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# Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, Smart Contracts and Initial Coin Offerings: A Technical Perspective

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### Agenda

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Overview
Cryptography: Hashes, Digital Signatures, PKI
Bitcoin and Blockchain
Ethereum and Solidity
Identity and Access Management with Blockchain
Bitcoin Lab Demo
Ethereum Lab Demo

### **Blockchain and Cryptocurrency**

- Over 6000 Cryptocurrencies exist, and over 1000 new ones being created every year.
- VCs invested over \$3 billion in 2018.
- Initial Coin Offerings over \$15 billion in 2018.
- Over 3000 blockchain patent applications filed.
- Over 30 Presentations at RSA Conference about Blockchain

### **Hash functions:**

```
takes any string as input fixed-size output (example 256 bits) efficiently computable Security properties:
```

collision-free (Nobody can find x and y such that x != y and H(x)=H(y))

hiding (Given H(x), infeasible to find x)
puzzle-friendly (best search strategy is to just try
random values of x)

### Hash as message digest

If we know H(x) = H(y), it's safe to assume that x = y.

To recognize a file that we saw before, just remember its hash.

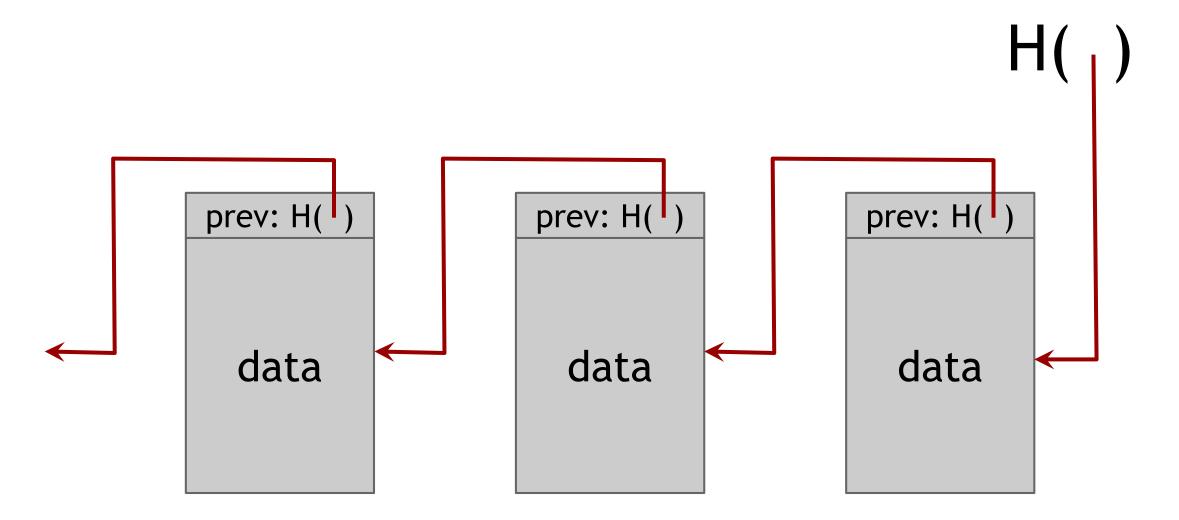
Useful because the hash is small.

#### Hash as a Commitment

Want to "seal a value in an envelope", and "open the envelope" later.

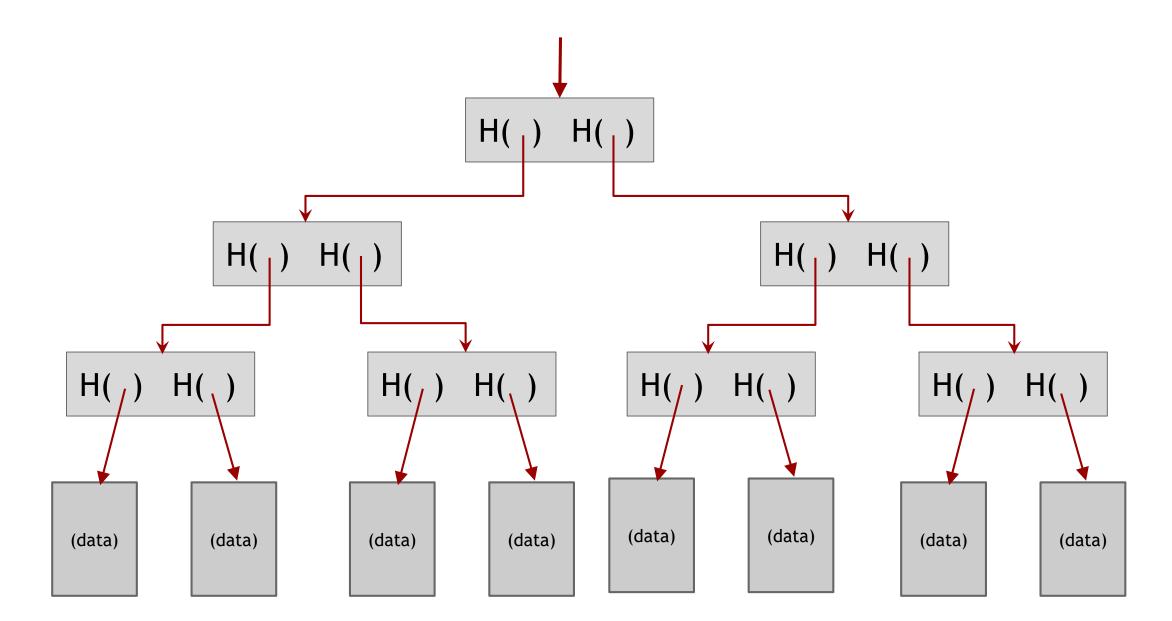
Commit to a value, reveal it later.

### linked list with hash pointers = "block chain"



use case: tamper-evident log

### binary tree with hash pointers = "Merkle tree"



### Digital Signatures, Public/Secret Keys

### **Digital Signatures**

```
"valid signatures verify"
    verify(pk, message, sign(sk, message)) == true
"can't forge signatures"
    adversary who:
        knows pk
        gets to see signatures on messages of his choice
        can't produce a verifiable signature on another message
```

## Aspects of decentralization in Bitcoin

- 1. Who maintains the ledger?
- 2. Who has authority over which transactions are valid?
- 3. Who creates new bitcoins?
- 4. Who determines how the rules of the system change?
- 5. How do bitcoins acquire exchange value?

Beyond the protocol: exchanges, wallet software, service providers...

## Aspects of decentralization in Bitcoin

Peer-to-peer network: open to anyone, low barrier to entry

#### Mining:

open to anyone, but inevitable concentration of power often seen as undesirable

#### Updates to software:

core developers trusted by community, have great power

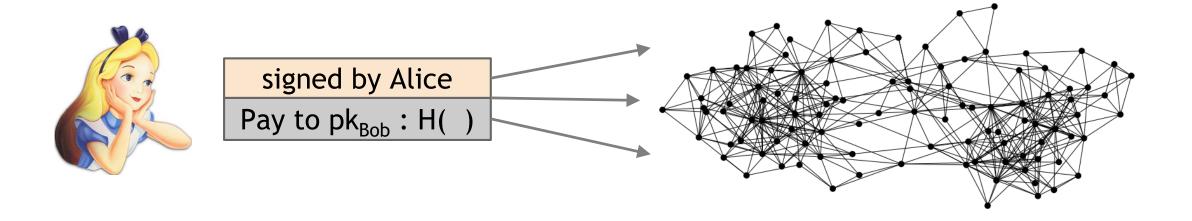
### pistributed consensus

Key technical challenge of decentralized electronic cash: distributed consensus

Definition: The protocol terminates and all correct nodes decide on the same value. This value must have been proposed by some correct node.

## Bitcoin is a peer-to-peer system

When Alice wants to pay Bob: she broadcasts the transaction to all Bitcoin nodes



Note: Bob's computer is not in the picture

## Why consensus is hard

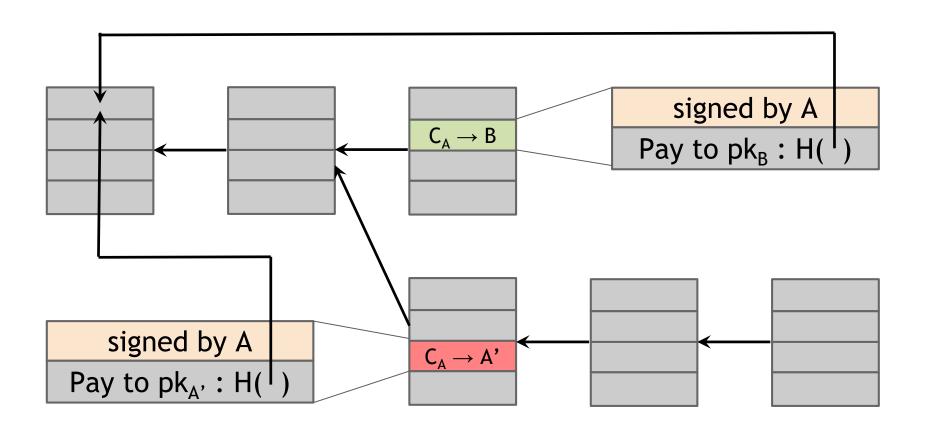
Nodes may crash Nodes may be malicious

Network is imperfect

- Not all pairs of nodes connected
- Faults in network
- Latency



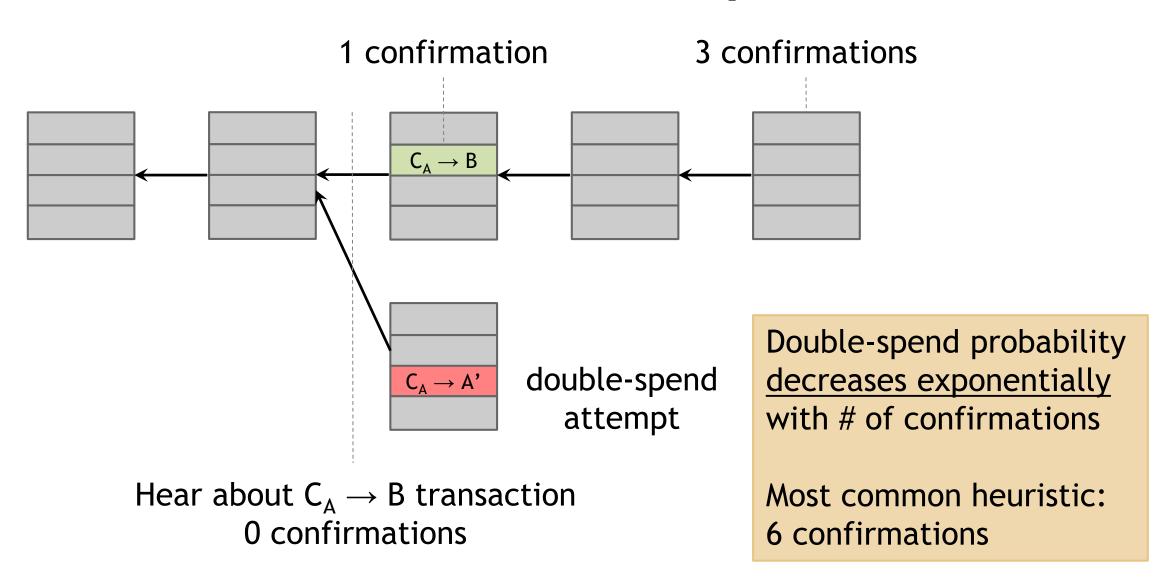
### What can a malicious node do?



Doublespending attack

Honest nodes will extend the longest valid branch

### From Bob the merchant's point of view



### Incentives: block rewards and mining fees

Creator of block gets to

- include special coin-creation transaction in the block
- choose recipient address of this transaction

Block creator gets to "collect" the block reward only if the block ends up on long-term consensus branch!

Transaction Fees: Creator of transaction can choose to make output value less than input value. Remainder is a transaction fee and goes to block creator

### Proof of work

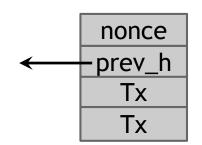
To approximate selecting a random node: select nodes in proportion to a resource that no one can monopolize (we hope)

- In proportion to computing power: proof-of-work
- In proportion to ownership: proof-of-stake

## Hash puzzles

To create block, find nonce s.t.

H(nonce | prev\_hash | tx | ... | tx) is very small







Target space

If hash function is secure:

only way to succeed is to try enough nonces until you get lucky

### Mining economics

If mining reward (block reward + Tx fees) > hardware + electricity cost → Profit

### Complications:

- fixed vs. variable costs
- reward depends on global hash rate

### A transaction-based ledger (Bitcoin)

Inputs: Ø time Outputs: 25.0→Alice change address Inputs: 1[0] Outputs:  $17.0 \rightarrow Bob$ ,  $8.0 \rightarrow Alice$ SIGNED(Alice) Inputs: 2[0] Outputs:  $8.0 \rightarrow Carol, 7.0 \rightarrow Bob$ SIGNED(Bob) Inputs: 2[1] Outputs: 6.0→David, 2.0→Alice SIGNED(Alice)

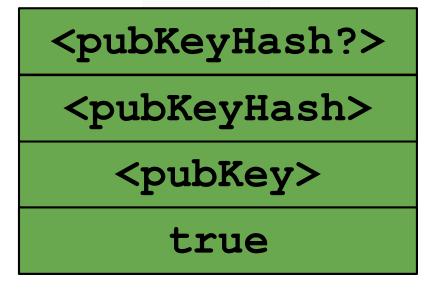
we implement this with hash pointers

finite scan to check for validity

is this valid?

SIMPLIFICATION: only one transaction per block

### Bitcoin script execution example











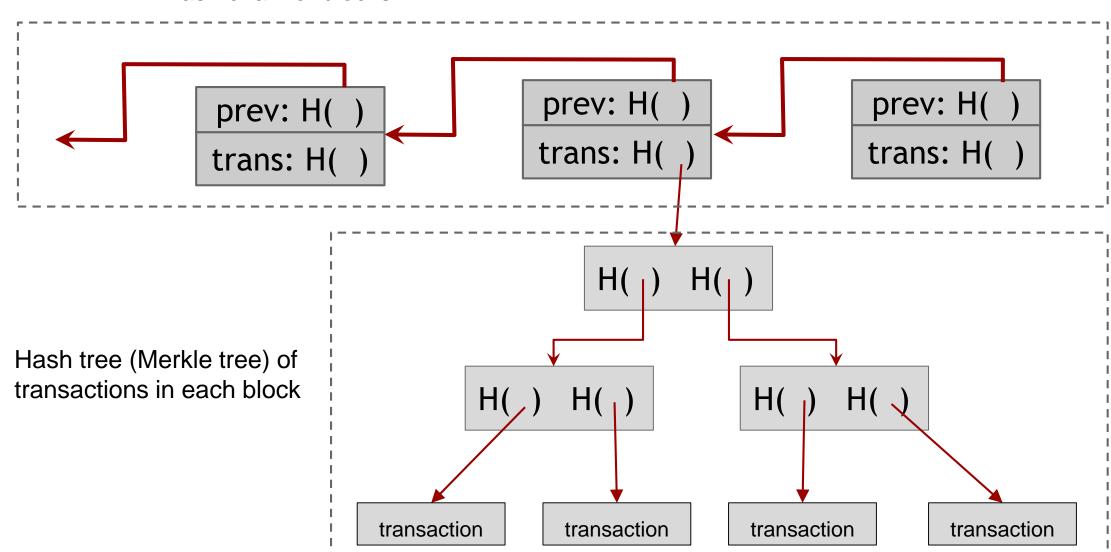






#### Bitcoin block structure

Hash chain of blocks



# Storing Private Keys: store key in a file, on your computer or phone

Very convenient.

As available as your device.

device lost/wiped  $\Rightarrow$  key lost  $\Rightarrow$  coins

As secure as your device.

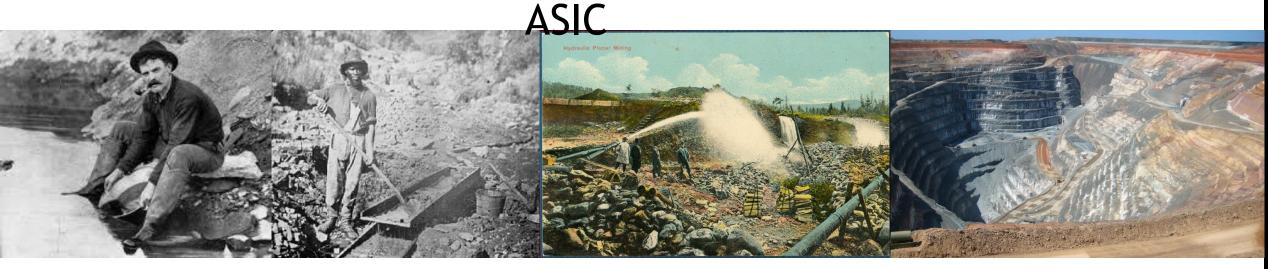
device compromised  $\Rightarrow$  key leaked  $\Rightarrow$  coins stolen





### **Evolution of Bitcoin mining**





gold pan

sluice box

placer mining

pit mining

### Professional mining centers

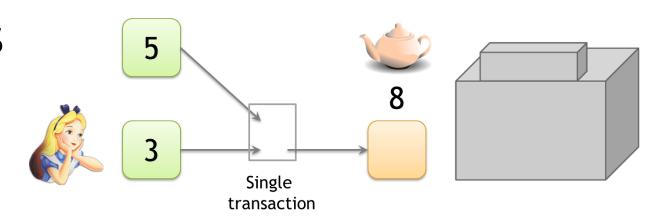
Needs: cheap power good network cool climate



BitFury mining center, Republic of Georgia

## Identifying Addresses By Spending

Shared spending is evidence of joint control



Addresses can be linked transitively

#### **Bitcoin links**

- https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf
- https://github.com/bitcoinbook/bitcoinbook/blob/develop/book.asciidoc
- https://p2sh.info/dashboard/db/home-dashboard?orgld=1
- https://github.com/petertodd/python-bitcoinlib
- https://en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Script
- https://bitinfocharts.com/top-100-richest-bitcoin-addresses.html
- http://cs251crypto.stanford.edu/18au-cs251/
- http://bitcoinbook.cs.princeton.edu/

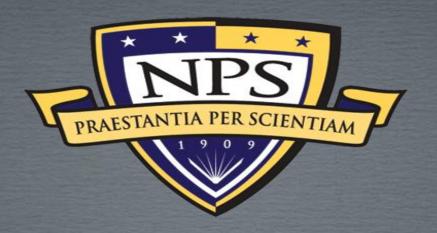
#### **Ethereum**

- Solidity programming language: similar to Java/Javascript, with cryptocurrency functionality built in
- Smart Contracts are the Solidity equivalent of java classes that run on a blockchain in an Ethereum virtual machine
- Transaction costs in Solidity are called gas costs. Everything that executes on the blockchain has a
  gas cost associated with it.
- Security is very important. Solidity has greater capabilities than Bitcoin Script, and far greater security vulnerabilities.

### **Ethereum and Solidity links**

- http://bit.do/cs251solidity
- https://remix.ethereum.org/
- <a href="https://coursetro.com/posts/code/97/Ethereum-Smart-Contracts:-Variables-and-Types-Tutorial">https://coursetro.com/posts/code/97/Ethereum-Smart-Contracts:-Variables-and-Types-Tutorial</a>





# Identity and Access Management with Blockchain on GCSS-MC

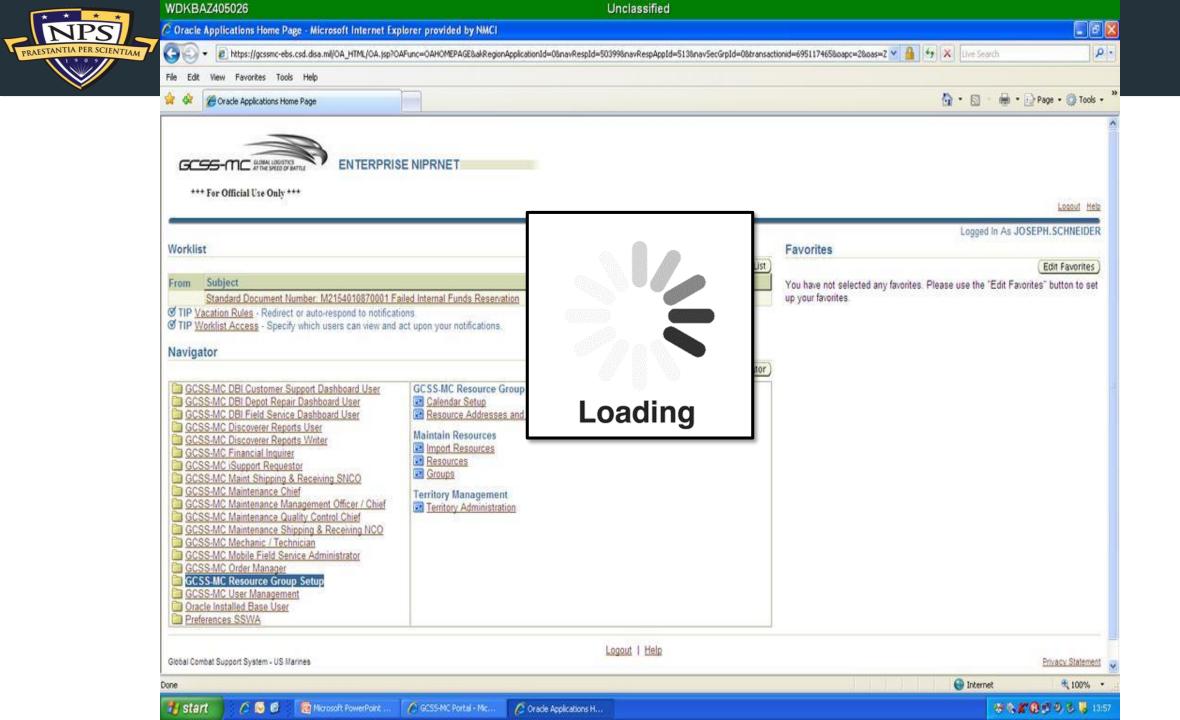
Capt Brandan Schofield Capt Brittany Snelgrove





Evolve the MAGTF, operate with resilience, and enhance the Marine Corps' maneuverability

- Marine Corps Operating Concept





- What is GCSS-MC?
- Current architecture
- Research Questions
- What is blockchain?
- Proposed architecture
- Benefits
- Timeline
- Questions

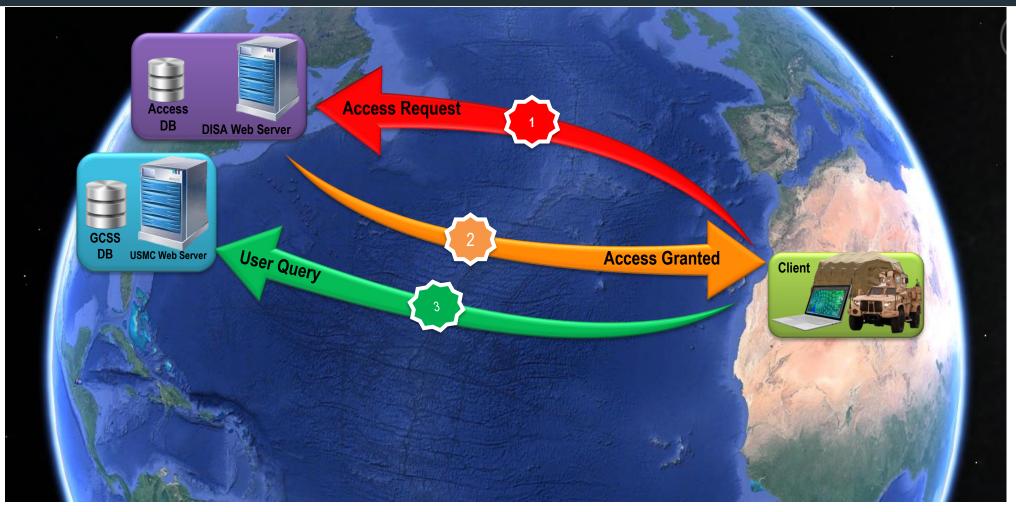


### What is GCSS-MC?

- USMC's Supply and Maintenance Management Web-enabled Dataresource
- Used to manage, control, identify and distribute ground supplies and coordinate maintenance actions for all ground Marine units
- Software Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) version R12
- 3 Tier System
  - Database Tier
  - Application Tier
  - Client Tier
- Requires Internet Connection to function
- Access Management
  - Oracle Access Management (OAM) using Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) part of PKI terminating at CONUS based DISA Servers



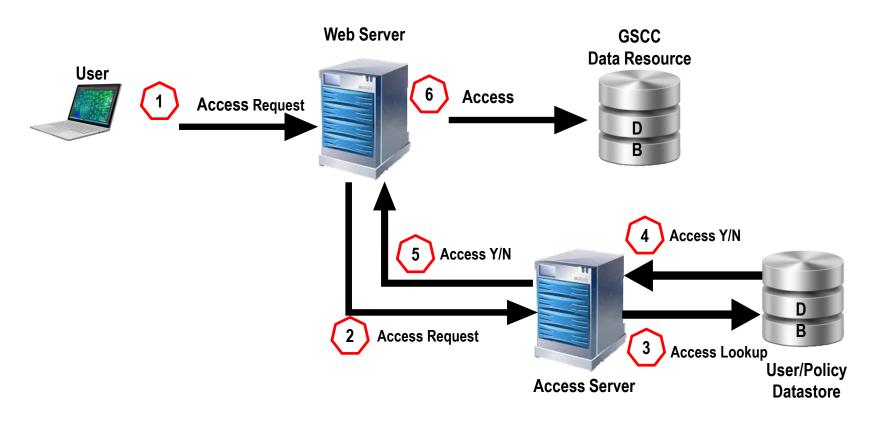
### Current Architecture



Problem: 67% of user transaction time devoted to DISA check 13.5% of network overhead (Mbps)



### Current Physical Architecture



Typical Oracle Access Management



### Research Questions

- 1. How can a blockchain database be used to authenticate clients on the GCSS-MC web-enabled data resource? (Experimentation)
- How can a blockchain database be feasibly acquisitioned and integrated into the current GCSS-MC architecture? (Qualitative)



### Proposed Architecture



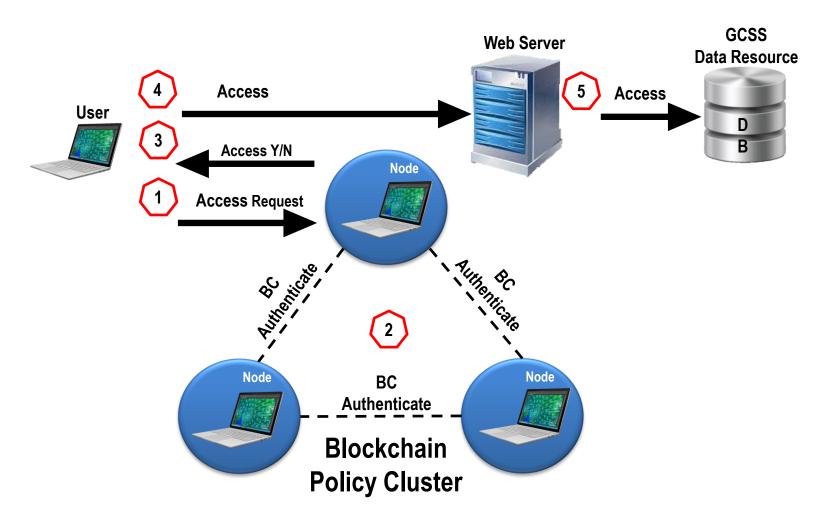


### Proposed Architecture





### Proposed Logical Architecture



Blockchain Access Management

### Benefits



- Decentralized user authentication
- Network overhead potentially reduced
- No DMZ required (trustless system)
- No expensive centralized web-servers and data-stores
- Potential increase in availability for remote users
- Policy enforcement through algorithm
  - "Trust through algorithm"





Communicate
Maneuver Identity Shoot S Move
Targe Network Access Blockchain Bandwidth

Target Access and Identity Sustainment Access and Identity Sustain.

Access and Identity Sustain.

Management Information
Cyber Security
Logistics & Cyber
Logistics & Cyber

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# Bitcoin Lab Demo #1

# Ethereum Lab Demo #1