
Blockchain Education Initiative

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

Blockchain Education Initiative

Entity: E-mail address

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Team member introductions

We currently have seven members and three company advisors associated with the Blockchain Education Initiative project. Members are distributed across both US coasts, Cuba/Spain, and India. BEI team members include experienced sysadmins, blockchain evangelists, and blockchain developers, as well as CTO/Directors of Blockchain and IT services companies. BEI's breadth and diversity of experience and geography will be a capabilities multiplier for our company's mission. Please see BEI's submitted Factom M3 Node Application for team member introductions.

Introduce your Entity/Company

In brief, the Blockchain Education Initiative aims to educate commercial, civic, non-profit, and social organizations; advocate blockchain-leveraging solutions to improve processes; provide a full range of blockchain consulting services (via partner organizations); design, produce, provide, and support DLT-associated technical training and education programs at the youth, colligate, and professional level; and eventually provide blockchain-associated talent development and placement services via partnerships with technical talent recruiters. We intend to concentrate our activities in Latin America and South Asia. Please see BEI's submitted Factom M3 Node Application for details regarding our intend mission, functions, organization, and ANO business plan.

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?

LLC

Will you operate as an incorporated company?

Yes

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

We have an existing LLC in the US state of Nevada. If selected, we will amend our existing LLC and change its name to the Blockchain Education Initiative.

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.

Yes: Our team collectively has 30 years of experience running businesses of various sizes. All businesses previously or currently run are and were technical, either associated with IT services or specialty services such as blockchain.

Yes, our team has significant experience managing large amounts of capital: one member manages an operating budget up to \$300,000, multiple members have small blockchain services companies with annual revenues of \$300,000-\$500,000, and one team member co-founded and helps operate a mid-sized IT services company with revenues of ~\$15million.

Please see the submitted BEI Factom M3 ANO Application for additional information regarding BEI team experience.

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

To be proactive, our team has created a start up/contingency corporate account (~\$40,000) to handle initial capital requirements as well as to serve as an operational buffer against low FCT/USD rates.

We have conducted the initial steps to establish a corporate cryptocurrency exchange account to handle our FCT transactions. If selected we plan to operate multiple cryptocurrency exchange accounts to ensure we can reliably convert crypto to fiat and minimize our activities' impact on the general FCT market.

We've hired a CPA with significant US IRS experience to advise us as well as help manage our accounting/finances; additionally, we have held preliminary discussions with a payroll company for potential services.

We've created multiple iterations of financial planning spreadsheets to exam where and at what FCT price points the company will need to scale back or reduce services to ensure we are always able to maintain our core responsibly to the protocol of running stable and reliable Factom Mainnet nodes.

Lastly, we've identified software that we intend to subscribe to track and catalog all our Cryptocurrency transactions to facilitate accurate accounting and tax obligations. Multiple members on our team have experience in finance and accounting; we plan on leveraging our individual experience when possible and external expertise when necessary. Please see the submitted BEI Factom M3 ANO Application for additional information.

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 continuously run one to three Factom nodes on the Factom community Testnet since February 2018 and have been active participants in the Factom Community Slack, Discord, and Factomize community forums. We have purchased multiple domains and investigated several commercial contracts globally in support of becoming a Factom ANO. We have established a legal business entity, hired professional advisors, massed startup capital, established corporate bank and crypto exchange accounts, travelled to meet fellow DLT enthusiasts, sought and recruited top talent to form the BEI, and evangelized the Factom protocol to dozens of people in multiple countries. We have attracted accomplished and experienced business advisors and spent more than collectively 100 hours brainstorming how to best support the Factom protocol now and into the future and grow the Factom community. We have researched and conceptually built what we consider to be a robust server node architecture across multiple datacenters in multiple countries.

If selected, we will bring our server architecture online, begin initial ground work to design and build our products and services, initiate establishing multiple partnerships globally, and pursue the most effective opportunities available to evangelize the protocol and educate and train organizations to the possible benefits available with the Factom protocol. Please see the submitted BEI Factom M3 ANO Application for additional information.

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

The possibilities of blockchain to improve processes and aspects of our lives are plentiful, but in this early stage of the technology, it's not entirely clear what these impacts will be or how long it will be before they are here. We believe in the promises of blockchain and cryptocurrency. For the members of BEI, we are driven by the need to be a part of making sure people and organizations know what is possible through DLT and help them acquire the training, talent, and tools to make our world a better and more honest place.

In the crypto space, it's unclear who will be the winners and losers and ultimately which projects will survive or fade away. We are believers in Factom; believers in the Factom community, and that the Factom protocol has the potential to be a leader in delivering blockchain-associated benefits to the world. We want to be in a real position to evangelize the protocol, and educate and train people and organizations of what's possible with the technology.

We want the opportunity to grow the Factom community and directly contribute to help organizations and businesses create solutions that lead to greater use of the protocol in industry and our daily lives. Please see the submitted BEI Factom M3 ANO Application for additional information.

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

We see Factom metaphorically as a locomotive - as the Mainnet matures and Factom ANOs become fully operational, the protocol will slowly build speed and momentum; eventually the technology and momentum behind ANO projects and development, as well as the robust community in support of the protocol will be recognized by the greater blockchain and crypto space ecosystem for what it is - a robust protocol with the flexibility, speed, and use case versatility that will make it a top contender for commercial, civic, and social solutions. It won't happen overnight, but we believe the community is taking the right steps and led by the right people to make this described future an eventuality. Please see the submitted BEI Factom M3 ANO Application for additional information.

What will your efficiency be with only one node?	0,200000000000000001
What will your efficiency be with two nodes?	0,25

Node #1 Type	Virtual Private Server (VPS)
<i>Node #1 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	Milan, Italy; SeFlow S.N.C. (Europe) - SeFlow S.N.C. Datacenter, Milan, Italy
<i>Node #1 CPU, Number of cores</i>	8
<i>Node #1 CPU, type & clock-speed</i>	Intel XEON v6 processor, 3.5 Ghz
<i>Node #1 RAM, amount in GB</i>	32
<i>Node #1 RAM, scalable if < 24 GB</i>	Not applicable (>= 24 GB)
<i>Node #1: Storage, RAID type</i>	RAID 10
<i>Node #1: Storage, Disk type</i>	NVMe
<i>Node #1: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	400
<i>Node #1: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Separate volume(s)
<i>Node #1: Connection & uplink speed (not just your NIC speed)</i>	1 Gbit

Node #2 Type	Virtual Private Server (VPS)
<i>Node #2 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	Warsaw, Poland; SeFlow S.N.C. (Europe) - OVH Datacenter, Warsaw, Poland
<i>Node #2 CPU, Number of cores</i>	8
<i>Node #2 CPU, type & clock-speed</i>	Intel XEON v6 processor, 3.5 Ghz
<i>Node #2 RAM, amount in GB</i>	32
<i>Node #2 RAM, scalable if < 24 GB</i>	Not applicable (>= 24 GB)
<i>Node #2: Storage, RAID type</i>	RAID 10
<i>Node #2: Storage, Disk type</i>	NVMe
<i>Node #2: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	400
<i>Node #2: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Separate volume(s)
<i>Node #2: Connection & uplink speed (not just your NIC speed)</i>	1 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.

BEI will have two core experienced sysadmins, one supporting experienced sysadmin, and a third-party company that will provide contingency/backup sysadmin/server administration support. There is a 9 1/2 hour time zone difference between our sysadmins that should alleviate any unavailability issues, and in combination with our backup third-party company, no issue should go unaddressed for an unreasonable amount of time. Please see the BEI Factom M3 ANO application for additional details.

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

2/23/2018

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

By more than 1 team member, Fallback by a specialized company

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

5

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

55 years

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

We have collectively managed database servers (mssql, mysql), email servers (exchange 2003-2016), Active Directory, Web servers, application servers (Intuit, Sage, Dynamics, Shoretel), Access Control Servers (Entrapass), NAS servers, and hosted servers (AWS, Rackspace). Linux OS, MDM (Master Data Management) Systems, Hadoop Clusters, and Windows OS. We have experience with dedicated hardware with no as well as complete virtualization and VMware hosted or Hyper V hosts. For blockchain, our team has run Ethereum nodes, Factom Testnet nodes, and Deviantcoin (DEV) nodes.

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 run follower nodes outside the qualified- node pool - we currently run three Factom Testnet nodes (two authority nodes, one follower node).

[Have you run any mainnet nodes? If yes, please elaborate why, and for how long](#)

One Mainnet follower node was spun up and spun down as a POC with our backup 3rd-part sysadmin company.

[How are you going to make sure your nodes operate securely?](#)

Security will be one of our top priorities in administrating Factom Mainnet Nodes. We will follow all Factom Community security best practices, update security patches and factomd releases regularly and promptly, ensure maximum protection of our authority node private keys, and regularly monitor and audit our nodes for unusual activity and to monitor the status/security of our server ports. We will regulate who has the authorities to remotely access our nodes and have individual log ins for all authorized node sysadmins.

We selected the VPS provider and datacenters with security as weighted factor. In addition to the network security services our VPS providers supplies, we will purchase additional protections for each of our nodes that include additional bandwidth capacity to withstand DDOS attacks.

Also, by locating our node architecture across multiple datacenters, we naturally increase the physical and virtual security of our nodes. Please see the BEI Factom M3 ANO application for additional details.

[How are you going to make sure you are able to respond quickly?](#)

Our sysadmins will have the ability to monitor discord for any community announcement that will require immediate actions. Additionally, we will run (node) server monitoring software to monitor the health and status of our servers that will alert (SMS, text, email, call) our team members and 3rd party backup sysadmin company in the event of a problem requiring immediate attention. We also intend to use some of the community-produced applications to monitor our Factom node software for stalls and other issues. Please see the BEI Factom M3 ANO application for additional details.

[Could you provide a picture on how you would see your ideal auth node infrastructure?](#)

Please see the BEI Factom M3 ANO application for a conceptual picture of our planned node (server) infrastructure.

[Free-text. Add any additional information deemed relevant.](#)

We are excited and honored to be considered for the opportunity to work on behalf of the great Factom community for the advancement of the protocol and to reinforce the integrity of the Factom node network.

[Add any application supporting files here](#)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-We4OXoeJP4jGuZdzjLdwLOZgVvjbR3H>,
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1nPgOuqNJpyZvvJ4ld0B-Wm09OiSGiDAU>,
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BUMIfEmr4Q17wvJeqwCvOucDXWPVqWvd>,
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1MqRPi2X7Y2RygieGNucGKqHPPzReURiB>