

CLAIMS:

1. A transaction validation method for use in a distributed computing system, the method comprising:

- associating first and second parameters with respective users of the distributed computing system, the first parameter being determined based on an increment for each validation performed by a respective user and a decrement for each transaction validation performed by the respective user, the second parameter being determined based on a transaction history and a validation history of the respective users;
- registering a plurality of the users as validating users that are authorized to validate transactions visible to the distributed computing system and that require validation;
- a first of the users initiating a transaction with a user computing device;
- associating respective validation priorities in respect of performing a validation task with members of a first set of validating users comprising at least one of the validating users other than the first of the users, the respective validation priorities being determined based on the first and second parameters associated with the members of the first set of validating users, the validation task comprising validation of the transaction;
- rendering the transaction visible to respective computing devices of one or more of the members of the first set of validating users;
- members of a second set of validating users performing the validation task, the second set of validating users comprising one or more of the first set of validating users;
- decrementing the first parameter associated with the first user by a first amount upon completion of the validation task, and incrementing the first parameter associated with the members of the second set by respective second amounts upon completion of the validation task; and
- updating the second parameter associated with the members of the second set upon completion of the validation task.

2. A transaction validation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second

amounts are (i) predefined, or (ii) determined according to at least one characteristic of the transaction, or (iii) determined according to a size of the transaction and/or a nature of the transaction.

3. A transaction validation method as claimed in either claim 1 or 2, wherein the first amount has a predefined relationship to the second amounts.

4. A transaction validation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the first amount equals the sum of the second amounts.

5. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second amounts are equal.

6. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second amounts are based on the first and/or second parameters of the members of the second set.

7. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the validating of the transaction comprises hashing the transaction into a block, the method comprising the members of the second set subsequently adding the block to a blockchain.

8. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including determining the second parameter based on periods between respective increments and decrements in the first parameter of the respective users.

9. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising modifying the first parameter of the first user when the first parameter of the first user does not satisfy a first threshold so that the first parameter of the first user satisfies the first threshold.

10. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising broadcasting the transaction on the distributed computing system such that the transaction is visible to the respective computing devices of one or more members of the first set.

11. A transaction validation method as claimed in claim 10, including broadcasting the transaction on the distributed computing system such that the transaction is visible to the respective computing devices of all of the other transaction validators.

12. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising broadcasting or distributing the validation task to one or more members of the first set for validation whose second parameter meets a second threshold.

13. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising broadcasting or distributing the validation task to one or more members of the first set for validation whose respective priority meets a third threshold.

14. A transaction validation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first threshold is expressed in the form of cryptocurrency.

15. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising converting the first user's first parameter into crypto- or other currency based on a predefined exchange rate.

16. A transaction validation method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the first amount is equal to the second amount.

17. A transaction validation system, comprising:

- a membership manager configured to register a plurality of the users as validating users that are authorized to validate transactions visible to the distributed computing system and that require validation;
- a first parameter determiner configured to associate a first parameter with the respective users, the first parameter being determined by the first parameter determiner based on an increment for each validation performed by a respective user and a decrement for each validated transaction performed by respective users;
- a second parameter determiner configured to associate a second parameter with the respective users, the second parameter being determined by the

second parameter determiner based on a transaction history and a validation history of respective users;

- a transaction prioritizer configured to associate respective validation priorities in respect of performing a validation task with members of a first set of validating users comprising at least one of the validating users other than the first of the users, the respective validation priorities being determined based on the first and second parameters associated with the members of the first set of validating users, the validation task comprising validation of the transaction;
- a transaction assigner configured to render the transaction visible to respective computing devices of one or more of the members of the first set of validating users; and
- a transaction validator controllable by members of a second set of validating users performing the validation task, the second set of validating users comprising one or more of the first set of validating users;
- wherein the first parameter determiner is configured to respond to completion of the validation task by decrementing the first parameter associated with the first user by a first amount, and incrementing the first parameter associated with the members of the second set by respective second amounts; and
- the second parameter determiner is configured to respond to completion of the validation task by updating the associated with the members of the second set.

18. Computer program code configured to, when executed by one of more processors, control one or more computing devices to implement the method of any one of claims 1 to 16.

19. A computer-readable medium, comprising the computer program code according to claim 18.