

Unicorn

Considerable financial interests may depend on public lotteries (such as, for instance, seen on TV) but there is in general no reason why outcomes can be trusted. The unicorn random beacon solves this problem by allowing public participation in the drawing: even in the presence of any number of malicious participants – including the operator of the beacon – any honest participant can be fully confident of a fair outcome.

Participation requires two steps:

- submitting a random seed-value (at trx.epfl.ch/beacon or by sending a tweet with hashtag `#unicorn_beacon`), thereby influencing but not knowingly biasing the result;
- verifying proper operation of the beacon, rejecting the outcome if verification fails.