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**Terminology for blockchains;
Text in English**Terminologie für Blockchains;
Text EnglischTerminologie pour chaînes de blocs;
Texte en anglais

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Foreword

This DIN SPEC has been developed according to the PAS (Publicly Available Specification) procedure. The development of a DIN SPEC according to the PAS procedure is carried out in workshops and does not require the participation of all stakeholders.

This document has been developed and adopted by the authors named below:

- Dr. Eyal Ron
Cryptom Technologies, Berlin
- Dr. Simone Wurster
TU Berlin, FG Innovationsökonomie, Berlin
- Bruce Pon
BigchainDB GmbH, Berlin
- Frank Hofmann
TU Berlin, Berlin
- Greg McMullen
IPDB Foundation, Berlin
- Craig Sailor
Cryptom Technologies UG, Berlin
- Simon Schwerin
XAIN AG, Berlin
- Spiros Alexakis
CAS Software AG, Karlsruhe
- Florian Glatz
Legal Tech Center, Berlin
- Elena Kühnapfel
Freelancer

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Introduction

This terminology provides general blockchain terms. Being industry and usage independent, it considers a variety of existing blockchain specifications.

This document is part of the project BlockOne – DIN SPECS “Terminology for blockchains” and “Use Case ‘blockchain notary’”.¹⁾ The selection of terms and their definition rely on a specific methodology developed in that project, which is explained in detail in the article Wurster, S., Ron, E., Hofmann, F. [1] and in [2] [3] [4].

We thank numerous experts for their helpful input. In particular, we thank Prof. Dr. Volker Skwarek for his valuable support.

1) See http://www.inno.tu-berlin.de/menue/research/projects/blockone_din_specs_terminology_for_blockchains_and_use_case_blockchain_notary/ for details.

1 Scope

This terminology provides general blockchain terms. Being industry and usage independent, it considers a variety of existing blockchain specifications.

The target groups are:

- developers of other standards,
- regulators,
- blockchain companies,
- developers of blockchain solutions in general,
- private and public sector,
- researchers.

Legal considerations do not fall within the scope of this document.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1 IT terms

2.1.1

decentralized system

system in which control is distributed among the participants

2.1.2

digital asset

asset that exists only in digital form or that has been converted from some other form to a digital representation

2.1.3

distributed database

database that exists across multiple physical or virtual instances and is presented to a user as a single database

2.1.4

leaf

element of a tree without any outgoing links

2.1.5

merkle tree

complete binary tree with a value attached to each element, such that each parent element value is a hash function of the element values of its child elements

2.1.6

network

collection of computers and devices interconnected by communication channels that facilitate communications among users

[SOURCE: ISO 2789:2013, 2.4.5, modified — removed “and allow users to share resources and services”]