

A night sky filled with stars is visible above a series of sand dunes. The dunes are dark, with some highlights on their ridges, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

Sustainable Futures: Funding the Web Ecosystem

Stephanie Stimac | Igalia Web Platform PM

Imagine...



Imagine...

An ecosystem that
provides a massive
wealth generating
resource



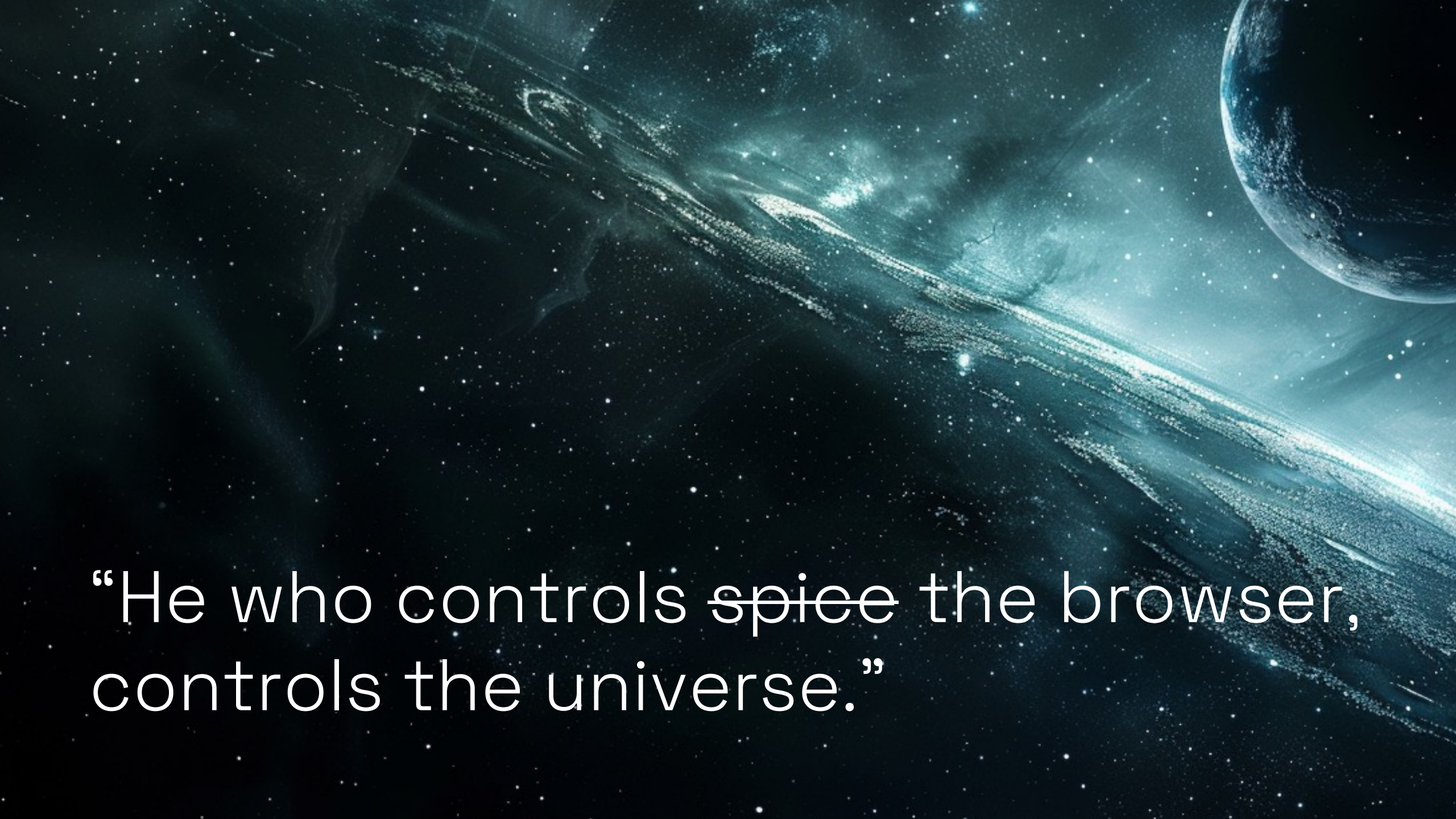






A cosmic scene with a blue-tinted galaxy, a planet, and a moon. The galaxy is a bright, glowing band of light and dust, curving across the upper right portion of the frame. In the top right corner, a large, dark planet with a blue and white atmosphere is visible. Below it, a smaller, grey, cratered moon is partially visible. The background is a deep black space filled with numerous small, white stars.

“He who controls spice,
controls the universe.”

A cosmic scene featuring a vibrant blue and green galaxy with a bright core, surrounded by numerous stars and a large planet in the upper right corner. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

“He who controls ~~spice~~ the browser,
controls the universe.”



A glowing blue globe of Earth is the central focus, surrounded by a complex network of light points and lines, suggesting a global network or data flow. The globe is held by human hands, with fingers visible in the foreground, symbolizing human interaction with technology. The background is dark with scattered light points and a blue glow.

Information Age: 1970-present

A glowing blue globe of Earth is the central focus, surrounded by a complex network of light blue nodes and lines, suggesting a global network or data flow. A hand is visible in the foreground, reaching towards the globe. The background is dark with scattered blue light points.

Information Age: 1970-present
Internet Age: 1990-present





Browsers are
critical
infrastructure



Browsers are
critical
infrastructure
(and complex)

Over

5 Billion

Internet Users

67%

of the global
population





Google

 |  

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

PROBLEMS WITH THE SYSTEM



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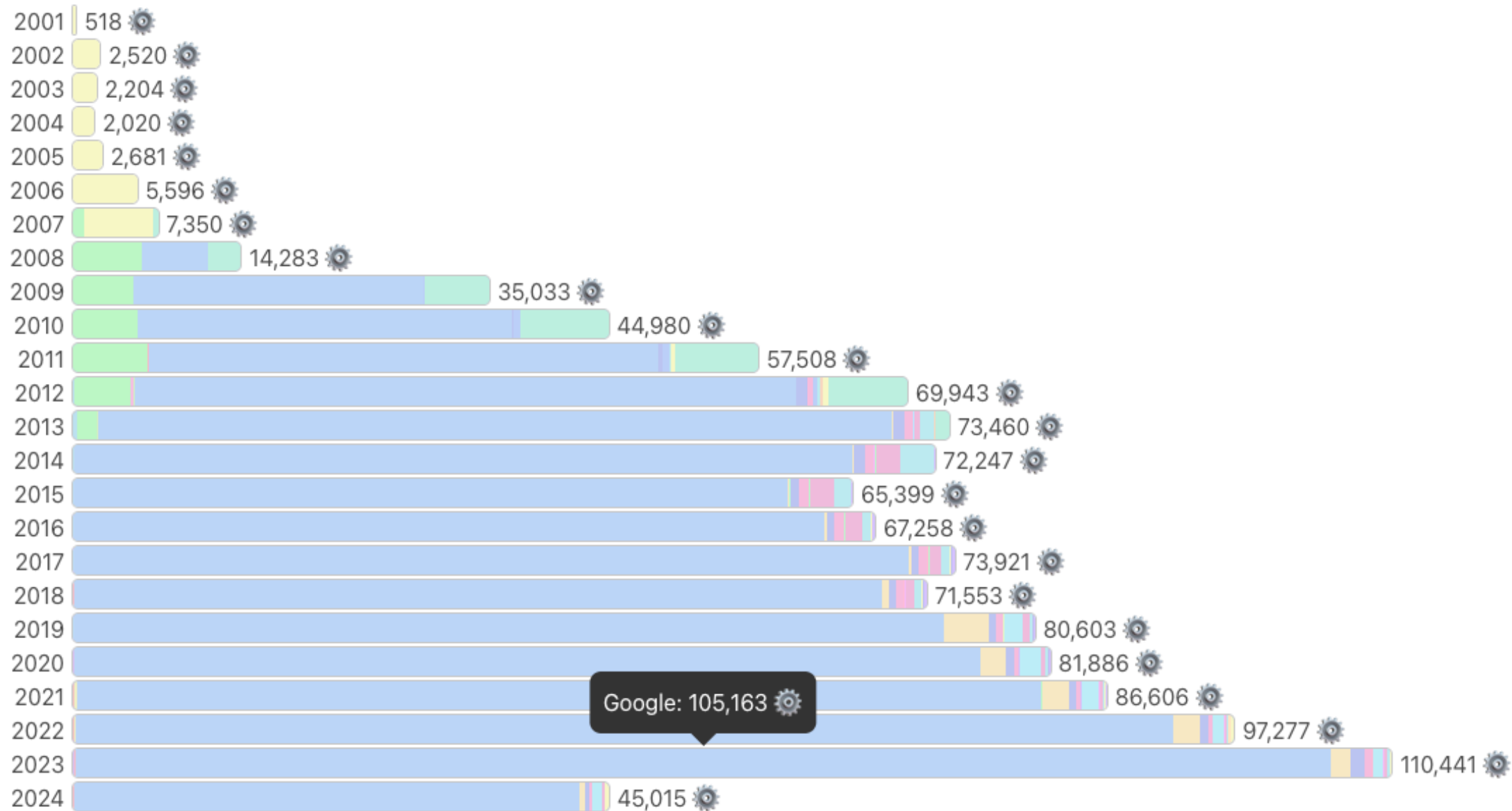
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2. Smaller browsers don't get a cut of the deal (unclear processes)
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5. Owned by corporations

INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS: WORST CASE SCENARIO EDITION...

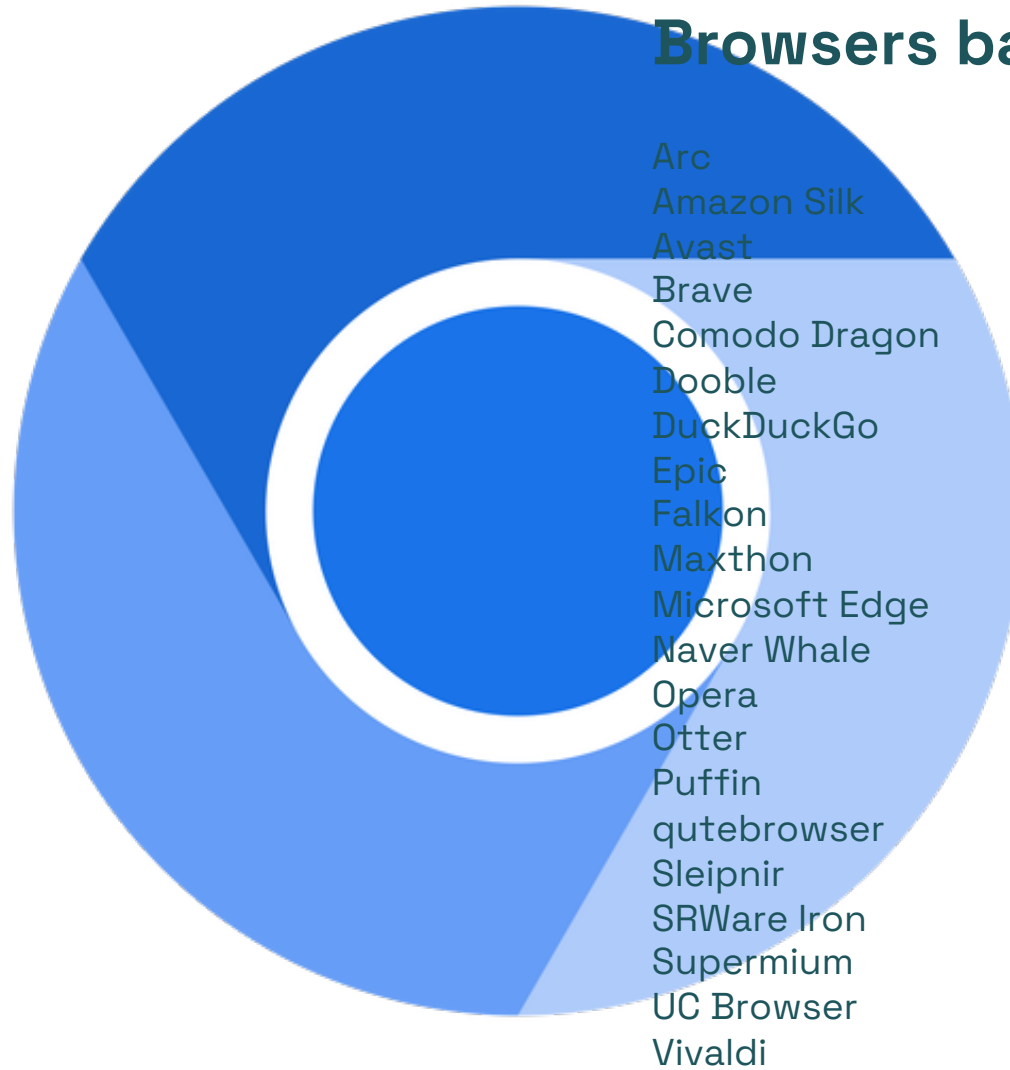
WHAT HAPPENS IF
THOSE CORPORATIONS
DISAPPEAR?



Year # commit



Browsers based on Chromium



INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS: WORST CASE SCENARIO EDITION...

WHAT HAPPENS IF
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But it's Open Source?

Open Source Is at a Crossroads

The cracks are beginning to show in this global ecosystem, as many projects lack the basic funding to sustain the software that literally runs the world.

May 7th, 2024 10:00am by [Bill Doerrfeld](#)



Image via Pixabay.

The Digital Economy Runs on Open Source. Here's How to Protect It.

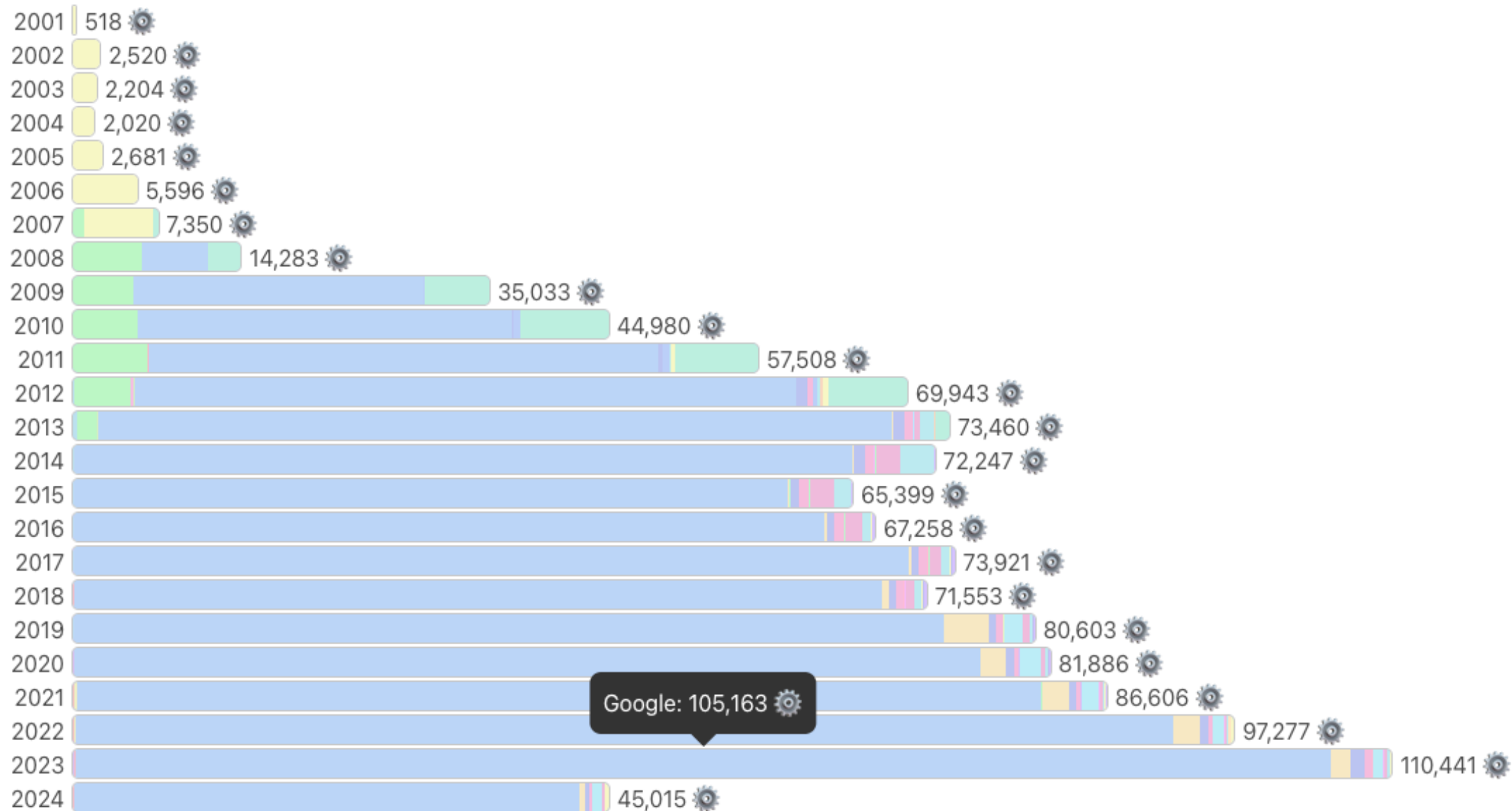
by Hila Lifshitz-Assaf and Frank Nagle

September 02, 2021



Artur Debat/Getty Images

Year # commit

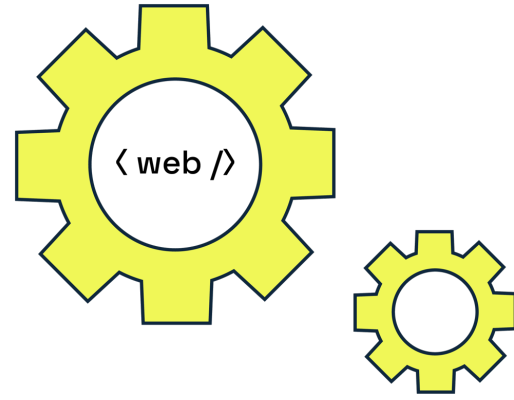


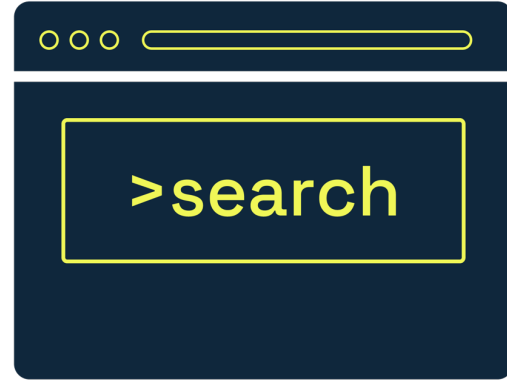
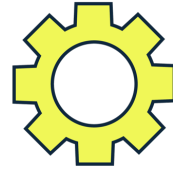
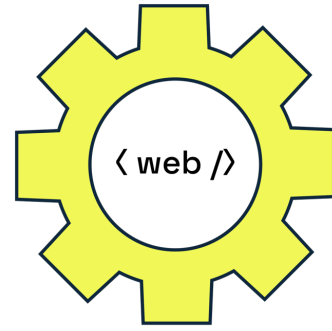
Open Source needs
sustainable funding

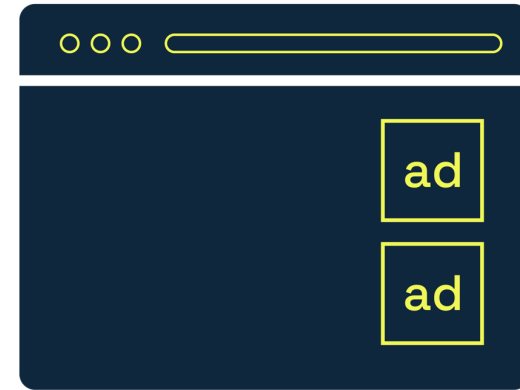
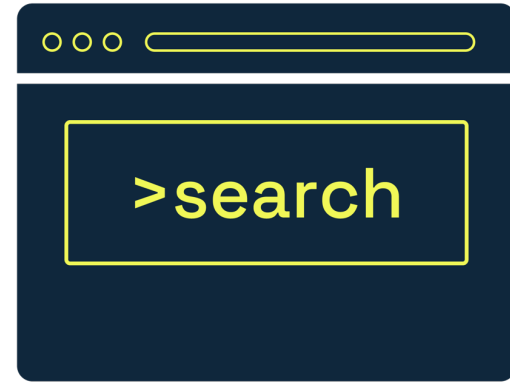
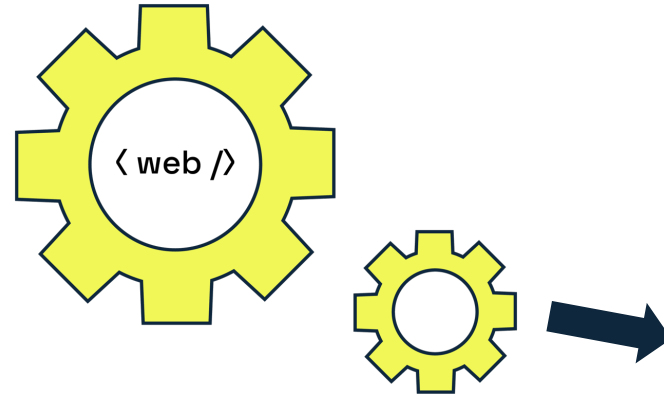
The Web Ecosystem
needs sustainable
funding

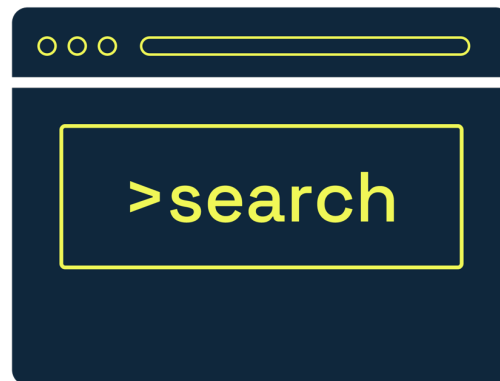
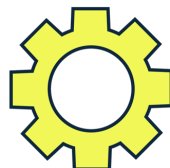
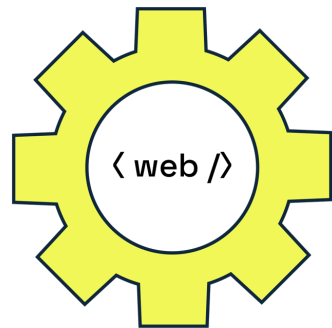


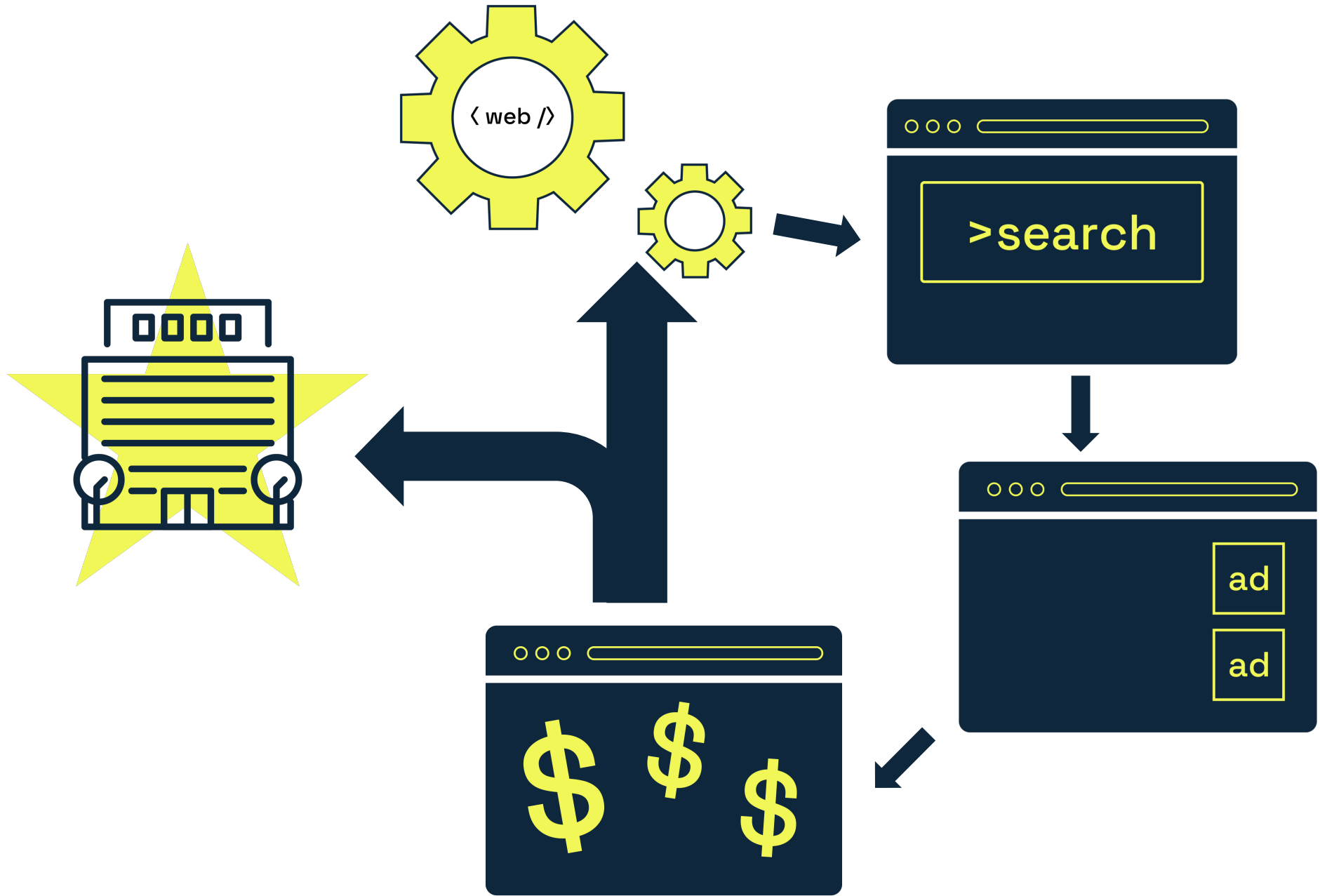


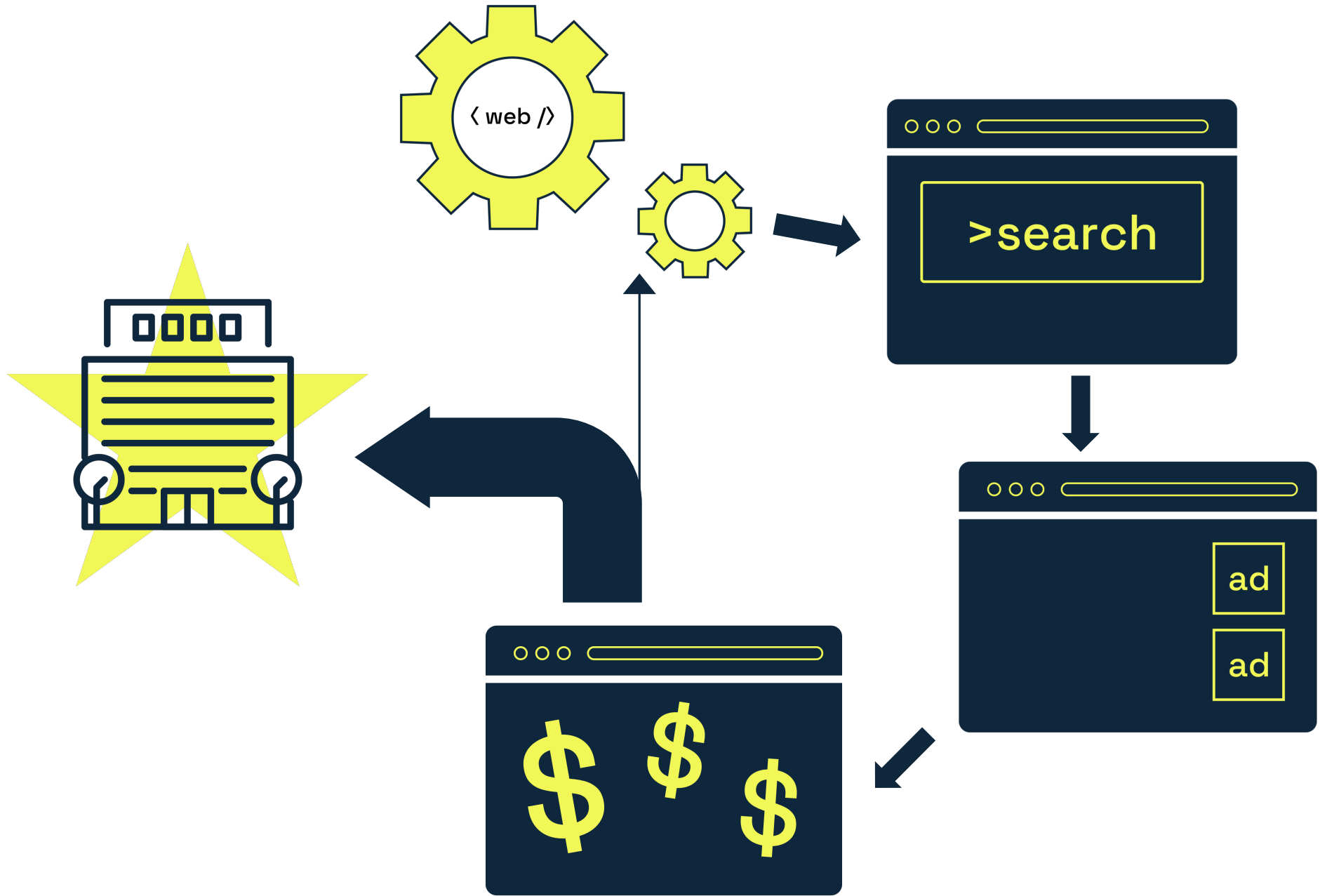


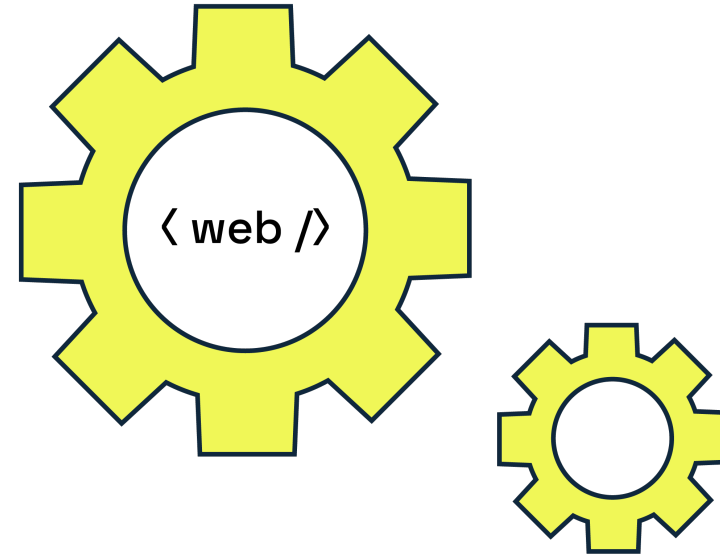












How do we fix this?

It Won't Be Easy

Disclaimer:

This isn't going to be solved today or tomorrow...

Disclaimer:

This isn't going to be solved today or tomorrow...or even next week

The Goal

Start the conversations,
start exploring solutions

Start to fix things before
the system collapses

doomer:

doomer:

“[a term] which arose primarily on the Internet to describe people who are extremely pessimistic or fatalistic about global problems...”



The background is a dark teal color with a complex pattern of glowing green lines and dots, resembling a network or data flow. Several US dollar bills are scattered throughout the scene, appearing to float or fly. The bills are rendered in a slightly desaturated, teal-tinted style, matching the overall color palette. The word "Money" is prominently displayed in the lower-left quadrant in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Money



Money

How do we get it or how do we encourage it?



1. Donation-based systems
(voluntary/cultured-based)



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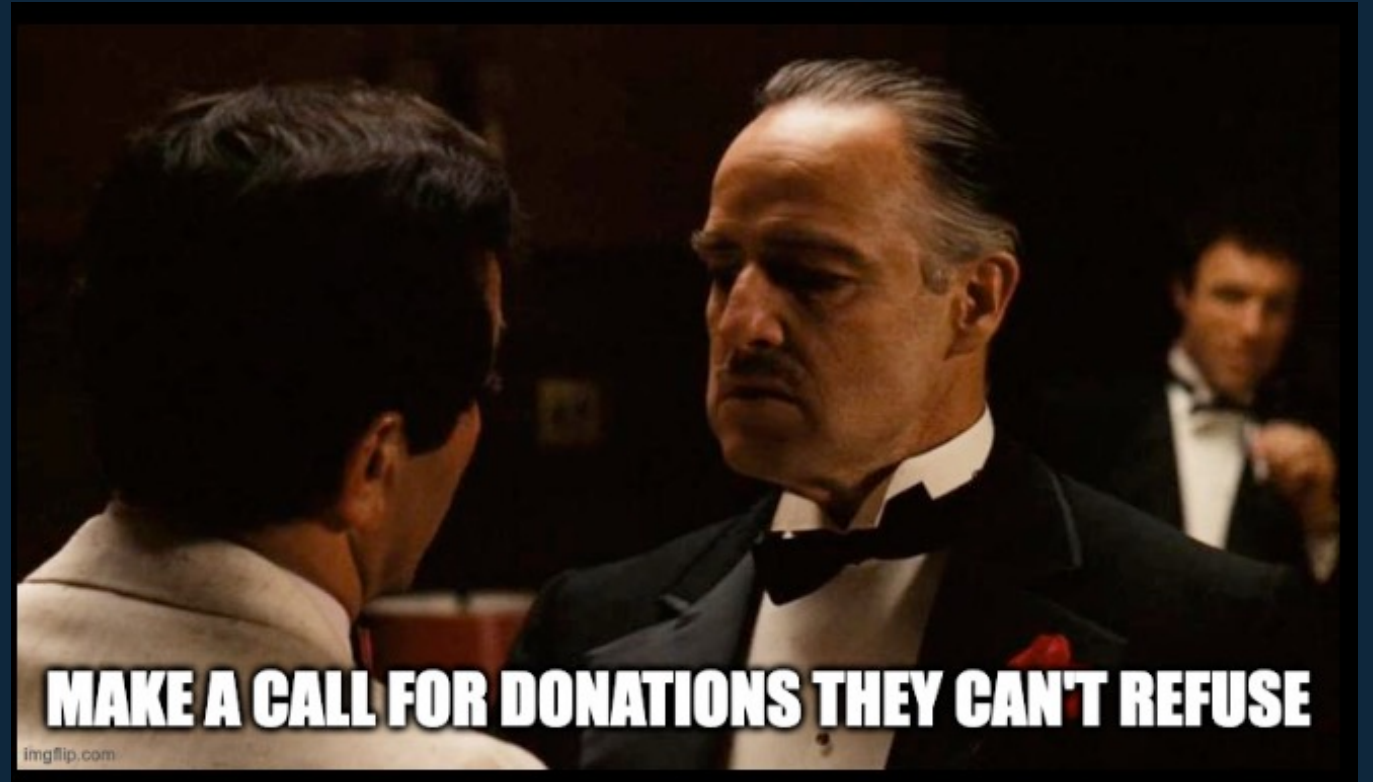
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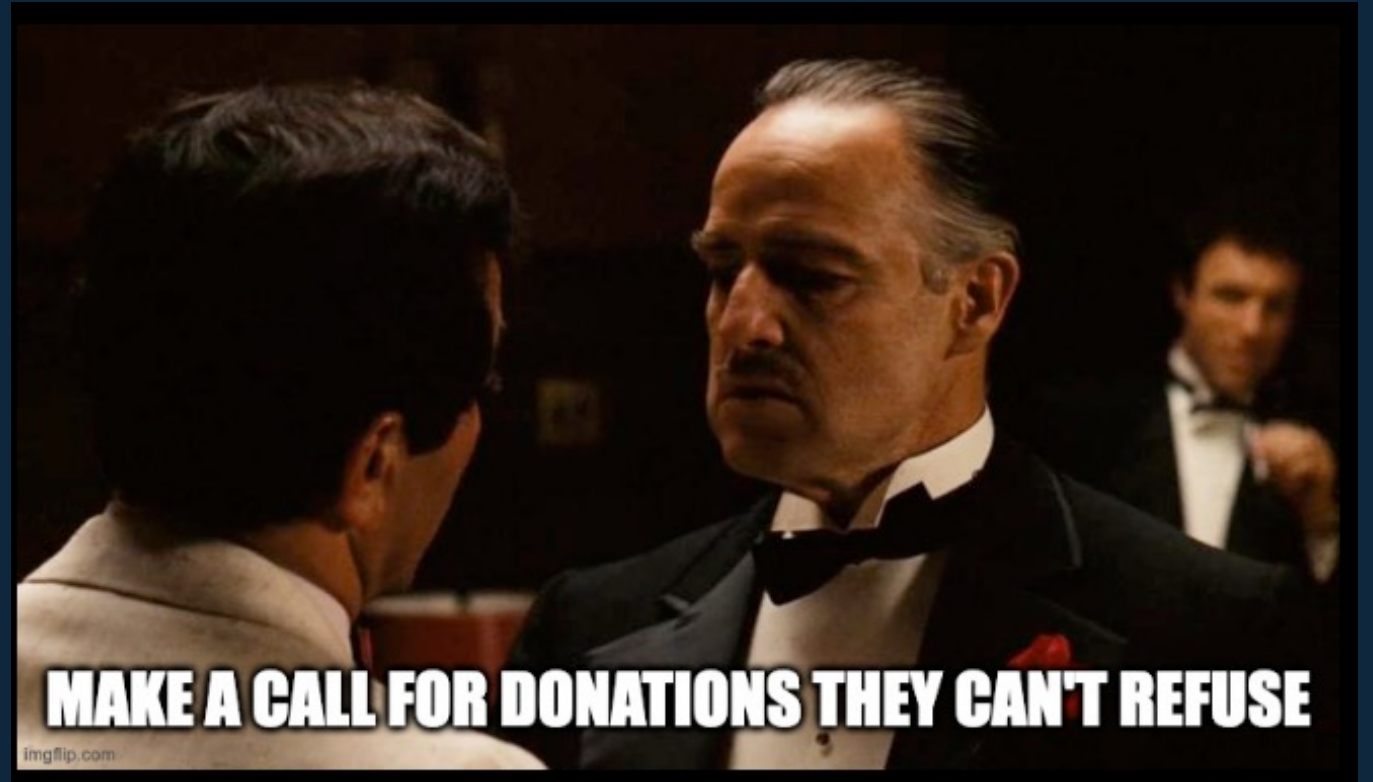
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5. And more!

The Web Levy

Can we make a compulsory system?



A levy system
needs to be
mandatory



Options:

- 1.Regulation says so

Options:

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2.Get all engines to require it in
licensing

Options:

1. Regulation says so

2. Get all engines to require it in licensing

3. Use browser choice screens for leverage



Governance

- A power structure that's credible (so people feel comfortable donating)
- Accountable
- Gives power back to the wider web community
- There's tons of experienced individuals that can make this happen.



Allocation



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5. ...





Resources to continue the conversation

1. Funding the Web Ecosystem: <https://github.com/w3c/breakouts-day-2024/issues/20>
2. Web Infrastructure Search Endowment (WISE): <https://darobin.github.io/wise/>
3. Governance of Ad Requests by a Union of Diverse Actors (GARUDA)
<https://darobin.github.io/garuda/>

Thank you!