

THE BLOCKCHAIN FOR EDUCATION

As your country evolves its domestic credentialing practices and welcomes students and labor from overseas, how will you securely validate their preparation and skills?

The blockchain provides a new technical infrastructure for securing digital records so they can provide certainty and peace of mind for students, schools, and employers. These records cannot be altered and so they can be presented directly by students and independently verified at anytime. This allows third parties, like university admissions, potential employers, and professional organizations to instantly know that applicants have the credentials they claim to have.

An independent verification service can check the blockchain to ensure that a particular school gave a particular record to a particular student at a particular time. It also checks that no alterations have every been made to that record. This removes any doubt about the legitimacy of claims and avoids complex processes for sending and receiving records on behalf of students.

How can you ease the transition of your nation's learners into higher education and the workforce?

First, giving students ownership of their official records encourages the momentum of learning and provides a tangible reward for both traditional and non-traditional educational accomplishments. Ownership also means that individuals can share their credentials with whomever they want, whenever they want, instantly and for free.

Second, allowing third parties to instantly verify a record of those accomplishments dramatically eases barriers to entry into the workforce. How is all of this possible? Throughout 2016, Learning Machine worked with the MIT to develop an open standard, named Blockcerts, for issuing and verifying official records using the blockchain as a notary. This open-source standard demonstrates how to give learners ownership of their *original* records.

Further, by utilizing an independent lookup service on the blockchain, third parties can immediately verify credentials—which means they no longer have to rely on the cumbersome process of waiting for official records to arrive through disparate channels.

All of this creates an efficiency that frees your nation's students to more easily prove their qualifications while seeking employment. HR systems can "read" metadata from these records to sort candidates based on objective minimum qualifications. By eliminating the ability of individuals to alter their certificates, the main obstacles to student ownership of their official records has been removed.

How can you encourage your nation's workforce to commit to lifelong learning and skill development?

The Blockcerts standard includes a free wallet for learners which functions as a private vault for official records. This can be used to aggregate academic achievements from various institutions resulting in a lifelong record that they control. Students can track the progress they've made and easily add to their repertoire of skills and accomplishments.

Learners can then choose to present a curation of their achievements in public as they see fit, without any software platform or institution controlling their personal data. This combination of privacy, insight, and freedom encourages learners to continue on the path of self-development throughout their lives, for the benefit of their nation and the world.

Read more at www.learningmachine.com



