ISO’s work on Blockchain

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ISO snapshot
We are an independent, non-governmental organization.

We are a global network of national standards bodies with one member per country.

Our job is to make International Standards.

We are coordinated by a Central Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland.
We are not for profit: selling our standards allows us to finance their development in a neutral environment, to maintain them and to make new ones.

ISO provides a platform for developing practical tools through common understanding and cooperation with all stakeholders.
164 members

22000+ International Standards

300+ technical committees

100 new standards each month
The ISO System
The ISO system

ISO Members
National standards bodies

Represent ISO in their country

Experts
Around the world

Write the standards

ISO/CS
Full-time staff

Coordinates system
What experts do

- Write the standards
- Nominated by members but can also come from partner organizations like the United Nations and other key players
What members do

- Represent ISO in their country
- Approve standards by voting
- Enable national experts and stakeholders to participate in standards development
- Propose new standards
What ISO/CS does

- Facilitates participation in standardization
- Provides a neutral platform for the experts to get together and achieve consensus
- Coordinates the standards development process
Benefits of international standardization in technology fields
Design and development

• Allow development of modular systems – multiple independent innovations of components
• Causes positive network effects (e.g., common hardware standards attract more vendors to develop software)
Confidence

• Standard-setting processes can improve the utility and adoption rate of standardized technologies
• Establish best practices and common frameworks from which to innovate
Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies
What is blockchain?

- New type of software – sits on top of the Internet
- Solves some of the problems the Internet has either created or not solved itself
- Adds layer of security, truth and trust to data and transactions on the Internet
- Distributes information to every user on the network that is being created on a blockchain.
Blockchain + Standardization
When is the right time…?

- New technology – too early to standardize?
- Developing standards alongside technology develops trust
- Eases regulators’ concerns about whether or not blockchain should be used for either new ways of doing business or for new economies.
ISO TC 307: Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies
ISO TC 307 - Profile

• Created 2016
• Chairmanship and secretariat: Australia
• Countries participating: 41
• Countries observing: 12
• Subgroups: 10
• ISO committees liaising with TC 307: 25
• Organizations in liaison: 8 – including ITU, UNECE
ISO TC 307: Work plan

- Foundations (terminology, reference architecture)
- Security, Privacy and Identity
- Smart Contracts
- Use cases – consistent uses for blockchain networks
- Governance / trust models
- Interoperability
ISO TC 307: Smart contracts

- A way of automating transactions
- Not just in the remittences (payments)
- Automating the promise to deliver something digitally or even physically with proof provided on a blockchain network.
ISO TC 307: Addressing Blockchain Challenges

• Lack of clarity around legal risks and regulatory frameworks
• Privacy and confidentiality
• Reluctance to change established business processes to embrace blockchain
• Immature technology
• Challenges in building business networks
Where do I sign up?
Getting involved

• Shape industries
• Give your company/organization a voice
• Help write the future
• Help build and become part of a worldwide network
• Help to shape best practice

Via your National Standards Body
Questions?

Thank you!