

CLAIMS:

1. A computer-implemented blockchain-based credit management method, comprising:
 - receiving one or more loan repayments from a user in a first transaction, the loan repayments being in respect of a first loan issued by a lender;
 - receiving a fee from the user in a second transaction associated with the first transaction;
 - transferring the loan repayments to the lender;
 - transferring the fee to a loan insurance fund;
 - registering at least the first transaction in a first blockchain of a blockchain network;
 - determining a number of credit worthiness points based on at least timeliness of the first transaction relative to a first loan repayment schedule; and
 - associating the number of credit worthiness points with the user in a third transaction and registering the third transaction in a second blockchain of the blockchain network.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising determining a credit rating for the user based on at least a total number of credit worthiness points allocated to or held by the user, as registered in the second blockchain, and associated with the user.
3. The method as claimed in either claim 1 or 2, including registering the second transaction in a third blockchain of the blockchain network or registering the second transaction in the first blockchain.
4. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising paying to the lender from the loan insurance fund:
 - a) one or more outstanding loan repayments in response to receipt of data indicative of the user omitting to make the corresponding loan repayments; or
 - b) some or all of an outstanding balance of the first loan in response to receipt of verification data indicating that the user has been verified as unable to make one or more loan repayments.
5. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising registering the credit rating in the first blockchain, in the second blockchain, and/or in a credit rating blockchain of the blockchain network.
6. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the blockchain network verifying as valid a credit score calculated or accessed by the lender of a loan application of the user, and approving the user to join the blockchain network when the credit score is valid.
7. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including determining a greater number of credit worthiness points when a repayment is made before expiry

of a predefined grace period following a repayment due date than when made after the expiry of the predefined grace period.

8. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further determining a reduction in credit worthiness points after expiry of a predefined grace period following a repayment due date.
9. A computer program comprising computer program code configured, when loaded into a computing system and executed thereon, to control the computing system to perform the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.
10. A computer readable medium, comprising the computer program of claim 9.
11. A blockchain-based credit management system, comprising:
 - a funds management engine configured to receive one or more loan repayments from a user in a first transaction, the loan repayments being in respect of a first loan issued by a lender, to receive a fee from the user in a second transaction associated with the first transaction, to transfer the loan repayments to the lender, and to transfer the fee to a loan insurance fund;
 - a blockchain controller configured to register at least the first transaction in a first blockchain of a blockchain network; and
 - a credit rating system configured to determine a number of credit worthiness points based on at least timeliness of the first transaction relative to a first loan repayment schedule, to associate the number of credit worthiness points with the user in a third transaction;
 - wherein the blockchain controller is further configured to register the third transaction in a second blockchain of the blockchain network.
12. The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the credit rating system is further configured to determine a credit rating for the user based on at least a total number of credit worthiness points allocated to or held by the user, as registered in the second blockchain, and to associate the credit rating with the user.
13. The system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the blockchain controller is further configured to register the credit rating in the first blockchain, in the second blockchain, and/or in a credit rating blockchain.
14. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the blockchain controller is further configured to register the second transaction in a third blockchain of the blockchain network, or to register the second transaction in the first blockchain.
15. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the funds management engine is further configured to pay to the lender from the loan insurance fund one or more outstanding loan repayments in response to receipt of data indicative of the user omitting to make the corresponding loan repayments.
16. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the funds management engine is further configured to pay to the lender from the loan

insurance fund some or all of an outstanding balance of the first loan in response to receipt of verification data indicating that the user has been verified as unable to make one or more loan repayments.

17. The system as claimed in claim 12, further comprising registering the credit rating in the first blockchain, in the second blockchain, and/or in a credit rating blockchain of the blockchain network.
18. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 17, further comprising the blockchain network:
 - a) verifying as valid a credit score calculated or accessed by the lender of a loan application of the user; or
 - b) approving the user to join the blockchain network when the credit score is valid.
19. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 18, further comprising a loan application manager configured to receive a loan application from the user for a second loan subsequent to the determining of the credit rating, wherein the loan application is approved subject to the credit rating being at or above a predefined threshold.
20. The system as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein the credit rating system is further configured:
 - a) to determine a greater number of credit worthiness points if a repayment is made before expiry of a predefined grace period following a repayment due date than if made after the expiry of the predefined grace period;
 - b) to determine a greater number of credit worthiness points if a repayment is made before a repayment due date than after the due date; and/or
 - c) to determine a reduction in credit worthiness points after expiry of a predefined grace period following a repayment due date.