ConsenSys, Microsoft, and Blockstack Labs
collaborate to create open-source, self-sovereign, blockchain-based identity system.
At the Identity2020 Summit, the team gathered to review societal problems that could be solved with the open identity solution.

Brooklyn, May 31st - ConsenSys has joined forces with Microsoft and Blockstack Labs to work with developers around the world to create an open-source, self-sovereign, blockchain-based identity system. We intend for this system to be usable to address the human rights crimes exacerbated by lack of legal identification.

This collaboration was solidified at the ID2020 conference, held at the United Nations last week in New York , where UN members, private companies, and government agencies co-convened to define the problem of identity in the world. The goal of ID2020 is to have a legal identity for every person without the need for identification by 2020. Some sobering statistics from the ID2020 conference to consider:

- 1.5B people, representing ⅕ of the world's population, do not have proper legal identification
- Human trafficking accounts for a black market of $50M USD annually
- 1 of 3 known victims of human trafficking are children under the age of 5

ConsenSys has developed the uPort Identity solution, with integrated support for our reputation system and transactional security system. uPort revolutionizes identity creation and management for potentially 7.4 billion people on the planet. Self-sovereign identity - the ability to be responsible for your own identity elements - and a tightly integrated persistent and portable reputation system will enable people in developed economies to have greater privacy and control of their identity and assets and people in less developed areas to bootstrap their identities and reputations to become enfranchised in the emerging digital global economy.

The tight integration of RepSys, our multifaceted, multi-tiered reputation system, enables people, organizations and objects to attest to the conduct of their counterparties with respect to various kinds of transactions: buying/selling, lending/borrowing/repaying, collaborating on projects, gaming interactions, and data quality and reliability. uPort serves as a container for reputational attributes like email addresses, Facebook URLs or state issued ID. Identity providers like governments, banks and IT companies can cryptographically sign such attributes attesting to their validity using "reputational attestations." The more than 2 billion people in the world who don't have state issued ID, can have their community members attest to their personal information. Community members can essentially vouch for each other to enable them to develop and use this bootstrapped persistent and portable reputation to, for example, obtain a micro-loan on a decentralized lending platform and grow a small livelihood from there. For access to financial services offered by financial institutions in different jurisdictions, institutions and users can make use of a KYC tool built on top of uPort and RepSys.

Users of uPort are fully in control of their personal information (expressed as reputational attributes). This encrypted information may be selectively and granularly shared with targeted counterparties when the user deems it to his or her advantage.

Christian Lundkvist, lead software architect of uPort noted, "I'm very excited about this collaboration, which promises to radically expand the reach and user base of self-sovereign digital identity systems. With this project we are taking a big step towards empowering people who suffer due to the lack of identity, as well as streamlining the fragmented identity systems in our modern society."

Rouven Heck, product manager of uPort relayed, "The massive increase in the usage of smartphones and the internet, combined with blockchain technology, offers a great opportunity to solve identity issues for everyone. Reliable digital identity and reputation will create trust in the digital world, which will fundamentally change the economy. This collaboration is a great foundation to realize the necessary adoption of these tools, independent of the underlying technologies."

Sam Cassatt, chief strategy officer of ConsenSys, said "This project represents meaningful progress towards accessible, powerful identity for our world. If successful, we will enfranchise a significant portion of the global population that was previously disenfranchised and democratize access to the rapidly evolving global financial system."

Resources

http://id2020.org
www.consensys.net
www.ethereum.org
http://uport.me

About ConsenSys

ConsenSys is a venture production studio that specializes in building decentralized applications (DApps), enterprise solutions and various developer tools for blockchain ecosystems, focused primarily on Ethereum. Powered by smart contracts, and secured through encryption, our applications provide the benefits of transparency, auditability, and immutability that are unique to blockchain-based solutions. For more information please go to www.consensys.net.

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