

## Three Things you should know about: Blockchain

**Blockchain is, basically, a distributed, decentralized database.** A blockchain database, known as a ledger, is made up of multiple computers that share transactions over a public or private network. Each computer has a copy of the ledger, made up of blocks of transactions. The data in each block is “signed” with a computational hash of itself and the previous block in the chain. If a transaction in any block is modified, the hash of that block would no longer match the hash of the signature, indicating that the data is no longer legitimate.

**Blockchain is not “unhackable”.** Though it’s sometimes touted as impossible to hack, blockchain is vulnerable to hacking threats, and not just DDOS attacks that threaten the needed network communications. Blockchain relies on consensus rather than a central certification authority, making it vulnerable to flooding of enough bad actors to overcome the legitimate, honest actors. (In private blockchains, this can be averted by certifying node participants).

**Blockchain is largely still a nascent technology.** Its most well-known use is for cryptocurrency, and though adoption beyond cryptocurrency is still in its early stages, this technology is moving fast—for example, in disciplines such as Supply Chain Management. Watch to see more stories about blockchain in the future.