What is blockchain?

A blockchain is one type of distributed ledger technology (DLT). It is an encrypted, common ledger of transactions maintained by parties in a network. With no single central authority controlling the ledger, it is an extremely secure and transparent way to store information in an immutable and chronological record.

The OECD Blockchain Policy Centre

The OECD Blockchain Policy Centre is the global reference point for policy makers on blockchain and other distributed ledger technologies (DLT). It was created to support governments to address the challenges raised by DLT and their applications as well as to seize the opportunities it offers for achieving policy objectives. The Centre’s establishment in 2019 follows the success of the OECD’s inaugural Blockchain Policy Forum in 2018, and builds on more than 5 years of OECD research and analysis exploring this growing technology from the perspective of government.

With a cross-cutting perspective, the Centre considers the impact of DLT on issues as diverse as financial & capital markets, responsible business conduct, competition, infrastructure, public governance, agriculture, health and tax. As part of these efforts, the Centre’s work also considers DLT’s interface with other emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE OECD BLOCKCHAIN POLICY CENTRE

- **Policy research, guidance & standards**, focused on four priority areas:
  - Finance
  - Supply chain management
  - Public administration
  - Digital ID and data integrity

- **Capacity building**: training for OECD officials and member delegations, to better understand DLT, its implications, and whether it is the right tool to achieve their policy goals.

- **Convening** events to bring stakeholders together: including the annual OECD Blockchain Policy Forum, as well as workshops, hackathons and expert roundtables.

- **Connecting the dots**: promoting an open dialogue with a broad range of stakeholders, including international and regional organisations as well as academia, industry and civil society.

“*The technology most likely to change the enterprise and the global economy has arrived, and it’s not big data, the cloud, the social web, mobility or even artificial intelligence. It’s blockchain.*”

Don Tapscott
RESOURCES
OECD Blockchain Primer
ICOs for SME financing
Blockchain and beyond: encoding 21st century transport
The potential for blockchain technology in public equity markets in Asia
Blockchain and Competition policy
Blockchains Unchained: Blockchain technology and its use in the public sector

SAVE THE DATE!
2019 OECD Blockchain Policy Forum
12-13 Sept 2019 – Paris, France
www.oecd.org/daf/blockchain/

Blockchain use cases & pilots in the public sector


Caroline Malcolm
Head of the OECD Blockchain Policy Centre
(caroline.malcolm@oecd.org)

Greg Medcraft
Director of OECD Financial and Enterprise Affairs
(greg.medcraft@oecd.org)

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