

Special Issue - Call for Papers
Strategic Integration of Blockchain Technology into Organizations
Journal of Management Information Systems

Blockchain technology uses distributed, open ledgers to provide a trust mechanism and intelligent data management, if desired without central control, and is expected to revolutionize information authentication and sharing (Yin et al. 2019). Referred to as a “Blueprint for a New Economy” (Swan 2015), blockchain can transform the foundation of existing information technology and create new business models in virtually all sectors of business, government and society. For example, secure transactions using blockchain-enabled cryptocurrencies create a new channel to move funds that could disintermediate banking institutions and even challenge central bank of nations. Governments can reduce costs of registering patents, properties, and issuance of licenses using blockchain’s secure and open transactions. Various local governments and business organizations are moving their information databases to the blockchain or experimenting with the technology. At the societal level, blockchain can protect citizens’ voting rights, provide easier access to healthcare services, and enable inclusion in the gig economy.

Although blockchain is considered a large scale, distributed technology, efforts to implement blockchain at other, localized levels are promising. J.P. Morgan Chase created a blockchain-based cryptocurrency that will be used to instantly settle transactions between its clients (Son 2019). Similarly, blockchain can be deployed to secure transactions between Internet of Things (IoT) devices (Huh et al. 2017). Smart contracts and other applications add the potential to further expand innovative business models.

Despite the widespread discussion, there are few analyzed examples of how organizations and institutions have successfully integrated blockchain technologies in practice. Some have argued that true blockchain-led innovation is many years away (Lansiti and Lakhani 2017). Perhaps owing to this, researchers have few scholarly studies to rely on what blockchain research questions to pursue. Further, there are reports of blockchain security breaches (Madnick 2019), excessive energy consumption, and inadequate usability (Yli-Huomo et al. 2016). Without evidence of proper integration and its value, organizations will be hesitant to invest in blockchain technologies.

To position blockchain projects for long-term success, this special issue invites studies

that demonstrate how organizations can integrate blockchain within their business and digital strategies and to successfully aim for competitive advantage. The special issue expects to address questions such as - How can managers evaluate opportunities from blockchain technologies? What is the likely trajectory of the evolution of blockchain and what pitfalls remain? Do the benefits of blockchain justify organizational investments? How can organizations train their employees and consumers to use blockchain-based transactions? How can organizations build in security and privacy protections in blockchain implementation?

The special issue is open to strategic, managerial and organizational issues related to how blockchain technology can be successfully deployed in organizations and institutions. The papers should make a significant novel contribution to the domain, as required by a top-tier journal.

TOPICS OF INTEREST include, but are not limited to,

- Integrating blockchain into business strategy
- Creating and measuring business value from blockchain
- Innovative models for blockchain applications at organizational or industry level
- Evaluation and selection criteria for blockchain deployment
- Theories related to the adoption and success of blockchain technologies
- Processes for integrating blockchain into existing information infrastructure
- Overcoming resistance from process owners to streamline blockchain
- Drivers of process redesign to integrate blockchain technologies
- Learning from successful cases in business organizations, governmental agencies, and institutions with demonstrable drivers of blockchain technology
- Smart contracts and blockchain-based smart services
- Security in blockchain implementation
- Overcoming nefarious and darker side of blockchain applications
- Other topics relevant to blockchain technology integration with strategy

EDITORIAL PROCESS

Authors interested in submitting to the special issue are required to submit an abstract (no more than 3 pages, single-spaced) by the due date. The abstract must concisely describe the key research question(s), data source(s), theoretical framework, methodology, main findings and contributions. The abstract should not include statistical analysis or results. All submissions must be in English.

After abstracts are reviewed, the guest editors will invite authors of selected papers

to submit completed papers. Papers will be blindly reviewed by selected experts in the area. Primary criteria for paper selection in the special issue include the following:

- Contribution to information management discipline
- Rigor of the research methodology
- Clarity of the manuscript in articulating new knowledge
- Interest to the audience of the journal

All abstracts and manuscripts must be submitted to the email:

jmis.blockchain.SI@gmail.com with cc: to guest editors

IMPORTANT DATES

The schedule is below (subject to change, if necessary):

- Abstract submission: October 1, 2019
- Full paper submission: January 15, 2020
- First round review notification: May 1, 2020
- Revised manuscript due: August 1, 2020
- Decision notification: November 1, 2020
- Final paper due: January 15, 2021
- Special issue publication: mid-2021

GUEST EDITORS

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