What is the InterWork Alliance?

The InterWork Alliance (IWA), an initiative of the Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC), empowers organizations to adopt and use token-powered services in their day-to-day operations, across use cases and networks, bringing inclusivity to globally distributed applications.

Founded in 2020, and merged in 2021 with the GBBC, the leading global industry association for the blockchain ecosystem, IWA is a key rallying point for organizations to collaborate on market-driven interwork standards and taxonomy to transform digital interchanges of value.

Develop standards-based interworking specifications

Address market requirements and performance metrics

Support advances across all platform technologies

Enable multi-party interchanges of value regardless of infrastructure

What does IWA do?

Multi-party digital interchanges require a trusted, agreed upon representation of value, and correlating contractual agreements. As such, IWA works to simplify and standardize multi-party exchanges, and to build specifications and tools to define tokens, an agreed upon digital representation of something of shared value.

IWA does not focus on underlying technology as digital interchanges of value must work regardless of the underlying technology to grow at scale. Instead, IWA focuses on defining token requirements, and developing taxonomies and definitions for tokenization and smart contracts for identified use cases.

Why is IWA merging with the GBBC?

As the leading global industry association for the blockchain technology ecosystem, representing more than 350 institutional members, the GBBC works to further adoption of blockchain technology and grow the business of blockchain. GBBC is and proponent of and contributor to taxonomies and standards for the blockchain and digital asset space, as thoughtful development of standards and taxonomies drives broad-based adoption and progress.

In joining forces with GBBC, IWA will strengthen its global footprint and benefit from increased stakeholder participation in its mission to develop consensus-based standards, frameworks, and taxonomies aimed at enabling organizations to adopt tokenized business services for their day-to-day operations.

How can I participate in IWA?

All existing GBBC members are eligible to participate in IWA's working groups upon approval by the working group. Learn more about the working groups below and contact membership@gbbcouncil.org to get involved.

Non-GBBC and non-IWA members must first become GBBC members to participate in IWA. To learn more about GBBC membership, visit: https://gbbcouncil.org/membership

What are IWA's working groups?

Business Working Groups (BWGs): are aligned by use case or industry vertical, under the umbrella of a broad business concept. GBBC members are eligible to participate upon approval. In BWGs, members work together at a business-need level to define scenarios and specific market requirements into a pre-framework draft. BWGs then liaise with the Technical Working Groups to input their findings into the relevant technical frameworks to define their specifications. BWGs provide important touchpoints for program managers, business professionals, architects, and other roles within member companies to define use cases, exchange information, collaborate, and stay ahead of the curve.

DLT Security	○ Chair: Bill Izzo, DTCC

Tokenized platforms built on distributed ledger technologies (DLTs) need a more auditable ecosystem for security to ease regulatory burdens. This BWG will contribute to the advancement of leading best practices and the establishment of security standards for DLTs – initially for the financial services sector, although the standards that are created will apply to other industries as well.

Global Trade & Supply Chain	○ Chair: Alex Bausch, 2Tokens ○ Vice-Chair: Aljosja Beije, BlockLab

Global trade agreements and supply chains are often managed by complex multi-party contracts that must adhere to the regulations of multiple governmental agencies. This BWG will focus on advancement of tokenization in this space, ensuring that all standards support a more regulator-friendly ecosystem – initial focus will be the tokenization of electronic bills of lading but will later broaden to include additional use cases.

Sustainability	○ Chair: Darko Pilav, Digital Asset ○ Vice-Chair: John Lee, Accenture ○ Vice-Chair: Cameron Prell, Xpansiv

Sustainability use cases are often derailed by the polarization often found among participating groups, which typically hold widely divergent views. This BWG will define a standardized tokenization of key elements, standardized clauses for ledgering templates, and market-driven multi-party analytics – initially in the areas of emissions, offsets, and trade contracts.

Technical Working Groups (TWGs): are topic focused groups that collaborate to develop open, standards-based specifications, frameworks, and tooling to accelerate the acceptance and deployment of multi-party solutions within the global marketplace. All GBBC members are eligible to participate upon approval; voting rights within a TWG (one vote per company basis) are dependent upon members meeting specified attendance requirements. In TWGs, members work together at a technical level to ensure that their frameworks, tooling, and certification support scenario and specific market requirements received from the Business Working Groups.

Token Taxonomy Framework TWG	○ Co-Chair: Jonathan Levi, HACERA ○ Co-Chair: John deVadoss, NGD Enterprise
Maintains the Token Taxonomy Framework (TTF), which enables multiple parties to define a common language, behaviors, and properties for a token of value that can be used or exchanged.	

InterWork Framework TWG	○ Chair: Daniel Feichtinger, Digital Asset ○ Vice-Chair: Conor Svensson, Web3 Labs
Maintains the InterWork Framework (IWF), which defines implementation-agnostic protocols for contracts to be composed from clauses mapped to the TTF tokenization standard.	

Analytics Framework TWG	○ Chair: Duncan Johnston-Watt, Blockchain Technology Partners ○ Vice-Chair: Shawn Douglass, Amberdata
Maintains the Analytics Framework (AF), which delivers the ability to instrument multi-party contracts, preserving privacy where applicable, and create shared data streams to support value-add services and industry driven data reporting.	

Certification TWG	○ Chair: TBD (to be designated by DEKRA) ○ Vice-Chair: TBD
Analyzes the standards output of the IWA and works to recommend, execute, and maintain an optimal IWA Certification Program that validates conformance to the IWA specifications and promotes interoperability.	

What outputs has IWA delivered?

IWA Token Taxonomy Framework (TTF): IWA's Token Taxonomy Framework Working Group released IWA's most-developed and well-known framework to:

- Clearly define common toke concepts
- Produce token definitions
- Establish a base Token Classification Hierarchy
- Deliver meta-data that enables the generations of visual representations of classifications, and modeling tools to view and create token definitions mapped to the taxonomy
- Produce standard artifacts and control message descriptions mapped to the taxonomy
- Encourage differentiation and vertical specialization while maintaining an interoperable base

Several IWA working group members are working on implementations of the TTF, such as Hedera, which plans to incorporate the TTF's reference architecture into their ongoing implementations.

Voluntary Ecological Markets Overview: IWA's Sustainability Business Working Group's Voluntary Ecological Markets (VEM) Taskforce released an authoritative guide on the VEM markets, as well as actionable tokenization recommendations.

What happens to my current IWA membership?

IWA will become an initiative of the GBBC and IWA members will become members of the GBBC. With more than 330 institutional members, GBBC is one of the largest global industry associations for the blockchain technology ecosystem.

Who is on IWA's leadership team?

As part of the merger, Paul Rapino, IWA's Head of Growth, will join the GBBC as Chief Growth Officer, and Jackson Ross, IWA's Technical Marketing Analyst will join the GBBC as Technical Program Manager. John deVadoss, a member of IWA's Board of Directors, will also be nominated to join the GBBC's Board of Directors.

IWA's existing Board of Directors will become the "Leadership Council" for GBBC's IWA initiative, determining the initiative's strategy in cooperation with GBBC's leadership.

IWA's Leadership Council will be comprised of:

- Marley Gray, Principal Architect – Azure Multiparty Engineering, Microsoft; Chair, IWA Leadership Council
- David Treat, Senior Managing Director, Co-Lead of Accenture's Global Blockchain Business; Board Chair, GBBC
- Peter Golder, Chief Commercial Officer & Board Member, SIX Digital Exchange (SDX)
- John deVadoss, Founder & President, NGD Enterprise
- Eric Saraniecki, Co-Founder & Head of Strategic Initiatives, Digital Asset
- Sandra Ro, CEO, Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC)

What if I have a question that was not answered in the FAQs?

Please email paul.rapino@gbbcouncil.org