

Democracy

Andrew, What do you believe to be the definition of Democracy?

One Issue, One vote, majority wins, with nothing absolute but your right to choose. Anytime, Every time.

Democracy is a compact and a bond that contracts us one human to another. It's currency is trust and it's transactions the very core of civil society.

Extemporize So you think all humans are alike?

In all I write I assume one thing and that is that most humans are like me:

- **Capable of love, to give and receive.**
- **Able to trust and likewise be trusted.**
- **Competent and intelligent enough to reason within but also to reason with others.**
- **Sufficiently human to make mistakes, to recognise the damage to others by our betrayal of any one of the above. Don't repeat the behaviour and feel the burn, because, you and I, we earned it.**

I also accept that there are some humans out there who are born without, deny or have lost some or all of these qualities.

Isn't that what our media is showing us

BUT they are NOT a majority of those who surround you and even for that minority there is hope in a world that cares more for compassion than commerce.

Digital democracy is about enabling this incredibly complex and diverse world of ours to operate at the macro scale yet be responsive to the micro needs of every individual. Giving the citizen full consent to take responsibility for the daily running of life to a rich and complex variety of cultural and commercial institutions.

Today we live with an institution that has not evolved apace with technology.
Parliament

Parliament was a necessary part of the evolution of our civil society, meeting the needs of times far less sophisticated.

Gone are the days when we had need to send men to far distant galleries to deliberate on the affairs of state. Parliament no longer serves the greater good of society but has become bound to the interests of the too few and too influential. All that is so wrong is so public, endlessly bought before us through the great conduits of our media.

Our democracy must evolve from this dependence on the great white men of power and return back to the core of democratic political legitimacy, you and I. We are the individual stakeholders who make up the families, districts, states and nations of the democratic world.

It's reasonable to suspect that most politicians are, like you and I, good, sensible and reasonable humans. Let them get on with useful and meaningful lives, like the rest of us. Remove the onerous burdens of state from their all too human shoulders. Allow them to share ideas, digest the news and like us all, participate in the decisions that influence all life.

We are all share holders in the institutions of state and like share holders in any business should be guided by those who have the skill, wisdom or insight to know what is best for the times and circumstances. Like all share holders we are beholden to be vigilant and act upon criminal activity, injustice or to root out incompetence.

We must also allow for vigorous debate and contentious decisions without malice and accommodate mistakes with compassion and the greater wisdom of hindsight . I truly believe that truth, no matter how obscured, will become evident to all who seek it.

The ways and means to make this happen are all around us today, all that is missing is the human understanding that it is possible

Dynamic

d5 is a system that allows for the greater dynamics of decision making by encouraging a state of dynamic equilibrium. That is, a state that remains "stable" and consistent as long as the inputs or factors that created the state remain unchanged.

(When you vote on something it will make something happen. If it's for the better, every one's happier and we have stability. If not, it made things worse or changed nothing so we'll all have to do some more thinking and voting.)

The dynamic only works with respect, compassion, empathy, courage, freedom of information, transparency and the ability to bring about change.

In this system apathy is a choice and part of the dynamic. By not participating, being apathetic, the pool from which a majority may be taken becomes smaller and hence the influence of an organised minority becomes greater.

Eventually and unchecked this influence may well lead to problems for all those who ignored their democratic responsibilities. The beauty of d5 is the absolute guarantee that every issue is open to a vote so the consequences of being apathetic might be ugly, but at least it wouldn't be permanent.

Dynamic also describes a society that encourages all of it's citizens to communicate at every level. Where fear has been replaced by trust things of real beauty might grow. Crime, drug problems and mental health become issues of minor consequence not the monsters that ravage our streets today.

It's not too hard to imagine a renaissance fuelled by an economy profiting from the contentment and inspiration of an engaged workforce.

Dynamic describes you, because in the end what you do, decides what you get.

Direct

Direct because it is.

Direct from the source of the problem to it's solution, you.

Go direct to the source of your concerns get the facts, search out the truth.

Speak directly to the people you trust and respect, challenge yourself and those around you to understand every issue, on any topic.

Act directly and make choices.

Understand what the direct consequence of any choice is. Was it for the better or for the worse ?

If you made a mistake, go directly to the top and start again and thank your god it wasn't so bad a choice that you can't do anything about it.

d5 is not just about problem solving it's also about building better bonds between each other, about directly connecting humans through their hearts and minds by creating the respect and compassion that is necessary for us all to be happier and healthier beings. Then perhaps we can begin to better appreciate this world and all those other life forms that share this planet with us.

Help get rid of the cholesterol that clogs the arteries of commerce and governance by doing a parliamentary bypass operation in your electorate.

Digital

Digital, electronic, computer, the internet, your television, the radio, newspaper, magazine, CD, MP3 and that Sunday lunch family dinner.

All components in the greatest tool devised by human kind to build the world we were meant to live in. Digital technology is no freak of brilliance, it is one more chapter in the story of our aspiration toward a more democratic world.

Ever since humans left the village we've attempted to re-instate the forum for discussion and decision making. As communities grew we've used whatever technology was at hand to try and stay in touch with the issues. It is only now that we've finally evolved a technology that is both quick enough and cheap enough to allow for the mass distribution of information and to analyse our response.

Our digital communications and computing technologies make it possible to run the institutions of society in real time with interaction between all those who must live with the consequences.

If you don't believe me I ask you to consider for just one blinding minute the unfettered and entirely secure "democratic" life of your money. It can be sent to any corner of the globe for any purpose, on a whim or with considered intent. It might just as easily be withdrawn, lost or turn a profit and whatever the outcome you'll be that little more knowledgeable.

Through all you trust that these institutions are honest and secure. All this with little more than a piece of plastic, some magnetic strip and four digits for protection.

Is it not possible to imagine that this technology can be used to interpret the will of the people when it comes to the decisions that affect us all ?

It is as simple as adding another account to the existing one down at the bank, only this one registers the imprint of thought and decision. A vote account.

Life would continue much as it does today, the public service providing public services, private industry succeeding and failing to do the same things better and all of it affecting us or someone we know.

Parliament has been replaced by a ministry that oversees the ongoing series of polls required to make decision at every level in society. Information on polling matters flows back and forth through the existing commercial channels and we as voters would have one conduit all our own, the national and public broadcaster, answerable to no-one other than a populace that votes.

The constitution guarantees no laws other than the right to choose and that a majority of any poll carries the vote. Freedom of expression and information would be guaranteed through vigilance and respect . I assume that a judicial system and police force would serve to prosecute those who break laws.

On a daily basis this world is not so different from the one we live in today, other than it's digital and that whatever you think could mean something. Better still you can do something about it. any time, every time

Deliberative

Deliberate because that is what you and I do.

It is not about being wishy washy or apathetic, disenchanting or disenfranchising.

It is about being immersed in the processes of life at all levels and participating actively in the decision making that creates and maintains the laws and structures within our society.

Every day you are subjected to information that requires you to think, deliberate, make a choice. It's time that you put that reasoning, that intelligence, to work and get some real returns for the effort.

Deliberative also requires time to allow the complexities of a situation to be revealed, to permit the consequence of action to be seen, felt and heard. To acknowledge mistakes and move forward somewhat the wiser. It is to consider the thoughts and arguments of your fellow humans, to respect and engage.

Always it is about choice; guided by wisdom, be it yours, a spouse, parent, child neighbor, friend... or that of a distant voice from within the hive mind of the internet.

Deliberate, because it is about willful intent, about making a choice through belief, passion and conviction and being prepared to defend all that you believe and choose with a clear conscience, courage and open mind. (and never at the malicious or hurtful expense of another)

D5 = DAVE

A few minutes of your time is all it takes...

- ***Do you want to live in a world where you can talk to strangers as if they were neighbors ?***
- ***Where crime, drugs and mental health problems are minority issues; not major generators of cost, fear and paranoia ?***
- ***A society where law is upheld by the people and not enforced by a police force?***
- ***Where thought, opinion and discussion are valued as highly as the ability of some athlete to compete?***
- ***A place where you can raise a family and have a choice in every decision that will affect yours and their lives.***

This is not Utopia, this is possible.

Starting today you can participate in the greatest franchise ever: DAVE

DAVE is not a political party

DAVE is not necessarily a means to fame, security or incredible wealth

DAVE is hard work, commitment and the best and worst time you'll ever have

DAVE is an idea.

DAVE, Digital Analog Vote Enabler or it's just another Dave

DAVE is a member of any parliament, male or female, young or old, religious or not.

DAVE is free * **Conditions and fees may apply when nominating to your legislature.**

DAVE is a web-site

DAVE may finally be a good reason for paying fees to a bank.

DAVE is the franchise that guarantees that you, your family, friends and neighbors have a voice.

How to be DAVE

A DAVE is made of commitment, born of belief.

The underlying premise and the constitutional oath, sworn and adhered to by any DAVE franchisee is very simple:

One issue, one vote, majority wins with nothing absolute but your right to choose. Any time, every time.

The entire principal of DAVE is founded on the belief that human technological society has been progressing down an inevitable path toward the digital democratization of our lives.

5D: Digital, Dynamic, Deliberative, Direct, Democracy.

The impulses and inspirations that have driven our communications and computing technologies strived always toward greater democracy through improved communication between people.

To look at the world today it would seem that industry has lost sight of this vision .

But not for too much longer.

Democracy, Digital Democracy, is the killer application that the Internet and associated industries have been looking for.

e-commerce and the generation of wealth are, and have always been, necessary.

They are not the end game, they can not and will not, provide the immersive experience for a majority of people.

Digital Democracy does. It is the means by which every-one can give expression to their passions, their thoughts, their concerns.

A DAVE, becomes part of the process that enables your electorate to directly influence the course of parliamentary progress. To live richer, more fulfilled, trusting lives.

Structure of a DAVE

DAVE: the parliamentarian, you.

The essence of DAVE

1. Is a freely available POLITICAL Franchise. As a Franchisee you are expected to run as a candidate for your local constituency at whatever level of government interests you.
2. A franchisee undertakes to utilise the tools of the franchise to effectively and truly represent the majority opinion of the constituency.
3. A DAVE is beholden to no-one's interests other than that of the majority choice within an electorate. Any expressions of personal belief are exactly that, personal.
4. A DAVE undertakes to become the conduit for information flowing to and from the constituency, to encourage and stimulate open and critical debate of any and all issues.
5. A DAVE undertakes to be openly accountable and financially independent as there is no formal political party structure to provide support . This is a small business like any other.

Go here to this graphic overview / representation of the entire D5 process: [graphic.htm](#)

As a DAVE you'd need to fulfill all the requirements to become a legitimate member of your parliament. These conditions can be found at your local electoral office and generally deal with matters of your nationality, criminality and sanity.

As an Australian I can direct you to the following url :

Australian Electoral Commission Home Page: <http://www.aec.gov.au/>

In the interest of maintaining the status quo, deterring the greater outbreak of democracy or frivolous nominations, a fee or bond will need to be lodged. This would be entirely the responsibility of the nominating DAVE and constituents.

As DAVE is not about establishing a political party, there will be no central point for the gathering and distribution of campaign funds to support all the needs of a campaigning DAVE, you do with what you have and hope that your faith in humanity is rewarded.

A quick note for Australians, all expenditure by political parties are GST exempt, the ATO is about to issue a directive advising that this advantage can now be enjoyed by all political candidates within the body politic. If you win office or meet the minimum quota you will be paid a per head fee to cover expenses.

If a DAVE wins a majority of votes within their electorate then the DAVE would be expected to abide by the laws and affirm any oath required of a sitting member. You would be sworn to represent the will of the majority within your electorate as polled through the DAVE web site, without fear or favor.


All expenses incurred in maintaining the office of a DAVE would be expected to be drawn from the stipends, entitlements and wage paid to an ordinary Member of Parliament.

In all things a DAVE is a human of free will and volition and would not be expected to maintain the office if ever confronted with a position that was found to be personally and morally repugnant. At all other times a DAVE would be expected to impartially deliver the will of the electorate and to honestly and openly present the concerns or opinions commonly agreed between the electorate.

A DAVE would be expected to maintain a web-site that accurately represented the business of the parliament and provide access to argument for and against any proposition. A DAVE would be expected to have an opinion, but ultimately of no more value than any other constituent. You would be expected to participate and lead discussion in whatever medium was required, no more quiet nights down the pub. As the media is so prevalent and persuasive you would have to front the microphones and camera's when required, something no active, opinionated, parliamentarian could hope to avoid.

A DAVE will be loved, hated, admired and despised, simultaneously and sequentially. It is the nature of our representative democracy. A democracy in transition.

As people become more aware that the choice and, the consequences, are theirs to decide, the level of personal focus will diminish and the thoughts of a DAVE will be no more than another opinion in the process of decision.



D5 web-site:

The web-site would be the primary conduit for information to flow to and from a DAVE office.

A DAVE would be charged with maintaining the integrity and security of the web-site and all information traveling to and from the site would be treated as private correspondence.

The conduct of the site would be governed by the laws of the country regarding the protection of privacy, laws of slander and libel and any laws pertaining to telecommunications. As the site is the final tally point for all polls pertinent to the business of parliament it would need to be open and accountable to the Electoral Commission to ensure the integrity of these polls.

General Structure.

Current Business:

Listing the current bills before parliament, the status of the bill and the date of poll closure. It would also need to have an area for the submission of questions to be put before the house of parliament. Each piece of business would be linked out to a specific topic area.

Considering the advances in video streaming technology it is not inconceivable that live coverage of business would be available to all who can with the chance to interact in real time.

Other links:

1. Hansard or whatever parliamentary recording service exists.
2. Other DAVE sites.

Topic Area:

Presents a summary of argument for and against the bill or business before parliament.

1. Hyperlink library of supporting argument and references to material within printed or other media.
2. Poll area displaying current and historical poll results regarding the matter. Instead of receiving votes directly this area would display poll data collected from participating Institutions (Please refer to Institutions.)
3. Chat and comment area.
4. Links to local discussion or information suppliers

Community Board:

A Collation point for the determination of business to be addressed by DAVE in parliament.

1. Chat and bulletin board area for the posting of constituent concerns and discussion.
2. Private Mail for the presentation of private concerns
3. Straw poll; to determine the level of community concern or local need.
4. Links to local discussion or information suppliers
5. Local council page.

Archives:

A searchable archive of all business running through the site.

Industry

All those trillions of dollars spent developing the secure communication systems that now ring our planet are looking for a reason and justification. Very soon shareholders the world over will be looking for the point in all that investment. (When the dot commers finally admit to their woeful balance sheets and inspired projections a day of reckoning like no other will have arrived.)(circa the 90's)

Accept the fact that consumption and spending is not the reason but a justification, a necessary tool, to lead us down the path of construction and investment.

If everyone is using the Internet, their television, telephones, newspapers, pubs and lounges as the forum for democracy then real business is going to boom as trust and honesty blossom.

In a perfect world I'd prefer that the entire system be based on an independent secure network designed and built to specifically address the needs of a digital democracy. Realistically, we have already built that system, it exists to service the needs of our personal political surrogate, money.

As a part of the process to transition, I appeal to the world of the bankers in the hope that, like you and I, they are human and care as much about the future of their children as we do.

Evidently most of us trust the banks enough to leave that most valuable of commodities, money, in their care. We might not like them but at least they give a good impression of being secure.

Voting on an issue is a transaction, yes or no.

Banks deal in transactions.

Nearly everyone has a bank account or access to one.

(You + Media) + Vote Statement Account = Digital Democracy

Cost of Democracy: A transaction fee and small amount to support the infrastructure.

The Proposal

D5 is a partnership between You and a bank, any banks or financial institution that provides secure statement accounts.

As a willing elector you request that the institution set up a linked vote account to your existing bank / statement account. Access it any time, through any of the banks entry points

- ATM
- Counter

- Bpay

- Internet

You, the empowered elector, can identify yourself and make a deposit into the yes or no vote account, receive a receipt and some time later a periodical statement detailing the activity within that account.

The bank would then process the information passing through only the result of the vote, not the details of each individual choice. This would pass through to the account for the poll issue, tallying the total votes, yes & no. Result delivered, majority carries the motion: 50% + 1.

The whole process would be subject to the existing laws covering the privacy and security of bank accounts with the additional supervision of the Electoral Commission and as always everything under the watchful eye of the media.

If all that's not good enough to thrill you then consider the simple maxim:

With rights come responsibilities. And who said freedom doesn't have a price?

In this case if you want the right to vote you have the responsibility to check that no-ones messing with your vote, tally the receipts against the statement and be ever vigilant.

Why would a bank want to do this ?

My feeling is that Banks have never in their austere histories needed the love and affection of their customers more than they do now. It can be said that Banks are so powerful that they really don't care what the customer thinks.

With an attached Vote account your everyday transaction account suddenly becomes a very useful and powerful possession, your bank is at last likable as it delivers a service that is of true and lasting benefit to it's customers.

Happy humans make happy customers, engaged minds make it even better.

What's in the account? (The field summary)

1. **Name & personal details:** Self explanatory
2. **PIN and security details:** To ensure the person using the account is the authorised account holder.
3. **Electorate / DAVE account:** simple BSB type code for the destination account.
4. **Transaction number:** Identifies the vote for record and confirmation.
5. **Topic Code:** Identifies the topic and eventual attribution for the vote, two packets sent, +1 for choice, 0 for alternate
6. **Topic switch:** Flags that the topic has been voted on, can be reset by voter to enable a change of choice before the end of the voting deadline. Reset triggers increment of new preference and decrement of alternate choice ie a packet of +1 to the new choice and -1 to the alternate.
7. **Monthly Statement:** At the end of each month you would receive an account statement much as you would with an existing monetary account, and like the money one this is to help you spot the funny ones. As with all privileges

comes responsibility, it's up to you to check and query the validity of your account and ensure that your democratic rights remain untouched.

What the heck is this all about ?

You might not have realised but this entire process has been growing around you. I have watched it spread over the last fifteen years and have thought long and hard how we can make it happen. I do this because I'm frightened by the prospects for humanity if we don't begin to mutually respect the individual right to hold and express opinion and act upon it.

This is not to champion the absolute right of the individual at the expense of family or society nor to decry the moral underpinnings that have shaped our society and laws. I recognize, as I hope most people do, that we have laws to protect our rights, to protect us as individuals from the predations of those who would seek to do us ill. I believe that the majority of the humans on this planet are capable of rational thought, of entering into discussion, of considering debate and finally being able to make decision and live with the consequence or acknowledge a mistake and start again. To believe otherwise is to acknowledge those deficiencies within yourself ,or worse still, to place yourself above all others.

My parents speak to me of the impossibility of this system without the moral underpinnings of God and religion. I would counter that with a more civil and human society, where humans implicitly trust and love, we might all have a little more time and interest in the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment.

Religion, democracy they are both acts of faith, belief in a greater good and that love is in fact the ultimate destination.

As for the argument that God put politicians in power to lead us.....

Leaders and the trust invested blindly have been important. Alas that trust is no longer invested wisely and times have changed. We should still look to those who lead by example for insight and wisdom but allow their reflections to guide ,rather than, lead us. We as individuals can participate in every facet of our life from the personal to the international, if only we begin to trust and act in a trustworthy manner.

Me, I'm 38, 39,40,48 with two + one children and an imperfect life. All I want is to be part of the creation of a better world

I see something that is absolutely possible, I don't know all the answers or even what the questions maybe but I have faith that whatever may arise there is someone out there in the universe of souls who has an answer.

Cheers

Andrew Chambers, an ongoing dialogue since 1985