Applying DLT into the financial Plumbing

A Treasury perspective

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ECB – Current Exploration on wCBDC

- ECB's Exploration is likely to take to take some time before a final go-live implementation is available. Private solutions (including those that will function under regulatory approval by the ECB) are ready to go-live and serve the needs of the innovative solutions that are already making inroads in the market.
- ECB's policy is already offering the private sector an option to use AS procedure D accounts to provide a prefunded cash on Ledger solution.
- ECB's current phase of 'Trials & Experiments' focuses on all 3 technology options.
 - ECB's solutions are a mix of long term strategic solutions & 'bridge solutions'
 - Limitations of trigger solution (limited to RTGS hrs, 2-phase commit, ...)
 - It might be good to include other private settlement options that are ready to go-live in the short term.
 - Those that will function under supervision by Central Banks & relevant regulatory authorities
 - Will provide interoperability across other currency regimes unlike existing RTGS
 - Maintain status quo i.e. monetary stability as provided by Central Banks
 - Provide settlement asset to new emerging tokenised solutions
 - Provide payment option to serve the needs of corporate clients via Commercial Banks & FMIs (for their new technology use cases)
 - Although ECB's policy limits the use for DvP settlement
 - Main benefits of wCBDC for cross-currency will be enabled; the ECB initiative is focussed on a single currency atm.

Interoperability solutions in envisioned trial design



Practical implications for Treasury

- We need to avoid fragmentation of liquidity and allow for a netting effect in the structure of the infrastructure in an environment where we expect multiple blockchain platforms to emerge for various business needs
- Friction between monetary policy applied value dating (mon-fri) and limited opening hours for RTGS services vs demand of 24x7 processing.
 - Client demand for business 24x7
 - Value date differences and no ability to fund or provide working capital solutions
 - Use of pre-funded buffers which need to be held overnight
 - What if the required pre-funding exceeds minimum reserve holdings?
- Cost factor in relation to renumeration of reserves
- Target as central place to pool liquidity cross various channels, requires free flow of liquidity cross all 24x7 enabled services.
 - Separate DCA might not be the best choice here within the current T2 setup
- Increase of direct participation (less correspondent banking) in a demanding 24x7 real time reality will require more liquidity as netting effect will decrease as fragmentation will increase with more direct participation.

Plugging DLT into the existing 'plumbing'



The risk of fragmentation & complexity of cross currency interoperability



A cross currency DLT layer for the settlement in central bank money makes sense.

