



**MY HEALTH  
MY DATA**

## **Trusted data sharing enabled by blockchain technology**

Peter Kieseberg (& Rudolf Mayer)  
SBA Research

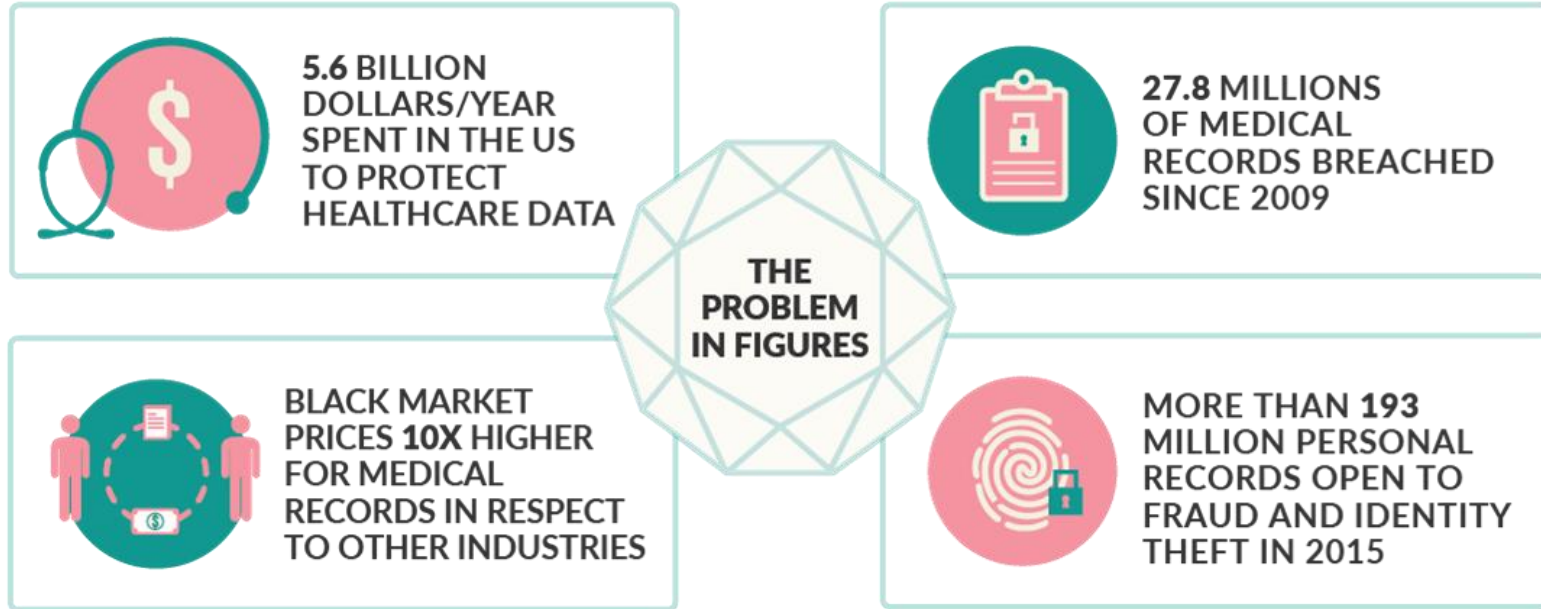


# The big data revolution in healthcare

With its 150 exabytes of stored data worldwide per year, healthcare is a bright example of “data explosion” phenomenon



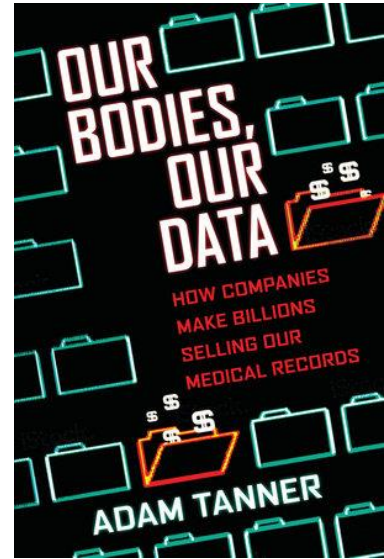
# Health data is abundant – and at risk



# Patients are skeptical about data sharing

*“Soon after you tell your doctor about an intimate medical problem, data about your condition are sold commercially to companies that have nothing to do with your treatment or billing”*

*Adam Tanner, “Our Bodies, Our Data”*



# Patients are skeptical about data sharing

Austrian E-Health (“ELGA”) records proposed to be made available for research

The screenshot shows the ELGA patient portal interface. At the top, the ELGA logo is on the left, and the user's name "DI Mag. Rudolf Markus Mayer" is on the right. Below the logo, it says "Meine elektronische Gesundheitsakte. Meine Entscheidung!". The top navigation bar includes links for "Startseite", "e-Befunde", "e-Medikation", "GDA", "Protokoll", and "Teilnahme" (which is highlighted). On the right, there are links for "Auftragsliste" and "Logout".

The main content area is titled "Meine Teilnahme". It contains two panels:

- Teilnahmestatus an einzelnen Funktionen**: A table showing the status of participation in individual functions.
- Komplett von ELGA abmelden**: A section for unsubscribing from ELGA completely.

Teilnahmestatus an einzelnen Funktionen	
e-Befunde	✓ angemeldet <a href="#">Abmelden</a>
e-Medikation	✓ angemeldet <a href="#">Abmelden</a>

**Komplett von ELGA abmelden**

Sie können sich hier komplett von ELGA abmelden. Der Zugriff auf Ihre ELGA-Gesundheitsdaten ist danach weder für Sie selbst noch für Ihre ELGA-Gesundheitsdiensteanbieter möglich. Nach Ihrer Abmeldung werden Ihre neuen Gesundheitsdaten nicht mehr über ELGA verfügbar gemacht.

Sie können sich jederzeit erneut bei ELGA anmelden.

[Abmelden](#)



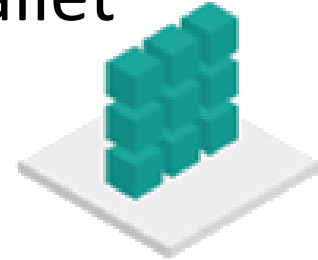
➔ Patients unsubscribe from the service!

# Blockchain: new ways for data sharing?

- Need to develop new mechanisms of trust and of direct, value-based relationships between people, hospitals, research centres – and businesses
- Many initiatives (Public and private, in the EU, US,..) currently addressing potential of applying blockchain to health data
- Great general expectations: “what Internet did to transaction costs regarding information, blockchain can do regarding trust”
- Assumption that what is needed for health data is a Distributed Empowerment system
- Leading to an open biomedical information network centred on the connection between organisations and the individual

# Blockchain: new ways for data sharing?

- Blockchain ledger is the secure, non-editable record
- Stakeholders are equipped with a 'wallet'
  - an encrypted identifier
  - his/her dynamic consent
  - his/her data access policy file
- This could lead to Personal storage clouds for ubiquitous individual data access through blockchain and advanced personal use





# Various initiatives



**MY HEALTH  
MY DATA**



**MEDICALCHAIN**



**MEDREC**

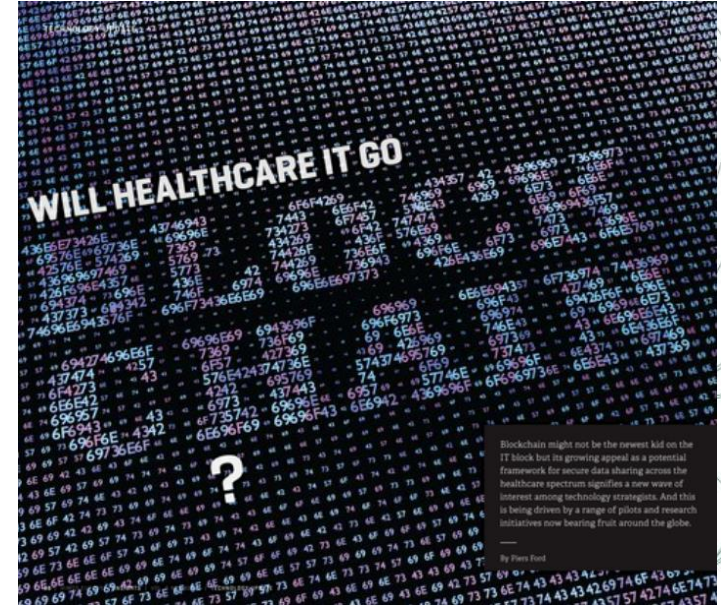
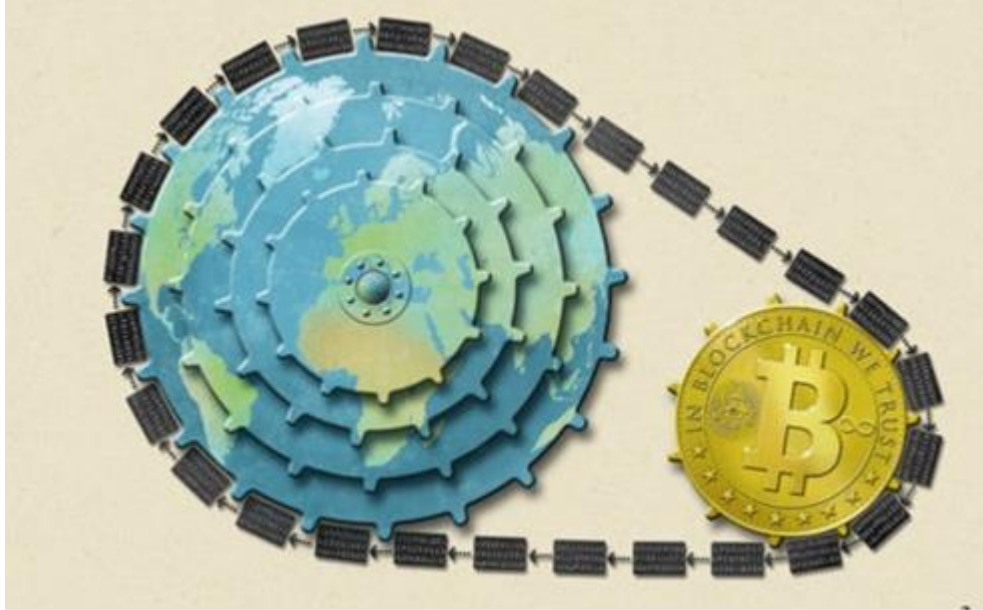
Blockchain for EMRs  
[pubpub.org/pub/medrec](http://pubpub.org/pub/medrec)



**healthcoin**



# Blockchain hype ?



*The Economist* (2015), "The promise of the blockchain: The trust machine", October 31st

**himss** Europe - Health IT Central – May 15th, 2017

# Blockchain value propositions for healthcare

## Health Information Exchange (HIE) Pain Points



**Establishing a Trust Network** depends on the HIE as an intermediary to establish point-to-point sharing and “book-keeping” of what data was exchanged.



**Cost Per Transaction**, given low transaction volumes, reduces the business case for central systems or new edge networks for participating groups.



**Master Patient Index (MPI)** challenges arise from the need to synchronize multiple patient identifiers between systems while securing patient privacy.



**Varying Data Standards** reduce interoperability because records are not compatible between systems.



**Limited Access to Population Health Data**, as HIE is one of the few sources of integrated records.



**Inconsistent Rules and Permissions** inhibit the right health organization from accessing the right patient data at the right time.

## Blockchain Opportunities

**Disintermediation of Trust** likely would not require an HIE operator because all participants would have access to the distributed ledger to maintain a secure exchange without complex brokered trust.

**Reduced Transaction Costs** due to disintermediation, as well as near-real time processing, would make the system more efficient.

**Distributed framework for patient digital identities**, which uses private and public identifiers secured through cryptography, creates a singular, more secure method of protecting patient identity.

**Shared data** enables near real-time updates across the network to all parties.

**Distributed, secure access** to patient longitudinal health data across the distributed ledger.

**Smart Contracts** create a consistent, rule-based method for accessing patient data that can be permissioned to selected health organizations.

# Putting the patients in the loop

*“Patients ownership of their data is an entitlement and **civil right that should be recognized**”*



Right to data portability:  
*“receive personal data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable and interoperable format”*

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS

## The Health Data Conundrum

By KATHRYN HAUN and ERIC J. TOPOL JAN. 2, 2017

From patient being  
***“the single most unused person in health care”*** to a new era of  
healthcare  
**emocratisation**



# MyHealthMyData at a glance

- Duration: November 2016 – October 2019
- 9 Research Partners

LYNKEUS



- 4 Clinical partners:



- 1 Legal consultancy:



- 1 Industry:







Health-e-Child

# A long story of EU-funded research

From FP6...

Sim-e-Child



MD-PAEDIGREE

Passing through FP7...



CARDIOPROOF

To H2020



MY HEALTH  
MY DATA

- ... providing a lot of experience with health data

# MHMD mission



## CITIZENS' EMPOWERMENT

*Grant individuals ownership and control of their personal health data*

## DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

*Ensure the strongest privacy protection and health data security*



## DATA VALUE ENHANCEMENT

*Leverage the value of large biomedical datasets for medical care, research and business*

# *How will MHMD do that?*



*"Gears" (CC BY-SA 2.0) by AJC1*

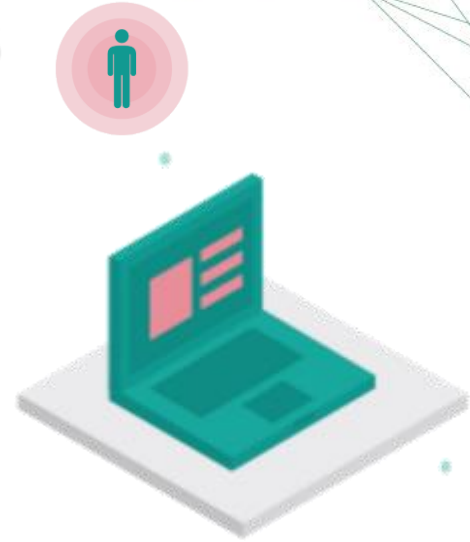
*"Gears" (CC BY-ND 2.0) by Charlie Gross Photography*



# (1) PERSONAL DATA ACCOUNTS

Individual data ownership and control

**Personal storage clouds** enabling individuals to access their data from any technological device through the blockchain and employ them for personal use.

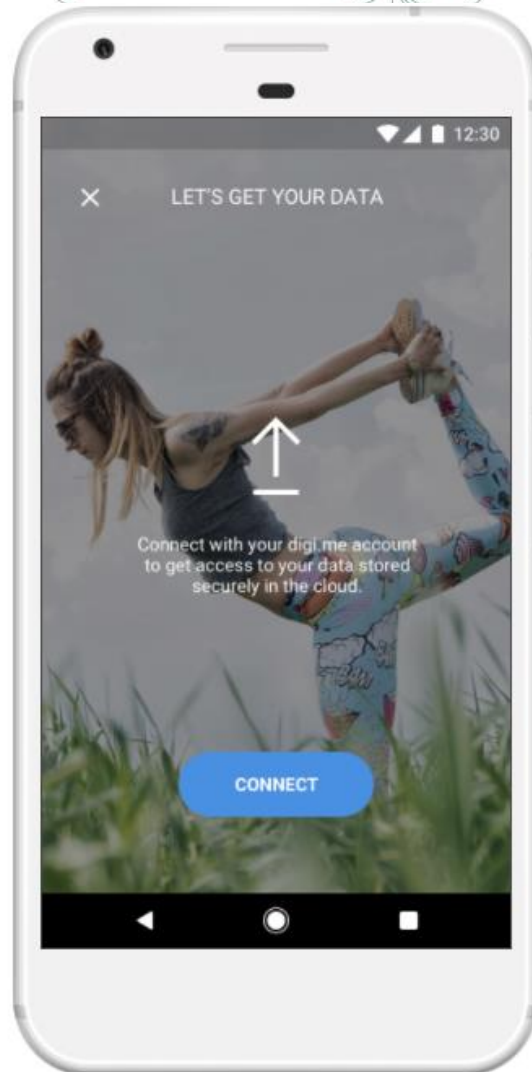
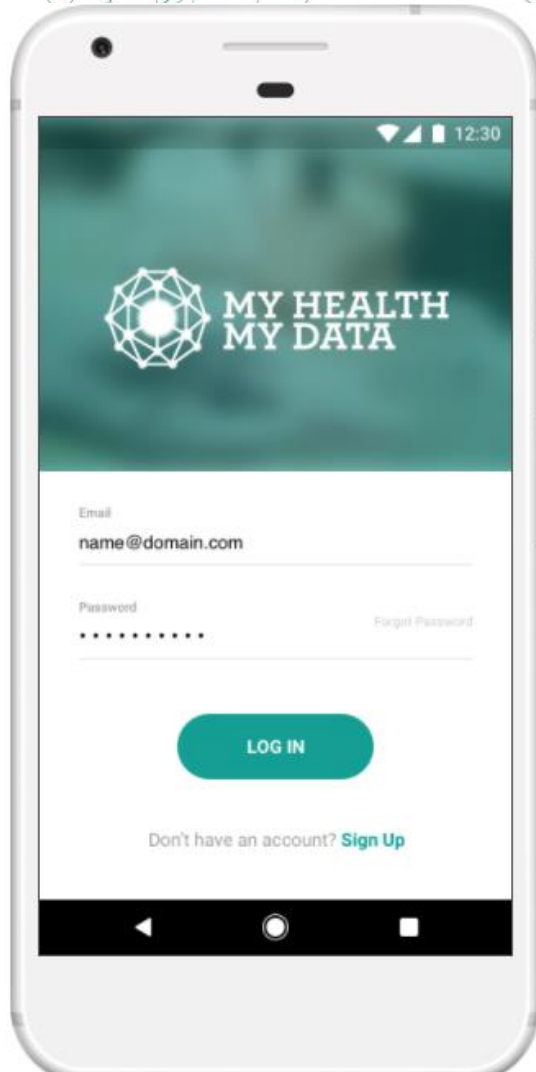
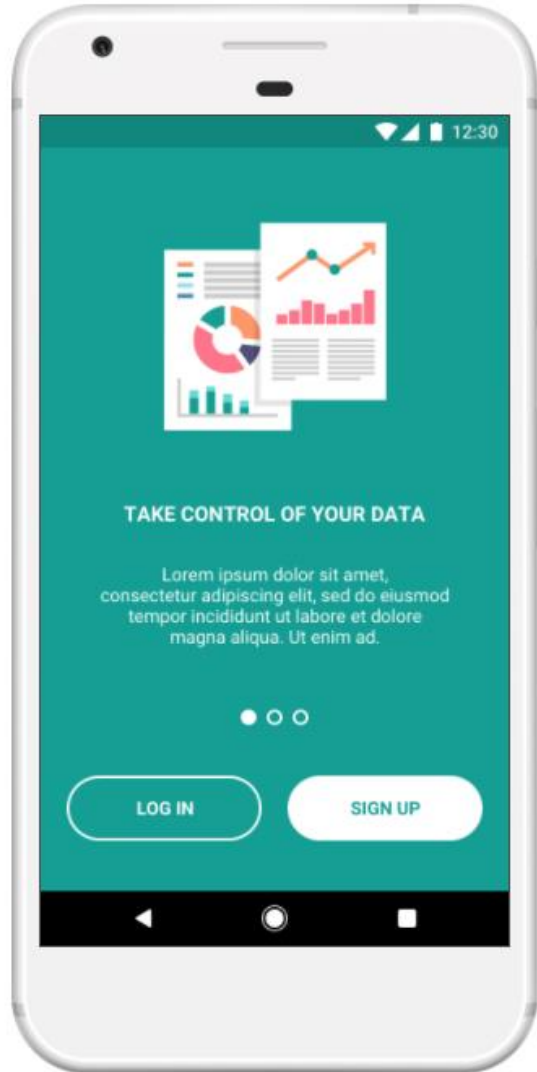


## ***Aggregate personal data from disparate sources***

*(social media accounts, clinical data repositories, personal drives, wearable devices, etc.), in a single, user-owned account*

- *MHMD Mobile App*
- *Data providers like digi.me*





## (2) MULTILEVEL DE-IDENTIFICATION AND ENCRYPTION TECHNOLOGIES

- **Profile and classify** sensitive data
- **Identify** most suitable de-identification and encryption techniques



*Encode and de-associate sensible data from the owners' identity, still allowing the application of advanced analytics*

# (3) DATA CATALOGUE

Finding specific data of interest

- Organise datasets so to provide a **database overview**
- Allow researchers to find **what kind of data most suits their needs**



<http://maxpixel.freegreatpicture.com/photo-29398>



**Hes-SO** GENÈVE  
Haute Ecole Spécialisée  
de Suisse occidentale

**ATHENA**

**TRANSILVANIA**  
University of Brasov

## Search the Data Catalogue

Data Providers

Data Types

Keywords

SEARCH DATA

## What's inside our data catalogue?

### Data Providers

● Unit 1 ● Unit 2 ● Unit 3



### Data Types

● Unit 1 ● Unit 2 ● Unit 3 ● Unit 4



### Diseases

● Unit 1 ● Unit 2 ● Unit 3 ● Unit 4



### Drugs & Chemicals

● Unit 1 ● Unit 2 ● Unit 3 ● Unit 4



## (4) BLOCKCHAIN

Providing certified information



**A secure, non-editable digital ledger where:**

- **All transactions are confirmed by the network** as entries forming *blocks of transactions*
- **The whole network monitors the legitimacy of each transaction,** guaranteeing *a distributed control system*



***Applying the blockchain approach to health data guarantees secure access from anywhere on any device***

# (5) SMART CONTRACTS

Encoding regulation and implementing it at the speed of light



**Self-executing contractual states**, based on the formalisation of contractual relations in digital form, **that automate the execution of peer-to-peer transactions** under user-defined conditions.



*Regulate data transactions on the blockchain*

- *in compliance with the incoming GDPR regulation*
- *allowing to set use conditions and consent options for different stakeholders and purposes.*



# (6) SECURITY: PENETRATION AND RE-IDENTIFICATION CHALLENGE



Checking the ability of avoiding privacy & security breaches

- **Active self-hacking (1) and public hacking (2) simulations**
- **Testing external re-identification possibilities on**
  - 1) *synthetic datasets attributed to virtual patients*
  - 2) *patients consenting to being used as test-basis*

"Hacked..." (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0) by Christine Krizsa





# Questions?

<http://www.myhealthmydata.eu/>

 @myhealthmydata

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