

## The Blockchain Handbook

everything you'd like to ask



**Blockchain** is a decentralized, distributed & immutable digital ledger consisting of records packed into linked blocks that are written and read on multiple nodes (computers).

Blockchain is also the de facto name of a class of technologies that support distributed computing and information storage on several nodes. A more accurate title for these is DLT: **Distributed Ledger Technology** 

**DGT** is a distributed computing platform based on DLT. In this document, we have collected basic information addressed to a wide range of readers who are beginning to get acquainted with the amazing decentralized world.

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### HANDBOOK CONTENTS



## DISTRIBUTED LEDGER

Distributed ledgers are a special architectural solution (specialized database) that allows you to process information simultaneously in several nodes within an untrusted environment

The key functions of distributed ledgers are data storage and processing:

Storage of data in **Several computing nodes**, provided that their integrity is maintained;

#### Real-time data processing with

subsequent integration from the shared storage

## HISTORICAL TIMELINE



# The closest BLOCKCHAIN ANALOGY is a DATABASE

- Like a database, blockchain stores data. However, unlike a database, the blockchain stores data in an IMMUTABLE
   FORM and the very placement of data in the registry is implemented through a complex consensus;
- Like a database, blockchain is **a TECHNOLOGICAL TOOL**. That is, it can be used for completely different application scenarios.





Can big business exist without databases today?

Oracle Corporation is an American corporation, the second largest software manufacturer

and tomorrow without BLOCKCHAIN?

### Blockchain is a:

New economic model

- Zero-touch network
- New program-architectural paradigm
- Immutable repository of information
- Information processing using the consensus algorithm
- Distributed virtual computer executing smart contracts

Blockchain is NOT:

BITCOIN OR OTHER CRYPTOCURRENCY

ETHEREUM OR OTHER PUBLIC NETWORK

SIMPLE DATABASE

ANOTHER CORPORATE SYSTEM

## BLOCKCHAIN - IS A NETWORKS OF THE FUTURE

## Why do blockchain companies achieve **BILLION DOLLAR** capitalizations in merely couples of years?

stellar

START: 2015 NOW = **\$4,004,548,371** USD



START: 2012 NOW = **\$12,757,516,147** USD



START: 2015 NOW = \$1,403,365,129 USD

START: 2018 NOW = **\$4,433,378,858** USD

## Why these solutions are popular:

Blockchain allows you to combine disparate solutions into a single bundle:

Modern organizations add value to their existing assets by increasing:

## INTEROPERABILITY IN THE NEW DIGITAL REALITY

## BLOCKCHAIN ADVANTAGES



#### Transaction speed

Speeds can reach millions of transactions per second with the right network architecture

## Transaction costs

The cost of computing inside the blockchain is minimal and can even be zero

#### **Risk mitigation**

Increased transparency of operations; the data itself is unchanged, protected from counterfeiting and fraud

#### Confidentiality

Blockchain operates only with keys, while the identities of users are known only to the final businesses in the value chain

## 

#### Reducing barriers

Decentralization easily attracts new participants, and each grows the value of the network

## Blockchain solutions have many advantages. Still, they are only needed when working in a distributed environment without trust.

In all other cases, databases show better performance and efficiency.

Moving the economy towards decentralized scenarios requires new integration patterns and blockchain is one of them.

DECENTRALIZED NETWORKS

## Decentralized networks eliminate INTERMEDIARIES and REDUNDANCY

## and allow businesses to easily attract NEW PARTNERS

## BLOCKCHAIN IS INDISPENSABLE WHERE YOU HAVE :

- Many participants over a non-trusted network;
- A conflict environment; contradictions in the motivation of participants;
- The presence of digital entities (electronic money, records);
- A need for a single standard

## NETWORK TOPOLOGY

**CENTRALIZED NETWORKS** – data is stored and processed in a single center, all information flows are subordinated to a SINGLE organization

**DISTRIBUTED NETWORKS** – the data is processed on several computers placed in different geometric places. However, they may belong to the same organization.

### **DECENTRALIZED NETWORKS**

(ex. blockchain) – data is stored, processed, shared by several organizations; their interests may conflict and there is a need for data coordination / reconciliation

## NETWORK PERMISSIONS AND DYNAMICS



- Public Blockchains fully open, where every node can participate in the vote (data reconciliation), where transactions are not controlled and are carried out freely;
- Consortium Blockchains voting is controlled by select nodes; also called hybrid blockchains;
- Private Blockchains all transactions are tracked and controlled by a centralized body;

The estimated number of nodes to be connected, their lifetimes, and the stability of the entire network have a significant impact on the network architecture.



The order of joining the network determines the degree of trust in the nodes and the ability to accept transactions from them to be written into the joint general ledger.

## CAP-THEOREM

he heuristic statement that it is possible to provide no more than two of the following three properties in any implementation of distributed computing :

- Consistency of data the data is not contradictory across all computing nodes at any one point in time;
- Availability any request to the distributed system receives a correct response, but without guarantees that answers of all nodes coincide;
- Partition tolerance splitting a distributed system into several isolated sections does not lead to incorrect responses from any one of them

#### **BASE**-architecture

Distributed computing system architecture, whereas there is no simultaneous integrity and availability, based on the principle: Basically Available, Soft-state, Eventually consistent





Distributed computing is a way to solve time-consuming computational problems using several computers, most often combined into a parallel computing system

## BYZANTINE GENERALS PROBLEM

Byzantium, 1176 AD.

in cryptology – the task of solving interactions between several remote subscribers who receive orders from one center It is the night before a great battle. The Byzantine army consists of *n* legions, each commanded by its own general.

The army also has a commander-in-chief, to whom the generals are subordinate.

At the same time, the empire is in decline, and any of the generals and even the commander-in-chief may be traitors to Byzantium, interested in its defeat.

At night, each of the generals receives an order from the leader about an action at 10 o'clock in the morning (the time is the same for everyone and is known in advance), namely: "attack the enemy" or "retreat".

If all the generals attack, Byzantium will destroy the enemy (a favorable outcome)

2

If all the generals retreat, Byzantium will retain its army (intermediate exodus)

If some generals attack and some retreat, the enemy will destroy the entire army of Byzantium (an unfavorable outcome)

Similarly to Byzantium, the behavior of individual nodes in distributed networks is unknown. A **consensus algorithm** is needed to guarantee the correctness of the data despite conflicting interests, which would make the network stable – or Byzantine Fault Tolerant

## BLOCKCHAIN CONSENSUS

**CONSENSUS:** a math-based proof mechanism within distributed networks that ensures a set of processes record and preserve a consistent and correct data value proposed by one of those processes; *informally: "we all agree on something"* 



The main task of the consensus is to eliminate conflicts and ensure the integrity of data. It must have three core properties:

- Validity the value agreed upon must be proposed by some set process (safety)
- Termination at least one non-faulty process eventually decides (liveness)
- Agreement all deciding processes agree on the same value (safety)





## ADDRESSES, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC KEYS

**BLOCKCHAIN:** Nodes exchange transactions ("**messages**") signed with the user's account ("**key pair**") including an address ("**wallet address**")

**Key Pair** – private key & public key. *Depends on the cryptography used in blockchain system, such as elliptic cryptography – ECDSA. Difference curves have different properties; ex. Bitcoin and Ethereum use the secp251k1 curve.* 

• **Private key** – a large random number represented as a 256-character binary code; the "password"

Base58Check Encode

With 0x00 version prefix

• **Public key** – calculated from the elliptic curve. The key property of this operation is the impossibility (complexity) of reversal.

**Wallet address** – simple public key transformations. Performed differently on different networks. Ex. Bitcoin derives the address from a public key using oneway cryptographic hashing.

> Public Key Hash (20 bytes/160 bits)

PUBLIC KEY

**SHA256** 

Double Hash/Hash160

RIPEMD160

Ex. Bitcoin address generation

BITCOIN

**ADDRESS** 

Public key calculation over

8G

X-AXIS

NO

4G

elliptic curve

**\_ECTION X-AXIS** 

## TRANSACTIONS AND UTXO

The most important part of the work of blockchain systems is the transfer of transactions, which are understood as messages sent by the client to a certain address. **Transactions** are special data structures that encode information from the user (including the transfer of value).

Each transaction is like sending a letter:

- (1) an envelope containing the title of the transaction (from whom, to whom, signatures), as well as
- (2) the contents of the transactions (the message itself).

Blockchain systems usually encode transactions based on transaction inputs and outputs (Unspent Transaction Output – UTXO) rather than accounts and balances (Account-Based Model)

#### UTXO Advantages:

- Nodes don't need additional storage to check inputs & outputs; the wallet calculates the transaction
- Improved privacy (no account link)

#### UTXO Drawbacks:

- Difficulty implementing complex logic
- Many calculations required

Transactions contain data on commissions to reward tx processing, which also makes it unprofitable for attackers to form meaningless transactions



In Bitcoin, the transaction fee is set freely depending on the load of the network. This commission is calculated as the difference between the amount of inputs and outputs

## BLOCKCHAIN NODE ANATOMY

TODE



## HOW BLOCKCHAIN WORKS



In a broad sense of the word, the work of the blockchain is associated with the passage of transactions (messages) between nodes. The initiative comes from the node client associated with the node, then this transaction is checked (validated) and embedded into a block and the block is then associated with other blocks. Finally, the resulting structure spreads between the nodes and data is synchronized.

## SMART CONTRACTS

A **smart contract** is a mini-program (class) that represents a digital object. This program is stored in the blockchain network and when a certain event occurs, it is called (summoned) and executed, changing the state of specified registers. The program itself does not change.

Smart contracts can be written in any interpreted language, the greatest application was in the Ethereum network (most often implemented in the Solidity language). Smart contracts require decentralized platforms for their execution, some of their methods are called for free (ex. reading), while some require validation and payment for miners (Ethereum calls this payment – "gas").



Smart contracts most often represent **tokens** (secondary cryptocurrency), as well as digital objects.

# ABOUT TOKENS

## CRYPTOCURRENCY

Cryptocurrency is a type of digital currency based on records in a decentralized payment system implemented on the basis of a particular blockchain platform.

Cryptocurrency is represented by records of calculated sums for transfers between participants of a blockchain network.

Cryptocurrency is **inextricably linked with the blockchain platform** on which it is implemented.

Cryptocurrencies are very volatile, that is, their value can change unexpectedly and quickly, although in the long term most of them show steady growth. There are also special currencies ("stablecoins") that are designed to be volatility-resistant.

Most blockchain currencies do not allow transactions to be reversed (with the exception of multi-signing, which gives some option to cancel a transaction). This means that a transfer to a non-existent address or an incorrect payment cannot be canceled and the "money is gone".

The most important mechanism that determines cryptocurrencies is its **emission**, which generally limits the marginal money supply, and also regulates the speed of the flow of money, thus preventing devaluation (=inflation).

The means to exchange a **certain crypto to fiat** and vice versa are important. There are special services or exchanges that can be used.



There is an equation in monetary theory:

 $M \cdot V = P \cdot Q$ 

- it also holds true for cryptocurrencies, whereas you can determine the (M)onetary supply based on the (V)elocity of money, and the (P)rice level with the index of (Q)uantity of services produced

## HOW TO START USING CRYPTOCURRENCY

As of 2021, the use of cryptocurrency for payments is still limited practically and legally. Purchasing crypto is legal in most regions (with exceptions, ex. China) from certified services and crypto exchanges. If you want to purchase crypto, you need to know that:



Investing in cryptocurrencies is very risky. Although the price of cryptocurrencies has been growing in the long term, these tools are very volatile and require a good understanding of the market, how to buy them on the decline and sell at the peak.



There are several services for the sale and purchase of common cryptocurrencies. [Coinbase, Wealthsimple, Binance, Gemini, Coinmama] are centralized companies offering the purchase of popular cryptocurrencies on credit cards with some restrictions:

- □ Daily purchase restriction: 500 5 000 USD;
- Strict Know Your Customer KYC personal disclosure procedure of nationality and location (you may be denied service);
- Limit on transfers from / to arbitrary "wallet addresses" they create for you. These mostly aren't real wallets, but names for your account that is irrelevant to the blockchain network outside of the company you're using.



You can also use crypto exchanges that trade cryptocurrencies. Centralized crypto exchanges include [<u>e-Toro</u>, <u>Kraken</u>, <u>FTX</u>, <u>Gate.io</u>, <u>Poloniex</u>]. Decentralized crypto exchanges (DEX) trade directly between users: [<u>Uniswap</u>, <u>Sushiswap</u>, <u>Raydium</u>, <u>Binance DEX</u>]. When working with crypto exchanges, keep in mind that unlike "true" wallets, they hold your crypto on the account they store and that's vulnerable to hacking.



In many countries cryptocurrency is considered to be a security and is subject to appropriate regulation, including the payment of capital gains taxes, as well as the control of cross-border transactions.



To work with cryptocurrency directly, you will need a crypto wallet. A crypto wallet is a program, device, or other medium that stores information about public and private keys. Well-known wallets are <u>Trust</u> (ETH, ERC-20), <u>Exodus</u> (BTC, ETH, ERC-20, ...), <u>Electrum</u>, Jaxx (BTC, ETH, Dash, Zcash), <u>Mycelium</u> (BTC, ETH, ERC-20), <u>MyEtherWallet</u> (ETH, ERC-20), <u>MetaMask</u> (ETH, ERC-20). Wallets can have a complex organization (HD wallets store a whole tree of keys) or can be simple – a pair of keys to be written on paper and stored away.

## TOKENIZATION

Tokens (crypto tokens) are a representation of certain assets hosted on the blockchain network. Technically, any cryptocurrency is also a token, but usually the concept of a token is limited to secondary crypto-financial assets. Depending on their nature, tokens are interchangeable (the same from the user's point of view) or unique (not replaceable)

Tokenization is the process of transferring rights to an asset into a digital token using distributed ledger technology.

We can understand a token entity as a digital passport created for the asset, which is a unique digital code. In the future, it can be transmitted over the Internet, can receive any tangible and intangible asset or some action, for example, payment, time or legal status



#### **TOKENS:**

An entry in a distributed registry designed to represent a unit of value or opportunity in the interaction (distribution, exchange, confirmation of rights) between participants in an information exchange in a certain computer system.

#### CRYPTOCURRENCY (COINS)

A digital asset is a means of exchanging goods or services for a single equivalent of value, information about which is stored electronically in a specialized immutable database - a distributed registry



There are different types of tokens that have

different properties

#### Recording of digital asset ownership information into the network

## TOKEN STANDARDS

## NISTIR 8301 Blockchain Networks: Token Design and Management Overview

	Blockchain-Native (Base Layer)	On Top of an Existing Blockchain (Smart Contract Layer)		
UTXO- Based	System account balances are encoded as the sums of unspent transaction outputs of past transactions. Spending a token results in new, unspent transaction outputs. For example, bitcoin is Bitcoin protocol's native token.	A separate protocol, sometimes called <i>colored coin</i> method, encodes custom account balances or unique identifiers into extra metadata included in unspent transaction outputs of past transactions.		
Account- Based	Variables in the blockchain's global state store system account balances assigned to blockchain addresses. For example, ether is Ethereum protocol's native token.	<ul> <li>Variables in the blockchain's global states</li> <li>store custom account balances or uniq</li> <li>ridentifiers assigned to blockchain</li> <li>addresses either centrally, within toke</li> <li>factory contracts, or at the account lev</li> <li>(i.e., data values and code are decoupled</li> </ul>		



Issuance of tokens (crypto-tokens) means the creation of computer programs written according to certain standards that determine methods of issuing and distributing tokens.

Token systems are associated with the network on which they are issued (the distributed ledger in which they are stored), as well as certain standards, on the basis of which the relevant rules are checked - their release and transference.

In the Ethereum network, tokens are represented by a smart program. So the issuance, transfer of tokens and other rules require the execution of a smart contract, which cannot be changed after its uploaded.

#### EVOLUTION OF STANDARDS

Internet Standards (stateless data communication) TCP/IP, HTTP, UDC, REST API

Content Standards (data format) File Formats, HTML/CSS, JSON

Blockchain Standards (data storage & logic) ISO/TC 307 (ISO 22739:20, ISO/TR 23244:2020), ERC20, ERC721, ERC1155, IBC

Ethereum token standards

## THE CLASSIC ETHEREUM BASED ERC-20 TOKEN

<pre>import "./IEE20.sol"; import "./.tEEX0.sol"; import "./.textesSconv/IEEX20Metadata.sol"; import "./.textesSconv/IEEX20Metadata.sol"; /** * dow implementation of the (IEEX20) interface. * * This implementation is agnostic to the way tokens are created. This means * that a supply mechanism has to be added in a derived contract using [_mint]. * for a generic mechanism see (EE220*ceteHInterPauser). * The: For a detailed writeup see our guide * https://forum.reppelin.solution//thou-to-implement-erc20-supply-mechanisms/226[How * to implement tupply mechanism]. * * * in have followed general OpenZeppelin guidelines: functions revert instand * of returning 'failse' on failure. This behavior is nonethaless conventional * and does not conflict with the expectations of EE20 applications.</pre>	pragna solidity ^8.8.0;		
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* This implementation is agnostic to the way tokens are created. This means that a supply mechanism has to be added in a derived contract using (_mint). * For a generic mechanism see (ERC20PresetMinterPauser). * TIP: For a detailed writeup see our guide * https://forum.reppeiin.solution/f/how-to-implement-erc20-supply-mechanisms/226(How to implement usply mechanism). * we have followed general OpenZeppein guidelines: functions revert instead * of returning 'failse' on failure. This behavior is nonetheless conventional * and does not conflict with the expectations of ERC20 applications.	/** * #dev Implementation of the (IERC20) interface.		
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	* of returning 'false' on failure. This behavior is * and does not conflict with the expectations of E	s nonetheless conventional C20 applications.	

#	FUNCTION	PARAMETERS	RETURN	DESCRIPTION
1	Name	-	String	Token Title
2	Symbol	-	String	Token Symbol (like 🛱)
3	Decimals	-	Unit8	Fractional part of the token
4	totalSupply	-	Unit256	Total number of tokens
5	balanceOf	address_owner	Unit256	Balance of tokens at the owner of the smart contract
6	Transfer	address_to, _value	Bool	Moving tokens from the owner's address to another user's address
7	transferFrom	address_from, address_to, _value	Bool	Transfer of tokens from one address to another
8	Approve	address_spender, _value	Bool	Delegation of the ability to manipulate tokens (for example, for an exchange)
9	allowans	address_owner, address_spender	Unit256	Number of tokens to manipulate the delegate (exchange)

#### **ETHEREUM**

Tokens issued according to the ERC-20 standard on Ethereum contains a set of standard-specific methods (ex. address whitelists and blacklists; time limits; etc.)

Issuing tokens, transferring them, calling to methods is done from a wallet. Some of these actions require gas (ETH), while others are free.



The token management infrastructure encompasses several proprietary and external systems that allow you to create, promote, and sell tokens. This includes a *software module / smart contract*, which controls the issuance and distribution of tokens in the network (rules); a *wallet* – the means of controlling & monitoring; and a *marketplace / exchange* – the means of selling and exchanging for other tokens and currencies.

## TOKEN ETHEREUM STANDARDS

FEATURE	ERC-20	ERC-1400	ERC- 1155	ERC-777	ERC-721 [NFT]
Proposal	Standard ICO token – basic token transfer functionality	Full or partial ownership of an object, additional methods for the "possession" of securities	Multi-token, the main idea is to save gas by supporting callbacks as a replacement for events	Interchangeable tokens, extends ERC-20 due to more complex interactions - callbacks (hooks), voluntary rejection of sent tokens, redirection of received tokens to other addresses	Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT); allows metadata storage, contains a reference to digital objects outside the network (for example, in IPFS), contains access control
Immutable Cap Table	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Open-Source Codebase	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Controller Access (Token Recovery Process)	×	$\checkmark$	×	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Compliance	×	$\checkmark$	×	×	×
Issue / Redemption	×	$\checkmark$	×	×	$\checkmark$
Permission Management W/ Multiple Agents	×	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Event Management	×	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	×
Partially / Fully Non- Fungible	×	$\checkmark$	×	×	$\checkmark$
	link	link	link	link	link

# BLOCKCHAIN: ADVANCED

### CRYPTOGRAPHIC HASH FUNCTION

A cryptographic hash function (CHF) is a one-way (feasibly unreversible) mathematical function that maps data of *arbitrary size* ("message") to a bit array of a *fixed size* ("hash value").

Galileo Galilei observed the rings of Saturn, which he mistook for "ears". Unsure, but wanting to assert himself as the pioneer of this discovery, he posted a cryptic message by rearranging letters:

#### smaismrmilmepoetaleumibunenugttauiras.

In 1610, he revealed the original phrase:

HISTORY

Altissimum planetam tergeminum obseruaui,

which in Latin means "the highest planet triple observed". Thus, at the time of publication of the first message, the original meaning was not disclosed, but it was possible for him to allude to it at a later point.



## SYMMETRIC AND ASYMMETRIC CRYPTOGRAPHY



Distributed systems such as Blockchain use mainly asymmetric cryptography, preferring mostly ECDSA elliptic curve cryptography.

## DIGITAL SIGNATURE

**Digital signatures** are a cryptographic tool for signing and verifying the authenticity of digital messages or electronic documents. They provide:

Authentication - proof that a certain known sender (the owner of the secret key) created and signed the message.

Integrity - proof that the message has not been changed after signing.

**Non-repudiation** - the signer cannot refuse to sign the document after the signature has been created

A signature can be made using *symmetric* cryptography or *asymmetric* cryptography (the more popular choice in blockchain systems)

- Sign message: input message is hashed + private "signature" key (calculated using an algorithm)
- Decode message: usually need the private "signature" key
- Verify signature: usually need public "verification" key (result: "valid" or "invalid")

Although blockchains anonymize signers of transactions, ownership of public "verification" keys can be tied to particular entities. This problem is solved using a certificate (ex. X.509 standard)



Examples of well-known digital signature schemes are: **DSA**, **ECDSA**, **EdDSA**, **RSA** signatures, ElGamal signatures and Schnorr signatures.





## COMPARISON OF MAIN CONSENSUS FAMILIES

	PROOF-OF-WORK	PROOF-OF-STAKE	BFT-BASED PROTOCOLS	Federative-BFT (F-BFT)
NODE IDENTIFICATION	Fully open, <b>public network</b>	Fully open, <b>public network</b>	Node ID's managed for <b>private</b> <b>networks</b>	<b>Hybrid network</b> based on a flexible KYC mechanism
THROUGHPUT	Limited: due to risk of forks	Poor: better than BFT but still slow	Great: (ten thousand TPS)	Great: as for all BFT
LATENCY	High: each block to be approved by many	Low	Very low: defined by network delays	Very low: federative structure allows for better organization of communication within (functionally) close groups
POWER CONSUMPTION	High: useless computing work	Low	<b>Great:</b> does not require high computing power	Great: same as BFT
SCALABILITY	Many participants	Encounters the "rich get richer" problem at scale and demotivates participants	Limited: small # of nodes; closeness to centralized tech	<b>High:</b> horizontal & vertical scalability due to federal structure and DAG ledger
CORRECTION OF SELECTION PROCESSES	No	No	Yes	Yes

## **BLOCKCHAIN FOR BUSINESS**

There are three important blockchain architecture aspects that can make a particular network suitable, secure, effective enough for enterprises. These are: (1) DAG registries; (2) federative voting; and (3) consortium-based consensuses.

- The storage system is based on DAG (Directed Acyclic Graph). These systems allow for limitless scalability due to DAG trees' unique mathematical properties and ability to simultaneously "branch out" into multiple directions.
- The federative approach to voting is actively used by such solutions as Ripple, Stellar. This allows for flexible, but secure, cost-effective and fast transaction throughputs.
- **Consortium-based consensus** systems allow for flexibility, without sacrificing speed and interoperability. For example, Hyperledger Fabric targets private peer-to-peer networks and requires the formation of special sidechains, ICON's solution uses a special Loopchain Fault Tolerance mechanism to interact with other networks, while DGT implements a dynamic topology on top of DAG, allowing for highly asynchronous network operation.



## LEARN MORE













