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*Veteran Blockchain Investment Firm*

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

Veteran Blockchain Investment Firm

Entity: E-mail address

nolan@vbif.io

Team member introductions

Kyle: founded and currently operates as CEO and private wealth advisor of Silver Bulldog Investment Group, headquartered in Seattle, Washington. The fund specializes in precious metals, uranium and the rare earth metals space as well as the emerging blockchain economy. Prior to that, Kyle was trained by the USAF as a Special Operations pilot and been the Director of Operations for one of the pre-eminent military detachments in the nation. He has deployed overseas nine times to Iraq and Afghanistan. He graduated from Central Washington University in 2002 with degrees in both Aeronautical Science and Economics.

Nolan: Starting as an avionics maintainer on USAF fighter aircraft and subsequently trained as a Special Operations pilot, Nolan has a robust background in technology, acquisitions, and operations that he brings to the Veteran team. Prior to founding Veteran, Nolan spent over two years overseeing the modernization of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance systems and domestic responder requirements for the National Guard.

Stan: Stan has over 25 years of experience in operations management. His most recent position was as the chief operations officer responsible for the organizing, training, and equipping of a 300+ person organization responsible with executing critical missions in support of the National Military Strategy. A native West Virginian, Stan will engage with the WVU Foundation to advance the Factom Protocol while engaging with local, state, and federal government entities to provide solutions to their requirements.

James: As the senior System Admin, James brings over 15 years of system admin experience to the Veteran team. He began his career working with a major casino in the Palm Desert. After a relocation, James was hired to manage the information technology department for a municipality in California. He brings to the Veteran team experience in law enforcement evidence chain management, water and energy distribution, and agriculture supply chain. James is experienced in Windows and Linux production systems.

Bradley: As the junior System admin and Security/Compliance Officer, Bradley brings extensive knowledge of the Department of Defense Information Network (DOD/IN) to the Veteran team. A member of the AF Cyber career field, Bradley will be responsible for securing the Veteran public and private Factom networks and testing the systems for threats and vulnerabilities.

Introduce your Entity/Company

Veteran seeks to invest in the top entrepreneurs, developers and leaders fostering innovation and providing real-world applications and solutions in the emergent blockchain economy. Our mission is to act as a catalyst for widespread blockchain adoption and innovation in disrupting and replacing the unsustainable legacy economy.

Within the next several years, we envision blockchain and digital currencies having an established and innovative role in the new economy. The Veteran team is experienced in traditional finance and blockchain technologies; having strong relationships with the most promising entrepreneurs and top investors in the space. Veteran is committed to serving as a pillar of integrity in which we seek to assist in returning our world to one of honesty and transparency.

Veteran will provide the Factom protocol an avenue to the largest on demand client in the entire world; the U.S. Government. As active holders of security clearances, we have access to and regularly interact with executive level leaders within multiple agencies across the government spectrum. Our West Virginia office allows us a strategic geographic advantage in being in close proximity to the National Capital Region. Our team has multiple habitual relationships with the FBI, DEA, NSA, DHS, DOD, and a few lesser known institutions. These relationships and the trust that has been earned for over a decade are the vehicle for allowing Factom Inc. and the protocol access and visibility that will drive institutional usage. Our firm intends to leverage our position to educate the U.S. Government on the value the Factom protocol can provide, while providing tailored solutions to meet their needs. WHEN Veteran achieves our mission, we will have effectively connected the protocol to the largest global on demand customer.

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?

If it is advantageous for us as a firm and concurrent with the protocol to incorporate, we will incorporate. Until then we will continue to operate as an LLC and take advice from Gordon Law in Chicago until deemed necessary to reevaluate.

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

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. Kyle is CEO of Silver Bulldog Investment Group, having founded and running a private equity firm that specializes in physical precious metals, uranium, rare earth minerals as well as the junior gold and silver development and exploration companies.

Nolan has experience managing multi-million acquisition projects for the U.S. Government, possesses DAWIA Program Management Level 1 certification and is trained as a Contract Officer Representative. His most recent position involved validating, executing & managing \$115M+ Air National Guard field requirements while assisting in the administration of \$11B US domestic response & weapons requirements with Air Staff, AFLCMCs, ANGRC, and Nat'l agencies field requirements.

Stan has over 25 years of experience in operations management. His most recent position was as the chief operations officer responsible for the organizing, training, and equipping of a 300+ person organization responsible with executing critical missions in support of the National Military Strategy.

[What has your team done to ensure a proactive approach to managing the financial aspects of your business?](#)

Our firm has actively prepared for the financial aspects of being selected to operate multiple nodes as a part of the Factom community by the following:

- Established a robust and well-funded ""FCT bank"" in which we can self-fund, direct, and appoint talented personnel immediately to further the protocol.
- Established a direct working relationship with Gordon Law in Chicago which we now have on retainer in order to advise us on matters directly relating to private equity specific to Fintech, regulatory compliance specific to the CLOUD act as well as our business modeling for the Factom protocol and its tax implications.
- Our firm possesses a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and System for Award Management (SAM) account in preparation for U.S. Government grant and contract award.
- Short-term (next 12 months) and long-term (5 years) financial business modeling to scale both single and multiple (up to 6 nodes) have been formed and our firms private equity is able to scale aggressively, on notice and up to and including a level commensurate with a domestic data center.

[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 extremely hard at work every single day focusing on the Factom protocol. We have been early supporters and participants within the Factom community, to include selection to participate during the establishment of testnet. We have been operating and maintaining nodes within the testnet authority set for going on six months now. During this time, we have also provided the majority of load on the testnet to both stress test and provide a realistic view of widespread network usage. We have shown that we have both the technical capabilities and the drive and motivation to operate multiple servers with precision, reliability and stability. We have wholeheartedly given all of our time and effort as a firm to this protocol and project, to include running unsuccessfully for an open community Guide position. This is not a hobby for us, this is our full-time profession. In our firm; we take honesty, trust and integrity and hold it in the highest regard.

We have a handful of future plans for the protocol. Firstly, we intend to open the protocol to the largest on-demand customer in the world, the U.S. Government. We will accomplish this through building and maintaining a Factom GovCloud network, providing BaaS to the USG on FEDRAMP compliant network systems. We will be proposing a community grant establishing the initial infrastructure and software necessary to meet these goals. Secondly, we have established a relationship with West Virginia University to donate all efficiency of our second node to the WVU Foundation to advance blockchain curriculum and to produce Factom-experienced workforce. This partnership will go above that of the Dash/ASU endowment, being the largest blockchain funded university partnership ever. The partnership will advance the protocol for decades, establishing opportunities to identify and test development of the protocol for the future. Lastly, we have identified a handful of potential Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer grants we are soliciting to advance the development of the Factom Protocol while commercializing the technology.

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

Truth is Subversive" -Paul Snow

In short; every single pillar of society to include commerce, capital and the institutional framework that we have grown accustomed to is corrupted. We at Veteran wholeheartedly believe that Factom and its protocol has the potential to return us to a more sustainable, honest, transparent and accountable future. In our hearts, we want to be a part of the solution; not the problem.

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

Our vision for the Factom protocol is for it to develop, catalyze, and envelop every single layer and level of private commerce as well as sovereign governments. The members of the Veteran team possess active Single Scope Background Investigations that provide our members opportunities to engage with government agencies concerned with protecting and securing the most sensitive information. In addition to providing a medium for commercial entities to participate in the Factom protocol, our intention is to engage with government entities to find solutions to their needs and requirements. We picture ourselves as the U.S. Government development branch of the Factom community. We intend to leverage our experience and access to increase awareness and generate usage by identifying and providing solutions to the largest on-demand customer available, the U.S. Government.

<b>What will your efficiency be with only one node?</b>	<b>0,5</b>
<b>What will your efficiency be with two nodes?</b>	<b>0,5</b>

<b>Node #1 Type</b>	<b>Virtual Private Server (VPS)</b>
<i>Node #1 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	AWS us-east-1b (or open zone in east-1 region)
<i>Node #1 CPU, Number of cores</i>	8
<i>Node #1 CPU, type &amp; clock-speed</i>	Intel Xeon® E5-2686 v4 - 2.3 GHz
<i>Node #1 RAM, amount in GB</i>	32
<i>Node #1 RAM, scalable if &lt; 24 GB</i>	Not applicable (>= 24 GB)
<i>Node #1: Storage, RAID type</i>	None
<i>Node #1: Storage, Disk type</i>	SSD
<i>Node #1: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	100
<i>Node #1: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Separate disk(s)
<i>Node #1: Connection &amp; uplink speed (not just your NIC speed)</i>	1 Gbit

<b>Node #2 Type</b>	<b>Virtual Private Server (VPS)</b>
<i>Node #2 Location (VPS: Provider, Region // Other: Country, City, Datacenter)</i>	AWS us-east-2b (or open zone in east-2 region)
<i>Node #2 CPU, Number of cores</i>	8
<i>Node #2 CPU, type &amp; clock-speed</i>	Intel Xeon® E5-2686 v4 - 2.3 GHz
<i>Node #2 RAM, amount in GB</i>	32
<i>Node #2 RAM, scalable if &lt; 24 GB</i>	Not applicable (>= 24 GB)
<i>Node #2: Storage, RAID type</i>	None
<i>Node #2: Storage, Disk type</i>	SSD
<i>Node #2: Storage, Free Size in GB for Factom</i>	100
<i>Node #2: Storage, Do you have a separate factom volume/disks?</i>	Separate disk(s)
<i>Node #2: Connection &amp; 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.

There are six separate data centers (zones) available within the AWS us-east-1 region. We will deploy our primary node within one of the free zones in this region. Our plan for the secondary node will be to transition hosting eventually to the West Virginia University to operate and manage utilizing their own infrastructure. In the interim, we are evaluating the feasibility of deploying our secondary node on the AWS GovCloud infrastructure. If it is determined that the limitations in place will be problematic, we will deploy our secondary node in the AWS us-east-2 region.

Unscheduled restarts will be handled in a timely manner. We will always have a team member available within one hour to troubleshoot and restart our nodes. Our members regularly monitor and participate in Discord and Factomize and have measures in place to notify should an issue arise. Nolan is located in Eastern timezone (UTC -04:00/05:00) and James is located in Pacific timezone (UTC -07:00/08:00). Between the two of them, they will maintain coverage and response capability. As a testament to our availability, we were notified and monitored the situation throughout the latest mainnet stall.

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

2/7/2018

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?

15

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

Besides successfully running Factom testnet nodes for the previous five months, our team has experience in Windows and Linux based production servers. During James' early career was a member of the System Admin team responsible for the information architecture for a casino in the Palm Desert. He now manages the IT department for a municipality within California. He utilizes and manages both Windows and Linux systems. Nolan has a little over four years of windows and linux server management experience maintaining a home media and VPN server. Although trained in cyber operations, Bradley is new to system administration and learning the intricacies of running Factom nodes. We expect him to become proficient in Factom node management under the Leadership of Nolan and James. Through the WVU endowment and military ties, Veteran is positioning themselves to be able to bring on interns and additional personnel to support the node operations as the protocol scales. Every member of our team is a shareholder and dedicated to the successful implementation of our Authority Node Operator status.

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

Yes. We've run testnet nodes since Alpha, being the primary provider of load to the testnet until M3. Additionally, Nolan assisted with onboarding new members during the Alpha and Beta stage of the testnet. Nolan was also part of and remains an active contributor in the #support channel assisting others with their node setups. We will continue to deploy nodes on the testnet and contribute where possible.

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

Yes, approximately 1 month prior to testnet implementation. Terminated mainnet node to focus on testnet and to learn how to interact with the protocol.

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

We will take a multi-faceted approach to securing our nodes. Our nodes will all operate within a security group that provides an initial layer of defense. Guard nodes upon deployment will provide a secondary layer of defense. Each node will use iptables to close off unused ports and we will remove daemons and services that are not in use. Additionally, we have brought on a DODIN trained administrator to provide threat testing and monitoring of our systems. His primary role will be in securing the GovCloud network, but will be utilized to provide input to our public authority nodes.

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

Our team has demonstrated the ability to respond rapidly to updates and restarts on the testnet. Our Authority nodes will utilize the AWS EC2 cloudwatch and Simple Notification Service to notify personnel of potential issues. Additionally, we are currently utilizing a combination of the TFA Bot connected to Discord, Telegram, and are working on a couple of Twilio applications that will notify our team of issues. We maintain a 24/7 emergency on-call capability outside of the normal hours our team spends online.

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

We will plan to operate our servers utilizing a minimum of three guard nodes configured to protect the authority node. Behind the guard nodes, we will maintain an active authority node and a backup capable of being swapped out. We will also operate a handful of instances in standby that can be shuffled around as needed to minimize downtime (to include daily synchs to maintain block height). As we scale, we will develop a plan that meets best practices of the Factom Community in securing the authority set.

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

We have structured our company to operate solely on a single node and will be prepared to relinquish the node when appropriate. For all intents and purposes, we will operate our second node the same as our first with one major difference, our plan for efficiency will be to allocate any grant pool share into the West Virginia University Foundation. We are finalizing the legal aspect of this proposal and are extremely excited about the future outcome. The balance of FCT will be the WVU Foundation's to sell on market/redistribute as they wish, however the proceeds of the FCT will be re-invested into the WVU curriculum with a focus on blockchain technology and Factom Protocol development. In time, the second node will provide an opportunity for students to understand and interact with the protocol while providing inputs to improve processes and implementation. When the decision to relinquish the node to another operator comes, we will evaluate our financial position and expect to be able to continue the WVU Foundation endowment and would encourage other operators to contribute.

[Add any application supporting files here](#)

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CUWn71Ytv1qna4ot2M5eANLlwU\\_JxcrE](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CUWn71Ytv1qna4ot2M5eANLlwU_JxcrE),  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1A2vkMjwyQJ4VaW1kF3jaKmc6h7Z\\_t8eC](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1A2vkMjwyQJ4VaW1kF3jaKmc6h7Z_t8eC)