∞ Obol

Case Study

StakeCat

A Node Operator Forged by Squad Staking

20+
Simple DVT Clusters

30+
Home Machines

7
Members

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Having embraced DVs early on, we continue to support grassroots staking via Squad Staking. Originally from the solo staking community, we now run distributed validators for Lido and EtherFi, as well as actively validated services on EigenLayer (AVS).

Brian
STAKECAT

Forming a Squad, Embracing DVs

The original StakeCat members met in 2021 on Discord. Initially focused on early testnets, they quickly realised the important collaborative role that Distributed Validators (DVs) would play in staking protocols and the decentralisation of Ethereum. Committed to running hardware at home and seeing opportunities, they combined their skills, time, and money - buying used PCs, SSDs, and at-home switches.

Today, they continued to scale and improve their at-home infrastructure, and also operate dedicated servers to compete with professional node operators.

Obol

Becoming Squad Staking Masters

> With varying levels of solo staking experience, StakeCat's team members joined Obol's early testnets and became Obol Staking Masters - creating blogs, guides and dashboards for the DV staking community.

> Obol's Mainnet Beta phase required skin in the game, increasing StakeCat's level of collaboration as they set up the first 9-node DV cluster as a restaked EigenPod. This multi-continent, multi-client DV cluster earned them one of the first Obol Silver Techne Credentials.

> After supporting Lido during the SimpleDVT testnets, StakeCat was invited to join multiple SimpleDVT mainnet clusters, including a Super Cluster. Similarly, they run DVs in EtherFi's Operation Solo Staker.

> They continued to pioneer DVs, creating the first DV on Lido's new CSM, as operator #69, helping to provide user feedback and early documentation.

2021	2022	2023	2023-2024	2024	2024
Group Formation, Solo Staking Experience	Obol Testnets	Obol Mainnet Beta (Self-funded DV)	Lido SimpleDVT Testnets	Lido SimpleDVT Mainnet	EtherFi Operation Solo Staker

Next phase

Now running on many mainnet DV clusters, the team members have developed expertise in DV operations and are committed to developing StackCat into a key player in the professional node operator arena. Key focus areas are: running optimal node services from dedicated on-site infrastructure, running DVs to further the decentralisation of Ethereum, and continuing to advocate for DVs and Squad Staking via the Staking Mastery Program.