
Block Conex

Entity: Name (or first name if applying as a natural person)

Block Conex

Entity: E-mail address

blockconex@gmail.com

Team member introductions

Block Conex is headed up by two of the leading VFX engineers globally. Together they have worked with the top entities within the VFX commercial/film space and are looking at utilising Factom for multiple solutions within the VFX industry. They are working with a leading Commercial Law Partner from Sheridans a UK law firm as well as working with the CEO of Joust.jobs who are developing a new freelancer recruitment platform utilising blockchain technology.

Introduce your Entity/Company

Block Conex was established in response to the multiple Blockchain solutions which the VFX industry can utilise. The company is established in the UK and will look to develop a lead within the UK VFX industry and deploy solutions globally. The team brings together multiple disciplines within the VFX industry and wider community, and works closely with multiple organisations across various industry sectors. The team has already secured Joust.jobs as an initial partner for the platform and will use this as a springboard to onboard a number of key anchor clients over the next 12-18 months. The team expects to grow through working with a number of partners, however, the team is also working on a number of its own solutions. Block Conex recognised from the start that operating within a legal "grey" area had its opportunities but also its risks. For this reason Block Conex has worked with Sheridans from day 1 to ensure it can maximise the opportunities both for itself and the wider community.

How many nodes do you envision to run on the Factom Community Testnet (or other testnets?)

2

What type of legal structure does your team use?

UK Limited Company

Will you operate as an incorporated company?

Yes

If yes to the above, where are you/will you incorporate? Are you already incorporated?

We will look to incorporate in the UK as a limited entity

Are there any major shareholders (>10%) other than the members in your application?

No

Do you and/or your team members have previous experience running a business or managing large capital? If so, make a short writeup of your experience below.

All team members have experience managing large capital intensive teams within the VFX and legal sector. Two team members currently manage multi-million pound tech capital budgets for leading VFX houses. One of the principal advisors has established and sold several successful businesses.

What has your team done to ensure a proactive approach to managing the financial aspects of your business?

We have adopted minimal expenditure at this stage. We have utilised special relationships within Amazon to obtain credits for the testnet stage and will look to deploy a favourable commercial solution with Amazon through our individual and industry connections. We are working with external partner companies who are developing solutions for the platform which will continue and will ensure we can minimise cost exposure.

Clarify your commitment to the Factom protocol? What have you brought to the table already, and what will you bring in the future?

We have been involved in the Factom community offering both technical guidance and access to specialist Amazon support where required to other Factom members. We have on-boarded one commercial entity who will utilise the Factom protocol for a large scale recruitment solution and we expect to onboard a number of other partners which will result in wider recognition and adoption of the protocol. We are working to establish a clear legal structure and we are happy to work closely with other members/ANO operators to ensure a clear legal operating structure.

What is your/your entity's motivation for applying for hosting Factom Authority servers?

It is in our team's DNA to seek out the newest technology within the VFX industry and through this we feel that the Factom protocol can play an integral part in solutions of the future. Through becoming an ANO we believe this will provide us with a platform for the UK's VFX industry to adopt and utilise solutions based on a trust and recognition of the team and company we will build.

What vision do you/your entity have of the future of Factom?

A widely adopted protocol which is recognised as providing a trusted and accessible platform. This can only occur when the protocol is utilised on mass and across multiple jurisdictions. We feel we have the unique skillset to help ensure this will happen with two of the team members having the authority and respect within the VFX industry to make this a reality.

What will your efficiency be with only one node?	0,40000000000000002
What will your efficiency be with two nodes?	0,5

Node #1 Type	Virtual Private Server (VPS)
<i>Node #1 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	AWS LHR - eu-west-2a (London)
<i>Node #1 CPU, Number of cores</i>	2
<i>Node #1 CPU, type & clock-speed</i>	2.5 GHz Intel Xeon Scalable processors
<i>Node #1 RAM, amount in GB</i>	8
<i>Node #1 RAM, scalable if < 24 GB</i>	Yes
<i>Node #1: Storage, RAID type</i>	AWS EBS backed storage - 99.999% availability & automatically replicated.

<i>Node #1: Storage, Disk type</i>	EBS GP2 (SSD)
<i>Node #1: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	Currently 50GB but infinitely scalable
<i>Node #1: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Shared with OS
<i>Node #1: Connection & uplink speed (not just your NIC speed)</i>	10 Gbit

<i>Node #2 Type</i>	Virtual Private Server (VPS)
<i>Node #2 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	AWS Portland Oregon - us.west-2b
<i>Node #2 CPU, Number of cores</i>	2
<i>Node #2 CPU, type & clock-speed</i>	2.5 GHz Intel Xeon Scalable processors
<i>Node #2 RAM, amount in GB</i>	8
<i>Node #2 RAM, scalable if < 24 GB</i>	Yes
<i>Node #2: Storage, RAID type</i>	EBS 99.999% availability and automatically replicated.
<i>Node #2: Storage, Disk type</i>	EBS GP2 (SSD)
<i>Node #2: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	Currently 50GB but Infinitely scalable
<i>Node #2: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Shared with OS
<i>Node #2: Connection & uplink speed (not just your NIC speed)</i>	10 Gbit

Add any other information relevant to server specifications and hosting, including planned availability of your maintenance team and how you would propose to handle an unscheduled restart.

We have a team based in Los Angeles and a team in London. If required we can draw upon additional technical resource in Chicago. This means we have "follow-the-sun" support with all members notified by Telegram if any instance failure event occurs. We are always available to move on updates and restarts.

Which date did you join the Factom community testnet (approximate date is ok)?

4/17/2018

How does your team administer the nodes (more options possible)?

By more than 1 team member

How many people in your team are able to operate the servers (including direct hired personnel, but excluding hired fallback companies)?

3

How many years of combined experience does your team have on running production servers?

50

Could you elaborate on the production servers your team has managed (amounts, OS-types, purpose)?

Collectively we currently manage 100+ production systems and services. These are largely linux based and have a wide variety of uses such as networking fundamentals (DNS, DHCP, NIS) to more sophisticated custom pipeline processing servers. We have monitoring and logging servers gathering metrics to give us realtime analysis of our infrastructure. We spin up render farms with thousands of instances daily for rendering VFX shots. Collectively we manage petabytes of live production storage (Isilon, BlueArc, GPFS, Weka.io). The availability of our systems has to be 100% as the stakes are so high for the businesses. We provision all systems to be redundant by default to help achieve 100% uptime and availability.

Have you run follower nodes outside the qualified-node pool on the testnet? If so to what effect? Other contributions to the testnet?

We have not had the need to do this.

Have you run any mainnet nodes? If yes, please elaborate why, and for how long

No

How are you going to make sure your nodes operate securely?

We limit access to our node to the three technical members of our team. We lock down all the ports that are not needed by Factom. We also run a Checkpoint nextgen firewall appliance to interrogate all traffic coming in/out of our network.

How are you going to make sure you are able to respond quickly?

As per previous response we operate a "follow-the-sun" team structure.

Could you provide a picture on how you would see your ideal auth node infrastructure?

We can provide an infrastructure diagram upon request.

Free-text. Add any additional information deemed relevant.

Add any application supporting files here