Living Mobility is Unifying

Spotlight on blockchain and data sharing

In conversation with John Salmon, partner

Living Mobility is Unifying. The coordinated efforts of geographically and economically disparate groups will improve mobility solutions. Efforts to share among partnering entities the training data for autonomous vehicles is a critical aspect of the development process. But valuable technology – brimming with potential – also comes riddled with legal issues. John Salmon discusses some of these issues relating to data sharing, data privacy and the use of blockchain.

Why is data so valuable to the mobility and transportation industry?

Salmon: Modern artificial intelligence (AI) thrives on data – the more data you give the AI, the more accurate the models AI. Machine Learning is the process through which the systems in the autonomous vehicles (AVs) learn the parameters of the operational design domain within which the systems complete certain dynamic driving tasks.

Broadly speaking, society has become increasingly reliant on data in daily life and the resulting challenge concerning data value generally revolves around control and ability to use.

If the value of data continues to climb, what should the mobility and transportation industry keep in mind about managing data resources?

Salmon: Beyond the increasing value of data, the fuel of AI training, industry should consider the sheer volume of data to be managed. Together, the increasing value and the vast volume of data set the stage for a battle brewing about who owns data. Specifically, the battle is about access to and control of the data. It's not just a battle of AV developers but manufacturers, insurers, and suppliers – along the entire supply chain. And blockchain is one way to address the complexity of managing vast amounts of data.

What is blockchain?

Salmon: Blockchain is a form of distributed ledger technology (DLT) that makes it possible to store data on numerous nodes on a network with identical entities stored across the DLT network. In this way, DLT makes it difficult for any users to gain control of the network unless it is possible for them to gain control of over 50% of the network nodes. The appeal is that blockchain technology increases transparency through traceability of data entries on the network and improves efficiency by removing intermediaries and transaction costs. Financial institutions and the insurance industry already use blockchain to manage data.

How might distributed ledger technology be used in the mobility and transportation industry?

Salmon: There are many blockchain use cases for the mobility and transportation industry. From warehousing to payment for shared services, to delivery tracking, distributed ledger technology offers the same possibilities for transactional efficiency as it does in financial institutions.

Businesses along the supply chain could also use blockchain to move data internally and with outside partners without compromising privacy. For example, AV data sharing amongst agreeing manufacturers turns on privacy research that you can bring an algorithm to data and train AI models collectively. The value proposition is that it is possible to come to an agreement with other organizations without giving up privacy of the underlying data.

For the mobility and transportation industry, there are a myriad of possibilities around sharing data and working together across trust boundaries to get things done.

Featured Speaker

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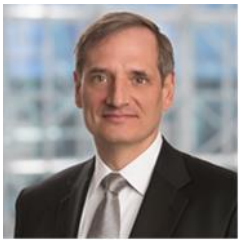

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