Zcash Governance

The Road Toward 2-of-2 Multisig

Josh Cincinnati @acityinohio
Executive Director, Zcash Foundation

Zcash Foundation

The Zcash Foundation's mission

A public charity dedicated to **building internet payment and privacy infrastructure for the public good**, primarily serving the users of the Zcash protocol and blockchain.

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...and that means being a check and balance on the Electric Coin Company's power

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A (very) brief history of Zcash

Zerocoin / Zerocash Papers

2013-2014

Zcash Co and Zcash 1.0.0

2015-2016

~~Zcash Co~~ Electric Coin Company & Zcash Foundation

2017-the future

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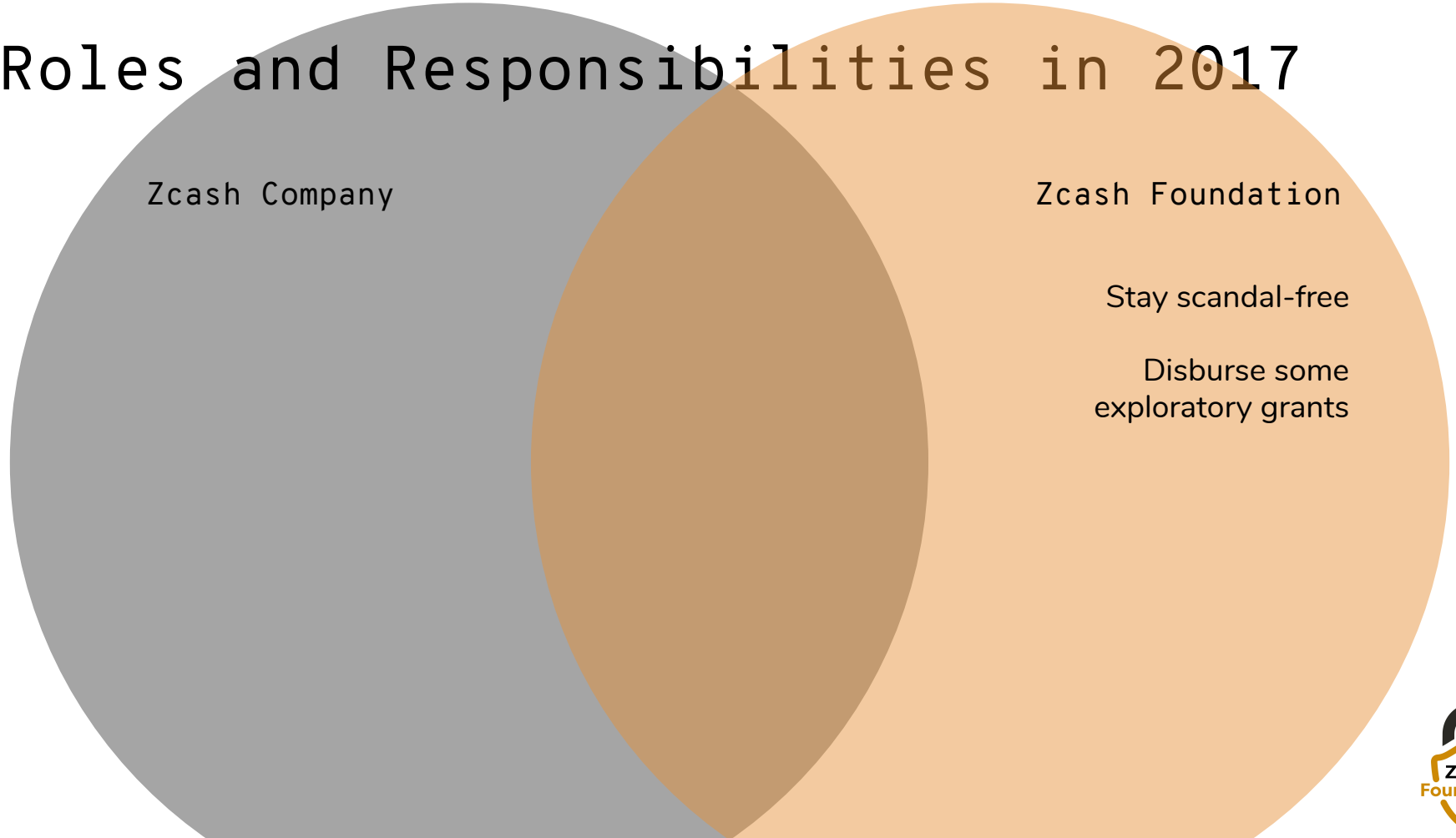
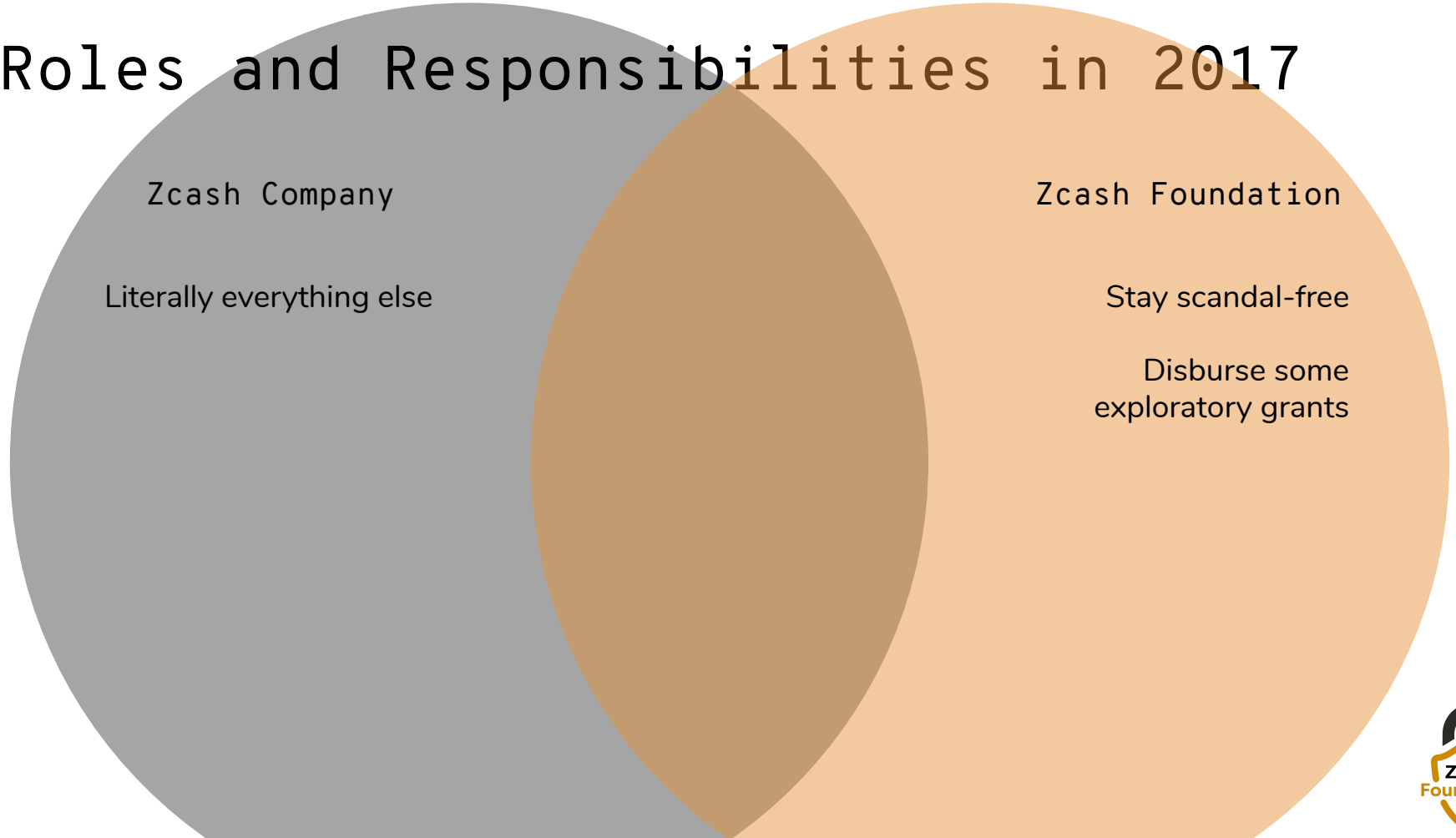
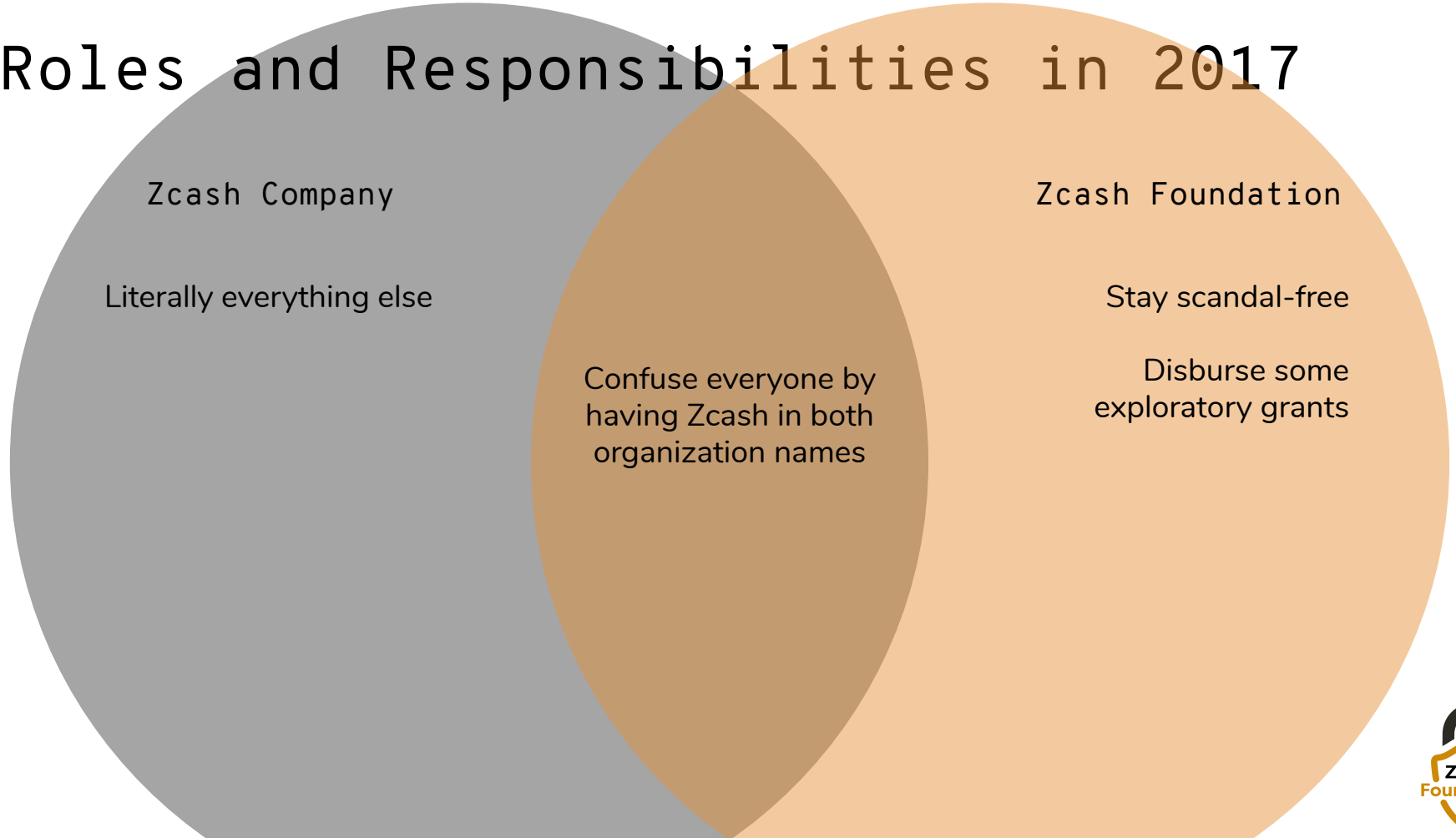
Roles and Responsibilities in 2017



Roles and Responsibilities in 2017



Roles and Responsibilities in 2017



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Roles and Responsibilities in 2019+

~~Zcash Company~~
Electric Coin Company

Continued maintenance of zcashd

Supermajority of protocol roadmap and feature development

Ecosystem development and partnerships

Build open source reference wallets and libraries around Zcash

Protocol and feature development

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Disburse grants and coordinate crowdfunding

Experiment with governance structures (see our advisory vote process)

Host Zcon\d*

Research speculative cryptography

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But what *incentives* generate these delineations?

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Incentives

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Electric Coin Company

Fiduciary duty to shareholders as for-profit

Advance privacy everywhere

Maintain and grow Zcash

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Duty of care as non-profit

Public support test for public charities

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Why have a 501(c)3 Public Charity?

Long legal tradition removes (some) ambiguity

Conflict of Interest policies are legally binding

Plenty of history of successful software- and protocol-focused 501(c)3s

Norms for nonprofit pay

Meeting public support test means you collect lots of donations from like-minded, ideologically aligned public and orgs, while you must make less from investment and income. Wide distribution of funding is a Good Thing.™

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Bimodal political power distributions are *powerful* in systems *designed for gridlock*

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Bimodal political power distributions are *powerful* in systems *designed for gridlock*

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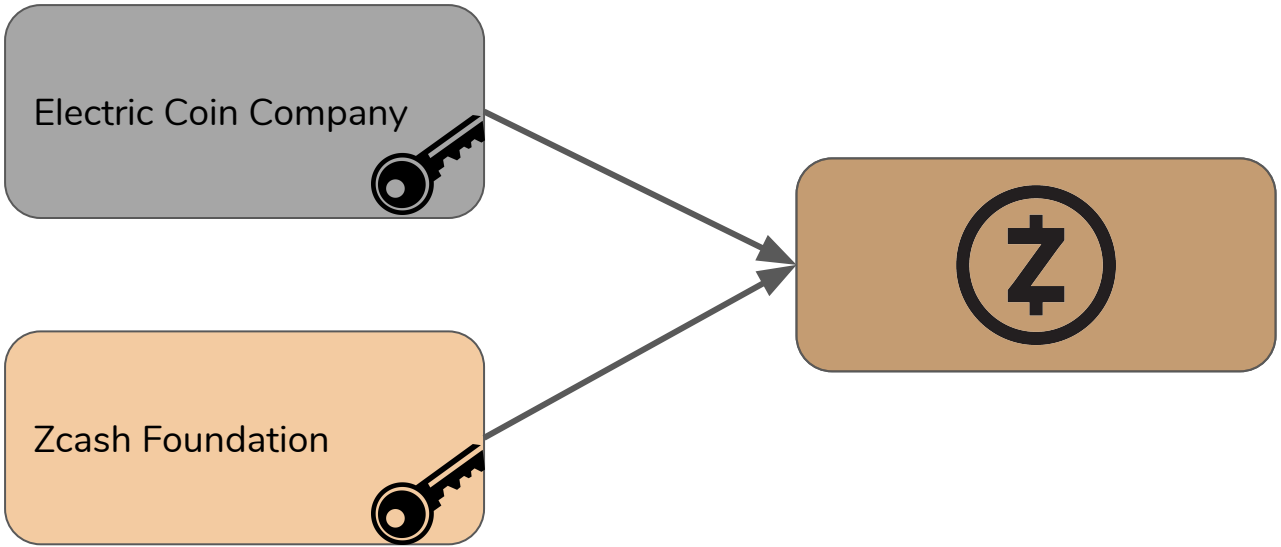
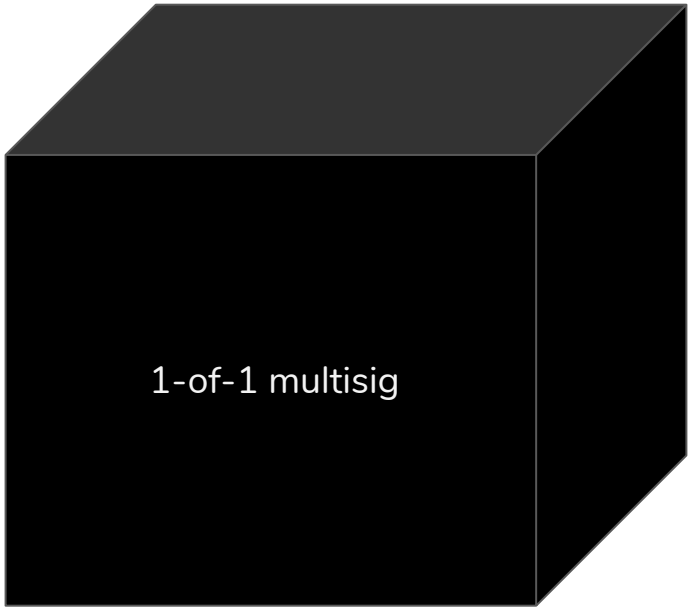
...or perhaps by more familiar analogy



Zcash Protocol Governance to date



this was by design, but not suitable for long-term protocol sustainability
***there was/is long-term incentive alignment between ECC and Zcash protocol development!*

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It’s up to us — and the broader Zcash community — to build multisig governance

Parity partnership for independent, consensus-compatible Zcash node

Future trademark agreement

Zcash Foundation grant platform

ZIP improvements

Zcash Foundation governance panel experiment

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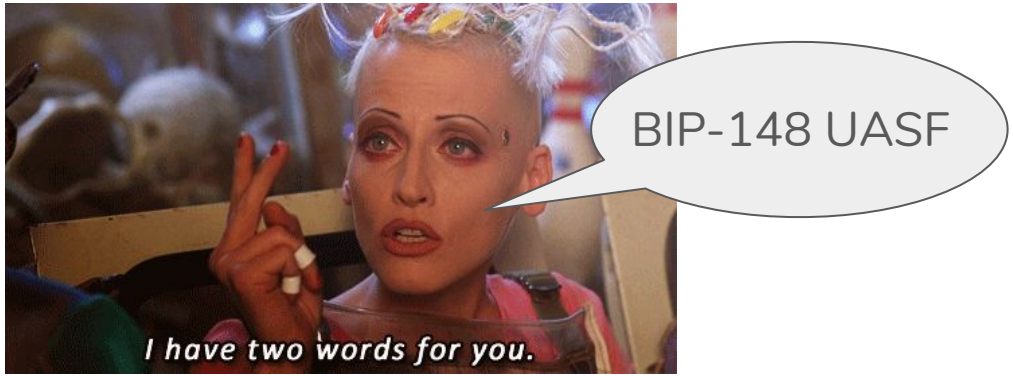
`Alternative consensus-compatible node`



Plausible threats of intentional chainsplit dynamics matter...though there are trade-offs with multiple implementations

`Trademark Agreement`

Legal equivalent of “plausible threat of intentional chainsplit”

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ZF Grant Program

ZFGrants

ZIP Process

```
ZIP: 0
Title: ZIP Process
Champions: Daira Hopwood
           Josh Cincinnati
Status: Draft
Type: Process
Created: 2019-02-16
License: BSD-2-Clause
```

Governance Panel Experiment

Zcash Foundation Governance Process Results

BY ZCASH FOUNDATION JULY 03, 2018

Throughout June, the Zcash Foundation carried out an experimental governance process. We first announced it back in April and recently shared the results at Zcon0 on June 28.

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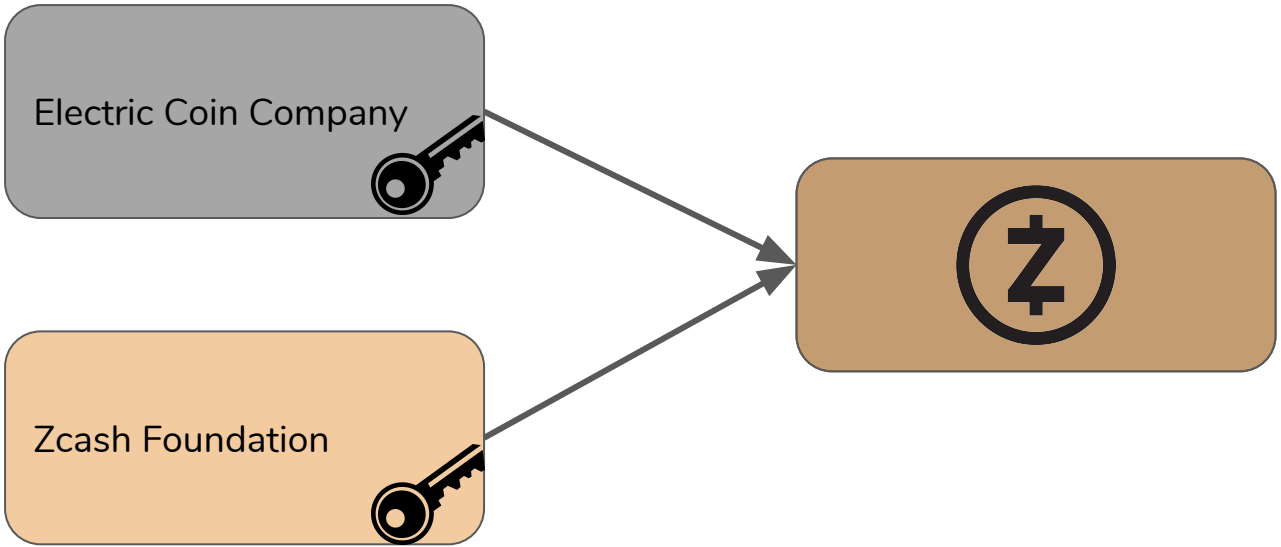
Electric Coin Company
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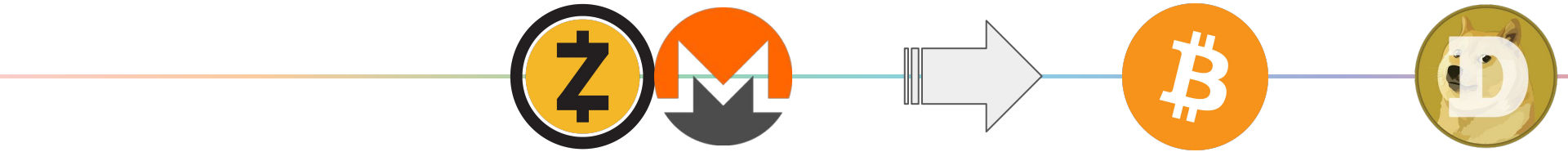
...bimodal power distribution is not the end goal



Concentrated Power

Distributed Power

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Ultimately we are one of many governance experiments, for one of many privacy experiments.
And that’s a very Good Thing™.

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Before Q&A

Josh Cincinnati
@acityinohio

You can simultaneously believe:
- Grin/Beam/MW is super cool
- So are many other privacy approaches in cryptocurrency (Zcash, Monero, etc.)
- ...but not others (Dash, Verge, etc)
- Bitcoin will remain a dominant SoV cryptocurrency (and once Lightning matures, an awesome MoE too)

2:14 PM - 18 Jan 2019

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28 62 365

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Thank you and Q&A!

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