

Token Economics and Governance Making AI Accountable to Family and Community

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ARTICLE INFO

Published on 12th of June 2026.
Doi: <https://doi.org/10.54878/82j0yz49>

KEYWORDS:

Token Economics, Token Governance, AI Accountability, Shadow AI, Token Telemetry Protocol, AI Governance Framework, Family and AI, Zero Content Principle, Data Residency

HOW TO CITE:

MISHRA, V. (2026). Token Economics And Governance: Making AI Accountable to Family and Community. Proceedings of the 3rd International Dialogue of Civilizations & Tolerance Conference (IDCT 2026). Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
<https://doi.org/10.54878/82j0yz49>



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ABSTRACT

Generative AI is now the fastest-adopted consumer technology in history, yet no family, enterprise, or government audits the tokens that power it. This paper introduces the concept of Token Economics and Token Governance as a dual framework for AI accountability at every scale – from the household to the nation. It presents HIVE HQ, an open governance platform built on the Token Telemetry Protocol (TTP), which captures metadata-only telemetry from AI usage without ever reading prompt or completion content. The paper defines three foundational questions every civilization must answer: where tokens go, what they cost, and who controls them. It articulates a Zero Content Principle that enables visibility without surveillance, a schema-enforced governance block with frozen fields that refuse promises the system cannot keep, and a Shadow AI detection model that surfaces unsanctioned providers operating within homes and institutions. The framework is evaluated against the specific risks AI poses to family integrity – including child-AI emotional bonds, education outsourcing, and health data exposure – and to community trust, where civilizational dialogue requires transparency in AI governance posture. Four principles are proposed for governable AI: metadata only, frozen fields, declared residency, and visibility without surveillance. The paper argues that tokens are simultaneously economic units and governance decisions, and that making them visible is the precondition for accountability, tolerance, and informed dialogue in the age of AI.