# Do You Need a Blockchain?

Do you need a shared, consistent data source?

**No** → Blockchain provides a historically consistent data store. If you don't need that, you don't need a blockchain. **Consider: Email / Spreadsheets**

**Yes**

Does more than one entity need to contribute data?

**No** → Your data comes from a single entity. Blockchains are typically used when data comes from multiple entities. **Consider: Database**

**Yes** ← **Caveat: Auditing Use Cases**

Data records, once written, will never be updated or deleted?

**False** → Blockchains do not allow modifications of historical data; they are strongly auditable. **Consider: Database**

**True**

Sensitive identifiers will not be written to the data store?

**False** → You should not write sensitive information to a blockchain that requires medium- to long-term confidentiality, such as PII*, even if it is encrypted. **Consider: Encrypted database**

**True**

Are the entities with write access having a hard time deciding who should control the datastore?

**No** → If there are no trust or control issues over who runs the data store, traditional database solutions should suffice. **Consider: Managed database**

**Yes**

Do you want a tamperproof log of all writes to the datastore?

**No** → If you don't need to audit what happened and when it happened, you don't need a blockchain. **Consider: Database**

**Yes**

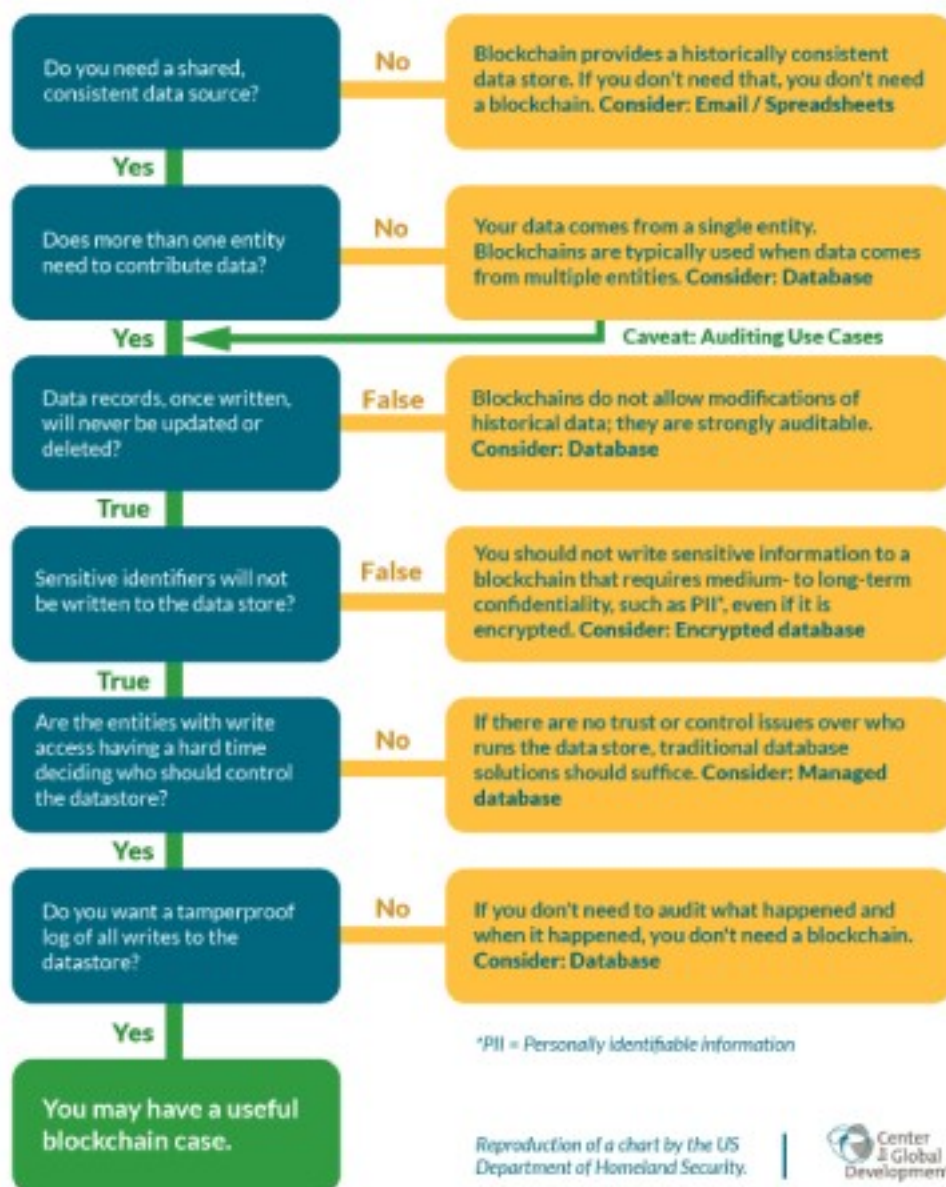**You may have a useful blockchain case.**

*PII = Personally identifiable information

*Reproduction of a chart by the US Department of Homeland Security.*

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