An introduction to the
The Altruistic Wallet
ECOSYSTEM

Introduction

In a sentence, the **Altruistic Wallet** is a wallet much like any other except that you cannot spend its contents on yourself, only on someone else. An option technically possible through the development of blockchain and adjacent digital technologies. But the ecosystem that can evolve around this relatively simple and endearing concept is potentially transformative, promoting not only a more sustainable version of capitalism, but simultaneously countering several other detrimental social issues as it plots a path towards a future global village built on cooperation and trust.

How it works

The altruistic wallet is the heart of an envisioned global resource-sharing and allocating ecosystem. It allows for the contribution of value directly to community-supported projects across the globe. As a user with an Altruistic Wallet, you pick local projects across the globe that you resonate with and contribute to them financially, as with any crowdfunding platform. In addition to this, however, you will also be able to contribute with your time and skills as a volunteer. Finally, when the system is fully operational, you will be able to lend or donate actual physical resources you might not be using yourself, such as tools or vehicles for transportation et cetera.

> 💡 *A holder of an altruistic wallet who is a web developer could donate ten hours of web development per month to projects they believe in. These hours could be claimed by projects within the system and if both parties agree to collaborate, the project owner can remove the need for a web developer from the project budget. Similarly, if a donor has 500 bricks in their shed that they have no use for, a building project within reasonable distance can claim these, perhaps also making use of another offer for the delivery of said bricks.*

The direct nature of the contribution, i.e. the fact that donations go directly from you to the receiving project, provides a direct connection to the individuals and communities you are helping, wherever they might be across the globe. The accessible interface allows you to track individual projects to ensure that they achieve their goals and will also allow you to monitor effects and benefits over the long term. All projects will need to meet the same simple criteria to be eligible for funding and will be linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The wallets themselves can be filled through a number of methods. Donors can transfer money themselves or accept donations into them. As more businesses get involved, brokerage fees for online transactions can be directed into the wallets along with various forms of dividends. It is not hard to imagine certain online shops offering a ten per cent rebate into your Altruistic Wallet, the traditional tithe. Nor is it hard to imagine ethical

businesses allocating a tenth of their dividends into such an ecosystem, be it into the wallets of their customers, shareholders or coworkers. The point is that it is quite conceivable that a steady stream of funding could find its way into local projects through the ecosystem, giving even large donors a very granular view of where funds are spent and with what results.

On the other end, local projects, be they run by individuals, networks or organisations, will be able to apply for funding through a simple AI-supported process. Basically, the project owner, the person who puts their reputation on the line, accepts the funds and guarantees the integrity of the project, will be asked to answer a few basic questions and add some media from which the AI will then create the project page from a uniform template.
To this, the most relevant SDGs will be added, along with any other significant information that will make the project more discoverable by potential funders and volunteers. Once the process is completed to the satisfaction of the project owner and ecosystem alike, the project will be automatically uploaded on the global atlas and will be immediately eligible to receive funding.

> 💡 *Andile, a labourer living in one of the informal settlements surrounding so many African cities, lost his roof and structural beams when a fire broke out and devastated his and a number of his neighbours' shacks. Getting assistance from the local government is not an option for a number of reasons and Andile had no access to funding through loans other than through the insanely high rates that loan sharks offer, with all the additional risks this involves. He doesn't have the knowledge of English or the experience to set up a crowdfunding campaign, or the network to promote such a campaign, even if the funds he and his neighbours need are relatively small. However, by using the AI interface that the Altrusic Wallet app provides, answering a few questions and taking a few pictures, Andile and his neighbours are able to set up a project proposal within hours. As the project is supported by a number of other individuals in the community, some of whom already have their own verifiable history through being involved as volunteers in local community initiatives, the relief project is quickly funded. Within days, Andile and his neighbours erected new roofs and uploaded both the receipts for what materials needed to be purchased and pictures of the new roofs.*

The Game of Good

As donors will be able to contribute not only monetary support but also hours of volunteering work and other potential assets, the "offers" of the Altruistic Wallet can be quite broad. The ability to engage not only as a donor but also as a volunteer can further create a deeper relationship between the involved parties, adding an additional layer of meaning and connection.

The fact that every Altruistic Wallet is tied to an individual, whether the profile is under the individual's own name or they use a pseudonym, this being entirely up to the individual donor, means that it can also be used as a form of identity. Over time, as contributions in money and volunteering hours increase, so too will the reputability of the wallet holder. Apart from the personal satisfaction of helping someone else and the measurable positive impact on the life of said someone else, a reputation growing out of contribution and appreciation is likely to become valuable of its own.

> 💡 *A user that has consequently spent a significant portion of their time as a verifiable volunteer might find themselves being offered all manner of discounts and other rewards as appreciation for the unpaid work they do, such as discounts for travel or accommodation and more, as well as getting access to people and spaces that normally would not be available to them. This should further encourage altruistic behaviour among more participants of the system, creating a positive spiral.*

It could even become a passport of sorts, not based on nationality and physical metrics but rather on a person's history as a contributor to their community. It can help establish identity through activity and trust and function as an introduction to any new community. Being able to trust someone one has never met based on their verifiable reputation is liable to open many new doors and opportunities that would otherwise not be readily available. In short, the Altrusitc Wallet ecosystem can address two major global challenges, the allocation of resources to improve local outcomes and the issue of identity on a planet with eight billion strangers. Beyond these, it could have great potential benefits in areas of democracy, civic and community engagement, improved mental health among youth, improved utilization of resources and thus less environmental destruction.

The Foundation

The privately funded Social Systems Foundation was established in 2023 in order to take over the custodianship of Social Systems Lab, the entity that along with partnering organisations and networks has been developing the concept since 2017. Social Systems Lab's main focus over the last two years has been to provide the open-source platform Circles, a back-end solution for a pro-social network. The platform currently provides a geobased interface where people, projects, events and more can create profiles and find each other with the support of AI-enabled semantic searches. The platform also provides a number of useful tools for project management such as integrated video functionality. During the third and fourth quarters of 2023, the goal is to integrate a basic task manager and a funding mechanism, opening up the possibility for broader crowdfunding on the platform. Social Systems Lab is also working on the concept design of an app for direct donations to SDG-related projects called Make Circles, which is specifically targeting the CSR departments of businesses. In addition to this, the lab is one of the key partners behind the Connectathon, a 24-hour online event every Equinox that explores the potential future of society and civilization, by bringing together networks and individuals to connect and explore alignments in order to cross-pollinate and move forward more effectively together.

The Team

Our team has members from several continents and the Altruistic Wallet project is managed by Tim Olsson, Director of the Social Systems Lab. Our organisational partners include Living Cities Earth, Ecocivilsation, Liminal Village, EARTHwise Centre, The Laszlo Insititute of New Paradigm Research, Hack Humanity, The 8 Goals One Foundation (8one) and the Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science, to mention a few.

Next Steps

Our target for 2024 is to design the first prototype of the Altruistic Wallet, both as a stand-alone app and as an integrated function in the Circles platform, in effect allowing the crowdfunding of uploaded projects with well-defined budgets, measurable goals and

anticipated longer-term outcomes. This would be our proof-of-concept round where we gather the data we will need for subsequent versions that will allow not only donations but volunteering offers.

In order to achieve this first target, we'll need to increase our team of developers as well as add a number of staff members focussed entirely on community outreach and project vetting together with local organisations and community groups in a number of countries/regions across the world. We'd also require legal and financial expertise to navigate international transactions and set up the payment rails.

Links and references

Social Systems Lab
Make Circles homepage (an introduction to the Circles platform)
Make Circles App (our beta site)
The Altruistic Wallet, Medium article

Key partners

Living Cities Earth
Ecocivilsation
Liminal Village
EARTHwise Centre
The Laszlo Insititute of New Paradigm Research
The 8 Goals One Foundation (8One)
The Bertalanffy Center for the Study of Systems Science
Hack Humanity

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