**Getting Started With Blockchain and Hyperledger Fabric**

Blockchain already earned the buzz word of the year award. So, it’s high time to address the elephant in the room. What the hell is Blockchain?

It is the technology behind the cryptocurrency – Bitcoin. Some believe it will be more trans-formative than any other technology. So, how could we explain this fundamental but really complex technology? Well, imagine your grand mom knitting a scarf. She uses one ball of yarn and each stitch depends on the one before it. It’s impossible to remove or change parts of it without leaving a trace. The Blockchain is something similar but in the digital sphere. It is a system of complex code for building trust without any middleman. It is to be imagined as a shared book of records and designed in such a smart way that what ever is added to this database cannot be changed because any change becomes immediately evident. And there is no central authority to decide what’s right or wrong. The participants need to signify the acceptance of shared consensus.

Let’s get technical – Blockchain is a distributed ledger, which simply means the ledger is spread across the network among all peers in the network, and each peer holds a copy of the entire ledger.

Consider a Google Spreadsheet or MS Excel (Windows). This spreadsheet is shared among different networks of computer, where everyone has a copy of it. The spreadsheet contains information of the transactions committed by real people. Anyone can access that spreadsheet but no one can edit it.

*This is Blockchain*

It works with blocks, where as spreadsheet works with rows and columns. A block in a Blockchain is a collection of data. The data is added to the block in Blockchain by connecting with other blocks in chronological orders creating a chain of blocks linked together. The first block in the Blockchain is called the Genesis block.