

Exploring Blockchain Applications

Agenda

The Business Network Context

Sample application – Car Leasing

The Participants in a Blockchain Network

How Applications use the Blockchain Ledger

Operating Blockchain Networks

Security and Trust

Integrating Systems

Summary and Next Steps



The Business Network Context

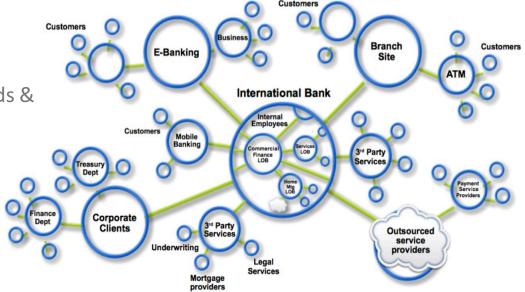
Business Networks, Assets, Ledgers, Participants, Transactions, Contracts

Business Networks, Markets & Wealth

- Business Networks benefit from connectivity
 - Connected customers, suppliers, banks, partners
 - Cross geography & regulatory boundary

Wealth is generated by the flow of goods & services across business network

- Markets are central to this process:
 - Public (fruit market, car auction), or
 - Private (supply chain financing, bonds)



Assets

- Anything that is capable of being owned or controlled to produce value, is an asset
- Two fundamental types of asset
 - Tangible, e.g. a house
 - Intangible e.g. a mortgage



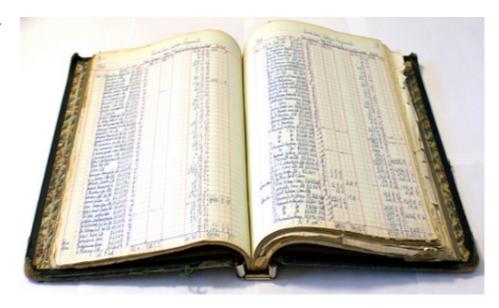
- Financial, e.g. bond
- Intellectual e.g. patents
- Digital e.g. music
- Cash is also an asset
 - Has property of anonymity





Ledgers are Important

- Ledger [1] is THE system of record for a business
 - records asset transfer between participants.
- Business will have multiple ledgers for multiple business networks in which they participate.



[1] The principal book (or computer file) for recording and totaling financial transactions by account type, with debits and credits in separate columns and a beginning monetary balance and ending monetary balance for each account.



Participants, Transactions & Contracts

- Participants members of a business network
 - Customer, Supplier, Government, Regulator
 - Usually resides in an organization
 - Has specific identities and roles



John gives a car to Anthony (simple)



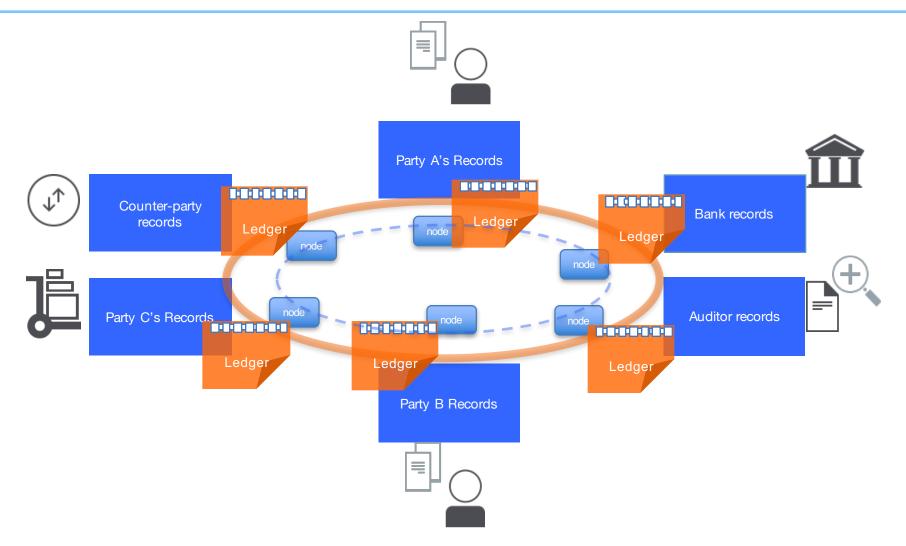
- Contract conditions for transaction to occur
 - If Anthony pays John money, then car passes from John to Anthony (simple)
 - If car won't start, funds do not pass to John (as decided by third party arbitrator) (more complex)







Blockchain – a shared, replicated, permissioned ledger



Smart contracts for trusted business processes

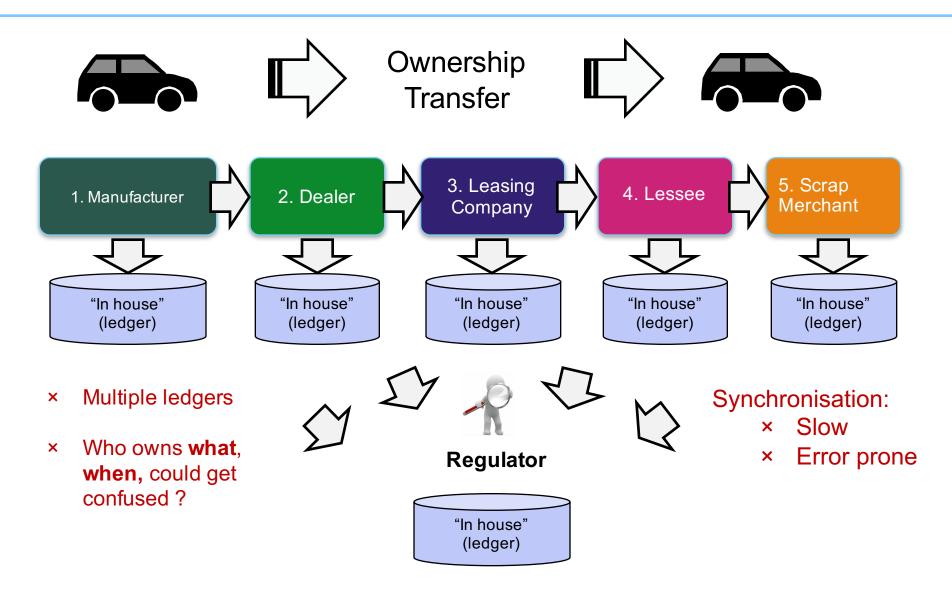
Consensus, provenance, immutability, finality



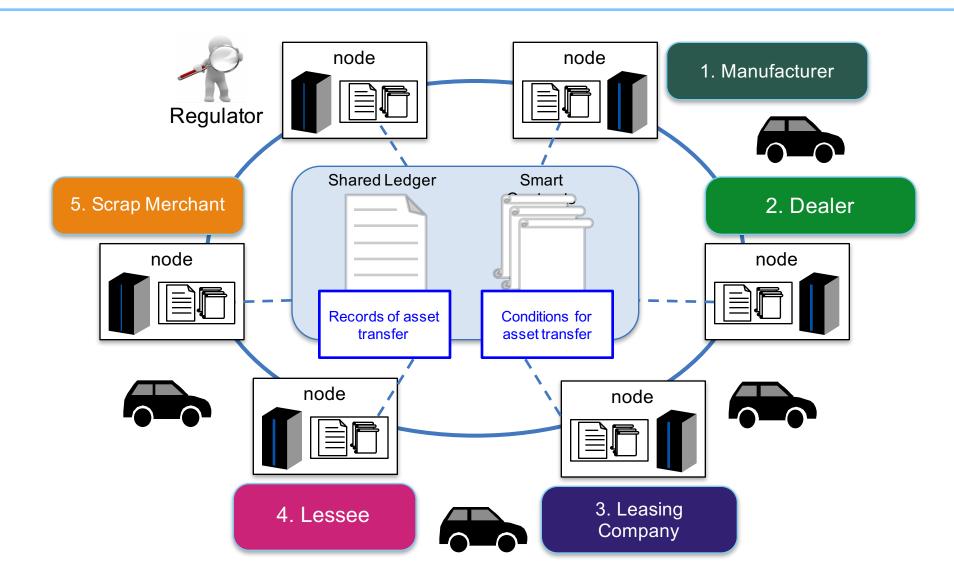
Sample Application

Car Leasing

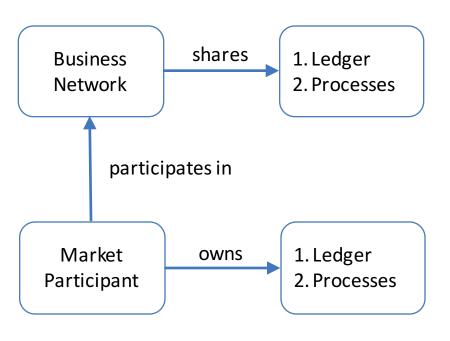
Car Leasing Business Network



Car Leasing Business Network with Blockchain



Blockchain – the Uberization of Ledgers



- A shared network ledger
 - Rather than a set of individual ledgers
 - From owned to shared
- Permissioned Access
 - Appropriate privacy
 - For transaction content and transaction ownership
- Smart Contracts
 - Elevate business processes to the network

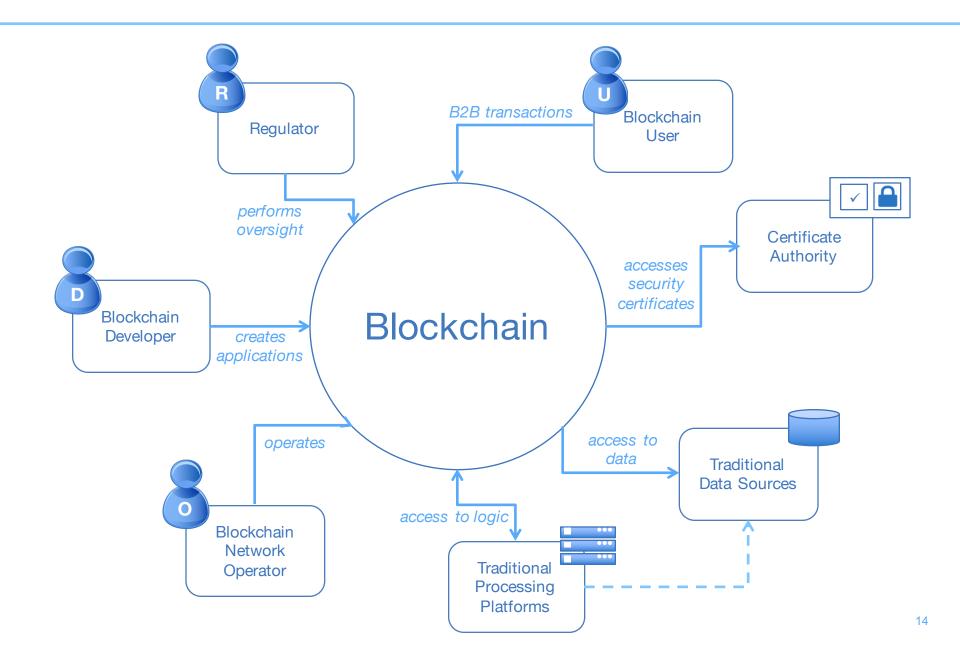
Increased Trust
Decreased Friction
Improved Discoverability
Business network processes



The Participants in a Blockchain Network

Systems Context

The Participants in a Blockchain Network



Blockchain Participants

Blockchain User



the business user, operating in a business network. This role interacts with the Blockchain using a LOB application. They are not aware of the Blockchain.

Blockchain Regulator



the overall authority in a business network. Specifically, regulators may require broad access to the ledger's contents.

Blockchain Developer



the developer of applications and smart contracts that interact with the Blockchain and are used by Blockchain users.

Blockchain Network Operator



defines, creates, manages and monitors the Blockchain network. Each business in the network has a Blockchain Network operator.

Certificate Authority



manages the different types of certificates required to run a permissioned Blockchain.

Traditional Processing Platform



an existing computer system which may be used by the Blockchain to augment processing. This system may also need to initiate requests into the Blockchain.

Traditional Data Sources



an existing data system which may provide data to influence the behaviour of smart contracts.



The Components in a Blockchain

Component Model

Blockchain Components



Ledger



contains the current world state of the ledger and a Blockchain of transaction invocations

Smart Contract



encapsulates business network transactions in code. transaction invocations result in gets and sets of ledger state

Consensus Network



a collection of network data and processing peers forming a Blockchain network. Responsible for maintaining a consistently replicated ledger

Membership



manages identity and transaction certificates, as well as other aspects of permissioned access

Events



creates notifications of significant operations on the Blockchain (e.g. a new block), as well as notifications related to smart contracts. Does not include event distribution.

Systems Management



provides the ability to create, change and monitor Blockchain components

Wallet



securely manages a user's security credentials

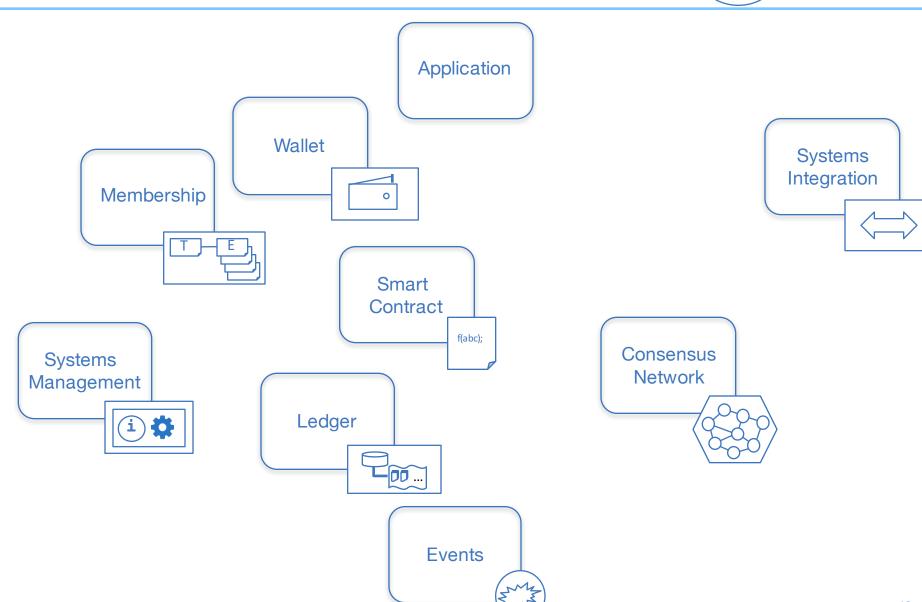
Systems Integration



responsible for integrating Blockchain bi-directionally with external systems. Not part of Blockchain, but used with it.

Blockchain Components



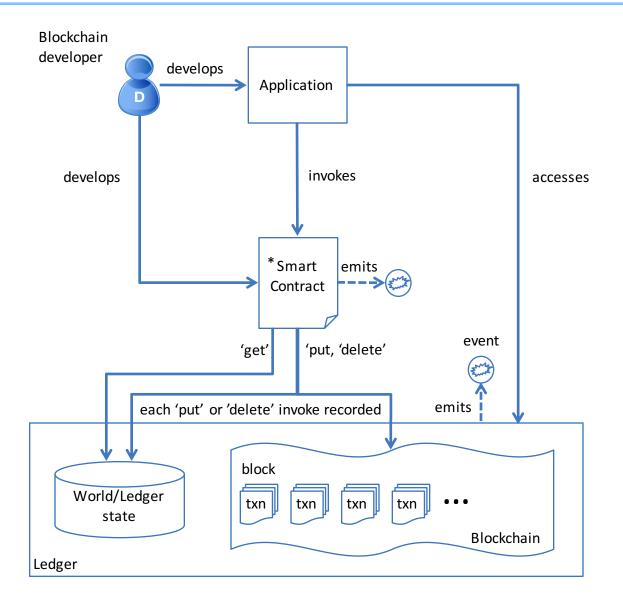




How Applications use the Ledger

The key elements of a Blockchain application

Blockchain Applications and the Ledger



^{*} Smart Contract implemented using chain code

Blockchain Applications

Application

- Focuses on Blockchain user business needs and experience
- Calls smart contract for interactions with ledger state
- Can access transaction ledger directly, if required
- Can process events if required

Smart Contract

- Chain code encapsulates business logic. Choice of implementation language
- Contract developer defines relevant interfaces (e.g. queryOwner, updateOwner ...)
- Different interfaces access ledger state accordingly consistent read and write provided
- Each invocation of a smart contract is a "Blockchain transaction"

Ledger

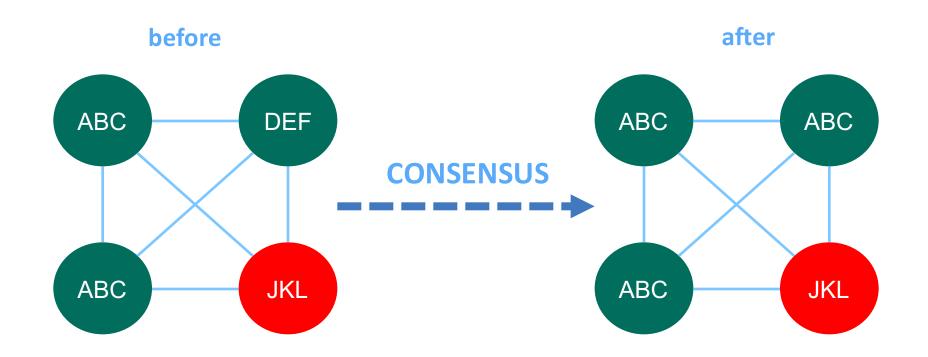
- World/Ledger state holds current value of smart contract data
 - e.g. vehicleOwner=Daisy
- Blockchain holds historic sequence of all chain code transactions
 - e.g. updateOwner(from=John, to=Anthony); updateOwner (from=Anthony, to=Daisy);...



Operating Blockchain Networks

Configuring for a replicated ledger

Maintaining a consistent ledger



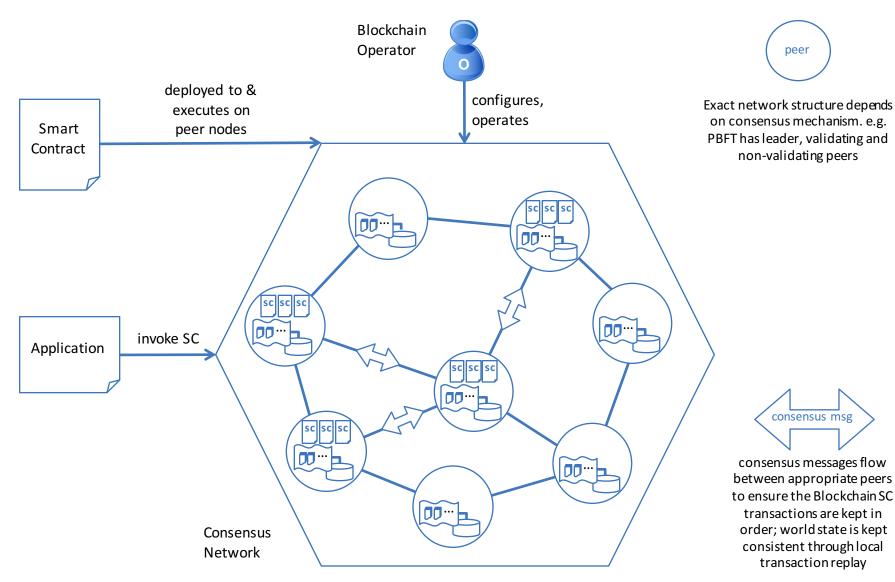
Keep all peers up-to-date

Fix any peers in error

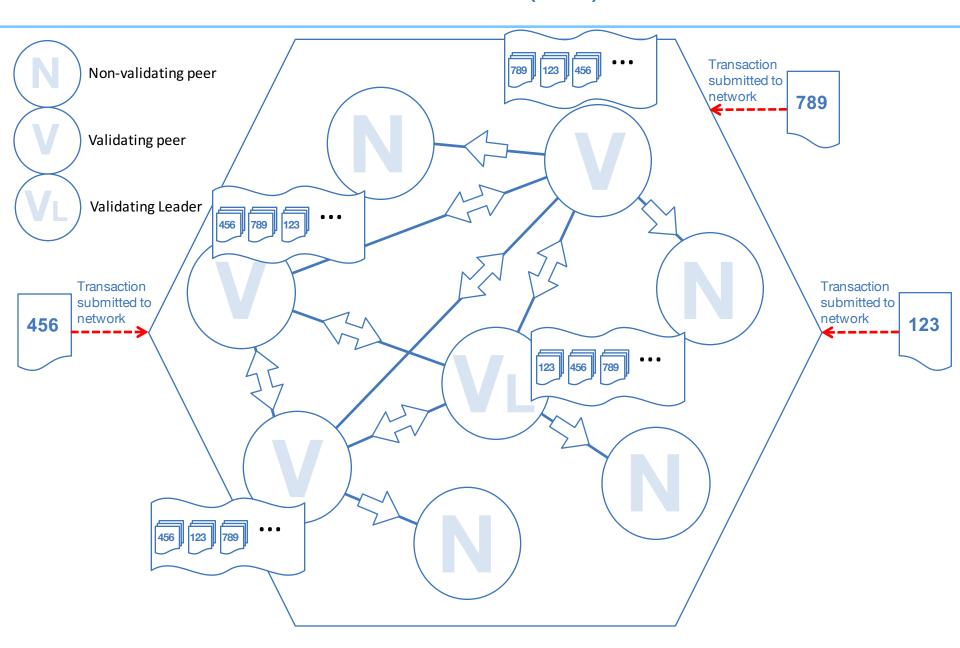
Quarantine all malicious nodes



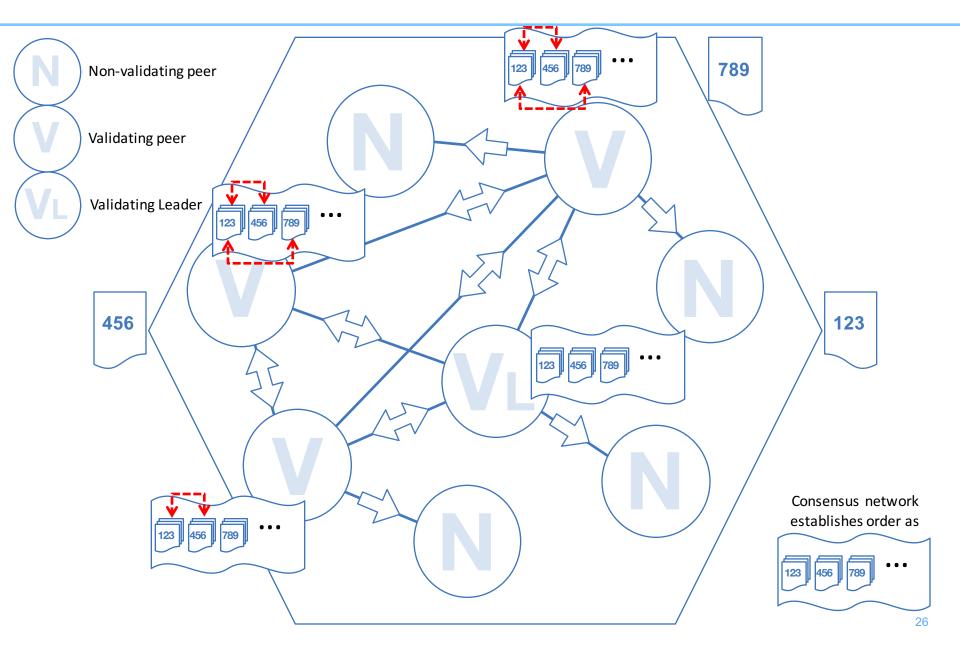
Consensus and the Blockchain Network



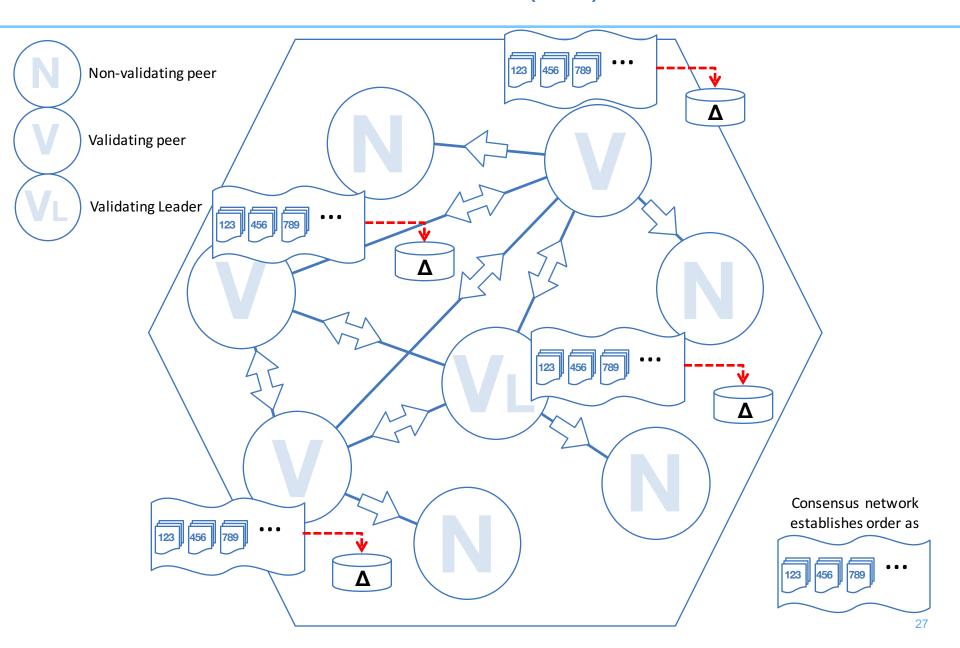
How a PBFT Network Works (1/4) – Submission



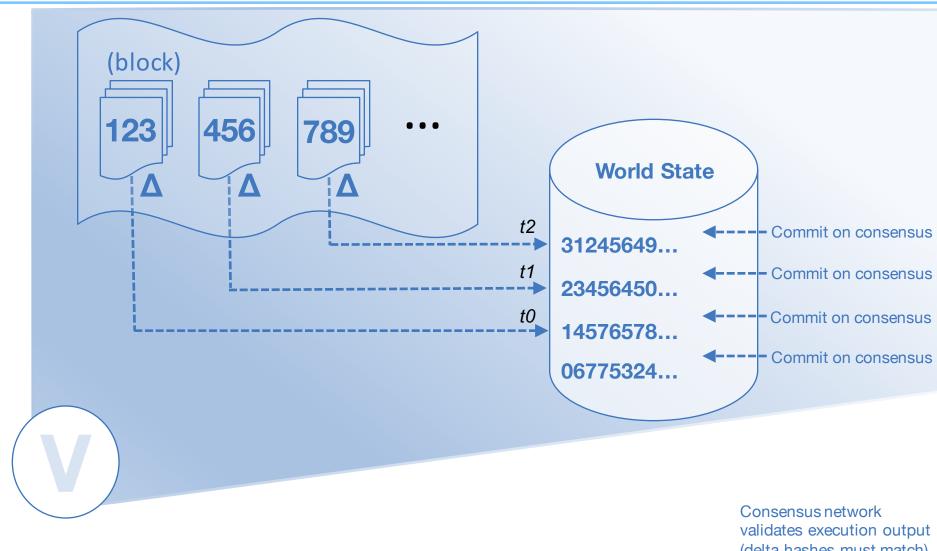
How a PBFT Network Works (2/4) – Ordering



How a PBFT Network Works (3/4) – Execution



How a PBFT Network Works (4/4) – Validation



Δ = Delta Hash

validates execution output (delta hashes must match). Changes merged on commit

Blockchain Networks

Blockchain Network

- Comprises a connected set of peer nodes, each owning a copy of the ledger
- Peers collaborate to maintain consistent replicated copies of the ledger
 - Different mechanisms for collaboration so-called "consensus protocols"
- Peers managed by key network participants

Consensus Protocol Options

- PBFT excellent first choice. NOOPs (No Operation) available for starter networks
- Other protocols can be added (non-trivial!)

PBFT Overview

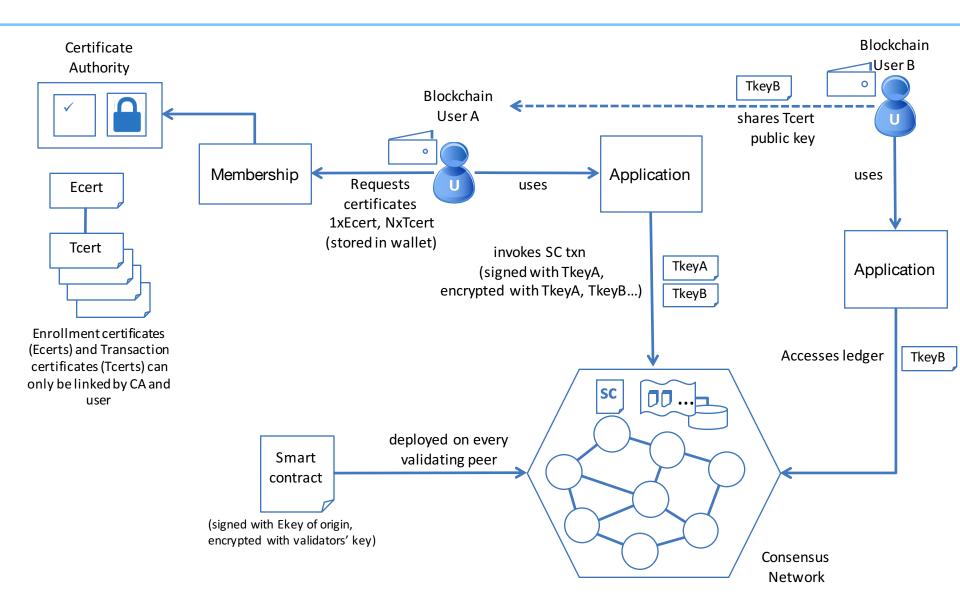
- Defines non-validating peers, validating peers, with 1-validating leader
- Leader receives transactions from connected applications
- Leader organizes and distributes transactions with validator network
 - Copes with erring and malicious validators at very low compute cost
- Each v-peer executes transactions to bring local ledger copy up-to-date
- nv-peers' ledgers maintained from connected v-peer's



Permissioned Ledger Access

Transaction and identity privacy

Permissioned Ledger Access



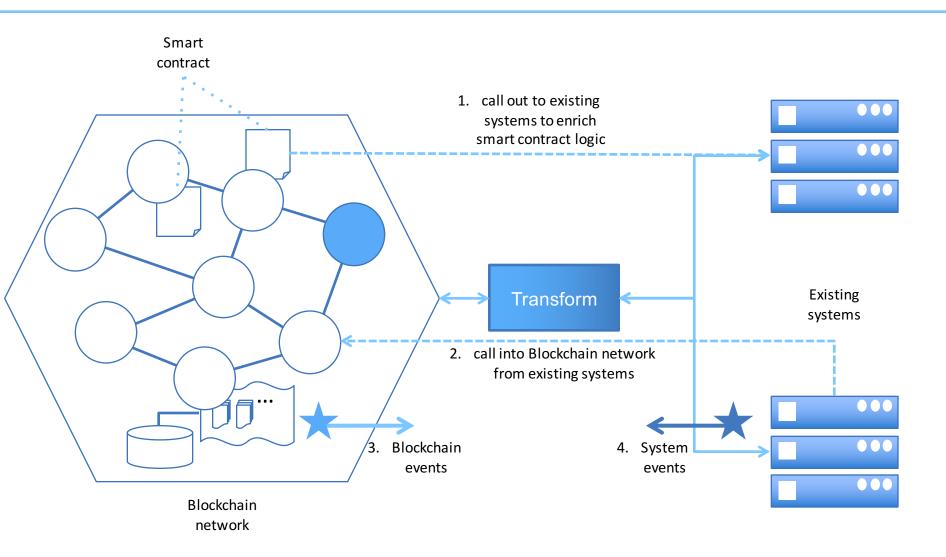
Transaction and Identity Privacy

- Transaction Certificates, Tcerts
 - Disposable certificates, typically used once, requested from Transaction CA
 - Tcert derived from long term identity Enrollment Certificate, Ecert
 - Only Transaction CA can link Ecert and Tcert
- Permissioned Interactions
 - Consumer shares public Tcert to provider
 - Provider invokes chain code transaction as usual, but
 - Signs with provider's private Tcert for authentication
 - Encrypts with provider and consumer Tcerts for subsequent access
 - Consumers can subsequently access ledger data using their private key
- Secure chain code
 - CC can also be signed and encrypted, to keep verify and secure contract details
 - Signing is by contract owner/author
 - Encryption ensures only validators can see and execute transaction chain code



Integrating with Existing Systems

Integrating with Existing Systems



Integrating with Existing systems

- Blockchain is network System of Record
- Smart contracts can call out to existing systems
 - Query is most likely interaction for smart decisions
 - e.g. all payments made before asset transfer?
 - Transactions execute on every peer in the Blockchain network
 - Care over predictability... transaction must provide same outputs each time it executes
- Two-way exchange
 - Events from Blockchain network create actions in existing systems
 - Cumulative actions in existing systems result in Blockchain interaction
- Transformation between Blockchain and existing systems' formats
 - GBO, ASBO is most likely approach
 - Standard approach will be for Gateway products to bridge these formats
 - Gateway connects to peer in Blockchain network and existing systems



Summary and Next Steps

For users

Summary and Next Steps

- We are at the beginning of the Blockchain journey!
- Apply shared ledgers and smart contracts to your Business Network
- Think about your participants, assets and business processes
- Spend time thinking about realistic business use cases
- Get some hands-on experience with the technology
- Do a First Project in 2016!
- IBM can help with your journey

Thank You!