COVIDathon

Decentralized AI against Covid-19

Calling all developers and global AI/blockchain projects to COVIDathon, a Decentralized AI Hackathon to combat COVID-19

The DAIA Foundation (Decentralized AI Alliance), a not-for-profit global decentralized AI community, is launching its first-ever online global hackathon, COVIDathon, starting 1st April, 2020. The primary objective of COVIDathon is to bring together the decentralized AI community to find solutions to combat COVID-19 and its various consequences. The mission of the hackathon is to develop and launch open-source code using AI and/or blockchain to find solutions to fight COVID-19, reduce risk from future infectious outbreaks, and cope with the current pandemic situation.

The two founding members of COVIDathon - SingularityNET and Ocean Protocol, are also supported by NTH Opinion, a US-based AI healthtech firm, founded by medical doctors currently on the frontline fighting the COVID-19 spread, Aragon, an open-source software project that allows for the creation and management of decentralized organizations, NEM, a peer-to-peer blockchain platform and Shivom biotech data and genetics analytics firm.

COVIDathon is hosted on Devpost, with a dedicated GitHub repository for open collaboration, and will initially run for two months. The hackathon will officially start on April 1st and proposals for the first phase can be submitted until May 1st. Teams that enter the initial prototype stage will go on to the next phase.

Projects, companies and enterprises interested in supporting the initiative are welcome to join as an active or a major supporter (details below). In order to ensure alignment with the project mission and ethics, all requests for collaboration with COVIDathon will be screened by the project's founding members.

Level 1: Active Supporter

- Providing active technical support for COVIDathon participants who want to use tools created by a certain member organization's decentralized AI tech in their work
- Marketing the COVIDathon in a relevant community
- Leveraging PR resources to help publicize COVIDathon

Level 2: Major Supporter

- Providing developer time from a project's in-house team, by encouraging the project staff to contribute to or launch their own COVIDathon proposals
- Contributing funds (in tokens or cash) to the prize purses for COVIDathon participants

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In order to maximize the contributions made for the hackathon, we are not requiring written code to initially be deployed within a decentralized AI network. The intention is that all valuable code written for COVIDathon could be deployed in one or more decentralized AI networks, whether during the hackathon or slightly thereafter.

COVIDathon participants are invited to contribute to multiple tracks. An expert panel of judges is being assembled, including AI, blockchain and medical experts, to assess the contributions to each track at the end of Phase 1 (first month), then at Phase 2 (second month).

COVIDathon will include four tracks:

- Privacy and Sovereignty
- Medicine and Epidemiology
- Informational and Coping Tools
- Open Innovation (contributions that don't fit into the other 3 tracks)

For more information on participation and other queries related to COVIDathon, please contact info@daia.foundation.

The extremely unfortunate medical crisis that currently confronts the human species can be expected to have its upsides along with its downsides. One of the few positive things about crisis situations is the potential they have to bring people together. This is the spirit within the teams at DAIA, Ocean Protocol and SingularityNET that have decided to divert some energy from our usual pursuits to launch COVIDathon.
(Dr. Ben Goertzel – Chairman and Founder of DAIA)

It is a rare moment when a large portion of humanity's resources is focused on the same problem. We believe that decentralized AI, even in its early stage of development, is an extremely valuable resource, and we would like to see it deployed as effectively as possible to get humanity beyond the COVID-19 crisis and on to its next stage of development. Some of the tools and collaborations formed in this process will be valuable not only for combating COVID-19 but also for a variety of humanitarian, technological and scientific purposes after COVID-19 has been relegated to the role of "just one more disease basically under control."

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