

HOW THE ENERGY INDUSTRY FIRMS CAN PREPARE FOR BLOCKCHAIN ADOPTION

ONLINE PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

Principal Researcher:

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You are invited to participate in an anonymous online survey for a research study about how energy firms can prepare for blockchain adoption. I am conducting this study as a requirement to complete my Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA).

As a participant, you are asked to participate in this study by completing a short anonymous online questionnaire about assessing the perceived benefits, complexity, compatibility, organizational readiness, management support, and industry pressure for adoption of blockchain technology. It will take approximately 15 minutes of your time.

The risk associated with the collection of the information in the survey questionnaire from the participants in this study is mitigated by making the questionnaire completely anonymous and report only the aggregated data. Since blockchain is a foundational technology (*a foundational technology can influence the economic and societal state of the world, while a disruptive technology alters a traditional business model by adopting more cost-effective technologies and solutions (Iansiti & Lakhani, 2017)*), companies can benefit from the results of this research by learning about the determinants of blockchain adoption, which help senior management to prepare for adoption of this radical technology. Therefore, the benefit of participation in this study outweighs the risk as participants can receive research findings, which supports them to prepare for blockchain adoption.

Participants in the study can request to receive the findings from the research that can help executives/managers to streamline the blockchain adoption process in their organizations. Involvement in this study is entirely voluntary and you may refuse to answer any questions or to share information that you are not comfortable with. You will not be asked to provide any personal or identifiable information or data.

You may withdraw from the study at any time by simply closing out of your browser. Once you submit your completed survey, however, data cannot be withdrawn as the survey is completely anonymous. Please print a copy of this consent form for your records.

All hard copy data will be kept in locked cabinets in my office. All electronic data will be kept in a password protected computer at my office. All information and records will be destroyed by confidential shredding; electronic records will be deleted, when all project requirements have been met approximately by 31 December 2026.

Results of this study may be presented in academic conferences and/or published in academic journals. As a research participant, you can request to receive a copy of the published material by sending an email to the principal researcher at Hfarahmand1@athabasca.edu. The existence of

the research will be listed in an abstract posted online at the Athabasca University Library's Digital Thesis and Project Room and the final research paper will be publicly available.

Note that Survey data may be processed in and transferred or disclosed in the United States and countries in which SurveyMonkey affiliates are located and in which their service providers are located or have servers. Data housed in the US is subject to access by the US Government under the Patriot Act, until such time as it is transferred to my computer and deleted from Survey Monkey.

If you have any questions about this study or require further information, please contact Haideh Farahmand, Dr. Mihail Cocosila, or Dr. Ken Barker using the contact information above.

This study has been reviewed by the Athabasca University Research Ethics Board. Should you have any comments or concerns regarding your treatment as a participant in this study, please contact the Research Ethics Officer at 780.213.2033 or by e-mail to rebsec@athabascau.ca.

Thank you for your assistance in this project.

CONSENT:

The completion of the survey and its submission is viewed as your consent to participate.

Reference:

Iansiti, M., Lakhani, K.R. (2017). The truth about blockchain [White Paper]. Harvard Business Review. retrieved from:
https://enterpriseproject.com/sites/default/files/the_truth_about_blockchain.pdf

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTTLNYJ>

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