Transform supply chain transparency with IBM Blockchain

Understand every detail of every product in your supply chain with a trustworthy, secure and shared record

From raw materials to distribution to after-sale support, understanding the location and flow of products within your supply chain is critical — and not only for maximizing efficiency. Today’s consumers demand transparency on where and how products are made. Regulators around the world also require information about supply chains — with penalties for noncompliance. Beyond the need for information, complex supply chains depend on trust to function properly. But distrust between organizations has historically discouraged them from sharing or relying on shared data. IBM Blockchain can remedy that with a shared, permissioned record of ownership, location and movement of parts and goods. That shared record can increase efficiency, transparency and trust for any business.

Current challenges in supply chain management — and how IBM Blockchain can help:

Visibility and data consolidation

**Challenges**
Disparate record-keeping and reporting systems can lead to scattered, incomplete and unreliable manifests, bills of lading, certifications and more.

**Opportunities**
With blockchain-stored records, all relevant information can be simultaneously and securely available to sender, receiver, shipper and regulators.

Tracking, transparency and trust

**Challenges**
Supply chain intelligence is growing more where goods are at any given moment. To find the source of flawed parts or component failures, being able to trace the origin and provenance of previously shipped goods is critical.

**Opportunities**
With blockchain records that reflect a product’s geographic flow and how it was treated, you can examine sources, investigate industry certifications, track restricted or dangerous components, discover storage-condition anomalies and more.

Real-time issue resolution

**Challenges**
Even the best-planned supply chain can be thrown into chaos by natural disasters, unforeseen shortages, supply-chain-related issues or a litany of smaller issues. With today’s elongated supply chains, any delay or faulty delivery can impact production.

**Opportunities**
Delays involving weather, labor disputes or errors are inevitable; blockchain-optimized processes help to resolve real-world issues. Knowing that a shipment is incomplete or at risk can instantly trigger remediation actions like supplier substitutions or price adjustments — before a crisis emerges.

Blockchain applications can help you address a wide range of supply chain challenges.

- How can we ensure that supply chain information is consistent and reliably maintained?
- How can we simplify standards-based application programming interfaces (APIs) to simplify data transfer, application and network integration?
- What tools can best help eliminate fraud and error?
- How can we increase consumer and partner trust?

Turn to IBM Blockchain as partner and change enabler, with industry and technical experts equipped to understand your business processes and transform your supply chain. Visit ibm.com/blockchain/industries/supply-chain to learn more today.

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