that, because that is a resource that should be used over time in order to continue to grow the network, in a more decentralised way through public governance, in conjunction with the council.

Aaron Welwood 12:06

But there's also public treasury proposals that can be done. And, for instance, that's a video that Keith put out fairly recently on how someone could do that. It will be the job of the Foundation to make that type of information more accessible, and easier to understand over time, and we will. Keith is actually working on a bunch of new documentation to help people be clear on how things work within all aspects of the network, which we haven't even mentioned before. So there's a nugget as it were...

Patcrypt 12:44

I think Keith is an understated hero, because when you started talking about running a node, it's like every instruction you read was handwritten by Keith.

Aaron Welwood 12:53

Keith is an unsung hero, there's no doubt about it. I can't even remember how many times when I was a node runner going to Keith, as I was, you know, learning how to run a node properly that I would have to go to him and talk to him. And Keith, you're my hero. He's a humble guy, he's great. Yeah.

Patcrypt 13:14

Let's get into what's happened and where things are going. And I think if I can ask you - Q1, if you compare it to the quarter that preceded Q1, can you give me a broad idea of the difference between then and now?

Aaron Welwood 13:32

Oh, we're lightyears ahead in terms of our progression. I think there really needs to be a big distinction. I look at Q1 of 2024 as the actual new beginning for the XX Network. There was really a changing of the guard in terms of how plans were made and executed across the entire network in terms of how the Foundation worked with developers, how the Foundation interacted with the community relative to how what I would call Elixxir interacted with the community in the past. There's a lot less bureaucracy involved now. Because the Foundation really has taken its place as the leadership group directing the network.

Aaron Welwood 14:34
That was always what was meant to be. But making that transition is not an easy thing to do. I want to say spiritually, and practically, it's not a simple thing to do. So I really do see past quarters as like, fundamentally different than what we're doing now in 2024 and it really is a new beginning. It's like a 10 out of 10, compared to how things were done in the past. Maybe the community doesn't see it that way. But in terms of how everybody feels within our team, on the Foundation, the developer teams that are connected to us, spirits are high. And people are very excited again. And I really can't stress that enough. How important that is to have, you know, this cohesive excitement amongst those of us that are actually working behind the scenes. It's more of a feeling than it is anything else. And I don't want to make it seem like people from the past were bad. It's just, there's a general change of how things are done now. And we're all very excited about it.

Patcrypt 15:56
Is there anything, particularly from January to the end of March, that is a highlight for you in that period of time, that you feel has just been brilliant?

Aaron Welwood 16:06
Yeah, a few things. Oh, my gosh, one thing that we were really happy with, that we weren't expecting, to be perfectly honest. The grants programme reboot - we're surprised that actually how many people sent in applications for that. Now, albeit, there was only a few that we felt were a good fit, that we accepted, not to say that some of the projects that weren't accepted were bad or something, it was just the fit for where we are right now. We were very selective on on what we chose. We wanted to make sure that we could support them in such a way that they would really become successful for the purpose that they were granted. And so we're really happy with the short selection on those. And I guess that's a topic in and of itself that we could talk about later. But that was one thing that was an unexpected, pleasant surprise. In terms of how many people were were interested in being a part of that. And I say that relative to the past when there was a grants programme initially launched. And there just wasn't that many people that were interested in being a part of it. So that was really cool.

Aaron Welwood 17:38
Another one that's big and will continue to grow and become more important is the echoexx alpha release. It was pleasantly smooth, I will say, there really wasn't anything that went wrong with it. And it works well. Baltasar and Bernie have done a wonderful job building that. And there's a lot more to come this quarter as the beta launch will happen. And there's a lot of new features that people will love. So, yeah, echoexx was great.

Aaron Welwood 18:14
Probably the biggest one that everybody thought was notable was the grants that happened with Worldcoin. And that's a big story, if you want to get into it. I'm happy to get into it. But I'm not sure if you had something specific about that. Could segue into it. There's a lot there.

Patcrypt 18:37
Yeah there's a lot that has been said, will be said. It's a big undertaking, isn't it? Yeah.

Aaron Welwood 18:44
With Worldcoin, you know, originally when they came out. Everybody was kind of like, "What is this?" You know, they're scanning people's eyes. And, you know, saying that's a good thing. And people were

kind of thrown off by it. And immediately, David and Mario saw this, and were like, "Oh, that's interesting. I think they may have a problem coming." And of course they did. They ended up having... people had major trust issues, even governments. And so at the same time, they kind of were formulating their grants project. And it turns out that David and Mario got in contact with some of the people from Worldcoin. And said, we think we can help you with some of your issues. So they started doing that. And then we ended up - like the Foundation guys ended up seeing the grants programme from Worldcoin. And we saw that they had a particular - how do you call it? RFP - Request for Proposal with a network anonymizer and we're like, "Oh my gosh... that is cMixx, we literally already have this."

Aaron Welwood 20:04
The issue is we don't use the same language libraries as they do. So it's not like, you can just be like, "Oh, here you go, it works already." Their languages that they have are different than ours. And so most of the work has to do with our developer kit being compatible with with their system. Anyway, so we reached out to them, immediately, the Foundation did. And literally within, I think it was like, one day, they responded, and were like, "Let's talk." So it really was the perfect fit, because of the things that they were facing from a privacy standpoint, for their entire ecosystem. And make no mistake, it's not just about having a mixnet, to protect user data, there's a lot of things that Worldcoin has done, and hats off to them, you know, right down to a hardware level of their orb units that actually do eye scans. Their whole system, they're very thoughtful, they have a lot of skilled people working for them. And they really do want to make this thing as private and secure, as technology can offer in this day and age.

Aaron Welwood 21:28
So I don't want to like, say anything bad about their intentions or anything like that, because I think a lot of people did. Like, they're very sincere guys, and are trying to solve a very serious problem that's only going to grow with online digital identification, so we're just happy to be a part of that. And our mixnet can can solve a major issue for them. And I hope that it works out the way that we believe it can and we're working towards. So yeah, we're going to have more to come in this quarter on that. We'll see how it all plays out. Obviously, we're very optimistic, and we hope that we'll be able to continue working with them to have an actual integration of our mixnet with them.

Patcrypt 22:26
Yeah, and that's just one of three strands, isn't it?

Aaron Welwood 22:31
Yeah, that's like a whole. It's a whole other interview. I can't really get into Zanzibar or, you know, we also call cMixx+. They named it Zanzibar. That's what they have on the website. You could do a whole interview with Mario on that. Yeah. And also with VoteXX, which we have an item in our Q2 roadmap for that. It's a whole other technology that can be used for so many different things. So yeah. Worldcoin gave a grant to Mario specifically as he's leading that project, which David's tied to - if you go to the VoteXX website, all those guys work together on VoteXX, like David, Mario, Rick Carback as well was a huge part of VoteXX. Initially, although this particular web app is not something that Rick's working on at the moment with Mario. All those guys have worked on it together at some point.

Aaron Welwood 23:35
It's not just about Worldcoin, it's also - it can be used as a Dao governance infrastructure for I think any Dao in crypto. Mario - he's got a lot going on. There's also governments - actual world governments that can use VoteXX for their elections. And there is talks with several different governments... Mario

would probably kill me if I say who they are. So I'm not - that would be bad. But he actually is having conversations with national governments to test out VoteXX as an actual voting system to use for their countries. That was kind of a holy grail for David and Mario and Rick for many years that they really wanted to get a voting system that couldn't be compromised; the way I'm sure many people already believe digital voting systems are that currently are used in many different countries. That's a big passion of David. Anything to do with democracy really, like a functioning democracy, is a huge passion for him. And, Mario and Rick and others. So I'm sorry if I can't share more on that.

Patcrypt 25:10
I think, again, it's one of those things. Because Mario did hint that there was a real world test of this stuff planned. But it missed the kind of cutoff for the for real world election or something like that. But he never said which countries?

Aaron Welwood 25:27
Yeah... he obviously can't tell people that. It's literally like, national security type stuff, right? They don't like to disclose anything like that.

Patcrypt 25:40
Gosh, there's some things I've just realised that aren't on the Q2, roadmap that I've seen Mario hint at it for the future as well. So there's just so much more. I know that you said you've had trouble making the roadmap because there's just too much to put on it. And so...

Aaron Welwood 25:54
Exactly, it really came down to what would perk people's interest the most when seeing it, because there really is too many items to put on here. It's the same as the last quarter. You know, there were several things that we did that never got onto that roadmap that we still executed on, which maybe aren't as epic exciting as other things. So they didn't get on there. But they're still important. The things that you notice that are on there right now are specifically to do with crypto in particular, like coins, right? So a lot of things to do with exchanges and things like that specifically wrapped XX, which is a very important phase of development that we're finally getting into, and it's going to be a big deal this quarter. I'm absolutely sure of that. So yeah, I'm sure we can get into that more if you have questions.

Patcrypt 26:52
Well, I've got one question, which of course, everybody wants to know is - when is the next exchange listing?

Aaron Welwood 27:02
Possibly tomorrow? Yeah, there's a few of them. Now, people that have been following along, there's been excitement, there's been frustration from the community about all of the exchanges. Now I can say there are two exchanges that we will be going on, virtually immediately, we're just waiting for them to say, hey, we're listing you tomorrow, that's what's next, like all the backend testing, as far as I know, has been done. There's a bit of a time delay from the west to the east. So I'm up all night, just waiting to hear from the development teams of those exchanges, you know, when they're going to actually launch the integration, because when you do this, they have to do their initial work. And then you send them some currency, and then they test it on their own ledger that they create, and they're running all their back-end testing, making sure everything works. And then they have you create your own accounts for

market making, and then they earmark your accounts for market making, and then you got to put currency into those, make sure everything works. And it's just constant back and forth.

Aaron Welwood 28:23
I mean, and this is after you go through the entire application, and, you know, investigation, essentially, and then doing contracts with them to get approval to be on the exchange, and then "Who are your market makers" - and then making sure that those are all lined up with them and that they're approved. It's a huge process to do this. So yeah, we can confidently say it's like literally within days that will be launching on a couple of exchanges. With more happening this quarter. Now, you'll notice that I made sure that it was listed on the roadmap, but it's listed as a single item called centralised listing.

Aaron Welwood 29:18
There's a reason we did that - we want to be careful that people aren't reading the tea leaves too closely and having expectations that are not appropriate. The reason I say it like that is it's been very challenging to get on to specific exchanges, especially tier-one exchanges. People don't realise how difficult this is. I've said that before and it seems like a bit of a cop out but I don't really care. The reality is, this is like, probably the hardest thing that I've been involved with is getting onto these exchanges properly. And anybody, even community members that have attempted to get involved with helping with this aspect of development we'll call it, they quickly realise they go from thinking, "Oh, this is no big deal" to "Oh, my gosh, why is this so hard?"

Aaron Welwood 30:27
And, I dunno, maybe it's like a sick pleasure I have, but I kind of laugh. And I'm like, "Finally, you understand how difficult this is." Yeah, for example, doing applications for an exchange, like, not all applications are equal. There are some applications that are incredibly difficult to fill out in terms of the amount of detail that they expect you to give them. It's like on the level of complicated tax forms, that I just laugh thinking about how ridiculous they are. It's like, they want to know, the most intimate details that you're just like "Why would they want to know these things?" It gets quite ridiculous. So when you go through literally days of work on them, and then you're turned down for some seemingly insignificant reason, it's pretty soul sucking, I will tell you that. But we continue on, and we will crack that egg. There's no doubt about it. It's literally a matter of time. But yeah, I just want to let people know we are working very hard to make that happen. And when that's all said and done, and people get the unicorn that is tier-one exchange for the XX Network, I can guarantee you, I'll be more happy than anyone in our community. Like that I can guarantee. I look forward to the day.

Patcrypt 32:17
So to reiterate, because we know how people like to read between the lines and perhaps get to an incorrect conclusion. There's no tier-one immediately on the horizon. But it's coming, right?

Aaron Welwood 32:31
That is correct. And just to let people know, we actually had one lined up, we really did. And, unfortunately, that didn't work out the way we had hoped. And I'm not going to get into the details of it. But yeah, like I did say it's a very frustrating process. And we do work very hard to meet the goals that we set out. On the roadmap, there's this, there's this idea that the roadmap is, is a roadmap of 'promises.' And as much as I wish that were true, that's simply not what the roadmap is.

Aaron Welwood 33:20
People do have a lot of hopes for the XX Network, as do I. And so those types of things, especially when we deal with different translations of language, these types of words can become very serious. And that's become increasingly apparent to our entire team that we need to be very careful about the language that we use, because we all take this very seriously. And I've taken a lot of personal heat on the words that I have used, not thinking that it was a big deal to use a particular word. But words do matter. And I'm very careful not to use the word 'promises', especially in the position that I have now. So you'll even see on the roadmap. It'll say, like roadmap framework, quarter, you know, Q2 2024.

Aaron Welwood 34:23
It doesn't say, you know, "promise roadmap" or, you know, I'm jesting, of course, but it literally doesn't say that because I don't want to give the impression that every single item that's in this is 100% guaranteed, because there's literally just things that we cannot control when we put them on there. And the exchange listing stuff is one of those things that it's so frustrating because we want certain things so badly, but you can't get control over them. So it's very difficult for us to put those types of items on there.

Aaron Welwood 35:05
Anyways, I'll segue away from that - the decentralised stuff, we have a lot more control over how that plays out. And so you'll notice there's basically three items on there having to do essentially with decentralised exchanges. And that is, us listing the wrapped XX Coin on Uniswap, which is coming very soon. I won't give a specific day, but that is coming very soon. And then you can see that there is a wrapped XX Coin on the PancakeSwap, also in Q2. And as people know, they saw it, it was an item from the previous quarter was the EVM bridge. As you can see, if you're looking at it, it says that it's complete, right around the middle of the quarter. It's probably going to be earlier, just to let you know, but nonetheless, there it is. And anybody who understands crypto realises once we do this, it's going to open up a whole realm of possibilities for us to explore with the XX Network. So I'm super excited about this. I've been actually waiting for it for a long time. And... the timing has now worked out that we're going to do it. So you know, what did they say. "onwards and upwards?"

Patcrypt 36:38
I did notice something very interesting on the roadmap, also that I know nothing about, which is that there's going to be a fiat to XX on-ramp to just bypass all the exchanges by the sound of it. So where's that come from?

Aaron Welwood 36:55
Yeah, well, actually, last year, we had talked to several fiat on-ramps. And then the timing just wasn't right, there was too many things going on. So we kind of tabled it for a while. And it's come back around again. The fiat on-ramps for XX, what we really wanted to do was create a lot less friction for someone that wants to use an application, for instance, like echoexx. They want to use the app to make payments for something through echoexx, they want to quickly get into the XX ecosystem.

Aaron Welwood 37:35
And they don't want to have to go, "Oh, I gotta go start an account on MEXC." Or on (and I'm not going to name the other two exchanges)... But on this exchange, or that exchange, because I'm not on there - I just want my coins right now. And you know, I want to put it in a wallet. Well, they can just click on that drop down app, load up their credit card, buy some XX Coins, put them in their wallet, and away they

go. You don't have to go and like create an account somewhere else. And then, you know, buy crypto there with another crypto. It's just like so much friction, right? So this is really important. It's gonna eliminate a lot of friction that people can just quickly join the network and start partaking in different actions within the network. So it's a simple thing, but it's really important in terms of adoption.

Patcrypt 38:30
So that segues nicely to a question that the community asked from Hi Flyer who was asking after the introduction of postage, and that screams to me a very useful thing to have in place for when postage is in existence. Does that ring true?

Aaron Welwood 38:46
Yeah, absolutely. I mean, postage - oh, my gosh - postage... it really is a bedrock thing for the network, it is. Implementing postage is just a timing thing. Because it's like, "Oh, we need postage." Yes, we do. But then have to ask yourself, 'Well, why do we need it?", "Well, we got to be able to pay the nodes". Like, "Absolutely. How does that work?" It's like "Well, applications have to be running on the network that, you know, have to pay to use the network." And so like, that's when postage is going to be necessary. Because, let's say for instance, echoexx was not something that we were developing in conjunction with BitFashioned, it was just like, let's just say it was a totally third party application like Worldcoin, for instance.

Aaron Welwood 39:41
If Worldcoin integrated with cMixx, then they're gonna have to actually pay in XX Coin somehow to use the network, right. That's why it was so exciting that they would eventually be involved with us and some way is because they have a lot of traffic, right? And if they're running that through cMixx - if they're having to pay postage fees in order to use the network, well, that just raises the value of our entire network exponentially, right? So, "Well, how would they pay the XX if they didn't have any" - well they're gonna have to go buy it somewhere. So whether it's a huge group like Worldcoin or project (I'm sorry), like Worldcoin, or it's your average person that wants to use a premium feature within echoexx, they're probably going to have to go and buy some XX in order to pay for that.

Aaron Welwood 40:43
Now, I'm not saying that echoexx is going to force a user to pay XX on the front end, in order to use premium features, I actually don't know exactly how that will work, my guess is they're not going to do that to their users. They're probably going to end up doing it somehow on the back end, so that they're not creating friction for their user. But there may be features within their application that will do that, that will allow a person to pay in XX in order to get particular features. And that will be the case for other applications that would be built on top of the XX Network that they will require a user to pay XX Coins. And if they quickly want to purchase those, the fiat on-ramp is a great way to do it, because it's one of the fastest ways to do it. So yeah. There you have it. You know, I hope I didn't make that more complicated than it needed to be. But it really is a way to reduce friction substantially. So that's why we have it in there.

Patcrypt 41:50
The original question asker was saying it seems extremely complicated to do but it that's something he's read, but it clearly is something that's been factored into the design of the network as it stands, and it just essentially needs to be plumbed in. Right?

Aaron Welwood 42:09
Correct. Yeah, in for postage, we did put out a short document, like a simple document last year. And it was basically deemed postage version 1.0. And that will be in conjunction with the Foundation itself, helping to manage that in somewhat more of a centralised way. But it's just to make sure that applications that are on top of the network using cMixx do actually have to pay for the usage in some way to the nodes. So it's explained in that document, which is not difficult to find - somebody in Telegram, for instance, can just search the word 'postage', and you'll find that document quite quickly.

Patcrypt 42:59
Yes or go to patcrypt.com and search 'postage' and it'll come up pretty quickly too.

Aaron Welwood 43:05
Even better, haha.

Patcrypt 43:08
So yeah, the last thing on the Q2 roadmap is something that hasn't been spoken off before and appears as "Doxxier." I know it's pronounced like that, because it's something that I've personally been involved in. So I suppose this is the part of the interview where the microphone turns to me. So essentially, this is a project that a friend of mine who's a full stack developer, and I fleshed out as a proposal to the Foundation for a... effectively a whistleblowing application; a decentralised application. So, in the course of several months in discussion with the Foundation, we've kind of decided what would be the thing that added the most value to XX Network that was a constituent part of what we were proposing to create. And in the end, actually, we will be creating the thing that demonstrates what Doxxier does.

Patcrypt 44:06
It's essentially still in the research phase, from our perspective, we're fleshing out exactly what we need to do to make it sustainable. And be really good to use. And the idea of it really is more for developers. Rather than as an end-user product, it's going to be a set of libraries that developers can use to easily integrate the kind of private, large file transfer, or at least a package of documents that are analysed and sent anonymously, to a recipient who can see the trust scores that it's been marked with and deal with things on a sort of case-by-case basis at the other end. The basis of this was the idea of a whistleblowing application, but it can be used very much in other contexts to do with news organisations, workplace whistleblowing, or, you know, just general HR things where people really need to safeguard their privacy.

Patcrypt 45:14
We've also got a third person on the team who's involved in that arena who's very helpful, who has been helping us flush out this design of what's important in that context. So from my perspective, what we're designing is something that hopefully will bring value to the network through third parties integrating it on a large scale. There are tools out there right now for whistleblowing, that are prohibitive in terms of getting people to use them, like you were saying about bringing people in to exchanges and having to sign up again, instead of having a very direct route to acquiring XX coin, the same applies in the world of anonymous submission of information or data, and documents etc.

Patcrypt 46:01

If you go to the WikiLeaks uploader, the best thing you can do is download the Tor browser, then, of course, the best thing beyond that is to actually have an operating system that is completely clean, and, you know, start from scratch, and it's not for your average person. So the idea with this is to bring about something that can be used in those sorts of contexts, but frictionlessly, so that people can feel safe that they're being untracked and can not just... I keep saying whistleblowing, but it is more than that. There's an awful lot of use cases that are quite serious within this. So I think it has got enormous scope and I think extolling the virtues of the mix network, within that has been a huge priority and the design of what we've done so far, but like I say, it's early days, so yeah, yes.

Aaron Welwood 46:49

So, I mean, we have been discussing this for quite some time. And, you know, our grants programme was rebooted at the beginning of Q1. And it's been quite the process. And we really wanted to be thoughtful about the projects that we choose for grants, and how those projects get implemented because we really want to see them succeed. Obviously, for them to succeed as individuals. But for those projects to succeed within the XX ecosystem. We really don't want to see like what happens in many grant programmes that, these projects get these grants, and then they just kind-of fall by the wayside, and nothing really ever comes of them.

Aaron Welwood 47:35

We aren't doing grants just to do grants - when we choose them, we want to make sure that we support them so that they're successful. And we saw what you're proposing, and we're like "Wow, there's something really, really important here." And, it within the context of... you even had a site for OpenVoice and, kind of a much bigger picture of how it can be used. And yeah, just in those discussions to really get into what is some of the really core important components of that. And the Doxxier really is one of those core things that we're like, "Okay, that one particular piece, it can be used for so many different applications."

Aaron Welwood 48:24

And that's something when our internal team was looking at your proposal, we were like, wow, this is a really big deal. You know, we got to make sure that this is done, you know, like step by step, it'd be being on the roadmap here is important, because it's going to be something that we follow along with as the year progresses. And I think into the beginning of next year, if I'm not mistaken, before you really see it fleshed out. But I'm excited for it. But I wanted to make note of it, because it's something that I think a lot of people will be interested going forward. And you know, later on in the quarter, I'm sure you guys will be able to actually share a little bit more details about what you're up to. So yeah, we're all excited to see more.

Patcrypt 49:11

As you know, we have milestones we need to meet. And we are right at the start. There's the first quarter is really about getting a proof of concept, just to get a piece of software functioning that does a very rough way of doing what we want to do. And then there's a big long stretch of development leading us to almost the end of the year, really, it's October. Because essentially what we're creating isn't something that's visible to the end user as such. It's a set of tools for developers to do something really well really easily. But it will add tremendous value if it works as we hope. And then of course yeah the third milestone, like I say, which does lead us into the new year (he says, in April) is yeah, this demonstrative... what we're calling a showcase application, which we've dubbed OpenVoice, which was

part... it was the original proposal, if you like. The Doxxier is the kind of 'engine' that runs OpenVoice. So that's what we hope to get to, at that point. I'm so excited, honestly, it's been such a... it's been a journey getting to this point.

Patcrypt 49:14
And I think I've experienced the machinations of the internals of how you guys work. And it is thorough, you know, we've talked at length to get to this point. And I mean, it's given me a lot of confidence about, you know, future grant proposals from other people. And, you know, the quality of stuff that will come out as a result of that should be really good, because I've experienced how the process is.

Patcrypt 50:19
So let's turn it back on to you then. So I think with the release of this roadmap, I think it just sort of cements that this year is ramping up somewhat. And if you can kind of give me an idea of - if 2024 could play out exactly as you'd like it to, what sort of things would you like to see happening at the end of the year? And what's the best case scenario do you think in terms of scaling the network?

Aaron Welwood 51:15
Oh, my goodness. I want to see people actually using our applications. I mean, I know that there's really been a journey through building applications on the XX Network. And they really, were a process of development - we have a very high end technology that not a lot of people understand how fundamental it really is. And it's not trivial to work with. There's not a lot of people that can work on this technology, and actually make it work properly. At least in the past, that was the case. And there's certain things like the xxDK, is something that - I don't think people really understand it. So they don't know how important it is. But it really is... it's a fundamental part of the XX Network becoming successful. Why is that? Well, it's nice to have a fundamental technology that is cutting edge and gives privacy and all the features that are needed to make web3 work properly, in terms of giving people privacy and security and things like that.

Aaron Welwood 52:44
But if your average developer can't apply it to the technology that they're creating, then it's pointless, right? So the xxDK, that's what it's all about, is, having that robust enough (I'm trying to find the words for it). But to have the languages robust enough that people can use it without it being awkward, or them having to be some really amazing developer in order to make it work. They need to be able to go in (and this might be a little bit simple), but it's like plug and play with, with cMixx features. That's what we're looking for. If we can get it to the point where basically, any run-of-the-mill developer can come and integrate cMixx into their programmes or into their software, it may seem strange, but that's my end game. Like, that's what I'm excited about. Because once that happens, and it becomes super, super easy to use, it will just start to scale on its own, and we won't be... it's almost like putting us out of a job. It won't, but in a sense it does, because then it won't just be our really high end developers that are creating applications with it. It can be anybody across multiple chains, because cMixx is meant to be chain agnostic. And we can get a whole bunch of different projects to start using cMixx that's when this project is going to explode.

Aaron Welwood 54:23
And I mean, Worldcoin is kind of like this particular use case that just worked out really well. But they're helping us along that path of growth in the sense that they needed cMixx for certain things or they - I should say they desire cMixx for certain things. And they're going to actually help fund to make those

connections, you know, for their benefit and their own ecosystem's benefit but also will benefit our ecosystem in that when all that work is done with the xxDK, well, the languages that we've worked on for months and months and months can be used by developers from other projects - that's going to continue to grow, like right now it's Rust as a language, you know, later, it will probably move into C#, and then into other languages as they get used across the crypto, kind of, web3 world.

Aaron Welwood 55:21
And that's really my end game, it might be kind of odd, like some people be like, "Oh, tier-one exchange" or, you know "We're going on Binance!" - like that's, you know, that's the end goal. It's like, those things are all great. I mean, everybody loves that stuff. But I'm more looking at, you know, the fundamentals of what's going to make us successful for the long term. All those other things, they're absolutely important. But that's kind of the typical thing that everybody thinks of is like, you know "What exchanges are you on?" You know, "How many of them", you know, "How many wrapped coins do you have", like, yeah, those are important. But fundamentally, it's the underlying technology that has to be usable, in order for your project to be successful. And that's what I get most excited about.

Patcrypt 56:10
And I think that's probably one of the most understated parts of the Q1 roadmap that was achieved when I've seen what Rick's accomplished with the xxDK in the lead-up to the hackathon, where he was able to demonstrate some relatively simple code changes to make two apps of different platforms talk to each other, which is, (there's an article on my website, you can watch the whole webinar, and read the whole transcript). But it was, you know, that it reminds me of the burgeoning internet, you know, like cMixx is kind of an infrastructure project and the layers of abstraction that you build on top of that makes it easier for new developers to come along. It's like the evolution of what we're doing now, you know, like for Zoom to exist, the protocols and everything else that had to happen before that, were a lot of years in the making. I'm not saying that cMixx stuff is going to take years and years, but this is full on, you know, the same kind of process to get it to a point where it's easy for somebody to come along and sees the value immediately. And wants to build on it. I can see that happening.

Aaron Welwood 57:18
Absolutely. Yeah, absolutely. I mean, people understand like cMixx is the main value proposition in terms of its uniqueness. There's nobody that has something like that. It is the best in the industry for mix nets. I gladly would challenge anybody that says otherwise. It's our main value proposition. And yes, we're a layer-one. But it's strange, because we're almost like a layer-one and a layer-two at the same time, because people could come and build on the XX Network, obviously. We have a decentralised network of nodes. And we have our own native blockchain and... but cMixx is chain agnostic, and can be used by anybody. So that part of the system, the fact that we are infrastructure is so huge. And I don't really know if people fully understand the implications of that. I guess they'll realise it as time goes on. But that's the part that gets me most excited is when we as an infrastructure can get used by like, dozens of different projects. And it's not difficult to do, that's when we're going to like explode in terms of realised value. That's what I get most excited about.

Patcrypt 58:41
I think you've hinted there at something that was what's actually going to be useful to real people in real scenarios. And as soon as this stuff gets adopted, it branches out of this bubble that we, you know, everyone is so obsessed with that is seemingly an echo chamber to a large extent. I don't know I can't even name one, perhaps Bitcoin, has escaped that and gone into the mainstream as something that

isn't just a casino, but then, you know, that seems to be what everyone thinks crypto is. And I feel like the XX Network could actually change that narrative, at least, it wouldn't have to because it would just be there, you know, like people would use it.

Aaron Welwood 59:26
Yeah. I mean, if we could have this goal in mind. I mean, I know our developers feel the same way. Everybody on our Foundation does. It's like if the XX Network was being used behind the scenes to run as an infrastructure to be the backbone of security and privacy for global, big name projects that you know, everybody knows about, we will be successful even if the people that are using those, let's say applications. If they have no idea that our infrastructure is running behind the scenes to make their data private and secure, at a level that nobody else can deliver, that's success for us. And it's ironic, because we have so much about privacy within our ethos. They don't even know about us. But we're actually giving them the privacy and security that they desire, on the applications that they use, like that would be amazing.

Patcrypt 1:00:32
I guess, a very loose way of equating that would be when all websites were suddenly enabled with secure certificates. So people don't really understand why, and your layman just knows a little padlock there is a sign of comfort... I think there's a certain amount of understanding that when you see that padlock - certainly when you when you don't see it, and when you get the error screen saying your connection is not secure, then, you know, that's quite alarming. So maybe there is a future where the similar sort of... if you're submitting personal data, wouldn't you be happy if you saw a little XX spinning around there at that moment?

Aaron Welwood 1:01:12
100%. Yeah, yeah.

Patcrypt 1:01:15
Anyway, that's a bit lofty. We'll see how the future goes. Well, I think we've covered every item on the roadmap.

Aaron Welwood 1:01:25
Well, there there is something we didn't even mention. The runtime upgrade. 206 says "NFT palette enabled." Right? So it's just a little nugget, like some people have been asking for that for ages to be able to create NFT assets on the XX Network. So will that happen like immediately that you can just start creating NFTs? No, not necessarily. But there are people I will say that are, as we speak, are talking about how that can be leveraged for the benefit of the network. So...

Patcrypt 1:02:07
Is the XX runtime thing, a palette that is useful for anything other than NFTs, because I had a feeling it's something to do with the EVM Bridge?

Aaron Welwood 1:02:16
Yeah, no, that's a good, that's a good question. I mean, there was things to do with how wallets interact with what we call 'wallet.xx.network'. When you go on there, like how wallets interact with that. My understanding is that there are certain things that when they change them, it was gonna break the site or something. So in order to do the EVM bridge, they had to upgrade to this runtime 206. But when they

would do that, it would like cause a bunch of other issues on our wallet website. And so they had to, like upgrade a bunch of stuff in that regard, like on the actual website itself, so that it wouldn't break when they did this runtime upgrade.

Aaron Welwood 1:03:17
I could be conflating things together. But the runtime upgrades are bringing us up to date with Polkadot, essentially. And there's actually another one that's coming later, I think it's like runtime upgrade 300 or something like that, that will happen. And we didn't put it on here. That will happen right around when the bridge is actually deployed as well. There's just like little features that will end up getting added to, like the wallet website and things like that, that people will start seeing, like, "Oh, why is this here now?" So, honestly, it'll be it'll be news to me, all of those tiny little things. Like, I can have a look at the website that they are using to design all of those things like I can go and look at it. But there's things on there that I really haven't even gotten into just because I'm too busy to go and look at everything all the time.

Patcrypt 1:04:19
I mean, that is something that last piece, at least was something that isn't on the roadmap, but it kind of circles back to you saying earlier that there's always things that cannot or aren't that you know, can't be placed there at the start and come along during the time. I'm hoping with community initiatives there's gonna be more integrations with wallets and things like that will happen that just aren't mentioned. It'll be big news and...

Aaron Welwood 1:04:44
I apologise you're right, you just mentioned wallets and that's another one - that there's a bunch of wallets that we're already talking to about integrating XX Coin or wrapped XX Coin, depending on which wallets they are. Yeah, we don't mention any of those because there's I think there's four of them so far that we're talking to. And I imagine there's gonna be more to come just as we grow and get more recognition, wallets are one of those things that - at this point is fairly trivial to get us added to, especially once our wrapped coin is more recognised. It's pretty easy for them to just turn us on as like a featured coin on their on their wallet. Right?

Patcrypt 1:05:32
I think this is why people come into the telegram group asking for the contract address, because then they can just stick into Metamask and off they go, so... By the way that features enabled. If you do "/ contract" in telegram you get our contract address. I have put that on there.

Aaron Welwood 1:05:49
We're fully like... if you go onto like etherscan, we are registered like the wrapped XX coin is registered there. So if you go on to etherscan, and like type in XX, we will show up immediately now, which is pretty cool to finally see that, nice little thing that's like "Finally, that's there. And it's very easy to point people to."

Patcrypt 1:06:12
Well, I really appreciate your time today. I know we talk at length sometimes. And so really pleased to hear the progress and your your vision for the future. Is there anything else that you'd like to add in terms of how you're feeling about the release of this and the future?

Aaron Welwood 1:06:31
No, I think we've covered pretty much everything. I'd say just yeah, keep an eye out. We're going to be listing in several places in fairly short order. We don't have days listed on on the roadmap, but things are going to be coming in fairly quick succession here over the next week or two. So yeah, keep an eye out, we're keeping the momentum going here.

Patcrypt 1:07:01
Well, thanks very much. And have a good rest of your day.

Aaron Welwood 1:07:05
Likewise. Yeah, thanks so much, man. I appreciate your time. All right, we'll talk soon.

Patcrypt 1:07:10
See you later.

Aaron Welwood 1:07:12
Cheers.