



## Blockchain Platform Special Interest Group Charter

December 14, 2018

Char Wales (MITRE) moved to charter the Blockchain Platform Special Interest Group. J.D. Baker (Sparx Systems) seconded the motion. Bobbin Teegarden (OntoAge) proposed White Ballot. There was none opposed to White Ballot.

Blockchain Special Interest Group

- Co-Chair Mike Bennett, EDM Council
- Co-Chair Bobbin Teegarden, OntoAge
- Co-Chair Dr Nick Stavros, Jackrabbit
- Co-chair Claudio Lima, Blockchain Engineering Council

This charter hereby establishes the Blockchain, Platform (P) Special Interest Group (SIG).

### **Mission**

The mission of the Blockchain PSIG is to work with OMG domain and platform task forces, other relevant OMG SIGs, external entities and related industry groups to facilitate the submission and adoption of Distributed Ledger Technology (Blockchain) and related standards.

In order to accomplish this mission, the Blockchain PSIG will:

- Search out and assist specifications for submission to the OMG in the Distributed Ledger Technology space.
- Foster cooperation between implementers and users of Distributed Ledger technologies
- Clarify user requirements and coordinate the evolution of Distributed Ledger Technology specifications, influence related specifications, and catalyze new specifications.
- Identify opportunities to leverage and integrate Distributed Ledger Technology with other computing standards (including other distributed computing standards) and help develop necessary collaboration / interoperation specifications.
- Educate, guide, and assist the community in the use of Distributed Ledger technologies.

- Promote and evangelize the use of Distributed Ledger technology OMG standards in the marketplace and seek additional opportunities for the technology.
- Contribute to other OMG Task Forces with Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology insights and perspectives on their work.
- Establish and maintain active liaison relationships with appropriate external organizations in support of the goals of this PSIG.

### **Action Plan / Roadmap**

To support the above mission, the Blockchain PSIG will:

- Organize a Blockchain Special Event at the March 2019 OMG Quarterly Meeting in Reston, to be aimed at industry participants, as a follow-up to the Special Event organized in December 2018 by the FDTF and MARS PTF.
- Sponsor OMG Information Days to promote OMG and related work around DLT specifications.
- Consider the standards developed by the IOTA Foundation and other leading Distributed Ledger communities, enablers and technology providers and identify the appropriate task force and technology process (RFP versus RFC) for each of these.
- Identify commonly practiced techniques in the area of Distributed Ledger Technology that may be assisted by the provision of new standards and promote these standards.
- Identify and document business scenarios that organizations are attempting to execute within the domain of DLT and use these as grounding for potential RFPs.
- Carry out a survey to identify existing OMG Domain and Platform specifications that can be used to support the needs of different Distributed Ledger Technology communities, and:
  - Identify when a specification can be used as is
  - When to recommend extension to an existing specification
  - Where new Platform or Domain specifications are required
- Identify existing specifications from other standards bodies that can be used to support the needs of different Distributed Ledger Technology communities.
- Gather input from practitioners and analysts within and outside OMG to ensure that the creation of DLT standards represents and accommodates real world requirements and facilitates real world Distributed Ledger Technology applications, architectures, extensions and related practices.

- Enable and encourage software tool developers to create automated tools that support Distributed Ledger Technology applications, Smart Contracts, oracles and related features
- Enable and encourage modeling tool developers to create or extend modeling tools to support the development of formal models at all levels of conceptual, logical and physical modeling of Distributed Ledger Technology artifacts.
- Engage with standards groups outside OMG developing standards or architectures that support Distributed Ledger Technologies, contribute to their efforts and use their work where appropriate to achieve wider consensus and consistency in the industry
- Develop and publish discussion papers as necessary to build a consensus and synchronize efforts supporting Distributed Ledger Technology across OMG and non-OMG industry groups
- Contribute to and build upon the DIDO Reference Architecture produced by the MARS PTF, including reviewing its applicability to new DLT architectures as these emerge
- Explore and document suitable guidelines for test and quality assurance for a range of DLT related applications
- Establish and maintain a glossary of common terms across the Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology space, underpinned with a formal ontology for consistency and disambiguation

### **Additional Background Information**

The Distributed Ledger Technology Working Group (DLTWG) was created under the Finance Domain Task Force in March 2017 (initially as the Blockchain WG) and has met weekly and presented at every OMG Technical Meeting since. The DLTWG has maintained a wiki page at <http://www.omgwiki.org/OMG-FDTF/doku.php?id=blockchain-wg-page> with resources and meeting notes, and these resources will be transferred over to the Blockchain PSIG. The DLTWG has sponsored a Blockchain Special Event and has guest hosted a number of customer presentations on distributed ledger technologies and Blockchain.

The Middleware and Related Services (MARS) PTF has developed a white paper on Distributed Immutable Data Objects Reference Architecture (the DIDO RA) and is coordinating its work with the FDTF, the latter having also contributed ideas and feedback into the DIDO RA at Technical Meetings and on-line sessions of the DLTWG.

In Oct. 2018, a discussion was raised to deprecate the FDTF DLTWG in favor of a Special Interest Group (SIG) under the Platform Technical Committee (PTC) in order to further its overall goals and to incorporate ongoing discussions with the MARS PTF. We note here that a working group

within the OMG has no official status, no charter or little expectation of longevity. Rather, a working group is an artificial structure that is meant to serve the specific needs of the sponsoring task force for a limited period of time. Therefore, the reasons for becoming an OMG SIG include the following.

- Distributed Ledger Technology (Blockchain) is a significant and distinct emerging technology with applications in many organizations and across different industries. As such, it is reasonable to assume that efforts begun under the DLTWG will continue well into the foreseeable future and expand across a variety of topics. This runs in contrast to the idea of a temporary initiative geared at solely servicing the needs of the Finance Domain Task Force.
- The DLTWG has been collaborating with the MARS PTF on the DIDO RA white paper as a way to build a common view of distributed ledger (distributed immutable data objects) architectures.
- A Working Group cannot issue discussion papers. While the FDTF might consider producing white papers on DLT topics, these have interest beyond finance.
- As the work of the DLTWG has proceeded it has become clear that for it to achieve its goals the DLTWG must address the interaction with and limitations of additional specifications beyond those being developed within the Finance DTF. The most immediate examples of this point include the IOTA proposed submission(s) around the IOTA Tangle architecture and industry domain extensions.
- The creation of a Blockchain SIG is a marketing opportunity for the OMG. The Blockchain PSIG can be referenced to demonstrate that OMG is continuing its efforts to establish a significant presence in the Blockchain arena while sponsoring additional information days that could build up additional contributors.

There have also been discussions (e.g., at Ottawa 2018 TC meetings and on DLTWG calls) as to whether the Blockchain SIG should be a Domain SIG or a Platform SIG. Most of the work to date has taken place within the Finance DTF, with more recent joint work and collaboration with the MARS PTF. The reasons for becoming a Platform SIG (versus a Domain SIG) include:

- The specifications necessary for Blockchain architectures and applications are not limited to the Finance domain and are not limited to the popular initial Blockchain implementations of cryptocurrencies or payments.
- Most proposed standards submissions would generally be Platform specifications.
- Some submissions that are anticipated would be domain-specific extensions to core Distributed Ledger architectures such as IOTA in the realms of Healthcare and Internet of Things as well as Finance. A Platform SIG need not only facilitate submissions through a Platform TF but also across different Domain TFs.