



Hi there,

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the BRI Newsletter. We hope you find this content useful. You can find a PDF version of the newsletter [here](#). As always, if you have any comments, announcements, or recommendations for content in future editions, or would like to contribute content, please let me know: douglas@blockchainresearchinstitute.org

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From the editor's desk

Douglas Heintzman, Chief Catalyst, BRI

Inflection Point

I've spent the last two days at the [Collision technology conference](#) in Toronto and I'm now reflecting on the key takeaways so far. Not surprisingly, there has been a lot of talk about AI. One of the sessions that caught my eye was titled "AI's iPhone moment".

I remember the iPhone moment. Steve Jobs stood on stage at Mac World in 2007 and introduced the world to a device that was at once an iPod with touch controls, a phone, and a breakthrough internet communications device. I remember thinking to myself "Wow that is pretty impressive, this is something new." With the benefit of historical perspective we now recognize the "iPhone moment" as an inflection point, one of those times when a technology, and sometimes a group of technologies mature, integrate and become a platform that allows progress to take a leap forward and open up completely new possibilities.

Throughout history we have seen many technology driven inflection points. Some, what we might think of as "web3" or "platform" inflection points, have been the result of the maturing of general-purpose, foundational infrastructure. Previous examples include the invention of the printing press, double entry accounting, stock exchanges, steam power, rail systems, electrification of manufacturing, telecommunications, and the internet. All of these subsequently led to significant inflections in business, economics, and social contacts.

It is only with historical perspective that inflection points are obvious, but still, in the moment, just like with the iPhone moment, we often have a sense that something important just happened.

Chat GPT bursting onto the scene and the rapid advances in the capabilities of large language models seems to be one of those moments. The leaking, and effective open sourcing, of Meta AI's LLaMA (Large Language Model Meta AI) in March reinforced the moment. The publishing of the "weights" (parameters learned by a model during the training process) has prompted amazing and rapid innovation as developers are now able to build personalize LLMs in near real time.

AI will affect almost every aspect of our lives and has huge potential to improve the human condition. There is also very real risks that AI will be irresponsibly used to damage both our economic interests and our social fabric. It may at some point in the future, even represent an existential threat to our species. Understanding when the technology is inflecting is very important both for strategic planning and public policy formulation reasons.

Apple's recent announcement and demonstration of its new mixed reality headset, Vision Pro has an inflection point feel to it. To be fair, it may not be the actual inflection point, but rather the precursor to the more "like a part of glasses" device that we will eventually recognize as the inflection point. I have not personally tried Vision Pro, but all the reviews and commentary that I have read and seen, suggest that something new and important just happened. The technical specification is impressive, and ongoing engineering tweaks will inevitably improve weight, battery life and functionality. The real breakthrough seems to be in the user experience. This headset won't only be a compelling gaming experience, but it will also be a platform for augmenting many aspects of our work and lives and a gateway into a continually maturing Metaverse.

As I noted in [previous newsletters](#), and on [our podcast](#), blockchain also seems to be reaching inflection. This idea was reinforced recently in a communication from Daniel Burnett, the executive chairman of the Enterprise Ethereum Alliance (EEA). In his email to members, he announced a shift in EEA's strategy. He recapped the original private, consortium-driven blockchain objectives of EEA. He pointed out that at the time of EEA's founding, public blockchains were "not able to deliver the levels of privacy, permissioning, and performance needed for business use cases." He then went on to document the many impressive accomplishments of EEA since its founding in 2017 and summarized the technical advancements in Ethereum over the last 6 years. He also observed that "the original enterprise focus on private blockchains and the consortia model that we began with has been superseded by an understanding and acceptance of public blockchain and decentralized business models as the key value proposition of blockchain among businesses."

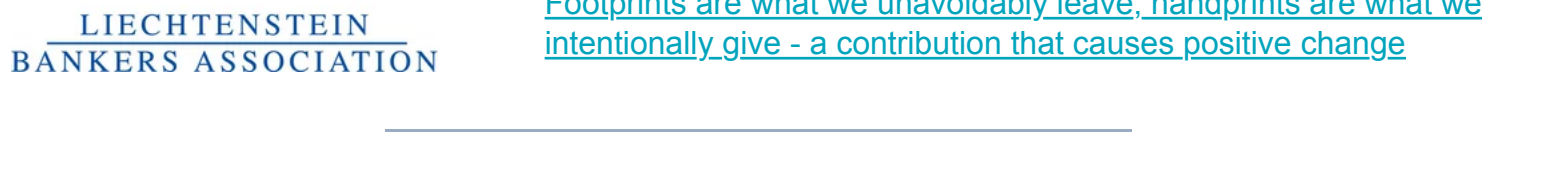
This is basically what BRI's Don Tapscott meant when, during the closing session at [Web3 and Blockchain World](#) last November, he quipped that "Enterprise blockchain is dead, long live blockchain in the enterprise." Enterprise scaling, throughput, security, and transactional privacy needs can now be largely addressed by public blockchains. Public blockchains have matured to the point where you can deploy enterprise workloads on them and in doing so, take advantage of lower costs, reduced complexity, extended ecosystems, and open innovation.

When technologies inflect there are multifoliate opportunities. When a group of technologies that are the basis of a new general foundational infrastructure mature collectively, the very structure of business and societies will almost certainly change. The apparent technology inflections we may be witnessing suggest that the Web3 world may be upon us sooner than later.

At the BRI we have lots of work ahead of us to try to figure this all out.

For more information on The BRI's new Web3 program please contact us at [here](#) or send us a note at info@blockchainresearchinstitute.org

Announcements and News



[HarperCollins Announces New Book by Best-Selling Author, and BRI co-founder, Alex Tapscott, Web3: Charting the Internet's Next Economic and Cultural Frontier](#) explains how Web3 will usher in a new era of possibilities and challenges.

[Web3: Charting the Internet's Next Economic and Cultural Frontier](#) will be published on September 19, 2023 and is currently available for [preorder on Amazon](#)

For more information, or to inquire about sponsoring the book tour or volume purchases, please visit www.alextapscott.com.



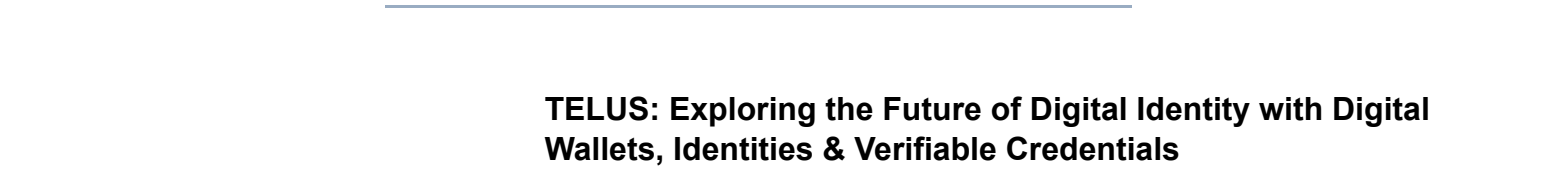
[Digital Ocean Cleanup on World Ocean Day](#)

[Footprints are what we unavoidably leave, handprints are what we intentionally give - a contribution that causes positive change](#)



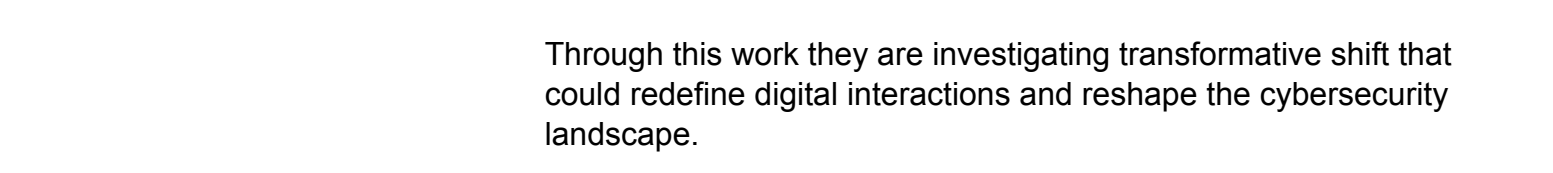
[On-ed: As the House readies a crypto bill, what's needed to keep the U.S. at the forefront of web3 innovation?](#)

[DLT Science Foundation to host launch event in London this month](#)



[Introducing Hyperledger Lab Harmonia: Unlocking Interoperability for Regulated Financial Networks](#)

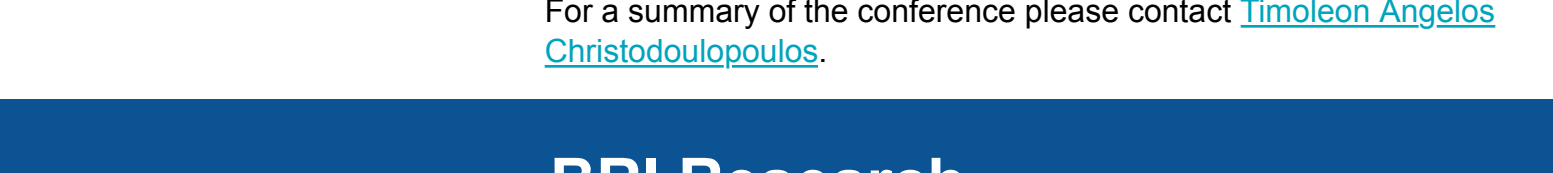
Case Study
[The Hyperledger Firefly Story: Kaleido Taps into the Hyperledger Community to Develop Next-Gen Solutions](#)



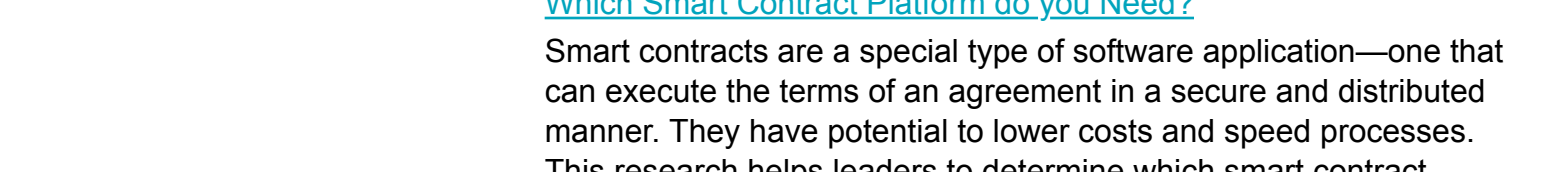
[Harnessing the Power of AI and Blockchain to Combat Deforestation](#)



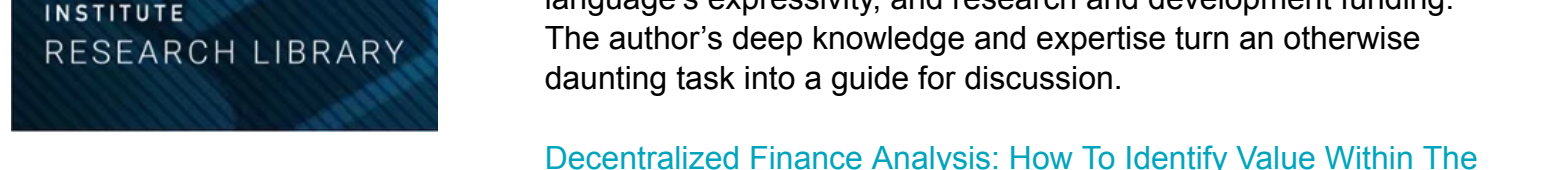
[Uquud to Leverage Blockchain Services in Partnership with BTP](#)



[The continuing evolution of public Ethereum as a business platform](#)



[Pixels to Policy – The NFT Impact Report](#)



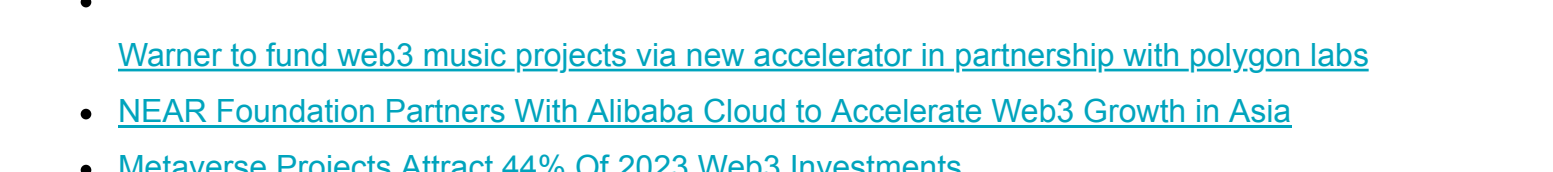
TELUS: Exploring the Future of Digital Identity with Digital Wallets, Identities & Verifiable Credentials

TELUS is exploring Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) solutions across Identity Management streams in an effort to enhance experiences for its customers and employees. As part of this work they are exploring digital identification and authentication technologies investigating the use of digital wallets, extended identities, and verifiable credentials.

TELUS is doing this work in partnership with ForgeRock and One37 Solutions, leaders in Identity & Access Management, and Decentralized Identity Solutions respectively.

Through this work they are investigating transformative shift that could redefine digital interactions and reshape the cybersecurity landscape.

They invite you to join them in exploring this pioneering technology and to stay updated on their progress.



The [Digital Economy Taxation Network \(DET\)](#) held the Conference "Going Digital: Tax Systems and Emerging Technology", hosted by Quebec Revenue on May 18th and 19th.

The Conference focused on ethics and discriminatory issues in new technologies, specifically artificial intelligence ("AI"). It explored the many challenges for policymakers in relation to blockchain, metaverse and taxation. It also considered the key benefits and risks of using blockchain technology in tax processes.

For a summary of the conference please contact [Timoleon Angelios Christofidopoulos](mailto:Timoleon.Angelios.Christofidopoulos@det.ca).

BRI Research

Featured Research

[Which Smart Contract Platform do you Need?](#)

Smart contracts are a special type of software application—one that can execute the terms of an agreement in a secure and distributed manner. They have potential to lower costs and speed processes. This research helps leaders to determine which smart contract platform is right for their blockchain use case. It focuses on the top public platforms—Bitcoin, Ethereum, Cardano, Tezos, Hedera, Algorand, Solana, and Avalanche—and it presents seven criteria for evaluation: security, performance and scalability, development costs, execution costs, environmental impact, the contract language's expressivity, and research and development funding. The author's deep knowledge and expertise turn an otherwise daunting task into a guide for discussion.

[Decentralized Finance Analysis: How To Identify Value Within The Crypto Ecosystem](#)

In this project, our research leaders develop a method of formal analysis of the value of decentralized finance (DeFi) initiatives. Inspired by Vitalik Buterin's writings on the intrinsic worth of projects in the crypto economy—that they must solve legitimate human problems on a macro scale—our researchers mirror the approach of Benjamin Graham and David Dodd in *Security Analysis*.

[It's Easy To Talk, It's Hard To Build: Don Tapscott Interviews Charles Hoskinson on building the future](#)

At W3B World Don Tapscott and Charles Hoskinson took centre stage to engage in a [profoundly thought contemplation about where we go from here.

[Web 3 and the Music Industry: A Second Wave of Blockchain Innovation](#)

In this project, our research lead reviews what we learned from the music industry's first wave of blockchain innovation and explores the opportunities in its second wave, including innovations such as non-fungible tokens and metaverse experiences.

[Click here to access the research library](#)

Headlines

- [Sony Network invests in Japanese Web3 startup to spur mass adoption](#)
- [Warner to fund web3 music projects via new accelerator in partnership with polygon labs](#)
- [NEAR Foundation Partners With Alibaba Cloud to Accelerate Web3 Growth in Asia](#)
- [Metaverse Projects Attract 44% of 2023 Web3 Investments](#)
- [Web3 Ridesharing: 100 Tokenized Teslas Hit Vienna's StreetsMetaCannes: How Web3](#)
- [Canadian lawmakers publish recommendations in support of blockchain adoption](#)
- [Mastercard plans beta for a blockchain 'app store' for 'regulated' financial apps](#)

BRI Education

WEB3 AND BLOCKCHAIN FUNDAMENTALS

NEW Short course! Earn your certificate in under 4 hours. Developed by the BRI in collaboration with INSEAD and Coursera.

Enroll today!
bit.ly/w3b-fundamentals

The demand for Web3 and blockchain education is high, and Coursera—the world's largest provider of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)—has identified it as an "in-demand topic" for 2023. As a member of the BRI community, we also recognize that your time is incredibly valuable and that your busy schedules can make it challenging to commit to lengthy educational programs. That's why we're excited to announce the launch of our new short course, [Web3 and Blockchain Fundamentals](#), developed in collaboration with INSEAD and Coursera.

We've designed this new course specifically with our community of business leaders in mind. In under four hours, you'll gain a comprehensive understanding of the fundamentals of Web3 and blockchain technology, including topics such as digital assets (tokens), smart contracts, decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), and the blockchain "trilemma." You'll also explore some real-world use cases and examples of companies that have successfully incorporated blockchain into their business models.

At BRI, we are committed to delivering the most relevant and tailored educational content to our Members. That's why we want to remind you that our team is always available to discuss the possibility of customizing our courses to meet the specific needs of your organization, audience, or customers.

Whether you're looking to deepen your knowledge of Web3's impact on a particular industry or to achieve specific targeted learning objectives, we are here to help you create a bespoke educational program that is right for you. Reach out to us today to discuss how you can leverage the BRI's expertise to enhance your organization's learning experience.

We're excited to offer this new course and to continue providing valuable educational opportunities to our community.

[Enroll Here!](#)

Book Series

Buy our books on [Amazon.com](#) or [Amazon.ca](#)

Our latest book

Digital Asset Revolution: How Blockchain is Decentralizing Finance and Disrupting Wall Street

"The foundational book on cryptoassets, decentralized finance, and the transformation of value."

[Available on Amazon](#)

Podcasts

W3B Talks

Presented by: [Blockchain Research Institute](#)

You can find "W3B Talks", our podcast series on Web3 and its impact on business and society [here](#). You can also find it on your favourite podcasting platforms such as [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and [Apple Podcasts](#).

Recent episodes include:

- Sustainable Oil and Gas using Blockchain with Si Chen
- AI and the Creative Arts with Laurie Wofford
- Blockchain and Quantum Resistant Cryptography with Pierre-Luc Dallaire-Demers
- Web3 and Gen Z with Rishab Chakraborty
- Web 3 and Real Estate with Sanjay Raghavan

Check out the latest episode of Defi Decoded with Alex Tapscott and Andrew Young: [Bringing Real World Assets Into the Digital World – The Noble Approach](#)

You can see other episodes on Youtube [here](#).

COURSERA Online Courses

Enroll in our [online courses](#) produced in partnership with [INSEAD Business School](#) and [FedEx](#).

Discover how blockchain is transforming business, government, and society with our suite of online courses hosted on COURSERA. Anyone can enroll in our [Blockchain Revolution Specialization](#), which includes four courses taught by Don Tapscott and Alex Tapscott. Produced in partnership with INSEAD Business School, the [Blockchain Revolution Specialization](#) covers everything you need to know about the disruption, opportunities, and implications of blockchain across industries and business sectors.

About the Blockchain Research Institute

Navigate, accelerate, and lead the blockchain revolution.

The [Blockchain Research Institute](#) is a global think-tank exploring the promise of blockchain technology for business, government, and society. Our syndicated program is funded by an international community of Member organizations, including enterprises, governments, and technology start-ups from around the world.

We're always looking for new organizations to collaborate with, through a number of initiatives.

- BRI Member Program
- BRI Global Partnership Program
- Web3 and Blockchain World Conference

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