ITEE Distinguished Lecture by Dr C. Mohan

State of Permissionless and Permissioned Blockchains: Myths and Realities

It has been a decade since the concept of blockchain was invented as the underlying core data structure of the permissionless or public Bitcoin cryptocurrency network. Since then, several cryptocurrencies, and associated concepts like tokens and ICOs have emerged. After much speculation and hype, significant number of them have become problematic or worthless, even though some countries have embraced them! The permissionless blockchain system Ethereum emerged by generalizing the use of blockchains to manage any kind of asset, be it physical or purely digital, with the introduction of the concept of Smart Contracts. Over the years, numerous myths have developed with respect to the purported utility and the need for permissionless blockchains. The adoption and further adaptation of blockchains and smart contracts for use in the permissioned or private environments is what I consider to be useful and of practical consequence. Hence, the technical aspects of only private blockchain systems will be the focus of my talk. Along the way, I will bust many myths associated with permissionless blockchains. I will also compare traditional database technologies with blockchain systems’ features and identify desirable future research topics. Extensive blockchain related collateral can be found at http://bit.ly/CMbcDB

When: 2pm - 3pm, Tuesday, 8 October 2019
Where: GHD Auditorium, Advanced Engineering Building (# 49), UQ
Contact: A/Prof Helen Huang, oradmin@itee.uq.edu.au

Dr. C. Mohan

IBM Fellow, 1997
IEEE Fellow, 2002
ACM Fellow, 2002
US NAE, 2009
Indian National Academy of Engineering, 2009
Distinguished Visiting Professor, Tsinghua University, 2016
ACM SIGMOD E.F. Codd Innovations Award, 1996

Research Interest: database and related areas

RSVP by 6:00pm 4 October
A welcome afternoon tea will be served after the seminar.