

Do you need a blockchain? – a very simple questionnaire.

	Explanation	Yes	No
1. Is there a group of independent actors that needs a shared data store?	Independent actors can be people or organizations. They need to share data in order to coordinate what they do. For example, that want to transfer money or other assets to each other.	Go to the next question.	You do not need a DL, because there is no network of nodes that need to share data. Skip the following questions.
2. Are there multiple writers?	For example, a newspaper fills a publicly accessible database with news..	Go to the next question.	You do not need a DL, because there is only one node that is responsible for the contents of the data store. Skip the following questions.
3. Is there a trusted intermediary?	For example, if the newspaper in the above example accepts responses on news, then it acts as an intermediary between comments of readers. They trust that the newspaper does not edit or censor responses. To answer this question, consider the following questions:: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do participants have a hard time deciding who should be in control of the data store? • Should censorship be possible? For example, banks can refuse valid transactions because their government has blacklisted the owner of a bank account. 	You do not need a DL. Use DB technology, because it is simpler. Skip the following question.	You need a DL, because it is decentralized and has no need of a trusted intermediary. Go to the next question.
4. Must the transaction log be immutable?	We do not want the log of money transfers, or the legal transfers of any asset, to be changed after the fact. Using DB technology, we must trust banks and notaries to guarantee this immutability. Using DL technology, the consensus algorithm provides a very strong guarantee and we do not need to trust intermediaries.	You need a BC, because you want immutability guaranteed by an algorithm. You do not trust an intermediary to guarantee it.	You do not need a BC but can use other DL technology. These too may guarantee immutability but use the services of trusted nodes to realize this.