BLOCKCHAIN & DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY

Tuesday, December 11, 2018
9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington
Seattle, Washington, USA

OMG SPECIAL EVENT

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Speaker bios

Mike Bennett, Director, Hypercube Limited
Mike Bennett is the director of Hypercube Limited, a company that helps people manage their information assets using formal semantics. Mike is the originator of the EDM Council's Financial Industry Business Ontology (FIBO), a standards-based repository for financial industry concepts and definitions and works with the EDM Council as Director for Semantics and Standards. He has over 20 years of financial industry experience with investment management software, data management systems design, messaging standards, product testing and project management. Mike has worked on a number of financial industry standards, including the Market Data Definition Language (MDDL), the FIX message standard and others, has sat on ISO committees for the ISO 20022 messaging standard and the corresponding ISO model for securities terms and currently sits on an ISO committee for ISO 20022 and industry messaging semantics.

Paul Handy
Core Developer, IOTA Foundation
Paul is a senior software engineer and plays a key role in the development of the core IOTA Tangle technology, but also modules such as Masked Authenticated Messaging (MAM) and the Qubic project. Paul is deeply interested in the science of things and has been involved in a number of projects ranging from industrial equipment and scientific instruments to microfluidic stereo lithography to learning and control systems. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, was introduced to blockchain and cryptocurrencies starting in early 2013 with Bitcoin and Litecoin, and has followed IOTA since the publishing of the whitepaper in 2015. Paul is passionate about electronics, physics, mathematics, cryptography, and peer-to-peer networks.

Dennis Gerson
IBM Distinguished Engineer
Dennis Gerson is an IBM Distinguished Engineer and CTO (Consultant and Enterprise Architect) to Walmart, and selected Agricultural Producers. As a chief technologist and enterprise architect, he is responsible for leading the development of solutions for clients including internet of things, mobile engagement, and cognitive analytics. Dennis has spent over 20 years in the architecture, design, implementation and management of Information Technology products and services, for both IBM Clients and IBM Operating Units. Recently, he helped guide the launch of IBM's solution for Predictive and Cognitive Maintenance for both Vending Systems and Commercial Aircraft Maintenance. These solutions leverage the Internet of Things, Telematics, Cloud and Blockchain technologies, enabling clients to rapidly adopt these new business solutions for increased efficiency and agility. He is currently actively engaged in IBM's Blockchain Food Safety Initiative, IBM Food Trust, and associated programs to address safety, sustainability and ethical practices in the Farm to Fork supply chain.

Chris Jones
President Dragonscale, a division of Dragonchain
Co-founder, Blockchain Seattle Conference
Chris Jones is a long-time entrepreneur and an expert in strategy, product marketing and user acquisition. He is adept at translating complex, technical features and functionalities into easy to understand concepts. Previously Chris held executive roles with adidas America, Mattel and Boost Mobile. Currently he is the President of Dragonscale, the Dragonchain incubator project and Co-founder of the inaugural Blockchain Seattle 2018 Conference held on September 10-11th. Chris is an evangelist for blockchain technology and the people and projects here in the Pacific NW. In addition, he has consulted other blockchain & technology companies including Storm, a gamified microtasks platform and Sirqul, a leader in the IoT space. He holds a B.S.B.A. from Georgetown University and an MBA from Northwestern University.

Lawrence Lerner
CEO, Pithia, Inc.
Lawrence is a pioneer in Digital Payments with a history of success in innovation, both within large corporate and startup structures. During his career, Lawrence has worked across industries in multiple roles (executive, lead technologist, public board director) to enable digital transformation, scaling up businesses using edge technologies and processes creating $100Ms in new revenue. Whether it was re-architecting Dun&Bradstreet's core product (35% growth), delivering the next generation of coupons across 31,000 retailers, growing an outsourcing business by $100M, defining Motorola's smartphone/ecommerce strategy or helping launch a dozen startups he's generated wealth for businesses, owners and shareholders. Lawrence has worked in the cryptocurrency space since the late 90's. Today he is the CEO of Pithia, a blockchain venture company with four startups in the portfolio. They are currently raising their second blockchain fund.

Kate Mitselmakher, CEO, Founder & General Partner of Bloccelerate VC
Kate Mitselmakher is the CEO, Founder & General Partner of Bloccelerate VC, a blockchain fund and an accelerator looking to invest in 50-100 blockchain companies over the next 5 years. Kate has not only been one of the early investors in blockchain technologies, but also a passionate blockchain advocate for social impact and enterprise applications across global governments and Fortune 500 companies. Previously, she served as an Invest Director as a part of a $50M arm of $3.3 billion global research firm - Gartner. Kate has advised numerous venture-based companies and accelerators, such as Alchemist Accelerator. During her free time, Kate also runs Seattle-based blockchain meet-up and completes her master's thesis on Blockchain from Harvard University.

Alexander Renz
IOTA Foundation
Throughout Alex's corporate career at Bosch, SAP, Microsoft and Infor he explored emerging technologies and drove innovation that lead to a range of new products. His passion for technology-driven business model innovation lead him and his brother Jochen "Joe" Renz to co-found New Mobility Consulting to help startups, corporates and investors take advantage of the digital transformation of mobility and transportation. Jointly they have developed an extensive global innovation ecosystem that includes startups, accelerators, investors and corporate innovation teams. At the IOTA Foundation, Alex evangelizes the distributed ledger technology IOTA and drives adoption of the tangle in smart mobility and transportation.

JT Rose
Senior Product Marketing Manager
JT leads product marketing for Microsoft's Blockchain offerings, working across product management, commercial strategy/pricing and go to market planning. Over the past two years, he's worked closely with early adopter customers and partners to understand the value of blockchain, the challenges in building with it and role public cloud providers like Microsoft can play to enable innovation using distributed ledger technology.

Dr. Richard M. Soley
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of OMG and Executive Director of the Industrial Internet Consortium
Dr. Soley also serves on numerous industrial, technical and academic conference program committees, and speaks all over the world on issues relevant to standards, the adoption of new technology and creating successful companies.

Paul Sonier
Chief Technology Officer at Dragonchain Inc
Paul joined Dragonchain from Disney, where he was a Lead Engineer on several projects including Cloud Deployment and Photopass modernization. He also worked on the early versions of Dragonchain. Paul has a degree from Carnegie Mellon University, over 20 years of Software Engineering experience, and a lifelong thirst for learning and technology.

Dr. Nick Stavros
President and CEO, Jackrabbit Consulting
Nick Stavros has almost 5 decades of experience covering a wide range of interests from modeling of large-scale systems to developing real-time device drivers. He has an interest in Cloud Computing and especially as it relates to the Internet of Things (IoT). He has a PhD from Virginia Tech and has worked-on and consulted with the military for over 25 years.