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Blockchain Education Initiatives Launch at California Universities



William Foxley



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UPDATE (22, August 22:45 UTC): MouseBelt does not have any official connection with Oxford, Cambridge, or Harvard Universities as a previous version of this story indicated.

A VC-backed blockchain firm claiming to work with student-led blockchain clubs at Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge is officially rolling out its programs at three California universities.

[MouseBelt's](#) Blockchain Accelerator launched Wednesday at UC Davis, UC Los Angeles and UC Santa Barbara, boosting the educational presence at the noted U.S. schools. Backed by over \$40 million in funding from NueValue Capital, MouseBelt currently aids 65 student blockchain community groups at 14 universities worldwide.

The accelerator joins MouseBelt's advisory team and media groups Bitcoin Radio and MouseBelt University.

Bundled into two programs, MouseBelt will sponsor undergraduate to PhD level programs. The first fund will cover research across all three campuses, specifically for blockchain project development. MouseBelt has set aside \$500,000 in funding with up to five projects jockeying for \$100,000 in seed funding.

MouseBelt is also donating to the three universities engineering departments. The accelerator is hoping to co-op the donations for the development of a general fundraiser toward university selected research capped at \$500,000.

Speaking with CoinDesk, university outreach director Ashlie Meredith said the program is designed to fill a knowledge gap in the university level system. Most universities do not hold blockchain classes, leaving student organizations to fill the void.

A little over a year ago, these same student organizations became the basis for MouseBelt's current initiative.

Meredith said:

Bitcoin

BTC

\$
+0.49%**Ethereum**

ETH

+0.4%

Litecoin

LTC

+0.0%

XRP

XRP

-0.0478%

Bitcoin Cash

BCH

+5.00%

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"We aim to help these universities become a driving force for innovation in the blockchain space, as well as provide students and researchers with the opportunity for both theoretical and industry experience."

What's in it for MouseBelt? Meredith says it's not only about equity holds in successful projects, but a long term play on student development.

Blockchain courses in demand

Dr Mohammad Sadoghi, head of [ExpoLab](#) at UC Davis, who has been working with MouseBelt for the past year in various functions, says student demand for blockchain coursework is high. Sadoghi told CoinDesk his engineering blockchain classes max out at 65 students, forcing him to add a waitlist and cut students.

"What would it look like if a computation is democratic and decentralized?" Sadoghi asked in a conversation with CoinDesk. To him, blockchain technology is a paradigm shift in data storage and one requiring youthful creativity.

Running his own separate program at UC Davis, Sadoghi says undergraduates are currently forgotten in the space. Often, however, they hold the motivation and energy but merely lack the opportunity.

California flag via CoinDesk archives

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Education University Blockchain



New Blockchain Tool Promises Verifiable Audits in 30 Seconds



William Foxley

Nov 2, 2019 at 15:00 UTC

Accounting and business consulting firm Armanino [launched](#) a new blockchain-based tool Wednesday promising firm-originated financial audits in seconds. Called TrustExplorer 2.0, the product is one of several promising to overturn how accounting is done within companies.

Which is hardly surprising: by definition, “ledger technology” should improve accounting and provide a competitive threat to the way things are done today. Blockchain and accounting are made for one another, as much of the industry [acknowledges](#).

Aramamino’s TrustExplorer is an auditing protocol offering real-time, distributed, and final audits, according to Armanino partner Andries Verschelden. “We have this digital ledger that becomes the single point in truth capturing all these transactions,” Verschelden said in a phone interview:

“You open up the possibility of real-time audit and being able to provide transparency.”

Blockchain technology offers immutability (permanence) and accessibility (wide distribution of data-entry points). Armanino has been trialing its suite with accounting and finance firms over the last year, Verschelden said.

Armanino is one many projects in the accounting industry taking advantage of blockchain, including at big firms like [PwC and Deloitte](#). Blockchain technology can automate the capture of accounting data and verify its accuracy, reducing the risk of alteration or corruption. Deloitte said in a [2016 report](#):

“Since all entries are distributed and cryptographically sealed, falsifying or destroying them to conceal activity is practically impossible. It is similar to the transaction being verified by a notary – only in an electronic way.”

Verschelden said accountants have no need to fear for their jobs just yet. Instead blockchain will make their lives easier (in theory anyway). Instead of doing tedious handwork and number crunching – which often takes weeks to months – firms can get an expert view of their finances in seconds. For final audits, however, accountants will still come in to employ traditional methods for a more nuanced approach to risk management and financial inspections.

“Our industry is slow to embrace technology and has really looked at technology and blockchain as a threat than an opportunity,” Verschelden said. “[We asked] how did the blockchain change the audit process and how did it improve it?”

[Ledgers](#) image via Shutterstock

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TrustToken

Armanino



