Editorial

Introduction to a New Open Access Journal Published by MDPI: *Blockchains*

Keke Gai *[ID] **and Liehuang Zhu**

School of Cyberspace Science and Technology, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing 100081, China
* Correspondence: gaikeke@bit.edu.cn

Blockchain, one of the representative technologies of Web 3.0, is becoming increasingly important in modern society. The implementation of blockchain or relevant technologies may become a trend in the near future due to its reliability and security. There have been many discussions about blockchains in recent years, covering a range of topics from their architecture to their framework and from smart contracts to their applications. The number of interdisciplinary studies in the fields of decentralized finance (DeFi), decentralized identity (DID), Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs), and the Metaverse has increased. However, the current state of blockchain technology means that it cannot be directly adopted in many areas due to a lack of infrastructure support, security and privacy issues, efficiency concerns, high costs, and the complexity of the collaboration of many parties, among other factors. In order to fully understand and determine the merits of blockchain technologies, scholars, professionals, and pioneers in the field must dedicate enormous effort to exploring these factors. The need for blockchain precipitates the discovery of the means to explore its use.

This journal *Blockchains* (ISSN 2813-5288) [1] aims to seek and publish the latest technical achievements and breakthroughs, e.g., regular research papers, surveys, and comments, in order to contribute to the development of blockchain technologies. We encourage scientists and practitioners to publish their experimental and theoretical results and new findings in as much detail as possible. All classic and emerging topics in the domains of blockchain are welcome, including (but not limited to): blockchain networks, architecture, security and privacy, applications, methods, models, framework, and empirical studies. Interdisciplinary topics, such as technology and management convergence in blockchain and medico-engineering cooperation with blockchain, etc., also are encouraged.

There are no restrictions on the length of submissions. For theoretical papers, full details of the evidence must be provided so that the results can be verified. For experimental papers, full experimental details must be provided so that results can be reproduced. Additionally, electronic files or software regarding the full details of the calculations and experimental procedures, etc., may be included with the submission as Supplementary Materials. **This journal applies a double-blind peer-review process, in which the authors' identities are not known to the reviewers**.

The journal publishes original papers in the field of blockchain and its applications. Potential topics include (but are not limited to):

- Blockchain and distributed ledger technology implementation;
- Blockchain and cryptography;
- Blockchain and digital currency;
- Blockchain in finance;
- Blockchain in management;
- Bitcoin and Ethereum;
- New applications of blockchain;
- Emerging technologies and developments of blockchain;
- Blockchain theory;

- Blockchain for data exchange;
- NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens);
- New architecture, framework, or models of blockchain;
- Security and privacy in blockchain;
- Blockchain advances in 6G network;
- Smart contract methods;
- Blockchain-based business models;
- Data governance in blockchain;
- Blockchain and secure critical infrastructure;
- Blockchain in the Metaverse;
- Cross-chain techniques;
- Attacks and threats to blockchain.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Reference

1. *Blockchains* Home Page. Available online: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/blockchains (accessed on 11 January 2023).

Short Biography of Authors

Prof. Dr. Keke Gai (Senior Member, IEEE) received a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Pace University, New York, USA. Keke Gai has published four technical books and more than one hundred and sixty refereed journals or conference papers. He has been granted six Best Paper Awards (e.g., ICA3PP 2020, TrustCom 2018, HPCC 2018) and three Best Student Paper Awards (e.g., KSEM 2021, HPCC 2016) in recent years. His paper on edge computing was granted the "Best Research Paper of 2018" award by the *Journal of Network and Computer Applications (JNCA)*. His cite count (Google Scholar) surpassed 8700 on December 2022, with an h-index of 46. He is involved in a number of professional/academic associations, e.g., ACM, IEEE, and CCF. He has worked as a program chair in a few academic conferences, such as BSCI 2019–2023 (ACM International Symposium on Blockchain and Secure Critical Infrastructure), EdgeBlock 2020 (IEEE International Symposium on Edge Computing Security and Blockchain), IEEE EUC 2019, IEEE EdgeCom 2019, 2018, and SmartCom 2018, etc. He also serves as a co-chair of IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society (TEMS)'s Technical Committee (TC) on Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT), a Secretary General at AEEEIT-BC (The Alliance of Emerging Engineering Education for Information Technologies: Blockchain Committee), a Standing Committee Member at CCF-BC (China Computer Federation: Blockchain Committee), and a Secretary General at IEEE STCSC (IEEE Special Technical Community in Smart Computing). His research interests include blockchain, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and privacy computation.

Prof. Dr. Liehuang Zhu (Senior Member, IEEE) received a Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing, China, in 2004. He is currently a full Professor and a Dean at the School of Cyberspace Science and Technology, Beijing Institute of Technology. He has published more than 260 papers in journals and conferences, such as *IEEE JSAC*, *IEEE TDSC*, *IEEE TIFS*, UbiComp, and NeurIPS. He has been granted four Best Paper Awards (e.g., IWQoS 17' and TrustCom 18'). He has published three books and holds more than fifty patents. He achieved more than 7770 Google Scholar citations as of November 2022. His research has been supported by more than 20 national-level funds (e.g., NSFC, etc.), and he has been granted more than 10 academic awards/honors, such as the 2020 Top Editor Recognition award by IEEE Vehicular Technology Society, the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Progress Award, the Middle-Aged Leading Talents award by the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the New Century Excellent Talents award by the Ministry of Education. He also serves as a board member of National Key R&D Program (cybersecurity), a Secretary General of the Blockchain Committee of the China Computer Federation (CCF), a Director of the Information Technology New Engineering Science Alliance: Blockchain Committee, a board member of the National Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Standards Committee, a Steering Committee (cybersecurity) member of the Ministry of Education, a Chairman of the Intelligent Information Network Professional Committee of the Society of Artificial Intelligence, an Executive Director of China Cyberspace Security Talent Education Alliance, and a Director of the China Cyberspace Security Association.