The State of Government Blockchain

January, 2018

GBA is committed to helping individuals and organizations understand, implement and benefit from blockchain technologies.

Table of Contents

Message from the President

On August 12, 2016, a Government Blockchain group had their first meetup in the luxurious Tower Club in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Two guests showed up. One left early and the other (Mark Waser) stayed and continued to attend meetings. An interest in blockchain was taking off in New York, Silicon Valley and in Europe. However, almost no one in the halls of governments even knew what it was. They did know about bitcoin, but it was believed to only be a tool for drug dealers and terrorists. Anyone looking to build blockchain-based solutions in the government felt like an outcast in the middle of the desert. In August of 2016, the total global market cap for blockchain-based cryptocurrencies was about $11 billion (US).

One and a half years later, the market cap has exploded by over 4,400% to $486 billion (US). The Government Blockchain Association (GBA) has almost 40 chapters around the world with more than 3,000 people attending events. In the past two months, the Government Blockchain Association has opened new chapters in the US, Canada, England, Ireland, France, Russia, Dubai, Singapore, and the UAE. Many more are starting in Africa, along with Central and South America. Blockchain is now on the agenda of leaders in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of governments world-wide. GBA members have hosted events for congressional representatives and met with administrative officials around the world. The momentum behind the use of this technology for government solutions is staggering.

What we need now are platforms where people in this space can communicate, collaborate, develop their capabilities and work together to find solutions. To meet that need, the GBA has made a commitment to establish chapters in every major city in the world. Participation is free, and you can find out about the chapter nearest you on our website (https://governmentblockchain.org/blockchain-resources/working-groups-location-chapters). If there is not currently a chapter near you, let us know and we can work with you to start one.

The GBA has also established working groups on subjects like supply chain management, legal, legislative, regulatory, energy, and many, many more. We invite government employees to join for free and we bring industry leaders together to find solutions. Information about these are at https://governmentblockchain.org/working-groups.

Please join us in continuing to develop this technology to implement real solutions for governments and their citizens around the world.
www.governmentblockchain.org

Gerard Dache
President
Government Blockchain Association

Inside The GBA

GBA Events

GBA Leadership Call

GBA had our first Leadership call on December 8, 2017. Chapter Leaders and Working Group leaders from around the world participated in the three calls that occurred at 9:00 AM, 3:00 PM and Midnight. During the call, the GBA Core Team ([Gerard, Dache](), [Jonathan Lehman](), [Rob Perry](), & [James Kana]()) briefed the leadership team on the history, current status and plans of the GBA. The Core Team also solicited feedback and questions. 40 questions were recorded during the three calls and the responses have been consolidated, answered, and are being distributed back to all of the chapter and working group leaders. GBA plans to hold these calls regularly in the future.

Government Blockchain Consulting Series

The GBA is launching a suite of classes that make up the GBA Consulting Series. The courses include:

- Blockchain Foundations
- Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Rules and Regulations
- Blockchain Solution Architecture
- Managing Blockchain Projects
- Leading Through Disruptive Paradigm Shifts

Completing all courses and passing a test results in a Government Blockchain Consulting Certification. Now, all [GBA courses are available through the GSA eBUY program](). For more information about the consulting suite, please go to the [Certified Government Blockchain Curriculum]() webpage.

Government Blockchain Leadership Summit (May 2018 - Washington, DC)

The GBA is in discussions with the [Insight Exchange Network]() to co-host a Government Blockchain Leadership conference the first week in May of 2018. The current concept is that the event would facilitate the GBA's annual leadership strategic planning session as well as being an opportunity for others to come and learn and network on topics related to government blockchain. Breakout sessions would be organized around GBA Working Group topics like Asset Management, Energy, Compliance/Law Enforcement, Cybersecurity, Supply Chain Management, and Voting. We are trying to get additional rooms so that the local leadership team (Chapter Leads and Working Group Leads) could meet to review and discuss our bylaws, methods, procedures, and plans. We are also planning to conduct "GBA Instructor" courses to license individuals to deliver GBA courses world-wide. Attending this course would be required to become a GBA licensed instructor. The proposed structure of the program will likely be:

April 30 (Evening): Social Mixer (Spouses invited)
May 1 (Day): Presentations / Working Sessions

May 2 (Day):   Presentations / Working Sessions
May 3 (Day):   Washington Sightseeing/networking event (Families invited)

These are proposals at this point. We still need to confirm venue and other details. We will distribute this information as soon as it is finalised. Working Group Leaders should reach out to Robert.Perry@governmentblockchain.org to discuss whether they can attend and how they can prepare for the event.

European Blockchain Leadership Summit (October 2018 - London)

The London chapter of the GBA chapter is planning a European summit in 2018. Please contact Tommy Jamet for additional details.

New Logo - Rebranding Campaign

The GBA core team has posted a GBA logo project using www.crowdspring.com. We are now receiving submissions to review. If you would like to participate in the review, please submit a contact form in the footer of any GBA webpage. Just ask to be added to the logo focus group. We will be reviewing and selecting the final submissions on December 29-31.

Initial Free Membership Expirations

For all those people who took advantage of the free membership when GBA first launched in the summer of 2017 (no, that is not a type), those memberships are set to expire on December 31, 2017. However, since we at the GBA have been drinking from a fire hose and have not sent notices out in a reasonable amount of time (given the holiday schedule), we are extending the expiration dates until the end of January, 2018. To renew your membership just log into your account on the site.

Tools & Technology

Website Resource Directory

Remember, professional (paid) members can list information about themselves. Blockchain merchants, applications & products, organizations, projects, grants, projects, jobs, contract opportunities and publications. Just go to the "Add Listing" page on the Resource Library.

Process Automation / Collaboration Tools

The GBA website design team is currently exploring several options to automate the processes of connecting people with chapters and working groups. This includes new modules for chapters and working group tools. These tools will allow chapters and working groups to have and administer their own pages, memberships, content, and communications. We have scheduled a demo of an association back end tool that is specifically designed for associations.
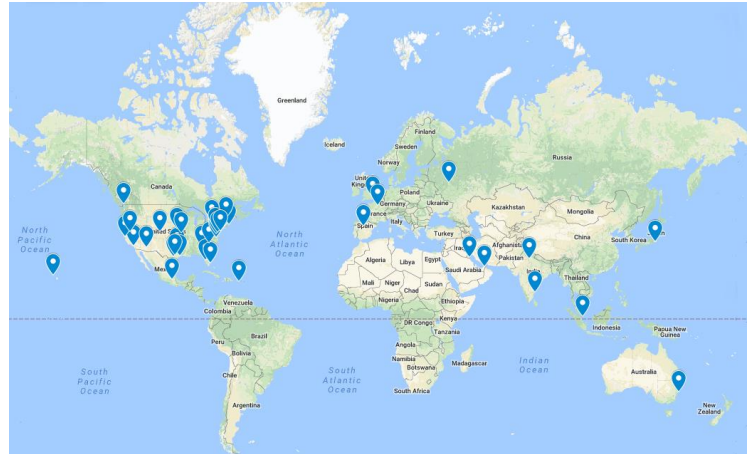
GBA Chapters News

New Chapters

GBA welcomes the new additions to our global family of chapters.

- Canada (Vancouver, BC)
- France (Paris)
- Russia (Moscow)
- Spain (Valladolid)
- United States
  - Scottsdale, AZ
  - Baltimore, MD
  - Philadelphia, PA
  - State College, PA
  - San Juan, Puerto Rico
  - Kansas City, MO
  - Reno, NV
  - Reston, VA

New: Student Chapters

Starting in 2018, the GBA will be launching student chapters on college and university campuses around the world. Student chapters are led by students with a faculty moderator who is a GBA Professional Member. GBA training materials and instructors will be available to the student chapters. GBA Member companies will sponsor hackathons to look for innovative solutions to government problems. We are currently working with government leaders to identify challenges for the students. Winners will have opportunities to demonstrate their solutions to industry and government executives. We will also host job fairs for student chapters to help member companies hire qualified blockchain resources. GBA is currently looking to identify volunteers to help manage this program. For more information please fill out the contact form on the bottom of our website at: https://governmentblockchain.org/about

Chapters Highlights

- **Toronto, ON (Canada)** - The Toronto chapter of the GBA took a booth at a Blockchain event in downtown Toronto. The event was attended by 700 participants interested in crypto and blockchain technologies. 100's of people were introduced to the GBA in a face to face meeting and the overwhelming response was that the GBA is serving a much-needed function in the burgeoning blockchain space.

- **Paris (France)** – The French regulator, AMF (Autorité des Marchés Financiers) has issued a discussion paper on ICOs and has asked for contributions. Leila Nassiri (Paris Chapter), is coordinating with Michael Bombace (Financial Regulatory & Compliance), Bernie Doyle (Financial Oversight), and Suzannah Simmons (Legislative & Legal) to prepare a comprehensive response to this request on behalf of the GBA. We are extremely excited about this effort as it is a prime example of how we can leverage the

Working Groups to respond to Government needs. Our responses will be published through the site and highlighted in the next newsletter.

- **Mexico City (Mexico)** - First event hosted 80 guests at the at Tecnológico de Monterrey University. Additional events planned with other universities in February and April. The GBA Mexico has been invited to speak at a Mexican Internet Association event in March.

- **Atlanta, GA (USA) -** Despite the once in a five-year snow-storm in Atlanta, the GBA Blockchain Foundations workshop, part 1 of 5 in a GBA certification course, went forward. Participants flew in from Poland, China, Chicago, and New York, while others drove through six inches of snow overnight from DC and North Carolina. It was a great day with mostly developers and some miners looking to fill gaps in their blockchain knowledge. Participants are eager and waiting for the remaining 4 workshops to complete their official GBA certification. In addition, discussions were held with the President of GBA - Global, Gerard Dache, to open a GBA training center in Atlanta, coming in Q1 2018.

- **Denver, CO (USA)** - Had a successful Intro to Blockchain GBA class. Met with representatives at the State of Colorado around making Colorado a Blockchain innovation state. Would like to explore a Smart Contract working group.

- **Puerto Rico (USA)** - Hosting first meeting on January 25th. Visit Meetup Site for more details.

Working Groups

News

Working Groups will all be ramping up in January of 2018. Working Group leaders should all schedule a 1 on 1 strategy meeting with Rob Perry, in the first two weeks of January, to discuss the plan and approach for 2018.

Active Working Groups

Active Working Groups with forums, lists to blogs and members. More improvements are in the works. GBA now has 25 Working Groups studying organized around the following topics:

- Asset Management
  - Land Titling

- ○ Software Product & License Management
- Budgeting, Appropriations & Tracking Working Group
- Contract Management
- CyberSecurity
- Economic & Financial Management
  - ○ Cryptoasset Compliance (Review in progress)
  - ○ Economic Analysis
  - ○ Financial Oversight
  - ○ Financial Regulatory & Compliance
- Education and Training
  - ○ Adult Education
  - ○ Childhood Education

- Energy Working Group
- Government Ontology
- Health Care
  - ○ Medical/Clinical Cannabis Research.
  - ○ Financial
  - ○ General
  - ○ Medical Records
- Identity Management
- Legislative & Legal
  - ○ General
  - ○ Legal Information Management
- Smart City
- Supply Chain
- Voting

New Working Group Nominations

We are instituting a review process to accommodate new Working Group nominations. When a new nomination is submitted it will be reviewed and tailored so that it's scope fits within the existing structure. Please contact Rob Perry if you would like to suggest a new Working Group. New nominations in December include:

- FinTech Working Group
- Taxation Working Group
- The Open Initiative for Blockchain Academic Certificates Working Group
- Artificial Intelligence Working Group
- Cryptoasset Compliance Working Group

Working Group Highlights

French government regulatory recommendation

CyberSecurity

New Project: Blockchain System – Security Authorization
Blockchain technology is rapidly gaining traction in the government spaces. Several federal agencies such as GSA, CDC, and FDA have started exploring the technology and even have pilot programs. However, for a Blockchain system to be used in a production environment and handle real data and customers it must meet stringent federal security requirements. A system must go through a complete Security Authorization (SA) before it is granted an Authorization to

Operate (ATO) and blockchain systems are no exception. This project involves studying how to get blockchain solutions through the ATO process. For more information contact Ajay Chandhok.

Education

The education working group is developing a suite of courses and building out training courses. GBA welcomes members to post their training on the GBA Event Calendar. Also, in 2018 all GBA courses will be available through the GSA eBUY program

Energy

The GBA has launched the Energy Working Group. The purpose of this group is to identify unique problem sets and challenges faced by public and private entities regarding energy supply, distribution and regulation. The group will explore innovative blockchain and distributed ledger technologies to address these challenges to increase efficiency, security, resilience and sustainability. To learn more contact Christopher Peoples.

Financial Regulatory and Compliance Working Group

A New Working Group has been formed to create think tanks with private and public sector members and to help educate regulatory lawmakers on the technical, financial, and fundamental state of cryptoassets. This group is a collective group of leaders, and business owners in the cryptoasset financial markets. Their goal is to help government authorities like the US SEC, CFTC, and IRS regulate with a comprehensive and thorough understanding the fundamentals and nature of blockchain based assets. For more information about the work of this group, please contact Michael Bombace

Land Titling Working Group

The Land Titling Working Group is preparing to launch an outreach campaign to the public, government entities and GBA Chapters worldwide in January, 2018. The Working Group Leader, John Dean Markunas is recruiting Land Titling Working Group volunteers to help manage the various Group initiatives. Of special interest is working with potential global volunteers who work in government or private land registry sectors - regardless of country.

We are especially pleased to announce a collaboration with IBREA (International Blockchain Real Estate Association), a member-focused advocacy, educational, and trade organization dedicated to implementing blockchain in real estate.   With a membership close to 4,000 and chapters worldwide, the partnership between the GBA Land Titling Group and IBREA will strengthen GBA's real estate outreach platform. To learn more about how blockchain impacts land titling Read More Here.

Supply Chain Management

Members of the Supply Chain Working Group include a research fellow for a major government contractor who is engaged in defense applications of blockchain technology in supply chain management and other areas. For example, Jim Tyson is developing a reference architecture and proof-of-concept integrating an open-source, permissioned blockchain with an open-source supply chain management solution. Other members include blockchain professionals from around the world including cities in the US such as Atlanta, Biloxi, Charlotte, Denver, Philadelphia, & Washington. Working Group Members from around the world are located in Kraków, and Moscow. For a full list of members please visit the Supply Chain Member page. To read more from this working group, please visit the Supply Chain Blog Posts

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The bottom line is, we are using blockchain technology to create real world solutions, and we would love to have you on our team. We would like to encourage you to join the GBA as a professional or commercial company and Join a Working Group or a Local Chapter.

If we can do anything to support you or your mission, please let us know.

https://www.governmentblockchain.org/