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Modex®



Modex - An ecosystem built on top of an enterprise-level blockchain - a network that guarantees interoperability and trust

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Abstract

The Modex Network is designed to offer a solid foundation for a multitude of applications that aim to experience interconnectivity with a stable and regulated financial ecosystem. All underlying components of Modex are developed in close collaboration with enterprise and international partners in order to match the modern rigors of security, scalability and interoperability.

Modex BCDB is a patented technology developed and improved in the past 5 years as an enterprise blockchain. With an already proven commercial maturity, the certified engine is now expanded as a core component of the Modex Network and responsible for the flexibility and interconnection of the entire Modex Ecosystem. A series of tools and frameworks were developed as satellites of the core technology, which allow Modex to address a variety of industry-specific needs in sectors like: banking, healthcare, logistics, government, etc.

Throughout the content of this paper, you will find complete technical details about Modex components, features, performance and integration mechanisms.

Keywords: blockchain; virtual assets; business ecosystem;

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1. Introduction

Innovation through blockchain

The trend of decentralization [1] represents a wave of innovation that is reshaping society. Compared to our existing centralized society, this trend is an evolution, a paradigm shift that reflects a change in our collective consciousness. Although individuals and organizations worldwide are already using blockchain and the associated benefits, blockchain is by no means ever-present in our daily lives. Businesses are currently working to implement blockchain [2] into their operations and governments are trying to create boundaries to be able to control and regulate the field. Like all new technologies, blockchain must overcome challenges along the path towards widespread adoption. The present lack of usability and trust are correlated with the relative immaturity of this emergent technology. There is still a lot of work to be done in order to align the benefits of blockchain to the reality of modern enterprise business requirements [3] and we are here to make sure this is happening faster.

Understanding the real context

We are currently living in the pen and paper state of the blockchain. There are no standardized guidelines on how to write, deploy and integrate a complex app, and there are fragmented tools available tailored only to a few very specific networks. It is like trying to write a web3 app today with the tools of 1995.

The blockchain and fintech industry have already evolved from the stage of Proof Of Concept into tangible business opportunities. However, those opportunities are being explored and built in isolation by large enterprises that have the resources to adapt and integrate the technology taking into account the data protection regulations. Furthermore, blockchain technology alone is not the perfect answer to current data protection and interoperability challenges, for the following reasons:

Missing key database features

- Blockchain itself is only a transactional ledger
- It does not store files and cannot act as a database
- It does not provide permission based access to data or governance rights

<u>Cumbersome implementation with legacy structures</u>

- Transitioning to a blockchain infrastructure often entails building a new framework from scratch
- Transitioning to a blockchain infrastructure is a disruptive and large scale IT project at an organization level

Interoperability challenges

- Current IT systems are often composed of a collection of technologies
- Blockchain and database compatibility across the Enterprise is a must have, yet requires significant investments in custom connectors

Limited adoption of incumbent technologies

- Database and infrastructure incumbents have all developed their own blockchain solutions and infrastructure
- These solutions are costly and tailored to their ecosystem, limiting adoption at scale and hindering integration and interoperability

Shortage of talent

- Very small expert pools are creating a fierce competition for intelligence and encouraging talent migration
- Limited training resources can't keep up with the market needs, trends, standards and adoption challenges

ROI uncertainty

- Costly implementation
- Most market solutions are currently customized and expensive to implement
- Skilled developers are in short supply and in high market demand, and blockchain experts charge considerable fees for their services

Regulatory framework

- The confusion and partial overlapping between blockchain and cryptocurrencies is hard to compile into a standard regulatory framework
- Serious businesses aim to benefit from regulations, but their actual contributions to the important work are limited

Fintech is expanding

After centuries of monarchy and autocracy in traditional financial systems, due to the features offered by blockchain, decentralized finance has finally found a place in our everyday lives. The power of digital money has created a revolution that seems to be growing at a fast pace and these are the top reasons to believe the expansion has only just begun:

- Digital assets are becoming the new means of trade and many traditional banking features (loans, credits, exchanges, KYC, etc) are being migrated and available as fintech consumer-ready services
- The first regulatory frameworks are tailored to financial services [4], [5]
- Government resistance is slowly degrading because all stakeholders are starting to understand the benefits of decentralization

2. Modex Ecosystem

Modex BCDB (blockchain database) stays at the very core foundation of the entire ecosystem and controls the decentralized governance of all interconnected modules, tools and frameworks. The blockchain engine used by Modex BCDB is Tendermint [6], [7] core based with numerous additional changes and layers.

The Modex Network offers a series of benefits (traceability, scalability, integrity, security) and components (smart contracts, encryption engine, processing infrastructure). All these layers are tailored to offer the interoperability of 3 main subnetworks:

- Financial subnetwork: certified payments infrastructure and services
- Business subnetwork: flexible components for seamless integration
- Developer subnetwork: modules and connectors for the ecosystem

The Modex Network works like an API (Application Programming Interface) and addresses 3 different use-case clusters:

- Enterprise applications
- Fintech tools and services
- Token Utilities

The Modex Ecosystem (Fig. 1) is the umbrella that interconnects the technical components of the Modex Network with satellites and use-cases from areas like:

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Banks

• Developer tools

• Stake Mechanisms

Shops

• Software providers

Asset Deposits

ATM's

Chain Explorer

Asset Transfers

Auditors

Public Blockchain

NGO's

Government(s)

The Modex ecosystem of products and services continuously expands in order to create new synergies between assets, users, and organizations. The end goal is to create an environment where developers could easily interconnect components, business people could focus on creation of new models and the underlying infrastructure is flexible enough for a variety of use cases.

Corporations

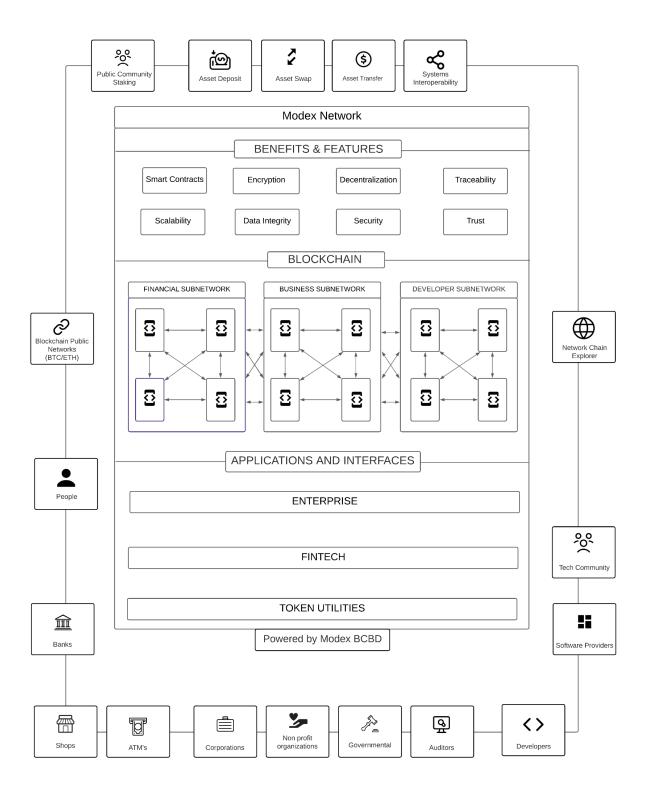


Fig. 1: The Modex Ecosystem

3. Modex Network

Patented Core Technology

A blockchain by its definition is a new way of storing information for transactions between two accounts and keeping them immutable [8]. The blockchain cannot keep up with a database data structure and size, which makes it very difficult to be used easily into an operational and data-intensive enterprise solution.

A traditional database, on the other hand, can store any type of data, allowing data altering like updates or deletes, which makes it very powerful in comparison with what a blockchain can do from a data storing perspective.

Our challenge was to find a way to bring these two technologies together and make them usable in an enterprise area. A solution with properties like update, delete, traceability, immutability, distribution, opens the door to many unsolvable problems.

In order to solve this, we had to bring a third component into play (Modex BCDB Engine), to coordinate the read and write operations, a component that will have to understand how to communicate with a blockchain and a database and to synchronise the database data with the other nodes. (Fig. 2)

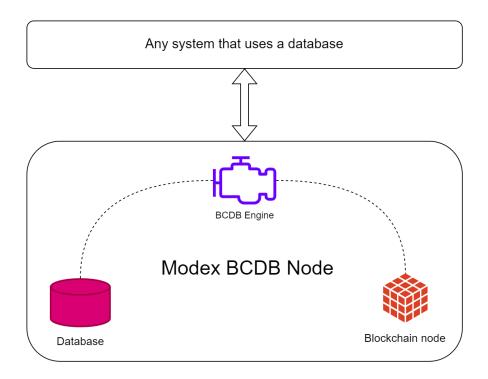


Fig. 2: The Modex BCDB Node Structure (Simplified)

Modex BCDB core is a fork of the Hyperfiuse engine [9], a patented technology owned by Modex which connects a blockchain engine with a traditional database. By combining these two types of storing engines we are building a new concept called "Blockchain database", a blockchain solution which inherits properties from both technologies:

- Data integrity
- Decentralization
- Records with any size and format
- Permissions
- Data Encryption, no matter what database is used

In order for the blockchain engine to understand a transaction that will keep track of a database record and also to notify when a transaction was confirmed into the blockchain, we defined two specific structures for transaction and response:

- MTS Modex Transaction Structure
- CTS Confirmed Transaction Structure

When we store data in a traditional database table, we always see the last modified version of that record (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4).

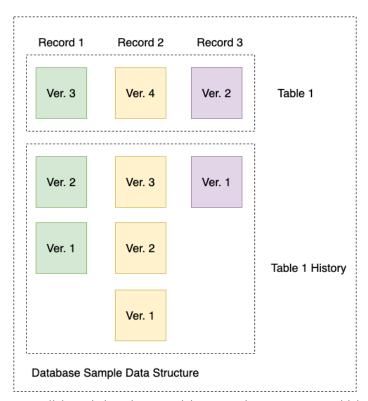


Fig. 3: Traditional database table record structure and history

There are options to keep track of changes, by activating audit or implementing your own tracking using some sort of database triggers if that database offers this feature. But there is no way to ensure that no one can alter that data.

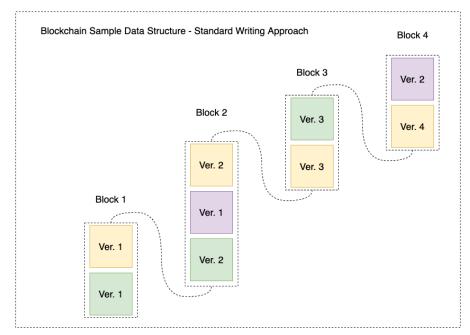


Fig. 4: Decentralized database - Standard Writing Approach

Our blockchain database solution keeps the same structure for the stored database records, and also brings an out-of-the-box record changes traceability. Since for every database record its data integrity has to be ensured, the system stores meta information into the blockchain component for each record.

In order to achieve performance and low storage overhead, the database record's metadata is batched into a single transaction, which speeds up the RPS rate even if a blockchain has low TPS values. Also, compared with a standard write approach, the enhanced version reduces the number of blocks, which brings a huge improvement at the storage level.

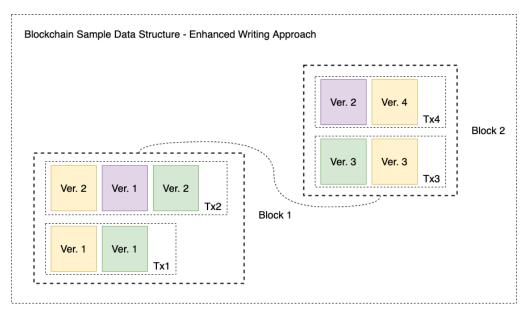


Fig. 5: Modex Blockchain Data Structure - Enhanced Writing Approach

Network flexibility

Looking over the blockchain industry, in the past few years we've seen hundreds of projects that are promising unlimited technical performance and unmatched user experience. Many of these existing networks have evolved in a non-organic environment and very few of them understand the real implications and challenges of solving the blockchain scalability trilemma [10] [11].

The Modex Network is built for business flexibility (Fig. 6) and we understand that the blockchain scalability trilemma doesn't have a single and median solution for all our internal processes and external use-cases.

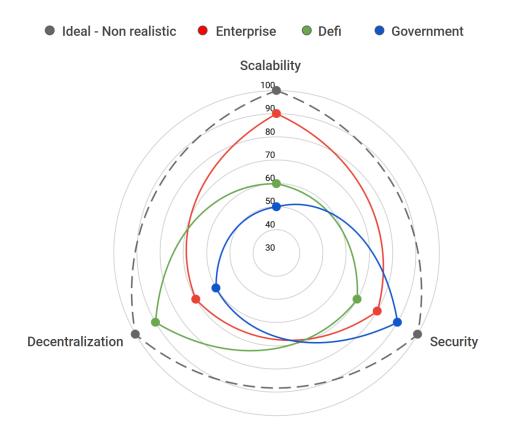


Fig. 6: The Modex Network approach to the blockchain scalability trilemma

In order to accommodate a large number of scenarios, we have built an architecture that is interoperable by design and adapts to the following 3 main sectors:

- Enterprise
- Fintech
- Government

Each one of these sectors has different business specifications, requires various technical modules and has to operate independently on the same Modex Network, but using different configurations and dedicated components.

4. Interoperability

Data sharing between organizations, whether they are in the private or public sector, is still a difficult and impractical process. While most organizations are already engaged in a digitalization process, they do not use the same software applications and databases. This usually means that it is difficult for them to share data without significantly modifying existing software configurations.

The Modex Ecosystem can build a data environment where data can be shared among entities efficiently, securely, and transparently, with the major benefit that system participants will not be required to make major changes to their infrastructure and will be able to continue to work with the same software applications and the same databases.

The Modex Network presents interoperability by design, enabling the creation of a network where data can be shared between organizations that use different data management systems, allowing a non-invasive integration of the Modex solution with the software solutions used by each party; since Modex presents an agnosticity property at the blockchain level and at the database level, the solution becomes an ally for the organizations wishing to onboard the interoperability trend, but fearing major changes (which are costly and/or taking too long) that can appear at the software applications level and databases level.

Interoperability must be looked at as a philosophy rather than a standards-based interaction between software systems (which is still a true statement). The philosophy of interoperability requires understanding the immediate impact such a technology brings to a business - interoperability at the user identity level, interoperability at the knowledge level, and interoperability at the business operations level (intra-organisational and inter-organisational), rather than looking at it as "just" interoperability at the data level.

Interconnection architecture

The Modex's solution for interoperability requires the use of Modex BCDB and of Modex Agent, both operating in parallel with the central systems of the participants. In this kind of scenario, the Modex Agent becomes the data listener in the organisation's structure, and Modex BCDB is the underlying technology of the network that enables data sharing among participants, powering it with all the features Modex brings with the blockchain solution - permissions, encryptions, synchronisations, integrity, relevancy. When the data becomes interoperable on a granular level, the underlying business operations of each organisation are improved and even new business lines can be created.

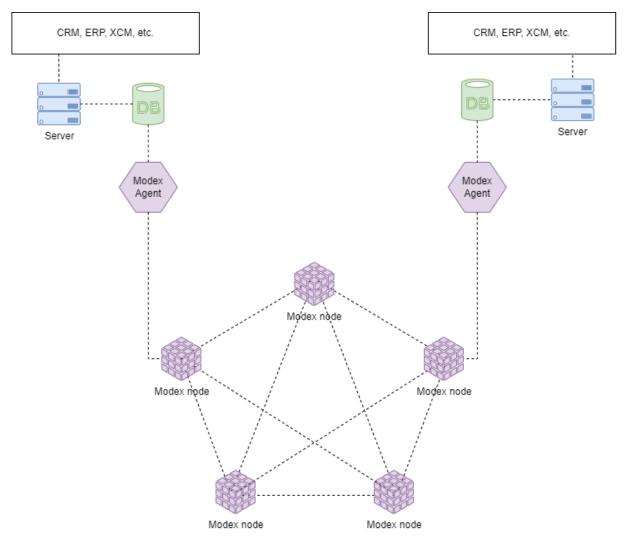


Fig. 7: The Modex Network Interoperability Diagram

The Modex Agent is a data auditor, which collects the relevant information according to the agreed configurations and rules, and stores it to the Modex BCDB network, where data can be accessed by other ecosystem participants based on permissions given by the data owner.

Modex BCDB network acts like a data vault that gets data from each Modex Agent, according to pre-agreed sharing conditions. To access data in Modex BCDB, each user must receive specific permissions, which can be granted and retracted at any given time.

The above described mechanism (Modex BCDB - Modex Agent Node) is a secure method that was already validated in several enterprise interoperability scenarios and two government applications.

Benefits of interoperability

Immediate access

Using Modex BCDB as a common data vault by multiple entities can revolutionize the way they cooperate. The duration of the data exchange decreases significantly, because they are always available to participants, provided that the owner of the data grants access to other requesting participants.

Accuracy

Modex Agent eliminates the need to manually enter data in a common register or exchange information through methods subjected to human error (email, fax, screen sharing) and eliminates difficulties of reading data generated by different entities in their own format.

Security

Based on blockchain technology, Modex BCDB creates a secure environment for storing and sharing data thanks to its embedded encryption and data immutability - data cannot be manipulated retroactively by any of the participants.

Efficiency

The integration of digital programs and applications facilitates a better flow of information, which leads to improved efficiency and faster results in combating fraud or inside data tampering.

Complete data ownership

Organizations that store their relevant shareable data on the BCDB platform are the indisputable owners of the data they add to the platform and can decide how, when and with whom to share the encrypted data.

Data integrity & immutability

Once recorded on the blockchain-enabled BCDB, the data entered by participating entities cannot be modified by any party without the others' knowledge, regardless of the permission levels they may have.

<u>Customized permissions</u>

Each organization gets an authorized user account through which it stores data, configures its preferences, and requests access to the data owned by other participants in the system, which it can decrypt with the owner's permission, permanently or temporarily.

Permanent monitoring

With each confirmed request for accessing another party's stored data, the data owner can track all the logs generated by the user to whom they granted access (download, upload, update).

5. Infrastructure

The most important component in the Modex Network is represented by the underlying infrastructure (Fig. 8). All Modex nodes are currently running and supporting certified infrastructure environments (Microsoft Azure) with all connections and endpoints hosted exclusively on secure cloud and on-premise servers that are location agnostic.

In order to match the requirements for scalability, all nodes are replicated using a proprietary decentralized database engine that helps with the load balancing, security, encryption, uptime and scalability of the solution. In order to match GDPR requirements, there are multiple blockchain node types, each with a specific role (master, replicator, KYC, personal data, backup, etc).

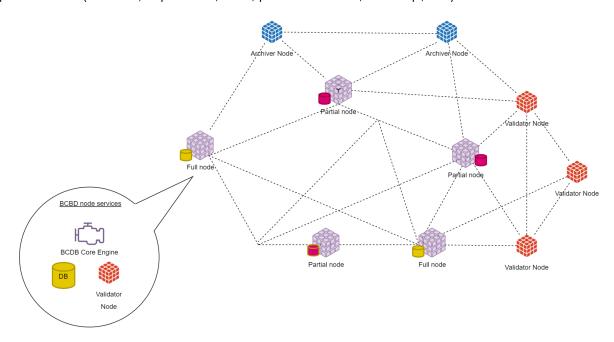


Fig. 8: Example of Modex Network Node Configuration

The infrastructure can be connected and integrated with external technologies, blockchain layers, other cloud or on-premise infrastructures only if they follow similar security and compliance standards.

From an integration perspective [12], each component is isolated and the overall framework is based on a microservice architecture. All components communicate internally, using proprietary protocols, and externally, using standardized, secure and encrypted API calls. We are currently working on several mechanisms for the implementation of the external Validator concept, to allow some of our trusted enterprise partners to contribute and become certified validators of the system.

6. Token

The Modex token is the decentralized asset [13] that lies in the middle of all technical and business operations and powers the ecosystem's economy. From a financial perspective, the token is considered a multi-purpose utility token [14] because its role is to create a macro-economy of micro-economies that are related, interconnected and interdependent. Looking carefully at the past and current instances of Modex, we have assembled a list of token utilities (collections) that are tested and reliable from an integration, business and usage perspective:

Fintech collection

In the tokenized ecosystem powered by Modex, the most useful components are found in the fintech collection:

- wallet for secure storing of the tokens
- asset management for optimal administration and traceability of assets
- payment gateway a token transfer mechanism between services

Service collection

The services that can be acquired using Modex tokens are the core value of our utility scenarios. Up to this point, the following services are currently available or under development:

- cloud services (processing and storage resources)
- decentralized blockchain database
- data vault credits

Modex Foundation collection

A portion of the ecosystem tokens will be allocated to the foundation which has been established to support the following actions:

- allocate grants for research and development in the field of decentralized ledger technology and blockchain
- organize public events, conferences and educational bootcamps about innovative technologies
- manage trademarks and other intellectual property rights or licenses
- build a community to engage with businesses, partners, banks, regulators, authorities to promote the growth and development of Modex projects
- cooperate with advisors to create incentive plans to support the growth and development of the Modex Project in corelation with community projects
- receive and distribute contributions to participate strategically in other projects with a view to direct and indirect benefit for Modex Projects;

Interoperability collection

The interconnection between digital tools is considered a priority, that is why the Modex Token will be used in relation with API's to facilitate the following:

- earn tokens in return for running a node to verify transactions
- manage tokens and earn rewards for staking resources
- grant security access to interoperability modules and infrastructures

Custom cases collection

Beside other grouped cases, Modex has developed token utility scenarios in areas like healthcare, cloud services, fast moving consumer goods, etc.

All token utility scenarios are part of a continuous development cycle of the token ecosystem. These cases, functionalities and tools are currently being created and would likely be subject to regulatory permissions. Modex is committed to deliver a quality and long term development of the token, while making sure the entire process complies with the legal framework and ethical guidelines.

The current instance of the token economy (Fig. 9) holds a total of 266M tokens and the current distribution can be seen in the picture below.

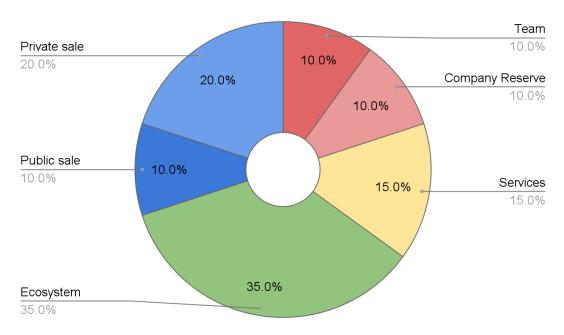


Fig. 9: Token distribution chart

It must be noted that our ICO was conducted in 2018 and since then our team has constantly invested time and effort to develop the entire technology stack. Since our commitments have been fulfilled, we are now aiming towards using the remaining tokens to target new opportunities [15] to extend the ecosystem.

Furthermore, currently we are working to finalize an open mechanism for rewards, staking and., NFT generation, enterprise utility scenarios and other perks for token holders and investors.

7. Smart contracts

When one or multiple write operations are executed in the Modex Network, they are backed by at least one blockchain transaction, which ensures that the write operation is kept immutable. Not all business logic results could be ensured with a simple write operation. The smart contract concept [16] [17] was introduced in order to fill this gap.

The smart contract in the context of Modex Network is represented by a software program which encapsulates a business logic that could execute multiple read or/and write operations. The code is stored as an immutable record, into a specific BCDB entity, in order to provide an auditable way to track any changes which will be made. The best analogy (to oversimplify the explanation) for a BCDB smart contract is a database stored procedure, a code which could be invoked manually or automatically (triggered by a write operation event).

Based on the use case implementation, the execution of a smart contract can result in the exchange of money or digital assets, unlocking some protected digital content and so on. The usage of a BCDB smart contract enables a more complex business logic for data sharing, since a record owner could allow read access to a smart contract and any other owner could access his data only through an execution of a smart contract method.

Since the smart contract is stored as an immutable record, it inherits all properties that a BCDB record has. That means that a smart contract will have these properties:

- will have an owner
- will be synchronized across all full nodes in accordance with the existing synchronization policies
- will be accessed based on a configured permission model
- could be stored in two ways: encrypted or public

Besides the above mentioned inherited traditional properties, a smart contract has additional Modex specific properties:

- It acts as an owner, which means it can own records that only the smart contract can access
- It can receive read or/and write permissions for records owned by other owners (without being able to transfer those permissions)
- It can transfer or log interactions and requests in order to offer full auditability and transparency not only for the final and current results, but also for the the entire process
- It can create connections with blockchain oracles [18] in order to work with a bi-drectional data stream that is part of another system

From a technical point of view, the smart contract concept is used in order to provide a developer with the possibility to extend the existing APIs. The smart contract code will be represented by a Java code initially, a code which must implement a specific interface in order to respect the deployment and execution processes.

The smart contract (Fig. 10) must implement the specific interface, so that the BCDB Smart Contract Engine can understand how to deploy or execute, and also how to enforce the specific constraints that are coded by the developer. The smart contract interface forces developers to implement methods like smart contract description, where the following properties must be detailed:

- The methods which are exposed by the contract
- The input and output of each exposed method
- The constraint of each method
- Private only the smart contract owner can call this method
- Permissioned only owners who have permission can call this method
- Public any authenticated owner can call this method

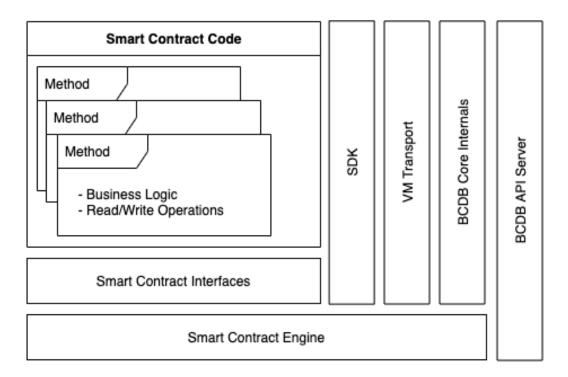


Fig. 10: Smart contract diagram (Simplified)

By following the previously mentioned logic, the BCDB Smart Contract Engine will be able to automatically expose the contract methods as a series of Open APIs.

The read and write operations will be available through the BCDB Java SDK, a library which will allow access to the smart contract at the runtime [19] to execute any exposed BCDB API, as long as the owner who invokes the contract has the rights to do so.

As specified above, the smart contract must implement the specific interface, so that the BCDB Smart Engine can also understand how to deploy the contract. In order to do so, an initialization method must be implemented which will run once at deploy time. The purpose of the initialization method is to specify what are the storage entities and their schema description.

The smart contract deployment could be done by using the Java Source code or directly the byte code.

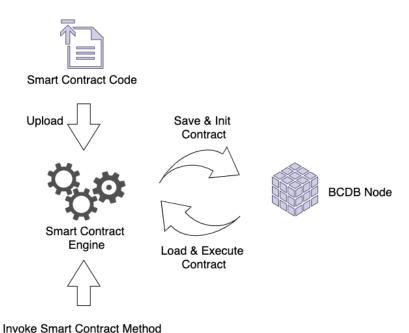


Fig. 11: Smart contract deployment procedure (Simplified)

The deployment procedure will follow the indicated steps (Fig. 10):

- Upload "smart contract" code (source or bytecode)
- Deploy validation
- Smart contract initialization
- Follow the execution path every time it is called

The old Ethereum Smart Contracts Marketplace financed in our ICO will become a BCDB SC Marketplace that stores a collection of easy to use contracts for basic and custom operations.

8. Conclusion

Modex is ready

Modex innovates in order to prepare and integrate a mature decentralized network that is able to support a large number of use-cases and contribute to the last mile adoption problem: seamless integration with enterprise-level products and services. Our highly skilled core team of > 70 members with +100 years of cumulative experience at reputable global companies in banking, software, IT security & infrastructure, database engines, product development and international business is working round the clock to build the technology of the future. With a lean management approach and a dynamic structuring through a "team of teams", Modex migrated from a successful service oriented blockchain company towards a platform working as a service provider that incorporates and integrates a complete technology suite.

The timing is right

Over the last few years, Modex has proven that it can build impressive products. The ecosystem is currently being built in a period that is very beneficial to the investors, partners and infrastructure providers. Modex has made tremendous efforts to comply with all the regulations in the field. Modex is continuously working on securing all legal licenses for virtual asset service providers, financial operations, crypto and data-storage imposed by the regulatory authorities in Gibraltar. The company has committed itself to following and adapting its business operations and technology to match the standards and regulations in the field, especially those imposed by the EU [20].

Next version

The next version of this whitepaper will provide more details about the following topics: payment framework, performance, compliance with standards, additional tokenomics details, etc.

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