XRPL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Sustainability and Innovation

Issue #2 — March 2024

XRP LEDGER

FORE WORD

Embracing Regeneration, Innovation, and Sustainable Growth of the Ecosystem

By David Bchiri,
CEO @ XRPL Commons

In 2023, we planted the seeds for enduring and sustainable innovation within the ecosystem. We hosted over 10 large-scale events, comprising three hackathons, two extensive XRPL training sessions at our HQ, community meet-ups, and established alliances with esteemed international educational institutions to offer blockchain courses across disciplines. Kicking off our first Residency for entrepreneurs and developers, a dedicated 3-month deep-dive into regeneration and XRPL with 11 committed participants, marked a pivotal moment. Engaging in meaningful conversations with key stakeholders, we secured exciting partnerships, including one with Unesco Chair ITEN, detailed later in this magazine. Throughout this first year, our diverse activities trained over 200 individuals on the XRP Ledger, setting the stage for further growth. Our commitment to fostering success for everyone in the ecosystem is continuing in 2024.

For this edition of the Community Magazine, we picked the theme of “Regeneration” for several reasons. At XRPL Commons, our ethos revolves around creating a positive impact, empowering individuals, and fostering long-lasting connections. We favor a growth-oriented mindset over an extractive and profit-seeking approach, defining ourselves as a regenerative organization dedicated to contributing to the health of both people and the planet. Our aim is to assist projects that create durable value, not solely financial, but one that directly benefits the living ecosystem through traditional business vectors.

Aligned with this vision, we launched an in-house residency with the aim of supporting the founding of projects on the XRP Ledger that embrace a regenerative mindset. The unique synergy between regeneration and blockchain serves as a catalyst for exploring innovative possibilities, as demonstrated by our first cohort’s insights and thought-provoking projects, some of them featured later in this magazine.

With our eyes on the future MiCA requirements, XRPL Commons is taking the lead in advancing the decarbonization of the XRPL protocol. We initiated efforts to assess energy consumption and carbon footprint, laying the groundwork for a community-driven decarbonization framework. Our goal is to foster collaboration, minimize unnecessary emissions, and create a comprehensive roadmap for decarbonization.

Shifting the focus beyond XRPL Commons, it’s essential to acknowledge a trend in the blockchain ecosystem during 2023. According to Electric Capital, the industry experienced a decline in developer participation, with a 25 % reduction in the total number of blockchain developers over the past year, alongside diminished investment in the Web3 space. Contributing factors include developers transitioning to fields like AI.

Despite these challenges, the XRP Ledger community has demonstrated resilience in the face of global uncertainties. This resilience is evident in the dynamic and eventful year the community has had. The ecosystem witnessed a surge in new amendments, features, community debates, and projects. Embracing the principle of regeneration within our ecosystem, I think a sustainable environment ensures opportunities for all. This includes entrepreneurs having the chance to address real-world problems, consequently creating opportunities for developers to enter the space and build viable careers. Consequently, this has a cascading effect on investment and the talent pool, benefiting the entire ecosystem. Open-source tools, skill-sharing, training, and collaboration create a circular, positive movement for all. Commons aims to be a facilitator in this process, empowering projects that contribute to the greater good.

We’re strong believers in the power of transformative experiences, the idea of challenging individuals to step outside their comfort zones in order to incite real change. Our ultimate goal is to empower such experiences and contribute to a diverse and inclusive community where everyone feels welcomed. Throughout this magazine, you will discover real opportunities to engage and shape the future of the XRPL ecosystem. Hop on board for the ride!

Table of Contents

NEWS

01

Launching the First XRPL Community Magazine

By Simon Luling, Aquarium Alumnus, Ekonavi founder

On November 28th, XRPL Commons held the launch party of its first Community Magazine at its headquarters in the hip Marais neighborhood of Paris. Over sixty XRPL adepts attended, got a printed copy of the community magazine, and discovered how the protocol is deployed across sectors and geographies.

Once every attendee had a drink in hand, the XRPL Commons team welcomed us to their headquarters –the fruit of many months of hard work. Indeed, the space has a double quality as an uber-modern workspace with a homey feeling. It is not uncommon for Paris offices situated in old Haussmanian apartments, and as such, this evening had the pleasant aura of a house party.

The Aquarium was introduced to the community by Aurélien Burget, Program Director of XRPL Commons' Residency, that evening. Midway into the program, the first Aquarium cohort mingled with the broader XRPL crowd, getting their feet wet for their respective projects. Finally, Julia Heitner from RippleX introduced the XRPL Grants program, and toasted attendees from previous grant waves who made it to Paris.

As the libations kept flowing (responsibly), four panel discussions took place, delving into exciting XRPL use cases; three of which were featured in Community Magazine #1. Flaviene De Cristo, from the Interdisciplinary Center for Security, Reliability, and Trust at Luxembourg University, spoke about her work on consensus mechanisms, or how to fulfill "proof of trust" on computational networks.

Flaviene was followed by Matt Mankins, an Aquarium alumnus and up-and-coming actor in the XRP Ledger ecosystem, who is working on a "small idea" to revolutionize how we attribute value—putting money where it matters to us, beyond market diktats. Already functional to support developers with funding for open-source solutions, Matt has been working to see Kudos blossom beyond the dev community. When asked why he chose the path of XRP Ledger, the answer was straightforward–"It works! "

Diving back into dev work, Viacheslav Bakshaev addressed tech activity on XRP Ledger, culminating in his creation of Bithomp, an explorer of "all things built on the protocol". It allows users to search and view transaction details, account information, ledger data, and other relevant statistics (in addition to XRPL's underestimated NFT market).

The discussions concluded with Farhaan Dawood and Nabeel Choudhry, shedding light on the new reality of everyday payments using crypto. With a background in payment solutions, Farhaan and his team were uniquely qualified to enable crypto for credit card payments and subsequently partnered with Visa to make it happen. As a result, there are now places in the UK where purchasing groceries with XRP is possible.

A healthy combination of innovation and leisure. Or should we say, "innovation and ledger"?

Who Run the World? Women in Web3

Recently, XRPL Commons hosted a Women in Web3 MeetUp, a powerful event at our headquarters that amplified women's voices in the Web3 space.

The evening showcased innovators breaking barriers and shaping the future of decentralized technologies. Zsofi Borsi, Head of Community Engagement at XRPL Commons, moderated a panel featuring Kelly Zhang from H.E.R. DAO, Colette Joulié from SheEOs, and Margaux Borgey, Co-Founder of Women in Web3 (WiW3). Each speaker emphasized the importance of diversity in leadership in Web3. Audience participation from Anaelle Guez and Naomie Halioua, Co-Founders of Women in Web3, added diverse viewpoints, reflecting the richness of talent within the XRPL ecosystem.

Staggering statistics underscored the need for increased gender diversity in the blockchain space:

- ↘ Only 13 % of Web3 founding teams include women, while the gap worsens to 7 % among founders.
- ↘ All-male founding teams raise almost four times more capital than those founded by women, averaging nearly $30 million, compared to all-female teams, which raise approximately $8 million on average, highlighting a substantial funding disparity in the sector. Among companies securing over $100 million, the representation of all-female founding teams is non-existent.
- ↘ Limited investment in women-founded Web3 companies is attributed to a predominantly male investor landscape, where only 15 % of Web3 investing teams include women, and six out of ten major Web3-focused funds lack any female partners.
- ↘ Only 12 % of crypto investors and 19 % of blockchain developers are women.
- ↘ Within the broader web workforce of leading Web3 startups, women make up around 27 %, yet they are frequently concentrated in non-technical roles like HR and marketing.

This event marked only the beginning of XRPL Commons' commitment to championing diversity and empowerment in the Web3 ecosystem. Our **next event** will take place on 9 April, bringing together a fascinating panel of highly accomplished women in the blockchain space.

X|O| Resources

- ↗ Women of Web3 Podcast
- ↗ Women in Blockchain
- ↗ Coinhouse Report on Women's Participation in Crypto and Web3 (French)

Women in Web3 is a non-profit organization aiming to educate, connect, and empower women in the web3 space. They organize monthly workshops around Web3 topics and provide grants for attending conferences.

H.E.R. DAO is an inclusive women-focused developer DAO dedicated to championing diversity in the Web3 space. Comprising self-identifying women, trans women, and non-binary

SheEOs is an association for students and young professionals fostering support and equality among women entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Advancing Blockchain and XRPL Education

Explore the exciting academic partnerships of XRPL Commons

Since April 2023, XRPL Commons has actively forged partnerships with academic institutions in France and worldwide, focusing on higher education, teacher training, and preparation for emerging professional needs in the blockchain domain. Explore our ongoing collaborations:

UNESCO Chair ITEN

Unesco's Chair ITEN is a digital technology and media-focused program for advancing research, building university networks, and assisting with program development in higher education. Our partnership advances blockchain's positive global impact through joint research initiatives, co-creation of learning materials, and educational events. The first will be a Hackathon held in Paris to explore the potential of the XRP Ledger to enable different use cases across education, sciences, and culture.

IAE Paris-Sorbonne Business School

Affiliated with University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, this globally recognized institution in management sciences collaborates with XRPL Commons to introduce blockchain technology through a thematic teaching unit, covering its economic, financial, ethical, and legal aspects.

Epitech - School of IT Expertise and Innovation

A renowned IT school in Paris, Epitech and Commons co-hosted an intensive 2-day blockchain training program, offering foundational knowledge and practical experience in decentralized applications.

ADA Tech School - Europe's First Inclusive Computer Science School

Focused on technology's positive impact and bringing diversity to computer science education, ADA Tech School partnered with XRPL Commons to deliver a masterclass bridging theoretical and practical blockchain knowledge, featuring practical use cases.

Centrale Pédagogique des IUT

XRPL Commons conducts training sessions for professors from various French IUTs, covering disciplines like accounting, law, engineering, marketing, and communication.

UC Berkeley

Commons has teamed up with the Berkeley Center for Responsible, Decentralized Intelligence, the Haas Blockchain Club and the Blockchain at Berkeley to host a series of XRP Ledger workshops, where developers and entrepreneurs join forces. Teams will receive mentorship from RippleX and XRPL Commons instructors, and the grand prize team winners will present their work at Apex in Amsterdam in June, 2024.

Did you know? XRPL Commons hosts free training programs every three months, attracting developers interested in learning about XRPL. These sessions are free and open to everyone with a developer background. Every session is available on out Youtube Channel.

Upcoming HQ Trainings

- April 29-30, 2024, XRPL Commons HQ
- June 24-25, 2024, XRPL Commons HQ

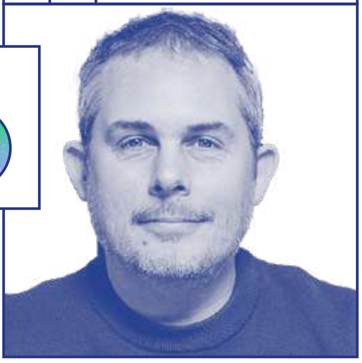
For more information:

↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/training

Meet the Team

Luc Bocahut,

Product Director & Solutions Architect at XRPL Commons



With a Master in Economics and Social Sciences, and an MBA, Luc has navigated global markets and led as CTO, CFO, and COS companies across France and the US. His expertise enriches our team, offering insightful perspectives on tech trends and sparking engaging discussions.

My Mission at Commons

To democratize blockchain technology, starting with developers and expanding to entrepreneurs and decision-makers. The goal? To simplify access to blockchain knowledge through user-friendly tools.

Our Team's 2024 Objectives

- Infrastructure and Core Protocol: we are deploying validators and testing frameworks for main net and the principal sidechains
- Better Developer Tools: we are actively working on better onboarding via boilerplate repos and various coding tools
- Build More Interactivity in the Community: we will deploy an Ecosystem Map and XRPL news site as part of our community engagement initiatives

Topics to Explore Further

The EVM ecosystem is a driving force behind innovation in blockchain. As the EVM sidechain is coming to Mainnet, it's the right time to explore potential collaborations in our ecosystems. We believe that many projects in the Ethereum ecosystem could benefit from adopting a simpler paradigm for their operations, specifically leveraging the advantages of the XRP Ledger. For the XRPL ecosystem, this sidechain is a way to address fringe use cases that would otherwise not be possible to implement.

The spread of generative AI creates questions around the trustworthiness of data, something that blockchain can solve by creating an audit trail for data, models and compute. Paradoxically, AI is also very good at detecting falsehoods, outliers or fraud from complex datasets, which when written back on chain can also unlock significant value.

Finally, AI's language, audio and video processing present significant opportunities for interactive data analysis and new user interfaces for applications interacting with the blockchain. UX, both for developers and users, has been a major pain point in blockchain adoption which AI can help solve.

XRPL and the Future

The addition of an XRPL Bridge at the protocol level enables access to more specialized chains. It is now possible to connect to chains that have smart contracts like the EVM sidechain or Xahau but also to private chains. In 2024, our overarching theme is interoperability and we are especially interested in talking to entrepreneurs looking to develop in this space.

XRPL INSIDER 02

The Brief History of the XRP Ledger... Continued

Recent Developments (2024)

Rippled 2.0:
The release of Rippled 2.0 in January 2024 marks a significant evolutionary step for the XRP Ledger. It introduces a range of critical enhancements and new functionalities, preparing for an XRPL ecosystem linked by sidechains, forks, and bridges, facilitating a flood of new performance enhancements.

For a recap on XRPL's emergence and its history, check out our previous Community Magazine issue!

Key proposals include:

The XLS-38 Cross-Chain Bridge - open to voting by date of printing:
This new feature enhances XRPL's interoperability by connecting it with sidechains. It facilitates seamless movement of XRP and tokens across XRPL Mainnet, XRPL Sidechains, and the planned EVM sidechain. Independent witness servers safeguard the Cross-Chain Bridge, certifying transactions between different chains.

XLS-40 Decentralised Identity (DID) - open to voting by date of printing:
Introduces decentralized identifiers, enabling a system that allows users to have complete control over their online identity in a self-sovereign way. The implementation will be interoperable with any distributed ledger or network and will leverage the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standard to enable verified, self-sovereign digital identification.

New API version:
Represents a significant shift in XRPL's operational framework, affecting how requests and responses are processed by removing obsolete fields and methods while refining readability, renaming fields that were frequently misinterpreted, and improving consistency in responses.

Transactions per second:
Improvement in transactions per second performance. Performance-enhancing changes will significantly increase consensus stability and throughput, as well as transaction time.

...As well as bug fixes and refactoring efforts.

In the Pipeline: Diverse Developments

As we look ahead, XRPL's role continues to evolve, and it's our collective responsibility to steer its future toward sustainable growth and mass adoption.

EVM Sidechain:

Based on the outcome of the XChainBridge public amendment, this sidechain will automatically and dynamically bridge any existing token in the EVM Sidechain to the XRP Ledger. It utilizes the EVM Sidechain as a conduit to the broader EVM ecosystem and facilitate the transaction and use of all the functionalities of the XRP Ledger Mainnet for all these assets. It promises full compatibility with the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM), allowing users to integrate their wallets and engage with or deploy smart contracts coded in Solidity.

Xahau:

Xahau functions as a sidechain within the XRPL ecosystem, leveraging smart contracts and adhering to the XRPL Consensus Protocol and ledger structure. Although Xahau operates as an independent layer-1 blockchain, it coexists alongside the XRP Ledger, providing a supplementary network for value transactions enhanced by smart contract functionality. The Xahau Community advocates that its primary purpose is to introduce Hooks to the XRPL.

XRP Ledger and Sustainability:

Getting the XRPL community ready for upcoming sustainability disclosure requirements (MiCA), XRPL Commons has initiated the comprehensive assessment of the XRPL Protocol's energy consumption and carbon footprint, a first step in a longer decarbonization process (Read more on p. 28).

...and more!

Just Enabled...

AMM Amendment:
Introduces an automated market maker (AMM) protocol to the XRP Ledger's decentralized exchange, enabling you to trade assets without a counterparty. (A special deep-dive on DEX and AMM on page 20)

XRP Ledger (XRPL) holds a crucial place in the history of blockchain as one of the earliest and most innovative blockchain platforms. In this issue, we focus on its recent and future developments. For a more detailed analysis of the listed features, keep reading!

XRPL in Numbers

Explore how the XRP Ledger progressed since 2023 October!

SUCCESSFUL TRANSACTIONS

2.8B+

↑ +0.2B since Oct. 2023

ACTIVE ACCOUNTS

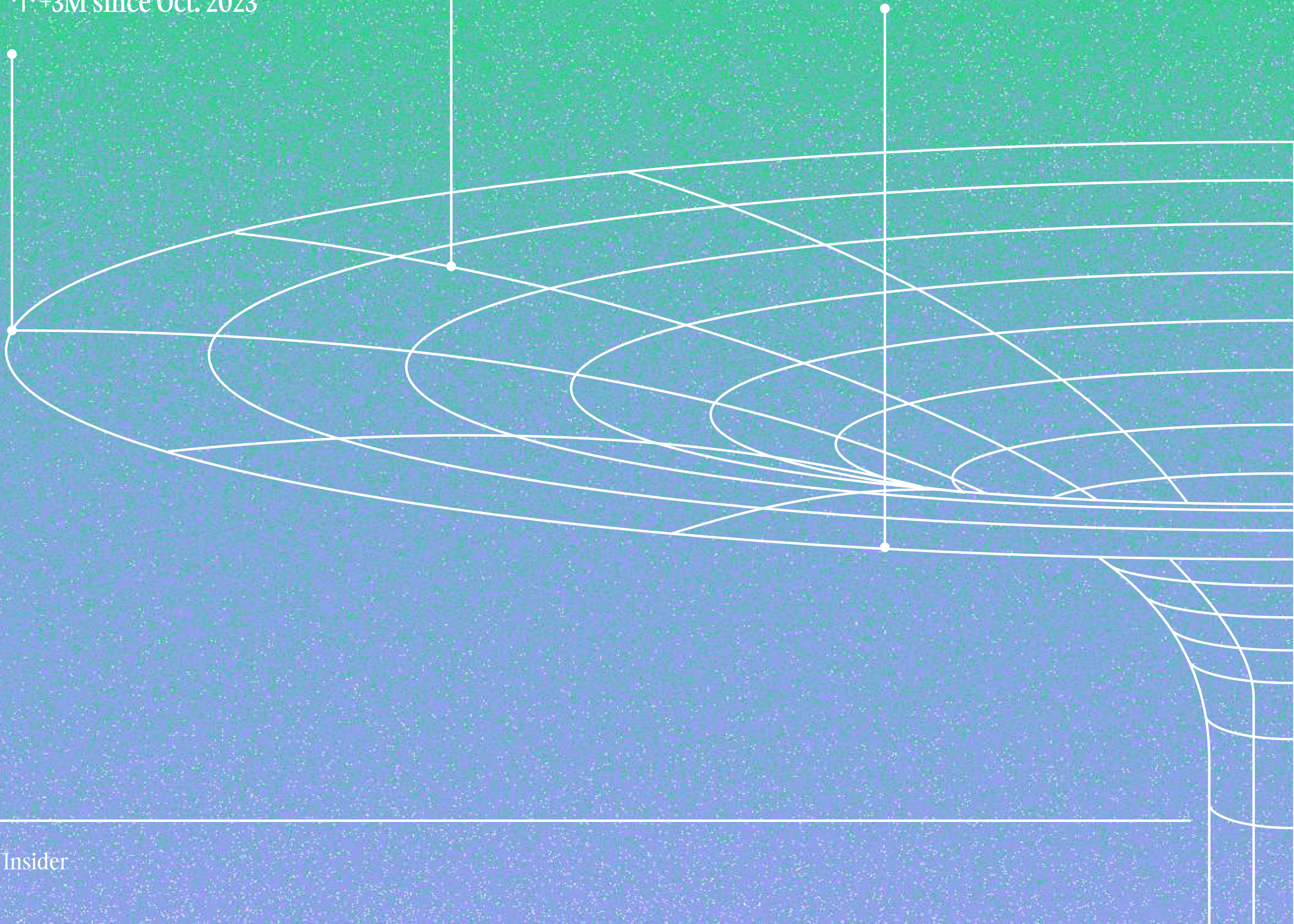
5M+

↑ +0.5M since Oct. 2023

LEDGER

86M+

↑ +3M since Oct. 2023



What's the Difference? Payments vs. Transactions

Transactions refer to the transmission of digital assets or data between parties on the blockchain. They can involve various types of data beyond just payments, such as smart contract execution or data storage.

Payments, on the other hand, specifically denote the transfer of monetary value between parties. Payments are a subset of transactions, focusing only on the exchange of currency or tokens.

MARKET CAP

33.7B$

↑ +8.7B since Oct. 2023

NFTS MINTED

6M+

↑ +4M since Oct. 2023

SUCCESSFUL PAYMENTS

1.5M+

XRPL Explorers To Check Out

- Bithomp Explorer
- XRPL Explorer
- XRPScan
- GateHub
- XRPLWin
- XRPL Foundation Explorer

The Future of XRPL

With Mayukha Vadari

Rippled 2.0

Mayukha began by shedding light on Rippled 2.0, the latest version of the software that drives the XRP Ledger. This is a significant evolutionary step, not only does it improve overall efficiency but it introduces two new major functionalities: DID and Bridges. Bridges facilitate the seamless transfer of value between networks. Notably, Mayukha highlighted this is needed for the launch of the EVM sidechain, set to go live in conjunction with the XChainBridge amendment on the XRPL side, and a corresponding smart contract on the EVM side. This innovation allows for the transfer of various tokens on sidechains, ensuring that the mainnet remains secure while offloading certain operations to specialized chains.

Exciting New Features

Mayukha shared her enthusiasm for the diverse features incorporated in the Ripple D 2.0 release. Notable among these is the transition from API version 1.12 to 2.0, providing developers with enhanced tools and capabilities. The new **API version** represents a significant shift in XRP Ledger's operational framework, affecting how requests and responses are processed by removing obsolete fields and methods while refining readability, renaming fields that were frequently misinterpreted, and improving consistency in responses.

We were delighted to host Mayukha Vadari at the Commons HQ in Paris. She played a key role as a teacher during our special two-day developer training at the end of January 2024. Mayukha led three coding sessions that spanned a wide range of topics, including fundamentals, the process of minting and selling NFTs, advanced transaction types, and a hands-on exploration of Rippled 2.0. In addition to the structured sessions, we had the opportunity to engage in discussions with Mayukha about the upcoming and exciting developments expected to enhance XRPL.

Additionally, Mayukha highlighted the implementation of **XLS-40 (DID),** describing it as a sophisticated form of public key that streamlines information disclosure without compromising one's full identity. Introducing decentralized identifiers will enable a system that allows users to have complete control over their online identity in a sovereign way. Drawing a parallel to real-world scenarios, Mayukha illustrated the practical application of DID in age verification processes. Traditionally, individuals are required to present identification cards, disclosing sensitive personal information. With DID, a verified credential issued by the government can confirm age without divulging unnecessary details, addressing concerns related to privacy and potential misuse of personal information.

Innovative Plug-in Program for Amendments

Mayukha has developed a plug-in program to streamline the amendment creation process, allowing developers to draft amendments in Python without expertise in C++ coding. This tool seamlessly translates the drafted amendments back into C++, expediting the entire design process.

Balancing Functionality and Usability in Dev Tools

Addressing the delicate balance between functionality and usability in developing new tools for developers, Mayukha shared her insights. Reflecting on her year-long effort in revamping Python (xrpl.py) and Java Libraries (formerly xrpl.js) for interacting with the XRP Ledger, she underscored the importance of providing developers access to high-level functionality and user-friendly interfaces. Striking this balance, according to Mayukha, is crucial for fostering widespread adoption and innovation within the developer community.

Envisioning a Multi-Chain Future and Synergies with AI

When touching on the future of blockchain, Mayukha expressed her vision of a multi-chain future, emphasizing the necessity of diverse chains catering to different use cases. She highlighted the pivotal role of interactions between these chains, envisioning a future where no single chain dominates all others. Her enthusiasm extended to the synergies between AI and blockchain use cases, emphasizing the collaborative potential between the two technologies.

In concluding remarks, Mayukha expressed her excitement about the current developments on the XRP Ledger, dubbing 2024 to be a pivotal year for the network. Her closing words resonated with anticipation, capturing the dynamism and transformative potential that lies ahead for the XRP Ledger and the broader blockchain ecosystem.

The singularity of NFTs on the XRPL

xrp.cafe

By Adam Kagy

NFTs perfectly blend what blockchain is all about: technology and people. More than mere jpegs, NFTs stand at the intersection of art, culture, and community, a powerful mix that can change the world.

We created xrp.cafe because we understood the unlimited potential NFTs could offer and the pivotal role they played in a network's adoption and growth. We wanted to bring mass adoption to the XRPL, and NFTs were the perfect vehicle for it. As NFT creators, collectors, and enthusiasts ourselves, we worked tirelessly over the past 18 months to create something that could compete against the biggest names in the space, and we succeeded.

Against many odds, we became the #1 NFT marketplace on the XRP Ledger and one of the top 20 in the world.

Since the conception of xrp.cafe, we have taken a rapid iterative approach to building a platform that's easy and inviting for creators and fosters consistent community interaction. We've placed creators and users at our center and made it our purpose to serve them - and that has set us apart. Over time, creator and user loyalty led to an avalanche of liquidity far exceeding any other platform in the ecosystem, thus leading to an even greater experience.

Community has always been our cornerstone and continues to be the driver of organic growth. From the start, artist outreach has been at the forefront of our efforts. We've seen many super talented artists rise on xrp.cafe, including Dale's Tree Faces collection ↗, _JohnnyLawrence's JL Collection ↗, in which users could purchase the NFT and claim the physical oil painting, and WILKESmusic ↗ who, originally unsure about NFTs, launched an exclusive single that sold out in less than 14 hours, netting the artist more profit that 350,000 streams on Spotify. As WILKESmusic wrote, "Web3 is a must for any artist trying to make a living from their music" ↗.

Many of our artists have evolved from just dabbling in NFTs to being some of the top collections within the platform - and, what's more, believers in the potential of Web3 and the importance of NFTs to our creative economy and future. These unconventional artists deviate from the established norms, the traditional NFT "project", driving innovation forward.

Right now, 99% of NFTs account for simple art and other forms of media for collectors that might have token-gating utility and other digital use cases, but recently, we've seen an interest among established businesses to issue tokenized RWAs (Real World Assets) via the XRPL and our platform. I also see other large use cases, such as NFTs as DeFi instruments, dynamic NFTs enabling RWAs, Ticketing, Identity/Credentials, Gaming and many more. The future is extremely bright, with a lot of building in the background, working to unleash some of these use cases.

With that being said, we have a large roadmap in mind for xrp.cafe. This year, we're focused on streamlining the onboarding process, removing friction, and creating a more agnostic experience - an experience so seamless and efficient new users might not even know they're utilizing the XRPL under the hood. This enables us to reach a broader audience. Secondly, our objective is to bring some of those high-impact use cases mentioned earlier to showcase the versatility of NFTs, cultivate interest, and expand our community.

Many people ask us why we chose to build on the XRPL. Our answer is simple: the XRPL is fast, low-cost, and it offers unique NFT features, such as wallet spam protection and permanent creator royalties. In addition, the XRPL also has a built-in DEX, a built-in AMM, and sidechains, like the EVM sidechain, where builders are limited only by their imagination. We also love the XRPL community, and we support the vision of the Internet of Value.

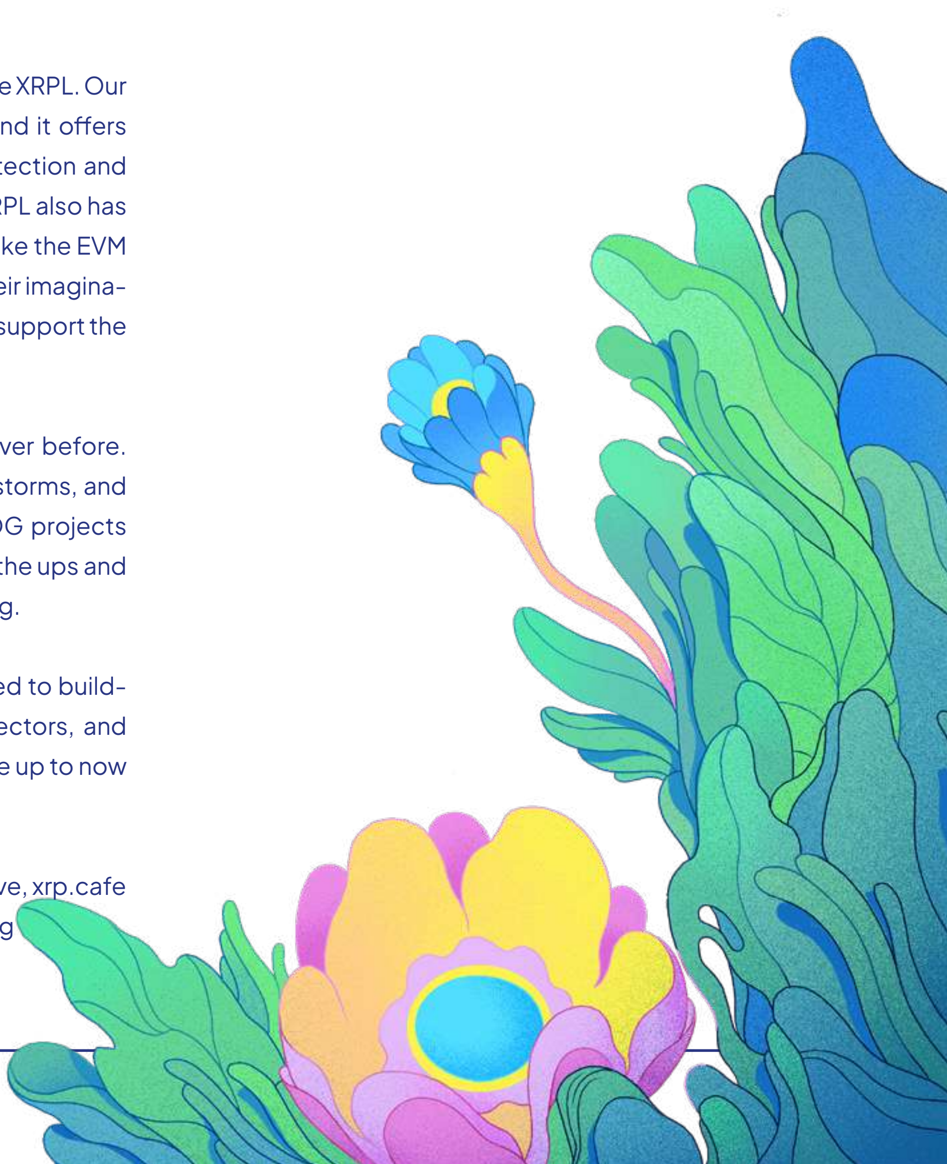
Today, the XRPL NFT space is stronger than ever before. We have been building non-stop through the storms, and we haven't been alone. The community and OG projects have stuck around now for years. And, despite the ups and downs, the XRPL NFT community remains strong.

As we look towards the future, we're committed to building a vibrant ecosystem where creators, collectors, and enthusiasts can thrive. Everything we have done up to now has been for the XRPL community.

As the XRPL and the broader digital space evolve, xrp.cafe will continue to lead the way towards an exciting future where NFTs can change the world!

Learn More!

- ↗ xrp.cafe
- ↗ x.com/xrpcafe
- ↗ discord.gg/xrpcafe



The AMM and the Super DEX - Here's What You Need to Know

By Jasmine Cooper, Ripple

A technical deep-dive into AMM, DEX and the implications of the XLS-30 proposal.

The XRP Ledger (XRPL) has been operating a decentralized exchange (DEX), based on order books, for over a decade. The introduction of the XLS-30 proposal now presents an exciting opportunity to expand the XRPL DEX by offering automated market making (AMM).

The proposed integration is designed to be bi-directional, ensuring that traders' orders are executed in the environment that offers the best pricing and minimal slippage, effectively harnessing the strengths of both trading systems. Pending approval by the validator community, the XRPL DEX is on track to become one of the most advanced, fast, and cost-efficient decentralized exchanges in existence – a true Super DEX.

Why AMM?

At the heart of decentralized finance (DeFi) lies opportunity for everyone. By stripping away the barriers of centralization in traditional financial markets, even the small players can now access a piece of the pie. Automated market makers (AMMs) are a prime example of this democratization. They empower token holders to earn yields on their otherwise idle funds while simultaneously providing a crucial service to the market's taker side.

The XRP Ledger's order book-based DEX has demonstrated efficiency in trading for many years. However, it falls short in offering token holders the opportunity to leverage their liquid assets as an AMM does. With its substantial user base of XRP token holders, the introduction of an AMM on XRPL will be an exciting evolution.

What's Next for XRPL DEX

Our vision for the XRPL Super DEX is ambitious yet straightforward: to establish it as the go-to liquidity hub in the crypto universe. Whether you're in the market to acquire a game skin on Polygon or delve into yield farming on Solana, token swapping becomes a necessity at some point. When that moment comes, the XRPL will offer the fastest, most economical, and liquid solution for your trading needs.

Related to this innovation, the advancement of blockchain interoperability protocols will mark a major shift by breaking down the existing silos between different blockchains. This shift will enable diverse blockchain platforms to seamlessly interact by sharing data and value transfer, creating a unified and more efficient blockchain ecosystem. The role of interoperability protocols will be crucial in this transformation, as they will increase innovation, as well as foster new applications and use cases, specifically in DeFi. The outcome will enable a more accessible, robust, and interconnected blockchain landscape, driving mainstream adoption and unlocking the full potential of blockchain technology across various industries. Notably, strategic projects with leading interoperability players such as Axelar and Squid with the proposed EVM sidechain, which will be compatible with the XRPL Mainnet DEX, are also underway.

Cross-Chain Swaps, How Do They Work?

01

Starting Point: The user holds ETH in their Ethereum wallet and is interested in depositing liquidity into the Aave wBTC pool on the Polygon network.

02

Initiating Cross-Chain Swap: The user accesses a router or aggregator app that is capable of interfacing with multiple blockchain networks. This app scans various DEXs across different blockchains for the best price and liquidity for an (w)ETH to wBTC swap.

03

Selection of XRPL DEX: [Future State] With advancements in cross-chain technology and the adoption of various assets on the XRPL DEX, it is now a hub for multiple cryptocurrencies, including ETH and wBTC. The aggregator app finds that the XRPL DEX offers the best swap conditions (low fees, deep liquidity) for ETH to wBTC.

04

Performing the Swap on XRPL DEX: Cross-chain router acts as a remote wallet that executes the swap on XRPL DEX on behalf of the end user.

05

Bridging wBTC to Polygon: Once the swap is complete, the wBTC is bridged to the Polygon network.

06

Depositing wBTC into Aave on Polygon: With wBTC successfully in their Polygon wallet, the user then proceeds to deposit their wBTC into the Aave liquidity pool on the Polygon network.

Order Books: When a user initiates a payment or OfferCreate transaction, the payments engine checks for any matching Offers for the same currency pair. If they exist, they are consumed, starting with the best exchange rate first. If there are no full or partial matches, then the order becomes a passive offer on the ledger until there is a match.

AMM: When a user initiates a trade on an AMM, the protocol automatically calculates the exchange rate using the conservation function (in the case of XLS-30, this is a geometric mean constant product market maker or CPMM), based on the current state of the liquidity pool. There is no need to search for matching offers, as trades are executed directly against the pool's liquidity.

In the case of the proposed Super DEX / DEX 2.0, both systems will be checked and the XRPL payments engine will intelligently route the order to the system that will provide the user with the best quality trade.

ECOSYSTEM MAPPING

In the growing landscape of XRPL, understanding its complex network of participants is crucial for fostering growth and a sense of community. Today, we share the progress of our ambitious open-source project: 'Mapping the XRPL Ecosystem', which aims for a comprehensive XRPL overview, showcasing its key stakeholders and their domains.

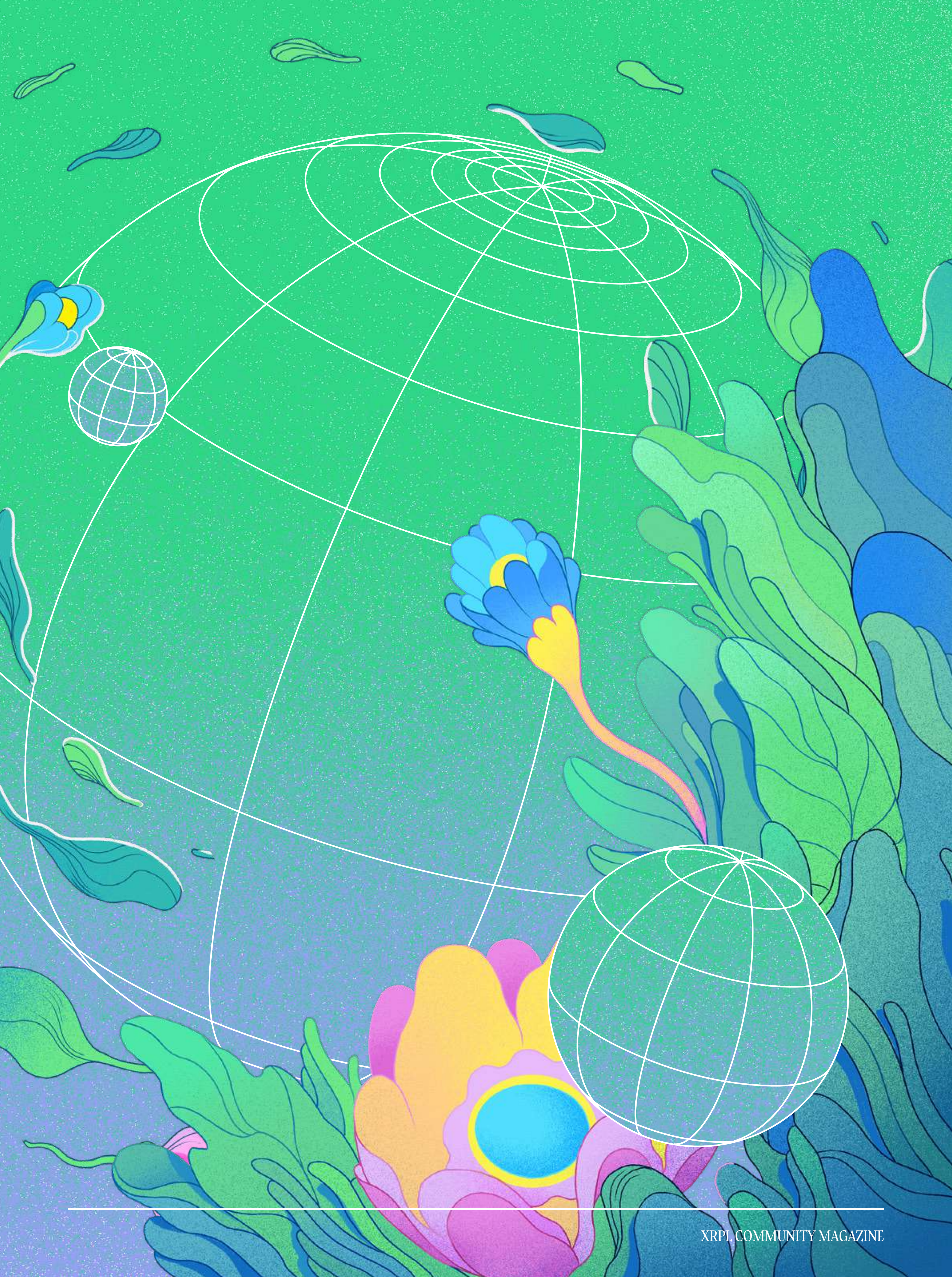
An Ongoing Project for the Entire Community

The Mapping the Ecosystem project is an ongoing initiative. We invite you to be part of this effort, sharing your insights, projects, and knowledge to help us grow together.

By scanning the QR code below, you can actively contribute to this open-source database, ensuring it remains a reflection of the ever-evolving XRPL community.

Is your project already on our map? Find out:

↗ map.xrpl-commons.org



03

XRPL WIZARDS

Ask Me Anything

Wietse Wind,

Founder and CEO of XRPL Labs

Join us for an in-depth AMA session with Wietse Wind, as he answers questions from the community and dives into the nuances of Xaman (formerly Xumm) and the evolving landscape of XRPL.

Is Xaman going to leverage the Decentralised Identifier (DID) amendment, and how?

Yes, we're specifically interested in digital identity in the form of attestations/vouching for someone. We have already pioneered a light version of this with our Opt-in KYC, which is available to our Pro users to access certain features. This service additionally provides a KYC badge attached to your r-address, which is visible in Xaman, Bithomp, and XRPScan as "Xumm (Xaman) verified"; others can read it, and it is seen as a sign of trust for that specific address.

KYC adds an element of Future-Proofing: Verified status, not personal data, will be on the ledger for XRPL and Xahau, future-proofing use with Hooks and Layer 2 solutions. Stay ahead as regulations evolve, with KYC expected to become a standard.

Things like the DiD amendment can add trust and unlock features based on required attestations/vouches. Xaman will add their Opt-In KYC attestations/vouches. In the future, we will see identity verification like this turn into the on-chain representation of off-chain interaction between entities to make portability & compliance a lot easier.

Is it possible for Xaman to be a bank in the future?

Technically, it's within the realm of possibility. However, transforming into a bank is not our ambition. We've dipped our toes into regulated services with a slow rollout of the Xaman native onramp, but due to increasing regulations, regulatory costs, the international nature of our client base, and the lack of standardization of compliance requirements and banking rails across the world make it an unviable endeavor for a little player, such as ourselves.

Our philosophy is rooted in interoperability and collaboration – excelling in our own area of expertise and seamlessly integrating with others who are experts in theirs. This translates into more business for everyone, faster development,

> "Blockchain technology offers more than just a new way to handle payments; it's a groundbreaking tool that can redefine how we approach identity, trust, and data ownership. It's not just about moving money faster or cheaper. At Xaman, we're transforming the traditional leather wallet into a digital one, creating a universal tool for all things value– encompassing digital cash, loyalty programs, identity, and more."

expert opinions in different fields, streamlined support, and much more.
Our guiding principle is clear: prioritize innovation over imitation. We're not just following the path others have tread; we're carving out our own, setting new standards along the way.

Will Xumm integrate other chains in the future?

In light of our focus on excelling in our specific area of expertise, XRPL Labs is dedicated to working with chains that communicate using the XRP Ledger Protocol. This includes not just the XRP Ledger mainnet, but also networks like Xahau and several testnets. The reason for this focused approach is simple yet powerful. These networks offer immense potential, often surpassing what is typically perceived and even misunderstood in the broader blockchain community. Their capabilities and possibilities haven't been fully explored or tapped into.
So, our strategy is clear and straightforward: focus on leveraging the strengths of the XRP Ledger Protocol and the networks it encompasses. We hope to make transferring value a lot smoother, operating like Web2 but utilizing and democratizing the technologies and capabilities of Web3 under the hood.
At XRPL Labs, our commitment goes beyond surface-level engagement. It's about more than just participation; it's about pioneering and leading the way in unlocking the true potential that these networks hold?

What advice would you give new entrants in the ecosystem?

My advice to new entrants in the XRPL ecosystem is straightforward: Just go for it. Don't be afraid. Has someone already done it? Doesn't matter. If people say it will fail, use that as motivation to prove them wrong. And if you're not sure how to do something, that's perfectly fine – learn. Learn by asking, reading, interacting, and learning through failure. You're on the right path as long as you're willing to learn and have fun, and you can capitalize on the Web2 world and Web3 advantages that the XRPL offers.

If you were starting today with XRPL, what would you build?

I'd focus on leveraging the unique advantages of the Web2 and Web3 worlds that XRPL bridges. It's not just about reinventing the wheel; many things have already been invented and solved, but not in a way that empowers you to own your data and make it globally accessible on a single, expansive network. In this world, technology erases borders, and currencies are used more fluidly. You have true ownership of your data. Dream big, and don't be limited by the current scope of the Web3 world. Instead of trying to convert the entire world to Web3, which is a monumental task, use Web3 technology to build solutions that address global needs and challenges. At Xaman, we don't believe our role is limited to making things faster, better, or more efficient – we're here to unlock entirely new possibilities and business models to redefine what ownership means in the digital age.

What use cases are you the most excited about today?

I'm intrigued by the potential of blockchain to make a real difference in everyday life that resonates with people worldwide, where technology dissolves borders, empowers people to own their data, and integrates seamlessly into various aspects of life. That's the kind of innovation that gets me excited – building on a platform where the possibilities are vast and the potential for positive impact is immense.

What would you say is the most compelling feature in the XRPL ecosystem today?

One of the most standout aspects of the XRPL ecosystem is its array of native features, which are well-documented, consistent, and fast. They have also been battle-tested. After all these years, people underestimate what the XRPL is capable of and what it was capable of 10 years ago. Ignore tribalism; focus on the stack out there. Is this the stack you can actually build on for real use cases? XRPL sure is.

A key feature XRPL was missing until recently is composability – the ability to build and expand upon existing capabilities. This is about having the freedom to create, to turn the XRPL into a blank canvas for your projects. While this aspect is still evolving, you can start exploring its potential on networks like Xahau, which is pioneering XRPL Protocol + Hooks for smart contracts.

Want to find out more about Xaman?

- ↗ x.com/XummWallet
- ↗ blog.xumm.app

To continue reading our interview with Wietse Wind and find out his answers to the following questions, scan the QR code and visit our blog!

- ↘ When does the XRPL Labs validator complete the testing of AMM and vote yes?
- ↘ In your opinion, is XRPL decentralized enough?
- ↘ What are your thoughts on EVM? Is it relevant to the XRPL ecosystem?
- ↘ What would make more devs get interested in our ecosystem?

↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/newsroom/ask-me-anything-with-wietse-wind

Revolutionizing Retail Payments: The Disruptive Power of XRP Ledger

In the world of retail, payments are critical to commercial success - impacting customer inclusion, sales conversion, profitability, and protection against fraud and bad debt. From everyday consumer transactions to large-scale business dealings, the efficiency and reliability of payment systems play a crucial role in shaping the retail landscape. As the digital economy continues to evolve, traditional payment methods are increasingly being put to the test to deliver better security, value, services, and experience. This is where blockchain technology comes in —a disruptive force that promises to revolutionize payments as we know them.

Current Trends in Retail Payments

The retail payments market is experiencing unprecedented growth, driven by the surge in online sales and the widespread adoption of digital payment solutions. With the global retail market expected to reach 2,174bn $ by 2027[1], the importance of efficient and seamless payment systems cannot be overstated.

One of the key drivers of this growth is the rapid spread of smartphones[2] and internet connectivity, with over half of the global population now owning a smartphone, and emerging economies catching up. As a result, consumers increasingly turn to digital channels for improved value, services, and experience when shopping and spending.

Blockchain, the Game-Changer

In the course of these developments and demands, blockchain technology is emerging as a game-changer. By leveraging decentralized networks and cryptography, blockchain offers a host of advantages over traditional payment systems. These include enhanced security, transparency, efficiency, lower transaction costs, and faster settlement times. In addition, they allow more opportunities for interoperability between service providers.

According to Reed Luhtanen, Executive Director of the Faster Payments Council in the US, "Cryptocurrencies present a potentially compelling blend of flexibility and utility. They appear well-positioned to solve some seemingly intractable issues in payments by filling various gaps in payment flows efficiently and effectively." Indeed, blockchain has the potential to address the crisis of trust towards banks and state authorities whilst enabling large-scale collaboration between individuals and businesses.

1. Global Payments Report 2023 - BCG
2. GSMA's State of Mobile Internet Connectivity Report 2023

The Advantages of the XRP Ledger

At the forefront of blockchain innovation stands the XRP Ledger, offering unparalleled speed, efficiency, and affordability. Unlike traditional payment systems, which can take days to settle transactions and incur hefty fees, XRPL processes payments in near real-time (3–5 seconds) and at a fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, XRPL supports various functionalities that are particularly relevant to retailers, including checks, escrow, partial payments, and payment channels. These features enhance the flexibility and security of retail payments and pave the way for innovative new business models and revenue streams.

FriiPay: Pioneering the Future of Payments

One project that is promising to revolutionize the payment space using XRPL is FriiPay. With a mission to empower retailers, consumers, and brands like never before, FriiPay is bridging the gap between traditional and blockchain-based payment systems.

FriiPay CEO Farhaan Dawood was one of the first to introduce electronic card payments in the UK and his team has brought numerous innovations to point-of-sale technology over the last 20+ years, making FriiPay uniquely positioned to achieve their goals.

By integrating XRPL into smart point-of-sale terminals, FriiPay enables retailers worldwide to accept both traditional and cryptocurrency payments on their existing payment devices, via a simple OTA (over-the-air) upgrade. Currently, FriiPay is the only provider that supports payment by traditional credit and debit cards, or cryptocurrencies from the same point-of-sale screen - embedding this new payment method into a regular checkout experience. Consumers can pay in any tradable currency on the XRPL and merchants receive payment in their local FIAT currency. In addition, payments can be seamlessly integrated with loyalty and digital coupons to offer enhanced and tailored experiences.

According to Farhaan Dawood, “Payments are about to undergo the most dramatic transformation since the inception of cards. The power of blockchain for payments lies in its ability to transform one-dimensional transactions into ‘meaningful interactions’ where a single transaction can inform multiple transactions or vice versa”. Quoting David Schwartz, who compared the future of payments to the Internet, this vision encompasses a time when payments will evolve to create a new data-enriched ecosystem embedded into our daily lives.

Beyond aiming to revolutionize payments in retail, FriiPay also seeks to address the social dimension of financial inclusion. Partnering with Ripple to develop a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) infrastructure, FriiPay seeks to improve banking access to the 1.7 billion unbanked individuals worldwide. FriiPay was recently featured in CBRC’s Use Case Register that evaluates real-world blockchain use cases, and was awarded a score of 84/100 in recognition of their innovative solution.

Founders Farhaan Dawood and Nabeel Choudhry understand that at this stage, Web2 and Web3 must work hand-in-hand to create a universal payment solution. By bridging the gap between traditional payment systems and the blockchain ledger, FriiPay proposes a global infrastructure change that consolidates existing systems, providing a pathway for seamless migration, for retailers and consumers alike. ●●●

• • • What sets FriiPay apart from existing solutions is its holistic approach, integrating payments, loyalty, and couponing into a unified platform. "Crucially, this allows traditional payments to result in consumers engaging in on-ledger activities such as redeeming free crypto-currency rewards or digital coupons. For retailers, automating these data-driven tools opens opportunities for enhanced consumer services that previously would not be affordable or feasible for SMEs," says CTO Nabeel Choudhry. By leveraging XRPL's speed, reliability, and affordability, FriiPay is arguably driving the mass adoption of blockchain in the retail sector.

This year FriiPay will be releasing a new consumer-focused wallet, powered by XRPL and initially built on Xaman (Formerly Xumm), to complement their point-of-sale solutions and set a standard for digital wallets of the future.

In addition to XRPL Labs, Friipay is also collaborating with Gatehub who provide global liquidity and on and off-ramping of funds to the XRPL. By integrating these solutions into its platform, FriiPay amplifies the impact of its partners and strengthens the XRPL community as a whole.

Digital Cash
Hold Digital Currencies
View your balances, history, receipts and more

Loyalty
Earn Loyalty Rewards
Save your discounts to pay for something you actually want. Redeem automatically

Digital ID
Store Digital IDs
Verify your identity and integrate KYC with other services

Notifications
Secure Notifications
Updates, offers, rewards and gifts from people you know

Digital Assets
Investing Made Simple
Buy and sell crypto assets instantly. View balances, and market info

Coupons
Find & Save Vouchers
Manage, share or exchange your coupons or tickets, and validate securely

Move Funds
Fast & Simple Transfers
Add, withdraw, exchange or send funds in just a few taps

Scan to pay
Quick Payments
Spend in-store or online securely using any tradable asset in your wallet

About FriiPay
↗ friipay.io

Get in touch
↗ hello@friiworld.com

A Bright Future

As we look ahead, the potential of blockchain technology to transform retail payments is limitless. It is driving innovation through speed, reliability, as well as inclusion. With projects like FriiPay leading the change, we can expect to see increasingly decentralized, transparent, and efficient retail payment solutions. As consumers are diversifying their assets to include digital currencies, retailers have the chance to embrace the paradigm shift and stay ahead of the curve by providing their customers with the hassle-free payment experience they demand.

04

REGENERATION IN SPOTLIGHT

Towards a More Sustainable XRP Ledger

In today's regulatory landscape, as global initiatives like COP28↗, MiCA↗, and the proposed SEC↗ climate disclosure rule gain momentum, the imperative to combat climate change is increasingly apparent across industries. This shift isn't just a matter of compliance; it resonates deeply within scientific communities worldwide. Within the blockchain sector, industry leaders are acknowledging the need for substantive action to address pivotal challenges in the climate transition, with energy consumption being the prominent issue.

It is in this context that XRPL Commons has taken a proactive stance. In line with our mission to create the conditions for success for developers and entrepreneurs in the ecosystem, we have set out to coordinate the community-led process decarbonizing the XRPL protocol.

This commitment begins with a **comprehensive energy consumption and carbon assessment** — a crucial first step in understanding and mitigating our emissions. In partnership with the Crypto Carbon Ratings Institute (CCRI), we have begun to evaluate the carbon footprint and electricity consumption of the protocol, emphasizing transparency and accountability. The real-time findings of the assessment will be displayed on our website and be available on CCRI's indices page.

Making the XRPL protocol more sustainable is a community project. In the current assessment phase, with the help and contribution of the validator community, we hope to gather the most accurate and concrete information on the geographical locations and energy consumption of XRPL validators— this is a critical step toward MiCA compliance by 2024. The subsequent steps of the process, focusing on emission reduction, monitoring, and offsetting/insetting, will also be defined in tandem with the community in the form of a working group accessible to all interested members. Community contributions will be crucial to collectively identify the protocol's levers to decarbonize, share best practices, and have an ongoing, open conversation about our challenges.

"We are proud to be collaborating with the XRP Ledger community", says CCRI, elaborating that "MiCA-readiness also represents a market entry barrier that may contribute to further professionalizing the crypto market, in which transparency on emissions is the vital first step to tailoring mitigation strategies."

This is just the beginning. We aim to establish a transparent process to decarbonize the XRPL protocol that includes all stakeholders. Explore our resources, join community calls, dare to ask the big questions, and contribute to making the XRPL community truly sustainable.

MICA IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

June 2023
MICA publication in the OJEU

July 2023
Consultation Package 1 publication

October 2023
Consultation Package 2 publication

Q1 2024
Consultation Package 3 publication

June 2024
Entry into application Title III and Title IV

December 2024
Entry into application Titles I, II, V, VI, VII

Go Further: Community Resources

- ↗ Watch back our sustainability webinars on Youtube
- ↗ More information about MiCA
- ↗ Green MiCA by CCRI

What is MiCA?

MiCA, the Markets in Crypto Assets Regulation, will establish uniform rules for non-regulated crypto assets in the EU, with a significant focus on sustainability standards. This legislation will impact every "crypto-asset", defined as "a digital representation of a value or of a right that is able to be transferred and stored electronically using distributed ledger technology or similar technology", providing or issuing services in the EU. As part of MiCA, all token issuers and crypto-asset service providers must disclose their environmental impacts, including their carbon footprint and energy consumption associated with the creation and transaction of crypto-assets.

More About CCRI

Crypto Carbon Ratings Institute (CCRI)↗ is a research-driven company providing data on the sustainability aspects of cryptocurrencies, blockchain, and other technologies. The interdisciplinary team has built a multi-year research track record focusing on cryptocurrencies and their sustainability impacts. CCRI uses the most up-to-date data sources and methods based on formerly peer-reviewed studies published in renowned scientific journals. Their Crypto Sustainability API provides real-time sustainability metrics over a wide range of cryptocurrencies and relevant ERC-20 tokens on Ethereum, NFT collections, and Layer 2 solutions. For regulatory compliance, CCRI also aids token issuers with MiCA sustainability disclosure support and helps to generate and communicate mandatory white papers on mica-whitepaper.com↗.

Validators, We Need Your Input!

Fill out CCRI's survey to improve the energy and carbon assessment results!

↗ carbon-ratings.com/xrpl-survey

Interview

Meghan Edge,

Ripple's Head of Climate Portfolio

In our discussion, we delve into climate finance, COP28 insights, reflections on new regulations such as the EU's MiCA, examine Ripple's commitment to carbon neutrality, and more. Meghan, with her extensive background in program management, climate tech, and environmental policy, envisions Ripple playing a pivotal role in shaping the future of environmentally conscious innovation.

What role do you see blockchain playing in climate change mitigation?

Blockchain can create tremendous value as the technical infrastructure for carbon, energy, and other sustainability markets, all of which are still tremendously opaque. The most obvious case for value is in blockchain's data immutability. In carbon markets, double-counting credits is a massive concern. Blockchain can act as a safeguard, tracing the life of a credit to prevent fraud and grow trust. This data transparency ultimately attracts investor confidence, funding climate projects desperately in need of capital.

How can we bring forward the value of blockchain in climate discussions beyond its energy consumption, which is often the first thing that comes to people's minds?

This is a crucial topic, especially in the context of MiCA[1] in the EU, that we've been collaborating with ESMA[2] and others while responding to their recent consultation on blockchain sustainability indicators. Historically, the narrative of blockchain's energy consumption has drowned out any mentions of its inherent value in providing a public good. This is where the industry has seen movement to adopt a proof-of-stake (PoS) consensus mechanism over the much more energy-intensive proof-of-work (PoW). Post-MiCA, we are taking part in a wider turn to developing the additive sustainability value of blockchain through a close examination of concrete use cases. For example, a community-led conservation project in Kenya could leverage blockchain to list and track the nature credits generated from regenerative land practices while also using blockchain to verify that the project's land managers are indeed receiving their revenue share from the sale of these credits.

In your view, what's the impact of MiCA on sustainability within the blockchain industry?

The short answer is largely around consensus on standardized datasets to measure sustainability. While proposals for sustainability indicators exist, we're just not collectively at a point where these detailed datasets can be easily or reliably collected. Ripple is involved with several working groups that are helping to define these indicators in a Mi-

1. Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation; 2. European Securities and Markets Authority

CA-compliant world, emphasizing the need to establish common metrics and measurement methods for effective implementation. While the EU is at the forefront of this effort through MiCA, there will need to be a global approach, in the end.

What are some of the highlights from Ripple's invested projects so far?

First, let's talk about how Ripple has invested in these projects, which is through advanced market purchases or prepayments on offtakes. This is more of a novel financing mechanism, which essentially provides a form of loan capital to projects, allowing them to scale their operations or reduce their operating costs while still receiving credits generated from their project.
In our portfolio are projects like CarbonCure, which introduces recycled CO2 into fresh concrete; Newlight, which captures methane, converting it into a polymer that's utilized as an alternative material to single-use plastics and leather products; and BC Biocarbon, using pyrolysis to create biochar, a substance that has diverse applications ranging from a fossil fuel alternative to a soil fertilizer.

How do you measure and calculate Ripple's own carbon footprint?

Ripple partners with Watershed, a third-party expert in corporate footprint calculation. They help us assess all emission scopes through a number of internal datasets on our global operations.
Like many in financial services, Ripple's primary emissions are in Scope 3, and we are working to address any high-emitters within our supply chain. We see this as part of Ripple's ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility, and just good business.

Now that Commons is working on measuring the footprint of the entire XRPL protocol, how do you collaborate on this project?

Building on our experience working with Watershed these past couple of years, Ripple is working with the Commons team to effectively report on challenging data sets and communicate the story to and beyond the XRPL community. The collaboration is a joint effort with passionate individuals aiming to make the XRPL the most sustainable blockchain. The relationship involves an active conversation, where we raise questions and share information, creating an academic atmosphere to improve and uncover insights into our shared goal of environmental responsibility.

"Baking sustainability into the core of blockchain projects is critical"

You've recently returned from COP28. What were some of your key takeaways?

This was my first COP, and it felt quite monumental given the task of conducting a global stocktake, akin to what I imagine COP21 felt like in Paris, 2015. The energy on the ground was palpable, and it was recognized as a make-or-break moment. Being hosted by the UAE, an OPEC state, certainly added a unique dynamic and ultimately emphasized their commitment to driving financial negotiations and investment in climate initiatives.
There was notable development around CDR3 and the VCM4, and while much of the language on Article 6 didn't make it into the final text, governments and private sector players are continuing to align investments to Paris Agreement targets. The momentum is expected to continue towards Azerbaijan in 2024.

Finally, how can the XRPL community contribute to creating a positive climate impact?

In my opinion, baking sustainability into the core of projects is critical. Sustainability is really just another word for longevity, or ensuring the continuation of future generations. So, having this perspective at the heart of brainstorming is of the utmost importance.

3. Carbon dioxide removal; 4. Voluntary Carbon Market

Sustainability Initiatives to Keep Your Eyes On

Explore some of the pioneering initiatives that harness the power of the XRP Ledger to create long-lasting, innovative solutions in our fight against climate change. In particular, blockchain can be leveraged in the voluntary carbon market and offsetting, given its capability to enhance traceability and transparency. We hope this list is just the start, leading the way towards many more projects to come alive.

thallo

Thallo ↗ is a climate solutions company with a focus on the voluntary carbon markets. By delivering essential infrastructure, Thallo facilitates seamless connections to the carbon market for companies of all sizes, simplifying climate actions and enabling direct carbon offsetting for their customers through their innovative Climate-as-a-Service API.

EKONAVI

Ekonavi ↗ is a platform mapping and supporting ecological regeneration through agroforestry, in Brazil and beyond. The platform has onboarded over 600 field projects, and their pilots have demonstrated the best planting-per-$-spent ratio on the Brazilian market. They are tokenizing regenerative activities, both for carbon capture, and goods & services emanating from restored natural areas.

ThingsGo.Online

Things Go Online (TGO) ↗ is a rewards ecosystem founded on sustainability responsibility. The project employs blockchain to tokenize and reward authentic environmental and social actions through the issuance of Giveback Certificates on the XRP Ledger. These certificates, supported by measurable sustainability projects registered on the XRP Ledger as device tokens, allow users to choose and support projects like renewable energy, CO2 reduction, or waste recycling.

metacarbon

MetaCarbon ↗ is dedicated to democratizing carbon offsetting. Their SaaS platform empowers brands to effortlessly engage with customers on CSR goals, providing transparency and an enjoyable experience in the carbon offsetting process. The team collaborates on creative offsetting strategies to bring brands closer to climate change action, enhancing overall brand reputation.

Carbon Title

Carbon Title ↗ utilizes innovative technology to drive climate action in the building industry, responsible for almost 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The company's decentralized platform enables transparent insights into building emissions, empowering stakeholders to manage and reduce carbon footprints across portfolios.

"Guardians of the Reefs" ↗ features a 10,000-piece NFT collection composed of eight unique and interactive sub-collections. Each sub-collection will directly enable the community to support the conservation of our oceans and marine life. By partnering with conservation agencies from around the world, Guardians of the Reefs will bring NFTs to provide a fun and educational experience to the XRPL.

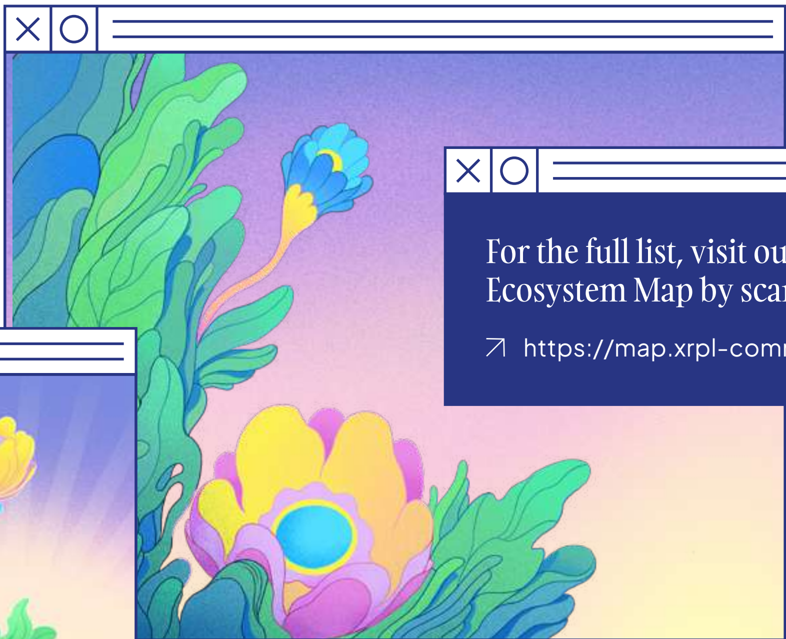
carbonland · trust

Carbonland Trust ↗ provides landowners and corporations with a Web3 Platform as a Service to have the most ESG impact in the carbon markets. They enable even small-holder project developers to issue carbon credits from protected forest land, ensuring high-quality and durable credits through their protocol.

Xange.com

The fully transparent carbon credit platform Xange.com ↗ is facilitating traceability, transparency, and trust in the voluntary carbon credit market, from sourcing, issuance, trading, and accounting.

Carbon Bear XRPL ↗, currently in its demo phase, is a new platform designed to empower individuals and businesses in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and contribute to a greener future. By leveraging XRPL, they aim to create a transparent and efficient marketplace for carbon reduction initiatives.



For the full list, visit our ever-growing Ecosystem Map by scanning the QR code!

↗ https://map.xrpl-commons.org

Blockchain Technology for Regenerative Paradigms

By Simon Luling

What does blockchain have to do with regeneration? This article draws inspiration from beyond our ecosystem, to get us all inspired.

Hardly anyone reading this is a total neophyte to blockchain technology and its broader aspirations. And while the Web3 community has many faces, there is a serious movement to deploy blockchain for good - to reimagine the very organization of our lives. Not only for ideological dreaming but to address the very real problems of our day, namely climate change. This increasingly informs how XRP Ledger and its community conducts its activities - thriving to be more regenerative.

Regeneration is witnessed in nature - "when left untouched, it grows back"; but has been increasingly identified as a principle applicable to societal norms: sustainable building, responsible consumption, agricultural activity following nature's precepts, and so on. The sum of which enables dignified human activity on a healing planet.

A regenerative economy stands in contrast to an extractive one, where business and wealth generation rely on social and environmental exploitation. Proponents of regeneration argue that through adjustments in production, consumption, and our relationship with nature, we can maintain harmonious existence on Earth, without becoming luddites. It represents a paradigm shift that seeks to fundamentally alter the relationship between business, lifestyle, and the environment, encompassing both natural and social realms.

Standard Deviation, a group dedicated to business' transition to regenerative models working closely with the XRPL Aquarium Residency, states that "Our economy needs to operate according to a new canvas, one that is aligned with principles of living systems. We believe regenerative organizations embrace this new canvas, that it's not just about what these companies do, but how they operate."

It is not just governments who must set policy - entrepreneurs must be a driving force and might even have a greater impact.

But why is blockchain relevant to regeneration? And how does such technological use favor regenerative activities, including in nature?

Let's Get Our Hands in the Dirt

There is a movement of Web3 aficionados driven by blockchain's use for regenerative finance (ReFi). ReFi's holy grail is the creation of a model firmly tying financial outcomes to states of nature. No magical formula has yet been devised, for it will be built over time, through tests, case studies from the field, and leveraging increasingly recognized "natural assets" such as carbon and biodiversity credits. Many challenges remain, particularly related to verifying outcomes (similarly to the issues with carbon credits).

One group that best embodies ReFi - both for its early success, and their linking of financial activity and fieldwork, is Regen Network ↗. Dave Fortson, Regen's communication head, explains, "We believe giving land stewards a suite of digital tools to allow them to design, develop, and govern their own ecological credits is an unmet need. Most of the climate finance industry is carbon focused, and the barriers to entry to this relatively narrow market leave many communities unable to affordably develop credits - especially for non-carbon based ecological impact projects."

This point is particularly poignant, insofar as, while carbon markets have thus far been the norm for climate action, most field workers out there are devoted to restoring ecosystems, without any awareness or motivation for "capturing carbon". And this is where ReFi's potential is most tangible.

The mission is to stabilize nature, see deserts bloom, and keep global warming the lowest possible.

With respect to blockchain and cryptocurrency, Regen's protocol is maintained by 75 proof-of-stake validators and counts over 20.000 wallet holders. Organized in a DAO structure, it streamlines planting activities through credit sales, while staying true to its decentralized raison d'être, respectful of each land steward's unique challenges and ecological realities. It has thus far sold or retired over 140.000 carbon credits including to Microsoft and Sotheby's.

A Global Movement for Good

Besides Regen, there are several groups to highlight in the ReFi space. For the sake of these pages, we'll make do by highlighting a handful of groups and actors, illustrating regeneration's diverse niches and geographies.

↘ Founded in South Africa, IXO ↗ seeks to create the internet of impacts. In essence, it is building the tools and infrastructure to verify and tokenize positive outcomes on social and environmental efforts. It has taken action across the world, with a recent example of installing clean cookstoves in poor households in India and Africa - improving population health and ensuring verifiable carbon emission reductions.

↘ Kokonut Network ↗ uses Web3 tools to support decentralized, community-driven agricultural development, focused on coconuts and their derived products, in the Dominican Republic. With its DAO setup, Kokonut farmers have as much say in financial decision-making as "conventional" shareholders, and all planting is adapted to the local biome.

↘ Blockchain na Escola ↗ ("Blockchain in School") was created in Brazil, to teach blockchain use to under-favored communities, especially youth. With successful pilots in schools in Bahia and Espirito Santo, Blockchain na Escola continues to develop programs and community outreach, to ensure the integrating of marginalized populations into new, decentralized economies.

ReFi Home Made

In this spirit, the XRPL community has not stood idle to the movement for regenerative finance. XRPL Grants added ReFi as an application criterion in its latest wave, but has had a few projects that check ReFi's boxes even before then. Three projects in the XRPL ecosystem, driven by transparent data collection and impactful action are worth noting.

To accelerate reforestation, Carbonland Trust ↗ has launched NFTs for nature-based carbon capture, as well as broader ESG goals. On impact tracking, Meta Carbon ↗ has developed interactive software for companies to track their carbon footprint, and provide guidance for reduction and offsetting possibilities. Finally, while focusing broadly on transparency and credible data, Filedgr ↗ has deployed its solutions for data collection and tracking on planting projects in Europe, to generate reliable carbon capture data, and fight greenwashing.

All in all, the pursuit of truly green economic models naturally parallels the Web3 World. As blockchain has spurred a revolution in how we gather data, conduct transactions and organize groups, the circumstances are ripe for innovation in all areas of life - for more empathy, decentralized decision-making, collective action, circular economics, environmental preservation and revitalization - all central facets of regenerative finance.

© Angela di Paolo

Jumping into the Aquarium Residency

By Cyrille Bourdeaux,
Program Manager @ XRPL Commons

Explore the key takeaways from our very first Residency, and find out more about upcoming cohorts.

Just a few months into its inception, XRPL Commons launched the Aquarium Residency, a unique program supporting creators passionate about developing impactful projects using blockchain technology. How? David Bchiri sums it up: "We designed the program we wished we had when starting out as an entrepreneur."

Unlike your typical startup incubator, The Aquarium draws inspiration from the key elements of an art residency, offering participants the time and space necessary to fully immerse themselves in their projects. Attracting a diverse range of talents, from developers to visionaries, the residency spans 12 weeks and serves as a platform to address critical issues and push the boundaries of decentralized applications powered by the XRP Ledger.

A global community of impact builders

With decentralization and transparency at its core, we are convinced that blockchain technology can be used to enable regenerative business. Sustainability is a vital pillar for the XRP Ledger blockchain overall, and its unique consensus algorithm makes it very energy efficient. For this reason, for this inaugural residency, we decided to champion projects centered around regeneration.

To design a program fitting our ambition, we partnered with regeneration experts Mawuena Tendar and Lara Pagnier from Standard Deviation to give our residents the knowledge and tools they need to build their regeneration-centric mindset.

Our first residency hosted 11 creators from Colombia, Chile, the United States, China, Germany, and France. Amongst those who joined: a former US Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer turned full-stack developer, an entrepreneur with decades of experience in finance, an artist working for over twenty years in sustainability, a chief product officer, and a recent graduate. Some residents were already working on a product, while others were interested in the technology and keen on exploring ideas. Besides diversity, complementarity was also a critical driver in our selection process to foster a truly collaborative community atmosphere throughout the program.

Embracing the regenerative mindset

The 12-week program began with an immersive week to embrace a regenerative mindset before learning entrepreneurial methodologies. We focused on why and how to build optimistic, impactful businesses for the kick-off day. The Standard Deviation team gave us a better understanding of the climate crisis, the necessity for action, and the opportunities ahead in this paradigm shift. Going through the 2 Tonnes workshop was pivotal for our residents, transforming their perception from guilt to responsibility and empowering them to initiate meaningful change. To meet the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to under 2°C by the end of the century, everyone must cap their annual greenhouse emissions at 2 tonnes of CO2 equivalent. This workshop gave us the levers for effective action, from shifting our diet to decarbonizing our mobility. Beyond the individual level, it helped our residents systematically redefine their projects.

> "I didn't know what to expect with this program besides a deep dive into XRPL tech. The regenerative focus really pulled me out of the code and into global systemic awareness."
>
> **Joshua Maggie**
> **Full-stack developer & project contributor**

The next day, we traveled to an agricultural campus outside of Paris called HECTAR. Spanning over 600 hectares, this unique project was established by the French tech entrepreneur Xavier Niel, who is also behind Station F and Ecole 42. HECTAR is dedicated to supporting and accelerating agriculture startups and promotes a holistic approach to enriching soil quality, significantly improving product quality and yield. This philosophy became our north star throughout the remainder of the residency.

A 12-week journey from idea to MVP

Once we shared this purpose for the residency, it was time to learn the framework to help our builders develop their projects. Most of the cohort didn't come from the startup world, so we organized a 3-day intensive sprint. The objective was to grasp agile principles before their practical application in their projects. This involved delivering an initial public pitch, following the steps outlined in the Lean Canvas model. Guided by mentors, they re-framed the problem they aimed to solve, challenged their unique value proposition, and found critical metrics for them to follow. Some residents pivoted on their original idea, while others supported other fellow residents' projects rather than launching new ones. For Sébastien, Ekomia's founder, this sprint is "the most transformative moment during which I shifted my focus in the right direction."

Learning the right tools from the get-go allowed our residents to define rituals to maximize efficiency and foster team collaboration. The Aquarium is structured around weekly events inspired by scrum ceremonies. Monday mornings start with a 30-minute weekly kick-off in which each resident shares a commitment ("what I will achieve this week") and an ask ("what I need from the community to help achieve my goals"). On Wednesday morning, we share a team breakfast and Thursday afternoons are time for an hour-long weekly review to discuss the work done and highlight achievements and the wins of the week.

On top of these rituals, we had a specific area of focus each week to drive our residents' progress. One of the initial trainings, led by our technical director Luc Bocahut, was on developing on the XRP Ledger: understanding the technology, the core functionalities, the basics of coding, and navigating the larger ecosystem. Another technical aspect of Web3 that we delved into during workshops and coaching sessions is tokenomics. Our residents grasped the complexity behind deploying economics on tokenized environments first by assisting them to understand if and why your project needs a token. We focused our other workshops on gamification with Alexandre Duarte (Fidback), navigating the legal and regulatory aspects of web3 with D&A partners, or the art of public speaking with Brightness.

Strengthening the XRPL Ecosystem

The Aquarium is not just about accelerating projects but also about connecting with the wider XRPL Community. Throughout the program, the residents had the opportunity to meet founders such as Florian Bouron (GemWallet), Viacheslav Bakshaev (Bithomp), and Farhaan Dawood (Frii). They heard from experts on growth hacking like Camille Mathis (Conquistadors.io) or on Blockchain for Good with Jacques-André Fines-Schlumberger. These expert insights impacted Matt, who felt it was like “a mini-MBA” to hear stories from builders worldwide. Our residents were also welcome to organize events on top of those hosted by the XRPL Commons Teams. Jeanne (Sparkling Debt) set up a “DAO’s decision-making tools and processes” and Kelly a “Women in Web3” event.

After 12 weeks of hard work, it was time for our residents to showcase their projects to the XRPL ecosystem. Investors, founders, partners, and friends gathered for the first Aquarium Demo Day on December 19th to see our residents pitch their work. The objectives were to create connections, whether to raise funds, hire a team, find corporate partners, or simply demonstrate blockchain capabilities. Simon (Ekonavi) says: “It was a mountain to climb, but we all made it. It was a celebration of a group effort towards an eclectic set of great projects, and the validation from those present made it all the more fulfilling.” His next step? Applying for an XRPL Grant or joining the XRPL Accelerator, a move Andres (Cityzeen), Eric (Cara7), William (Fillgood), and Sébastien (Ekomia) also intend to make to push their ideas to market.

What’s Next for the Aquarium?

We are currently hosting Cohort 2, centered on **Intellectual Property**. Following that, our third cohort is starting end of April 2024 and is seeking applicants focusing on **Decentralized Identity** for the advancement of DeSoc (Decentralized Society).

Does that sound like you?

↗ Check out our website to apply for Cohort 3!

More info about the Aquarium

↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/residency

To stay updated on all things Aquarium, subscribe to XRPL Commons’ newsletter!

↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/#stay-tuned

Resident Spotlight

How Ekonavi is Catalyzing Regeneration in Brazil

Founded in 2020, Ekonavi's mission is to create a platform for Brazilian farmers to incentivize ecological regeneration. While filming a documentary together, co-founders Simon Luling and Breno Veiga recognized the need for a unified tool for farmers to share best practices. The addition of Ishmael Angelo, a full-stack developer with a passion for ecology, brought their vision to life.

What's the story and mission behind Ekonavi?

Simon: Six years ago, in 2017, while Breno and I were filming a documentary on the agroforestry movement in Brazil, we captured various cases of land regeneration and sensed great enthusiasm in the community. Still, there was a lack of tools and space to transform this enthusiasm into a nationwide movement while preserving individual agency in the fields. The best chance for projects to connect might be stumbling upon each other on Facebook, which isn't guaranteed. We wanted to create a platform for these projects to gather, showcase their work, and collaborate. That's how Ekonavi was born.

Ishmael: Ekonavi is a unique project that integrates technology with farmers and stakeholders to enable a positive impact on the ground. We leverage blockchain for transparency, immutability, and decentralized ownership, ensuring real-time verification of on-field actions. Over time, we track environmental changes, applying ESG standards to measure the value of regenerative efforts. Our goal is to return this value not only to Ekonavi investors but also to give due credit to field actors.

How do you assess the impact on the ground?

Ishmael: Our platform fosters community bonds over time, with a curated process ensuring reliable connections. We visit and engage with local actors to build trust. Before providing support, we establish legal processes for strong

Check out Ekonavi:

↗ ekonavi.com

relationships. We measure impact through various methods, including before-and-after images, satellite technology, measurement solutions for biomass, soil samples, humidity readings, and calculations for carbon sequestration. Unlike industrial practices, our agroforestry approach promotes local food production, biodiversity, and a closed-loop system that enriches the land sustainably. It contrasts traditional methods that may overlook hidden costs like environmental degradation.

Simon: In the Brazilian context, we also draw inspiration from collective efforts to certify best practices in rural regions. We aim to create a digital, broader-scale version similar to existing organic farming certifications. In Brazil, local associations conduct peer reviews, granting certification based on best practices. We intend to digitalize this process, providing an additional tool for assessing regional practices.

Was blockchain part of your project from the start?

Simon: No, initially, Ekonavi was a basic landing page for agroforestry projects. It allowed projects to showcase their work and be mapped. When Ishmael joined a few months later, expressing interest in blockchain, we explored opportunities in the space of regenerative finance and began creating proof-of-stake validators on the Regen and Ixo blockchains, generating revenue redistributed for field projects and educational workshops.

Tell us more about your EkoToken concept.

Ishmael: The idea is that investors can buy EkoTokens and receive ecological regeneration value in their wallets. We've launched an MVP and sold out the initial pilot batch of EkoTokens, with funds invested in the field. The next phase, EkoToken 2.0, involves the development of an ERC-1155 token—an upgradable token where field data will be embedded. We're also excited about the EVM sidechain with XRPL, aiming to deploy smart contracts and facilitate stable XRP tokens and fiat on-ramping for increased asset demand on the XRP Ledger. It's an exciting prospect we're keen to explore.

What are your impressions of the XRPL ecosystem?

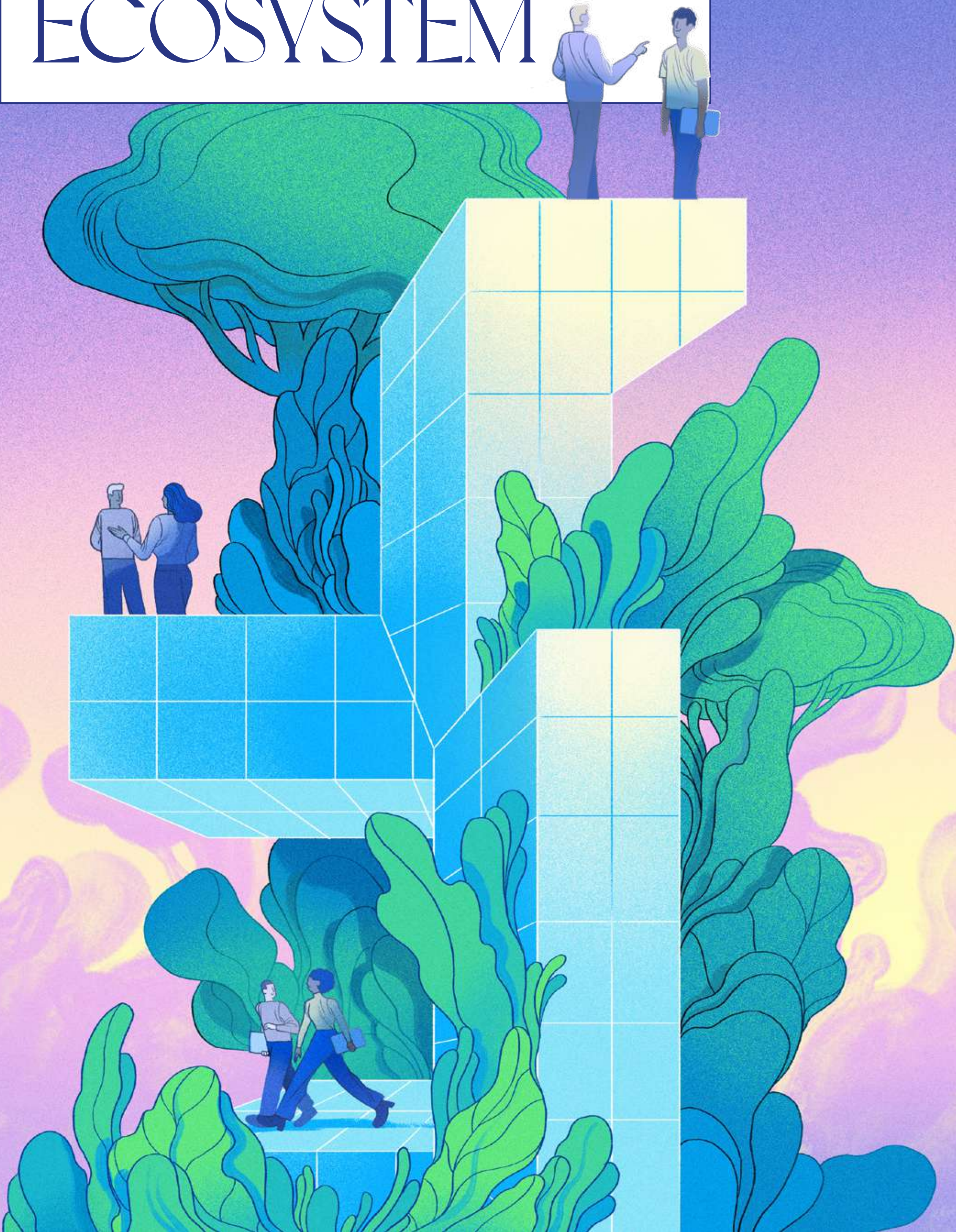
Ishmael: I'm impressed with how XRPL has positioned itself within the technology stack and intrigued by the upcoming EVM sidechain and its potential to open doors for developers, increase applications on XRPL, and enhance demand for the XRP token. Looking ahead, we are excited to collaborate with the XRPL community and eager to see how this relationship develops.

How was your experience in the Aquarium Residency?

Simon: It was an invaluable experience for us. With 11 residents and eight or nine different projects, the community felt close-knit, and everyone looked out for each other. The program offered crash courses on business and start-up growth, along with dedicated time for discussing important principles and values, aligning with the theme of regeneration. This was particularly relevant for Ekonavi, given our focus. I recommend it to those considering immersive involvement in the XRPL community.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE XRPL ECOSYSTEM

05



Whether just starting out or an advanced XRPL dev, some of these opportunities might be waiting for you!

Getting Started

01

The Aquarium is a 12-week residency program hosted by XRPL Commons in the heart of Paris. It offers the space and time for builders and developers to get inspired, engage in meaningful dialogue, connect with like-minded peers, and kick off their next big thing.

↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/residency

Launching Into the Sea

02

Once having a clear project idea and a team to do it, the perfect next step is applying for a grant. XRPL Grants program - a Ripple initiative - supports individuals, small teams, and companies with prior experience in developing on XRPL, possessing a project that adds value to the XRPL ecosystem by addressing a real-world challenge and involves a technical component. Awards range from $10,000 to $200,000 per project. The next application will open very soon, in spring 2024!

↗ xrplgrants.org

Finding Your Edge

03

To further enhance your project-in-progress, the XRPL Accelerator might just be your ideal next step. It's a 12-week program to support entrepreneurs seeking to scale up their XRPL projects. Besides financial support, it empowers projects through mentorship, masterclasses, and exposure to investors. The XRPL Accelerator continues to support the most promising projects on the XRP Ledger in 2024 with funding and scaling advice. Applications will open in March - so keep an eye out!

↗ xrplaccelerator.org

Crypto For Good Fund - Mercy Corps Ventures

The MCV's Crypto For Good Fund funds real-world use cases for Web3 technology, empowering financial and climate resilience. They are offering $1 million in funding to startups (up to $100,000 each) looking to pilot scalable blockchain solutions that can drive inclusion in emerging markets.

↗ www.mercycorps.org/press-room/releases/crypto-for-good-fund

Open-source developer grants by Kraken

Kraken's quarterly grant program supports open-source projects using any public blockchain protocol. Grants are awarded without obligation.

↗ www.kraken.com/features/grants

XRPL Accelerator Unveils 11 Cutting-Edge Projects as Part of its Second Cohort

By Sophie Stummwoll,
Developer Funding @ Ripple

The XRPL Accelerator↗, a program dedicated to nurturing innovation and development on the XRP Ledger, is back with its second cohort of projects. As part of the initiative, selected teams receive a $50k program grant, gain insights from industry-leading mentors, refine their product-market fit, and have the opportunity to connect with potential partners.

- FriiPay enables 50 million plus existing retail point-of-sale terminals to transact over Web 3.0 without requiring any additional terminal hardware or reliance on networks like Visa to process transactions. Frii is the only provider supporting payment from the same screen by traditional credit cards, debit cards, and cryptocurrencies.

- Phi Wallet's mission is to tokenize gold. It's a mobile digital wallet that provides instant access to physical gold and makes it accessible to everyone and for all budgets. Phi Wallet makes gold digitally available for saving, investment, and payments in everyday transactions.

- Kaiju Labs tackles critical issues in the blockchain gaming sector by offering an all-in-one no-code toolkit with an integrated wallet, empowering developers to effortlessly create Web3 games. This toolkit facilitates on-chain marketplaces, tokens, leaderboards, and provides a platform like PlayFab but for blockchain games.

- EQLX is a social media for sports performance data built on the XRP Ledger. The platform is built for athletes, fans, leagues, and clubs to have an ownership layer over sports data and to abstract value for virality. Likes, comments & advertising are exchanged using the EQL token. EQLX enables an ownership layer over performance data so athletes have ownership benefits and value-earning capacity for the stats they produce.

- Crossmark is a browser-first, non-custodial wallet, that optimizes user experiences across present and future XRPL functionalities. It introduces an alternative to mobile-first wallets, catering to web apps tailored to browser environments. Moreover, it establishes a universal QR code structure for broader adoption by XRP Ledger wallets and developers.

Ospree streamlines compliance for both centralized and decentralized institutions, addressing a prevalent challenge in the digital asset landscape. Specialized providers tackle specific issues but often lead to disjointed procedures, requiring multiple solutions. Ospree bridges this gap, offering a unified solution that simplifies compliance processes. It enables institutions to navigate digital asset regulations reliably and with ease.

Mandla SMS wallet offers a white-label solution for semi-offline transactions using stablecoins and retail CBDC via SMS, eliminating the necessity of smartphones or internet connectivity. This bridges a vital gap in financial inclusion, providing underserved populations with secure and inclusive transaction options. Additionally, Mandla Wallet serves as an alternative payment mechanism for civil contingencies.

Wind.app is specializing in streamlined cross-border payments and on/off-ramp solutions for remote teams. They have gained rapid traction, with an annualized GTV exceeding $1 million. They offer a self-custodial wallet built on Polygon, utilizing stablecoins for seamless settlements. Their vision is to establish a global remittance and payments network on Web3, with an initial focus on strengthening the corridor between the US and Southeast Asia.

SAFEhaven allows everyone to own a cold wallet for free. The app converts old and unused mobile devices into a cold wallet that prioritizes utility, convenience and security while ensuring effortless storage and interaction. The integrated cold wallet and extensive feature set reflect cater to diverse needs while maintaining high-security standards, especially suited for Digital Identity.

D3 Labs specializes in programmable asset infrastructure, aiming to improve real-time value transfer, particularly in Southeast Asia. Their product, Seaseed, bridges the gap between digital and business operations by using digital currencies in remittance.

StaykX, a self-custodial DeFi protocol on the XRPL, employs 'Soft-Staking' to offer users daily rewards while retaining full asset control. The platform tackles two key XRPL challenges: assisting projects lacking resources for sustainable community rewards and catering to users seeking secure, self-custodial DeFi involvement.

The XRPL Accelerator continues to empower innovative projects that contribute to the development of the XRP Ledger ecosystem. To learn more about the XRPL Accelerator and stay updated on upcoming opportunities, visit xrplaccelerator.org↗.

↘ To watch back the Demo Day, where participants presented their progress, click here↗ or scan this QR code!

Events

Take a look at all the exciting upcoming events the community is preparing for.

APRIL

3-4/4
NFT.NYC
NYC, USA

3/4
Aquarium Cohort 2 Demo Day
COMMONS HQ, PARIS, FRANCE

5-7/4
Paris Blockchain Week Hackathon
PARIS, FRANCE

9-11/4
Paris Blockchain Week
PARIS, FRANCE

8/4
Paris Blockchain Week Community Meetup
COMMONS HQ, PARIS, FRANCE

9/4
Empowering Women in Blockchain
COMMONS HQ, PARIS, FRANCE

13-14/4
EasyA Hackathon
LONDON, UK

29-30/4
XRPL Commons Developers' Training Session
COMMONS HQ, PARIS, FRANCE

MAY

29-31/5
Consensus
AUSTIN, TEXAS, USA

JUNE

11-13/6
APEX XRPL Developer Summit
AMSTERDAMN, NETHERLANDS

29-30/6
XRPL Commons Developers' Training Session
COMMONS HQ, PARIS, FRANCE

AND MORE TO COME!

You don't want to miss this!

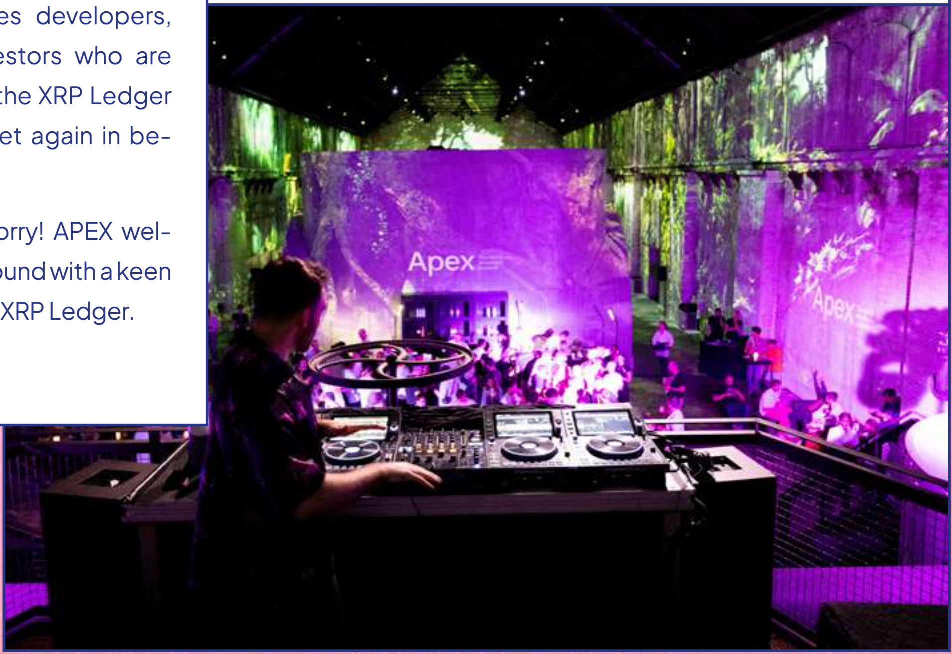
XRP LEDGER APEX 2024

APEX 2024

Hosted by Ripple in Amsterdam with the support of XRPL Commons, Xaman, AWS and many other partners, XRP Ledger Apex is the official global community summit that unites developers, innovators, businesses, and investors who are building the future of finance on the XRP Ledger blockchain. This year, we will meet again in between 11–13 June.

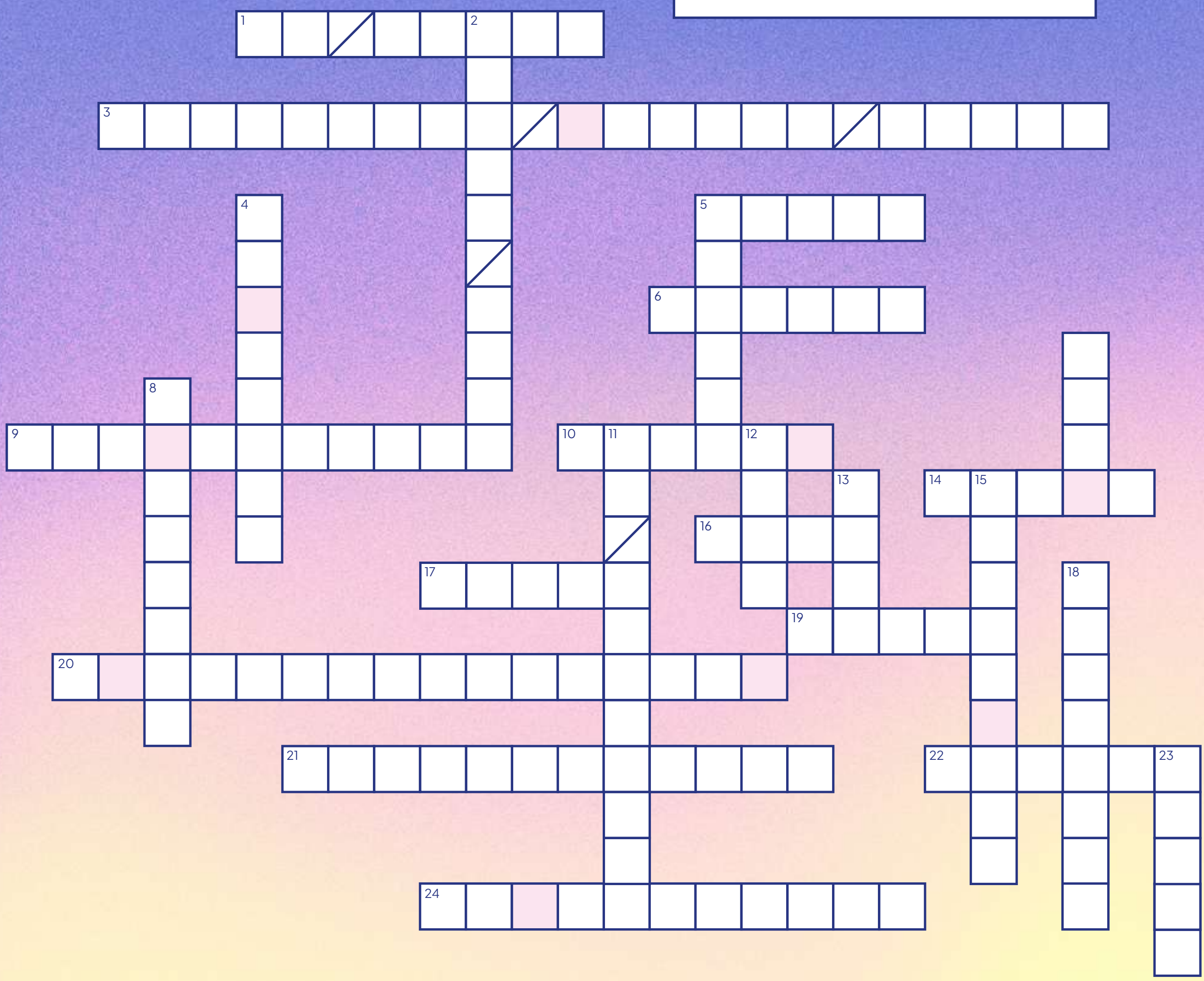
New to the ecosystem? Don't worry! APEX welcomes everyone from any background with a keen interest in learning more about the XRP Ledger.

↗ www.xrpledgerapex.com



Test Your Blockchain Knowledge!

How well do you speak blockchain?

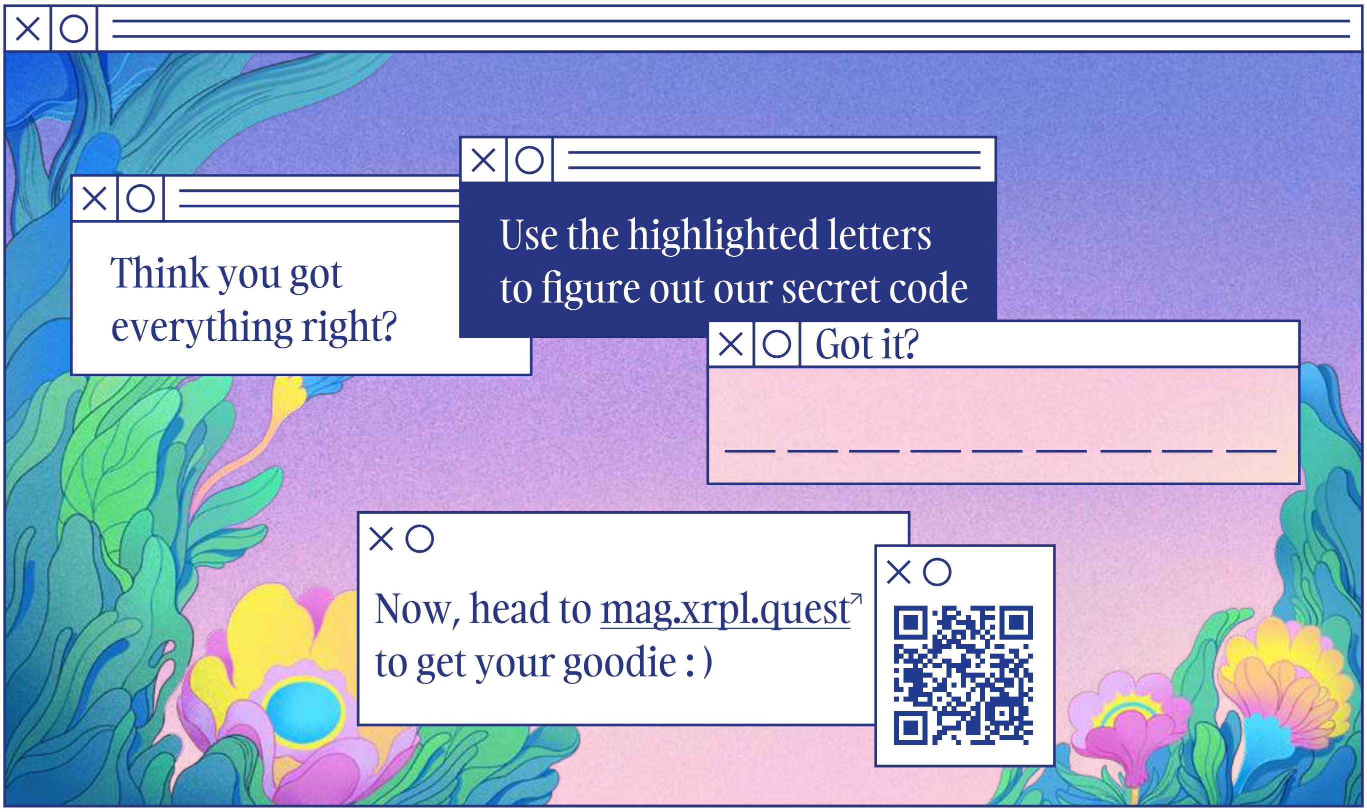


Horizontal

1. A cryptographic method for one party (the prover) to demonstrate the truth of a claim to another party (the verifier) without revealing any claim specifics.
3. A decentralized exchange mechanism used in DeFi to facilitate trading without the need for traditional order books.
5. Refers to the amendment that proposes adding non-custodial automated market maker (AMM) as a native feature to the XRPL DeX.
6. A feature of XRPL that allows you to send conditional XRP payments.
9. The online forum where the idea of the XRP Ledger was conceived.
10. Decentralized Autonomous Organization advancing gender equality.
14. The city where XRPL Commons is based.
16. A blockchain-based financial ecosystem that aims to provide traditional financial services in a decentralized manner.
17. Customizable scripts that execute specific actions on the XRPL, enhancing its functionality.
19. A popular self-custodial wallet for XRP.
20. The ability of blockchain networks to communicate with each other, sending and receiving messages, data, and tokens.
21. The process of renewal, restoration, or revival, particularly in the context of ecosystems, communities, or individuals.
22. A test environment where developers can experiment with and test new features or code changes.
24. A protocol designed to enable payments across different blockchains and payment networks.

Vertical

2. A record of all open buy and sell orders for a specific cryptocurrency, non-fungible token (NFT), or digital asset on an exchange or trading platform.
4. XRPL Commons' in-house residency program for entrepreneurs and devs.
5. An amendment that proposes to integrate Decentralized Identity (DID) directly into the XRP Ledger.
7. Academic programme to advance research about the XRP Ledger.
8. One of XRPL's Founders surname, cracking the most hilarious jokes.
11. A Central American country that in 2021 introduced a cryptocurrency as its legal currency.
12. The biggest XRPL gathering of the year.
13. The upcoming EU regulation affecting cryptocurrencies and related activities.
15. Changes or updates made to the XRPL protocol for improvements or new features.
18. A layer 2 smart contract platform built on XRPL, using off-chain nodes to execute code and maintain a flexible layer 2 state for smart contracts.
23. A digital unit of value or asset representation on the blockchain.



XRPL Glossary

Too much technical jargon? We're here to help with quick and easy definitions.

Amendments: Changes or updates made to the XRPL protocol for improvements or new features.

AI (Artificial Intelligence): machine intelligence demonstrated by computers, enabling them to mimic human cognitive functions and perform tasks autonomously.

AMM (Automated Market Maker): A decentralized exchange mechanism used in DeFi to facilitate trading without the need for traditional order books.

APEX: A developer summit that meets in different cities, see https://www.apexdevsummit.com/

API (Application Programming Interface): A set of definitions and protocols for building and integrating application software.

Carbon neutrality: The balance between the amount of carbon dioxide emissions produced and the amount removed or offset from the atmosphere, resulting in a net zero carbon footprint.

DAO (Decentralized Autonomous Organization): a digital organization run by smart contracts on a blockchain, enabling decentralized decision-making and governance without the need for traditional hierarchical management structures.

DeFi (Decentralized Finance): A blockchain-based financial ecosystem that aims to provide traditional financial services in a decentralized manner.

Decentralization: The process of distributing control and decision-making across a network of nodes, reducing central authority.

Devnet (Development Network): A test environment where developers can experiment with and test new features or code changes.

DeX (Decentralized Exchange): an exchange platform that facilitates direct peer-to-peer trading of digital assets without the need for intermediaries.

EVM-Compatible (Ethereum Virtual Machine Compatible): Refers to blockchain networks that can run smart contracts compatible with the Ethereum Virtual Machine.

Hooks: Customizable scripts that execute specific actions on the XRPL, enhancing its functionality.

Interoperability: The ability of blockchain networks to communicate with each other, sending and receiving messages, data, and tokens.

IRC (Internet Relay Chat): A text-based communication protocol used for online chat particularly popular in the early 2000s.

KYC (Know Your Customer): The process of verifying the identity of users to prevent illegal activities on blockchain platforms.

KYB (Know Your Business): The process of verifying the authenticity of a business.

KYT (Know Your Transactions): The process of monitoring customer transactions in order to make sure that they are legitimate.

Mainnet: The live and production-ready version of a blockchain network where real transactions occur.

MiCA (Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation): Proposed EU regulations for governing cryptocurrencies and related activities, aiming to balance innovation with consumer protection, sustainability and financial stability.

NFT (Non-Fungible Token): a unique digital asset on a blockchain, representing ownership or proof of authenticity for digital or physical items, art, or collectibles.

Order books: The recorded list of buy and sell orders for a particular cryptocurrency or digital asset on a specific trading platform or exchange.

OTA (Over-The-Air): The wireless transmission of data, software, or updates between devices.

Point-of-Sale: The hardware and software used by businesses to process transactions with customers at the point of purchase.

Regeneration: The process of renewal, restoration, or revival, particularly in the context of ecosystems, communities, or individuals.

Rippled 2.0: The new reference server implementation of the XRP Ledger protocol, adding new features and bug fixes, as well as introducing several new amendments.

Token: A digital unit of value or asset representation on the blockchain.

UNL (Unique Node Lists): A list of trusted validators on the XRPL, used to achieve consensus and maintain network security.

Validator: A node that participates in the consensus process to verify and validate transactions.

Xahau: Xahau is an XRPL sidechain enabling smart contracts and dApps through Hooks, derived from XRPL's rippled codebase, preserving core features while introducing smart contract capabilities.

XLS-30: An amendment that proposes adding non-custodial automated market maker (AMM) as a native feature to the XRPL DeX.

XLS-38: An amendment that proposes to enable transactions between XRPL and sidechains through its innovative cross-chain bridge solution.

XLS-40d: An amendment that proposes to integrate Decentralized Identity (DID) directly into the XRP Ledger.

XRPL Ecosystem: The collective network and applications built around the XRP Ledger, including its various components and participants.

VCM (Voluntary Carbon Market): A decentralized platform where private entities engage in voluntary transactions to purchase and sell carbon credits, signifying verified reductions or removals of greenhouse gases.

Get Involved

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
↗ www.xrpl-commons.org

THE AQUARIUM RESIDENCY
↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/residency

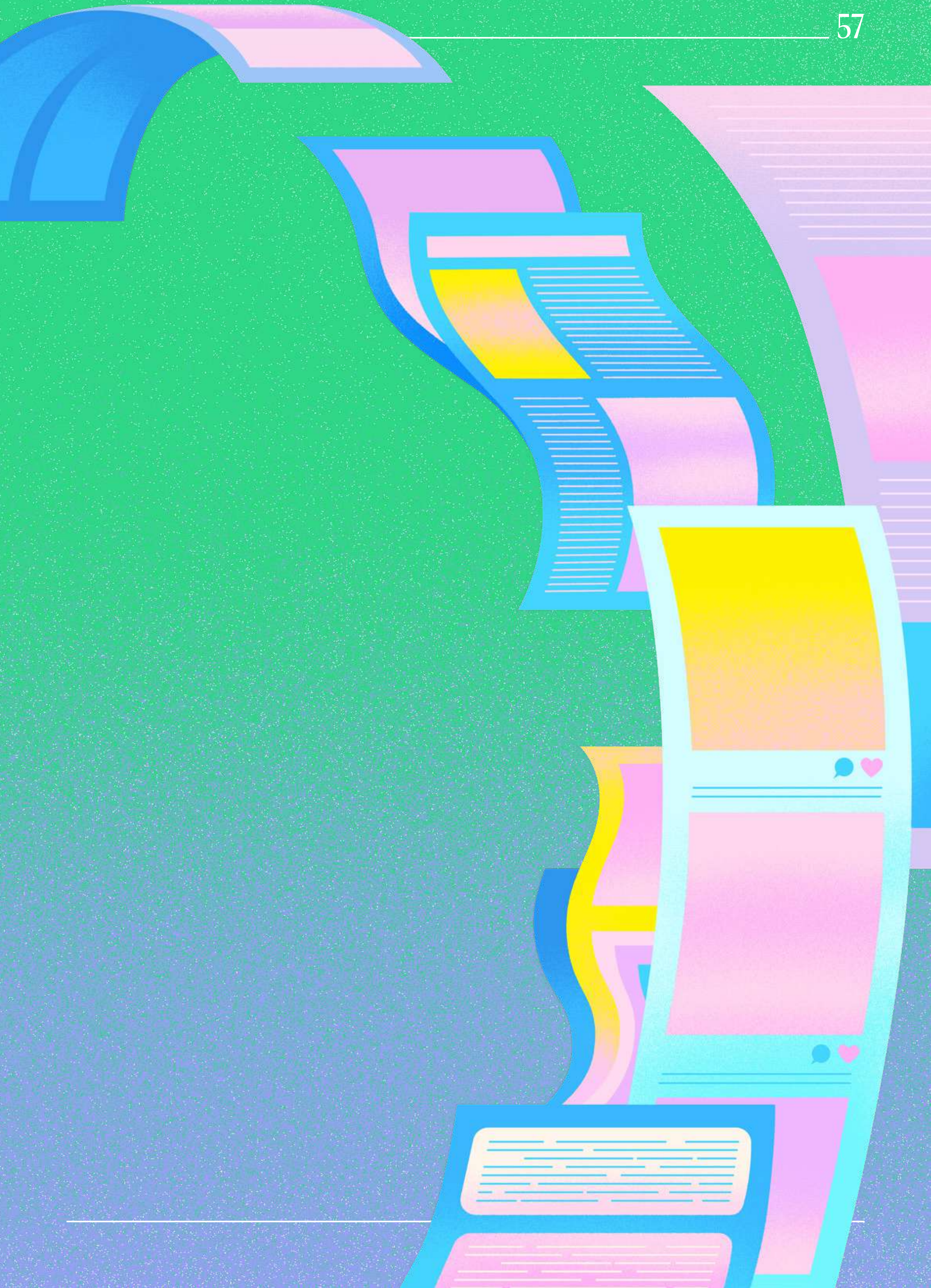
FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN
↗ www.linkedin.com/company/xrpl-commons

LIKE US ON INSTAGRAM
↗ @xrpl_commons

CHECK OUT OUR X/TWITTER
↗ @xrpl_commons

CHECK OUT OUR YOUTUBE
↗ @XRPLCommons

READ THE LAST ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE
↗ www.xrpl-commons.org/community-magazine



Thank you

Become an XRPL Ecosystem curator!

Calling all passionate community members! We're seeking dedicated volunteers to help shape our online Ecosystem Map and join our Editorial Board for the XRPL Community Magazine. By joining, you will participate in online discussions and brainstorming sessions, mapping updates, and other feedback opportunities.

Are you in? Drop us a line

↗ mag@xrpl-commons.org

Your Voice Matters!

Thank you for reading our XRPL Community Mag. Your feedback is invaluable as we strive to make this publication a collaborative and vibrant hub for all. We're committed to embracing diverse perspectives and want to hear from YOU!

What topics ignite your curiosity for our next issue? Who do you want to see featured in our interviews? Are you eager to share your insights and ideas in the upcoming edition?

Your input fuels our enthusiasm. Reach out to us at mag@xrpl-commons.org ↗, and let's shape the future of our community magazine together!

Our Contributors

Copy
Zsofi Borsi

Design
chilli drop.

Illustrations
Rune Fisker

Contributors
Adam Kagy
Cassie Hirsh
Cyrille Bourdeaux
David Bchiri
Farhaan Dawood
Jasmine Cooper
Nabeel Choudhry
Simon Luling
Sophie Stummwoll
Vera Radeva
Wietse Wind
Zsofi Borsi

Photography
Angela di Paolo
Cordula Treml