Equilibria Overview

Version 0.2.1
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Weakness in our democratic processes: A recursive solution for systemic problem-solving.

Abstract

Equilibria aims to understand if we believe we are on the democratically correct path towards our survival and general species' well-being. More broadly - the project seeks to empower an individual to solve and understand problems that are the most relevant to them. By creating an online platform for users to organize around specific problems, we provide an opportunity to understand what gets in the way of our democratically better future.

Problem Statement

(A theory): The root cause of current social, economic, political, and cultural atmospheres affecting our species lay within our incentives, the motivations that exist for an individual to take the actions they do. Due to incorrect incentives, our communal, national, and global structures have limited capacity for change and cooperation.

(The reality) Equilibria would like to begin dissecting to what extent, we (as a species) believe we are on the democratically correct path towards our survival and general improvement. Additionally, we work to answer how this process can be made more efficient, transparent, and continuously iterable.

Background

The amount of information being accessed and processed via the internet is staggering:

•   In 1990, 2.6 million people were using the internet. As of 2016, there are 3.408 billion active users (Max Roser, Hannah Ritchie, and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina (2015) - "Internet").

•   Google processes approximately 70,000 search queries every second.

An excerpt from Martin Ree's On the Future:

"Our century is very very special - the first where humans can change themselves and their home planet."

"Humanity has reached a critical moment. Our world is unsettled and rapidly changing, and we face existential risks over the next century. Various outcomes—good and bad—are possible. Yet our approach to the future is characterized by short-term thinking, polarizing debates, alarmist rhetoric, and pessimism."

We are in the midst of a technological and digital revolution, and like all revolutions, exaptive societal transformations occur. The objective of Equilibria is to assist in shaping a narrative that permits a day to day understanding of our problems and the steps we are currently taking to remedy them. Leading through complexity, we can attempt to shape our species' exaptive development based on real-time interaction.

In simpler terms - we must have a structure that permits a day by day approach to our problems. Answering the questions:

- What is the top of mind problem of an individual? (Largest collective problems.)
- Where are we in a solution? (Where are we currently mapped. **Feeling orientated)
- How should we shift? (Democratic evaluation based on mapping.)
- How do we execute? (Democratically decides on action.)

More broadly a tool that assists in each stage of a problem solving model.

Solution

Equilibria initially acts as an online Town Hall. Users will be able to join communities that are important to them and find solutions to problems relative to those communities.

For example, the basic workflow for someone passionate about finding a solution for climate change:

- A user logs into Equilibria

- Can perform a search for a community associated with a problem (climate change community.

- The user is returned results concerning climate focus groups.

- The user can join the community that best reflects their interests.

Upon joining a community, a user has the following capability:

- Users can describe their opinion on the current definition of the problem.

- Users can vote on the best definition of the problem.

- Users can describe their opinion on the best way of addressing the defined problem.

- Users can vote on the best solution.

- Users can track the completion of the project.

- Either a sustainable solution is found, or the creation of a new problem occurs.

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The focus here is to provide an avenue for empowered solution-finding through democracy. Additionally, we hope to provide an individual with the ability to come to their own conclusions about a solution through data and stories. In doing so, we hope to find organized demand for specific solutions relative to the problems of an everyday person.

Additionally, the structure is designed to be recursive as any solution to a problem we introduce, will either create future problems or the need for sustainability.

Larger System Considerations

Broader work has been completed concerning the following topics:

- The legality of the actions within communities.
- Likelihood of adoption.
- Overall gamification of solution-finding.
- Market integration for solutions that require business providers.
- Theoretics on how this impacts our incentive problem.
- Problems that mutate into new problems.
- Recursivity in problem-solving.

Summary

The challenges of our century are vast. We are at a pivotal point in determining what is essential for our species. However, we lack the infrastructure to understand, problem-solve, and execute solutions in our increasingly complex world. Equilibria is an application aimed at improving the ability of problem-solving in communes. The app is focused on empowering an individual with greater awareness, understanding of solutions, and the ability to see tangible progress on problems that are relevant to them. By aiding an individual to organize around our issues, we can effectively drive more demand for specific solutions, see our current hurdles, and address them.