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Master in Planning and Management of Tourism Systems

Blockchain & Web 3.0

Nicola Cortesi





BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain changes the way information is shared between people



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We need them to garantee that all these activities run well, This system works well, save for two things: you need to trust them and to pay them for their services, as until now there were no alternatives





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The advantage of Blockchain is that it removes all intermediaries, shifting the trust from organizations to algorithms



Blockchain algorithm is safe from any financial bankruptcy, social revolutions, hackers, wars, and even from atomics



While in the physical world the best way to protect an object is to hide it or keep inside a safe, in the digital world you can try a similar approach, by encrypting data and keeping it behind firewalls, but this isn't the optimal solution



The best way to protect data may seem at first the opposite of common sense: it consists in copying it and distribuiting it to as many people as possible

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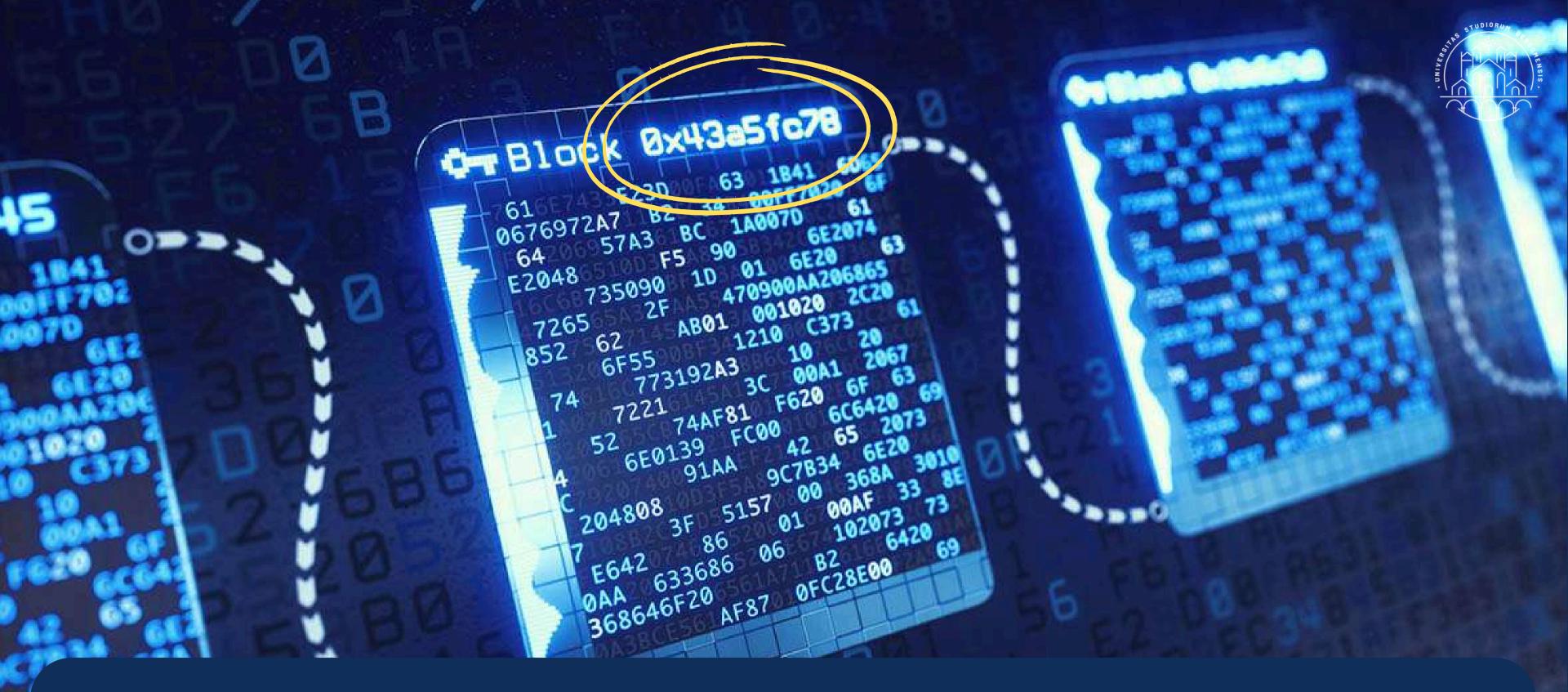
The hardware part of a blockchain is any peer to peer network (P2P): a network where each computer (node) is both a client and a server (e.g: BitTorrent)

The software of blockchain is the algorithm used to store and share the data in the blockchain network. The main difference from a normal storage system is that data is stored in blocks of 1 MB each

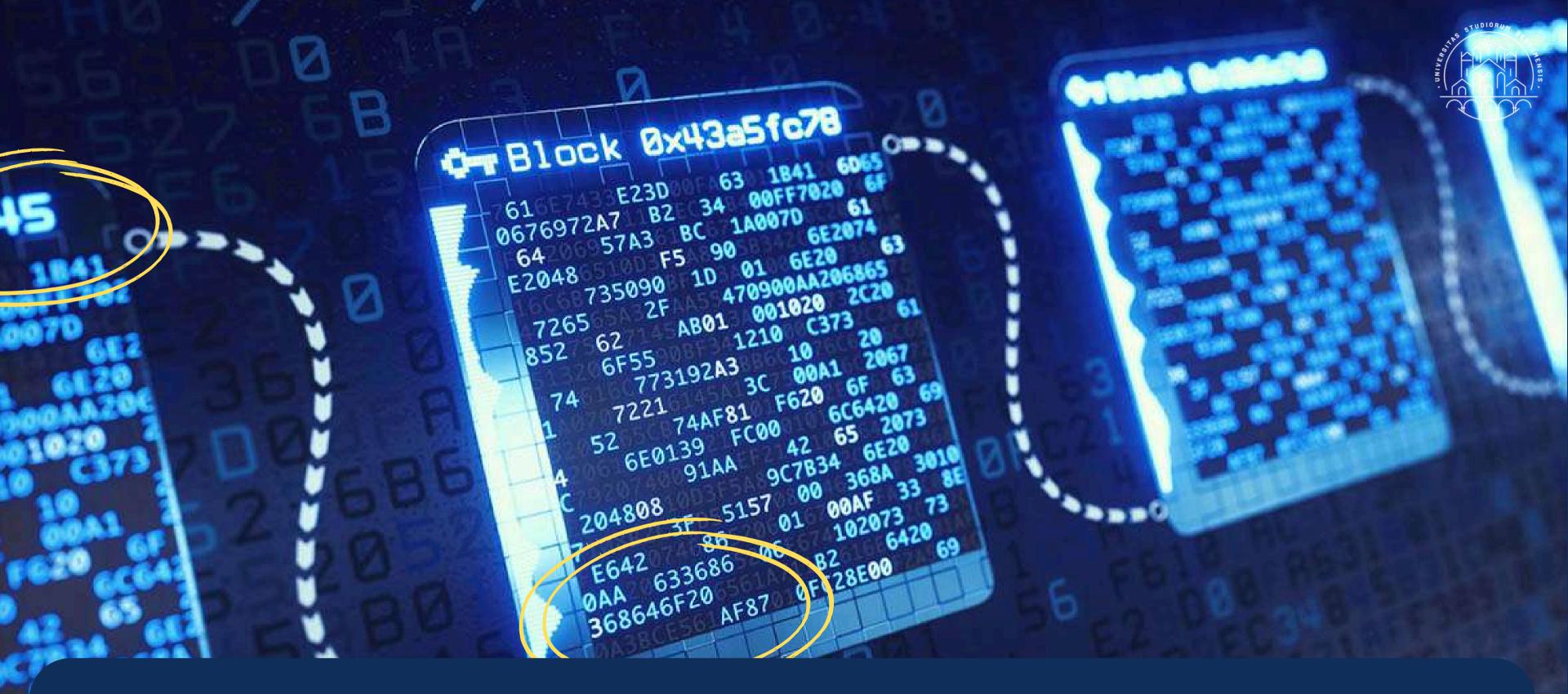


Every node of the network has a copy of all data blocks. In this way, there can be no single owner of the data: not even a multinational or a government can own all nodes





Each block is identified by a unique alphanumeric number called hash



Each block also store the hash of the previous block, that's how form a sequence of blocks, or chain

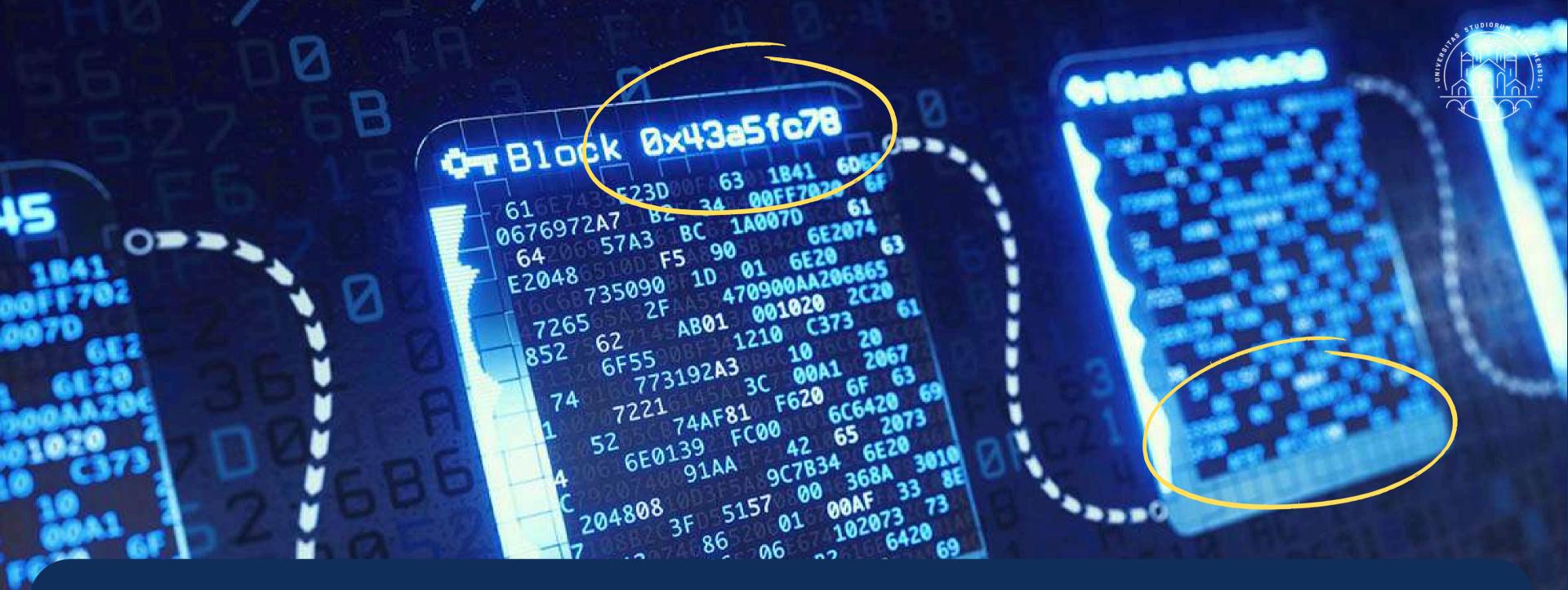


If an hacker try to manipulate or corrupt the data inside a block, also its hash changes



The new hash is now different from the hash in the next block that refers to the hash of the previous block





The chain is broken. The only way an hacker has to "repair" it would be to replace that reference with the hash of the previous block



However, any change to a block modifies its hash, so the chain breaks again and the hacker has to modify all the hashes of all following blocks of the chain to repair it



And he must also repair the blocks of all the other nodes of the network. All these operations takes forever (modifying a single block takes about 10 minutes due to cryptography). This is why Blockchain technology is so secure

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For example, bitcoins are a type of blockchain that stores digital currency. It is worth 800 billion dollars and no one has been able to steal a single cent until now.



If you install on your smartphone an app to use bitcoins or another cryptocurrency, you become a new node of the bitcoin network, and you receive a full copy of its blockchain (its data)



Any time you do an operation with the app (e.g: buy bitcoins, make a payment), a new block is created and sent not only to your node but also to all the other nodes of the bitcoin network.

Other nodes verify that your version of the blockchain is the same they have. If yes, then each node adds the new block to its blockchain, else the new block is rejected by the nodes







The first blockchain was that of the bitcoin, created in 2009 thanks to paper of Satoshi Nakamoto, an unknown inventor named as a legendary japanese hero that fought against tyrannical regimes.





It is also free of charge: imagine what could it mean for millions of families the possibility to open a bank account for free, and accessing financial services also for free



Thanks to blockchain our smartphones could become the only bank we need. And a totally free bank, as it is now the calendar app or the clock app



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Or imagine what it means for billions of tourists to book accommodations without paying commissions to online travel agencies, or for users of social media to be free from the monopoly of Meta



The blocking of the bank account, withdrawal limitations, the crack of Argentina in 2001 and of Greece in 2007... all these crisis would have never happened with Blockchain



In 2006 in USA there was an epidemic of the bacteria Eschericia Coli, caused by some infected spinach

That year the spinach market collapsed worldwide, as no one knew from where the inflected spinach came: they passed from hand to hand, with no traceability along the chain from the producer to the seller



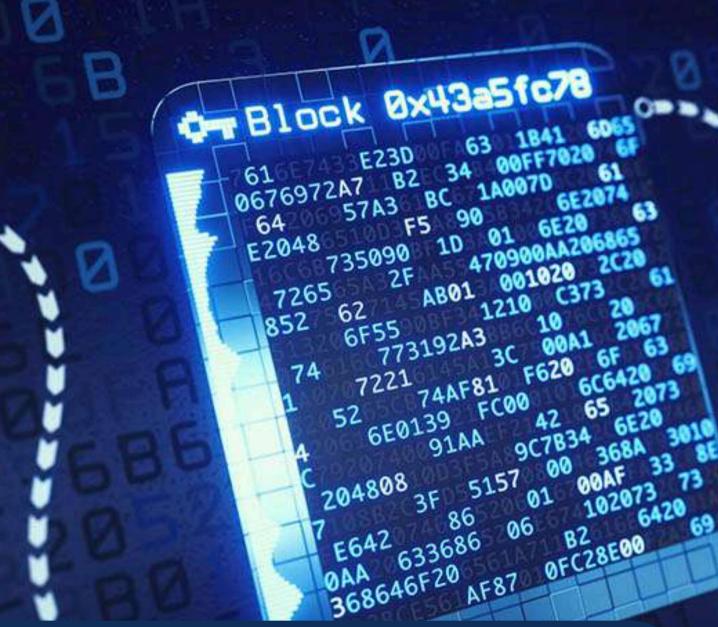
Using a blockchain, all passages would have been well documented, transparent and of public access, going back to the farmer that produced the inflected spinach

All the



As AI and automation will destroy most non-creative jobs, blockchain will free us from many intermediaries and monopolists





Ethereum is the name of a blockchain platform employed for Smart Contracts: contracts that bypass the intervention and fees of notaries, banks and insurance companies



Etherisc is an blockchain insurance for flight travels. If your flight lands with two hours of delay, instead of getting angry, the blockchain immediately send you a message with the reimboursement already paid





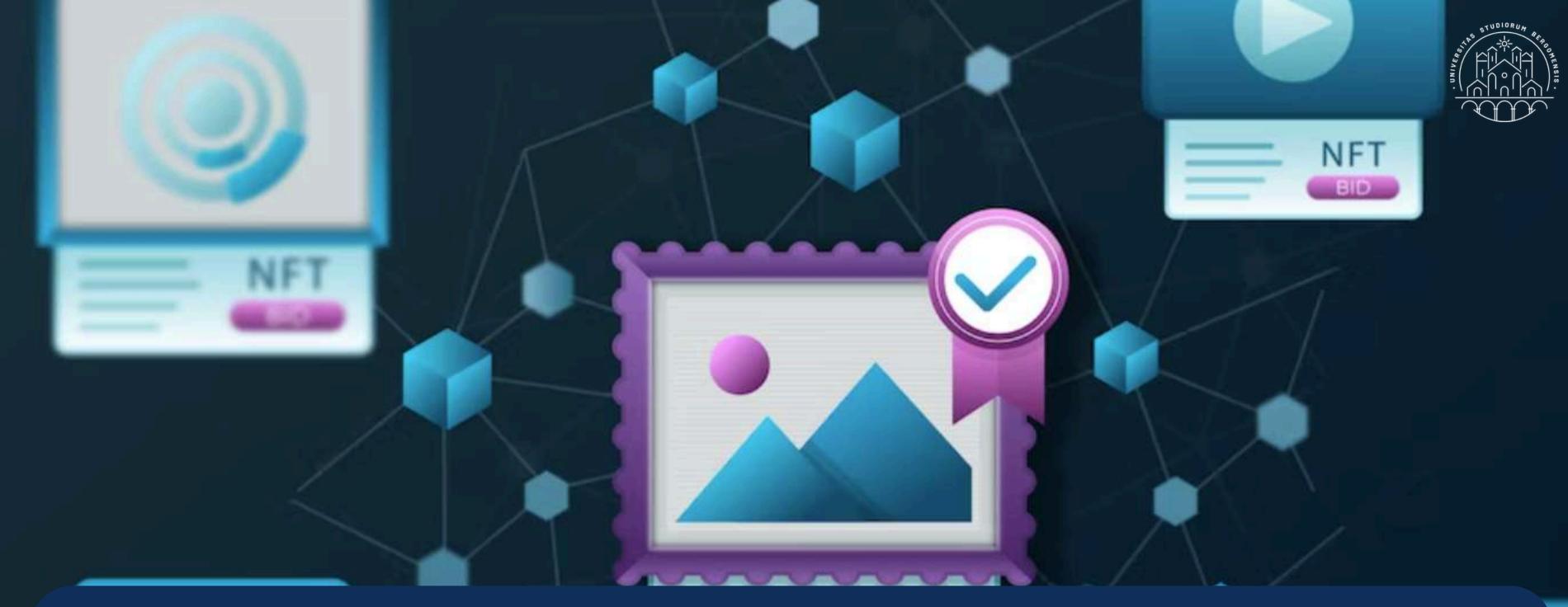
Chainlink



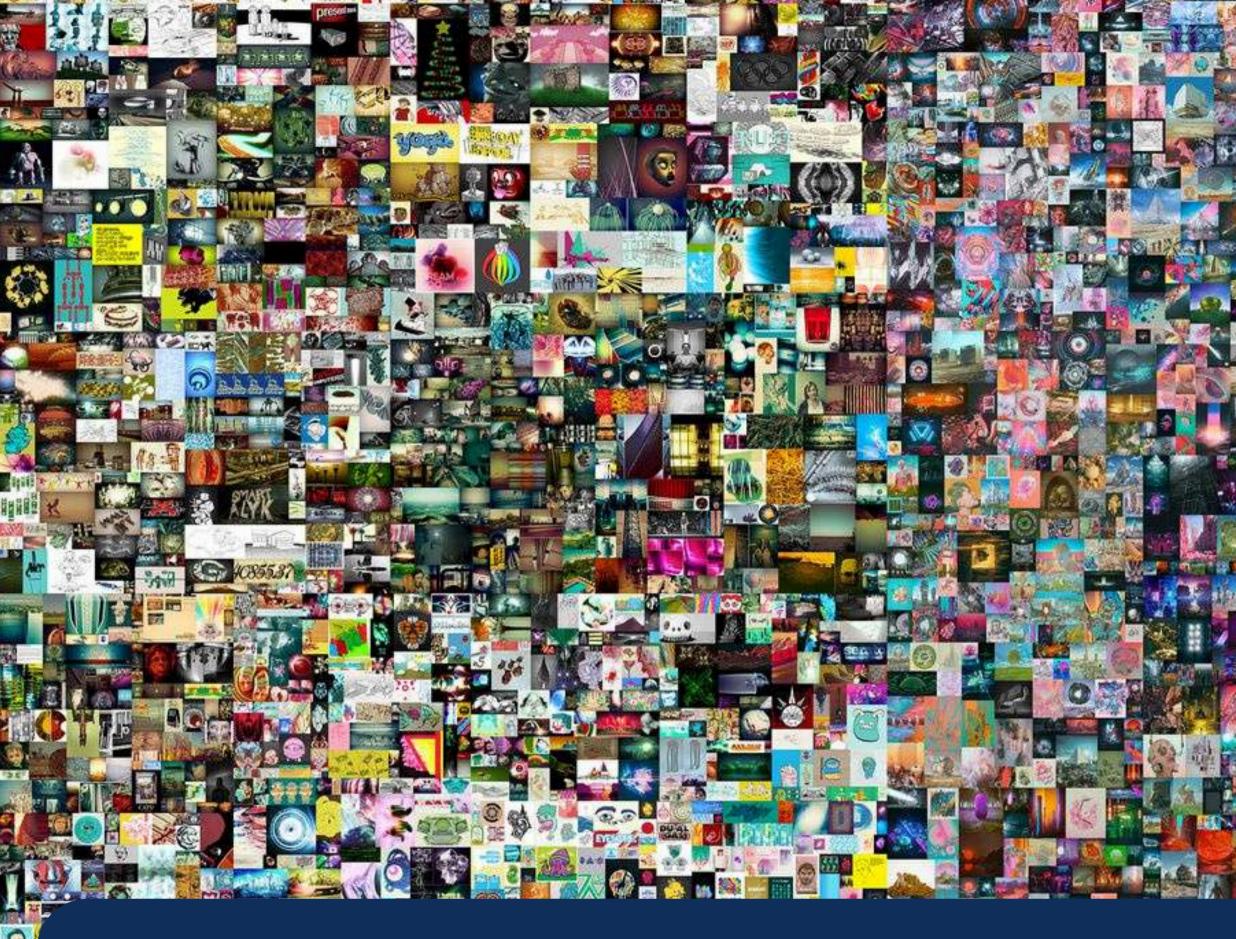
Another popular type of smart contracts is called NFT (non-fungible token). It is an unique digital identifier stored in a blockchain (so it cannot be copied or substituted)







It is used to certify authenticity and ownership of real-world objects like artworks, collections, music registers, articles, but also digital objects like gif images and software



Artist Beeple sold the NFT of this digital artwork for 69M \$

Blockchain improves the accuracy of luggage tracking across the entire travel, as luggage changes hands from one flight operator to the other



You would no longer need to exchange currency when you travel to another country or fear credit cards thefts if you can pay with cryptocurrencies too (e.g. bitcoins)



Governments of heavily touristic countries are supporting the use of cryptocurrencies and even considering creating their own cryptocurrencies

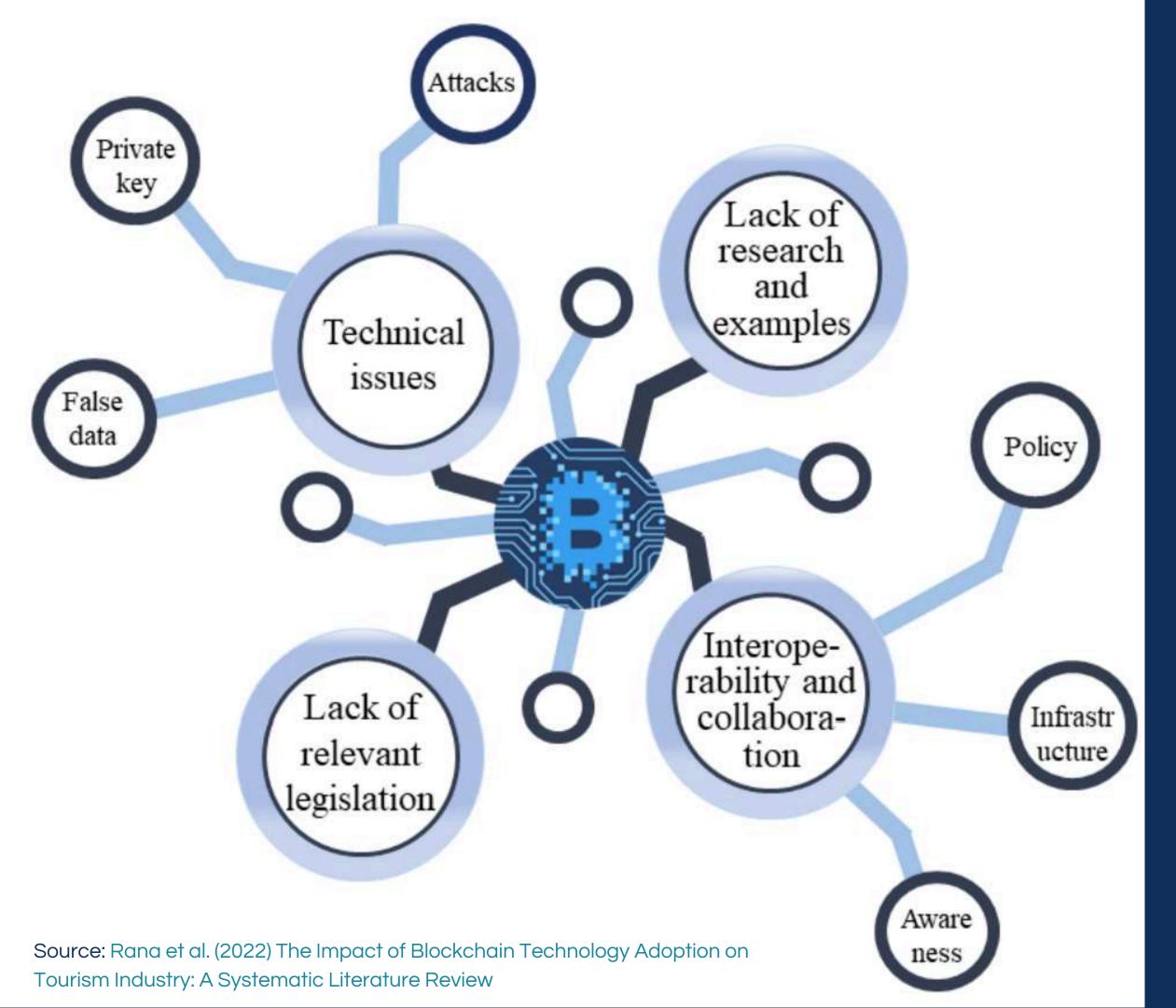


User reviews of travel destinations will be more truthful because blockchain guarantees that only reviews from verified profiles are taken into account, achieving better transparency and increasing consumer trust



Medical records, identity cards, passports, driving licences, birth certificates too may be saved in a blockchain

If a user looses its private key to access a blockchain, there is no central entity that can give back his/her access back: the access is lost forever





In case of the tourism industry, there are also some other challenges to implement blockchain



In summary, blockchain may revolutionize all sectors where data are shared, de-centralizing them and making them fully transparent and almost without commissions



Its widespread adoptions will not be limited by the technology but by the resistance of the multinationals and institutions in adopting it





Web 3.0 is the next evolution of the Web, and it is based on blockchain



2015-present





Web 1.0

"Read Only", Decentralized

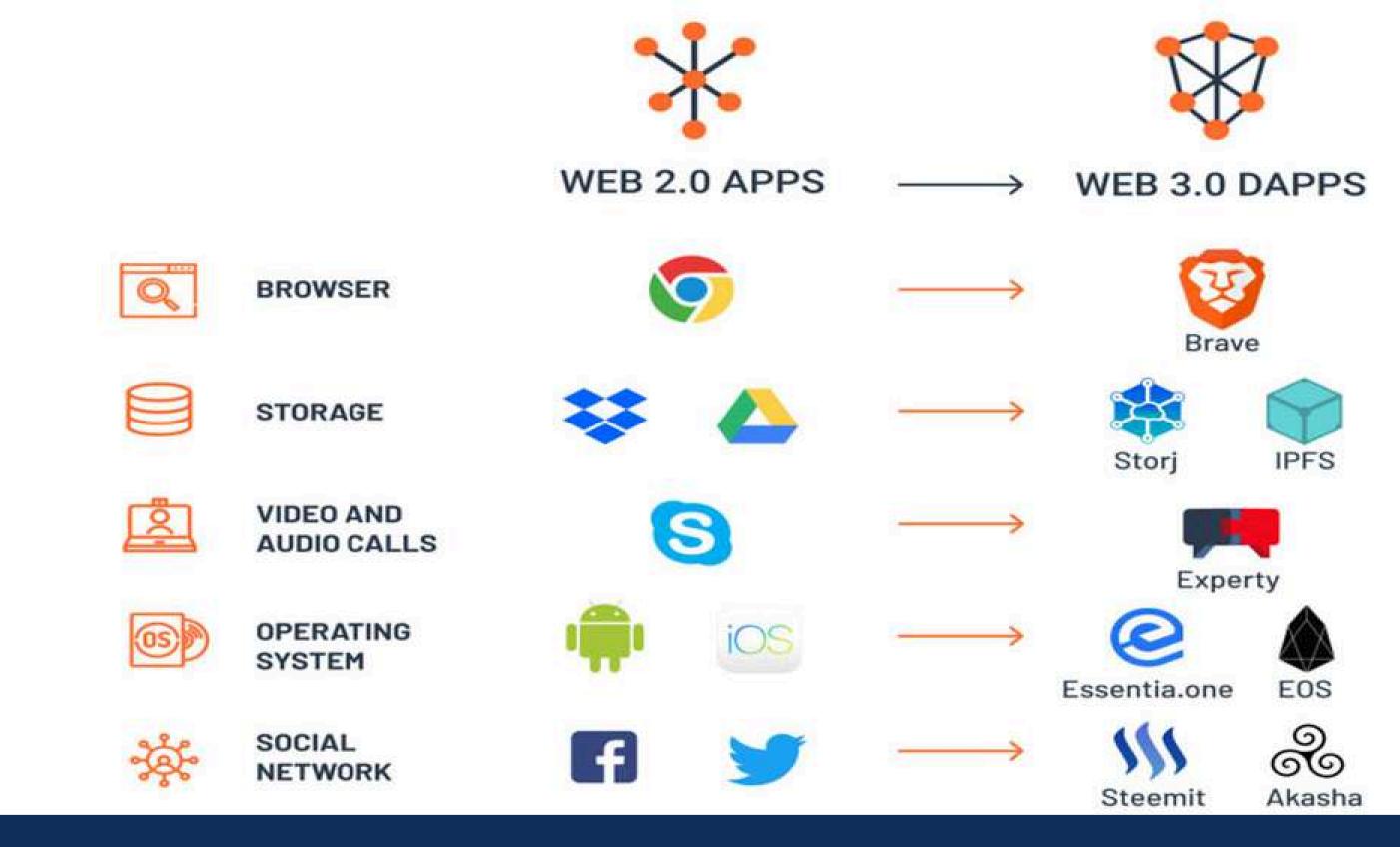


Web 2.0 Participatory, Centralized





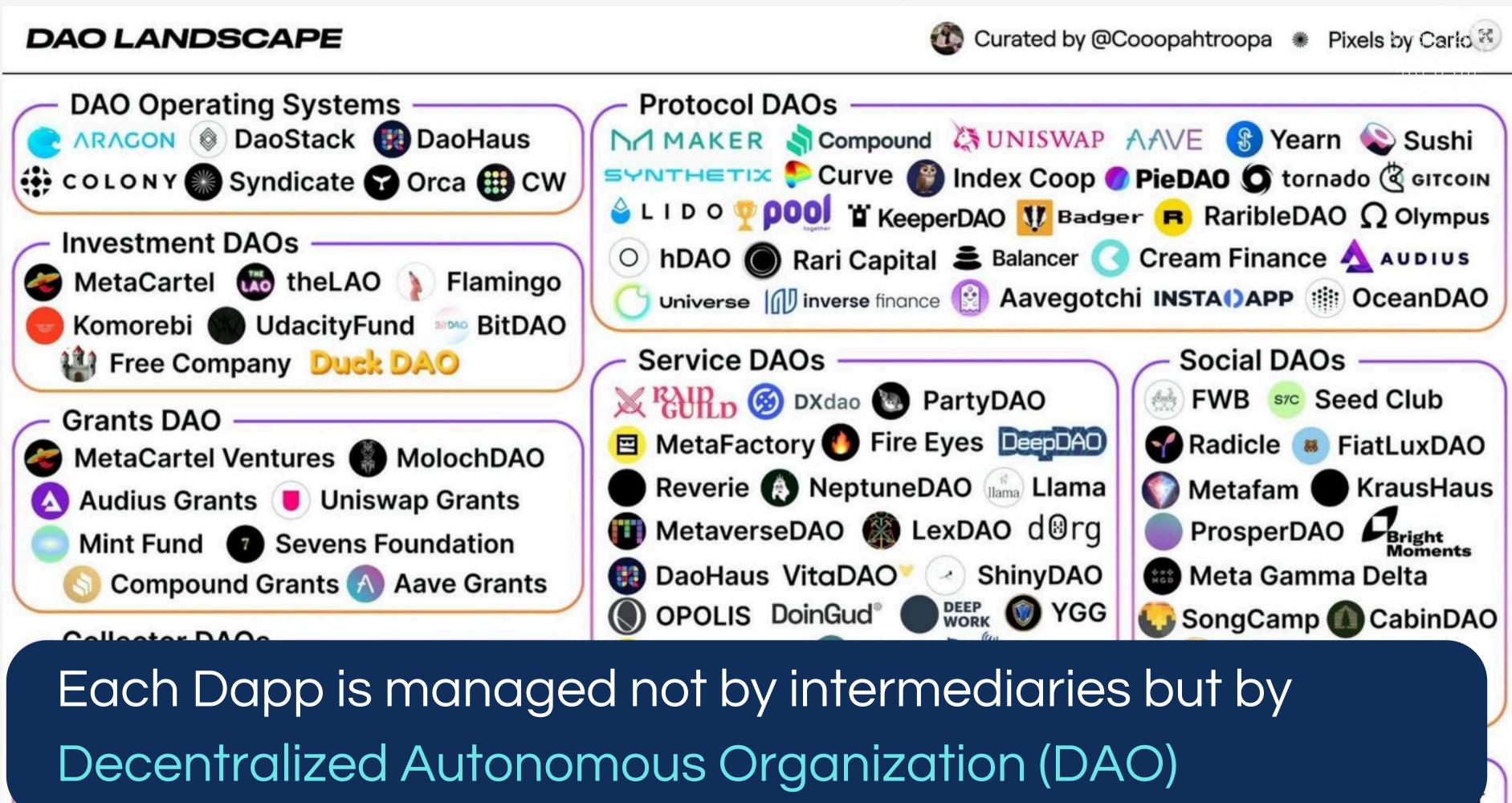
No Intermediaries, Decentralized



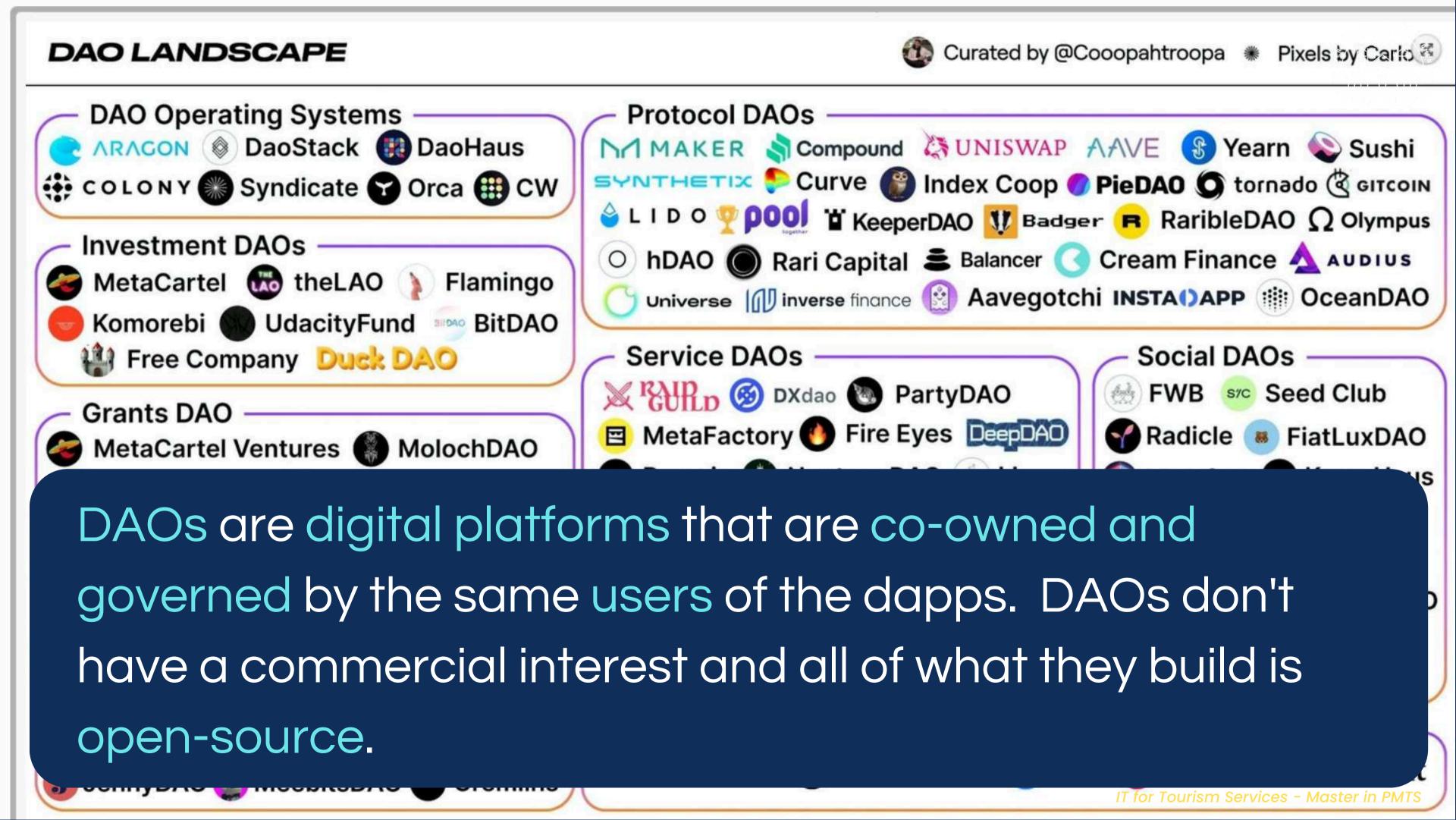
There will be a blockchain equivalent of each app and service we employ today: "Dapps" (decentralized apps)

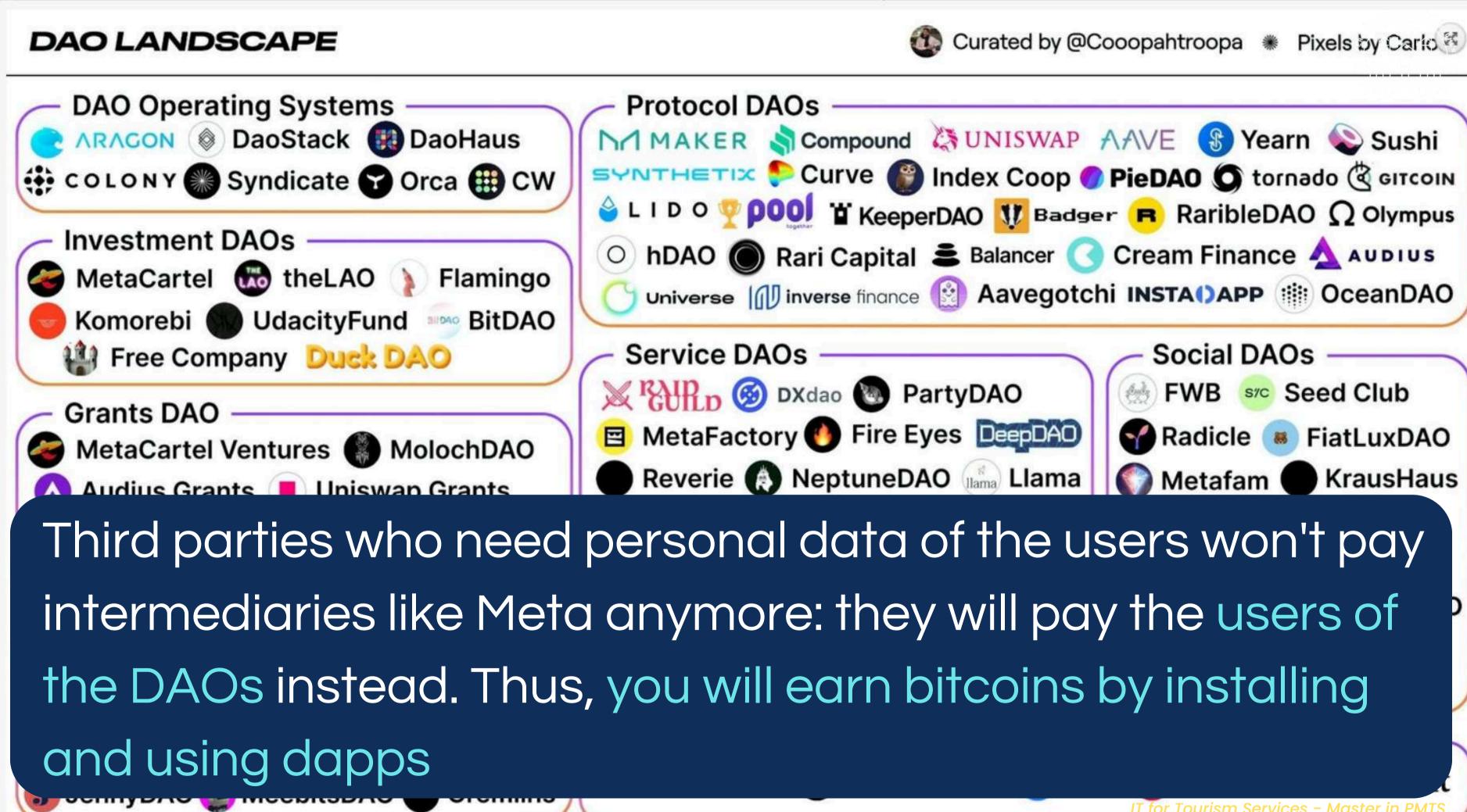


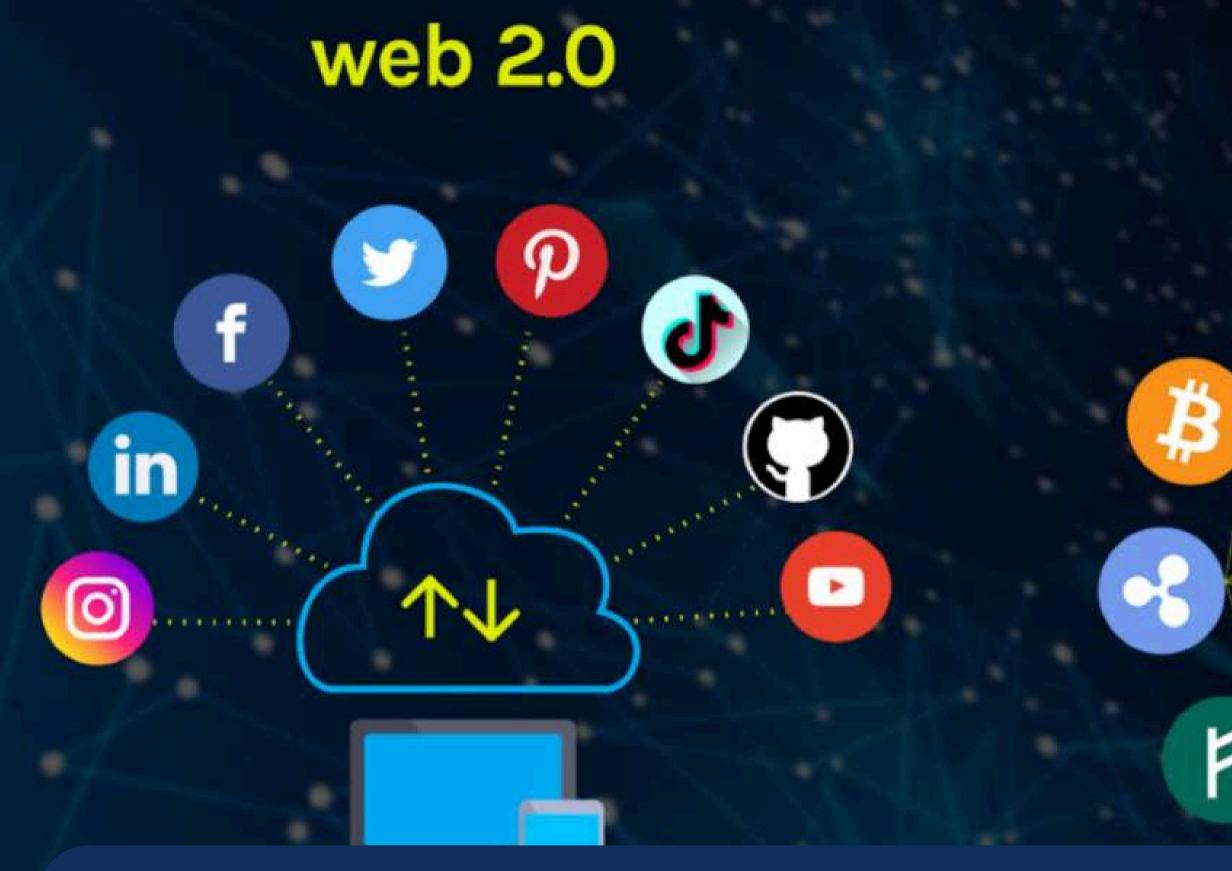




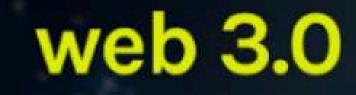








We'll probably assist to the co-existence of Web 2.0 and Web 3.0, due to the opposition of the big tech companies





RÉFERENCES

In the Moodle there are three articles on Blockchain and Tourism:

- Nakamoto (2008): Bitcoin: a peer-to-peer Network Cash System • Rana et al. (2022): The Impact of Blockchain Technology Adoption on Tourism Industry: A Systematic Literature Review Balasubramanian et al. (2022): An enabling Framework for

Blockchain in Tourism



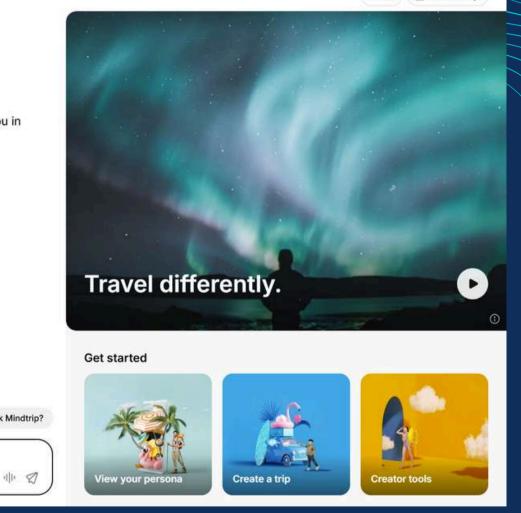


MINDTRIP: THE FIRST FREE AI-BASED TRAVEL APP

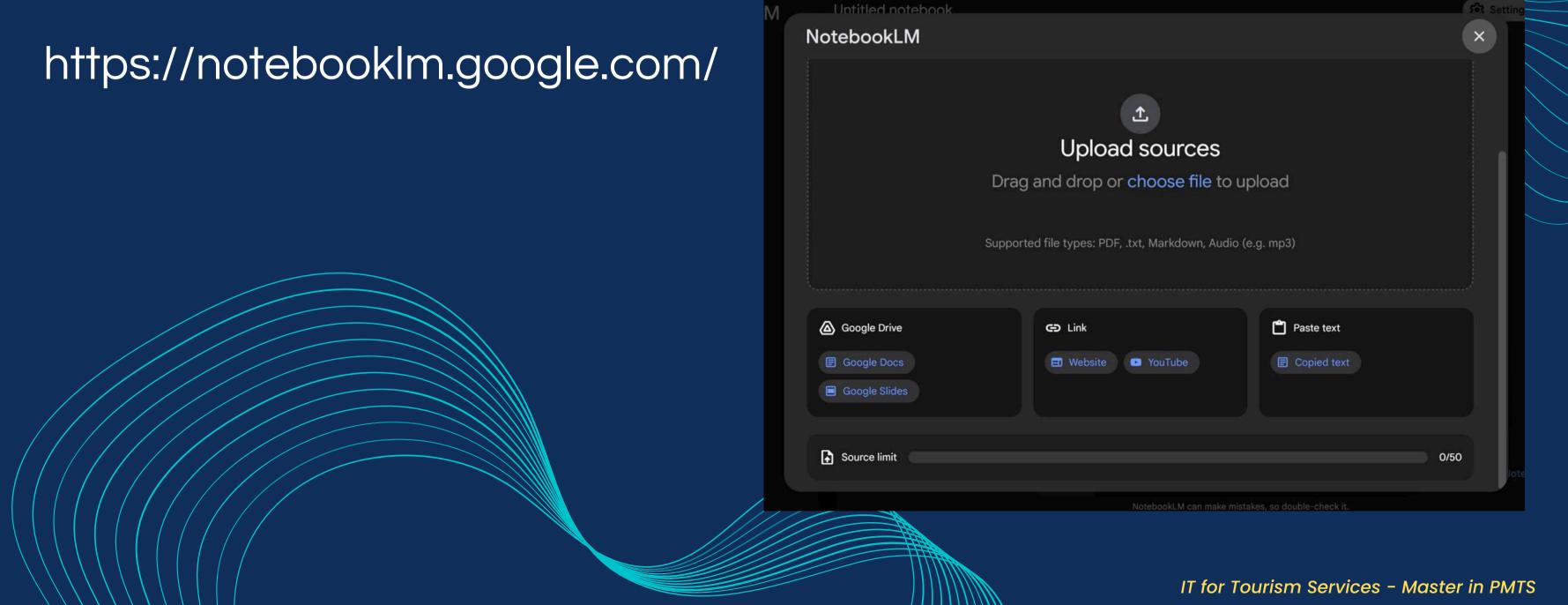
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Invite 🗋 Create a trip



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There are 7 dates for the written exams in 2025, the first two are:

- Thursday 9th of January from 17.00 to 18.00 in Room 1 Via Salvecchio
- Friday 7th of February from 15.00 to 16.00 in Room 3 Via Salvecchio

Bring your ID card and a pencil

EΧ

The written test has a total of 20 questions. In order to be approved, 12 or more right answers are needed. There are no grades, only approved or not approved





TASKS LEFT FOR PROJECT WORK #1

- Every week, every one should post a question in the travel community of "Naples for Beginners"
- Every week, each admin should publish a new post or poll
- Every week, each admin should ask a question in the travel community immediately after his/her group
- Every week, every group should publish a welcome post
- Admin should always answer all questions of their members



TASKS LEFT FOR PROJECT WORK #2

- Send me an email when you finish your Canva project
- Join the two TikTok channels of the Time Travelers: https://www.tiktok.com/@time.travelers.official https://www.tiktok.com/@timetravelers.it
- Join the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@time.travelers.official
- Join the Instagram channel: https://www.instagram.com/time.travelers.official

