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Supply Chain Innovations

Cutting-edge digital solutions enhancing
cross-border trade



Today's experts



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Ilona Kawka

Imports advisory practice lead at the
Chartered Institute of Export &
International Trade

Ilona is an expert in international trade compliance and the digitalisation of trade systems and documentation. She has over nine years' experience, specialising in import operations.

As the lead for the Imports Advisory Practice, she excels in managing complex import processes, conducting customs and broker invoice audits and developing policies that streamline cross-border trade while ensuring strict adherence to global regulations.



Sean Copeland

Co-founder of
Boex Limited

Sean co-founded BOEX, a project born out of a deep fascination with the hidden stories behind one of history's most important financial tools: the bill of exchange. With a background in history and a long career in online payments dating back to the mid-1990s, Sean has spent decades at the intersection of technology, commerce, and historical research.

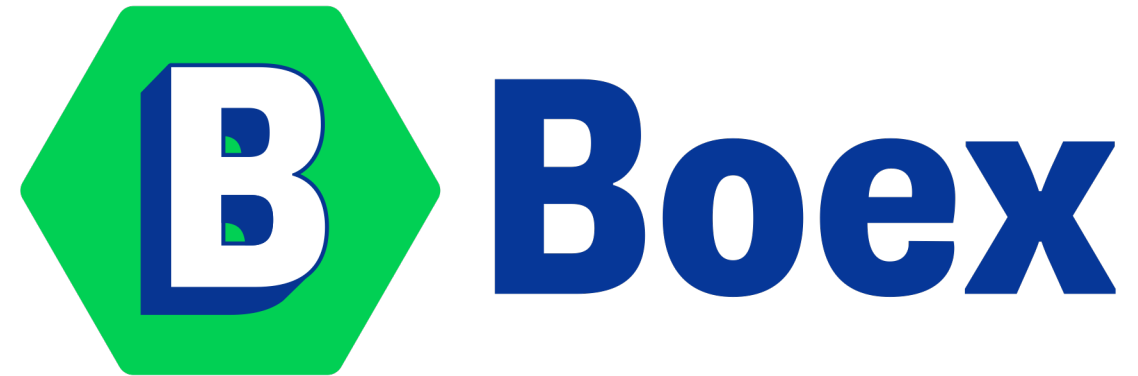
BOEX combines Sean's passion for historical exploration with his experience in the digital economy. His goal is to bring new life to bills of exchange, not just as legal or financial instruments but as cultural artifacts that have shaped how people trade, trust, and move money across borders.



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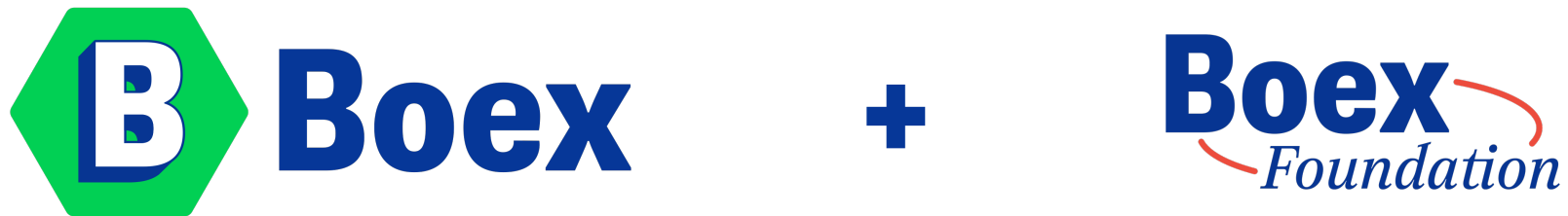
**How high do you
consider the level
of digitalisation of
your supply chain?**





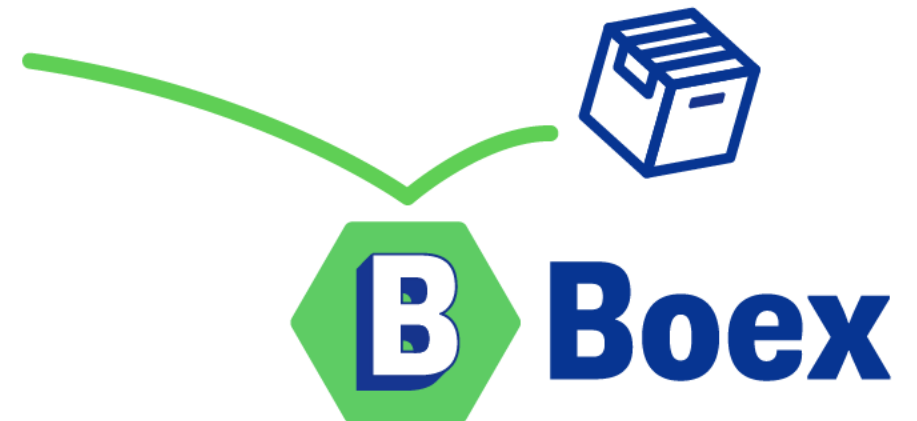
Trade as a force for good

- The ETDA 2023 marks a turning point – allowing digital documents to carry legal weight



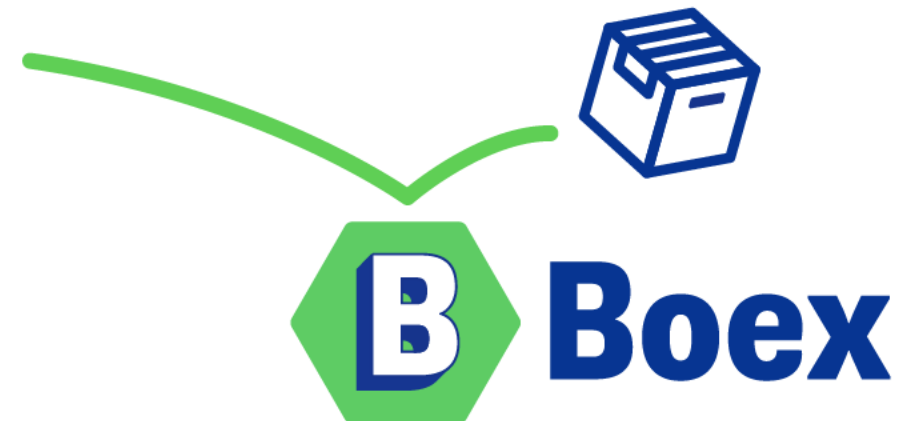
But wait...not your regular enterprise

- A financial innovation platform with a clear social purpose:
 - Revenue supports education for women in third-world, developing, and indigenous communities – at scale
 - We're reinventing a traditional trade tool to fuel both prosperity and empowerment



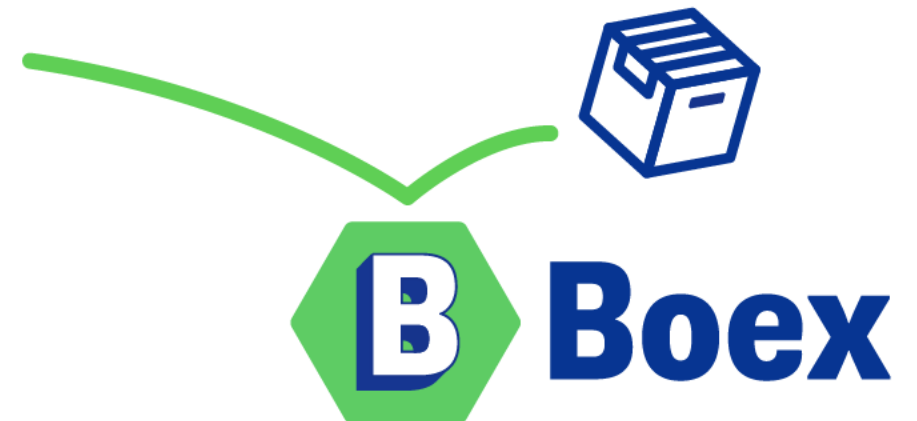
What is a Bill of Exchange (Boex)?

- A Bill of Exchange is a legally binding promise to pay, often used to finance international trade
- Parties involve
 - Drawer - issues the bill
 - Drawee - the one who pays
 - Payee - the recipient
- It's negotiable, transferable, and enforceable – designed for trust in cross-border commerce



Why They Fell Out of Favour? (1950s–2000s)

- After WWII:
 - Bank-dominated systems took over (e.g., Letters of Credit, SWIFT)
 - Bills remained on paper, which became a liability in a fast-paced, digital world
 - Manual processes, courier delays, and limited integration drove users to more modern alternatives
 - But the issue wasn't the law – it was the lack of tech infrastructure



Why the 1882 Act Still Works?

- The Bills of Exchange Act 1882:
 - Still the legal backbone for these instruments in UK law
 - Technically elegant and digitally adaptable
 - Act clearly defines:
 - How bills are made, transferred, accepted, and enforced
- It's effectively a ready-made smart contract, just written before the internet, AI, or blockchain existed
- ETDA 2023 now unlocks the bill's digital potential



Digitalisation Opportunity: ETDA & the Global Context

- ETDA gives digital BOEXs the same legal force as paper ones
- Supports UNCITRAL MLETR - promoting global digital trade standards
- Enables:
 - Instant, secure, cross-border transfer of value
 - Automated processing, endorsements, and presentments
- A new era of trade finance, especially for SMEs and underserved exporters



Boex & the CIC Social Mission (Part 1)

- Boex is building a platform for digital, programmable bills of exchange
- Integrated with:
 - Banks, trade platforms, insurers, fintechs
 - Legal frameworks across jurisdictions
- We know Bills of Exchange, you know your products

Boex & the CIC Social Mission (Part 2)

The CIC structure means this isn't just fintech – it's impact finance

- Profits fund education for women in marginalised communities.
- Trade becomes a tool for economic justice and gender equity

Supply chain management is a mess,



Boex

is here to fix that



Sean Andrew Copeland

Co-Founder, Visionary
Boex Limited, Boex Foundation CIC

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<https://boex.foundation>
LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/SeanCopeland>





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Would you like to be contacted by Boex for more information about their supply chain digitalisation services?





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Digital trade corridors



Why is digital trade important?

Digital trade allows British businesses to share the benefits of growth by:

- Reaching a wider consumer base by selling online
- Trading more efficiently and cost-effectively by streamlining shipping, logistics and other trading processes
- Connecting and growing their workforce across different regions of the world





Digital trade corridors

The term "trade corridor" refers to 'a system of interconnected transportation routes that facilitate the movement of goods, services and data between and within communities in a predetermined pattern based on cultural norms, established trade agreements, laws and regulations.'

- Similarly, digital trade corridors refer to networks that facilitate international trade through the digitalisation of those processes
- They aim to streamline customs processes through improved data exchange, increase of efficiency and security of data transfer
- They facilitate the movement from paper-based systems into electronic data exchange

Supply chains are very complex

Producers & Distributers



Producers

Processors & Manufacturers

Distribution & Wholesalers

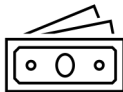
Finance and Insurance

Carriers

Ports

Border Agencies

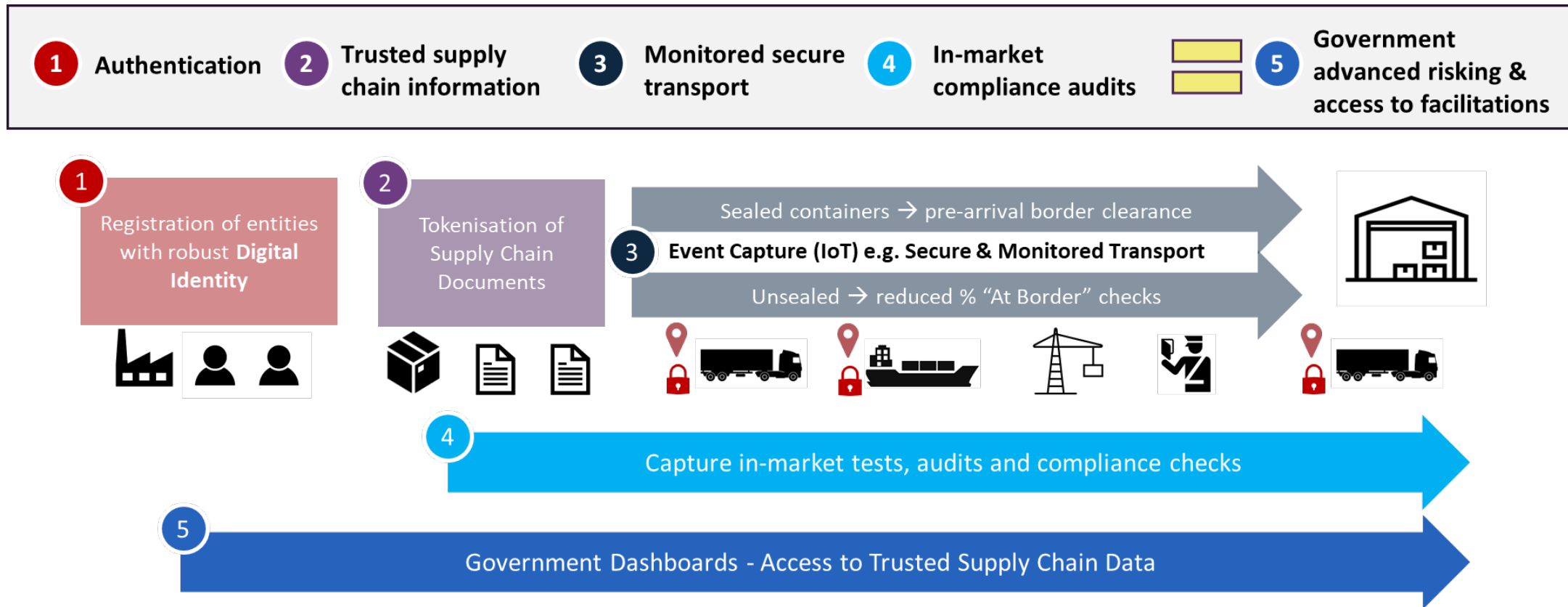
Retail & Consumers



A complex network of actors need to exchange and process a wealth of supply chain information

Components of 'trusted' supply chain visibility

The building blocks of a supply chain visibility enabled border operating model are illustrated below;



Digital trade corridor in action - TWIN

TWIN was developed jointly by **TradeMark Africa** and the **IOTA Foundation** to provide an interoperable trade platform for the Kenyan trading community.

With integration into the **Kenyan Single Trade Window (KENTRADE)**, TWIN provides access to a single source of truth for government declarations and supply chain documents and information.

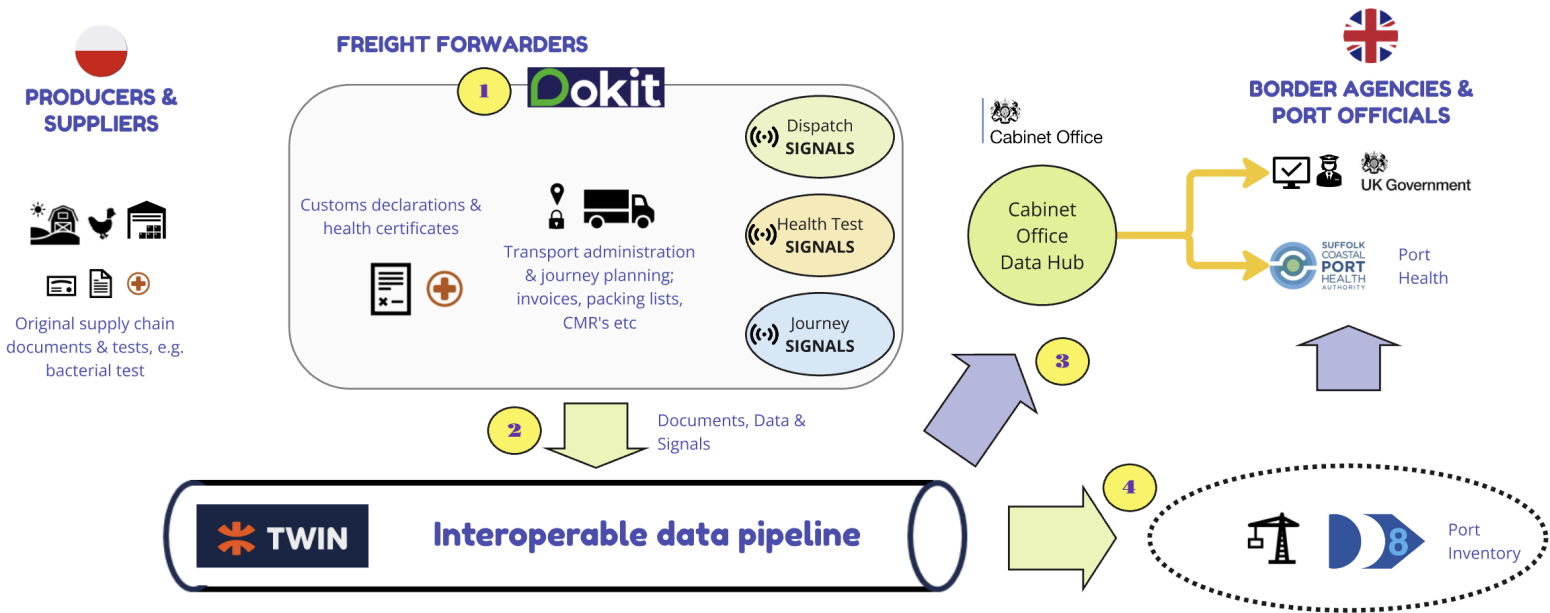
TWIN has since been trialled in the **UK Cabinet Office** led **Ecosystem of Trust** programme where it was used to facilitate trade in flowers, coffee and tea from Kenya, fish products from Germany and high-volume ambient products from Belgium.

It is currently in extended **Cabinet Office-led Border Trade Demonstrator (BTD) trials** demonstrating how supply chain ecosystems can further facilitate trade between UK and the EU.



Cabinet Office
Digital

UK Cabinet Office BTD Trials



Supply information chain is captured by TWIN for consignments of chilled poultry from the EU (Poland) to the UK.

Consignment **SIGNALS** provide information ~30 hrs in advance of arrival into UK ports.

Signals include*;

- **Dispatch** - Notification of consignment and journey information
- **Health Tests** - Results of Salmonella tests from official labs
- **Journey Events** - Key journey events including transport temperature, location and entry / exit into ports

** Dispatch and health tests are in trial today, Other Journey Events are in design phase*



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Would you be interested in participating in trials of new digital trade initiatives that would potentially support your supply chains?



Imports Advisory Practice

A new advisory service to support importers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers to navigate rapidly changing regulations, manage supply chain risk and benefit from trade digitalisation

- **International trade surgeries** – a two-hour phone call with our imports advisory lead
- **Inward and outward processing** – expert support to apply for and make best use of either procedure
- **SCDP authorisation** – get advice on how to benefit from simplified customs declaration procedures
- **SPS support** – expert advice on how to navigate complex sanitary and phytosanitary controls



[www.export.org.uk/advisory/
imports-advisory-practice](https://www.export.org.uk/advisory/imports-advisory-practice)



Advisory practice lead:
Ilona Kawka

Panel discussion

Could trade digitalisation boost UK trade?



Ilona Kawka

Imports Advisory Practice
lead – CIOE&IT



Sean Copeland

Co-founder –
Boex Limited



Chair: Will Barns-Graham

Executive Editor – CIOE&IT



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**Any other
questions?**





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EMPOWERING GLOBAL TRADE

THANK YOU