

# DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECH APPLICATIONS - HEALTH

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(contact: [info@sciencedistributed.com](mailto:info@sciencedistributed.com))



## WELCOME

Welcome to the Distributed Ledger Tech Applications – Health or DLTA-H Report. This is the next phase of the weekly newsletter Blockchain Healthcare SITREP that ran from Jul 2017 – Jul 2018 ([archives here](#)). This phase of the newsletter is intended to bring you some of the same focus on news and events in blockchain (and other distributed ledger technologies) in healthcare, science, and beyond with an emphasis on more advanced topics: ongoing projects, advanced developments, cross-industry dialogue, barriers and solutions to implementation, in-depth theory, and an overall 201-level look at what is happening. ~ Sean Manion, PhD - CEO Science Distributed

## BLOCKCHAIN/DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Executive Spotlight—DirectTrust CEO Scott Stuewe explains why interoperability has lost its meaning

*Newly installed DirectTrust CEO Scott Stuewe has been in the health IT industry for more than two decades, and he's burnt out on one particular buzzword: interoperability.*

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***“I think the word ‘interoperability’ has stopped meaning anything at all. A better term might be ‘automated healthcare communications.’” - DirectTrust CEO Scott Stuewe***

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<https://www.fiercehealthcare.com/tech/executive-spotlight-directtrust-ceo-scott-stuewe-interoperability-data-exchange>

**Commentary:** Great interview. Scott Stuewe is very insightful. He touches on blockchain, but the above quote on ‘interoperability’ is critical. It is one of those words in health IT that gets used ubiquitously without being defined yet means different things to different disciplines (also see surveillance, registry, and standards). It also reminds me of Maya Vujinovic’s brilliant [Velocity and Value insight](#) (2:42:42 to 2:44:24). This is the right thinking to create overall patient and business benefit with the tech. Scott and DirectTrust weren’t on my radar before, but they are now.

### Blackberry announces healthcare applications for Spark platform, blockchain ledger

*BlackBerry is looking to leverage its new Spark "enterprise of things" platform to improve patient care with partnerships and customer-driven projects.*

<https://www.healthcarediver.com/news/blackberry-announces-healthcare-applications-for-spark-platform-blockchain/538917/>

**Commentary:** Too early to tell how this will shape out, but it is interesting when more established companies throw their hat in this blockchain and healthcare ring. And while some may scoff at the relevance of Blackberry based on market share, remember the huge number of Feds that are walking around with this contracted technology. Defense Health Agency (DHA) has a huge patient and provider population already equipped for a pilot.

### Dubai to use Blockchain for licensing health staff

*The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) and Dubai Healthcare City Authority - Regulatory signed an agreement during the ongoing Gitex Technology Week 2018 to link the licensing data of health professionals using Blockchain.*

[http://tradedarabia.com/news/HEAL\\_346406.html](http://tradedarabia.com/news/HEAL_346406.html)

**Commentary:** This is a great step forward by the Dubai DHA. The U.S. DHA (Defense Health Agency) could learn from our international partners here. Army’s MRMC JPC-1, TATRC, and Ft. Gordon staff are already looking into it. On the industry side, Hashed Health has worked out the bugs with its operational product [ProCredEx](#). Don’t wait.

## **The Art, Science, and Technology of Making Better Beer**

*In an experiment that stretches from farm to frosty glass, a small brewery in Belmont, California, has added blockchain and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to its production process.*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/oracle/2018/10/11/the-art-science-and-technology-of-making-better-beer/#f917986299a6>

**Commentary:** Interesting story and nice use case, but how is this health related (+/- of beer aside)? The use of blockchain for supply chain data is a template for the much slower supply chain of health research data. I'll be exploring more of this "Farm to Table/Bench to Bedside" frame at AU's Kogod Blockchain Forum (07 Nov, see **Events**) and beyond.

## **HIMSS Analytics: The state of blockchain, cloud, EHR adoption & more**

*The plurality of hospitals (45.3 percent) are still learning about blockchain and have not deployed any related programs. However, 55 percent said it is "somewhat likely" they complete a blockchain proof-of-concept or pilot in the next 24 months, followed by 17 percent of whom said it was "very likely."*

<https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/healthcare-information-technology/himss-analytics-the-state-of-blockchain-cloud-ehr-adoption-more.html>

**Commentary:** The lede above says it all. Lots of interest from hospitals. The challenge is the implementation and determining what areas to pilot. This tech doesn't come off-the-shelf in a ready-made way for healthcare as it may for other industries. It is more people, workflow, data governance, and change management than tech alone. There is value to be gained in internal application, but the huge (10-100X) value may come from cross-industry consortium application.

If your CIO/IT staff hasn't given you executive awareness training and pilot proposals yet, they are probably not going to be the innovation drivers on this. Guides are available, though quality can vary by use case. Find someone that knows your industry and is willing to learn your particular requirements. Maybe the right tool has already been designed, maybe the right platform is there to shape, but your personnel, workflow, and organizational flexibility matter.

[Science Distributed](#) may be available (we are busy and selective), but we can also put you in touch with the right people through our Blockchain in Healthcare Global (BiHG) IEEE ISTO network. Get in touch ([info@sciencedistributed.com](mailto:info@sciencedistributed.com)).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Converge2Xcelerate (ConV2X) – Blockchain/Telehealth Conference – Columbia University, NYC 24 Oct**

*Partners in Digital Health* presents a full day of concurrent tracks featuring sessions that present a worldview, from the foremost innovators and savants in blockchain technology and telehealth sectors in healthcare. The conference will convene up to 800 executives to address the most compelling issues, growth opportunities, and financial implications for the industry. and strategic approaches for organizations to build a sustainable, scalable, and fiscally responsible future in value-based care giving, presenting cases from inception to outcome, and so much more.

<https://convergetoaccelerate2018.sched.com/info>

### **Distributed Health – Blockchain Healthcare Conference – Nashville, TN 05-06 Nov**

The first conference of its kind developed to bridge the gap between blockchain technologists and the healthcare industry. Now in its third year, this event presents an opportunity for decision-makers and disruptors to reimagine processes and reshape the future of healthcare across the U.S.

<https://health.distributed.com/>

### **Kogod Blockchain Forum – American University – Washington, DC 07 Nov**

The Forum will engage leading blockchain experts from the private sector, various government agencies (e.g. HHS, GSA, DoD, etc.), The World Bank Group, NGO's, academic institutions, etc. in a setting designed to foster learning and the exchange of ideas. Novices and experts alike will benefit from participation in this open forum for discussion of best practices and challenges in the field.

<https://www.american.edu/kogod/events/blockchain-forum.cfm>

### **Healthcare Unblocked 2018 – London 09 Nov**

The UK's first flagship and must-attend conference dedicated to advancing blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology in healthcare, assembling the 'who's who' of expertise and experience in this cutting-edge field.

<https://unblockedevents.com/events/healthcare-unblocked-2018/>