

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Nikifor Stefanov, of the dissertation of Veselin Monev Monev on "Increasing the application of blockchain technologies from information security perspective", presented for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in higher education 9. Security and defense, professional field 9.1. National Security, scientific specialty "Security Strategies and Policies"

1. Significance of the researched problem in science and applied science aspects.

The significance of the researched problem in science and scientific application, stems from the need to raise the role of security, as a main and significant component of information technologies, in the process of their creation and development. The concepts dealing with the development, acquisition, configuration, management and use of these technologies, are still at an early stage of their historical development, therefore, the search for ways to increase the applicability of blockchain technologies in the context of information security, further determines the importance of the researched problem in science and scientific application.

2. Justification of the goals and tasks in the dissertation

For the purpose of the research, the doctoral candidate Vesselin Monev undertakes to look for answers to the following two questions:

- What are the most important aspects of information security when organizations or individuals start dealing with blockchain technologies?
- What is the importance of blockchain security technologies for different organizations and individuals?

In pursuit of the research objectives, in the process of the research, the doctoral candidate Monev solves the following tasks:

- Setting of a theoretical framework for the concepts related to blockchain technologies and information security. Defining the concept of "importance" in this context;
- Research on the various aspects of blockchain security;
- Outline and analysis of the findings in the framework and context of the research thesis.
- Proposed strategies to increase the applicability of blockchain technologies after taking into account the findings.

The objectives and tasks of the research are substantiated in the main content of the dissertation.

3. Correspondence between the chosen methodology and research methodology and the set goal and tasks of the dissertation.

In the dissertation "Increasing the applicability of blockchain technologies from the point of view of information security", PhD Monev successfully applies research methodology that lays a solid foundation for an in-depth study of information security foundations and the following aspects related to blockchain technologies - security in architecture and development of blockchain technologies; security challenges encountered by organizations; as well as, security aspects from a consumer point of view. The qualitative and quantitative approaches and research methods for collecting, processing and analyzing the information included in the research methodology, have allowed the doctoral Candidate Monev to solve the selected research tasks and achieve the goal of the research.

The chosen methodology and research methodology correspond to the set goal and objectives of the dissertation.

4. Scientific and scientific application results of the dissertation

The assessment and the nature of the scientific and applied scientific results arising from the dissertation work of Veselin Monev are reduced to:

- Enrichment of existing knowledge:
 - Identification of the foundations of blockchain technologies;
 - Explanation of the relationship between the foundations of information security theory and blockchain technologies;
- Novelty for science and applications in practice:
 - Identification of the key aspects of information security, which are related to blockchain technologies;
 - Comparing the degree of importance of information security (competencies) between categories of organizations and individuals;
 - Proposing management strategies with wide application for increasing the applicability of blockchain technologies through methods relevant to information security.

The main scientific and applied results of the dissertation of the doctoral candidate Vesselin Monev represent an original author's research in the scientific field. I believe that the dissertation and the obtained scientific results are the result of an in-depth knowledge, creative research, adaptation of modern theories and practical approaches related to the study of the applicability of blockchain technologies from the point of view of information security.

5. Evaluation of dissertation publications

The dissertation is supported by 5 publications. All publications are in the field of the author's research and are directly related to the topic of the dissertation, confirming the results of the

research and ensuring its public representation. Three of them were accepted for publication in the IEEE Conference Proceedings, after a double-blind review by independent peers.

I have no joint publications with the author.

6. Citation from other authors, reviews in the scientific press, etc.

I have no reason to claim that I am aware of citations from other authors or reviews in the scientific press on the dissertation's publications. The author of the dissertation has included in his abstract the opinion of an information security specialist - Alan Hibbert, who defines the dissertation as - "Good work, interesting and educational topic. It would be intimidating to the average reader, especially one with no idea of IT. "

7. Opinions, recommendations and notes

In order to achieve the goal of the research, the doctoral candidate Veselin Monev analytically systematized, processed and analyzed 142 scientific publications: books, monographs, articles, reports, websites of official institutions, organizations, which proves his erudition, general culture and intelligence.

From the sources used it is not clear what is the state of information technology security in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In terms of its structure and content, the dissertation developed by Veselin Monev complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ЗЗПАЧБ) and the Regulations for Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, except for the work's title . According to Art. 6 para 2 - In order to acquire the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" the person must defend a dissertation work under the conditions and by the order of this law, and not a dissertation.

8. Conclusion

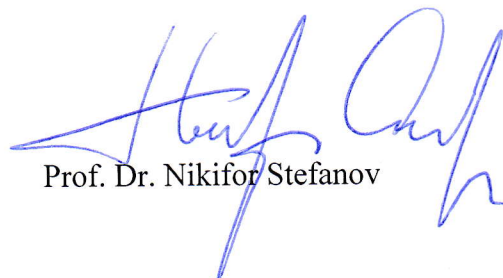
Taking into account the importance of the researched by Veselin Monev scientific problem in the dissertation "Increasing the applicability of blockchain - technologies in terms of information security", his research approach, the originality of his work and scientific and applied results, I believe that the dissertation constitutes a document containing results from an independent scientific research which meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

I give my positive assessment of the dissertation developed by Veselin Monev Monev on "Increasing the applicability of blockchain - technologies in terms of information security."

I propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the acquisition by the doctoral Candidate Veselin Monev Monev of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 9. Security and defense, professional field 9.1. National Security, scientific specialty "Security Strategies and Policies".

12.05. 2021

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