Zclassic 2025: Mission & Vision

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February 17, 2025

Abstract

Founded in 2016 as a fork of Zcash, Zclassic was created to eliminate founder rewards, forced taxes, and restrictive licensing. Embracing a transparent, community-driven ethos, Zclassic directs all block rewards solely to its miners and network participants. This whitepaper outlines our historical evolution, core principles, and a strategic roadmap toward a resilient, inclusive, and innovative decentralized future. Notably, our design supports an engineering principle known as *opto-isolation*, enabling independent experimentation through forks without impacting the core network.

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1 Introduction

In 2016, Zclassic emerged as a direct response to practices observed in the broader cryptocurrency ecosystem—most notably within Zcash, from which it forked. While Zcash originally featured a 20% founder's reward that was intended to last only four years, it was eventually extended beyond the original promise. Zclassic was conceived to ensure that every block reward benefits miners and, by extension, the entire community. Building upon a heritage that includes Bitcoin, Dogecoin, and Litecoin, Zclassic champions open governance, technical resilience, and fairness as it continuously evolves to meet the needs of its users.

2 Mission Statement

> *"Our mission is to provide a secure, decentralized, and equitable cryptocurrency, driven by the community and free from centralized taxes or proprietary licensing."*

3 Historical Context

3.1 Zcash Fork Origin and Genesis (2016)

Zclassic began as a fork of Zcash, removing the 20% founder's reward and establishing a model where all newly minted coins are directed to miners. This foundational decision was made to uphold fairness and transparency, positioning Zclassic as a cryptocurrency built entirely for its community.

3.2 Challenging Unfair Reward Models, Broken Promises, and Restrictive Licensing

Zcash's founder's reward was originally pitched with the understanding that it would end after four years. However, this was later extended—effectively breaking the initial promise to the community. Although the extension of the founder's reward is one event in isolation, it underscores a deeper issue: if any group gains enough centralized authority over a project, it can unilaterally change the rules after the fact.

This scenario exemplifies why *trustlessness* is so crucial in cryptocurrency. In a decentralized ecosystem, we aim to avoid relying on human promises; code and consensus should govern

the rules. When Zcash's 20% tax was renewed beyond its originally stated deadline, it highlighted the risk that any entity—once it has leverage—can simply *ask for more* later. The entire premise of cryptocurrency is built around removing the need for such trust, since past experience suggests that even "just a little bit" of centralized control often expands over time.

Furthermore, Zcash's adoption of a restrictive, non-standard BOSL license limited community-driven innovation. Zclassic responded by embracing a permissive, open-source MIT-style license, ensuring that the network remains open to forks, improvements, and derivative projects. This commitment to genuine decentralization and minimal trust requirements remains a guiding principle for Zclassic.

3.3 Proactive Network Evolution and Spam Defense

In anticipation of network-level spam attacks, Zclassic proactively reduced its block size by 90%—down to 200 kB—while preserving throughput comparable to Bitcoin. This deliberate design choice helps maintain a lean blockchain, keeping the total size near 10 GB and ensuring full-node accessibility around the globe.

3.4 Triple Halving (May 2020)

A landmark in Zclassic's monetary policy was the "Triple Halving" event in May 2020. Despite a block time of approximately 70 seconds, the block subsidy was sharply reduced, capping the total supply at roughly 11.5 million ZCL coins. This measure curbs long-term inflation while aligning miner incentives with the network's security and sustainability objectives.

4 Ecosystem Impact and Forks

Zclassic's influence extends throughout the broader blockchain ecosystem, as evidenced by several forks that have built upon its core principles:

- **Horizen (formerly Zencash):** Launched on May 30, 2017, Horizen emerged as a chainsplit of Zclassic. All holders of Zclassic coins before block 110,000 were awarded Horizen tokens, showcasing trust in the original network's design.
- **Bitcoin Private:** On February 28, 2018, a hard fork occurred at block 511346 (BTC) and block 272991 (ZCL), resulting in Bitcoin Private. This event illustrated how Zclassic's codebase could serve as a foundation for new ventures.
- **ANONymous Tokens Fork:** In a collaborative initiative, both Zclassic and Bitcoin holders received ANONymous tokens during a fork event, with a distribution ratio of 1 ZCL = 2 ANON and 1 BTC = 1 ANON. The test network was launched on August 10, 2018, with a snapshot taken on September 10, 2018.

While price volatility in these forked chains may lead some to question their market success, the true engineering triumph lies in their ability to operate independently. The original Zclassic blockchain remains entirely *opto-isolated* from these forks.

5 Engineering Resilience Through Opto-Isolation

A core strength of Zclassic's design is its adherence to the engineering principle of *opto-isolation*. In technical systems, opto-isolation refers to the separation of subsystems to prevent disturbances in one from affecting another. This concept is crucial for safe experimentation and risk mitigation.

Applied to the blockchain context, opto-isolation means that while Zclassic's codebase can be forked and experimented with independently, any instability or failure in the forked chains does not disrupt the original Zclassic network. Even if a fork experiences significant price volatility or operational challenges, the integrity, security, and performance of Zclassic remain uncompromised. This design encourages innovation and allows diverse blockchain experiments to flourish, knowing that the primary network serves as a stable and isolated foundation.

6 Core Principles

6.1 Fairness to Holders

No Miner Tax, No Premine: Every newly minted coin is distributed directly to miners, ensuring rewards benefit those who secure the network.

Equal Participation: The absence of reserved allocations or special privileges guarantees that all participants are treated equitably.

6.2 Functionality and Security

Defense Against Spam: Robust measures are implemented to mitigate spam and denial-of-service attacks, ensuring continuous, reliable network performance.

Lean Block Design: Reduced block sizes and short block intervals minimize hardware requirements, promoting a decentralized network of full nodes accessible worldwide.

6.3 Sustainability

Controlled Supply: Periodic halvings and a reduced block subsidy work together to manage inflation and maintain balanced miner incentives.

Conservative Upgrades: Every protocol change undergoes thorough community review to enhance security, fairness, and long-term viability.

6.4 Openness and Decentralization

Permissive Licensing: By adopting an open-source MIT-style license, Zclassic fosters an inclusive environment that encourages community-driven innovation.

Community Governance: Network decisions are made through transparent public discussion and consensus, eliminating centralized control.

7 Technological Roadmap and Vision

7.1 Ongoing Protocol Resilience

Zclassic is committed to staying ahead of emerging threats. Future plans include continuous refinements to block size, transaction throughput, and node requirements—ensuring that the blockchain remains fast, secure, and accessible for all users.

7.2 Enhanced Decentralized Development

Operating under an MIT-style license, Zclassic actively invites community-led enhancements. Developers are encouraged to propose and implement advanced technologies—including cutting-edge zero-knowledge proofs—while preserving the network's open and inclusive nature.

7.3 Expanding the Ecosystem

A vibrant ecosystem is key to long-term success. Efforts are underway to broaden wallet support, integrate with mining pools, and develop merchant tools. Strategic partnerships with exchanges and payment gateways are being pursued to ensure that Zclassic remains competitive in the ever-evolving blockchain landscape.

7.4 Community-Driven Initiatives

At its core, Zclassic is about empowering its community. Progress is driven by genuine user and miner consensus, with initiatives such as educational resources, comprehensive documentation, and transparent governance practices designed to foster global participation and innovation.

8 Conclusion

As Zclassic moves into 2025, it remains anchored by its foundational vision: delivering equitable rewards, robust security, and a resilient network free from centralized taxes or restrictive licensing. By proactively addressing challenges through innovative design, embracing the principle of opto-isolation, and encouraging independent experimentation via forks, Zclassic is poised to unlock the full potential of blockchain technology and pave the way for a truly decentralized future.