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Mastering Bitcoin

Programming the Open Blockchain



Early
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RAW &
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Mastering Bitcoin

by Andreas M. Antonopoulos and David A. Harding

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Chapter 1. Introduction

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This will be the 1st chapter of the final book.

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Bitcoin is a collection of concepts and technologies that form the basis of a digital money ecosystem. Units of currency called bitcoin are used to store and transmit value among participants in the Bitcoin network. Bitcoin users communicate with each other using the Bitcoin protocol primarily via the internet, although other transport networks can also be used. The Bitcoin protocol stack, available as open source software, can be run on a wide range of computing devices, including laptops and smartphones, making the technology easily accessible.

TIP

In this book, the unit of currency is called “bitcoin” with a small *b*, and the system is called “Bitcoin”, with a capital *B*.

Users can transfer bitcoin over the network to do just about anything that can be done with conventional currencies, including buying and selling goods, sending money to people or organizations, or extending credit. Bitcoin can be purchased,