

## Wes Levitt AMA with [Crypto.com](https://crypto.com) - Feb 2, 2021

- **Notes brought to you by Big Dog 1111**
  - Please visit him at <https://bigdog1111.com/>
  - Join the official Big Dog Squad telegram group: <https://t.me/bigdogsquad>
  - Check out BD1111's YouTube channel: <http://gnomestream.com>
  - View the Theta Mind Map / Web at: <http://thetacoin.info/>
  - BD1111 on twitter: <https://twitter.com/1111bigdog>
  - Link to the AMA video to which these notes pertain: <https://youtu.be/P0i9IO4GJ18>
- Online live streaming industry grown 99% between April 2019 - 2020
- Nice slicked-back hair, Wes!!!
- Theta differentiates from other decentralized video platforms?
  - Purely peer to peer, edge node does this but different platforms instead adds theta network to existing technology to supplement, e.g. YouTube considering adding Theta Network to remove buffering in last mile edge cases / hybrid model try first to distribute P2P (theta network) given it is cost efficient, but can switch to centralized CDN if P2P can't keep up
- Free speech / censorship has been hot topic - in light of recent censorship from big tech, what is Theta's ethos with censoring content that they don't agree with?
  - In which way is Theta being used? [Theta.tv](https://theta.tv) it is 1st party platform and they pick the streamers and have full liability for what is on there in cases of illegal content, etc.
  - Another video platform using theta, no say in what the other platform is doing...theta is just the infrastructure / "pipes"
  - Edge node has a fully decentralized streaming feature, no censorship on that, which is tricky because it is their program but people can still stream ANYTHING but legal precedent is that if totally decentralized, Theta Labs is not liable for illegal content.
  - Theta Labs is not looking to do any more censorship other than what is required by law :-)
- How to deal with copywritten content?
  - [Theta.tv](https://theta.tv) monitors and takes it down
  - Theta edge node has no way of stopping content so cannot stop streaming of copywritten content. Do not want this to be the "go to tool" folks use to stream copywritten content.
  - What about Super bowl is streamed on edge node for example?
    - In same way google is not responsible if one emails illegal content via Gmail, theta labs not responsible for edge node being used in same manner.
- Partner platforms will be clutch in building out network of edge nodes and bring diversity of regional content
- Theta's approach for 5G tech?
  - Easier to stream, HD video, high download/upload speeds
  - Telecoms themselves don't know what to do with all the increased upload speed (a new tool they don't know how to use/monetize yet)
    - Theta can fill that gap for them!
    - Someone on metro watching same video as you and so it can be relayed to them on the edge.
- Poor internet - theta can be helpful where internet is patchy. Where one user can pull a video segment they can then share it with people nearby.
- Regarding censorship seen in other countries - edge node and fully decentralized stream becomes really interesting in this case. if a government cracks down on free speech on social media, can use something like edge node streaming to share with one another **AND also future dApps may come where there is a decentralized Twitter or Reddit (BD1111 addition to the notes)**
- Other projects claim to solve video problems and IoT - what will Theta need to do to promote brand and attract users?
  - Users hooked onto same idea - billions of unused devices out there that can be monetized ("sharing economy play"). Theta thinking more from enterprise software standpoint to work with

companies and see what works for them. One isn't better than the other but solves different problems.

- SDK for enterprises but also have fully decentralized edge node on Theta
- Getting on as many devices as possible - adoption evidenced through theta integration into Samsung smart TVs funded through Sony Innovation Fund - how far are we from mass adoption today?
  - Demonstrated how on Samsung smart TVs how it can fit right into relaying along with phones and computer and any other device can do the same.
  - Without even knowing it, people are using the decentralized protocol and benefiting from it. The average consumer can't tell you much about blockchain or networks but they know how to build a fancy new TV and if built into that, it is beneficial to mass adoption.
- What are Theta's advantages that will enable it to become market leader and what are its greatest weaknesses?
  - Greatest strength is how Theta focuses on how tech works with enterprises and willing to be flexible rather than just speak to crypto side of things and not be concerned with adoption.
  - Conversely have not bridged gap between those two well enough because running nodes and crypto side is critical to success of project just as the enterprise adoption is critical.
  - How do we take the 10k nodes and growing and the enterprises and make them work together - not always aligned. Both sides have been relatively happy but there is more wood to chop in terms of what the protocol looks like going forward that makes both stakeholders happy.
- Major roadblocks that could impact Theta? Restrictive regulatory policies? What keeps you up at night?
  - US regulatory side has not given clear guidance on crypto and how it will be regulated going forward. This has chilled a lot of development. A lot of companies are still in a "wait and see" mode because of this.
- Power of the network effect makes additional users impacts the network more and more. How are your partners participating with you in theta network?
  - Blockchain ventures is an investment fund that invested in the company and runs a validator node.
  - Google cloud - Looking for ways to scale the network and not build it out piece by piece (working smarter not harder)
  - Partner platforms - (main focus in 2021) is customer acquisition while previously focus was on building a network to the point where it will be useful.
    - "Don't take our word for it, go see Theta in action on other partner platforms"
- Blockdown conference
  - Working on a conference involving NFTs? Wes didn't want to reveal any big surprises on this yet. They are not just a video provider - they are crypto native.
- To what extent is the theta blockchain immutable?
  - Yes, it is completely immutable. No way to reverse transactions, no centralized control, no backdoor.
  - Like most cryptos, if transaction is by mistake or one was scammed, no way to reverse.
  - If theta is not immutable, no point in doing this project to begin with. **This is the way.**
- Smart contracts!
  - Focus of second theta hackathon that runs through April
  - Obvious things that can be ported over from other blockchains (**theta DEX in the works!!!**)
  - People starting to create smart contracts that help streamers and the video use case. Streamers talking about if they can find ways to pool streamer earnings to form a collective / co-op to reduce variability in their earnings and are all working together.
- What are requirements for joining the hackathon?
  - No set requirements so open to anything really.
  - Video platforms integrating
  - dApps / wallets / explorers to be built on the blockchain
  - Code has to be on Github and open source unless a very strong contribution
- What are the latest achievements in VR/AR development and what are important steps?

- VR very interesting because many don't know theta got started in VR space in 2016/2017 and holds 4 patents in rendering. Team would go to big events and be on-hand taking in-game data and render the game in 360 VR and spit it out to anyone in arena with a headset and users can change angles around the players they are viewing. **(HUGE)**
- Much more enjoyable as a user with new VR tech hitting the market. Theta was very early so they had to put on ice for a while until everyone else could catch up haha..
- DeFi - what is personal opinion about it and what is Theta's approach?
  - Plenty of uses such as borrowing against crypto
  - Wanting to have access without using centralized exchange
  - Such as GameStop, accusations that there are too many shares out there and so DeFi enables everything to be tracked on chain and custody to be verified to make for a much more transparent marketplace