

# Linux Foundation: Hyperledger

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**Hyperledger** is an open source collaborative effort created to advance cross-industry [blockchain](#) technologies. It is a global collaboration, hosted by The Linux Foundation, including leaders in finance, banking, [Internet of Things](#), supply chains, manufacturing and Technology.

Not since the Web itself has a technology promised broader and more fundamental revolution than blockchain technology. A blockchain is a peer-to-peer [distributed ledger](#) forged by consensus, combined with a system for “smart contracts” and other assistive technologies. Together these can be used to build a new generation of transactional applications that establishes trust, [accountability](#) and transparency at their core, while streamlining business processes and legal constraints.

Think of it as an [operating system](#) for marketplaces, data-sharing networks, micro-currencies, and decentralized digital communities. It has the potential to vastly reduce the cost and complexity of getting things done in the real world.

Only an Open Source, collaborative software development approach can ensure the transparency, longevity, [interoperability](#) and support required to bring blockchain technologies forward to mainstream commercial adoption. That is what Hyperledger is about – communities of software developers building blockchain frameworks and platforms.

Hyperledger launched in 2016 with a technical and organizational governance structure and 30 founding corporate members. Initially, the Hyperledger Technical Steering Committee welcomed two business blockchain framework codebases into incubation: Hyperledger Fabric, a codebase combining work by Digital Asset, libconsensus from Blockstream and OpenBlockchain from IBM; and Hyperledger Sawtooth, developed at Intel’s incubation group.

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