Blockchain

What is it?

The blockchain is a technology with similarities to a database: it allows to store and access data on a computer support. Unlike a database, the data stored on a blockchain is unalterable: it can not be deleted or modified. Another difference: the blockchain is not controlled by a particular actor: everyone has a copy. This ensures transparency and inalterability, and eliminates the need for a trusted third party.

What business impact?

- Disintermediation. A blockchain guarantees the inalterability of registered transactions. For this reason, it can replace trusted third parties responsible for the notarization of acts: notaries, certification offices, chartered organizations, public regulators and official agencies. The guarantee provided by these organizations would now be provided by a blockchain.
- Re-intermediation. New players invent several blockchain variants ("distributed ledgers"), implement and manage them, and create related services (certification, audit, marketplaces, etc.)

Influencers to follow

Nadia Filali, Sajida Zouarhi, Luca Comparini, Xavier Lavayssiere, @leshackeuses

Companies to guide you

StratumnHQ, TheLedger.be, ChainAccelerator

3 use cases

Quantmetry uses the blockchain to ensure the transfer of assets (here, datasets) between stakeholders, without the need for trusted third parties.

bitcoin - This currency uses the blockchain to determine how new currency units are created, and to manage financial transactions. Bitcoin was created as the first use case of the blockchain in 2009.

BCDiploma: start-up developing a solution for the certification and authentification of diploma, across schools.

Traps to avoid

Always ask yourself these questions before embarking on a blockchain project:

- Does the project involve the need to do without a trusted third party?

- Would a "classic" database suffice?