

State of Ohio Interest in Understanding Blockchain Opportunities

Background and rationale:

Blockchain Technology is believed to have the potential of dramatically improving peoples' lives. Specifically, it is believed that blockchain can transform how goods and services are delivered while reducing the costs and increasing the security of the delivery process. This applies to the private sector as well as to the public-sector entities serving their communities. For the public sector in particular, it is believed that blockchain solutions can bridge the gap toward the Digital/e-Government and Smart Community movements and create sizeable operational efficiencies.

The State of Ohio passed blockchain legislation earlier this year, becoming one of only 10 states to have done so in the United States. With this legislation, there has been an increase in blockchain activity both on the private and public-sector sides in Ohio. More startups are being formed to address blockchain opportunities, and local governments and communities, like the City of Dublin and Blockland in Cleveland, are proactively looking into solutions to meet their stakeholder needs.

At the same time, the effectiveness and speed of blockchain solutions adoption are limited by two main factors:

- The degree of comfort that these still emerging solutions provide sufficient value: in which areas of service delivery and to which degree (i.e., use cases).
- Uncertainty of the blockchain technology due to a number of competing platforms (i.e., protocols) still being developed, for different purposes, with no obvious winner.

The State of Ohio is interested in understanding the potential for blockchain value creation in Ohio and is seeking to engage with the relevant stakeholders on this topic.

Scope:

The State of Ohio is a leader in pursuing innovative IT solutions to help improve state government through areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, cloud computing and data analytics. In its effort to continue to stay ahead of the curve, the State of Ohio seeks to engage with industry experts and private and public-sector stakeholders to understand the potential for blockchain value creation in Ohio.

The Department of Administrative Services - Office of Information Technology, in partnership with JobsOhio, is organizing a ½ day workshop on December 11th, to cover the following topics:

1. The general state of blockchain technology and comparison of competing protocols.
2. How can government further foster an environment to allow private sector growth of blockchain-based technologies.

3. Blockchain value creation for government service delivery, priority use cases, and their estimated value impact for Ohio. In particular, guidance is sought on but is not limited to the following use cases:
 - Death/birth records; identity;
 - Food safety;
 - Remittance authorization, transmission and verification;
 - Delivery of utilities (e.g., energy);
 - Occupational & business licenses;
 - Autonomous vehicle communication.

This discussion is not a call for an RFP and is not a procurement process but rather an educational dialog. The outcome of the discussion will serve as an input into the State of Ohio view on the blockchain opportunity and whether there is a possible procurement to take place around blockchain for the State of Ohio.

Attendees:

It is important to bring a well-balanced, yet agile group to the discussion to enable an effective dialog. The goal is to bring together a few stakeholders with the most expertise in this area to have a competent exchange of information. This includes consulting experts specializing in blockchain as well as both private and public-sector stakeholders from the largest industry sectors in Ohio, to the extent they can contribute to the discussion with their existing blockchain expertise.

In particular, representatives of the following groups will participate in the discussion:

- Automotive Sector
- Healthcare
- Financial Services (both banking and insurance)
- Energy
- Public-sector blockchain leaders
- Global blockchain experts

As next steps, DAS and JobsOhio will be reaching out to the key Ohio sectors to solicit interest in their participation in this discussion. Those with relevant expertise will be offered the opportunity to present on December 11th. A weblink will be made available on December 11th for interested parties.

For any questions, please contact Jencie Smith at 614.644.6446 or Jencie.Smith@das.ohio.gov.