

Over the past 10 years, an alternative digital paradigm has slowly been taking shape at the edges of the Internet.

This new paradigm is the blockchain. After incubating through more than a million Bitcoin transactions and a host of next-generation developer projects, it is now on the tips of tongues of CEOs and CTOs, startup entrepreneurs, and even governance activists. Though these stakeholders are beginning to understand the disruptive potential of blockchain technology and are experimenting with its most promising applications, few have asked a more fundamental question: **What will a world driven by blockchain technology look like a decade from now?**

This is the question the Blockchain Futures Lab seeks to answer through foresight, prototyping, and community-based investigations into the social, economic, and political implications of this new paradigm.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

The Blockchain Futures Lab is a platform for the creative collision of ideas, tools, and motivations. It is a meeting place for the community of blockchain developers, organizational strategists, and civic leaders who are building new infrastructure and markets that will disrupt every sector over the next decade.

› SEEING BEYOND THE BLOCKCHAIN HYPE

Get concise expert forecasts of the real zones of innovation and disruption that blockchain technologies will seed over the coming decade. The Blockchain Futures Lab will provide high-quality, honest foresight about the real potential of blockchain technologies to help you decide when to invest and when to walk away.

› TAPPING A WORLD-CHANGING NETWORK

Build your innovation capacity by meeting and working with people who are making the decentralized tools of the future. Today, there is a strong but small community of developers, designers, and thought leaders who deeply understand the blockchain paradigm. The Lab will foster a steady flow of communication between this community and people like you who are in a position to apply that knowledge in the world.

› SHAPING THE ECOSYSTEM OF INNOVATION

Take the lead in forging new forms of organization, innovative markets, and vital communities. As strategies incorporating blockchain technologies begin to ripple through the digital world, they will transform existing structures across sectors. The blockchain community at IFTF's Lab will help shape the social, economic, and political vision of what this blockchain world will look like.

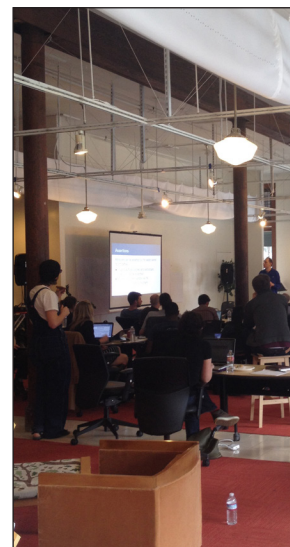
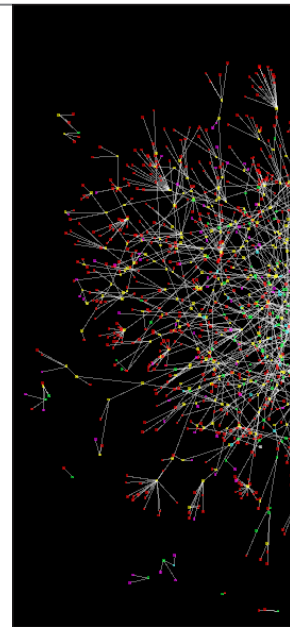
BLOCKCHAIN FUTURES LAB

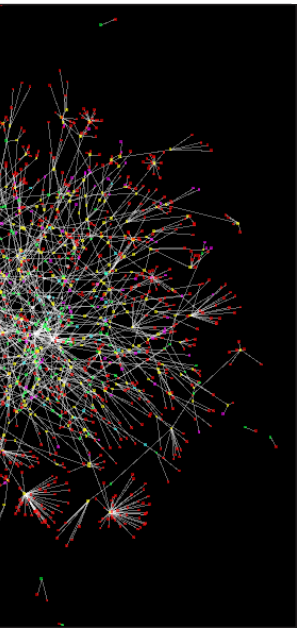
It is clear that billions of dollars and hours will be invested over the next few years in a search for “killer apps” that take advantage of the affordances of blockchain architectures: open ledgers, peer-to-peer transactions, smart contracts, identity services, increased security, and decentralized autonomous organizations, to name the most obvious. These affordances promise to reframe many of the current dilemmas in systems we rely on everyday, from finance, computing, health, and work to education, community development, and governance.

But each of these innovations will also disrupt our existing ways of thinking, working, and living. They will redefine institutions and disintermediate gatekeepers. They will make well-guarded secrets visible and make things that have been easy to track impossible to track.

More than a currency or a set of financial tools, blockchain technologies will transform the way we make our world across sectors. By changing the foundations of how we exchange and track money, information, and resources, blockchain technology will certainly create opportunities for vast new flows of value. But it will also change the texture of daily life for people at work and play. It will change the way we think about economies and societies.

“When you vote, have you ever wondered whether your ballot is actually counted? If you meet someone online, how do you know they are who they say they are? When you buy coffee that’s labeled “fair trade,” what makes you so certain of its origin? To be sure, really sure, about any of those questions you’d need a system where records of all kinds could be stored, facts could be verified by anyone, and security is guaranteed. If you were worried someone might cheat this system by editing records, you could even share them with many people and make sure everyone agrees they haven’t changed. These systems are on the horizon, and the underlying software technology powering them is called the blockchain.”





RESEARCH AGENDA

The 2016 research agenda for the Blockchain Futures Lab will dive deeply into this future, with a broad outlook that anticipates both foundational and sectoral innovations. Specifically, the Lab will

› **MAP THE EMERGING ZONES OF INNOVATION AND DISRUPTION FOR BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY.**

The Lab will provide expert perspectives on foundational innovations such as smart contracts, identity and reputation management, and consensus mechanisms, as well as market applications for everything from P2P insurance and secure communications to health records and smart energy systems.

› **CONVENE A TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR AN EXPERT WORKSHOP WITH SPONSORS.**

Drawing on its relationships with some of the leading blockchain developers and technical experts, as well as legal, social, and political advocates, the Lab will explore the real potential for near- and long-term innovation and disruption, with opportunities for sponsors to interact with the experts.

› **DEVELOP DEEP-DIVE FORECASTS IN SELECTED ZONES OF INNOVATION AND DISRUPTION.**

Drawing on the intelligence from the blockchain community and our Technical Advisory Group, we will develop a set of 3-4 in-depth forecast perspectives on the most urgent blockchain futures. For example: How can blockchain strategies be used to track or share identity information and ultimately create personal identity services for user-owned, composite identities? How might massively shared databases enable the next generation of distributed computing? How will blockchain architectures support an Internet of Things, tracking resources through supply chains and coordination platforms? And what will be the cascading impacts of these innovations in markets and communities?

› **CONVENE AN IMMERSIVE CROSS-INDUSTRY FORUM ON BLOCKCHAIN SOLUTIONS.**

To support the creative collision of perspectives and experience, the Lab will host a two-day convening of blockchain developers, business innovators, social inventors and sponsors in Palo Alto. Day 1 will use our deep dive forecasts to provoke ideation and conceptual prototyping of solutions. Day 2 will generate insights for specific markets and sectors. Sponsors will have the opportunity to think together with developers and community leaders about the blockchain world we want to create.



SUMMARY OF 2016 DELIVERABLES

- › 2016 Blockchain Map of the Decade
- › A set of blockchain forecast perspectives
- › Blockchain expert workshop-in-a-fishbowl
- › Immersive cross-industry forum on blockchain solutions





FORESIGHT TO INSIGHT TO ACTION

IFTF's independent, outside-in foresight can lead to insights that lead to better choices in the present. The IFTF Blockchain Futures Lab is an opportunity to make your own future and shape the future of this new technology in your own organization or industry.

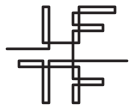
BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

The Blockchain Futures Lab is asking each sponsor to make a founding contribution of \$45,000. Sponsorship may begin at any time in 2016, but early membership will ensure participation in the expert workshop and an opportunity to select the focal forecast zones of innovation and disruption.

BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY

For more information about the Blockchain Futures Lab, please contact:

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR THE FUTURE

The Institute for the Future is an independent, nonprofit strategic research organization celebrating nearly 50 years of forecasting experience. The core of our work is identifying emerging trends and discontinuities that will transform our global society and the global marketplace. We provide our broad-based membership with insights into business strategy, design process, innovation, and social dilemmas. Our research generates the foresight needed to create insights that lead to action. Our research spans a wide horizon of deeply transformative trends, from health and food to technology, the workplace, education, and governance. The Institute for the Future is based in Palo Alto, CA.

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