

## Blockchain Technology

### What is it?

Blockchain belongs under the umbrella of distributed ledgers, which is a type of shared database living across several locations or among multiple participants. It enables the creation of decentralized, publicly accessible digital ledgers and sequential chains of blocks of data.

### Who is it directed at?

Blockchain is gradually being introduced in several industries, from banking to insurance to finance and many more. It is a fact that a lot of the testing and pilot projects have been carried out in a demo environment. Many of its early users adopted entirely the wrong approach to progress beyond the pilot phase and did not properly evaluate the advantages of blockchain solutions.

### Why is it important?

If Blockchain Technology is used in a realistic manner, the opportunities are endless and financial institutions, insurance companies and other large players of the global business community will be keener to explore the actual value of blockchain in the real ecosystem. Blockchain seems able to transform many of the traditional processes in the banking and finance industry.

### Where is it taking place?

Insurance multinational organization and even smaller local businesses and startups are attempting to use blockchain technology to prevent insurance fraud, digitally track medical records, and more. Today, many companies globally are exploring blockchain as a potential solution to build modern and transparent supply chain networks.

### When is it going to make an impact?

Change is not going to occur overnight. Blockchain Technology is still in its infancy and a lot of its technology has yet to be perfected. Uncertainty remains strong as to whether this technology will meet the already existing high expectations. The question is not if, but when, blockchain technology will move from the testing phase to actual production and when it will become the default standard across various industries.

### How will it affect your business?

Blockchain technology could help exporters and importers provide each other with more visibility into the shipments moving through their pipelines and assure delivery. Through smart contracts, importers and exporters could set up requirements that would ensure automatic payments whilst eliminating the possibility for missed, lapsed or repeatedly mortgaged shipments. Blockchain created the opportunity to streamline and simplify the world of trade finance, whilst eliminating fraud and saving time and money.