

1. Bitcoin in general
 - a. It's a currency
 - b. Purely digital
 - c. Invented 2008/2009, Satoshi Nakamoto
 - i. Has since handed it off
 - d. Difficult to research
 - i. If I contradict myself, please point it out
 - ii. A lot of my sources were contradictory, so I'll try to elaborate/clarify, but I may not be able to
2. Who accepts Bitcoin?
 - a. Individual businesses choose whether to accept it
 - b. Many do
 - i. Amazon
 - ii. Target
 - iii. Home Depot
 - iv. Food trucks
3. How to purchase something
 - a. Often Bitcoin is run off of your phone
 - i. QR codes used for purchases
 - b. Digital/physical Bitcoin "wallets"
4. Because it's purely digital, what problems?
 - a. Double-spending
 - i. Spending the same money to two different people
5. So how does this system work
 - a. Network of computers, "miners" running software to power the system
 - b. Note that the Bitcoin system uses no encryption, just hashes and digital signatures
 - c. The system is massively distributed and redundant
 - i. What this means is that everyone does everything
 - d. So, transactions
 - i. "Payer X sends Y bitcoins to payee Z"
 1. Signed with digital signature private key
 - ii. Transactions are cherry-picked and clumped into blocks
 - iii. Blocks are hashed, hashing should take ~10 minutes
 1. So a difficulty target nonce is chosen low enough
 2. This is "mining," because new Bitcoins are awarded to the first person to hash the block
 - iv. Every block has a hash of the previous block, which "chains" them together
 1. Any change to a block requires changes to every subsequent block
 - a. But the system keeps progressing, and a malicious attacker can't keep up
 - v. Because everyone has a copy of the block chain, no one can modify it without people noticing the changes

6. So I mentioned earlier how security was without encryption
 - a. Everything is in the open
 - b. Mass agreement ensures that no one can change the past
 - c. Building up the chain ensures that nothing in the past can be changed
 - i. Hashes are hard to find due to difficulty target nonce
 1. Pointless work, done simply to be “hard”
 2. But easy to check because they’re hashes
 - ii. Digital signatures ensure that no one but you can authorize spending your bitcoins
 1. ECDSA
 - a. Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm
 - b. By NIST (National Institute for Standards and Technology)
 2. Lose your key, lose your bitcoins
 - d. Attackers would have to have more than half the computing power of the entire network to keep ahead of new blocks being created
 - i. Hence incentivizing the “mining” process
 - ii. Not financially viable