Chapter 11
Blockchaining Corporate Education

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ABSTRACT

Michel Foucault wrote about education as a control system of the population. Roger Deacon is an Honorary Lecturer in education and Honorary Research Lecturer in politics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is researching the relevance and implications of the work of Michel Foucault for education. All his remarks lead to concerns about the idea of blockchain for corporate education, as the life of an individual may be registered from the very beginning throughout the whole educational system. As choices, even computer-driven ones, are biased, chances of exclusion are higher than the opposite. Even the peer-to-peer system, designed to give people a chance to be fairly evaluated, with a blockchain system may be circumvented. In this scenario, how should one think about corporate education? Would it be an opportunity to reframe an individual with the right skills, or simply a way to build a uniform brigade? Maybe the multiple skills of collective games could indicate the need for multiple intelligences in order to keep a corporate performing well.

THE THING

There is certainly a perspective and flavor of modernity when some of our college fellows come up with brilliant ideas like blockchain. The disruptive innovation has at least one good reason for his author to remain under-cover, namely the inherent weaknesses of the trust-based model. The substitution of this model for an open

and transparent peer-to-peer model over the globe seems an almost revolutionary attitude given the people the right to coin money.

Ten years after the original release of the Nakamoto’s article (2008), even before common sense can explain what Bitcoin is, the scholar world understood that, well, it is just another brick in the wall. However, this brick is mainly different from all the previous ones, because this time, it came out with a mathematical translation from the words. It was not only ideas on a written paper, but numbers and codes that are forging an algorithm that does something that can be useful in the real world.

Bitcoin is the first public experiment that chains the ideas of language, math, wealth, and power. For the first time in history, there was no need for a French intellectual to write an explanation of what the social and political implications of a narrative are that built another limitation or benchmark for organizing society.

The free distributed software that propelled the original idea to the world financial market proved the concept that narratives are the building blocks of tools, no matter if we are thinking about a hammer or text editing software. The epistemological change is that since Renee Descartes, when there was the perception of the translation of an idea into math, but after Bitcoin, there is confidence that any idea translated into math is a tool that we can use in real life. It is Kant in its original thoughts and gives all software industry including games, and virtual reality, the assurance that before we can do things like terraforming in the future, we will be able to simulate it with a very accurate precision level.

According to Narayanan et al. (2016), blockchain is a chain of blocks connected by hash functions. The hash functions are mathematical functions that are easy to calculate from an input value. However, it is almost impossible to get back to the initial value after the calculation is done with the hash function. The hash function acts as a stamp over the results of a calculation, assuring that any change on the blockchain becomes evident. Any attempt to modify the stored data remains evident as it will change the final values of the hash function. Once the data is stored, it remains immutable. Multiples servers store the same blockchain, and that is why it is considered public information. Anyone may access a copy of all registers in a peer-to-peer network. The software chain a block to another block, and both synchronize information. They shared it with all the servers which store a copy of the original block. The new block is considered new information, and this new information requires the validation of the whole synchronized network by a validation device (Narayanan et al., 2016).

According to Nakamoto’s first idea (2008), this device is an algorithm. The algorithm requires a high computational effort to solve mathematical puzzles that are used to prove that the new information follows strict rules that allow the writing of this data in the blockchain. Today the logic behind a validation device allows
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