

# Cryptocurrency Village



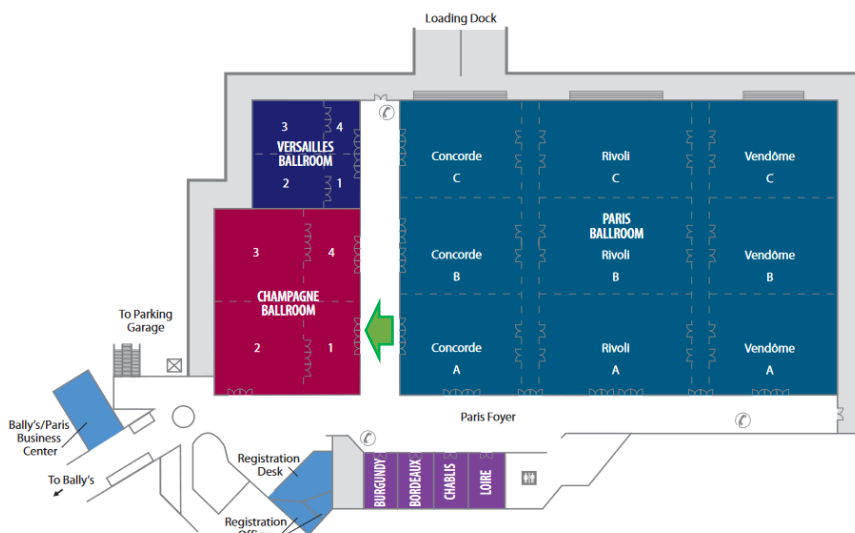
**DEF CON 29**

# Cryptocurrency Village

The Cryptocurrency Village is a collaborative, conversational space meant for all cryptocurrency discussion. Cryptocurrencies are essential tools for many security and privacy-minded individuals.

## Location

Paris Hotel – Champagne Ballroom 1



## Cryptocurrency Village Schedule

The Cryptocurrency Village is unique among villages because the village floorplan is built around conversations, not formal talks. Stop by any time to have excellent conversations with knowledgeable individuals about all cryptocurrency topics or join us for a scheduled workshop. The village is oriented around cryptocurrency security and privacy, not trading. Experts and novices alike are welcome!

Workshop and table highlights are below, but the full list of village events is available on our website [cryptocurrencyvillage.net](http://cryptocurrencyvillage.net)

## Selected Workshops and Discussions

Francisco Cabañas

*Cryptocurrency Scaling Opportunities and Challenges*

Dr. Sarang Noether, Ph.D.

*Zero Knowledge Proofs: What You Need to Know*

Dr. Sarang Noether, Ph.D.

*Triptych Status Update*

Secret Network

*Privacy on Public Blockchains with SGX*

Michael Schloh von Bennewitz

*Cryptocurrency Hardware and Devices Show and Tell*

Railgun

*DEX Trading Without Leaking Your Identity*

Guillermo Christensen

*State of Cryptocurrency Ransomware AMA*

Storj

*Getting Stated with Decentralized Object Storage*

Cryptocurrency Trivia

*Test your Cryptocurrency Knowledge and Have Fun!*

## Selected Tables and Areas

Monero Research Lab

Multidisciplinary Academic Grants in Cryptocurrencies (MAGIC)

The Invisible Internet Project (i2p)

Railgun

Monero Party

Monero Talk

The Badge Clinic

Storj

Secret Network

## What Are Cryptocurrencies?

Cryptocurrency discussion is often centered around the meme, scam, or hack of the week. But there is far more to cryptocurrencies than just speculator hype. Cryptocurrencies have grown to be essential tools to enable worldwide commerce, to expand financial access to anyone with an internet connection, and to allow users to opt out of mass surveillance. There is innovation amidst the noise.



There are few all-encompassing attributes that define all cryptocurrencies. Anyone can make their own coin with numerous modifications, leading to ever-ending caveats and exceptions. Broadly however, cryptocurrencies generally seek to be at least somewhat distributed and permissionless. Nodes store copies of transactions and verify that they meet the network's consensus rules. This copy of transactions is called a *blockchain* since the transactions are grouped into *blocks*. Usually, *miners* or *validators* will be selected through some process to select how to append information to the shared ledger.

Bitcoin and Ethereum are the most-used cryptocurrencies, but there are thousands of other ones (most of which are useless).

Our advice: think about cryptocurrencies solely from a utility standpoint to being with. These are volatile assets that often have complex reward schemes and monetary incentives. Take things slow and learn what to look for before you get burned. Running in with the intent to get rich quick is likely to end in ruin. Forget about any financial component for a little while and simply think about what utility projects bring to their table. They will have unique advantages and disadvantages compared to existing options.

You have a head start already by being at a hacker conference and having an interest in security and privacy. Assets need to be secure and private too, so your contributions are strongly desired!

## Hardware Badges

There is no Cryptocurrency Village hardware badge this year. We will have staff available to assist with the previous Monero Village hardware badges and various other hardware.

## Popular Communities

Most cryptocurrency communities are investment focused. Local meetups will usually be filled with people asking what coin to buy. This is a different vibe than the controlled, security and privacy-oriented atmosphere of the Cryptocurrency Village.



We still recommend giving your local meetup a fair chance. Many meetups (especially student groups and technical meetups) host extremely interesting discussions and knowledgeable speakers.

The largest online cryptocurrency community is the r/CryptoCurrency subreddit. While everyone there has their own agenda, the subreddit is widely regarded as a welcoming community that doesn't project maximalism common in various other cryptocurrency communities. Be cautious of shilling and scams in all communities.

## Where to Buy Cryptocurrencies

Cryptocurrencies are purchasable on various exchanges and peer-to-peer. Most people use centralized exchanges such as Coinbase or Kraken to convert fiat to cryptocurrencies. Decentralized exchanges and peer-to-peer exchanges are common for trading one cryptocurrency for another. Large amounts are traded OTC.



Dedicated users should try to purchase cryptocurrencies using a peer-to-peer exchange such as Bisq.

## What About Mining?

Only a few cryptocurrencies can be mined on consumer-grade hardware anymore. Most major coins like Bitcoin are mined using specialized hardware called ASICs. Some coins rely on or are transitioning to staking, with different security pros and cons compared to mining. Monero is the only major coin mineable with one's CPU. A few other coins are mineable with one's GPU.



## How to Get Started

Lucky for you, most cryptocurrencies are open and permissionless! Thus, you can get started working on whatever projects you like without anyone's permission! You can start making a difference about something you are passionate about *today*.

## Scholarship Opportunities

Multidisciplinary Academic Grants in Cryptocurrencies (MAGIC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that offers scholarships to undergraduate students at US schools who are interested in cryptocurrencies. If you are interested in learning about scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year, please visit our website: [magicgrants.org](https://magicgrants.org)

This booklet and other various Cryptocurrency Village resources were provided by MAGIC as a part



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of its mission of cryptocurrency education. If you are interested in supporting our mission, donations in USD or cryptocurrencies are highly appreciated: [magicgrants.org/contribute](https://magicgrants.org/contribute)

## Monero After Party

The famous Monero After Party occurs on Saturday night. The party includes a live DJ performance by Soul State, bowling, boxing, and other activities in a unique atmosphere. Tickets are required and include optional round trip party bus transportation from Flamingo. For more details, please visit [monerosound.com](https://monerosound.com)



Notes:

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