Scaling Definitions

1) Consensus (Old)

Define

Z_M = 300000 bytes ; Minimum penalty free zone.

M_B = Block weight in bytes.

M_L = The median over the last 100000 blocks of max((min (M_B , 1.7M_L), Z_M , M_L/1.7) ; recursive calculation for M_L with M_L starting at M_L of previous 100001 block (currently = Z_M); Long term median

M_L ; Dynamic penalty free zone.

M_S = the median over the last 100 blocks of max(M_B , M_L) ; Effective short term median.

M_N = min(M_S , 50M_L) ; Median for Penalty calculation.

R_{Base} = Block Reward.

$0 < M_B \leq 2M_N$; Requirement for a valid block.

$B = M_B / M_N - 1$ where $-1 < B \leq 1$

$P_B = R_{Base}B^2$ for $B > 0$; Monero applies a penalty P_B, to increase the block weight by B; $P_B = 0$ for $B \leq 0$

Scaling Definitions (Consensus 17th December 2025 MRL meeting. Wallet fee calculations January 2026)

1) Consensus (New)

Define

Z_M = 625000 bytes ; Minimum penalty free zone.

M_B = Block weight in bytes.

M_L = The median over the last 100000 blocks of max((min (M_B , 1.2M_L), Z_M , M_L/1.2) ; recursive calculation for M_L with M_L starting at M_L of previous 100001 block (currently = Z_M); Long term median

M_L ; Dynamic penalty free zone.

M_S = The median over the last 100 blocks of M_B ; Short Term Median.

M_N = min(max(M_S , M_L) , 8M_L); Median for Penalty Calculation.

R_{Base} = Block Reward.

$0 < M_B \leq 2M_N$, ; Requirement for valid block.

$B = M_B / M_N - 1$ where $-1 < B \leq 1$

$P_B = R_{Base}B^2$ for $B > 0$; Monero applies a penalty P_B, to increase the block weight by B; $P_B = 0$ for $B \leq 0$

Changes

1) Maximum growth of M_S is reduced from 50M_L to 8M_L
3) Rate of growth and decline of M_L is decreased from 1.7x to 1.2x
4) Z_M is increased from 300000 bytes to 625000 bytes
5) Definition change to reflect the code. Also M_N is added to the transitional consideration and M_{SW} removed M_{SW} is no longer relevant since the short term median is no longer used for the fee calculation.

2a) Minimum Fee For Node Relay (Old)

We add a, penalty attracting, transaction T with a size of T_T to a block of weight M_B

Define

T_R = 3000 bytes ; Reference Transaction weight. Note: T_R must be greater than T_2. T_2 equals the weight in bytes of a 2 input and 2 output transaction.

$B_T = T_T / M_N$

$P_{BT} = R_{Base}(B+B_T)^2 = R_{base}(B^2 + 2BB_T + B_T^2)$; The new penalty, where $B + B_T > 0$

$P_T = P_{BT} – P_B = R_{Base}(2BB_T + B_T^2)$; Increase in penalty from adding transaction T

$F_T = R_{Base}(2BB_T + B_T^2)$; The additional fee required to overcome the increase in penalty P_T

For the case B = 0 this reduces to $F_T = R_{Base}B_T^2$

$M_F = M_L$; Median for minimum fee calculation. M_L is used instead of M_N for fee stability (MRL issue #70), as an anti spam measure (The fee reduction is only applied when M_N has been vetted by M_L), and to facilitate scaling during periods of fast growth in M_N.

To calculate the minimum fee we consider a transaction of weight T_R at the start of the penalty, B = 0 with $M_N = M_F$ 95% of the fee required to pay the penalty incurred is the minimum fee.

$B_{RL} = T_R / M_F$;

$F_R = R_{Base}B_{RL}^2$; Fee required to pay the penalty incurred

$f_R = R_{Base}B_{RL}/M_F$; Fee required to pay the penalty incurred per byte for a given M_F

$f_I = 0.95f_R$; Minimum fee per byte

2a) Minimum Fee For Node Relay (New)

We add a, penalty attracting, transaction T with a size of T_T to a block of weight M_B

Define

T_R = 10000 bytes ; Reference Transaction weight. Note: T_R must be greater than T_2. T_2 equals the weight in bytes of a 2 input and 2 output transaction.

$B_T = T_T / M_N$

$P_{BT} = R_{Base}(B+B_T)^2 = R_{base}(B^2 + 2BB_T + B_T^2)$; The new penalty, where $B + B_T > 0$

$P_T = P_{BT} – P_B = R_{Base}(2BB_T + B_T^2)$; Increase in penalty from adding transaction T

$F_T = R_{Base}(2BB_T + B_T^2)$; The additional fee required to overcome the increase in penalty P_T

For the case B = 0 this reduces to $F_T = R_{Base}B_T^2$

$M_F = M_L$; Median for minimum fee calculation. M_L is used instead of M_N for fee stability (MRL issue #70), as an anti spam measure (The fee reduction is only applied when M_N has been vetted by M_L), and to facilitate scaling during periods of fast growth in M_N.

To calculate the minimum fee we consider a transaction of weight T_R at the start of the penalty, B = 0 with $M_N = M_F$ 100% of the fee required to pay the penalty incurred is the minimum fee.

$B_{RL} = T_R / M_F$;

$F_{RL} = R_{Base}B_{RL}^2$; Fee required to pay the penalty incurred

$f_{RL} = R_{Base}B_{RL}/M_F$; Fee required to pay the penalty incurred per byte for a given M_F

$f_{IL} = f_{RL}$; Minimum fee per byte

Changes

1) T_R is increased from 3000 bytes to 10000 bytes. For clarity T_R is defined outside of consensus.
2) There is no reduction to 95% of the minimum fee. This is all now handled on the wallet side.

2b) Wallet Fees (Old)

For the calculation of wallet fees we assume that the next 10 blocks have no transactions, other than the coinbase transaction, the empty blocks, We then calculate M_{LW} and M_{SW} by following the calculation of M_L and M_S at this future point. We use the previous 99990 blocks and the future 10 empty blocks (100000 blocks) for M_L.

Define

$M_{BW} = M_B$ for the last 99990 blocks
$M_{BW} = 0$ for the future 10 blocks; A value of 0 bytes can be used for the empty blocks for the purposes of calculating M_{LW}.

M_{LW} = The median over the last 99990 blocks and future 10 blocks (100000 blocks) of max((min (M_{BW} , $2M_L$), Z_M , $M_L/2$) ; The current value of M_L from consensus is used; Effective long term median for wallet fees

M_{LW} ; Penalty free zone for wallet fees

$M_{FW} = M_{LW}$; Median for wallet fee calculation

$B_{RLW} = T_R / M_{FW}$; Used for the low and normal fees

$B_R = T_R / Z_M$; Used for the medium and high fees

$F_L = R_{Base}B_{RLW}^2$; Low transaction fee for reference transaction

$f_L = R_{Base}B_{RLW}/M_{FW}$; Low transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_N = 4f_L$;Normal transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_M = 16\,R_{Base}B_R/M_{FW}$; Medium Transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_P = 2R_{Base}/M_{NW} = f_M M_{FW}/(8B_R M_{NW})$; Maximum Penalty (B =1) Transaction fee per byte for a given M_{NW}

$f_H = 4f_M \max(1, M_{FW}/(32B_R M_{NW}))$; High Transaction fee per byte

2b) Wallet Fees (New)

For the calculation of wallet fees we assume that the next 1000 blocks have no transactions, other than the coinbase transaction, the empty blocks, We then calculate M_{LW} by following the calculation of M_L at this future point. We use the previous 99000 blocks and the future 1000 empty blocks (100000 blocks) for M_L.

Define

$M_{BW} = M_B$ for the last 99000 blocks
$M_{BW} = 0$ for the future 1000 blocks; A value of 0 bytes can be used for the empty blocks for the purposes of calculating M_{LW}.

M_{LW} = The median over the last 99000 blocks and future 1000 blocks (100000 blocks) of max((min (M_{BW} , $1.2M_L$), Z_M , $M_L/1.2$) ; The current value of M_L from consensus is used; Effective long term median for wallet fees

M_{LW} ; Penalty free zone for wallet fees

$M_{FW} = M_{LW}$; Median for wallet fee calculation

$B_{RLW} = T_R / M_{FW}$; Used for all fees except the maximum fee

$F_L = R_{Base}B_{RLW}^2$; Low (minimum scaling) transaction fee for reference transaction

$f_L = R_{Base}B_{RLW}/M_{FW}$; Low (minimum scaling) transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_N = 4f_L$; Normal transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_M = 16f_L$; Medium Transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_H = 64f_L$; High Transaction fee per byte for a given M_{FW}

$f_X = 2R_{Base}/M_{FW} = 2(M_{FW}/T_R)f_L$. Maximum Transaction fee. This is greater than or equal to Maximum Penalty (B =1). For $M_{FW}. = Z_M = 625000$ bytes $f_X = 125f_L$. This still works to provide a high fee after two cycles of M_L (MRL issue #70) with a growth rate of $M_L = 1.2$.

Changes

1) All fees including the high fee are now based upon M_{FW} with the ratio between fees constant for a given M_{FW}.
2) The grace period is increased to 1000 blocks.
3) 5 fee levels with a 4x factor between fees for the lower 4 fee levels, f_L, f_N, f_M, and f_H. Additional fee levels can be added, below f_X if needed at 256x, 1024x, 4096x etc., for larger M_L, provided these additional fee levels are below $1.44f_X$.

3) Consensus Transitional considerations for Minimum penalty free zone, Z_M, and Median calculations after the fork.

Define:

Z_{MOld} = 300000 bytes (Z_M before hard fork)

M_{BOld} = Block Weight in bytes (before hard fork)

3) Consensus Transitional considerations for Minimum penalty free zone, Z_M, and Median calculations after the fork.

Calculation of M_L, M_S, M_N and M_{LW} where blocks from a previous the Monero version are included in a calculation after the fork. M_B is modified as follows:

Define

Z_M = 625000 bytes

For blocks before the hard fork
$M_B = M_{BOld} (Z_M / Z_{MOld})$

The medians are then calculated normally.

Note: This is only necessary if $M_{LOld} > Z_{MOld}$, where M_{LOld} is the long term median just before the fork.

4) Wallet Fee Rounding

Wallet fees, f_N, f_L, f_M, and f_H are rounded up to the desired number of significant digits in the significand

Wallet Fee Rounding Examples

Two significant digits

27810	Rounded to : 28000
37.94	Rounded to : 38
0.5555	Rounded to : 0.56
0.002342	Rounded to : 0.0024

4) Wallet Fee Rounding

Wallet fees, f_N, f_L, f_M, f_H, and f_X are rounded up to 2 significant digits in the significand

Wallet Fee Rounding Examples

Two significant digits

27810	Rounded to : 28000
37.94	Rounded to : 38
0.5555	Rounded to : 0.56
0.002342	Rounded to : 0.0024

Note:

Wallet fees are rounded up