

A large, dark red chevron graphic pointing to the right, positioned behind the text.

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Editing the Uneditable Blockchain

Video Transcript

A new redaction capability solves a key blockchain challenge and expands its usefulness for enterprises.

Blockchain is built to be "immutable", or unchangeable. That could limit uses in financial services – because coding and transaction mistakes happen, capacity and costs for retaining data need to be controlled, and regulations might require data to be changed or removed.

Here's how redaction works.

This is a blockchain. Blocks of data are linked by hashes. A hash is the output of an algorithm that turns the data kept in each block into the equivalent of a fingerprint that looks something like this:

```
465f9e22832e5c88f4b140db82c459064711a52182a3e438b4ebc7ecda62b9bb
```

Blocks are distributed among interested parties using a cryptographic audit trail maintained and validated by separate users that independently check the blocks.

This is a fundamental aspect of blockchain's usefulness: It captures a single, shared version of the truth. If the data changes, the hash changes, and everyone involved will know.

The redaction capability is designed to work with what are called "permissioned systems." In this model, only authorized users, under strict controls, are allowed to alter blocks. A special hash function unlocks the link between the blocks so a change can be made, then locks it again, leaving evidence of the change.

That way, with the right governance, mistakes can be corrected, costs can be managed, and regulations can be met.

Learn more about how Accenture's redaction capability could increase blockchain's potential for your organization with our full report:

[Editing the Uneditable Blockchain](#)

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