

Our Spring news highlights

DECaDE Showcases Research Impact at Royal Society Symposium



Watch the event highlights by clicking on the video.

The Centre for the Decentralised Digital Economy (DECaDE), showcased its impact at The Royal Society in London, bringing together leading voices from academia, industry and government.



Prof. John Collomosse, DECaDE Director, presenting work on Copyright and AI.

Held on 25 March 2026, the DECaDE Symposium highlighted the centre's research achievements and explored how decentralised digital technologies are shaping the future of trade, the creative industries and the wider digital economy. Opening remarks from [The Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE](#) highlighted DECaDE's growing policy influence along with contributions from the BBC and the Cabinet Office, as the six-year programme concludes. The event featured a programme of keynote talks, panel discussions, live demonstrations and networking, showcasing the real-world impact of DECaDE's research.

[Read more](#)

DECaDE Outcomes and Impact 2026

We're pleased to share DECaDE's **Outcomes and Impact Brochure 2026**, showcasing the progress and influence of our research since our founding in 2020 — and marking the culmination of the programme in June 2026.

A central focus of DECaDE's work has been the creative industries — where issues of media provenance, rights, and authenticity are paramount. Through publication, commercial licensing, and the open-source release of media provenance technologies, DECaDE has developed tools that help trace the origin and ownership of content, strengthening trust across the creative supply chain. Our impact, however, extends well beyond the creative industries — into business ecosystems and public policy, from reducing friction in cross-border trade to bridging the digital-physical divide in supply chain tracking.



We've contributed evidence to government consultations, testified before select committees, and engaged with All-Party Parliamentary Groups, helping to shape thinking on digital governance and emerging technology regulation. The work presented in the brochure goes beyond emerging solutions. It highlights new playbooks and methodologies for cross-disciplinary research that address the complex challenges shaping the future decentralised digital economy.

[Read the brochure](#)

House of Lords Report Cites DECaDE Research in AI Copyright Inquiry

DECaDE has welcomed the publication of the House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee's report on AI, copyright and the creative industries, following its contribution to the inquiry through expert evidence and research on media provenance.



Professor John Collomosse, appeared before the Committee to give expert witness testimony.

The newly published report cites DECaDE's multi-year work on provenance infrastructure, including the Time to ACCCT report co-authored with the CoSTAR National Lab, as well as DECaDE's research on the use of open standards, such as the Content ARCs framework, as the technical foundations needed to support creator rights in the age of generative AI.

[Read more](#)

DECaDE presents at CHI 2026

DECaDE research featured prominently at the ACM CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, which took place in Barcelona, Spain between 12th - 17th April.

Team members from Design Informatics at University of Edinburgh presented paper 'ORAgen Fables: Advancing the Design and Management of Content Attribution' which was awarded an *Honourable Mention*, placing it in the top 5% of submissions to the conference! The paper led by Dr Frances Liddell, introduces *ORAgen Fables* — technology created to help people engage with and reflect on emerging tools for content attribution and tokenised licensing, such as C2PA and the ORA protocol. Drawing on multiple public deployments of ORAgen Fables, the study explores what people actually want from attribution.

Key findings highlight that attribution is not always desired or appropriate, should be understood as a spectrum, and is fundamentally social and dynamic rather than fixed. It also cautions against overly technical approaches, where detailed provenance tracking may become surveillant or misleading. The work emphasises that while attribution technologies are important, their design must account for broader social contexts.



Dr Chris Elsdon receiving a certificate of honourable mention for the paper.

[Read the paper here](#)

Our latest research

DECaDE researchers are publishing on topics related to decentralised platforms in fields such as creative industries and cross-border supply chain.

Behind the Design: A Q&A with Dr Evan Morgan



In our latest Q&A, we speak to [Dr Evan Morgan](#), Research Software Engineer at the Institute for Design Informatics (IDI) at the University of Edinburgh. He supports the DECaDE centre through creative design and application of data driven technologies. Evan shares his insights on how technologies developed through DECaDE, can explore how people interact with and emerging technologies and how they can impact on human behaviour.

"The rapid proliferation of generative AI content throughout the internet is by far the biggest issue for the digital economy right now, in my opinion. We're crossing a threshold where generative AI content is no-longer distinguishable from human generated content. I sometimes imagine historians in the year 3000 marking 2026 as the year after which source material could no-longer be considered reliable — the truthpocalypse!"

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THE CENTRE FOR THE DECENTRALISED DIGITAL ECONOMY



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