Introducing IBM Blockchain World Wire – the new global financial rail

IBM is transforming cross-border payments with IBM Blockchain World Wire, the integrated network for real-time clearing and settlement. This new global financial rail allows banks and financial institutions to send and settle payments around the globe with finality in a matter of seconds, eliminating enduring challenges that have long hampered the cross-border payments industry.

Today’s international payments systems are plagued by multiple intermediaries across multiple regions, each with their own rules, regulations, and practices. This makes cross-border payments and transactions costly, time-consuming, complicated and restrictive.

Correspondent banking fees, pre-funding requirements and exotic currency exchanges are just a few factors that continue to inflate the true cost of cross-border payments and transactions.

Cross-border payments rely heavily on traditional correspondent banking relationships — a process requiring multiple intermediaries — taking days or even weeks to complete.

Privacy and security concerns have given rise to new, often competing regulatory requirements — increasing the complexity of the governance structures among disparate payment systems, inhibiting coordinated change.

The involvement of multiple intermediaries creates a complex web of procedures hindering end-to-end visibility of cross-border payments — often resulting in error-prone and faulty transactions that must be reconciled later.
The IBM Blockchain World Wire difference in action

Using a digital asset model, World Wire enables the near real-time settlement of transactions with finality through the use and exchange of digital assets. Holding real-world intrinsic value, a digital asset is used as the means for settling transactions — serving as an agreed upon store of value exchanged between parties to fulfill payment obligations.

By leveraging a digital asset model, our solution is able to uniquely integrate the payment instruction messages and the chosen digital asset to settle proposed transactions, into a single network that enables value exchange and funds transfer to be executed in near real-time at a fraction of the cost and time of traditional correspondent banking.

Current international payment system

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With IBM Blockchain World Wire

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<td>Payment support regardless of size, origination, destination, or asset type</td>
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<td>Higher visibility for streamlined transactions with reduced disputes and reconciliation needs</td>
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<td>Enhanced regulatory compliance through improved transparency</td>
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<td>Secure network with interaction and eligibility criteria as well as robust access controls</td>
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IBM is committed to providing flexibility for all participants to realize the potential value of World Wire, addressing existing inefficiencies within their cross-border payment operations. For those network participants not initially comfortable with the use of digital assets due to volatility or regulatory concerns, IBM has developed an alternative settlement method as well.

**Greater speed**
- Simultaneous clearing and real-time settlement processing
- Reduced time to dispute resolution and reconciliation

**Lower costs**
- Reduce working capital required for cross-border transaction services
- Lower costs associated with a disjointed clearing process
- Cut time and cost to connect to new market corridors

**Increased efficiency**
- One exchange fee between major and exotic currencies
- Full end-to-end transparency of transactions on the network