

Terms defined in the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct are italicized the first time they appear. If you'd like to see the definitions, you can find them in "Definitions" ([ET sec. 0.400](#)).

Q&A section 100, *Independence*

.07 Operating Node Software on a Blockchain

Inquiry — If you operate node software on a public blockchain solely for the purpose of obtaining information or auditing an *attest client's* transactions on the blockchain, will the *threats* to *independence* be at an *acceptable level*?

Reply — Yes, as long as the node software has only an inconsequential ability to influence the validity of transactions and how the blockchain operates. The definition of "inconsequential" will vary from blockchain to blockchain. You will need to understand the technical aspects of the particular blockchain to determine what level of influence the operating node software will have.

For example, if you operate one software node of many on a public blockchain, there may be an inconsequential ability to influence.

Use the "Conceptual Framework for Independence" interpretation (ET sec. 1.210.010) to evaluate whether *threats* can be reduced to an *acceptable level* by applying appropriate safeguards. If threats cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level, independence will be impaired.

If you are unsure how to apply the "Conceptual Framework for Independence" interpretation, the AICPA Professional Ethics Division has developed a [toolkit](#) to help you.

The AICPA has also developed [resources](#) on digital assets such as a practice aid and glossary you may find helpful.