MIT DCI CBDC R&D Initiative
Digital Currency Research Team Product Manager

Fall 2021 - Summer 2022: Looking to fill three to four PM roles at the DCI

Open to part-time applicants (minimum: 15-20 hour per week with a 9-12 month commitment)

The Position

The MIT Digital Currency Initiative (DCI) is looking to hire contractors as product managers on our multi-year central bank digital currency (CBDC) research project. Alongside central banks and private sector collaborators, we research the future of digital money by (1) investigating key CBDC design choices and (2) designing, implementing, and evaluating different technical architectures for a CBDC. Defining high impact research projects and leading productive collaborations to execute them is critical to the success of this research and to ensuring a CBDC would have a positive impact on the world. The PM role is a temporary contractor position with the potential to become a full-time, MIT-benefits-eligible employee in the future.

CBDC PM Responsibilities

Work closely with DCI researchers and engineers, as well as our public and private sector collaborators, to research, develop, and communicate CBDC designs. Importantly, serve as a technical translator in two ways: (1) To obtain and synthesize private and public sector knowledge integral to successfully researching and building CBDC and (2) to produce and communicate DCI research findings for stakeholders, ensuring that DCI’s work and ideas are making an impact.

Research, Development, Stakeholder Engagement, and Strategy

- Collaborate deeply with a team of researchers and engineers, working with them to stay focused and on track
- Work with collaborators and engineers to set and achieve technical milestones
- Track and communicate progress, create timelines and roadmaps, and track outcomes
- For the DCI team, as well as with our collaborators, help set and align all parties around shared goals, identifying, prioritizing, managing, and mitigating risks to achieving core research goals
- Refine and help communicate the DCI’s perspective on the goals, design choices, and trade-offs of a CBDC
- Help make DCI’s CBDC open source project successful by attracting high-impact collaborators and incorporating them into the work in a way that creates value
About the MIT Digital Currency Initiative (DCI)

DCI aims to create a future where moving value across the internet is as intuitive and efficient as moving information. Based at the MIT Media Lab, our team of independent open-source developers and experts in distributed systems, cryptography, security, and economics conducts the research necessary to advance the security, scalability, and privacy of digital currency systems. DCI serves as a neutral convener for governments, nonprofits, open-source developers, and the private sector. Current research priorities include cryptocurrency’s security, scalability and privacy as well as the design of central bank digital currency.

About DCI’s CBDC R&D Initiative

This multi-year effort aims to thoroughly research CBDC and architect its technical landscape in service of a more accessible, trusted, fair, and resilient economy. DCI’s research approach aims to be technology-first while carefully integrating user research and policy direction at each stage of CBDC design.

Guiding Research Principles and Mission

Thoroughly research CBDC and architect its technical landscape in service of a more accessible, trusted, fair, and resilient economy.

Goals

- Rigorously develop, enumerate, and evaluate core CBDC designs
- Develop a set of concrete technical design options and specific recommendations based on this evaluation
- Create an open-source codebase through which central banks and leading global institutions can learn and test
- Continuously integrate policy analysis and implications into technical design, and inform policy with technical possibilities and limitations
- Integrate user research throughout the design process to determine what CBDC architectures are compatible with goals of accessibility, usability, and inclusivity
- Preemptively identify and mitigate the risks of economic technology at scale
- Engage the complementary capacities of public and private-sector collaborators in foundational R&D experiments and exercises
- Harness the expertise of the full range of relevant stakeholders in the design and evaluation of CBDC, including central banks, leading private companies, users, regulators, academic researchers, and technologists

Values

- Conduct research with integrity, neutrality, and rigor
- Translate scientific discoveries from research into real-world impact
- Increase financial inclusion and prevent financial exclusion
- Seek new frontiers rather than optimizing for the already-known
- Serve the public good