



# **BLOCKCHAINS**

## **ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND USE CASES**

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# What We'll Cover in This Course

- A history of blockchain – how the computation environment gradually evolved
- Blockchain – architecture, design and protocol
- Blockchain consensus protocols
- Security and Privacy aspects of Blockchain
- Various use cases – Finance, Supply Chain, Government
- Hyperledger Fabric – a platform for Blockchain development
- Research aspects



# What Is A Blockchain

- A decentralized **computation and information sharing platform** that enables **multiple authoritative domains**, who **do not trust** each other, to **cooperate, coordinate** and **collaborate** in a **rational decision making process**

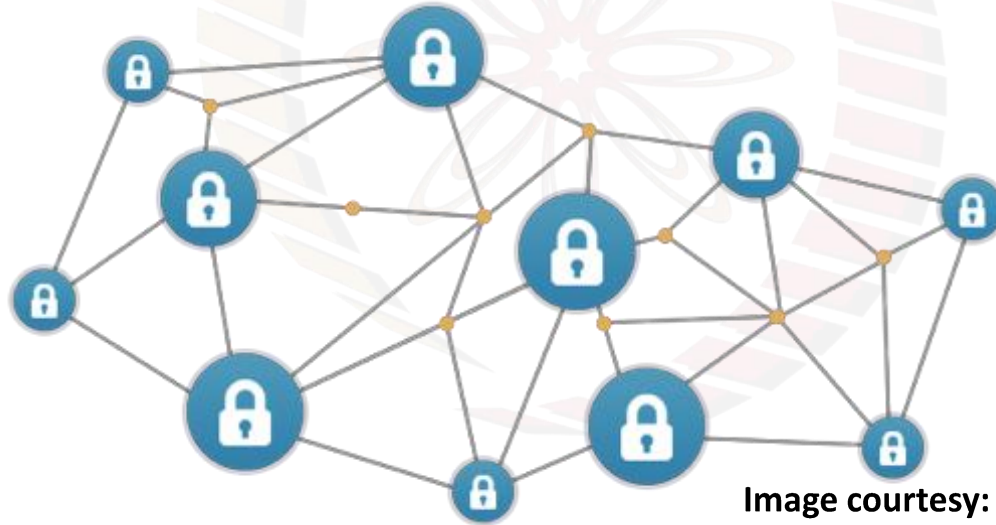
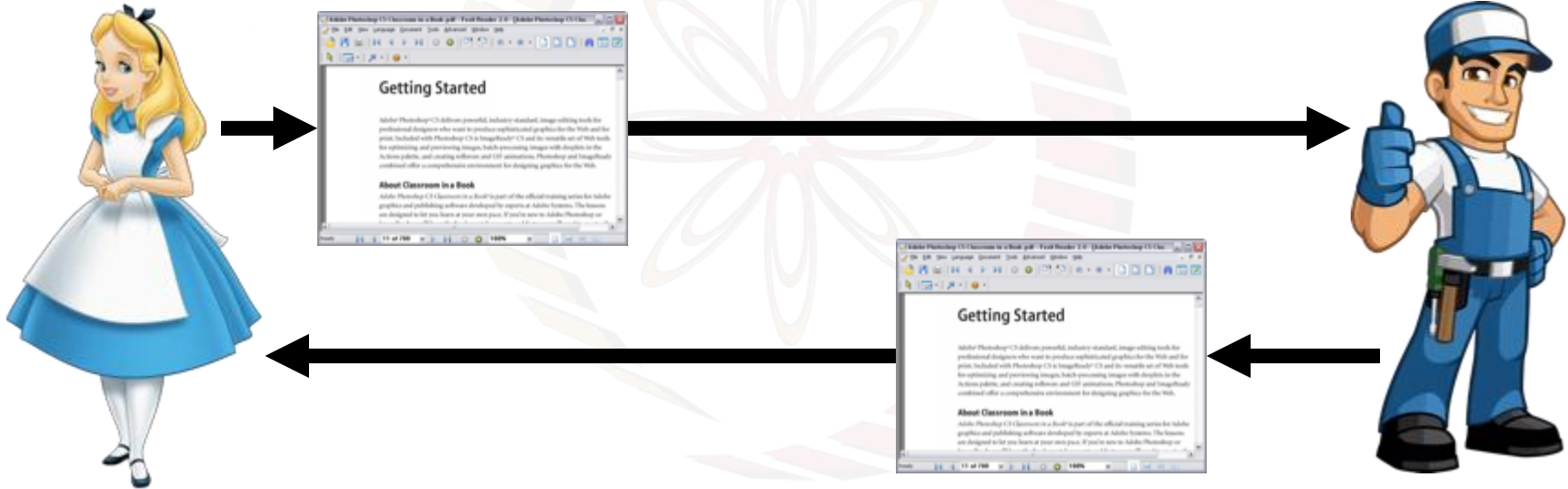


Image courtesy: <https://blog.exchangeunion.com>



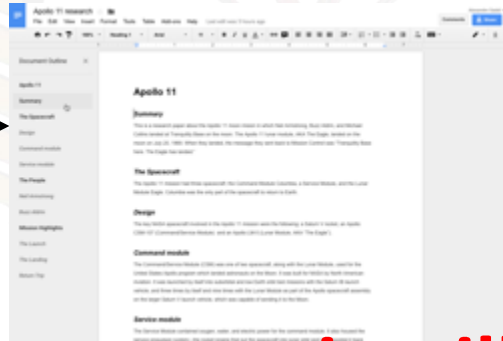
# Microsoft Word to Google Doc – Sharing Information

- Traditional way of sharing documents



# Microsoft Word to Google Doc – Sharing Information

- Shared Google doc – both the users can edit simultaneously



**The environment is still centralized.  
Does centralized system harm?**

# Problems with a Centralized System

- **A single point of failure**

- If you do not have sufficient bandwidth to load Google doc, you'll not be able to edit
- What if the server crashes?

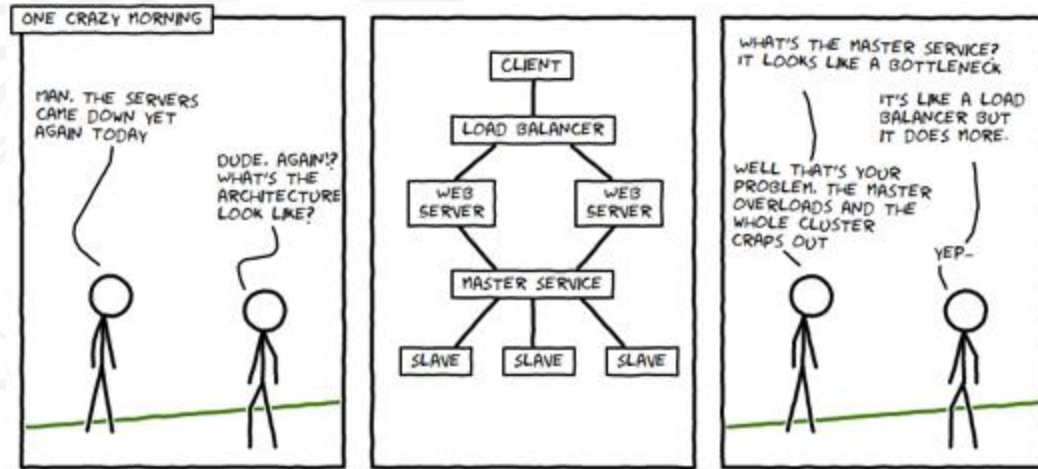
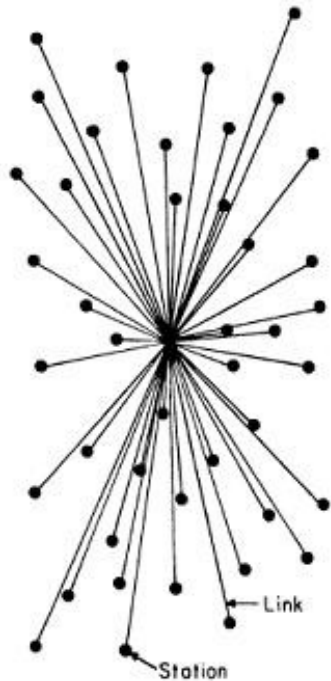


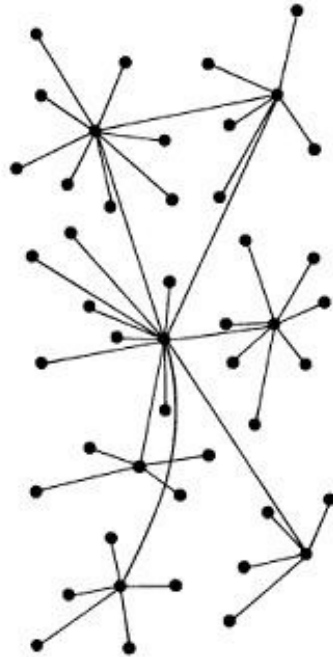
Image courtesy: <http://timkellogg.me/>



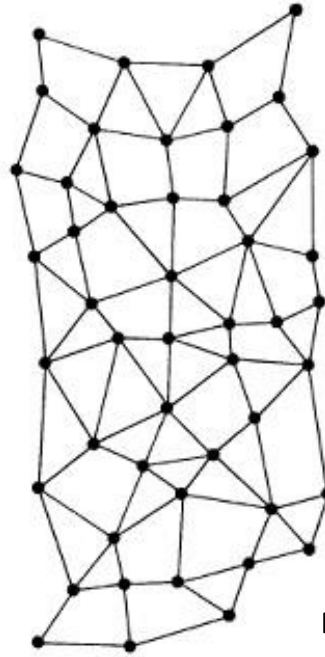
# Centralized vs Decentralized vs Distributed



CENTRALIZED  
(A)



DECENTRALIZED  
(B)



DISTRIBUTED  
(C)

Complete reliance on single point (**centralized**) is not safe

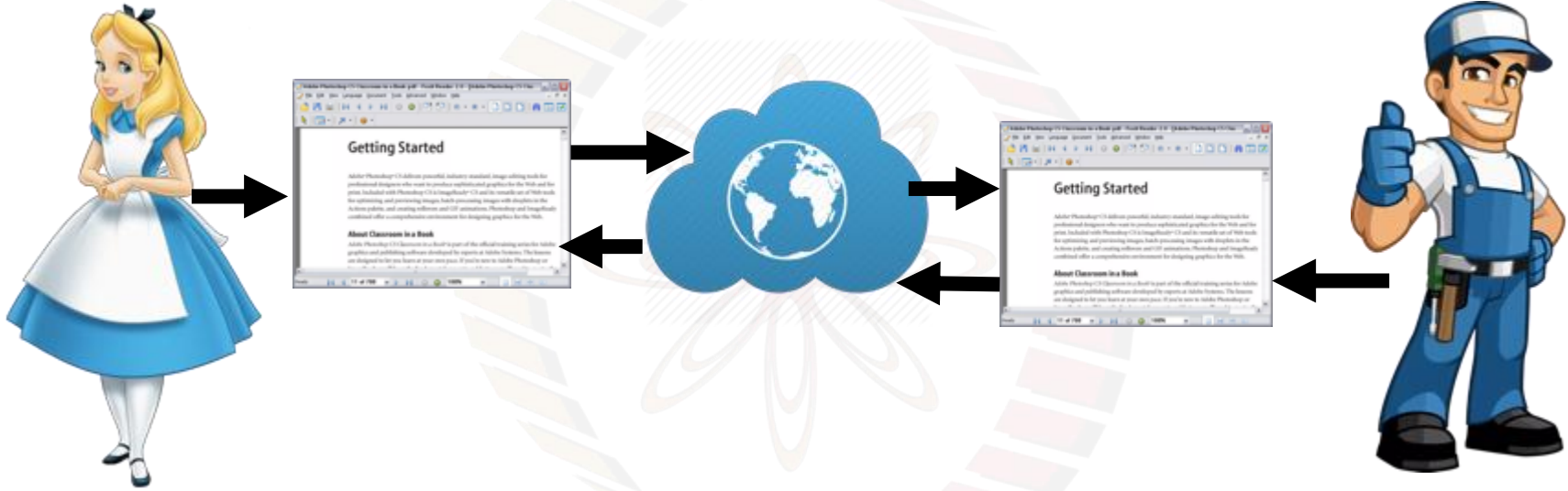
- **Decentralized:** Multiple points of coordination
- **Distributed:** Everyone collectively execute the job

Photo courtesy: Baran, Paul. *On distributed communications: I. Introduction to distributed communications networks*. No. RM3420PR. RAND CORP SANTA MONICA CALIF, 1964.



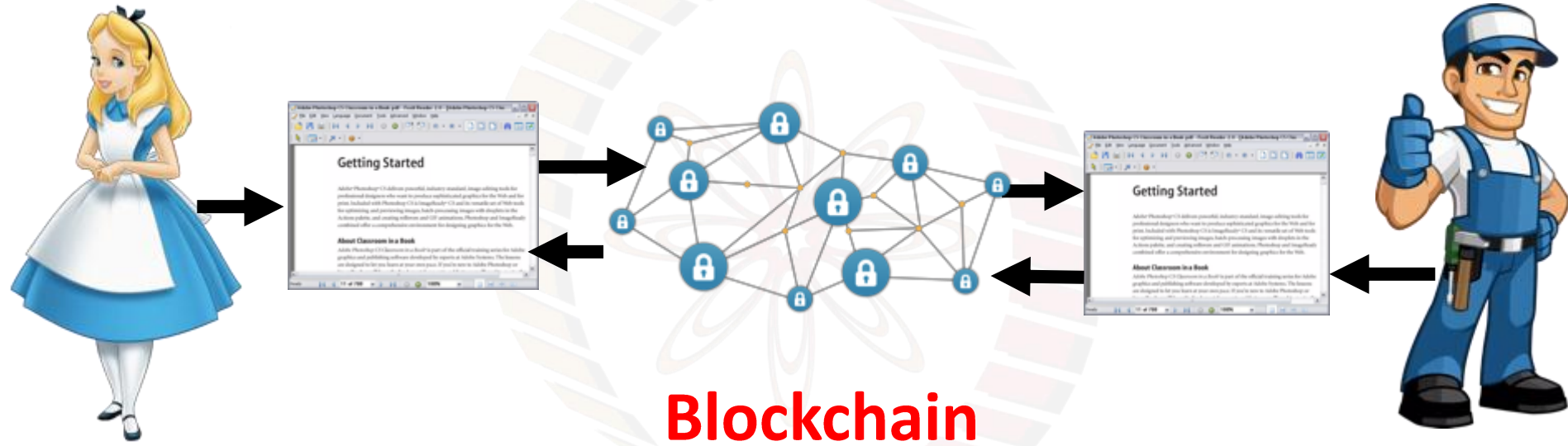


# A Plausibly Ideal Solution



**Everyone edits on their local copy of the document –  
the Internet takes care of ensuring consistency**

# Blockchain – The Internet Database to Support Decentralization

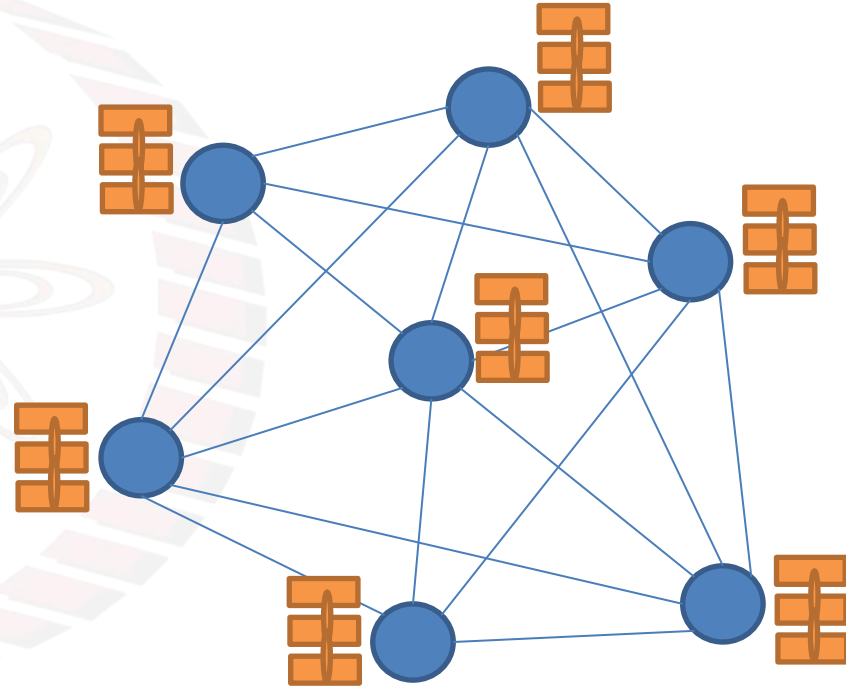


**A decentralized database with strong consistency support**



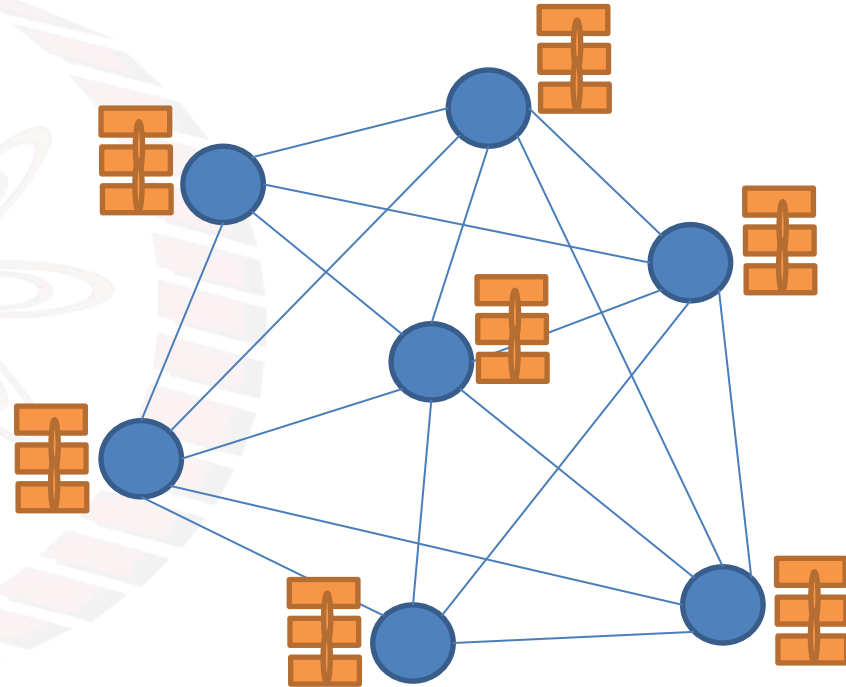
# A Very Simplified Look of the Blockchain

- Every node maintains **a local copy** of **the global data-sheet**
- The system ensures consistency among the local copies
  - *The local copies at every node is identical*
  - *The local copies are always updated based on the global information*

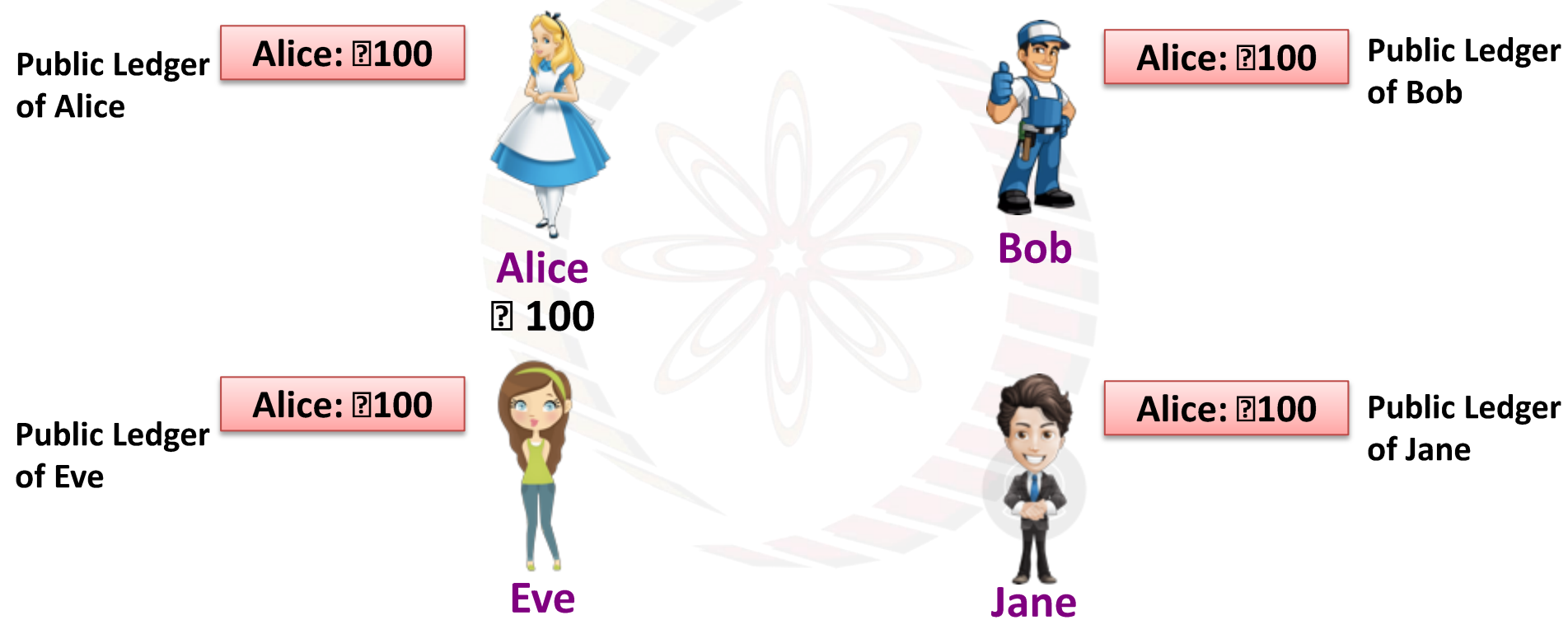


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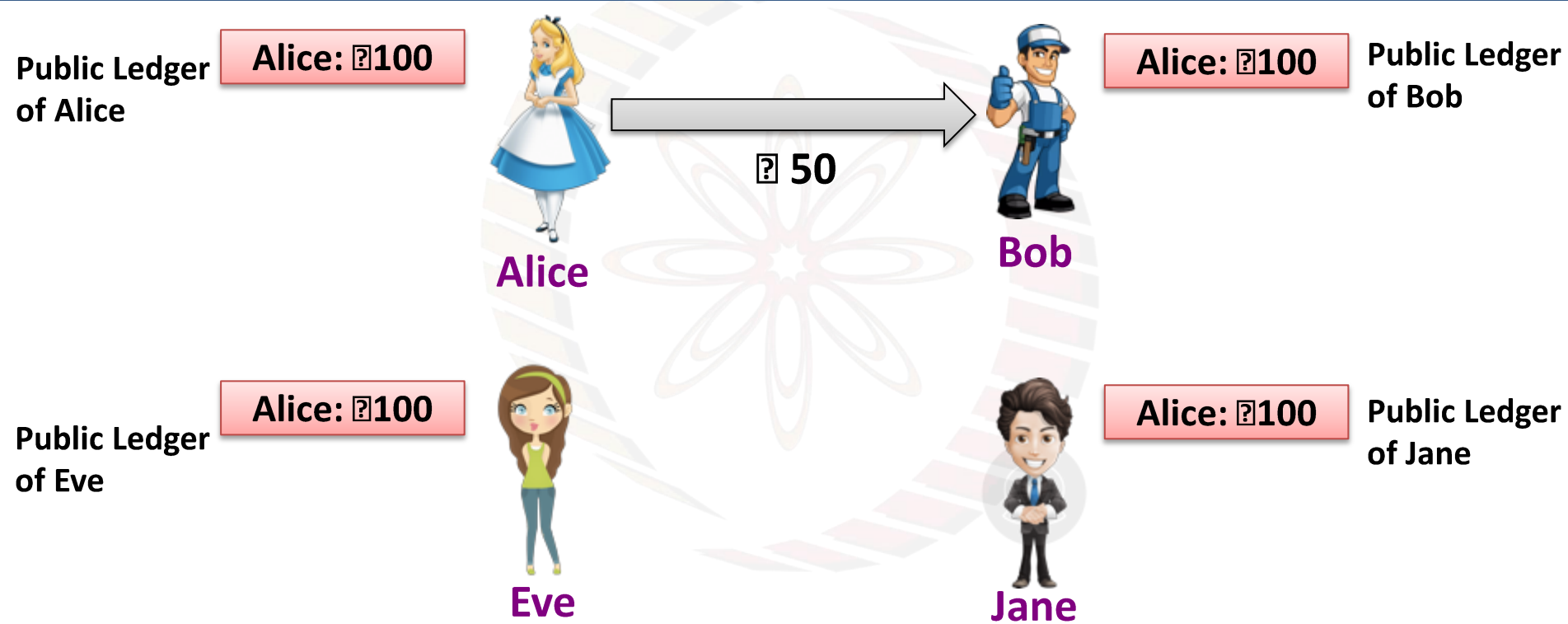
- We call this a **Public Ledger**
  - A database of “**historical information**” available to everyone
  - The “**historical information**” may be utilized for future computation
- **An Example:**
  - Say, the historical information are the banking transactions
  - The old transactions are used to validate the new transactions



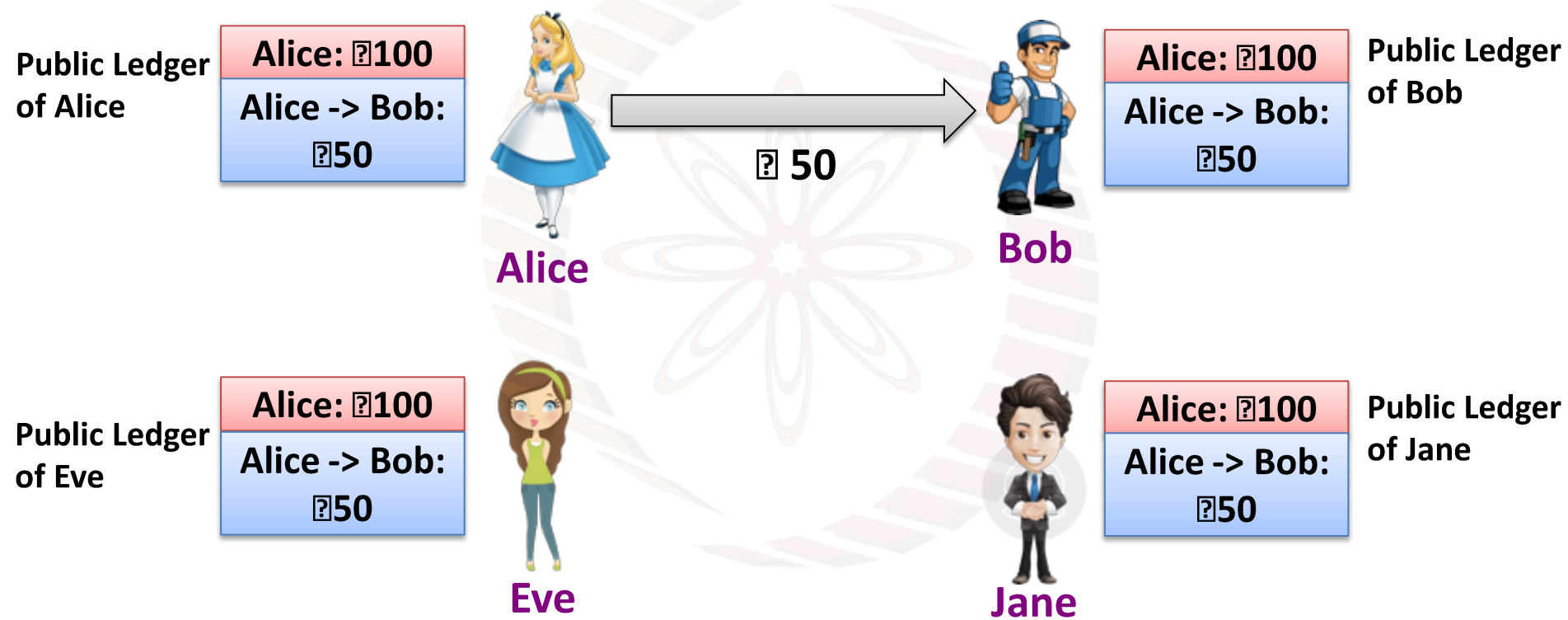
# An Example of Public Ledger from Banking Sectors



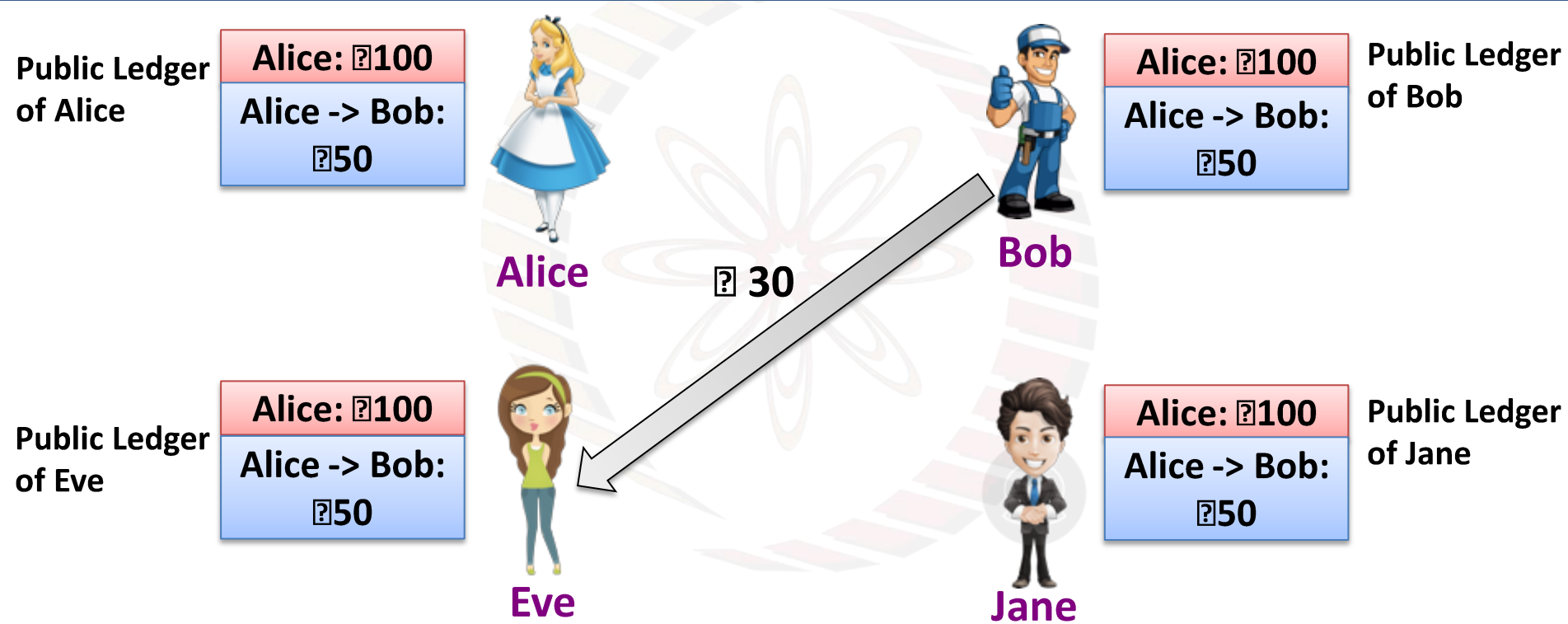
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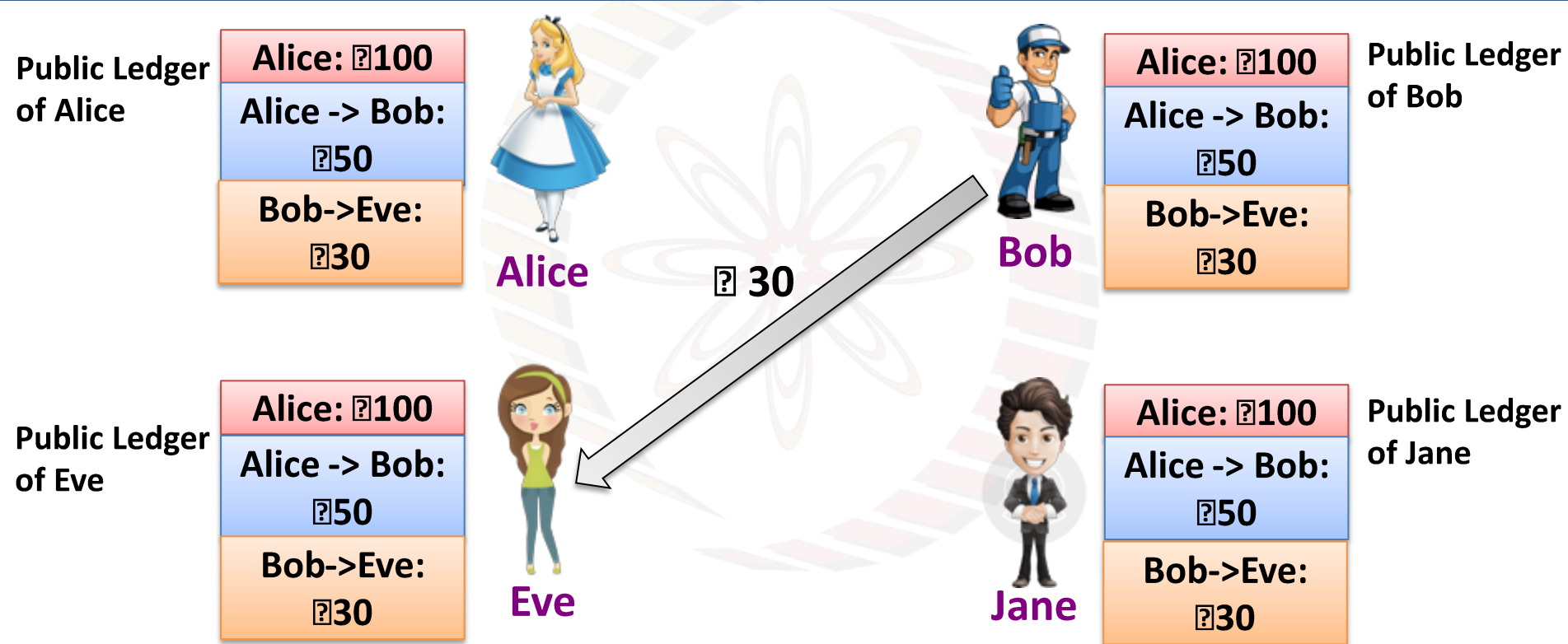


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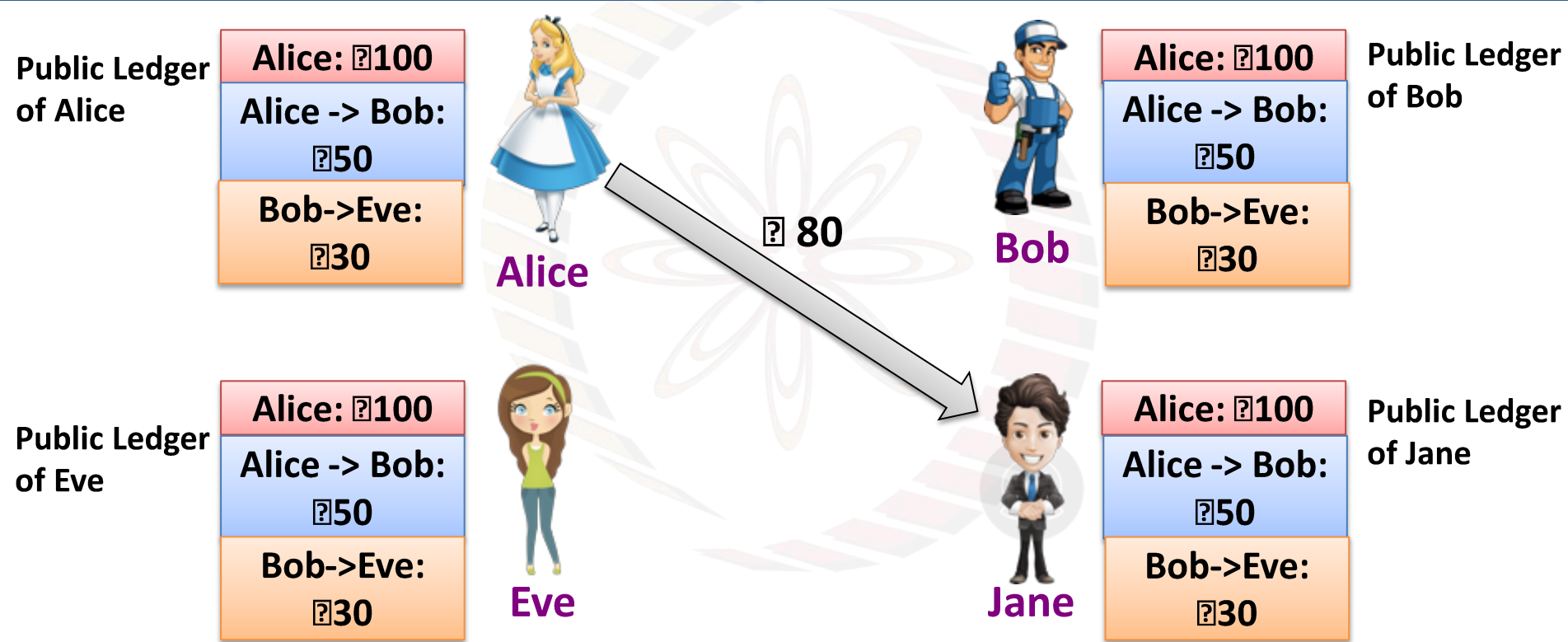




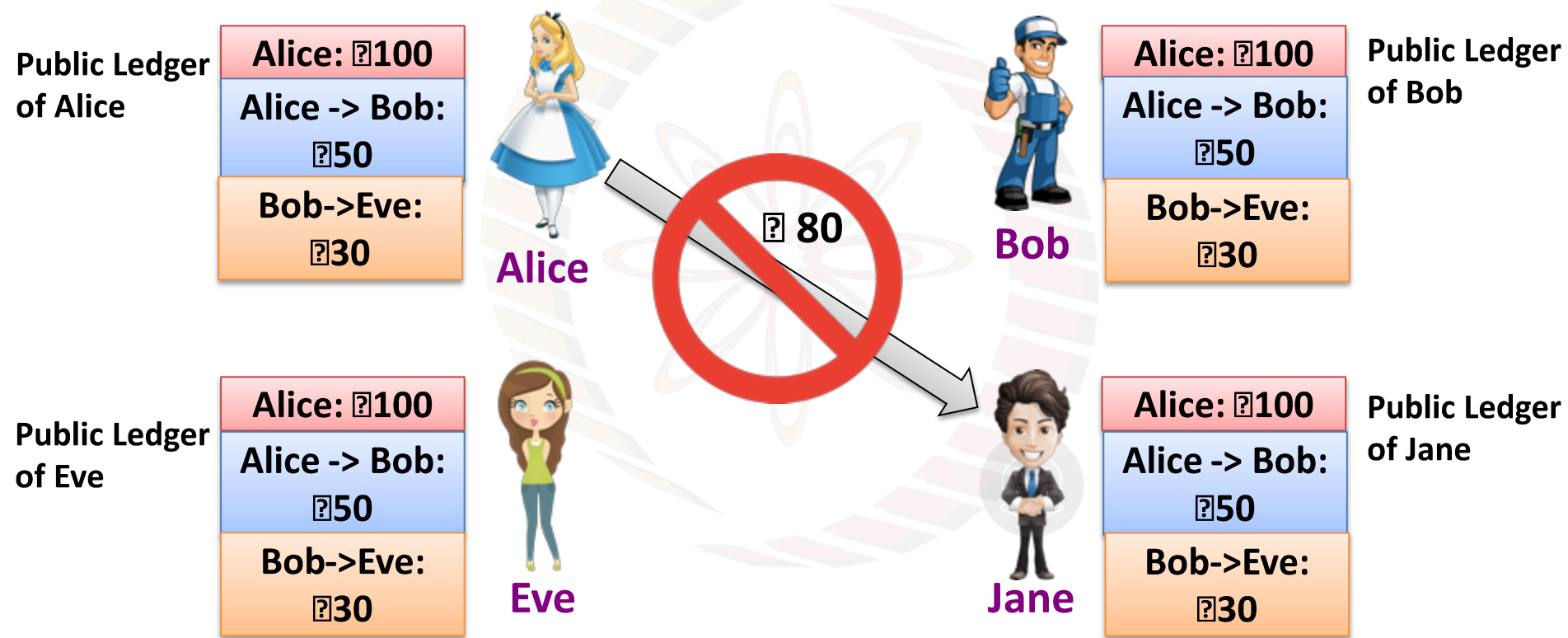
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# An Example of Public Ledger from Banking Sectors



# Blockchains and Public Ledgers

- Blockchains work like a public ledger
- However, we need to ensure a number of different aspects
  - **Protocols for Commitment:** Ensure that every *valid transaction* from the clients are committed and included in the blockchain within a finite time.
  - **Consensus:** Ensure that the local copies are consistent and updated.
  - **Security:** The data needs to be *tamper proof*. Note that the clients may act maliciously or can be compromised.
  - **Privacy and Authenticity:** The data (or transactions) belong to various clients; privacy and authenticity needs to be ensured.



# Formal Definition of a Blockchain

- A Blockchain is “an **open**, **distributed ledger** that can record transactions between two parties **efficiently** and in a **verifiable** and **permanent** way” (Iansiti, Lakhani 2017)
- The keywords: **Open** (accessible to all), **Distributed or Decentralized** (no single party control), **efficient** (fast and scalable), **verifiable** (everyone can check the validity of information), **permanent** (the information is persistent)

Iansiti, Marco; Lakhani, Karim R. (January 2017). "The Truth About Blockchain". *Harvard Business Review*. Harvard University.





thank you!

