

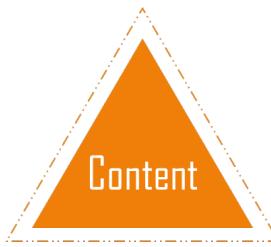
# THEMIS

**From decentralized digital  
currency**

**to decentralized digital  
commerce**

**Whitepaper**

<https://themis.network>



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# 1. Overview

Blockchain-based digital currencies are playing a radical importance in today's trading activities. As a result, a variety of digital currency exchanges were founded and their transaction scales are exploding. At the same time with the rise of a tokenized economy, more and more countries such as Japan, Germany, or Australia, are accepting cryptocurrency payments. There is huge potential that the market will continue to expand globally and accept the commercialization of digital currency.

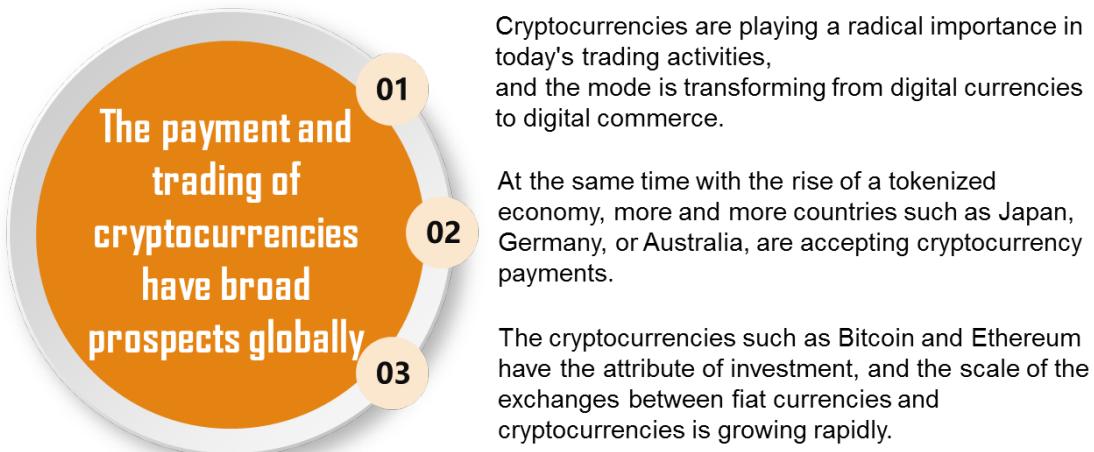


Figure1.1 Trend of cryptocurrencies

Currently, most digital currency exchanges and peer-to-peer transaction providers focus on ensuring the security of transactions but pay little attention to fairness. For example, HTLC (Hashed Time-lock Contract), a widely-used atomic exchange technology, is vulnerable to denial of service (DoS) attacks. Attackers may launch DoS attacks in the period of time-lock to make the counterparty unable to get refunded in a specific time.



Figure1.2 Requirements Analysis

Meanwhile, during the process of trading between the digital currency and the goods, buyers prefer paying to the seller after the goods are received, whereas the seller has an opposite preference in mind. This situation makes the transaction and delivery unable to be met at the same precise time, it can be persistent to achieve atomic exchange with the guaranteed fairness. A common solution is resorting to a trusted third-party to achieve fairness, however, this solution is not entirely satisfactory due to previous failures. There have been several Bitcoin exchanges and online markets (such as Mt.Gox, Coincheck) attacked by hackers. For decades, fair exchange protocols have been extensively studied. However, the recent emergence of blockchain takes fair exchange protocols to a renaissance.



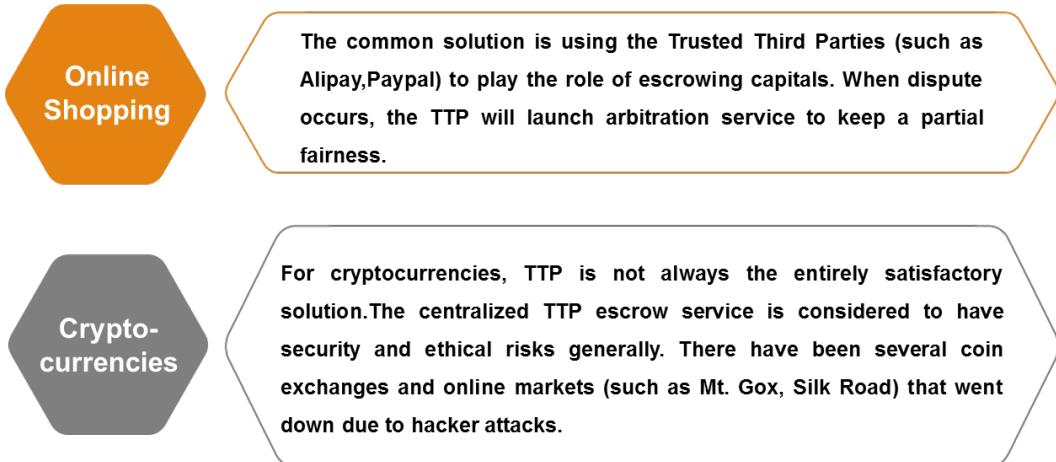


Figure 1.3 Trusted Third Parties

We developed Themis<sup>1</sup>, a fair exchange system for digital currencies. Based on blockchain technology, Themis provides a decentralized digital currency escrow service to provide fair exchange services among digital currencies, digital assets, and physical goods. Themis leverages a novel group escrow protocol, along with threshold encryption, anonymous reputation mechanisms, non-interactive zero-knowledge proof, high performance digital signature algorithms, in order to provide atomic exchange with guaranteed fairness. Also, Themis is able to mitigate DoS attacks, and provide privacy for all peers.

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<sup>1</sup> Themis is the most respected and trusted wife of Zeus's. As the goddess of law and justice, she is the creator and guardian of order.

## 2. Fair Exchange in Digital Commerce

Fairly exchanging digital content is an everyday problem. A fair exchange scenario commonly involves actors Alice and Bob. Alice has something that Bob wants, and Bob has something that Alice wants. A fair exchange protocol guarantees that at the end either one of them obtains what (s)he wants, or neither of them does. In digital commerce, it is a requirement to include fair exchange since one or both of the parties are using digital currencies as subject matter. For example, transactions between different digital currencies, or transactions between digital currencies and physical goods.

### 2.1 Transactions Between Different Digital Currencies

Traditionally, transactions between digital currencies are executed on cryptocurrency exchanges. Exchanges achieve this by creating internal accounts, which are also called IOU (I Owe You) accounts. In this mode, it's easy to achieve high transaction speeds, However with the following issues; security, lack of liquidity, time lag of transactions. Regarding the transaction time lag, transaction results aren't submitted on the blockchain in a timely manner, and result in not being cashed immediately.

The model of decentralised exchanges was built to address the issues of centralised exchanges. Most of decentralized exchanges are based on the Multi-Signature Scheme or Hashed Time-lock Contract (HTLC) to ensure atomic transactions. However, Multi-Signature Schemes depends on the Trusted Third Party(TTP) which

is vulnerable to collision attacks and DoS attacks. For the HTLC scheme, attackers may launch DoS attacks which could result in users unable to make refunds in a given moment.

## 2.2 Transactions Between Digital Currency and Physical Goods

Current centralized coin exchanges and decentralized coin exchanges are focusing on transactions between digital currencies, but paying little attention to satisfy the requirements of fair exchanges between digital currencies and physical goods.

During the transaction between digital currencies and physical goods, it's hard to achieve transaction and delivery at the same time, thus the fairness of atomic exchanges face a challenge: a buyer doesn't want to pay without assurance that the seller will ship the purchased goods, while a seller doesn't want to ship without assurance of that payment. Traditionally, a trusted third party is required for hosting transaction funds and arbitration, and during the period between transaction and delivery, the third-party needs to host buyers' transaction funds to satisfy fairness. One common solution of third-party payment is using the 2-of-3 multi-signature. In this scheme, each buyer, seller and third-party holds a private key. A buyer sends his money to a multi-signature address, so only the party that has 2 private keys of these 3 can unlock the address and get the money. If things go well, the buyer will send his private key to seller, and seller will get the money. If any dispute arises, the third-party will mediate, resolve the dispute, and send his key to the winning party to finish the payment (or refund). There are two advantages of this escrow protocol. Firstly, If there is no dispute, buyers and sellers can close the transaction without the consent of the third party.. Secondly, the third-party can't take the hosted funds because the third-party only has his own key, the hosted funds can only be taken with at least 2 keys of the 3 parties. But this protocol

faces two critical problems. Firstly, collusion attacks. The hosting party can easily contact the specific buyer or seller for collusion unless the escrow protocol is meticulously designed. Secondly, DoS attacks. Even though the third-parties can't take the hosted funds, they can also refuse arbitrating disputes, and lock the hosted funds.

## 2.3 Design Objectives of Themis

Themis is a decentralized system which provides third-party escrow services and dispute resolution services to bring fairness to exchanges in which one or both parties are using digital currencies as subject matter. Technically, Themis should satisfy following requirements.

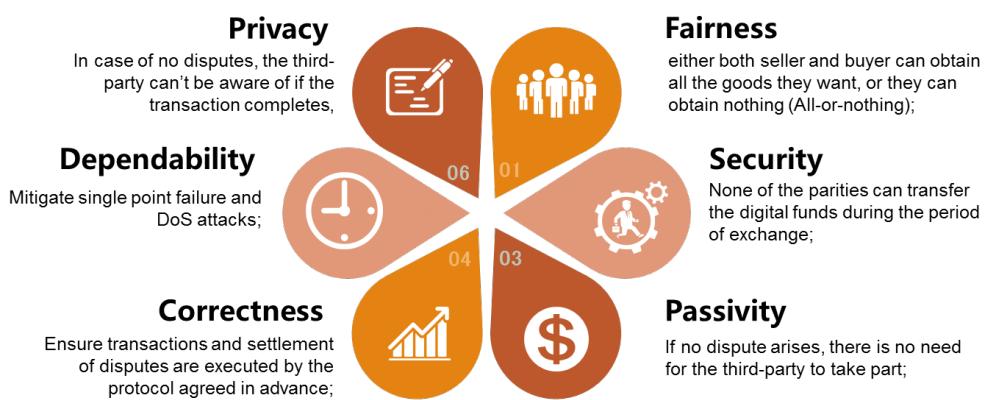


Figure2.1 Objectives of Themis

**Fairness:** After exchange, either both seller and buyer can obtain all the goods (digital currencies, digital assets, physical goods) they want, or they can obtain nothing (All-or-nothing);

**Security:** None of the parities can transfer the digital funds during the period of exchange;

**Passivity:** If no dispute arises, there is no need for the third-party to take part;

**Correctness:** Ensure transactions and settlement of disputes are executed by the protocol agreed in advance;

**Dependability:** Mitigate single point failure and DoS attacks;

**Privacy:** In case of no disputes, the third-party can't be aware of if the transaction completes, and only related parties can be aware of if disputes arise.



## 3. Architecture of Themis

### 3.1 Themis Blockchain

The Themis blockchain (aka. Themischain) is designed to provide a third-party escrow service (like the role that Alipay plays in online shopping). Themischain issues a token named Global Escrow Token (GET). Themischain motivates the blockchain peers by using an incentive mechanism which takes both deposit and reputation into consideration. Peers who take active part in escrow and arbitration will obtain a reward. When people use escrow services and arbitration services provided by Themischain peers, they pay GETs to the peers. And, if Themischain peers participate in arbitration, they earn GETs as well. Themis makes peer-to-peer fair exchange happen not only among digital currencies but also between digital assets and physical assets by escrow contract and arbitration contract.

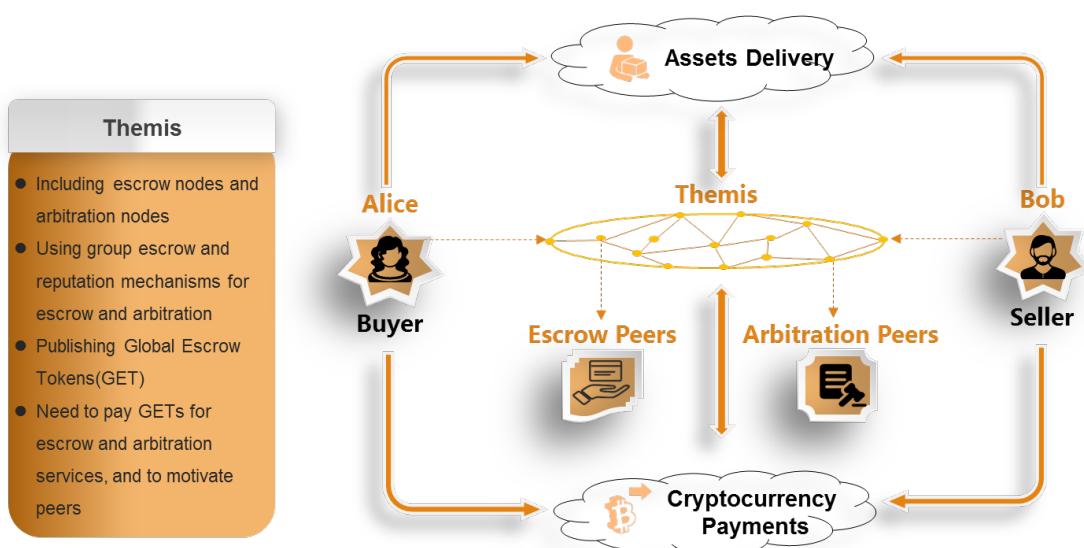


Figure3.1 Architecture of Themis

**DPoSR Consensus.** We improve the current DPoS (Delegated Proof-of-Stake) algorithm, and present a new consensus algorithm namely DPoSR (Deposit based Proof of Stake and Reputation). In DPoSR, we consider two key factors:the reputation of dispute settling peers;and deposit of peers. if a peer wants to act as a delegate, he must pay some deposit in advance, and the probability of being a delegate depends on its deposit and reputation.

**Deposit Mechanism.** If one node wants to be a delegate, he or she must pay some deposit in advance. If this node acts maliciously, the deposit will be confiscated by Themischain. A delegate will get rewarded for keeping the system running normally, that means he or she can share the transaction fee with other delegates. This forms a positive incentive to the mediator, encourages it to behave well to keep the system running securely. As the blocks are signed by delegates in turn, if one delegate misses the signature by being offline, it will face the risk of being replaced by others. This encourages delegates to ensure they have enough online time for profits.

**Mediators Motivation Mechanism.** If nodes provide the secret shares correctly, they will get rewards according to the deposit they paid in; Or if they are offline or lost the secret shares, they won't take part in the arbitration of transactions, and won't get any reward. If they provide manipulated or wrong information of secret shares, they will lose their position of mediator. Thus, this mechanism will motivate peers providing correct secret shares, keeping online and storing their shares securely.

**Reputation Management Mechanism.** On one hand, nodes in Themischain participate in dispute resolution, and give some arbitration suggestions. On the other hand, they give anonymous comments to the solutions other users gave for disputes

continuously. Here on, we will create a practical anonymous reputation mechanism, and it can update the value of reputation among users rapidly and privately. The reputation system will collect each user's feedback of arbitration suggestion correctly, and update the reputation value rapidly. And the value affects the possibility of being a delegate, that means if you have a higher level of reputation value, you are more likely to become a delegate.

**Common nodes motivation mechanism.** Only the nodes that have enough benefits in Themis can have the opportunity to be the mediators, and the other nodes are named common nodes. Common nodes can't participate in the process of escrow, however, they can transfer their benefits to the trusted mediators, and the trusted nodes will verify the fee they will earn from transaction, and pay back to the common nodes by quota. If the mediators got punished, the common nodes related to them will bear the loss too. This mechanism ensures that all the owners of benefits on the Themis chain have the opportunity to receive rewards, and that motivates common nodes entrust their benefits to trusted mediators, and this way, we can improve the stability and security of Themis.

## 3.2 Group Escrow Service Protocol

In the protocol, Alice and Bob generate a 2-of-2 shared threshold address as their escrow account address, Alice has her private key  $x_A$ , Bob has his private key  $x_B$ , and according to the Thresh-Key-Gen protocol<sup>2</sup>, both parties learn  $y_A = g^{x_A}$  and  $y_B = g^{x_B}$  and the shared public key is:  $y = g^{x_A+x_B}$ . Only if Alice or Bob has both  $x_A$  and  $x_B$ , he can unlock the public account.

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<sup>2</sup> Gennaro, R., Goldfeder, S., Narayanan, A.: Threshold-optimal dsa/ecdsa signatures and an application to bitcoin wallet security, In: Applied Cryptography and Network Security 2016, pp.156-174.



Alice and Bob send escrow request on blockchain, and then they accept response from several (odd) mediators. Then Alice and Bob interact with mediators, and create a Shamir-secret sharing<sup>3</sup>  $P_i$  of  $x_A$  and  $x_B$ . If there are  $n = 2t + 1$  mediators,  $t + 1$  secret shares of mediators is sufficient to recover the secret of  $x_A$  and  $x_B$ .

Using each mediator's public key, Alice and Bob encrypt  $x_A$  or  $x_B$ , and send the generated  $c_i = E_{M_i}(P_i)$  to that mediator and gives all of these ciphertexts  $\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$  to the other party.

During above procedures, in order to prevent fraud behavior, we use Feldman VSS<sup>4</sup> scheme as well as zero-knowledge proof to ensure the truth of the shares Alice sent to Bob, that means these shares are truly generated by Shamir-secret sharing protocol: when Alice gives Bob the ciphertext  $c_i = E_{M_i}(P_i)$ , Alice additionally includes a Feldman VSS value  $w_i = g^{P_i}$  as well as a zero-knowledge proof of consistency between these two values. Thus, Bob then can verify that  $w_i$  is indeed a Shamir secret-share of  $x_A$ , and same to Alice.

Now, Alice or Bob can transfer his digital currencies to the hosted address, and if there is dispute, buyer will send his key to seller, and seller can get the hosted fund with these two keys.

And if disputes occur, mediators will activate arbitration service. The winning party will transfer all the secret shares he got from the other party to each mediator, and if more than half of all the mediators work, we can recover the losing party's key, and send it to the winning party. And then the winning party will have two keys to unlock the fund in hosted address.

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<sup>3</sup> Shamir A. How to share a secret. Communications of the ACM, 1979, 24(11): 612-613.

<sup>4</sup> Feldman, P.: A practical scheme for non-interactive verifiable secret sharing. In: 28th Annual Symposium on Foundations of Computer Science, 1987, pp. 427-438.

### 3.3 Disputes Settlement

If disputes occur, both Alice and Bob refuse to send their private key to each other, and each party can apply disputes settlement on Themis. When disputes happen, according to the settlement rules agreed in advance, Themis will launch the process of arbitration. If arbitration is launched, dealers need to pay for arbitration fee, and in order to reduce the cost of fair exchange to the lowest, this process only be launched when disputes appear. Generally, we classify the settlements in two classes: first one is to generate the arbitration result automatically by Smart Contract; the second one is arbitrators vote for the arbitration result. In the first way, the Smart Contract will call Oracle Services automatically to obtain external inputs, and run a Smart Contract code to generate the arbitration result. In the second way, we introduce a crowdsourced arbitration service based on reputation score.

**Crowdsourced Arbitration.** The crowdsourced arbitration service of Themis is based on reputation score. We help both sellers and buyers to choose reliable arbitrators by grading anonymous arbitrators, and arbitrators can get rewards from blockchain. Meanwhile, Themis uses an opening censorship to assess arbitrators' reputation. The judgement of arbitrators will be submitted to Distributed Ledger for audit after anonymous processed. In Themis, we list the information of dispute settlements including contract subjects, cases, judgements, reason for judgements by blockchain distributed ledger technology, and other users can rate the arbitrators' judgements. Then the arbitrators can get reputation scores according to their judgement rate. Any behavior of abusing power of arbitration will be reflected in

reputation scores, and users with lower scores will have lower possibility of being arbitrator.

**Reputation Management Mechanism.** The reputation system of Themis will provide other users' feedbacks of arbitration results reliably, rather than surrender personal information of users or rating details, and ensure reputation scores can't be changed maliciously. Currently, common reputation systems normally rely on feedback from other users to assess the quality of information, and motivate positive behaviors by updating reputation scores via algorithm. However, this data will link reputation scores to users' long-term identities. This identity linkage enables user tracking and appears at odds with anonymity principle. We will create a practical anonymous reputation system which can update reputation scores among a huge crowd of users rapidly, and whilst keeping privacy. That means the reputation scheme of Themis doesn't need to link reputation scores to users' long-term identities.

**Oracle Services.** Oracle is a necessary mechanism when discussing and auditing the materials of transactions. The essence of Oracle is the information publishing of the real events in the real world. The data and materials required in arbitration must be determined by Oracle. These Oracle Services offer a series of AP., Themis determines the arbitration result and the following procedures by calling Oracle API. Oracle could be centralized(as Reality Keys), and it also could be decentralized (as Oracle Chain).

## 3.4 Strategy of Election

**Election of Depositary.** In the DPoS consensus mechanism, If one node wants to have the right to be the depositary, he must pay some deposit in advance on Themis. If this node has malicious behavior, the deposit will be confiscated by Themis system. Nodes

can vote for some other node as its depositary, and the Themis system will select the nodes with more votes by computing the shares of these nodes have in the whole system as depositaries. These nodes will take charge of generating blocks by the turn agreed in advance.

**Selection of Mediators.** According to the escrow requests users sent, Themis system will use consistent hashing algorithm to select an odd number of nodes( $2f + 1$ ) as mediators.

**Selection of Arbitrators.** Themis system will use the weighted random algorithm according to the reputation scores of nodes to compute an odd number ( $2f + 1$ ) of nodes as arbitrators.

### 3.5 Security Design

Our scheme might face three kinds of attacking threats. One is the DoS attack, that means the third-party denies settling any disputes and makes hosted funds locked. Another is the collusion attack from mediators and arbitrators, if the arbitrator tells both Alice and Bob they win the arbitration, and then both parties will send their secret shares to the mediators, and the mediators can recover 2 private keys to get the hosted funds. The last threat is the collusion attack of DPoS, there is a threat of DPoS itself that it might be attacked by partners. To avoid the first kind of attack, Themis uses the theory of incentives to increase the opportunity cost of DoS attack and it can lead mediators to be honest and civilized by the motivation of market, and makes the system complete escrow and arbitration objectively.

The motivation mechanism of Themis means to encourage mediators providing more effective services, and all the mediators with good behaviors will get their reputation scores risen, besides,

they can get the token of Themis(GET). Otherwise, the mediators with bad behaviors will not only lose their reputation scores, but also the deposit they mortgaged to the system. This mechanism increases the cost of evil greatly, and mediators won't break the ecosystem for benefits, and in this way, Themis can avoid most attacks from malicious mediators.

We classified mediators into 3 groups, trusted committee mediators, certificated agency mediators and common mediators. The trusted committee mediators are reliable no-downtime mediators maintained by trusted organizations, and these mediators can guarantee the arbitration be executed even after DoS attacks. And the certificated agency mediators need to transfer deposit to Themis system in advance, and if they did any malicious behavior, the deposit will be confiscated, in this way, we can avoid them from doing malicious behaviors. To avoid the second kind of attack, we upgrade 2-of-2 shared address to 3-of-3 shared address, and the third key  $x_c$  will be kept by both Alice and Bob but never disclose to the third-party. Therefore, even though the mediators might launch attacks, they will only obtain  $x_A$  and  $x_B$ , and they still can't take the hosted funds. For the third kind of attack, as the more users use Themis to host funds and arbitrate disputes, the more value Themis will have, and the less economically viable it is for mediators to act maliciously., the whole net will be more and more secure, and then that will attract more and more users to Themis services. This can be a beneficial circle loop to make Themis nodes grow, and to make Themis more powerful.

## 3.6 Typical Workflow

Using the example Alice pays Bitcoin to Bob for a toy giraffe, the following is the process of fair exchanging via Themis.



**Agreement before transaction:**

Alice and Bob consult a Bitcoin escrow address;

Alice and Bob apply an escrow request on Themis, including disputes settlement (Smart Contract), service charge, arbitration bonus and so on;

Themis runs escrow smart contract, and responds the list of mediators to Alice and Bob;

Alice and Bob send secret shares to each mediator separately;

Alice and Bob send secret shares to each other.

**Funds hosting and goods delivery:**

Alice transfer her Bitcoins to the escrow address, and then, neither Alice, Bob nor the third-party could take the funds;

Bob posts the toy to Alice; Alice receives the toy, and after checking, starts the confirmation of goods, and sends her private key to Bob;

When Bob gets Alice's key, he can transfer the Bitcoins from escrow address to his own address;

The smart contract on Themis calculates and distributes service charge to mediators.



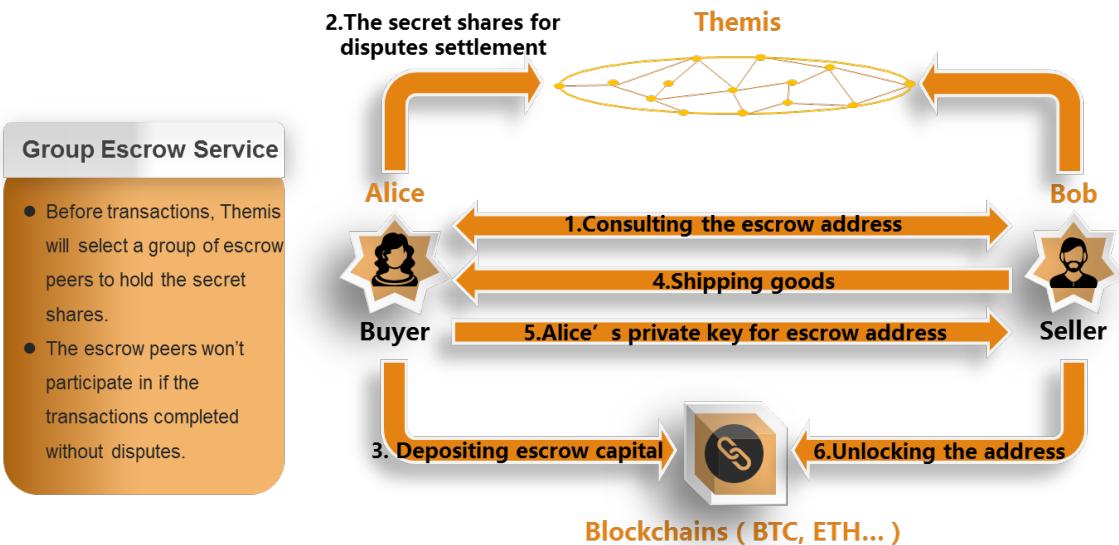


Figure 3.2 Funds hosting and goods delivery

## Disputes Settlement:

Alice and Bob launch arbitration request on Themis;

The arbitrators will form arbitration result according to the agreement made before transaction(Suppose Alice wins, Bob loses);

Alice send the secret shares of Bob to mediators;

The mediators recover the key of Bob via shares and send back to Alice;

Alice can transfer Bitcoins from escrow address to her own address by these two keys;

The smart contract on Themis calculates and distributes bonus for arbitrators;

The smart contract on Themis calculates and distributes service charge for mediators.

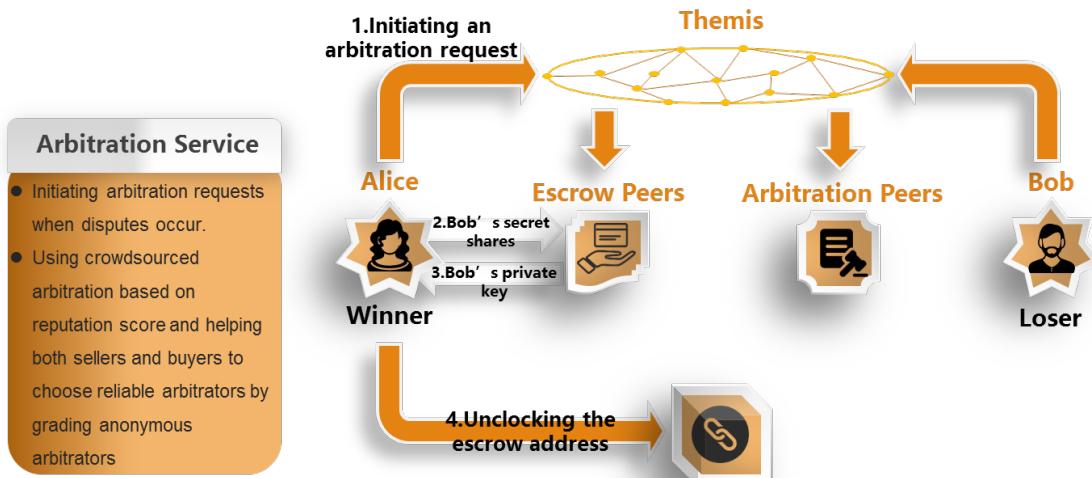


Figure 3.3 Disputes Settlement

### 3.7 Themis Wallet

Themis provides a hierarchical wallet based on a new generation of cryptology, named Themis Wallet, it can provide a kind of high-efficiency, low-storage-usage of private keys and address management service for users, and it can also achieve the interaction with Themis blockchains automatically, and make it easier for users to use Themis services.

In some typical scenes of Themis, users need to receive payments from other users frequently. For example, the e-shops using Themis to handle their digital currency transactions, they need to receive the payments from users of every transaction, and to ensure privacy, they need to generate addresses for each transaction, and they have to store and manage these addresses and related private keys. And as it's a linear dependence between the number of transactions and the number of addresses and keys, it will be quite a cost for wallet system to storage and management so many addresses and keys when the number of transactions is large.

Normally, when wallets generating new addresses, we need to save corresponding keys to key-storage area, and it could be a huge security risk for visiting the key-storage area. To avoid visiting this area frequently, current wallets usually generate a mass of keys each time, and save these keys into key-storage area each time in order to reduce the frequency of visit. For example, the Bitcoin Wallet, in the default setting, it can generate 100 keys and addresses each time, and users can use the way of storing keys in an offline storage (such like flash disk, mobile HHD, or just print them on papers) to store them offline. And the addresses generated will be stored in the wallet client online. When the addresses used up, the wallet will generate a mass of keys and addresses again, and visit the offline storage to store keys. This method can reduce the frequency of visiting key-storage area in some degree, but it has no idea of reducing the cost of storage and management.

Themis wallet is a hierarchical wallet based on a new generation of cryptology, and it has following improvements:

1. API of Themis blockchain is supported, it can achieve the interaction with Themis blockchain automatically, and make it easier for users to use Themis services.
2. It can generate any number of addresses for users. And meanwhile, it only needs one space of key for offline storage. Users can use current offline storage schemes easily, such as paper-wallet (print keys on papers in the form of QR code), or they can store the keys in hardware USB Key (the private keys of cryptographic currencies are usually standard Elliptic Curve keys, so we can store the keys of this scheme in every equipment that supports Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm)
3. There is no need for users to visit key-storage area during the payment. That means keys can be absolutely stored offline in this scheme.

4. The space of public key factor matrix for users is invariable, it won't grow with the number of addresses.
5. It will be easier for users to manage their addresses. The addresses are generated by some payment information, and this information doesn't need to be stored.



## 4. Key Technologies

### 4.1 Fair Exchange via Group Escrow

The problem of fair exchange is how two mutually distrusting parties can jointly exchange digital commodities such that both parties receive the other party's input or neither do. Indeed, fair exchange is a special case of fair two-party computation in which two parties wish to jointly perform a function over private inputs such that either both parties receive the output or neither does (All-or-nothing) .

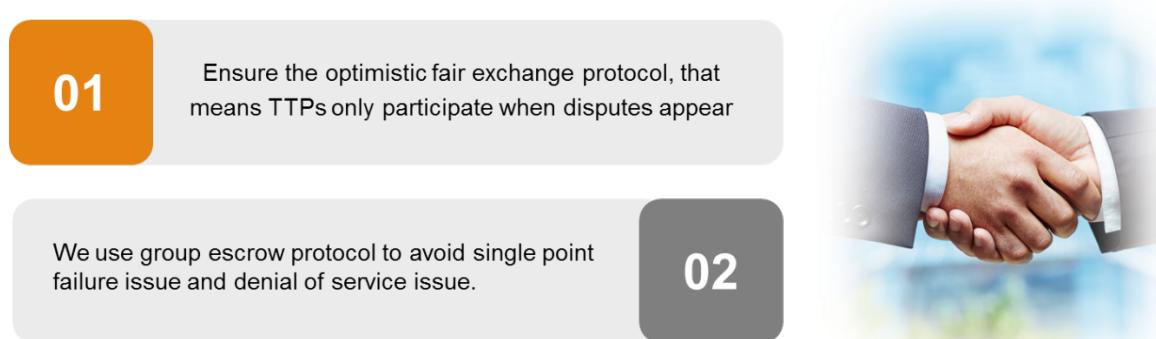


Figure 4.1 Fair Exchange via Group Escrow

Below is an informal description of fair exchange:

If there are two parties, A and B, each of them has an electron exchanging term  $i_X$  and its description  $d_X$ , in this situation,  $X=A$  or  $X=B$ .

If there exists a verifiable function  $f(*)$ , which makes  $d_X=f(i_X)$  protocol has 2 states, successful or failing , both A and B can verify his own state in the end.

Under the situation of asynchronous network, for the honest unit A (not able to judge if unit B is honest), only if he received the expected electron term  $i_B$ , then he would pay his electron term  $i_A$ ; Oppositely, same with the honest unit B. And here comes a trouble: Nobody wants to pay his electron term first, and that result in nobody could get expected electron term eventually. To overcome this situation, one effective solution is both parties send their electron terms to a trusted third-party(TTP), and the TTP can transit the terms and the TTP can arbitrate when disputes appear also.

Themis mainly solved two kinds of problems:

Firstly, during transactions, there are In-line TTP mode or On-line TTP mode, and both models need lots of TTPs, and leads the quality and security of TTPs widely challenged. Hereby, Themis comes up with an optimistic fair exchange protocol, TTPs only participate when disputes appear;

Secondly, Themis comes up with a secure exchange protocol based on group escrow to avoid single point failure issue and denial of service issue.

## **4.2 Anonymous Reputation Mechanism based on Verifiable Shuffles and Linkable Ring Signatures**

The current motivation mechanism of blockchain has two problems, on one hand is that it can't ensure anonymity, observers can easily find out the relation between identities and votes; on the other hand, this mechanism based on digital tokens can only increase the number of tokens of users, but it has no ideas about reducing the number of tokens of malicious users. Tokens'



cryptography mechanism restrict system from taking users' tokens, therefore, we can't reach the goal of punishing malicious behaviors. To solve above problem, the reputation mechanism of Themis based on verifiable shuffles and linkable ring signatures, and it can finish the calculation of reputation anonymously, without revealing users' identities, and it has the motivation of bonus and punishment.

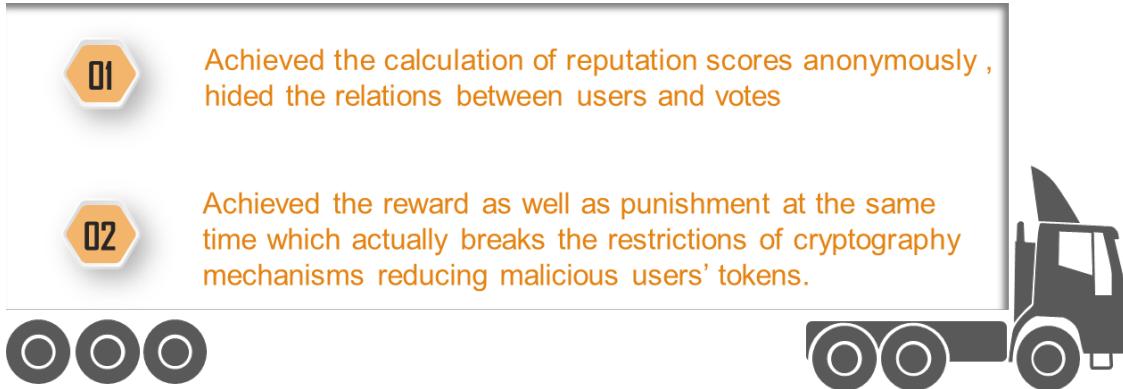


Figure4.2 Anonymous Reputation Mechanism based on

Verifiable Shuffles and Linkable Ring Signatures

The reputation system of Themis operates in a series of message-and-feedback rounds. At the beginning of each round, the servers maintain a database containing all clients' long-term identities and their respective encrypted reputation scores. During each round, the servers successively run a scheduling protocol based on verifiable shuffles, which transforms the reputation list into an anonymously permuted list consisting of a one-time pseudonym for each client and an associated plaintext reputation score. Our scheduling protocol is decentralized: neither servers nor clients (other than the owner) can link one-time pseudonyms or reputations to long-term identities. Clients then post messages anonymously using these one-time pseudonyms. The servers can associate these messages with their corresponding reputation scores without learning clients' sensitive information. Each client may then provide

feedback (e.g., votes) on other clients' posted messages. Each vote is signed by a linkable ring signature, enabling the servers to verify that each client votes only once without revealing which client submitted each vote. This design enables the servers to tally positive and negative feedback without linking this feedback with long-term identities. Finally, the servers tally the feedback received for each one-time pseudonym, update the reputation score, and then perform a "reverse scheduling" to transform these one-time pseudonyms and their updated reputation scores back to the original long-term identities and their encrypted updated reputation scores.

## 4.3 Non-interactive Zero Knowledge Proof

Zero Knowledge Proof Systems is a cryptographic protocol between two parties (the prover and the verifier), and since its birth in 1983, this amazing theory has great influences on computer science and cryptology.

By executing Zero Knowledge Proof Protocol, when the assertion is true, prover is able to prove the validity of the assertion to verifier, and verifier can verify it quickly, but unable to learn any other information beyond the validity of the assertion. And when the assertion is false, even if the prover has unbounded computation power, he still not be able to fool the verifier accept a false assertion except with negligible probability. And when the assertion is like prover has some secret knowledge, the Zero Knowledge Proof system will specialize to the Zero Knowledge Proof of Knowledge (ZKPoK), that means the prover can prove to the verifier that he truly owns this secret knowledge, but he needn't to reveal any information about this secret knowledge. ZKPoK could be interactive or non-interactive according to if the prover need to interact with the verifier.



NIZKPoK minimized the round complexity (akin. communication cost), and thus is more applicable in the real world.

Themis uses the Zero Knowledge Proof Protocol to solve 3 problems: the first one is to ensure the secret shares offered to mediators by both parties of transactions in group escrow protocol is true; the second one is that, in verifiable shuffles protocol, all the observers and verifiers can use the Zero Knowledge Proof generated by shuffle servers to check if the shuffle servers executed random activities correctly; and the third one is that, in reputation system, clients will generate their Zero Knowledge Proof about reputation budget, and claim that 1) his actual reputation score is not lower than the expected value b, 2) he will use b as his reputation score to distribute messages.



Figure 4.3 Non-interactive Zero Knowledge Proof



## 4.4 Digital Signature Algorithm with High-concurrency Verification Ability

For the transactions on public chains, the calculation ability of verification is the key factor of transaction processing speed. Currently, most blockchains employ the Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm using NIST's secp256k1 curve. This algorithm performs well at security, but the efficiency is not good, the mainstream CPUs can only calculate less than 10,000 times per second by this algorithm, so that there will be a big lag when the number of transactions is large. Some allied chains and private chains usually try to avoid this challenge by involving trusted compute environment, but this method will involve more complicated secure base, and it could be difficult to support the security requirement of public chains.

Themis program solves this challenge by involving a new DSA algorithm with high-concurrency verification ability. Our system supports variety of digital signature schemes, and we can select corresponding scheme according to the requirements of users and applications. With the situation needs one-time signature key, we will select the one-time signature algorithm based on hash algorithm to ensure high verification performance; in typical scenarios, upon ensuring 256bits security level, we will select specific elliptic curve and verification algorithm, and using the time-space tradeoff technology to improve the efficiency dramatically. We made a great improvement of the CPU and GPU vector instructions set in this algorithm, and take full advantage of every transistor's calculating ability. By optimization, we have improved the verification performance by 2 orders of magnitude in the typical calculation platform.

**Digital  
Signature  
Algorithm**

01

We made a great improvement of the CPU and GPU vector instructions set in this algorithm, and we have improved the verification performance by 2 orders of magnitude in the typical calculation platform.

02

**hierarchical  
wallet**

We provide a hierarchical wallet based on a new generation of cryptology which using private and public key factor matrix to generate addresses dynamically. This solution can solve the problems of high-risk and high-storage-usage of traditional wallets.

Figure4.4 New Generation of Cryptographic Algorithm for Blockchain



## 5.Scenarios

Themis is a fair exchange system based on blockchain technology, it provides escrow services for decentralized digital currencies, and solves the issues of fair exchange using digital currencies as medium. Such as fair exchange among digital currencies, digital assets, and physical goods. There are many scenarios for Themis, such as peer-to-peer escrow payments, exchanges among digital currencies, supervising accounts and security escrow, multi-subject assets escrow and so on.

### 5.1 Peer-to-peer Escrow Payments

Themis can provide escrow payments of decentralized digital currencies for peer-to-peer online markets (such as OpenBazaar), to make it possible for both parties to exchange directly; Themis can connect to the payments system of e-commerce platforms, and generate corresponding escrow accounts via Themis original chains, then provide decentralized escrow service for digital currency transactions. During the transactions, buyers need to transfer digital currencies to the escrow account, and the sellers can only get the money after the delivery is confirmed. This mechanism can solve the issue of payments not being able to effectively finish at the same time with deliveries.

In actual e-commerce activities, Themis will provide advance compensation for consumers. For example, in 7 days after confirming receipt, 5% of seller's fund will be kept in platform account via smart contract as deposit; and if any dispute occurs, Themis will take the advance compensation for buyer with the

deposit, and then Themis will contact seller about refund. This way we can improve buyers' satisfaction and sellers' reputation.



Figure5.1 Peer-to-peer Escrow Payments

## 5.2 Digital Currencies Exchange

Themis is a fair exchange system based on blockchain technology, it can satisfy the transactions between digital currency and physical goods as well as the transactions among digital currencies, and it can provide a fair guarantee for the transactions of all kinds of centralized or decentralized digital currencies.

Themis supports OTC transactions of digital currencies, and it can provide secure escrow service for cryptographic digital currencies based on blockchain, such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and generate corresponding escrow accounts via Themis original chains to satisfy the requirement among digital currencies, and make it fair for the cross-chain transactions.

Themis supports OTC transactions of digital currencies, and it can provide secure escrow service for cryptographic digital currencies based on blockchain



Figure5.2 Digital Currencies Exchange

### 5.3 Accounts Supervising and Security Escrow

Escrow service is an important method for traditional financial industry to keep users' assets secure. For example, securities dealers need to set trust accounts with banks after opening accounts, peer-to-peer lenders need to open supervision accounts. However, for private equity funds, crowdfundings, and ICO investment funds, both the investees, investment radio, and investment incomes are not transparent to the investors as they have no escrows or they just use a centralized third-party escrow mechanism.

As a group of smart contracts with scalacity, Themis can provide the API of distributed ledger and decentralized escrow service for digital currency supervision accounts, so Themis can solve the problems of funds security, project tracing, and rationalization distribution effectively. And as the explosion of digital financial market, there will be more and more products and

scenarios for digital currencies in the future. Such as lenders of digital currencies, futures of digital currencies, ETF funds of digital currencies, cross-chain transactions of digital currencies and so on, and all of these can be managed by Themis system to keep security.



Figure5.3 Accounts Supervising and Security Escrow

## 5.4 Multi-agent Assets Escrow

In the transactions of SCF, real estate, and large equipment, as there are so many transaction agents, transaction links, and strong dependencies, it will be easy for problems of morality and credibility to occur.

Themis can host all the funds (deposits, initial payments, service charges, final payments) in multi-subject transactions on the original chains as the form of digital currency by creating smart contracts based on multi-subject duties and conditional instructions. And when the transaction comes to the corresponding link, the corresponding transaction subject will trigger the smart contract by inputs to achieve the fair exchange protocol. If any disputes arise, dealers can use the group escrow protocol and arbitration mechanism of Themis to launch arbitration request. And every member in the group escrow party will arbitrate, vote for the disputes,

and form an arbitration result, the winning party will have the right of unlocking account.



## 6. Roadmap

- ◆ Jun,2017, started the design of fair exchange protocol based on group escrow mechanism.
- ◆ Dec,2017, finished the MVP (Minimum Viable Product) version.
- ◆ Mar,2018, internal test of decentralized escrow service, and test run of Themis OTC platform.
- ◆ Jun,2018, launch the Themischain test net.
- ◆ Oct,2018, launch the Themischain main net.



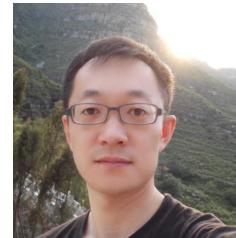
# 7. Team

## 7.1 Team Members

### Hongwei Meng

#### ■ Cofounder & CEO

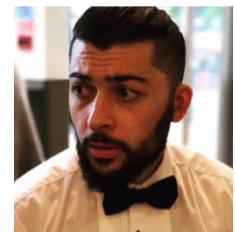
PhD of computer science from Peking University, senior engineer. He has long been engaged in the information system architecture design of smart city, with plenty system development and management experience. As an expert in future Internet architecture and cryptography, he also has a deep understanding of blockchain structure, consensus algorithms, and smart contracts. He is responsible for the design of total structure and network protocols of Themis.



### Alex Khawaja

#### ■ Cofounder & CMO

Having graduated from the University of Leeds with a Master degree in Finance, Alex has a military background as an Officer in the Royal Air Force and has a decade of experience in Financial Services. Alex started his career at BNY Mellon in Equity Derivatives, which led to working on some of the world largest IPO's. He has worked closely with senior executives at the largest corporate institutions, as well as V.C. and P.E. houses, in the Gulf Region to develop the Middle East's largest investor relations association, which aimed to promote best practice in the industry, Alex now works at PwC in Assurance working with Large Cap Financial Services clients. Through an extensive network and a diverse working background, Alex has a range of expertise and insights into Global Capital Markets, innovation and strategy and business development. He is passionate about disruptive technology and applying his strong background in global client relations and financial services to the block chain sector. He is responsible for the global business and strategic layout of Themis



## Ennan Zhai

### ■ R&D Director



Yale University Ph.D., postdoctoral, Yale University associate professor. His research areas include reputation systems and large-scale distributed systems. The research focuses on building secure and reliable computer systems using technologies in distributed systems, programming languages and cryptography. Current work includes using highly efficient, accurate and in-depth audit techniques to increase the reliability and security of large-scale distributed systems, and PriFi: the first low-latency and anti-tracking anonymous communication system. His Ph.D. thesis focuses on building a cloud computing reliability auditing system that proactively detects the underlying causes and anomalous dependencies that can cause cloud-scale related failures. He is responsible for the cryptographic algorithms and the development of reputation system of Themis.

## Wei Xin

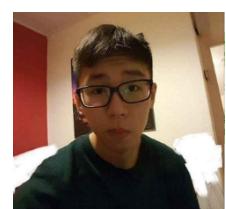
### ■ Security Consultant



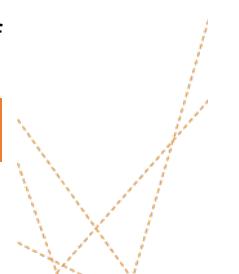
Wei Xin, PhD of Science from Beijing University, Senior Engineer of China Information Technology Security Evaluation Center. Focus on security loophole detecting and cryptographic secure analyzing, he has rich experience in automatic loophole detection. He is responsible for the security loophole detection of Themis and smart contract. He is responsible for the security loophole detection of Themis and smart contracts.

## Yuet Ning Chau

### ■ Financial Controller



Yuet graduated from London School of Economics and Political Science with postgraduate degree in business. He is enthusiastic about disruptive Fintech and got deeply involved in cryptocurrency research. Yuet is the co-founder of China-UK Blockchain Association and has been providing consulting services to a spectrum of system transformation and strategic execution projects. Yuet maintains close relationship with UK's leading Fin-tech entrepreneurs and accelerators. Currently working in PwC UK as a member of banking and capital market team, Yuet possesses concrete knowledge and



experience in traditional financial services as well as ground-breaking technology innovations. He is responsible for the budget system establishment and financial index analysis of Themis.

## James Johnson

### ■ Product Manager



Studying BSc Computer Science at Royal Holloway, University of London, James is also the Co-founder and Co-president of the App Society, as well as Chief Technology Officer and Co-founder of UNIcoin Private Limited Company, furthermore also having experience as a Freelance Web Developer and Systems Administrator. He has prior experience working in Cisco Systems, inc. as a Technical Sales Engineer in providing business insights and product proposition suggestions to Account Managers. He is responsible for the product design and requirement analysis of Themis

## Takuya Koide

### ■ Market Manager



Takuya studies at Royal Holloway, University of London, and then he worked at Unicoin as an Administrator. He has rich experience in the areas of marketing, program development, and data analysis. He has skills in SEO, content marketing, programme testing and mathematical modeling, and he has been involved in several blockchain projects. Takuya is a compound talent in Fintech and blockchain related areas. He is responsible for the market promotion and brand building of Themis.

## Hubertas Trinkunas

### ■ Business Manager



Hubertas Trinkunas is a multi-lingual communicator. Currently in his final year obtaining Management with Finance Bachelor's degree at Royal Holloway University of London. Vice-president of Investment and Finance Society at Royal Holloway, Finance Manager of App Society at

Royal Holloway, and currently upholding a role of Finance Director at UNIcoin, a tech start-up for student sharing economy including blockchain technology and cryptocurrency. Hubertas will be starting his Master's at Kings College London, to obtain further knowledge and experience in Finance. He is responsible for the business development of Themis.

## Amir Marat

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### ■ Operation Manager



Amir studies in Royal Holloway University of London and was involved in the cryptocurrency space for years. He has a deep understanding of crypto and decentralized systems and he is active in many open communities. He also has rich experience in market research and business development. He continuously develops communication skills and can speak 3 languages (Russian, English and Kazakh) and he is currently learning Chinese. He is responsible for the community and content operation of Themis.

## Evan Bian

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### ■ Project Manager



Graduated from Harbin Institute of Technology majoring in electronic information engineering; Senior IT Systems Engineer; Senior Telecommunications Engineer. He worked at Ericsson Operations Support Department and is responsible for network management systems for several telecommunication operators worldwide. Later, he took part in the blockchain industry, and involved in a number of alliance chain product planning work. He has rich experience in telecommunication system design, solution formation, operational index analysis. He is responsible for the project implementation and quality control of Themis.



## Emma Zhu

### ■ Risk Manager



Master of Enterprise Risk Management from Johns Hopkins University; She participated in the case analysis several times and came up with the commercialization plan for a University owned patent during her school years. She has rich experience in analyzing and consulting. She now serves as Senior Blockchain Analyst. She participated in multiple program development of alliance chain product, and has experience for designing financial product. She is responsible for the risk control and process optimization of Themis product.

## 7.2 Advisory Board

### Han Kao

#### ■ Founder & CEO, Cryptobriefing.com



Grew up in New York City and graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in Economics. Han is CEO / Founder of independent ICO review and crypto media company Cryptobriefing.com. He is a serial entrepreneur who has founded and exited several companies in tech and media over the past 15 years. He is also an early stage investor and advisor in various blockchain based companies including Wanchain and Jet8.

### Daniele Bernardi

#### ■ Founder&CEO , Diaman SCF ■ Chairman, INVESTORS' Magazine Italia



Daniele, as the founder and CEO of Diaman SCF, Chairman of INVESTORS' Magazine Italia, is an entrepreneur who constantly seeks to

innovate. His dedication to developing high-return investment strategies and his research on the development of quantitative methods for mathematical models can reduce the effects of, and risks associated with, emotional choices in investment choices, improve outcomes and increase customer satisfaction, simplify the decision-making process for investors and family business to reduce investment risk.

## Chen Zhong

### ■ Professor, Peking University



Prof. Chen is the former Head of Software and Microelectronics Department, Peking University (2002-2010), Head of PAFIRC, Head of Information Security Lab of Peking University. Executive Director of CCF, Deputy Head of ISCCF, Commissioner of CCF TCCOMM.

## Hui Gong

### ■ Secretary-General, China-UK Blockchain Association



Ph.D. Candidate in Financial Mathematics at University College London participating in a number of prominent projects including the Digital Identity initiated by United Nations World Food Programme, Risk and Challenges of Initial Coin Offerings., Hui Gong is the leading researcher of UCL Center for Blockchain Technologies. He is also the Secretary-General of China-UK Blockchain Association, where he accumulated rich experience in financial product design for cryptocurrency.

## Guan Zhi

### ■ Associate Research Fellow, Peking University



Guan Zhi, PhD of Science, Associate Research Fellow of Peking University, expert in cryptography and security protocols, the main developer and community leader of GmSSL (a famous open source program), and he cultivated the first three Masters (major in blockchain) of Peking University.



## Sun Zhiyong

- **deputy director general, China State-owned Industry Innovation Alliance**



Bachelor of Physics from Peking University. Master of Finance from Peking University. Now, he serves as the deputy director general of China State-owned Industry Innovation, the chairman of Jin Feng Capital, the CEO and co-founder of Wo Yi Obstetrics Group, Vice-president of Beijing ShenKong Science Co. Ltd, and the managing partner of Future Ventures International U.S., Inc.

## Tang Cong

- **Former Product Director of VRV**



PhD of computer science from Peking University, visiting scholar at New York University, previous product director of VRV, expert in blockchain, distributed ledger, network and information security. Tang has rich experience in blockchain structure designing and system developing, and led many blockchain based products and applications.

## Genevieve Leveille

- **Founder of 0TenTic8**



Genevieve is Founder of 0TenTic8, a FinTech venture aiming to empower agricultural producers by democratizing their access to financial services and improving the transparency of the supply chain. Genevieve serves as the vice-chair for the techUK Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) Working Group. The DLT Working Group will provide strategic direction for all techUK activities related to blockchain and DLT.

## 7.3 Partners

1. Shenzhen Chieftin Lab (<https://chieftin.org/>). This lab was founded by the support of the government of Luohu District, Shenzhen City, and led by Professor Bill Roscoe, focusing on researching and developing the applications of blockchain, big data and AI in the financial area. The verification techniques of Chieftin is world-leading, and the related programs and directions are all

incubated by the government of Shenzhen at high priority. The cooperation between Themis and the lab is to solve smart contract security challenges, using formal verification techniques to check and verify smart contracts in Themis, especially the validity of escrow contract and arbitration contract.

2. Oraclechain (<http://oraclechain.io/>). Oracle is a required mechanism when discussing and auditing the materials from both parties in arbitration service. OracleChain provides the service of real world data in blockchain, and the ecosystem of Oraclechain provides a series of services and API. Themis will connect real world data with blockchain by calling these services and API to determine the result of arbitration and implement the following procedures.

3. Sunshine Insurance Agency. Themis will cooperate with Sunshine Insurance Agency to launch a mutual assistance program, the first scenario will be building fire interdiction, and provide “buy insurance through GET, and we will pay GET” business.

4. BaoBeiJiaYou APP. BaoBeiJiaYou is an application providing fuel discount, after-sales service and car insurance services for car-owners, and offering products of refueling card recharging, auto insurance purchasing, maintenance and insurance bonus. Themis will cooperate with the BaoBeiJiaYou in the oil discount, product promotion and other aspects. At the same time, BaoBeiJiaYou will integrate Themis OTC applications.

5. Anyfish APP. Anyfish is one of the innovative entertainment industry entities with independent intellectual property rights, Themis will cooperate with Anyfish to develop OTC applications based on SNS and LBS, and discover nearby cryptocurrency users to make a married deal for them.

6. Jinse Finance. Jinse is the most popular blockchain media in China, Themis will cooperate with Jinse in media promotion and product promotion.

7. ICO Daily. ICO Daily is the most informative ICO listing platform, Themis will cooperate closely with ICO Daily in global promotion.