Whitepaper

# **T-REX** (Token for Regulated EXchanges)

The token standard allowing ownership transfers of tokenized securities



# Version 3.0 - April 29th, 2020 The source code is available on Github: <u>https://github.com/TokenySolutions</u>

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# **Executive summary**

Following the emergence of Bitcoin and other so-called crypto-currencies, the last three years have seen through a wave of ICOs (Initial Coins Offerings), leveraging on the DLT technology underpinning most cryptocurrencies to support the issuance of other types of instruments. This wave has mainly seen the issuance of utility tokens<sup>1</sup> in an unregulated environment. More recently, we have seen a new type of token emerging in the form of security (or investment) tokens which, in essence - and a number of regulators have started to confirm that - should be assimilated to securities i.e. equivalents to traditional securities but which are issued, maintained and transferred on a DLT infrastructure. One of the most important features that security tokens bear is, contrary to utility tokens, the fact that existing securities laws and practices should be considered as applying to them and, among others, all requirements in terms of KYC and AML regulations. These regulations are there to control who holds a security and who transfers it in order to detect and prevent money-laundering, terrorism financing and other illegal or fraudulent activities.

The main goal of the T-REX standard is to create a set of global tools, fully based on blockchain technologies, to allow for the frictionless and compliant issuance and use of tokenized securities on a peer to peer basis or through marketplaces. These tokens are issued in full compliance with regulations and issuers requirements, as control mechanisms are embedded in the tokens themselves. With T-REX, we are implementing a "Compliance by Design" approach where it is simply impossible for an investor to buy a security without being compliant. The regulator itself can verify the compliance of the Issuer through the auditing of smart contracts that support the Security Token life cycle.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In this document, we will refer to:

<sup>-</sup> Utility tokens: are a representation on the blockchain of a specific right to goods or services that the issuer of the token has created or is in the process of creating and. We will generally restrict the usage of the term "ICO" to designating the issuance of utility tokens;

Security tokens (or, more broadly, investment tokens): are assets representing an expectation of (and a claim on) future cash flows (other than a simple market price increase) resulting from the activity of the issuer. They can be assimilated to "traditional" securities and represent debt/loans, equity or investment funds for instance (They can further represent securities assets as land, real-estate, planes, ....). We will generally use the term STO - Security Tokens Offering - to designating the issuance of security tokens.

The management of compliant transactions through T-REX backed permission tokens will be based on 4 main pillars creating a **decentralized Validator:** 

- ONCHAINID<sup>2</sup>, a blockchain based **identity management system**, allowing for the creation of a globally accessible identity for every stakeholder.
- A set of validation certificates (technically speaking, these certificates are the claims, described in the ERC-734 and ERC-735 standards used by ONCHAINID, that will be described further in the document. For a better understanding, we will name these as certificates in this introductory section as it has more semantical sense.) emitted by trusted third parties and signed on-chain, each of them linked to a single ONCHAINID.
- An eligibility verification system (EVS) whose role is to act as a filter of all the transactions of tokenized securities and will check the validation certificates of the stakeholders Essentially, the EVS will check that the receiver has the rights to receive the tokens following the specific compliance rules and issuer requirements applicable for this specific asset. The EVS will block the transaction if the receiver misses a mandatory certificate and will notify him about the reason for the failure. The onchain validator is implemented on the Identity Registry smart contract through the "isVerified" function.
- A set of **Compliance rules** ensuring that the rules of the offering are respected, e.g. the maximum of investors per country of distribution, the maximum of tokens held by a single investor, etc. These rules are not only linked to the identity of the receiver of a transaction but also to the global distribution of tokens at a certain time.

These 4 key elements allow issuers to use a **decentralized Validator to control transfers and enforce compliance on the holders of the security token**. The Validator includes rules for the whole offering (e.g. managing the max number of holders allowed in a specific market, when such rule apply), and rules for each investor (e.g. KYC or issuer-defined eligibility criteria) thanks to the identity management system.

#### <sup>2</sup> https://ONCHAINID.com/

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# **Constraints for tokenized securities**

Although, so far, the rules applicable in issuing and holding utility tokens have been largely undefined or at least very vague - in most countries, an STO consists in the issuance of a security that uses the blockchain technology as its registry, proof of ownership and transfer infrastructure. Such instrument is regulated in every country and, as a consequence, STOs have to comply with the related regulations of the country where the security token is issued in as well as those of the countries where it is distributed (sold).

	Utility Token	Security Token
Purpose	Usage	Investment
Regulation	Non existing or vague in most cases	Stringent as existing securities laws should be taken as reference.
Lifecycle	Simple	As complex as a security
Secondary Market	Nearly no constraints	As complex as a security

Figure 1 : comparison between utility and security token

Another significant difference between ICOs and STOs is related to the token lifecycle. ICOs - dealing with utility tokens - result in the issuance of tokens that have a relatively simple life cycle: once the token is shared among a decentralized network, its governance is mostly the results of its token economics. Contrary to security tokens, the situation is quite different, as the issuer - or its appointed agent - remains generally liable for applying a number of controls to its token after issuance and during the entire "life" of its security token. In addition, the issuer might need to apply a number of corporate actions (dividend/interests payments, ...) or corporate events (calling for an AGM/EGM, ...) to its token which further increase the need for the issuer to keep in touch with (keep some control on) their investors.

One could identify two main types of control requirements related to the issuance, the holding and the transfer of security tokens :

- One relates to regulations applicable to the security considered, that are independent of the security token itself (i.e. general rules). For example, the need to identify the investor, to collect proof of their identity, to check their name against blacklists, i.e. generally speaking, control requirements related to AML/KYC, or other applicable regulatory rules.
- Then some controls might be related specifically to the security that is issued, for example, restrictions about the investor type and location or about the amount of money that can be

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invested in a certain period. These might be linked to the regulatory environment under which the issuer has decided to issue their token or simply linked to eligibility criteria defined by the issuer for instance, for commercial reasons (e.g. restricting the access of a certain share class, having specific fees characteristics, to investors of a specific country).

Addressing these different control requirements will require a high level of reusability and flexibility when designing the token.

This is the reason why we have designed the T-REX standard. It provides a set of generic tools helping token issuers apply and manage the necessary controls and permissions to security tokens through a flexible decentralized validation system (the transfer manager), allowing them to add all the rules that need to be addressed to approve holding and transferring their tokens.

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# **Decentralized Validation System**

# **Overview**

A transfer of ERC-20 tokens generally happens in the following way on Ethereum blockchain, with the standard ERC-20 implementation:



Figure 2 : illustration of an ERC-20 transaction

Transactions are executed between 2 peers, without any restrictions and without any control, the freedom of transaction is complete and pseudonymous, AML/KYC checks are only performed when crypto is converted into fiat currencies or when fiat currencies are converted into crypto and there are a lot of ways to avoid these through unregulated exchanges, direct exchanges between peers, etc.

In comparison, a transaction in a T-REX compliant ERC-20 permissioned token will be processed as follows:



Figure 3 : illustration of a T-REX permissioned token transaction

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The T-REX security tokens allow transactions between peers after a complete compliance check. The holder of the tokens initiates the transaction through the security token smart contract (1.). In contrast to a standard ERC-20 token, the transaction function of the smart contract is modified, the transfer function of the smart contract calls the validator (compliance + identity registry + identity registry Storage + trusted claim issuer registry + trusted claim topics registry) (2.) to initiate checks on the ONCHAINID of the receiver to ensure that it holds the necessary permissions (claims) to receive the token in question and that the transfer is compliant according to the compliance rules set on the compliance smart contract (3.). If the receiver's ONCHAINID holds the required claims (personal data validated by trusted third parties (e.g. KYC, AML, sovereign identity,...) AND if the transfer is not violating any of the compliance rules set in the compliance smart contract, the transfer of the tokens is allowed to proceed (4.) and executed (5.). If it doesn't have the necessary claims in his ONCHAINID OR if the transfer is rejected and an error message is delivered to explain the necessary steps to get the missing claims or the reason why the transfer was rejected by the compliance contract (4.).

### **Permissioned tokens**

In our opinion, only permissioned tokens are suitable to issue security tokens because there cannot be a total, uncontrolled, freedom in the transaction of such instruments and, investors need to comply with a number of criteria - either by regulation or imposed by the issuer himself in order to be eligible for holding the tokens. The main technical difference between standard ERC-20 tokens and T-REX permissioned tokens resides in the transfer function of T-REX tokens being made conditional, the condition for a transaction to be executed being that the decentralized validator approves it in accordance to the governance criteria defined for the token in question. However, despite this modification of the transfer function of the token structure is based on the ERC-20 standard, it remains fully compatible with all the available exchanges and tools based on ERC-20 tokens.

Most of the "Security token protocols" promoted in the industry so far are permissioned tokens. The transfer function is modified and requests a transfer approval from an external validator service to control the transfer of tokens. T-REX involves a fully on-chain identity management system allowing issuers to directly control the transfer of ownership.

# **Onchain identities management**

As mentioned before, by essence, a security token being subject to a stringent governance, its distribution has to follow all the applicable regulations and, in particular, those aspects related to KYC rules. In that respect, we believe that identity management is key to implement such compliance on the blockchain.

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As the ownership of a security token is registered on the blockchain, we believe it is necessary to have a way to track the token ownership and to prohibit illicit transactions directly on the blockchain. This is why there is a need to make a link between wallet addresses and identities to manage rights through an ONCHAINID contract directly on the blockchain. In addition, we also need to ensure the privacy of those identities in order to comply with personal data related regulations. For this reason, personal data should not be stored directly on the blockchain but only the validation certificates (claims) issued by trusted third parties (KYC provider, government, lawyer,...) having checked these data. Those certificates (claims), stored in the identities of each party will be used by the decentralized validator to validate whether or not those parties can hold or transfer a specific security token.

Linking an investor's wallet to an ONCHAINID can bring significant added value to stakeholders in the nascent security tokens market. For example, it will allow a token issuer to replace the tokens of an investor if the investor loses access to his wallet (which happens quite often and generally results in the loss of the owner's assets<sup>3</sup>), by verifying that his personal data provided during the recovery process fits with off-chain data linked to the ONCHAINID contract corresponding to the lost wallet. After the identity of the investor is confirmed, the issuer's agent can trigger the recovery function that will force a transfer of tokens between the lost wallet and the new provided wallet and update the identity registry as well as the ONCHAINID contract.

Also, ONCHAINIDs and the certificates (claims) they store can potentially be re-used for passing KYC for other security tokens than the one for which those claims were originally provided or even in situations other than investments (e.g. account opening at an exchange, identification with compatible web services, ...). If Google and Facebook accounts are the identities of most people on the internet of information, ONCHAINIDs can be the ones of the internet of value. They are genuinely owned and controlled by their owner.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.fortune.com/2017/11/25/lost-bitcoins

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# **T-REX** infrastructure

# Overview

The goal of T-REX is to provide a complete suite of tools for the issuance, management and transfer of security tokens on the Ethereum blockchain. The following section will dive into the technical specificities of T-REX by explaining the different capabilities of the smart contracts that are part of it. In addition, there are other smart contracts to handle corporate actions, taxes, etc. that can easily be added to the suite of tools.

# **Based on standards**

# Token standards

#### ERC-20

ERC-20 tokens<sup>4</sup> are considered as a standard and are widely adopted by all the actors in the blockchain industry. ERC-20 tokens are fungible tokens, usually non-permissioned, that can be transferred easily between peers on the Ethereum blockchain.

The ERC-20 smart contract defines and implements the basic characteristics of the token i.e. its name, symbol, the total supply and the number of decimals allowed. The ERC-20 smart contract implements all the necessary functions needed to create a standard token.

# Identity standards on the Blockchain

Performing KYC and AML checks is a must for any project that intends to follow proper governance and comply with regulations. ICOs (by good practice) and even more STOs (by regulations) are required to integrate strong KYC and AML procedures. In our opinion, performing KYC and AML checks effectively on a blockchain infrastructure requires to link these with a shared identity model. In order to do so, we have decided to rely on ONCHAINID, that is based on ERC-734<sup>5</sup> and ERC-735<sup>6</sup> standards. These standards define a commonly accepted identity and claims management model for creating, maintaining and populating identities on the blockchain. Using these standards, we have built features into our smart contracts to only permit interactions from well identified, reputable persons (i.e. natural or legal persons can have identities). The claims attached to an identity contract facilitate the emergence of a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://github.com/OpenZeppelin/openzeppelin-solidity/tree/master/contracts/token/ERC20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://github.com/ethereum/EIPs/issues/734

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://github.com/ethereum/EIPs/issues/735

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web of trust between token issuers, 3rd party claim issuers and the party holding the identity contract itself and can make the process of identity management more efficient.

In order for an identity holder to have a claim added to his ONCHAINID, he first has to request it from a relevant trusted third party (i.e. the relevant trusted claim issuer for this specific claim topic). The claim issuer, upon successful assessment of the eligibility of the requestor for the claim considered, will then sign a message containing: a) the (requestor) ONCHAINID address, b) the claim topic, and optionally c) some data to go along with it (e.g.: the hashes to off-chain references of data stored by trusted claim issuers). The identity owner (the claim holder), will then store this claim in his identity contract (alternatively, the claim issuer can also add the claim himself, following the approval by the identity owner to do so).

In T-REX, it is this combination of identities and claims that allows for the on-chain validation and the eligibility of investors to hold (receive) a specific security token i.e. every time an investor is subject to receive a position in a specific security token, T-REX will check whether his ONCHAINID contains the claim(s) allowing him to hold this token.



# **T-REX** Components (Smart contracts library)

Figure 4 : illustration of T-REX components with global interactions

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### **ONCHAINID**

This is the smart contract deployed by a user in order to interact with the security token (and potentially for any other further use where his onchain identity might be relevant). It holds the keys and claims. The ONCHAINID contract is based on the ERC-734 and ERC-735 standards and it includes all the necessary functions to manage keys and claims related to the considered identity. The **ONCHAINID Contract is not linked to a specific token** and it only needs to be deployed once by each user. It can then be used for whatever purpose where the use of an onchain identity might be relevant. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the ONCHAINID documentation<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Identity Registry**

This smart contract is linked to a storage contract that stores a **dynamic whitelist of identities**. The Identity Registry makes the link between a wallet address, an ONCHAINID and a country code corresponding to the country of residence of the investor, this country code is set in accordance with the ISO-3166<sup>8</sup> standard. It also contains a function called Verified(), which returns a status based on the validity of claims (as per the security token requirements) in the user's ONCHAINID. The Identity Registry is managed by the issuer's agent(s) i.e. only the issuer's agent(s) can add or remove identities in the registry (note: the agent role on the Identity Registry is set by the issuer, therefore the issuer could set himself as the agent if he wants to keep everything under his own control). There is a specific identity registry for each security token. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>9</sup>.

#### Identity Registry Storage

This smart contract stores the identity addresses of all the authorized investors in the issuer's security token(s) linked to the storage contract i.e. all identities of investors who have been authorized to hold the token(s) after having gone through the appropriate KYC and eligibility checks. The Identity Registry Storage can be bound to one or several Identity Registry contract(s). The Goal of the Identity Registry storage is to separate the Identity Registry functions and specifications from its storage, this way it is possible to keep one single Identity Registry contract per token, with its own Trusted Issuers Registry and Claim Topics Registry but with a shared whitelist of investors used by the isVerifed() function implemented in the Identity Registries to check the eligibility of the receiver in a transfer transaction. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://docs.onchainid.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://www.iso.org/iso-3166-country-codes.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/identity-registry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/identity-registry-storage

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# **Trusted Issuers Registry**

This smart contract stores the contract addresses (ONCHAINID) of all the trusted claim issuers for a specific security token. The ONCHAINID of token owners (the investors) must have claims signed by the claim issuers stored in this smart contract in order to be able to hold the token. The ownership of this contract is given to the token issuer allowing them to manage this registry as per their requirements. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>11</sup>.

# Claim Topics Registry

This smart contract stores all the trusted claim topics for the security token. The ONCHAINID of token owners must have claims of the claim topics stored in this smart contract. The ownership of this contract is given to the token issuer allowing them to manage this registry as per their requirements. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>12</sup>.

# **Permissioned Tokens**

T-REX permissioned tokens are based on a standard ERC-20 structure but with some functions being added in order to ensure compliance in the transactions of the security tokens. The functions *transfer* and *transferFrom* are implemented in a conditional way, allowing them to proceed with a transfer only IF the decentralized validator approves the transaction. The permissioned tokens are allowed to be transferred only to validated counterparties, in order to avoid tokens being held in wallets/ONCHAINIDs of ineligible/unauthorized investors. The T-REX standard also supports the recovery of security tokens in case an investor loses his/her wallet private key. A history of recovered tokens is maintained on the blockchain for transparency reasons. TREX tokens are implementing a lot of additional functions to give the owner or his agent the possibility to manage supply, transfer rules, lockups and everything that could be required in the management of a security at will. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>13</sup>.

# Compliance

The Compliance smart contract is used to set the rules of the offering itself and ensures these rules are respected during the whole lifecycle of the token, e.g. the compliance contract will define the maximum of investors per country, the maximum of tokens per investor, the accepted countries for the circulation of the token (using the country code corresponding to each investor in the Identity Registry). The compliance smart contract is a "tailor-made" contract that is implemented in accordance with the legal requirements and following the desires of the token issuer. This contract is triggered at every transaction

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/trusted-issuers-registry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/claim-topics-registry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/token-smart-contract

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by the Token and returns TRUE if the transaction is compliant with the rules of the offering and FALSE otherwise. A detailed description of the functions can be found in the TREX contracts documentation<sup>14</sup>.

#### Additional smart contracts

Investor rights (voting, dividends, announcements, etc.) can be implemented easily by the issuer or its tokenization platform to complete the range of functions in the security token. The use of those capabilities will depend on the needs of each issuer/security token. All the features of standard securities markets could potentially be reproduced in a tokenized securities ecosystem but benefiting from efficiencies inherent to a blockchain environment (e.g. transparency, no need for several stages of reconciliation, 24/7 processing, global reach, etc). Compliant treatment of taxes could also be handled through smart contracts linked to security tokens. An ONCHAINID contract can also be deployed and linked to the token smart contract to represent the identity of the financial asset itself, the claims would give information about the asset itself and about all the corporate actions and relevant information regarding the security, it would act as an onchain golden-copy of the asset.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://docs.tokeny.com/docs/compliance

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# Stakeholders

#### **Overview**



Figure 5 : Stakeholders of the ecosystem and their interactions

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#### Issuers

The company issuing the security tokens under the T-REX framework will need to **determine the claim topics needed for their investors.** This depends on the jurisdiction of issuance, the countries where they want to distribute and the characteristics of the security token in general. Issuance platforms will help issuers deploy and manage the set of smart contracts needed to support their token. They can also help investors create their ONCHAINID or connect with an existing ONCHAINID if they already have one.

Issuers (and/or their agent(s) involved in the administration of the security token) will have their own ONCHAINID as well. They will indicate authorized exchanges on how to interact with the T-REX solution in order to support secondary market trading of the tokens.

#### Investors

They create and control their ONCHAINID i.e. allowing or preventing access to claim issuers and claim controllers (entities checking if a certain identity has a specific claim or not).

The sensitive data of the investors, as well as the data of all other stakeholders will not be accessible directly on the blockchain, only assessments from trusted claim issuers will be directly linked to the investor's identity contract and these will be verified by the identity registry to approve or refuse transactions through the transfer manager. This process is intended to be compliant with data protection laws.

With their ONCHAINID, investors will not necessarily have to go through identity verifications for each token issuance as long as the claims stored on the latter satisfy the requirements of the second (or third, ...) token issuer with regards to KYC and eligibility checks. In such case investors can directly give access to the needed claim checks. If the security token Issuer recognizes the claim issuer as a trusted party (for example it recognizes the estonian digital identity as trusted), the validation will be simplified.

#### **Claim** issuers

Claim issuers can act in such capacity if they are authorised by the token issuer (e.g. a third party KYC platform appointed by the issuer to perform KYC checks on his behalf) and are registered in the Trusted Claims Issuers Registry. On that basis a Trusted Claim issuer has the ability to **enrich the ONCHAINID of a specific investor** as long as this investor allows him to add a claim in his ONCHAINID. For example, KYC/AML providers, third party identity tools like governmental issued digital ID, luxtrust, etc. Claim issuers can have multiple claim signer keys (and at least one) in their own ONCHAINID.

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This model allows for true interoperability between multiple KYC/AML providers. It shields Issuers from the specificities of each AML/KYC provider by using a standard protocol to verify the claims.

## **Exchanges and Relayers**

Exchanges will also have identities and be claim holders. To integrate identity management with exchanges, the transfer mechanism used internally by an exchange is an important factor. Depending on this, how the identity protocol is integrated will vary:

#### **Direct P2P Trades**

Individual investors can trade their tokens directly amongst each other. The compliant service of the token restricts the transfer of tokens to unauthorized addresses. For a transfer to happen successfully, the buyer needs to have a proper identity as per security token standards registered to the identity registry. Also, a token can only be transferred when it is not in the lockup period.

#### **Decentralized Exchanges**

There are exchanges that enable direct address to address (wallets or identity contracts) transfers in a distributed manner. Examples of such models are exchanges based on protocols like Swap, used by AirSwap, or the 0x protocol used by relayers like *Radar Relay*<sup>15</sup>. For Decentralized Security Token Exchanges (STE) to interact with the T-REX identity management and transfers protocol, the following steps on the next page will need to be followed:

#### <sup>15</sup> https://radarrelay.com/

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Figure 6 : sequence diagram of a Distributed Security Token Exchange transaction with T-REX tokens

- 1. A token holder connects to the STE and sets up a sell order.
- 2. The STE checks the balances of the seller to see if he has enough tokens in his wallet/identity contract to fulfill this order.

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- 3. If the seller has the necessary balance, the order is added to the order book of the STE and a success message is returned to the order issuer. If he doesn't have the necessary balance, the order will be rejected and an error message returned to the order issuer.
- 4. A buyer sets a buy order on the same token, at a price higher or equal to the one of the sell order that is already in the order book.
- 5. The STE checks the identity contract of the buyer to validate whether he holds the necessary claims to hold/receive the token being traded AND if he could receive the tokens in accordance with the compliance rules set in the compliance contract, exactly the same way and with the same code that is used to test the compliance before executing the transfer.
- 6. The identity registry and the compliance return the status of the buyer. If he doesn't have the necessary claims or if the compliance rules are violated by the potential transfer, the order will be cancelled and an error message will be sent detailing what's needed for the transaction to be granted.
- 7. If the peer has the necessary claims and if the compliance rules are not violated, it returns true, the buy order is added to the order book and the STE initiates the transactions through the transferFrom() function. The transferFrom() function calls the transfer manager to check the claims of the receiver as it does on a standard peer to peer T-REX transaction. If everything is in order (which should be the case, as the STE already verified the claims before adding the orders in the orderbook) the transfer is executed. Depending on the DEX protocol used, the process can be a bit different, but this description is the most typical.
- 8. The STE scans the blockchain and when the transaction is successfully included in a block it returns a success message to the counterparties to the transaction.

In this process, we have seen how the protocol only ensures trades validated by the Compliance Service (decentralized validator) are permitted on decentralized exchanges. We have also seen how these exchanges have the capacity to increase the reach of the system by interacting with non-compliant peers. These non-compliant peers are then guided through customized error messages including step-by-step instructions on how to resolve their claims. Purple part on the diagram is the part that is processed onchain, the rest of the process is done offchain

#### Centralized Exchange - Investor Owned Wallet

The flow, in this case, is very similar, but it requires the Exchange to create and register (or reusing) specific wallets for new investors, and the investors interacting with them.

The following process would happen for an investor wanting to buy Security Tokens:

- 1. The Exchange runs its own KYC process (or any claim topic) on the Investor and has their identity.
- 2. The Exchange creates an Ethereum wallet for the investor.

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- 3. The Exchange deploys an ONCHAINID contract for that Ethereum wallet.
- 4. The Exchange registers this identity contract in the identity registry through an API solution linked to the issuer's platform (as the registration can only be done by the issuer).
- 5. The Exchange provides the KYC details to the claim issuer. The claim issuer verifies the details and signs the claim data. The signed claim is then added to the identity contract of the new wallet.
- 6. The Exchange matches the buy order with one (or several) sell order(s).
- 7. The Exchange transfers the tokens between wallets, using the transfer() method.
- 8. This will trigger the execution of the regulatory checks by the Compliance Service. If no regulatory limits are surpassed the trade takes place.
- 9. The new investor has the Security Tokens in their Exchange wallet, and can do additional trades, or withdraw them to another wallet by registering that wallet in the identity registry through the exchange or issuer.

The following process would happen for an investor wanting to sell Security Tokens:

- 1. The Exchange runs its own KYC process (or any claim topic) on the Investor and has their identity.
- 2. The Exchange creates an Ethereum wallet for the investor.
- 3. The Exchange deploys an ONCHAINID contract for that Ethereum wallet.
- 4. The Exchange registers this identity contract in the identity registry.
- 5. The Exchange provides the KYC details to the claim Issuer. The claim issuer verifies the details and signs the claim data. The signed claim is then added to the identity contract of the new wallet.
- 6. The Exchange presents the wallet address to the investor so that the investor can send the tokens to the Exchange wallet.
- 7. This should work as both wallets are registered to the investor and investors can move their tokens freely across their own wallets.
- 8. The exchange matches the sell order with a buy order.
- 9. The Exchange transfers the tokens between wallets, using the transfer() method.
- 10. This will trigger the execution of the regulatory checks by the Compliance Service.
- 11. If no regulatory limits are surpassed the trade takes place.
- 12. The investor no longer has the tokens in their Exchange wallet and has received the currency/tokens they requested.

The other added value of T-REX for Centralized Exchanges with an Investor owned Wallet is that they can onboard a new customer provided that the AML/KYC claims are already present and linked to the customer's onchain identity. T-REX can greatly simplify the onboarding process for these exchanges.

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#### **Centralized Exchange - Pooled Wallets**

This may have proved a great success for currency tokens but is not recommended for security tokens. In this case, the Exchange uses shared wallets that receive tokens from multiple investors and is able to execute trades between them off-chain. In this model, the ability for the Issuer to identify investors and validate compliance is very limited, as it has no visibility or control over what happens off-chain, and also has limitations regarding the ability to provide investors access to certain rights like voting events or dividends, since it is unclear who is holding the tokens.

In this case, the T-REX system will only have the ability to act as a validator on IN/OUT transactions but will be blind for all the internal transactions made on the exchange. Therefore, in order to validate the compliance of their users for the transfer of specific securities, centralized exchanges will need to prove that they comply with the rules of transfer of the token issuer implemented on the onchain validator system. They will also need to provide all the necessary information to the token issuer about the token holders registered on their platform, including private data, position report and transaction report.

# **T-REX processes**

We know that the ERC20 token standard has transfer and transferFrom functions which enable token holders to transfer tokens to another address. We have seen that the T-REX standard defines a permissioned token on the Ethereum blockchain, enabling token transfers to occur if and only if they are approved by an on-chain Transfer management Service. Implemented with the correct configurations, the T-REX standard enables compliant transfers, both on exchanges (preferably decentralized) and on a pure peer to peer basis, in STOs and secondary trades, and across jurisdictions. In essence, the T-REX standard enables ERC-20 tokens to support the issuance management and transfers of compliant security tokens.

T-REX implements ERC-20 methods transfer() and transferFrom() with an additional check to determine whether or not a transfer should be allowed to proceed. The check is done over the ONCHAINID contract of the receiver of tokens and it verifies whether this identity contract has the required claims needed to hold/receive the security token.

There will be four major entities:

- 1. Token Deployer : The entity responsible for deploying the smart contracts of the security token;
- 2. ABC Corporation: The company willing to issue security tokens;
- 3. **Trusted Claim Issuer**: An entity handling the issuance of claims to identity contracts (e.g. a third-party KYC provider). This claim Issuer is trusted by the issuer of the token. All the token owners must have claims signed by this claim issuer.
- 4. **Investors**: are the owners of security tokens having permissions for the trading of tokens among each other.

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# Security token deployment

Role: Token deployer



*Figure 7 : sequence diagram of security token deployment* 

- 1. Token deployer first deploys the trusted issuers registry smart contract (SC). This contract stores addresses of all the identity contracts of the claim issuers it trusts with regards to this specific token. The claim topics registry contract can be deployed at the same time as the link between both registries is established in the Identity registry. This contract stores all the trusted claim topics related to the security token.
- 2. The identity registry contract follows, which stores the identity contract addresses of all the users allowed (i.e. eligible) to hold the token. It is also in charge of claims verification by interacting with the above two previously mentioned contracts. The Identity Registry constructor function needs the addresses of both Trusted Issuers Registry and Claim Topics Registry, that's why these

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2 smart contracts need to be deployed before the Identity registry. The compliance smart contract can be deployed at the same time as there is no interaction between both smart contracts and therefore they can be deployed in parallel.

3. Finally, the security token contract is deployed. The token contract interacts with the identity registry to check the eligibility status of investors and hence, making holding/transacting possible. The Token constructor function needs the addresses of both Identity Registry and Compliance smart contracts, that's why these contracts need to be deployed before the token contract

Now that the token is deployed, it can interact with validated investors.

# Updating trusted claim issuers and trusted claim topics

#### Role: ABC corporation

ABC corporation will populate the Trusted Claim Issuers and Trusted Claim Topics in the T-REX ecosystem depending on their requirements.

- **Trusted Claims Issuers Registry:** ABC corporation has ownership of the Trusted Claims Issuers Registry where it manages the claim issuers and their activities. For example, if ABC corporation trusts Luxtrust as a claim issuer, it adds Luxtrust's identity contract in the Trusted Claim Issuers Registry. It will also have the possibility to manage, i.e. delete, update, and add Trusted Claim Issuers in the registry.
- **Trusted Claim Topics Registry:** ABC corporation has ownership of the Trusted Claim Topics Registry where it manages the claim topics it wants for an investor to be an eligible token holder. ABC corporation has the right to delete and add multiple claim topics to this registry. For example, if ABC corporation wants its investors to have gone through a KYC process, it will add the index of this claim topic (for example, KYC = 4) in this registry. Other claim topics can be verified via a verified address proof, a valid accreditation certificate etc.

So, after ABC corporation has added Trusted Claim Issuers and Trusted Claim Topics in the T-REX ecosystem of its token, an investor's identity contract needs to have claims of trusted claim topics issued by the trusted claim issuers to become an eligible token holder.

# Creation of identities on the blockchain

There are two roles that are needed to deploy identity contracts on the blockchain in the T-REX ecosystem.

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- Claim Issuers.
- Investors/Token Holders.

An identity can be created by different processes:

- An entity can self-deploy an ERC734 compliant Smart Contract (such as ONCHAINID) directly on the Ethereum blockchain or by using a decentralized identity management solution;
- An ERC734 contract can be deployed on behalf of an entity by a third party (for example an exchange platform or a token issuance platform creating identities for their users in order to have them subsequently populated with claims related to token eligibility).

#### Role: Claim issuers





#### 1. Claim issuer deploys an identity contract by any of the methods mentioned above.

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- 2. It then adds a claim signer key to the identity contract deployed. This claim signer key can now be used to sign claims requested by other identities. If this key is deleted, the claim issuer won't be able to issue new claims on this identity.
- 3. The claim issuer then provides the identity contract address to ABC corporation who in turn adds this address to their trusted issuers registry. (If ABC corporation wants its investors to have claim issued by this claim issuer).

Role: Investors



Figure 9 : User's identity creation

A user can deploy his/her own identity contract using our T-REX dapp (or other identity providing services) or can be deployed on behalf of the user by 3rd party entities such as exchanges. On deployment of the ONCHAINID, a management key is added by default which is crucial in the management of keys and claims in the contract.

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#### Claim addition

This is probably the most crucial aspect of the T-REX ecosystem. The process is similar to getting your driving license signed by an issuing authority. Once verified and signed, this card becomes proof of your driving abilities and you are then permitted to drive a vehicle anywhere in the country. Analogous to this is the claim issuance protocol of T-REX. The identity contract you own is the driving license card. Claim issuers are the issuing authorities that sign your identity claims after proper verification of your identity. Once verified and signed, you now have the right to own the security tokens for which your eligibility has been checked, just like your right to drive anywhere in the country. Also, it is important to note that depending on the requirement of the token, claims can be self-attested too. For example, a user can self-sign a claim regarding the correctness of his full name. The token issuer, in this case, is willing to trust the user's "self-claim".

#### **Role**: Investors + claim issuers



Figure 10 : claim addition to user's identity contract

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- 1. The investor requests a claim from the trusted claim issuer. A claim issuer has an ONCHAINID contract deployed and the user has to add the claim issuer's ONCHAINID address as a CLAIM key on his own ONCHAINID contract.
- 2. The claim issuer does some user off-chain verification based on the claim topic requested. For example, if the claim topic requested is KYC check, then the claim issuer does the KYC check for that user off-chain.
- 3. On successful verification, the claim issuer stores user data in an encrypted format in an off-chain database.
- 4. The claim issuer then signs a message that includes the claim topic, user's identity contract address and the hash of the encrypted data stored using the claim signer key.
- 5. A claim is finally added to the user's ONCHAINID. This claim majorly consists of
  - The claim topic
  - The signing scheme
  - Claim issuer's signature
  - Hash of the encrypted data
  - URI to access offchain data

This now becomes the proof of identity/eligibility for the user and can be used by any service that trusts the issuer undertaking the issuance of claims.

# User registration in the identity registry

#### Role: ABC corporation

Once the investor has an identity contract deployed, and has passed KYC and eligibility checks requested for the token considered, it must be added in the identity registry in order to enable the user to hold/transfer the token. The purpose of this registry is to store the ONCHAINID contract address corresponding to the wallet address that should be able to hold tokens. This contract has the all-important function - isVerified() which is responsible for the verification of claims in the identity contract corresponding to a user's address. As discussed earlier, the identity registry interacts with the trusted issuers registry to verify claims based on the initial security token requirements.

For security purposes, only the token issuer or his agent can add an identity contract to the registry and only if the owner of the identity contract initiates the request to be added in the identity registry. Also, one wallet address can only have one identity contract stored in the registry.

The token issuer or ABC corporation has full ownership of this contract and is responsible for the management of user identities. To register a new identity, the Issuer has to call the registerIdentity()

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function in the identity registry contract. The user's wallet address and the ONCHAINID contract address are used as parameters.

# Compliant transfer of ownership

The T-REX standard makes sure that the transfer of security tokens is compliant



Figure 11 : compliant transfer of ownership of T-REX token

- 1. User calls the transfer/transferFrom function.
- 2. The isVerified() function is called from within the transfer/transferFrom functions to instruct the identity registry to check if the receiver is a valid investor (i.e. if his address is in the identity registry of the token meaning he holds the necessary claims needed to be eligible for this token). If no identity contract is found corresponding to the address of the receiver, an error status is returned.
- 3. The identity registry fetches the claims in the receiver identity contract and decodes the claims to extract the claim topics and the signatures. It then compares the found claim topics with the claim topics in the trusted claim topics registry. If no matches are found, a failed status is returned and the transfer is not allowed to proceed.

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- 4. If a match is found, then the signature is checked. First, the trusted claim issuers are fetched from the trusted claim issuers registry. Then for each trusted issuer, it is verified whether the signature was done by a claim signer key present in the trusted claim issuer's identity contract. If no matches are found, then a failed status is returned and the transfer is not allowed to proceed.
- 5. If a match is found, then a success status is returned to the security token. If the success status is received, the transfer is allowed to proceed and ownership of the token is successfully transferred. When the transaction is successfully included in a block, both stakeholders can acknowledge the success of the transfer from the Transfer event emitted on the blockchain, the interface linked to an ethereum block explorer returns a "transfer success" message.

# Token ownership on the blockchain

As described in the Ethereum Whitepaper<sup>16</sup>, there are two types of accounts on Ethereum: externally owned accounts (EOA), controlled by private keys, and contract accounts, controlled by their contract code. Externally owned accounts are managed by wallets like Metamask or MyEtherWallet. Wallet applications have been enhanced to display ERC-20 Tokens owned by EOA and to perform transfer of tokens from an EOA to an address.

For compatibility purposes with these wallets, the model described here assumes that the tokens are owned on the blockchain by an EAO whose address is linked to a ERC-734 contract account. This adds a small layer of complexity compared to a model where the tokens are owned by an ERC-734 contract account, which is the philosophy behind ERC-734 and 735 creation. In the near future, common wallets will evolve to support ERC-734 Identity linked to an EOA, just as they have evolved to support ERC-20 and ENS for example.

T-REX supports both models from the beginning. If the address of the token receiver is an account address that is ERC-734 compliant, then we perform the KYC checks as we have described in the document. If it is an EOA, we lookup in the Identity Registry to find if an Identity is linked to this EAO and then perform the checks.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://github.com/ethereum/wiki/wiki/White-Paper

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