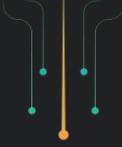




Central Bank Digital Currencies



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Introduction

As central banks around the world explore and test the uses, viability, and needs for a central bank digital currency, they are increasingly turning to distributed ledger technologies (DLTs).

Case in point: The European Central Bank recently concluded a series of tests employing DLT for wholesale settlement in central bank money. The trials involved three Central Banks, 60 organizations, 200+ trades, and over EUR1.6bn in issuance. [Per a report](#) by The Value Exchange, these trials “generated significant momentum in the digital innovation domain and provided valuable, fresh insights around the viability of DLT and digital cash.”

As the market moves to DLTs, there will be decision points about which platforms to adopt. This ebook explores the importance of open development in creating DLT-based CBDCs and highlight the critical role our projects are playing in new digital currencies..

DLTs hosted by LF Decentralized Trust, which are built in the open with vendor-neutral governance, are widely deployed in production networks in other sectors. They are proven technologies with strong community support.

The track record and transparency of LF Decentralized Trust technologies make them well suited for central banks seeking sustainable, tested platforms that can withstand and adapt to the unique needs of this use case.

We believe that the technology underpinning such an essential public good as digital cash should come from communities working together. Openly sharing ideas, knowledge, and lessons learned to improve and test in a collaborative environment benefits everyone.

Read on for an overview of LF Decentralized Trust, open source development’s critical role in central bank projects, and examples of the tech in action in CBDC implementations around the world.

“Open source software (OSS) stands out for its transparent, collaborative nature, which can be harnessed to build robust and secure financial systems. For central banks, open source presents several compelling advantages.”



“[Open Source CBDC: Exploring Open Source in CBDC Development](#)”
- Digital Euro Association White Paper, Dec 2024

What is LF Decentralized Trust?

This section provides a high-level overview of LF Decentralized Trust.

LF Decentralized Trust is the premier open source foundation for decentralized technology ecosystems. Powered by a diverse and global community, LF Decentralized Trust serves as the neutral home for collaborative development of technologies powering the transition to a digital-first economy.

Decentralized technologies are quickly reshaping markets and disrupting traditional business models and systems. They are modernizing the core infrastructure for finance, trade, government, healthcare, and more. And changing, forever, how we interact, transact, and trust.

Our role at LF Decentralized Trust is to foster the open development of the technologies that put trust at the center of decentralized systems and applications. We do this by hosting open source codebases as projects under the proven model of the Linux Foundation, home to many of the world's most important open technology projects and ecosystems.

Watch the introduction video [here](#).

These projects are conceived and built by the developer community as freely available software that vendors, end user organizations, service providers, start-ups, academics, and others can use to build and deploy decentralized applications and commercial solutions.



Open Source Development

Open source development is inherently transparent, making it ideal for decentralized technologies. It unites organizations and individuals with diverse needs to collaboratively create shared solutions, forming a strong foundation for mutual success—much like decentralized technologies themselves

CBDCs and Open Development

Globally, central banks are moving quickly to understand and implement digital currencies. CBDC projects range from prototypes to pilots to production deployments.

The driving forces are efficiency, liquidity, inclusion, and overall innovation. CBDCs will be a game-changing public good that we believe should be built in an open and collaborative manner.

Why Open Development

As the backbones for a new breed of official, government-backed monetary systems, CBDCs must meet extremely high standards for security, reliability, adaptability, interoperability, and, most of all, trust.

That's where the LF Decentralized Trust's community and projects come into play. They provide the enterprise-grade building blocks for central banks and their implementation partners to build the money of the future with confidence and transparency.

The proven open development model at the core of LF Decentralized Trust ensures code is not just available under an open source license. It systematizes governance, ensuring rigorous code development, security best practices, vendor diversity, and broad input into project roadmaps.

As many central banks are already discovering, building solutions with our openly developed and governed code brings not just the expected cost benefits of open source but accelerates innovation and delivers trust.

Too often, open source software is shorthand for code that has been dumped in a repository with no ongoing management, maintenance, or future. Or serves as strategy for a single vendor to lock-in customers or a market segment.

It's important to contrast those approaches and their pitfalls with the professionally developed and vendor neutral projects of LF Decentralized Trust. These projects are already powering government and financial systems around the world.



CBDCs and Open Development

Accelerating Innovation

As CBDC projects evolve and mature, the collective learnings from testing and deploying LF Decentralized Trust technologies will strengthen them as platforms for all. That's the innovation acceleration effect of collaborative development.

Whether central banks opt to simply adopt our technologies as building blocks or get involved in shaping and even contributing code, they are ensuring that there is a sustainable, secure financial infrastructure. They are also building systems that they can customize for their own markets but can interoperate with others around the world, which is critical for cross border payments, global trade, and more.

Security and Privacy

Of course no discussion about CBDCs is complete without talking about security and privacy. The inherent openness of LF Decentralized Trust's projects and community translates to continuous review for security vulnerabilities and faster fixes for issues.

Software that is built in the open allays privacy concerns and can be adapted more readily to incorporate new technologies like Zero Knowledge Proofs and Multi Party Computing.

Proper governance is the ultimate guardrail for ensuring code quality, consistency, and neutrality.

Building the Future of Money, Together

The introduction of CBDCs has been a deliberate, even cautious process. That is understandable as they are an innovation that will reshape the financial landscape for generations. The business and regulatory due diligence is critical. But so too is building a tech infrastructure that will grow and evolve over time, backed by a diverse community working collaboratively and openly with proper governance.

LF Decentralized Trust is home to a global community of companies, developers, academics, researchers, governments, and service providers that actively and openly developing the building blocks for payment innovations around the world. And the work is just getting started!

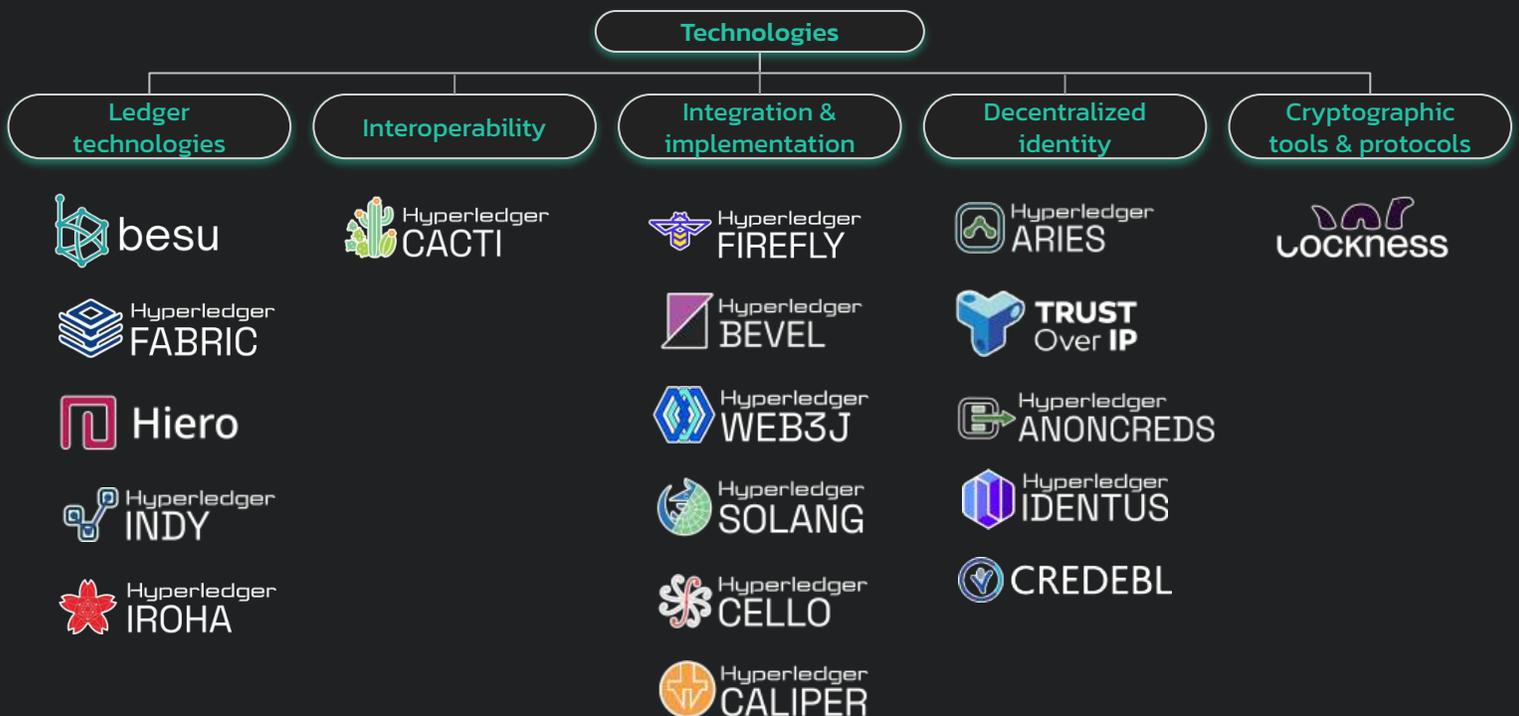
LF Decentralized Trust projects

LF Decentralized Trust projects are all enterprise-grade technologies, built collaboratively under open governance. Each project has its own unique name, developer community, and objectives.

The [Project Lifecycle](#) for all projects consists of six possible states between Graduated and Incubating:

- **Graduated** - Projects seeking to graduate from Incubation must meet the criteria defined in the Incubation Exit Criteria
- **Incubating**- Approved project proposals enter into Incubation

LF Decentralized Trust Labs provides a space (i.e., GitHub repos) where work can easily be started without the creation of a project that is approved within the Lifecycle.



Community work with CBDCs

As you will see throughout this ebook, the LF Decentralized Trust community is actively championing, developing, and deploying digital currencies.

Around the world, our members, which includes the central banks of Brazil, France, Hong Kong, Nigeria, and Norway, are doing the hard work of defining new currency models.

Read on for summaries of many of the CBDC projects implementing LF Decentralized Trust technologies, including Besu, Hyperledger Fabric, Hyperledger FireFly, and Hyperledger Iroha.

How can you get involved?

- Join as an LF Decentralized Trust member. Our member companies are leaders in financial services and technology working on these exciting projects. [Learn more about membership.](#)
- Explore our [Projects](#).
- Participate in our open communities, like our [Financial Markets SIG](#).
- Deep dive into LF Decentralized Trust projects with [training and certifications](#).
- Attend [LF Decentralized Trust events and webinars](#).



Community driven

[Get started today >](#)



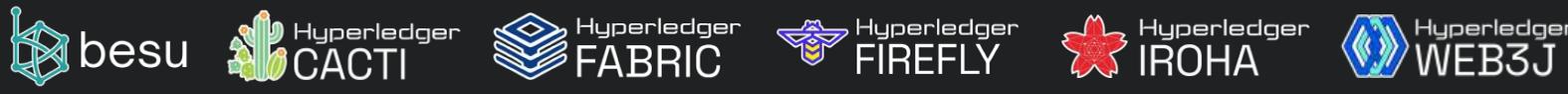
CBDs around the globe

CBDC projects and experimentations with LF Decentralized Trust tech around the world



Global Collaborations

- Swift Sandbox
- Project Mariana: France, Switzerland, Singapore, & BIS



PHASE: RESEARCH

Australia

In September 2024, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) [announced](#) a three-year research program on the future of digital money in Australia. The program will launch a new project with industry on wholesale CBDC and tokenized commercial bank deposits.

Project Acacia will focus on understanding how [ledger arrangements and concepts such as 'programmability' and 'atomic settlements' in tokenized markets](#) could benefit Australia's financial system and economy. Future phases could involve cross-border applications with regional central banks.

The RBA and Treasury said they will [reassess the merits of a retail CBDC over time](#) and plan a follow-up paper in 2027.

The RBA is [seeking industry feedback](#) on technology design, risk management, governance, and regulatory considerations associated with different settlement models for wholesale tokenized asset markets. This consultation process will inform the selection of technologies for Project Acacia's next phases.

In 2020-21, the RBA with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, National Australia Bank, Perpetual and ConsenSys, among others, undertook a CBDC research project. [Project Atom](#) developed a proof of concept (POC) for the issuance of a tokenized CBDC that could be used by wholesale market participants for the funding, settlement and repayment of a tokenized syndicated loan. Project Atom used LF Decentralized Trust's Besu as its underlying DLT platform.

The RBA said Project Atom demonstrated benefits and implications of wholesale CBDC and identified questions and issues that needed to be explored further.



RESERVE BANK
OF AUSTRALIA

PROJECT USED



PHASE: PILOT

Brazil

After years of research and organizing the [LiFT Challenge](#) to explore use cases and MVPs with the private sector, in June 2023, the [Banco Central do Brasil](#) announced “Piloto Drex.” The pilot aims to enhance financial market efficiency and promote inclusion by enabling regulated intermediaries to offer tokenized services to the public. Drex will be implemented at the retail level through these intermediaries to support new financial products and broaden access.

Built on Besu, the [pilot focuses on three layers](#) — registration, settlement, and transaction protocols — using smart contracts to automate processes. Transactions being tested include issuance, redemption, transfer, and trading with atomic DvP settlement, down to the end-customer level. All transactions prohibit overdrafts, and asset fractionalization is being tested to leverage DLT benefits. This infrastructure supports innovative financial services, including programmable payments and automated settlement mechanisms.

The pilot is currently in its second phase. [Phase 1](#) (launched mid-2023) focused on testing Drex’s technical architecture, asset tokenization, privacy solutions, and DvP settlement. It involved 16 consortia of banks, fintechs, and technology providers selected from over 100 applicants. The findings for Phase 1 were released in a report published March 2025. As of early 2025, the Drex pilot includes 29 market participants across both pilot phases.



PROJECT USED



Please visit [Kaleido](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: PILOT

Brazil cont'd

Phase 2 (launched late 2024) expanded with 13 additional participants, focusing on advanced use cases like trade finance, real estate tokenization, and DeFi. Outcomes so far have validated Drex's multi-asset platform, smart contract functionality, and technical readiness for retail and wholesale use.

Privacy is a critical requirement for the Drex pilot. To maintain trust and confidentiality within this multi-asset DLT environment, [Banco Central do Brasil has evaluated several privacy solutions](#), including Zero Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) such as Anonymous Zether, Starlight, ZKP Nova, and Rayls. While ZKPs show promise, there is caution around their maturity and potential vulnerabilities. Other options, like segregated networks and confidential computing, were dismissed due to added complexity and centralization risks. Public testing of Drex depends on resolving these privacy challenges.

The [Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Banco Central do Brasil](#) are collaborating to link their CBDC test platforms — the Ensemble Sandbox and Drex pilot — to explore cross-border PvP and DvP settlement use cases, including trade finance and carbon credits.

Looking ahead, the BCB plans to expand the Drex to include new use cases (including real every day transactions like buying a car), participants, and deeper integration with existing financial infrastructure. Future phases will focus on improving interoperability, refining privacy and governance frameworks, and exploring additional asset tokenization scenarios.



PROJECT USED



Please visit [Kaleido](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: LIVE

Cambodia

In 2020, The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) launched Bakong – the first large-scale blockchain-powered central bank-run interbank payment system in production – built on Hyperledger Iroha. While often described as a CBDC, Bakong is more of a [tokenized deposit system](#) since the digital currency is a liability of commercial banks. Bakong enables users to transfer and receive digital funds via smartphones without traditional bank accounts and [has grown to more than ten million wallets in the population of 17 million](#). In 2024, Bakong digital payment system saw major growth, [processing 175.3 million transactions worth USD 54.8 billion](#). Transactions grew by over 130% year-over-year, with total volume surpassing 300% of Cambodia's GDP.

The NBC has been pursuing CBDC integration with countries in the region such as Vietnam, Thailand, and UnionPay in China, and seeks to expand its cross-border payment scheme with other countries including India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea. For example, they've partnered with Ant International to [launch cross-border QR code payments](#) between the Bakong payment system and Alipay+.

In other applications, NBC also launched the [Bakong Tourist mobile payment system](#) enabling international visitors to deposit money, via a bank or at their hotel, then make payments with QR codes at more than 3 million locations. In November 2024, the [NBC and Mastercard announced](#) that users can now transfer funds from Mastercard accounts to Bakong Tourists wallets.

Read more in the LF Decentralized Trust [Case Study](#).



PROJECT USED



Please visit [Soramitsu.co.jp](https://soramitsu.co.jp) for more information on blockchain-based CBDCs

PHASE: PILOT CONCLUDED

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank



In [April 2021](#), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) launched DCash, its retail CBDC, in four countries: Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Lucia. The pilot aimed to improve payment efficiency, financial inclusion, and economic resilience.

By March 2023, DCash had expanded to all eight ECCB member countries, with approximately [USD 2.45 million in circulation, 21 participating financial institutions](#), 10 agencies, and nearly 400 merchants involved. Integration into merchant systems was a key focus.

The DCash Pilot concluded in January 2024 after 34 months validating the use of DLT for a retail CBDC with high availability, fast transaction settlement (< seven seconds), and robust security. Use cases included intra-regional commerce and small-value spending, but user adoption challenges highlighted the need for user-centric design.

The ECCB has since announced plans for DCash 2.0, a commercial-grade retail CBDC solution. Preparations included [conducting public surveys](#) in the late 2024 to inform the new system's design and a relaunch of the DCash website.

The ECCB is committed to leveraging the lessons learned from the pilot to enhance DCash's functionality and user experience, with the goal of furthering financial inclusion and economic development in the Eastern Caribbean.

PROJECT USED



PHASE: RESEARCH

European Central Bank



The European Central Bank's (ECB) investigation phase into a digital euro (Oct 2021–Oct 2023) focused on design options, demand, compensation models, and the distribution framework for a CBDC. This included research on a tiered approach to explore how centralized systems could operate alongside distributed ledger technology. During this phase, several European central banks—including those of Spain, Italy, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Austria—participated in trials. The research highlighted that platforms like Besu and Hyperledger Fabric, among others, were “fully interoperable with existing fiat systems.” [Read the full report here](#) and [the findings here](#).

In late 2023, the ECB entered a two-year preparation phase to establish the groundwork for a digital euro, including finalizing the rulebook, selecting infrastructure providers, and conducting further testing. This initiative aims to enhance the ECB's understanding of innovative solutions and their potential applications in central bank money settlements.

The exploratory work took place in two waves: first between May and November 2024 and the second from July to November 2024. By the end of 2025, the ECB Governing Council will decide whether to move forward with issuing a digital euro.

PROJECTS USED



PHASE: RESEARCH

France

Banque de France, a leading central bank in wholesale CBDC research, worked with Banque Centrale du Luxembourg to develop the Distributed Ledger for Securities Settlement System (DL3S) platform for the issuance, distribution, and redemption of experimental wCBDC in euros. DL3S is [one of three](#) Eurosystem interoperability solutions and is built on Hyperledger Fabric. It enables secure and efficient tokenized cash settlements and interoperability with securities DLTs through mechanisms like Hashed Timelock Contracts (HTLCs).

In [2020](#), Banque de France conducted its first experiment, partnering with LF Decentralized Trust Member IBM, on the tokenization of government bonds and their distribution in primary and secondary markets via CBDC.

Smart contracts automated processes such as auto-collateralization, on-flow, and coupon payments leveraging Hyperledger Fabric and [Token SDK](#), a LF Decentralized Trust lab. In 2021, Banque de France partnered with HSBC and eight other organizations to trial a wCBDC, testing interoperability between a CBDC blockchain and a bond network [using Hyperledger Fabric, Hyperledger Cacti, and R3 Corda](#), with Hyperledger Cacti as the interoperability tool.

In July 2023, a [final report](#) concluded 12 experiments conducted since 2020, demonstrating the operational feasibility of three wholesale CBDC models: interoperability, distribution, and integration. These models offer diverse capabilities, tested across various use cases, most notably showing that tokenizing central bank money improves cross-border payments, settlement finality, and security while being operationally feasible.



PROJECTS USED



Photo by [Tanguy Belin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Please visit [IBM](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH

France - cont'd

Banque de France has also participated in [Project Mariana](#) with BIS and Monetary Authority of Singapore. The joint project, which uses Besu, focused on CBDCs in automated market makers.

In October 2023, Banque de France hosted a conference titled "[Unveiling the Potential of Wholesale CBDC: What Insights and Prospects](#)," where Governor François Villeroy de Galhau highlighted the importance of establishing international standards for interoperability between different CBDC systems to prevent inefficiencies and ensure seamless integration. The event highlighted ongoing advancements in DL3S and collaborative efforts within the Eurosystem's exploratory work on tokenized asset settlement in central bank money.

In December 2024, Banque de France partnered with Société Générale's subsidiary SG-Forge to conduct a groundbreaking on-chain repo transaction. This first-of-its-kind transaction in the euro area utilized bonds issued on the Ethereum blockchain as collateral, while the Banque de France issued central bank digital currency on its proprietary DL3S blockchain. This demonstrated the potential for blockchain technology to redefine financial transactions, improving efficiency and security.

DL3S has been integral to the Eurosystem's exploratory work, connecting with 18 market DLTs and over 40 institutions. According to the Banque, it has facilitated over 800 transactions, including delivery vs. payments and cross-border transfers, totaling €1 billion. In 2025, Banque de France will continue collaborating internationally to refine DLT use for wholesale CBDCs, emphasizing interoperability and scalability.



PROJECTS USED



Photo by [Tanguy Belin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Please visit [IBM](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH

Germany

The [Trigger Solution](#), developed by the Deutsche Bundesbank, enables settlement of DLT-based wholesale financial transactions in central bank money. As a technical bridge between distributed ledger platforms and the Eurosystem's TARGET services, it allows secure, synchronized settlement of tokenized assets with cash movements — without issuing a tokenized central bank currency.

[Built on Hyperledger Fabric 2.5](#), the Trigger Solution leverages Fabric's permissioned architecture for security, scalability, and flexibility. Participants can connect to the Trigger Solution by operating their own Fabric nodes or via provided APIs.

The Trigger Solution builds on a 2021 milestone with Deutsche Börse and the German Finance Agency, demonstrating DLT-based securities settlement in central bank money. It is now one of three interoperability solutions in the Eurosystem's exploratory work on connecting DLT platforms with central bank payment systems. In 2024, [25 institutions tested real transactions](#) — including DvP between tokenized securities and central bank money. Unlike other models, the Trigger Solution enables settlement in existing TARGET Services using real central bank money in RTGS accounts, without issuing wholesale CBDC or tokenized cash.

Bundesbank has also engaged in [CBDC privacy research](#) with MIT Digital Currency Initiative. Looking ahead, it plans to further develop the Trigger Solution for broader financial instruments and enhanced interoperability, supporting the Eurosystem's strategy for integrating tokenized assets with secure central bank settlement.



PROJECT USED



Photo by Raja Sen on Unsplash

PHASE: RESEARCH

India

In 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched pilot programs for wholesale and retail CBDCs, the Digital Rupee, [leveraging Hyperledger Fabric](#). Its goals included reducing operational costs in physical cash management, increasing efficiency for settlements, payments system innovation, and fostering financial inclusion.

The RBI launched a [digital rupee pilot in the wholesale segment](#) with nine banks in November 2022, to settle secondary market transactions in government securities. The [retail digital rupee pilot](#) began in December, enabling users to transact through a digital wallet offered by participating banks and stored on mobile devices.

In August 2024, the RBI said the [CBDC pilot program had more than five million users and 16 participating banks](#). The RBI is undertaking new use cases, such as using the e-rupee to connect purpose-bound money with generating agricultural carbon credits. Some banks now provide programmed CBDC loans to farmers for specific uses, such as buying fertilizers, where the CBDC can only be utilized in a fertilizer depot.

The central bank is looking to enable additional functionalities of programmability and [offline capability](#) in CBDC retail payments. It has also [announced plans](#) to make its e-rupee accessible to more retail users by allowing non-bank payment system operators to offer CBDC wallets. RBI is also [exploring](#) the possibility of using its CBDC in commercial papers (CPs) and certificates of deposits (CDs) on a trial basis.

See more on India's CBDC initiatives in this [update](#).



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

PROJECT USED

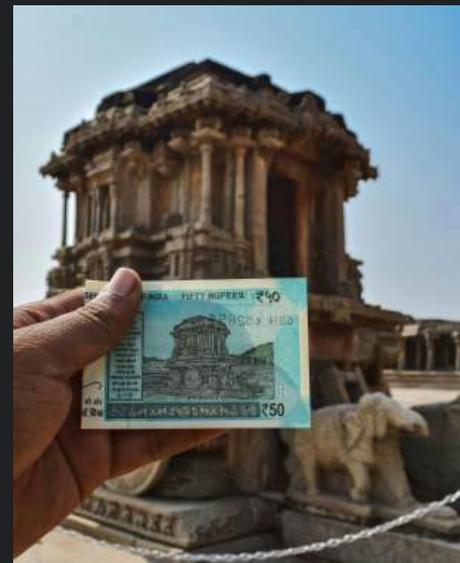


Photo by Sandip Kalal on Unsplash

Indonesia



Project Garuda is Bank Indonesia's multi-phase initiative to develop its CBDC, known as the Digital Rupiah, to modernize financial infrastructure, support more efficient monetary policy transmission, and enhance financial inclusion. The project is structured in three phases: the Immediate State, Intermediate State, and End State.

The project is currently in the Immediate State and in December 2024, Bank Indonesia released its first report. This phase evaluated issuance, transfer, and redemption processes using two DLT platforms: Corda and LF Decentralized Trust's Besu. Both platforms passed 55 test scenarios, demonstrating strong performance in areas such as scalability, privacy, and auditability. Smart contracts were tested to automate transactions, and the system's integration with the Bank Indonesia Real-Time Gross Settlement (BI-RTGS) system and other financial infrastructures was assessed. The Digital Rupiah was designed to complement existing payment systems, with issuance and redemption based on conversion to and from reserve account balances, and validation handled through distributed nodes.

The Intermediate State will explore integrating wholesale CBDC with digital securities platforms and testing delivery-versus-payment (DvP) for tokenized settlement (Bank Indonesia, 2024). The End State will focus on cross-border use and retail CBDC, with emphasis on privacy, interoperability, and compliance scalability.

PROJECT USED



Photo by Aini Rahmadini on Unsplash

Please visit [Kaleido](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: PILOT

Nigeria

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) launched the live eNaira CBDC, built on Hyperledger Fabric, in October 2021 to ensure a secure, scalable, and efficient infrastructure. Within its first year, the platform facilitated approximately 700,000 transactions worth \$18.3 million. Two applications were introduced, the eNaira Speed Wallet and the eNaira Merchant Wallet, to enable citizens and merchants to access and utilize the eNaira.

eNaira's objectives include improving access to central bank money, streamlining tax collection, supporting a resilient payment system, enabling welfare distribution, and facilitating remittances and cross-border payments. In 2023, the CBN expanded access to individuals without bank accounts to boost financial inclusion. For more details on the eNaira's design, read the white paper.

In 2024, the CBN reported a 57% increase in the value of eNaira transactions, reaching N18.32 billion, while initiating a comprehensive review of its implementation to ensure a broad and positive economic impact. The eNaira was integrated into the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System to enhance interoperability, with further collaborations with fintech firms to broaden its accessibility and utility.

CBN Governor Olayemi Cardoso emphasized the eNaira's role in the Payment System Vision 2025 initiative, highlighting its potential to boost trade, investment, and economic growth. Plans include enabling quick, affordable cross-border payments and improving confidence in the payment system. Continued enhancements to features, security, and usability aim to meet Nigeria's National Financial Inclusion Strategy goals.



PROJECT USED



Image Copyright: eNaira

Norway



Norges Bank continues to advance CBDC research through a multi-phase study. In [Phase 4](#), completed in June 2023, the bank developed a CBDC sandbox on Besu, allowing CBDCs to be issued, transferred to private banks, and distributed to customers. The phase showcased large-scale batch payments via APIs and smart contracts, along with pioneering features never before tested like integrating verifiable credentials with Norway's social security registry and calculating per-second interest rates for transactions, including minting and burning of CBDCs.

In [Project Icebreaker](#), Norges Bank collaborated with the Bank of Israel, Sveriges Riksbank, and BIS to explore cross-border retail CBDC payments. It tested the technical feasibility of connecting different DLT systems, identifying benefits, trade-offs, and challenges for instant cross-currency transactions.

In [2024](#), Norges Bank extended its research to prepare for a potential CBDC introduction, focusing on both retail and wholesale designs. Known for transparency, it remains the [first central bank to publish its CBDC code on GitHub](#), promoting open-source collaboration. The bank aims to ensure any CBDC decision safeguards financial stability and payment system efficiency.

PROJECT USED



Photo by [Oliver Cole](#) on [Unsplash](#)

PHASE: PROOF OF CONCEPT

Papua New Guinea

In late 2024, the Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG) launched a PoC for its central bank digital currency, the Digital Kina. Conducted between December 2024 and January 2025, the initiative aimed to explore how a digital currency could enhance payment efficiency, financial inclusion, and cross-border remittances across Papua New Guinea.

The PoC was developed in partnership with Japanese fintech firm Soramitsu (an LF Decentralized Trust Member), and supported by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mitsubishi, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It leveraged the SORA v3 Hub Chain, powered by the open-source Hyperledger Iroha 2 blockchain. Participants, including BPNG staff and local businesses in Port Moresby, successfully conducted real-time peer-to-peer payments and remittances using a mobile wallet application, with security features tested for fund recovery with theft or loss.

Key outcomes demonstrated the ability to deliver 24/7 secure payments and fast settlement capabilities. Governor Elizabeth Genia emphasized the project's potential to improve efficiency nationwide, adding that the "Digital Kina has the potential to solve challenges in financial inclusion, security and accessibility, and we will work to ensure that it is beneficial for communities across the country".

Looking ahead, BPNG plans to expand the Digital Kina pilot to a broader user base, gathering feedback to refine platform speed, regulatory compliance, and security measures ahead of potential broader deployment.



BANK OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PROJECT USED



Please visit [Soramitsu.co.jp](https://soramitsu.co.jp) for more information on blockchain-based CBDCs

Philippines



In 2023, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) launched Project Agila to explore a wholesale CBDC aimed at enhancing interbank payment systems. The project utilizes Hyperledger Fabric as the underlying technology and LF Decentralized Trust Member, Oracle, as a partner.

In December 2024, BSP and participating financial institutions completed testing for the initiative, enabling financial institutions to conduct fund transfers beyond traditional business hours, including evenings, weekends, and holidays, through Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

The testing phase involved evaluations covering functional, performance, security, and programmability assessments, ensuring the system's robustness and security for real-world applications.

BSP plans to integrate Project Agila into broader financial operations, including securities settlement and cross-border payments. The central bank aims to launch a wholesale CBDC during BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona Jr's term, which ends in 2029. 2025 or 2026 have been previously floated as potential timeframes.

PROJECT USED



Visit oracle.com for more information on blockchain-based CBDCs

Thailand



Bank of Thailand's Project Inthanon was one of the first to demonstrate how blockchain can enhance efficiency and support innovations in payments and supply chain financing by leveraging CBDCs.

LF Decentralized Trust Member Consensys, alongside SCG and Digital Ventures, used Besu to meet both the functional and non-functional requirements of a retail CBDC.

One of the business cases tested the use of a CBDC to simulate daily commerce, automate payments, and support procurement and financial management system called Procure-to-Pay (B2P) developed by Digital Ventures.

PROJECT USED



Read the [full report](#).



Please visit consensys.net for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH

Spain

The Smart Money Initiative—led by Iberpay, 16 banks (including CaixaBank, Santander, BBVA, ING), and observed by the Bank of Spain—tested the technical features outlined in the European Central Bank’s digital euro framework. Using the [Red-i blockchain network](#), based on Besu, Smart Money demonstrated the viability of a digital euro for Spain’s financial sector, including offline payments, and confirmed the two-tier infrastructure model as preferable over a centralized one. [Read the full report](#).

Separately, in 2024, the Bank of Spain launched [wholesale CBDC pilot programs](#) to explore interbank payments and settlement of tokenized securities. Three projects were selected: LF Decentralized Trust Member Adhara (developing a multi-CBDC cross-border settlement platform), a Cecabank–Abanca consortium (using wholesale CBDC to settle tokenized bonds), and Minsait (testing a wholesale CBDC for the issuance and lifecycle management of natively digital bonds). These pilots aim to evaluate the operational feasibility and benefits of wholesale CBDC integration into Spain’s financial system.

The Bank of Spain continues to contribute to the broader Eurosystem digital euro initiative, as confirmed by its participation in earlier consultation and experimentation phases during the ECB’s digital euro investigation stage.

BANCO DE **ESPAÑA**
Eurosystem

PROJECTS USED



Visit adhara.io or more information on blockchain-based CBDCs

PHASE: PROOF OF CONCEPT

Solomon Islands

In late November 2023, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI) initiated a PoC for its central bank digital currency, Bokolo Cash. Named after traditional shell money, Bokolo Cash is a digital representation of the Solomon Islands dollar, operating on a Hyperledger Iroha 2-based permissioned blockchain.

The PoC tested various use cases, including retail transactions in the capital Honiara, interbank settlements, and simulated cross-border remittances. Participants utilized the Fearless Wallet mobile app to conduct transactions, with a two-tier Know Your Customer (KYC) verification process ensuring compliance with international standards.

A notable feature of the project was its integration with the SORA network, a decentralized public blockchain, facilitating interoperability and simulating cross-border payments. This dual-layer approach combines the security of a permissioned system with the global reach of a public network.

The launch event on November 28, 2023, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare highlighted that the CBDC initiative aligns with the National Development Strategy and underscored the government's commitment to leveraging digital technology for inclusive and sustainable development.

The CBSI plans to use insights from the PoC to inform future phases, aiming to enhance financial inclusion and modernize the nation's payment infrastructure



Central Bank of Solomon Islands

PROJECT USED



Hyperledger
IROHA



Photo by r0229 oke on Unsplash

Please visit [Soramitsu.co.jp](https://soramitsu.co.jp) for more information on blockchain-based CBDCs

PHASE: RESEARCH

United Kingdom: Project Rosalind

In collaboration with the BIS London Innovation Centre, Bank of England set out to answer key questions that revolve around the [implementation of a retail CBDC](#) system. These include approaches with the private sector engagement, enabling interoperability, adoption, and a healthy competitive ecosystem.

The project explored the necessity for a universal and adaptable API layer. In collaboration with the private sector, the initiative delved into the foundational elements of a CBDC ecosystem, examining how APIs could support innovative use cases.

A prototype API layer comprising 33 endpoints across six functional categories was developed and tested in 30 identified use cases. This research underscored the potential of a well-designed API layer to facilitate CBDC payments, while emphasizing the importance of aligning API design with broader privacy considerations integral to CBDC implementation. Project conclusions emphasized the need for ongoing efforts in CBDC infrastructure development. Read the final report [here](#).

Since the completion of this project, the Bank has [entered the design phase](#) which focuses on developing a detailed policy and technology framework for a potential digital pound. In 2025, the Digital Pound Lab launched to test APIs, uses cases, and business models, with a focus on ensuring strict privacy protections.



Bank of England



PROJECT USED



Photo by [Samuel Regan-Asante](#) on [Unsplash](#)

PHASE: RESEARCH

Project Aber

Launched in 2019 by the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE), Project Aber was a pioneering proof of concept testing a dual-issued wholesale CBDC for domestic and cross-border settlements. [Built on Hyperledger Fabric](#), the project involved six commercial banks and was structured in three phases: cross-border settlement between central banks, domestic settlement among local banks, and cross-border settlement between commercial banks.

The pilot used real funds and locally hosted blockchain nodes, emphasizing performance, privacy, and decentralization. The report findings [demonstrated that DLT could enhance cross-border transactions](#) while maintaining financial privacy, and that a dual-issued CBDC could address key inefficiencies in existing cross-border interbank payments. The project confirmed that a jointly issued CBDC is technically viable and that DLT can support central banks in delivering efficient, secure domestic and cross-border payment systems.



مصرف الإمارات العربية المتحدة المركزي
CENTRAL BANK OF THE U.A.E.

PROJECT USED



Please visit [IBM](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH

Project Icebreaker

Launched in March 2023, [Project Icebreaker](#), was a collaboration between the Bank of Israel, Sveriges Riksbank, Norges Bank, and the BIS Innovation Hub. It explored how retail CBDCs could be used for cross-border payments, aiming to identify the benefits, challenges, and technical requirements of connecting different national CBDC systems for faster, cheaper, and safer cross-currency transactions.

The experiment tested a hub-and-spoke model linking the domestic CBDC platforms of each central bank. The Bank of Israel's prototype used Quorum (Ethereum-based), Norges Bank used Besu, and Sveriges Riksbank used a DLT platform with a UTXO model. The Icebreaker hub routed payments and enabled FX transactions between different CBDC systems, using FX providers operating across multiple jurisdictions.

Key functionalities tested included coordinated settlement using Hash Time Locked Contracts (HTLC) to enable atomic payment-versus-payment (PvP) transactions, minimizing settlement risk. Icebreaker also tested decoupling FX services from payment processing to promote competition and transparency in FX pricing, and explored the use of bridge currencies for indirect currency pair transactions.

The project concluded that the Icebreaker model could enable cross-border payments between different CBDC systems with minimal adjustments to domestic platforms. Benefits included lower costs, faster payments, and reduced risks for users. However, further work is needed to address policy, legal, and regulatory challenges before real-world implementation.



PROJECT USED



PHASE: RESEARCH

Inthanon-LionRock2

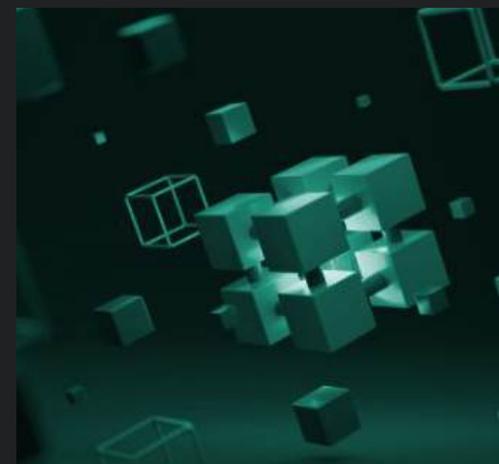
[Project Inthanon-LionRock2](#), later renamed the mCBDC Bridge Project and then Project mBridge, was originally launched by the Bank for International Settlements Hong Kong Innovation Hub, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and Bank of Thailand. Its overarching goal was to explore how CBDCs can enhance the speed, cost, and transparency of real-time cross-border payments while maintaining compliance with jurisdiction-specific regulations.

Phase 2 leveraged Besu to build a working prototype that enabled each central bank to issue its own CBDC on the network and to monitor flows, balances, and transactions in real-time. Key functionalities tested included privacy-preserving transaction design, programmability for automated compliance, and real-time transaction execution, which led to significant improvements in processing speed and reduction in transaction costs. Read the [full report](#).

In Phase 3, the People's Bank of China and the Central Bank of the UAE joined to form mBridge, demonstrating multi-CBDC exchanges in seconds. The project introduced the EVM-compatible mBridge Ledger, a custom DLT built for scalable, real-time cross-border settlement.



PROJECT USED



Please visit consensys.net for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH

Project Mariana

Project Mariana aims to expand on wCBDC experiments by focusing on improving the effectiveness, safety, and transparency of FX trading and settlement. Two key dimensions are involved to achieve this: combining FX trading and settlement into one step using a wholesale CBDC, and testing cross-border interoperability using a common technical standard. This would be game-changing in enabling various domestic CBDC projects to exchange in a future tokenized financial system.

Project Mariana expands research into DeFi mechanisms (e.g., automated market-makers {AMM}), and tests a common standard for fungible wCBDC tokens. Such a standard would enable interoperability of wCBDCs within the same protocol and in the use of AMMs. Project objectives are:

1. Research and test wCBDC token design based on a technical standard with governance features that meet central bank requirements
2. Test interoperability via bridges for the seamless and safe wCBDC transfer between domestic and international networks
3. Build and test transactions in a FX interbank market using an AMM.

The results of the latest phase demonstrate novel approaches in the international aspect of wCBDC ecosystem design, and contributes to the G20 goal of enhancing cross-border payments.

Read the interim [report](#) and [final report](#).



SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALBANK
BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE
BANCA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA
BANCA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA
SWISS NATIONAL BANK



Monetary Authority
of Singapore



PROJECT USED



PHASE: RESEARCH

Project Meridian FX

Project Meridian FX, [began in early 2024](#), is a collaborative effort between Bank of England, BIS Innovation Hub (London and Eurosystem Centres), and central banks including Deutsche Bundesbank, Banca d'Italia, and Banque de France. The project explores synchronised settlement mechanisms for FX transactions, enhancing efficiency and reducing settlement risks.

The project tested a synchronisation operator (SO), a technology-agnostic entity coordinating settlements across disparate systems. It connected an emulated UK Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system with three Eurosystem solutions: the Trigger Solution (Deutsche Bundesbank), TIPS Hash-Link (Banca d'Italia), and DL3S (Banque de France). The SO was also evaluated for its ability to interface between traditional RTGS systems and DLT-based platforms, demonstrating its potential to support interoperability across financial infrastructures.

Key findings indicate that the SO can effectively enable payment-versus-payment (PvP) FX settlements without assuming credit or liquidity risks, as it does not require holding accounts in the connected RTGS systems. The SO also supports functionalities such as transaction approval limits for commercial banks and offers flexibility in settlement models, allowing participants to balance immediacy with liquidity efficiency.

Looking ahead, the project will inform the Bank of England's RTGS roadmap, including synchronisation and wholesale CBDC exploration. The Eurosystem will use the findings to enhance TARGET interoperability and assess new technologies for wholesale settlement



PROJECTS USED



Photo by [Claudio Schwarz](#) on [Unsplash](#)

PHASE: RESEARCH

Project Venus

Led by Banque de France and Banque centrale du Luxembourg, Project Venus demonstrated the successful issuance and settlement of a €100 million [EIB digital bond using wholesale CBDC](#). Underwritten by Goldman Sachs, Société Générale, and Santander, the project employed a dual-DLT model: GS DAP for bond issuance and custody, and DL3S for tokenized cash settlement.

Key innovations included HTLCs for trustless interoperability, enabling T0 atomic settlement and reducing counterparty risks. The project validated wholesale CBDC's potential to enhance cross-border payments, settlement finality, and operational security. DL3S, built on Hyperledger Fabric, enabled strict control over access and transaction confidentiality while supporting HTLC-based atomic settlements. GS DAP, powered by Besu as a Layer 1 solution, served as the secure messaging bus for Canton nodes and facilitated cross-DLT interactions. This setup showcased how DLTs can coexist and support tokenized capital markets effectively.

In the [final report](#) from June 2024, the key takeaways underscore the feasibility of integrating wholesale CBDC into capital markets using DLTs, with Hyperledger Fabric and Besu playing pivotal roles in enabling secure, efficient, and interoperable settlements. Project findings support continued exploration of DLT-based financial ecosystems and further Eurosystem-level cooperation.



PROJECTS USED



Please visit [IBM](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

PHASE: RESEARCH CONCLUDED

Project Stella

Launched in 2016 as a joint research initiative between the Bank of Japan (BoJ) and the European Central Bank (ECB), Project Stella aimed to evaluate the potential of distributed ledger technology (DLT) in financial market infrastructures (FMIs). Over four phases, the project examined [DLT's application to settlement, liquidity, privacy, and cross-border interoperability](#) in central bank operations.

The first phase tested whether liquidity-saving mechanisms (LSMs) in RTGS systems like TARGET2 and BOJ-NET, could operate on DLT. Using Hyperledger Fabric, the study showed LSMs could be replicated, though performance was sensitive to network setup. The [second phase demonstrated delivery-versus-payment \(DvP\) across separate DLTs](#) using hashed timelock contracts (HTLCs) and digital signatures. While feasible, the design raised concerns about liquidity efficiency and transaction speed.

Phase three explored synchronised cross-border payments. [DLT showed potential for improving settlement safety and speed](#) but faced hurdles in interoperability and technical standards.

The [final phase examined privacy-enhancing technologies](#) (PETs), assessing how techniques like hiding and unlinking could protect data while preserving auditability. The findings emphasized trade-offs between confidentiality and regulatory access. Project Stella concluded in 2020 after its fourth phase.



BANK OF JAPAN



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

PROJECT USED



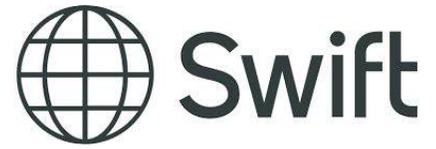
Swift Sandbox

In October [2022](#), Swift announced a solution to enable transactions between CBDCs across DLT-based and fiat-based systems within the existing financial framework. Testing began in a sandbox with 18 central and commercial banks, including Banque de France, Deutsche Bundesbank, Monetary Authority of Singapore, BNP Paribas, HSBC, and Société Générale. Hyperledger FireFly served as the integration platform, providing tools for secure data sharing, token management, and transaction orchestration.

Over 12 weeks, participants evaluated the Swift CBDC connector, transaction flows, roles, responsibilities, and considerations like identity and privacy. Results confirmed the interlinking solution met the requirements for interoperable cross-border CBDC payments.

In [2024](#), the sandbox expanded to [38 banks conducting over 750 transactions](#) across trade, FX, and securities use cases. Hyperledger Fabric and Besu played pivotal roles: Fabric supported delivery-versus-payment scenarios by simulating tokenized securities and CBDC transactions, while Besu enabled cross-border FX operations, demonstrating secure interoperability between DLTs. These experiments showcased the solution's ability to simplify global trade flows, improve FX settlement efficiency, and advance tokenized securities markets.

These findings confirmed Swift's ability to integrate CBDCs into traditional systems while tackling scalability and interoperability. As a next step, [Swift announced live trials](#) for tokenized assets and digital currencies in 2025 to further validate their seamless integration into global financial infrastructure.



PROJECTS USED



Please visit [Kaleido](#) for more information on blockchain-based CBDC architectures.

LF DECENTRALIZED TRUST

MEMBER SUMMIT

Exclusive members-only annual event where industry leaders gather to direct the future

- ❑ Network with business and technical leaders
- ❑ Brainstorm to advance project scaling
- ❑ Share best practices and lessons

The LF Decentralized Trust Member Summit is a pivotal gathering for innovators advancing secure, openly developed decentralized technologies. It provides members with a collaborative platform to shape the future of blockchain, cryptography, distributed identity, and related projects through strategic discussions, workshops, and working groups.

By directly contributing to technical roadmaps and governance frameworks, participants align projects with real-world needs while staying ahead of emerging trends.

Members benefit from unparalleled networking opportunities, connecting with global experts across industries like finance, healthcare, and IoT. These collaborations often lead to innovative partnerships and practical solutions that enhance efficiency, security, and scalability.

Ultimately, the event underscores the power of open collaboration, empowering members to co-create technologies that build trust on a global scale. For organizations shaping the decentralized future, the summit is an essential venue for influence, insight, and innovation.



Additional Resources

Read: ["The Case for Open Development as the Foundation for Central Bank Digital Currencies"](#)

Watch: Blockchain engineers at Banque de France and IBM provide a technical presentation and feedback on the Banque de France Venus CBDC experiment and how Hyperledger Fabric addresses many of the requirements for CBDC use cases. This video shows how Hyperledger technologies helped build a CBDC, how it was used to orchestrate interoperability with HTLC, and will offer a deep-dive and hands-on session on the Hyperledger Fabric Token SDK lab. Watch it [here](#).

Watch: A curated selection of Hyperledger CBDC member webinars, special interest group presentations, global forum keynotes and more [here](#).

Listen to experts at Davos in government, central banks, open source technology development, and collaboration share their views on why open source tech and collaboration is the key to [accelerating progress on CBDC research, adoption in financial services and in government](#).

Watch: ["Open Source for CBDCs"](#) at the annual Digital Euro Conference

Watch: Jim Cunha, senior vice-president, secure payments and fintech of Hyperledger Foundation Member Federal Reserve of Boston, discusses the ["Boston Fed's CBDC Project" as well as the wider impact of distributed ledger technology on the financial system](#).

Watch: [Governance, standards and interoperability: Getting past the roadblocks to peer-to-peer financial transactions](#) with IBM, Consensus and Soramitsu, a discussion of LF Decentralized Trust technologies in wholesale and retail CBDC projects.

Watch: [How to Create a Currency Management Application and Deploy it on a Hyperledger Fabric Network](#) with IBM Research. This shows two essential aspects of the Fabric Token-SDK, how to develop and deploy a token application ensuring a seamless integration with your blockchain infrastructure.

Watch: [Hyperledger Besu for Financial Services Workshop](#)

Additional Resources

Reports

- [A Framework for Resilient A Framework for Resilient, Transparent, High-throughput, Privacy-Enabled Central Bank Digital Currencies](#)
- [CBDC Virtual Handbook](#) - A comprehensive reference guide for policymakers and experts evaluating CBDCs, covering topics like financial stability, monetary policy, and cross-border payments.
- [How Should Central Banks Explore Central Bank Digital Currency?](#) - Proposes a dynamic decision-making framework for central banks to make informed choices under uncertainty regarding CBDC exploration.
- International Monetary Fund - [A guide to Central Bank Digital Currency Product Development](#)
- BIS - [Central Bank Digital Currencies: Legal and System Design Considerations](#)
- World Economic Forum - [Central Bank Digital Currency Global Interoperability Principles](#)
- CFA Institute [Global Survey on Central Bank Digital Currencies](#)
- [CBDC Transactions to Exceed \\$213 Billion by 2030 Globally, as New Payment Models Acceleration Financial Inclusion](#)
- [Modernizing Financial Markets with Wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency](#)
- [OMFIF Retail CBDCs: The next payments frontier](#)
- [Using CBDCs Across Borders: Lessons Learned from Practical Experiments](#) - BIS June 2022
- [EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum – Conclusion Report \(May 2024\)](#)
- [Expanding Financial Inclusion or Deepening the Divide?](#) - MIT & the Digital Currency Initiative
- The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and MIT DCI share [findings of Project Hamilton](#) - a theoretical high performance and resilient transaction processor for a CBDC by developing open-source research software, [OpenCBDC](#).

CBDC Trackers:

- [Atlantic Council CBDC Tracker](#)
- [Kiffmeister Wholesale CBDC Tracker](#)
- [Kiffmeister Retail CBDC Tracker](#)
- [BCG CBDC Tracker](#)
- Human Rights Foundation [CBDC Tracker](#)

Photo by [Mark Boss](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Glossary & Acronyms

atomicity: A property ensuring that a series of operations within a transaction are completed entirely or not at all, preventing partial updates to the system.

central bank money – a liability of a central bank, in this case in deposits held at the central bank, which can be used for settlement purposes.

confidentiality: The assurance that sensitive transaction details are accessible only to authorized parties, protecting information from unauthorized disclosure. Ledger Insights

consensus mechanism: A protocol used in DLT systems to achieve agreement on a single data value among distributed processes or systems.

cross-ledger DvP: A delivery-versus-payment mechanism where the transfer of securities and cash occurs across separate distributed ledgers, often utilizing protocols like hashed timelock contracts to ensure atomicity.

cross-border payments – a payment in which the financial institutions of the payer and the payee are located in different jurisdictions.

decentralized finance (DeFi): A financial system built on blockchain technology that enables peer-to-peer financial services—such as lending, borrowing, trading, and payments—without relying on traditional intermediaries like banks or brokers.

delivery versus payment (DvP) – a securities settlement mechanism that links a securities transfer and a funds transfer in such a way as to ensure that delivery occurs if and only if the corresponding payment occurs.

digital assets – a digital representation in value that can be used for payment or investment purposes or to access a good or service.

distributed ledger technology (DLT) – protocols and supporting infrastructure that allow computers in different locations to propose and validate transactions and update records in a synchronised way across a network.

foreign exchange (FX) – the exchange of one country's currency for another country's currency.

hash time-locked contract (HTLC) is a type of smart contract used in DLT applications to reduce counterparty risk by creating a time-based escrow that requires a cryptographic passphrase to unlock it..

payment versus payment (PvP) – a settlement mechanism that ensures that the final transfer of a payment in one currency occurs if and only if the final transfer of a payment in another currency or currencies occurs.

privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs): Techniques and tools designed to protect personal or sensitive information within digital systems, ensuring data privacy and compliance with regulations.

liquidity-saving mechanism (LSM): A feature in payment systems that optimizes the use of available liquidity by queuing and offsetting payments to reduce the need for immediate funds.

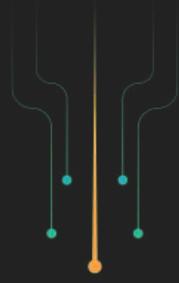
real-time gross settlement (RTGS): A system where the transfer of funds or securities occurs individually and immediately, without netting debits with credits.

trans-european automated real-time gross settlement express transfer (TARGET): The RTGS system for the euro, operated by the Eurosystem. It enables central banks and commercial banks to process large-value euro payments securely and instantly.

zero knowledge proofs (ZKPs): A cryptographic method that allows one party to prove to another that a statement is true without revealing any additional information beyond the validity of the statement itself.

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Thank You

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