AMCIS 2018 Workshop

Navigating the Blockchain: Industry Partnerships, Curriculum Integration, and a Hands-On Look Using Hyperledger

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Abstract
The introduction and emergence of digital disruptions have the potential to cause dramatic shifts in our organizational processes and infrastructures. The introduction of blockchain technologies are one such digital disruption that aim to do just that. Like many other disruptive technologies, the roller-coaster-like hype and steep learning curve leave faculty scrambling to determine how, when, and if to integrate blockchain into their curriculum. This workshop attempts to demystify blockchain technology and its current ecosystem while providing faculty participants with a forum to learn about, discuss, and identify strategies and resources for integrating blockchain concepts and modules into their curriculum. This hands-on workshop is designed to allow participants to learn about blockchain while getting an introductory hands-on look into one prominent enterprise blockchain platform, Hyperledger. Discussion and hands-on activities will provide valuable and practical takeaways and solutions for attendants’ own blockchain curriculum development. Perspectives from the workshop leaders, who have developed and integrated blockchain content into their courses, will provide valuable feedback for participants as they develop and refine the incorporation of blockchain use-cases and course modules into their curriculum. Discussion and exchange will focus on devising curriculum strategies, building content, and navigating the challenges that blockchain curriculum integration presents.

Keywords: Blockchain, Hyperledger, center of excellence, industry partnerships, industry partners, curriculum development, blockchain collaboration, hackathons

Workshop Outline
The objective of this workshop is to provide faculty participants with a forum to learn about, discuss, and identify strategies and resources for integrating blockchain concepts and modules into their curriculum. This hands-on workshop is designed to allow participants to learn about blockchain while getting an introductory hands-on look into one prominent enterprise blockchain platform, Hyperledger. Discussion and hands-on activities will provide valuable and practical takeaways and solutions for attendants’ own blockchain curriculum development as well as future collaboration with industry partners.
Navigating the Blockchain: A Hands-On Workshop

Workshop highlights include:

- Blockchain Overview
  - What Is Blockchain and What It Is Not?
  - Relevant Use Case Examples
- Hands-On Application with Hyperledger
- Blockchain Curriculum Approaches
- Partnering with Industry: Our Journey at the University of Arkansas
  - Hackathons & Use Cases
  - Industry Blockchain Consortium
  - Walton College of Business Blockchain Conference 2018
  - Blockchain Center of Excellence

Audience/Participants
This workshop is intended for faculty, PhD students, and administrators who are considering the development of blockchain course modules, courses, curriculum, or programs, as well as faculty teaching or researching in the enterprise systems space.

Participants must bring their own laptop. Software access will be provided via virtual/cloud environment, so there will be no need to do any installations prior to the workshop.

About the Workshop Leaders

Rhonda A. Syler (rsyler@walton.uark.edu), an Associate Director of Enterprise Systems and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Information Systems in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas, received her PhD from Auburn University. Dr. Syler’s experience includes co-developing an Internet of Things Lab at Louisiana Tech University designed to provide a learning and innovation environment for big data, security, ERP, mobile development, and cloud computing. Rhonda’s experiences include working on data- and analytic-driven curriculum projects with Fortune 500 companies CRSA (formerly CSC) and CenturyLink. Her current teaching interests include Business Analytics, Database, Enterprise Resource Planning, and Enterprise Systems. Her current relevant research interests focus on organizational impact and business value of disruptive technologies such as the Internet of Things and blockchain.

Zach Steelman (zsteelman@walton.uark.edu) is an Assistant Professor of Information Systems in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. He has authored refereed publications in prominent IS journals and conferences such as MIS Quarterly, MIS Quarterly Executive, Information Systems Journal, Communications of the Association of Information Systems, Computers in Human Behavior, Americas Conference on Information Systems, and the Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences. His research interests include the selection, development, and management of IT portfolios for individuals, teams, and organizations. Recent projects include blockchain-related technology innovations and strategic implications of blockchain proof-of-concepts. Additionally, he has examined the “dark side of IT” focusing on the impacts, both positive and negative, on individuals.