Social Impact SIG

Welcome! This is the SI-SIG at Hyperledger. We’re a global community interested in leveraging blockchain technology for a greater social impact. We’re working together to identify use cases, opportunities, share feedback and lessons learned, and work together to ensure blockchain is implemented where relevant and in a way that maximizes positive impact. Join us!

Introduction and Scope

Distributed ledger technologies (DLT) offers significant potential to deliver benefits for humanitarian aid, development, and civil society institutions in general. Our top-level mission is to identify specific opportunities for open source software development projects which could help various actors move more quickly on use cases with high potential to positively impact social good. Those efforts could be built upon existing Hyperledger code bases, but are not limited to that. To get started, we need to talk openly and frankly about what can be done, and how to move forward in a thoughtful and coherent manner that strives to promote best practices and works to avoid missed opportunities.

Scope

The Hyperledger Social Impact SIG is primarily focused on serving as a platform for exchanging ideas and exploration of ways to use blockchain technology in the context of social good. The areas of focus may include:

- Identifying related use cases, current pilots and proofs of concept, and production case studies;
- Sharing stories of successes, failures, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges;
- Exploring cross-cutting concerns like security, privacy, and identity in global South contexts;
- Identifying existing or needed common critical software components that would serve the particular needs of global social impact;
- Working towards proposing solutions to the problems identified;
- Identifying conferences or other opportunities to connect face to face, as well as submit talks or present as a group at an event.
- Identifying the business and NGO community and building an inclusive platform for early adopters to contribute with their experiences.
- Facilitation and raising awareness of the opportunities blockchain can bring to the field.

(see more detail below in our Charter)

Meetings

All Hyperledger meetings are covered by the following Antitrust Policy.

Meeting Schedule: Biweekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 am EST (New York). See the Calendar of Public Meetings for the next meeting time.

How to Get Involved!

- Join and introduce yourself on the mailing list, chat, and regular meetings (see links right below).
- Review our Charter and Work Documents (see below) to see which group activity interests you and where you can contribute—any involvement is appreciated!
- Share and propose your ideas with the group on what you would like to work on
- Do a presentation to the group on your blockchain project! Share your results, impact, and lessons learned. We’d love to learn from you.
- Help us with regular tasks: take meeting notes, upload presentations, update wiki pages, develop meeting agenda. Reach out to kottoni@linuxfoundation.org and nancym@ecolongllc.com if interested!
- This group is community-driven and you will get the most out of it the more you put in, although passive participation is totally fine too!

Communications Channels

These are the mechanisms that this working group uses to communicate.

Mailing List

Join the list at this link. Here you can also set the cadence at which you receive emails: https://lists.hyperledger.org/g/social-impact-sig

mail alias: social-impact-sig@lists.hyperledger.org

mail archive is: https://lists.hyperledger.org/g/social-impact-sig/topics

Chat Channel

We use the #social-impact-sig channel on Rocket Chat.
Charter

Social Impact Special Interest Group (SI-SIG)

Introduction

Distributed ledger technologies (DLT) offers significant potential to deliver benefits for humanitarian aid, development, and civil society institutions in general. From uniting disparate processes, to increasing transparency, to improving data flows, DLT promises to reduce costs and promote efficiencies that will allow humanitarian aid and development to reach more people and improve outcomes.

The open source mandate and collaborative nature of Hyperledger provides a convenient forum for like-minded individuals to work together to realize the full potential of blockchain technologies for social good. Accordingly, we seek to launch within Hyperledger a Social Impact Special Interest Group (SI-SIG). The SI-SIG will strive to document and foster technical and business-level conversations about appropriate applications for blockchain technology in the service of societal good.
Our top-level mission is to identify specific opportunities for open source software development projects which could help various actors move more quickly on use cases with high potential to positively impact social good. Those efforts could be built upon existing Hyperledger code bases, but are not limited to that. To get started, we need to talk openly and frankly about what can be done, and how to move forward in a thoughtful and coherent manner that strives to promote best practices and works to avoid missed opportunities.

Scope

The Hyperledger Social Impact SIG is primarily focused on serving as a platform for exchanging ideas and exploration of ways to use blockchain technology in the context of social good. The Social Impact SIG will work with the other working groups and technical teams, especially in the areas of implementation. The areas of focus include:

- Identifying related use cases, current pilots and proofs of concept, and production case studies;
- Sharing stories of successes, failures, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges;
- Exploring cross-cutting concerns like security, privacy, and identity in global South contexts;
- Identifying existing or needed common critical software components that would serve the particular needs of global social impact;
- Working towards proposing solutions to the problems identified;
- Identifying conferences or other opportunities to connect face to face, as well as submit talks or present as a group at an event.
- Identifying the business and NGO community and building an inclusive platform for early adopters to contribute with their experiences.
- Facilitation and raising awareness of the opportunities blockchain can bring to the field.
- Work Products

The Group will focus on convening a broad ecosystem, leveraging the skills, capabilities and perspectives of individuals from the developer community, the social and humanitarian space, enterprises, government and non-government entities, and beyond.

The anticipated initial work products will include (but is not limited to):

Phase One: Ecosystem Analysis

Opportunity Matrix – this document and supporting material will highlight where DLT can be used for social impact and illustrate the specific areas of focus, across sectors, for the SI-SIG, weighing its feasibility and potential impact. It will include, but is not limited to:

- Philanthropy and remittances (donation traceability, aid transparency, digital currencies in aid and development, governance and accountability)
- Financial empowerment (financial inclusion, microfinance, microinsurance)
- Identity and land rights (refugee assistance, land ownership documentation)
- Governance and democracy (fighting censorship and fake news, voting rights and protections, election integrity)
- Supply chain and environmental protections (sustainable supply chain, fair trade, ethical sourcing, fair labor practices)

Landscape analysis of existing blockchain solutions under development and currently being implemented. Identifying development challenges and pain points that blockchain could help to alleviate. Outlining technical challenges and opportunities for technical development.

Phase Two: Project Proposal and Plan

Based upon the outcome of Phase One, with input from the TSC, we will develop a proposed plan to engage a broader community in designing and applying a technical solution to select project(s). This may include, but is not limited to, outreach to member partners, soliciting RFIs, sponsoring campus-based competitions and hosting hackathons.

Collaborators (other groups)

This SIG will collaborate with other Hyperledger groups, the TSC, Linux Foundation staff, and the project maintainers. The Social Impact SIG is interested in collaborating with other Hyperledger and non-Hyperledger groups that aim to identify and share blockchain solutions that increase impact in global development. Other relevant Hyperledger Groups include:

- Identity Working Group
- Public Sector SIG
- Technical Steering Committee
- Training and Education Working Group

Recent space activity

Nancy Min

2020-05-26 Meeting Agenda updated May 26, 2020 • view change

2020-05-12 Meeting Notes updated May 12, 2020 • view change

Bobbi Muscara

Create a Social Impact Project Guidelines created May 12, 2020

Vinod Anuja

Space contributors

- Nancy Min (4 days ago)
- Bobbi Muscara (19 days ago)
- Vinod Anuja (19 days ago)
- Shawn Wilborne (19 days ago)
- Karen Ottori (52 days ago)
- ...