

\$OpenBooks

Where the platform is, as of 17 August 2026

A plain account of what works, what is half-built, and what has been tested — so you can see the state of the thing without having to ask. No jargon where it can be avoided, and **no promises about dates**.

The short version

- **Posting costs a fraction of a penny, paid by you.** An ordinary post runs to roughly a hundredth of a US cent. There is no free tier — that small cost is the only thing standing between this board and spam, and it does the job that moderators do elsewhere.
- **What you post is yours, and nobody here can take it back.** Every post is written onto Bitcoin and attached to your own address. The platform cannot edit it, move it or delete it — not for you, and not for anyone asking us to.
- **Put a \$Word in a post and you own a piece of that word.** Words are the currency here. Writing one for the first time claims it.
- **A word with a conversation behind it is a room, and rooms cost a ticket.** The ticket is torn up as you walk in — you are a member for good, and the ticket is gone.
- **Tickets get more expensive as a room fills up.** Early is cheaper, permanently. This is the opposite of a subscription: you pay once, and you never pay again.
- **The word-tokens themselves are still on our books, not on Bitcoin.** Your posts are safe on the chain; the record of who owns which *words* is not there yet. It is the one real gap, and page 4 explains it.

The one thing worth understanding before you spend anything. There are two different things on this board and only one of them is fully on Bitcoin today. **Your posts are** — they need no trust in me at all. **Your word-tokens are not, yet** — the rooms and the market all work, but the list of who owns what is a database I run. The code that would hand that job to Bitcoin instead has been written and tested on the real network; it simply is not plugged in. Until it is, you are trusting my bookkeeping. Better that you hear it here than work it out later.

The token economy

A word is a token, and it has a price

Write `$Something` in a post and, if nobody has claimed that word yet, it is yours — along with the first unit of it. Every unit issued after that costs a little more than the last, so the hundredth costs a hundred times the first. Buying a lot at once is expensive on purpose.

/buy 50 \$Word — buy into a word

Buys units in bulk, so backing a word does not mean writing a thousand posts about it. Each unit is priced separately as you go up, so the more you take the more the last ones cost. Capped at 10,000 at a time, in case of a slipped finger.

/send 1 \$Word @Someone — give somebody a ticket

New today. Hand units to another person, by their name or their address. It costs nothing beyond the post itself. It cannot be undone, so the box reads the whole thing back to you in words before you press send — and if the person is somebody this board has never seen, nothing moves and you keep your tickets.

Rooms, and why the ticket gets torn up

Owning a ticket does not get you in — **spending it does**, and it is gone afterwards. That changed today, for a simple reason: under the old rule one ticket could let in an endless queue of people one after another, each selling it on to the next, and the room got paid once for all of them. Tearing the ticket makes the sums honest. One member, one ticket, one payment. You are in for good.

You can sell a spare ticket

Anyone holding tickets they have not used can offer them at whatever price they like — **including above the platform's own price**. That is not a mistake: it is an offer that gets taken later, once the room has filled enough that the platform price has risen past it. Nobody is ever forced to pay over the odds, because a brand-new ticket is always on sale at the standard price.

No exceptions, including for me. Two were built into this and both were thrown out the same day. Starting a room does not get you into it — the person who names a word queues at their own door like everyone else, and holding a hundred tickets gets you through no door at all until you spend one. **Every membership on this board cost exactly one torn ticket.** If you were holding tickets before today, you are outside those rooms until you spend one. Nothing was taken from you; it is one tap.

The board itself

WHAT	STATE
Posting, paid and permanent Written to Bitcoin, owned by you	Live, and checked running today. An ordinary post costs roughly a hundredth of a penny — the Bitcoin network's own fee, plus a small amount to the platform. Naming a \$Word costs more on top, and a lot more for a popular word. If anything goes wrong with the money it is refused <i>before</i> anything is sent, so a failed post never costs you.
Every post has its own link openbooks.space/p/...	Live. Paste it anywhere and it unfurls into a proper preview card.
Addenda Correct a post without editing it	Live. Nothing here is ever edited. A correction is a new note attached to the original, and both are permanent — so you can see what someone said and what they later thought better of.
Rooms and conversations	Live. Tap any post to open the conversation under it. Only named rooms cost anything — ordinary conversation is open to everyone, and the main feed always is.
Wallet, market and leaderboards	Live. Bottom tab bar: Agent · Wallet · Feed · Market · Threads.
Ask the AI It has read the project's own notes	Live, with a page of its own. It answers from the project's actual documentation rather than making things up, and it will tell you when something is not built.
Identity and recovery	Live. Your account is created in your own browser the first time you visit — no email, no password, no sign-up. You can lock it with a passphrase and save an encrypted recovery file. Please save that file. Nobody can reset this for you: lose it and the account and everything in it is gone.
Voice, uploads, link previews	Live.

Things that were broken, and are not now

- **Paid rooms were leaking.** The feed was showing each room's newest message to people outside it, and the room itself was quietly sending the conversation to anyone who opened it — the screen just declined to draw it. Both properly closed.
- **Locking your account locked you out of your own rooms.** Fixed.
- **Posting could stop working** after the server restarted, because it forgot which of its coins it had already spent. Fixed today.

Getting the words onto Bitcoin

Your *posts* need nothing from this page — they are already on Bitcoin. This is about the **words**: tickets, and everything you buy or send. A token is only worth as much as whatever guarantees it, and right now **what guarantees yours is a database I run**. Here is honestly how far along replacing that is.

Done — the mechanism exists and it works on the real network

There is now a piece of code living **on Bitcoin itself** that will only hand out a new unit of a word if the payment for it goes through in the same breath. Not a rule I promise to follow — a rule the network refuses to break. It was tested on the real Bitcoin network with a throwaway word, and confirmed working by something other than my own software. The whole experiment cost under a penny.

Not done — the site does not use it yet

Your balances still live in my database. Proving the mechanism works is what makes it safe to switch over; it does not switch anything over by itself. Until it does, a balance is my record of a balance.

Nearly done — reading it back

Putting things on Bitcoin is only half of it; you also need something that can read the chain and tell you who owns what. We run our own rather than trusting somebody else's, and it already does everything needed — balances, bulk lookups, live updates. **One piece is missing**. Right now each new word has to be pointed out to it by hand, and this board creates a word the instant somebody types one. That is a small addition to software we already control, not a rebuild.

What this means for you today. What you write is genuinely yours and genuinely beyond my reach — that has been true from day one and is not in doubt. What is not yet beyond my reach is the *list of who owns which words*. If that matters to you, treat balances as provisional until this page says otherwise, and do not put in more than you would shrug at.

How much of this is actually checked

1,246 automated checks run every time anything changes — most of them against a real database doing real cryptography, not a pretend one. Anything touching money gets one extra step: the rule is deliberately broken to confirm the checks actually catch it. A test that passes for the wrong reason is worse than no test, and this project has shipped one of those before.

AREA	CHECKED	NOTE
Claiming a word	STRONG	Mostly checks on what must <i>not</i> count as a claim.
Prices going up, never down	STRONG	Including that torn tickets must not make a room cheaper.
Getting into rooms	STRONG	Added today — both letting people in and keeping them out.
Buying and sending	STRONG	The refusals are tested harder than the successes.
Payments reaching the right people	STRONG	End to end.
Accounts, passphrases, recovery files	STRONG	
The Bitcoin-enforced rules	PARTIAL	Proven on the real network once. Never yet used in anger.
The buttons and screens	THIN	Barely any automatic checks. Tested by hand, on real phones.
Today's ticket changes, on a phone	NOT YET	Shipped hours ago. Hand-testing still to come.
Lots of people at once	NOT YET	One server. Never load-tested.

The weak spots, said out loud

- **The screens are the least-tested part.** The money underneath them is covered well; the buttons on top of it are not. Expect the occasional rough edge there rather than in your balance.
- **A paid room is not a private room. Please read this one twice.** Every post on this board is written onto Bitcoin, which is public. The ticket controls who can take part *here*; it cannot stop somebody reading the chain directly. **Do not post anything in a room that you would mind the world seeing** — and remember nothing can ever be deleted.
- **It runs on one server.** Several of the safety mechanisms assume that. Growing past it needs work that has not been done.

What is still to do

Started, not finished

- **You cannot see who is in a room.** The list you can see shows who holds unused tickets — which, now that tickets get torn up, is often nobody. A proper members list is needed and does not exist.
 - **Buying several tickets at once from the market,** up to a price you set. Designed, not built.
 - **Better selling options.** Right now you can only list at one fixed price.
 - **Retrying a failed entry record.** Posts get a second attempt if writing to Bitcoin fails; room entries do not yet.
 - **Filing an existing post under a word.** The groundwork is there; nothing to click.
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Agreed in principle, not built

- **Putting word ownership onto Bitcoin** so trusting me stops being part of the deal, and selling becomes a straight swap between two people. Waiting on the one piece from page 4.
 - **Likes, shares and follows — all of them paid.** That every action costs something is settled; none of these exist yet.
 - **Sharing the platform's income with the people who hold a word.**
 - **Selling a post itself,** not just units of the word in it.
 - **Notifications,** faster payment feedback, and thumbnails on promoted posts.
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Must happen before this opens up properly

- **BLOCKED** **The legal side.** The terms and privacy pages are drafts with gaps in them, and a copyright contact has to be registered. An hour with a lawyer is needed — not least on how a right to be forgotten works on a chain that cannot forget anything.
- **BLOCKED** **The filter that blocks illegal material is not switched on.** It is the only moment anything can be stopped before it becomes permanent, so it has to be configured before this opens up. Work on it started today.
- **PENDING** **Backups kept somewhere other than the server,** and something watching for outages.
- **PENDING** **An emergency stop** that works instantly rather than needing a redeploy.
- **ON PURPOSE** **Search engines are kept out** while this is still quiet.

Arguments, corrections and better ideas are welcome — on the board, where they will be permanent. All of this is also in the open-source code, where the reasoning behind every decision is written down at length, **including the ones that turned out to be wrong and got reversed.** Two of those happened today.