

# Introduction to Blockchain Technology

Spring 2020

TIBA @ Tsinghua University

## Course Syllabus

- ❏ Introduction to Blockchain
- ❏ Cryptographic Primitives
- ❏ Distributed Systems
- ❏ Blockchain 1.0: Basic blockchain
- ❏ Blockchain 2.0: Smart contracts
- ❏ Blockchain for enterprise: Consortium blockchains
- ❏ Limitations & vulnerability of blockchain technology
- ❏ Applications: Beyond Cryptocurrency



Wechat  
Group



TIBA Blockchain Class  
Spring2020



该二维码7天内(3月23日前)有效，重新进入将更新



Course  
Website

<https://samt6.github.io/TIBABlockchainCourseSpring2020/>

TIBA TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

MENU 

# Hi, this is TIBA Intro to Blockchain

---

TSINGHUA INTERNATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATION  
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY BEIJING, CHINA

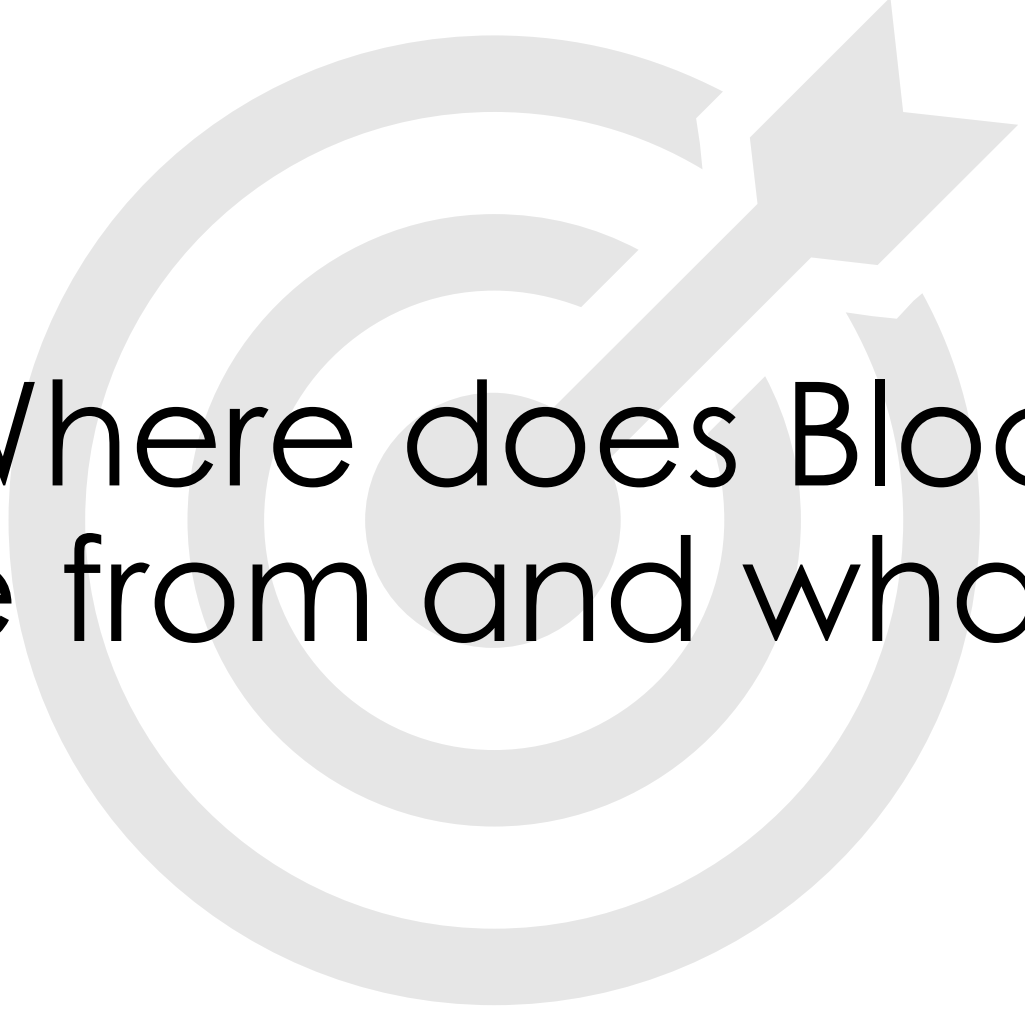
EXPLORE 

# Introduction to Blockchain

By Samuel Tang, TIBA@TsinghuaUniversity

## Content

- ❏ Why Blockchain?
- ❏ Blockchain History
- ❏ What is Blockchain?
- ❏ Applications



Goal: Where does Blockchain  
come from and what is it?



# Why Blockchain?





# Discussion

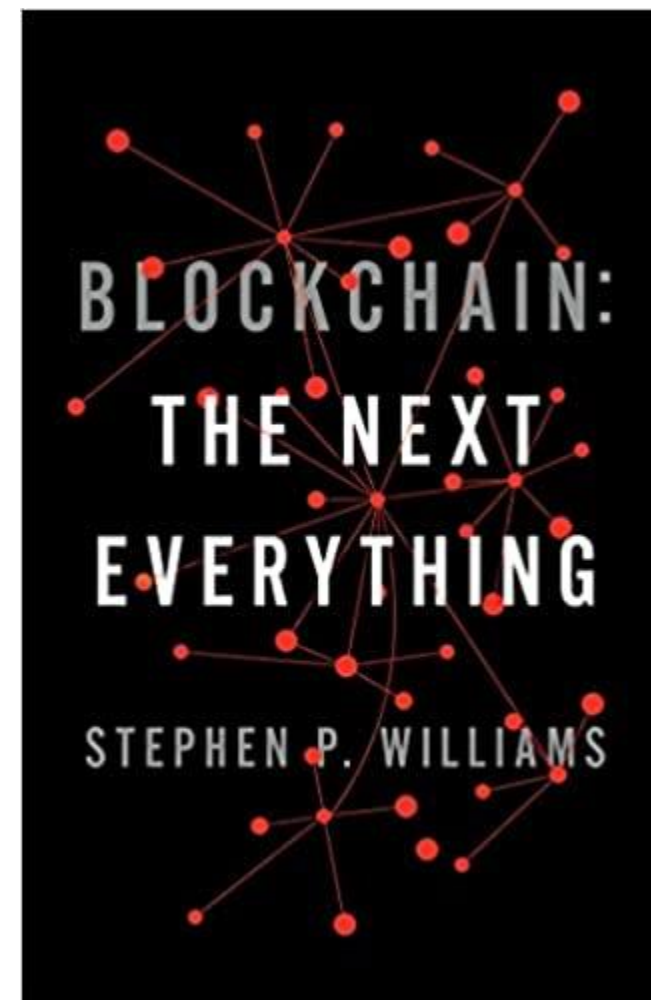


Why are you here?



# Why learn Blockchain?

- High demand
- Revolutionary technology
- Cryptocurrencies and ICOs
- Trustless system
- Decentralization
- Immutability
- Transparency
- Anonymity
- ...



Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Blockchain-Everything-Stephen-P-Williams/dp/198211682X>

Reading: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/dantedisparte/2018/04/26/why-blockchain-why-now/#37d723874f42>

<https://www.coindesk.com/blockchain-faces-big-challenges-but-the-opportunity-is-enormous>

# Why Blockchain is NOT the Answer

- Buzzword/over-hyped
- Limited applications
- Inefficient use of resources (energy consumption, duplicate data,...)
- Scalability problem
- Regulation
- Speed
- ...



Source: <https://steemit.com/blockchain/@beggars/the-blockchain-is-not-the-solution-to-every-problem>

Reading: <https://medium.com/@jimmysong/why-blockchain-is-not-the-answer-3b7d5f612d11>

<https://www.wired.com/story/whats-blockchain-good-for-not-much/>

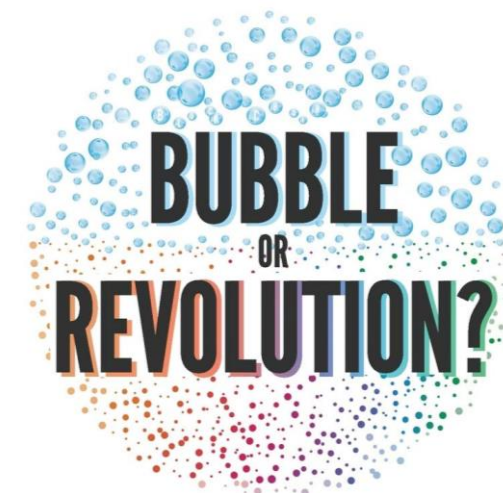
<https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2019-05-07-gartner-predicts-90--of-blockchain-based-supply-chain>

# Is Blockchain the Future?

- Bubble or Revolution?
- Learn & know for yourself!

#1 BESTSELLING AUTHORS OF SWIPE TO UNLOCK

"Bubble or Revolution brilliantly articulates both sides of the argument and offers well researched insight on the future of blockchain technology."  
— Mike Novogratz, CEO of Galaxy Investment Partners



The Present and Future of  
Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies

NEEL  
MEHTA

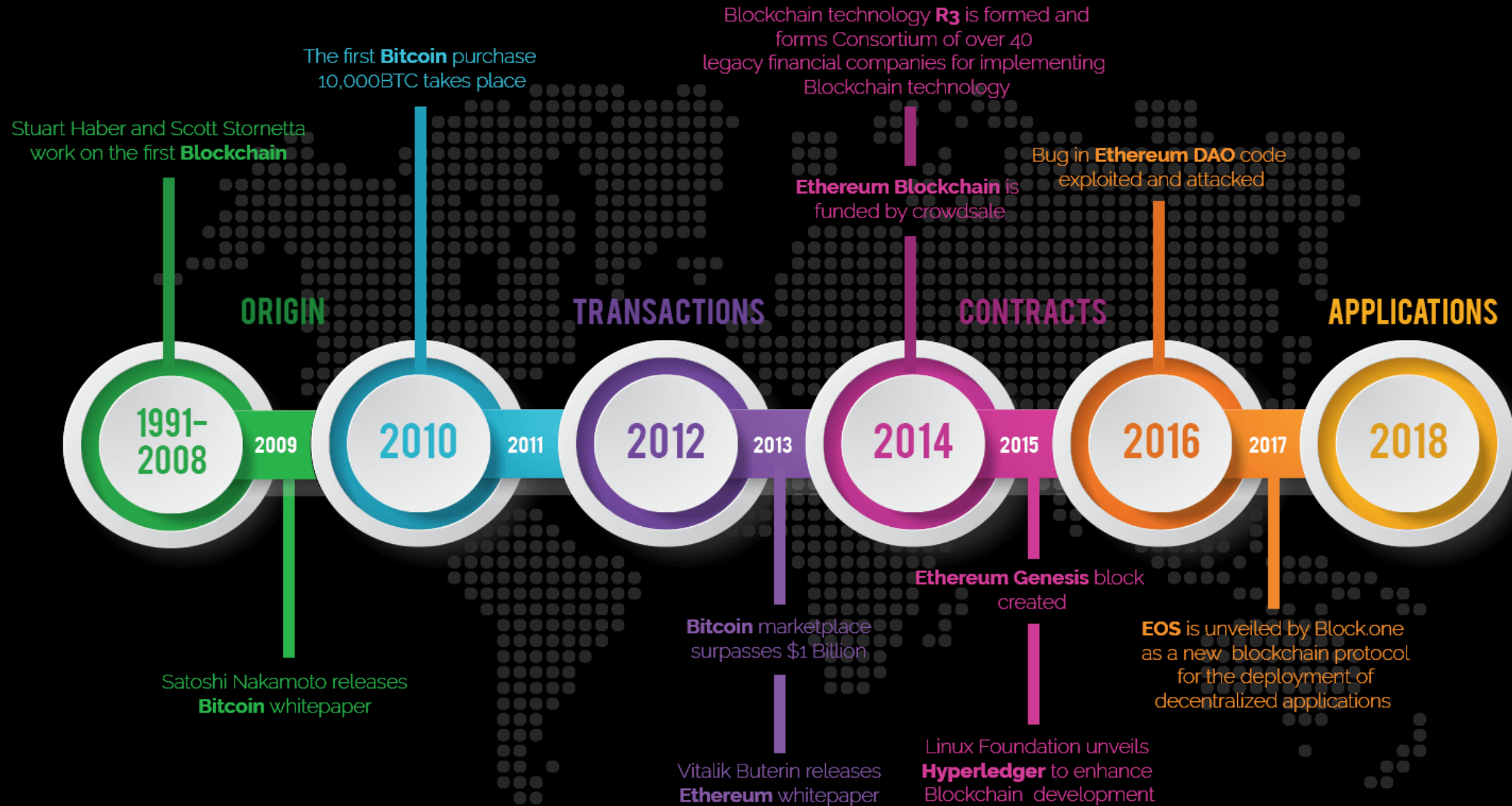
ADI  
AGASHE

PARTH  
DETROJA



# Blockchain History

# THE HISTORY OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY



# Blockchain History – Early Stage

- **1991**, cryptographer **Stuart Haber and W. Scott Stornetta** co-wrote a paper called “*How to Time-Stamp a Digital Document*”, where they try to use a cryptographically secured chain of blocks to secure documents.
- **1992**, incorporate Merkle trees data structure
- **1995**, founded a company called Surety, **the world's oldest running blockchain**, uses the *New York Times* as timestamp!



# Blockchain History – Early Stage



Universal Registry Entries:

Zone 2-

dS8492cgVOFAoP9kyE1XzMOrQ  
HgEwzkVbVafNylkUz99qvq8/ME  
p5y9EFSG8XxzMBalGQQ==

Zone 3-

JnFCg+HCmvhj8GmmUP7VZna71  
NgZup/RfuKUQNzCHWXMuaLK  
durxHQV5pSHLqBGPRly+mg==

These base64-encoded values represent the combined fingerprints of all digital records notarized by Surety between 2009-06-03Z 2009-06-09Z.  
www.surety.com 571-748-5800



**Do you even  
Bitcoin?**



# What is Bitcoin?

- Bitcoin = bit + coin = data + monetary value
- “Bitcoin(₿) is a cryptocurrency. It is a decentralized digital currency without a central bank or single administrator that can be sent from user to user on the peer-to-peer bitcoin network without the need for intermediaries. “ - Wikipedia



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

Cryptography Mailing List

Bitcoin P2P e-cash paper

*2008-10-31 18:10:00 UTC* - [Original Email](#) - [View in Thread](#)

I've been working on a new electronic cash system that's fully peer-to-peer, with no trusted third party.

The paper is available at:

<http://www.bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf>

# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

- **August 2008**, domain name **bitcoin.org** was registered
- **October 2008**, a paper titled “*Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System*” was published by the name **Satoshi Nakamoto**
- **January 2009**, **Satoshi** mined the genesis block of the bitcoin blockchain (block number 0), with a reward of 50 bitcoins

## Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

Satoshi Nakamoto  
satoshin@gmx.com  
www.bitcoin.org

**Abstract.** A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution. Digital signatures provide part of the solution, but the main benefits are lost if a trusted third party is still required to prevent double-spending. We propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer network. The network timestamps transactions by hashing them into an ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work. The longest chain not only serves as proof of the sequence of events witnessed, but proof that it came from the largest pool of CPU power. As long as a majority of CPU power is controlled by nodes that are not cooperating to attack the network, they'll generate the longest chain and outpace attackers. The network itself requires minimal structure. Messages are broadcast on a best effort basis, and nodes can leave and rejoin the network at will, accepting the longest proof-of-work chain as proof of what happened while they were gone.



Source: The Face Behind Bitcoin, Newsweek, <https://www.newsweek.com/2014/03/14/face-behind-bitcoin-247957.html>

# Bitcoin Creator

- **Satoshi Nakamoto**, a pseudonym!
- Several potential suspects:
  - Hal Finny
  - NSA (National Security Agency)
  - Dorian Nakamoto
  - Craig Wright (self-claim)
  - Nick Szabo
  - ...
- ...but no one knows for sure and it'll likely remain this way
- Nakamoto Consensus



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

- **January 2009**, first bitcoin transaction (Satoshi to **Hal Finney**)
- **May 2010**, \$25 worth of pizza for 10,000 BTC, purchased by **Laszlo Hanyecz** (Bitcoin has real value!)



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin



- **Feb 19, 2020,**  
10,000 BTC  
=  
101,479,000 USD





# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

coinbase

Prices

Products ▾

Company ▾

Earn crypto

up to \$186

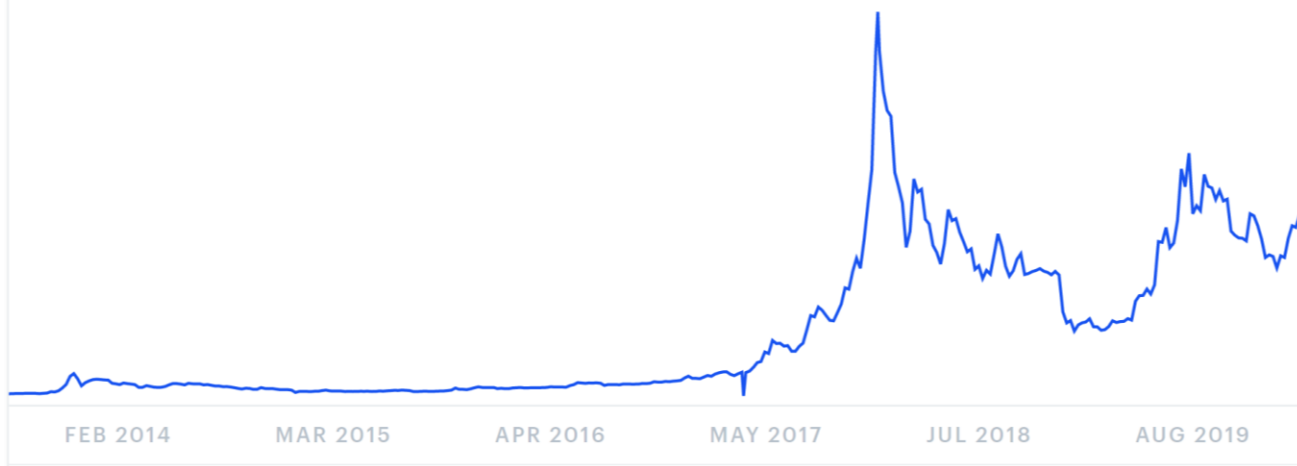


Bitcoin price (BTC)

\$10,401.13

+ \$10,163.26 (9.5K%)

1H 24H 1W 1M 1Y ALL



- Feb 12, 2020  
1 BTC = 10,401.13 USD

# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

coinbase

Prices

Products ▾

Company ▾

Earn crypto

up to \$166

Price charts > Bitcoin price

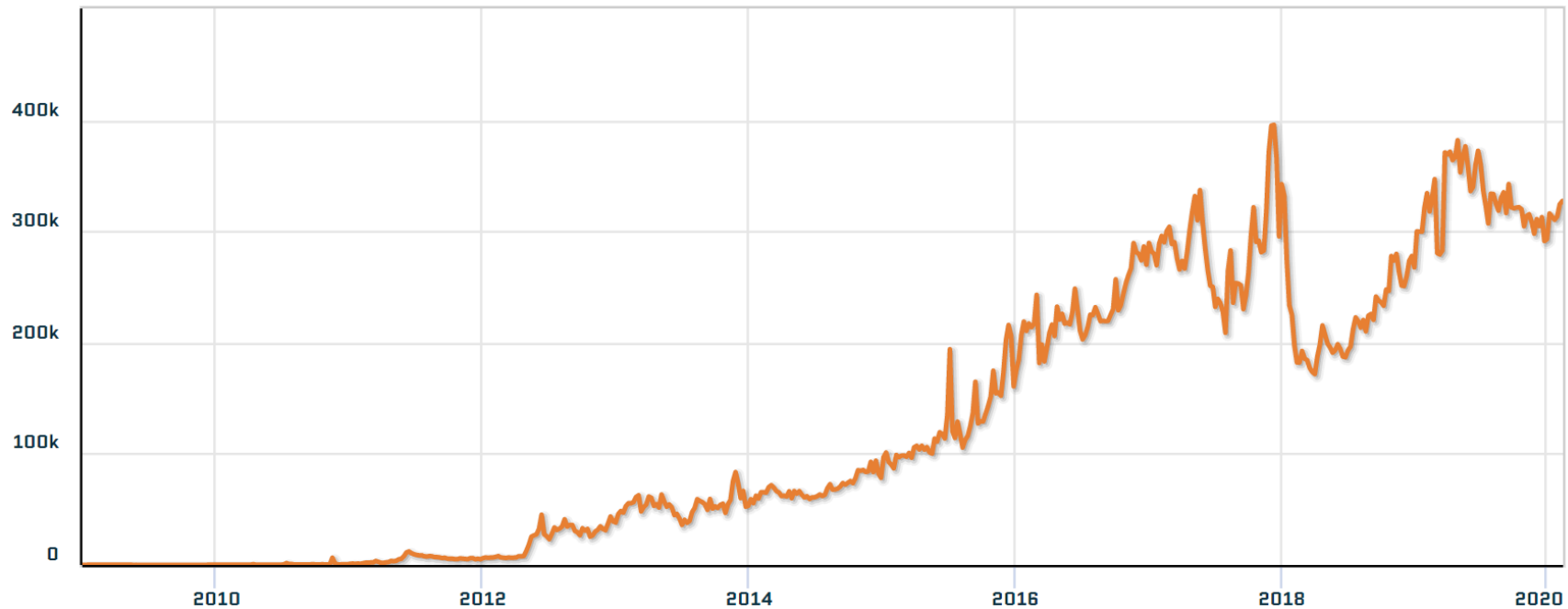


Bitcoin price (BTC)



- March 14, 2020  
1 BTC = 5205.08 USD
- down 49.32% over a month

# Blockchain History – Bitcoin



- Number of Bitcoin transactions over the years

# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

Mt.Gox

- **July 2010, Mt. Gox** was launched by **Jed McCaleb**, the biggest online Bitcoin exchange platform
- **June 2011**, suffered a significant security breach which allow the hacker to change the Bitcoin pricing to a single cent
- **End of 2013**, handled over **70%** of all Bitcoin (BTC) transactions worldwide



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

Mt.Gox

- **February 2014, Mt. Gox** was hacked and filed for bankruptcy
- **Mt. Gox** lost about 850,000 bitcoins, (750,000 belonged to its customers) valued more than \$450 million, at the time and \$8.5 billion today



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mt.\\_Gox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mt._Gox); <https://www.theverge.com/2014/2/19/5425220/protest-at-mt-gox-bitcoin-exchange-in-tokyo>  
Reading: <https://www.coindesk.com/2-billion-lost-in-mt-gox-bitcoin-hack-can-be-recovered-lawyer-claims>  
<https://www.ledger.com/hack-flasback-the-mt-gox-hack-the-most-iconic-exchange-hack/>

# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

## Mt.Gox

- Although 200,000 bitcoins were eventually recovered, the remaining 650,000 (3.7% of Bitcoin's circulating supply) have never been recovered
- The victims of the **Mt.Gox** hack have not seen a Satoshi of their Bitcoins returned to this day
- The Bitcoin price **drop to nearly 50%** of its value prior to the hack. It took till the end of 2016 to return to the same value



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

## Silk Road

- **February 2011**, **Ross Ulbricht** used **Tor**(anonymous communication) and **Bitcoin**(anonymous transaction) to create an online black market for drugs
- <http://tydgccykixpbu6uz.onion>
- February 2012, **Ross Ulbricht** called himself Dread Pirate Roberts





# SNAPSHOT OF THE SILK ROAD

THE SITE HAS HAD LISTINGS FOR:

ILLEGAL DRUGS



COUNTERFEIT  
CASH



FORGED  
DOCUMENTS



HACKERS



FIREARMS &  
AMMUNITION



It lasted

**2 ½ YEARS**

before being shut down  
upon Ulbricht's arrest.



The indictment  
stated it had nearly

**1 MILLION**

registered users.

30% were based in the U.S.

One analysis showed Silk  
Road received about

**60,000  
VISITS DAILY.<sup>3</sup>**

ACCORDING TO THE COMPLAINT, SILK  
ROAD PROCESSED TRANSACTIONS  
WORTH MORE THAN



**9.5 MILLION BITCOINS**

**ABOUT \$1.2 BILLION IN SALES.<sup>2</sup>**



# Blockchain History – Bitcoin

## Silk Road

- **October 2013**, FBI arrested Ross Ulbricht and shut down the website
- **May 2015**, Ross sentenced To double life imprisonment without the possibility of parole
- **October 2015**, two agents involved with the case charged with corruption
- **Silk Road 2.0** shut down by FBI and Europol on 6 November 2014
- **Silk Road 3.0** went offline in 2017 due to loss of funds



# THE RISE & FALL OF SILK ROAD

*Part I*

How a 29-year-old idealist  
built a global drug bazaar and  
became a murderous kingpin.

BY JOSHUA BEARMAN

• TOMER HANUKA

with additional reporting  
by Joshua Davis and Steven Leckart



# More on Silk Road

- Forbes, 2019, “Best Stories Of The Decade: ‘Meet The Dread Pirate Roberts, The Man Behind Booming Black Market Drug Website Silk Road’”, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesdigitalcovers/2019/12/23/meet-the-dread-pirate-roberts-the-man-behind-booming-black-market-drug-website-silk-road/#4b18800b482a>
- Newsweek, 2015, “The Rise and Fall of Silk Road, the Dark Web's Amazon”, <https://www.newsweek.com/2015/02/27/silk-road-hell-307732.html>





# DIGITAL GOLD

BITCOIN AND THE  
INSIDE STORY OF  
THE MISFITS AND  
MILLIONAIRES TRYING  
TO REINVENT MONEY

NATHANIEL POPPER

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/laurashin/2015/05/19/what-bitcoins-history-means-for-its-future-qa-with-nathaniel-popper-author-of-digital-gold/#4d050c1f3916>

# Blockchain History – Ethereum

What is Ethereum?

- **Ethereum** is a public blockchain-based distributed computing platform featuring **smart contract**
  - **Ethereum VM**, decentralized *Turing-complete* virtual machine for executing scripts
  - “**ether**”, cryptocurrency token
  - “**gas**”, a priced resource for computation
  - Ethereum == Bitcoin 2.0 ?



ethereum

# Blockchain History – Ethereum

Ethereum: the World Computer

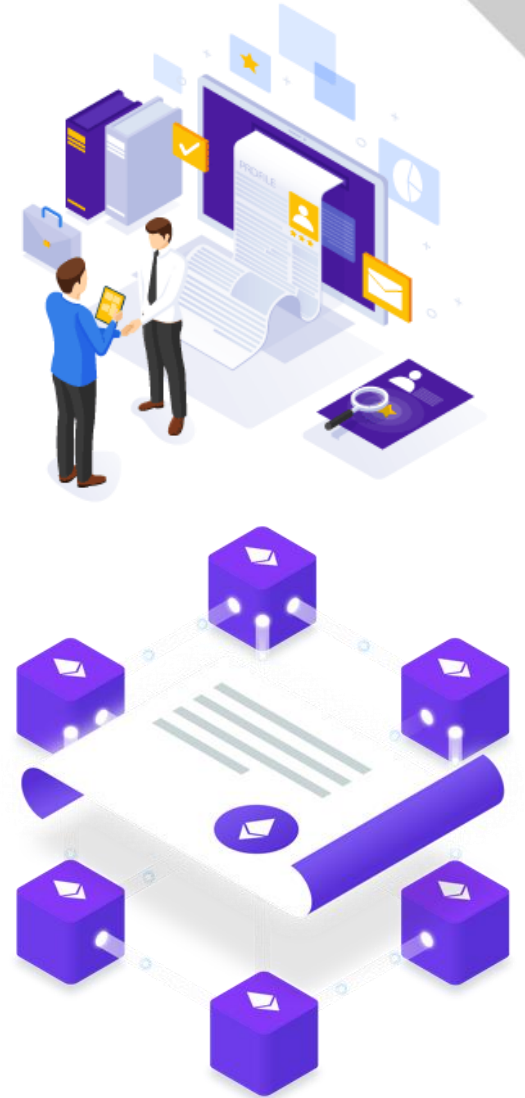


ethereum

# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## Smart Contract

- A **smart contract** is a self-executing contract with the terms of the agreement between buyer and seller being directly written into lines of code
- The code is stored on and exist across a distributed, decentralized **blockchain** network
- first proposed in 1994 by **Nick Szabo** (invented "Bit Gold" in 1998)



# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## Ethereum History

- **November 2013**, **Vitalik Buterin** published the Ethereum whitepaper
- **June 2014**, Ethereum foundation founded
- **July & August 2014**, Ethereum crowdsale, future users and investors allowed to purchase Ether in exchange for Bitcoin, 11.9 million Ethereum tokens were sold (about 13% of the circulating supply), raising about 18.4 million USD



Source:

<https://www.coinmama.com/guide/history-of-ethereum>

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/19/ethereum-creator-vitalik-buterin-warns-about-cryptocurrency-investment.html>



# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## Ethereum History

- **July 2015**, Ethereum blockchain launched
- **May 2016**, Value of Ethereum tokens worth more than \$1 billion
- **July 2016**, the Dao hack



# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## The Dao Hack

- **Dao**(Decentralized autonomous organization)
  - a complicated smart contract that allows any app idea to be voted on by token holders
  - “The DAO” was a specific DAO created on the Ethereum blockchain, raised over 150 million USD with crowdsale
  - **June 2016**, an unknown attacker exploited the vulnerability and withdrew 50 million USD in Ether from the smart contract (roughly 15% of all Ether at the time)

# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## Ether Price

coinbase

Prices

Products ▾

Company ▾

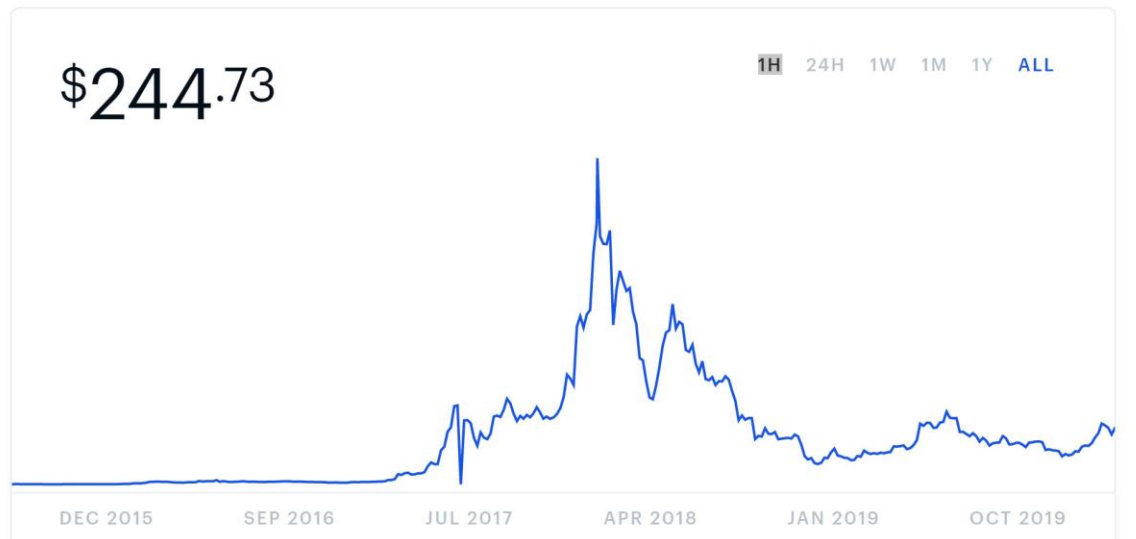
Earn crypto

up to \$166

Price charts > Ethereum price



Ethereum price (ETH)



- March 6 2020,  
1 ETH = 244.73 USD

# Blockchain History – Ethereum

## Ether Price

coinbase

Prices

Products ▾

Company ▾

Earn crypto

up to \$166

Price charts > Ethereum price



Ethereum price (ETH)



- March 14 2020,  
1 ETH = 121.59 USD
- down 54.39% over a  
month

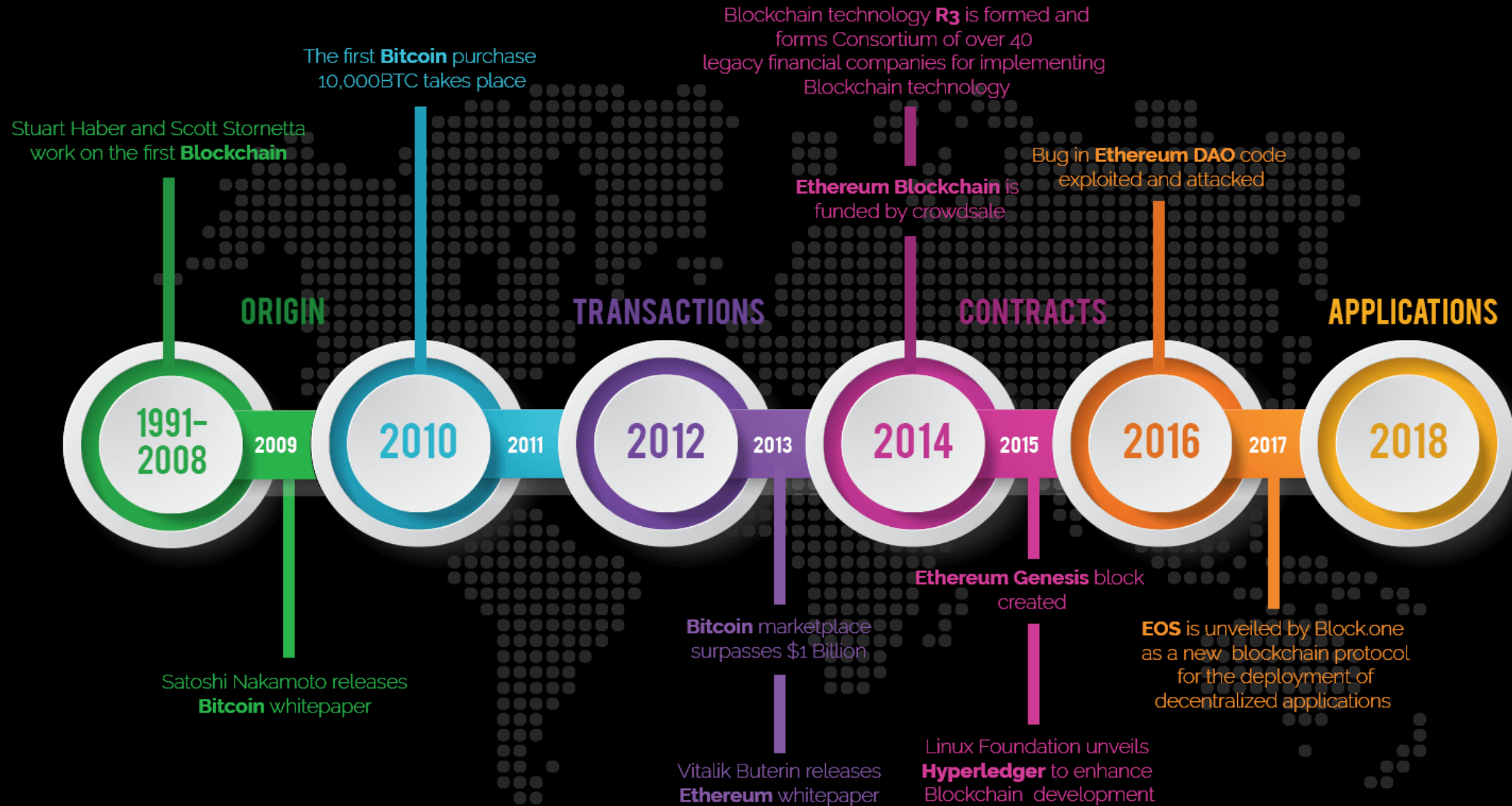
# Blockchain History

## Bitcoin vs. Ethereum



|  | bitcoin                    | ethereum   |
|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>concept</b>                         | digital money              | smart contracts  |
| <b>transaction</b>                     | send from alice to bob     | send from alice to bob if.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• date = jan 1, 2018</li><li>• bob's balance &lt; 10 eth</li></ul> |
| <b>market cap<br/>(as of feb 2017)</b> | ~\$18 billion              | ~\$1 billion   |
| <b>founder</b>                         | satoshi nakamoto (unknown) | vitalik buterin and team   |
| <b>release date</b>                    | jan 2009                   | july 2015  |

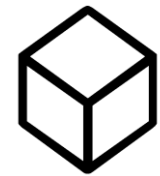
# THE HISTORY OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY





Questions?





What is Blockchain?

# Blockchain Definition

## Dictionary

Search for a word



**block·chain**

/ˈblækˌtʃeɪn/

*noun*

noun: **blockchain**; plural noun: **blockchains**; noun: **block-chain**; plural noun: **block-chains**

a system in which a record of transactions made in bitcoin or another cryptocurrency are maintained across several computers that are linked in a peer-to-peer network.

"we can actually have a look at the blockchain and see evidence of what's going on"

## Origin

ENGLISH

block

ENGLISH

chain

blockchain  
early 21st century

early 21st century: from **block** + **chain**.

Google Dictionary

Source:  
<https://www.google.com>

# Blockchain Definition

Vice.com

“At its core, a **blockchain** is just a database that is maintained by a network of users and secured through **cryptography**.”

When new information is added to the database it is parceled in “blocks,” which can be thought of as containers for this data. Every so often a new block is created and linked to a “chain” of previously created blocks. Each block has a unique ID called a hash that is created by running the ID of the block that preceded it and the data stored in the current block through a cryptographic algorithm. This ensures the integrity of all the data stored on the blockchain because altering the data in any block would produce a different hash. “

Source: [https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/j5nzx4/what-was-the-first-blockchain](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/j5nzx4/what-was-the-first-blockchain)

# Blockchain Definition

Wikipedia.org

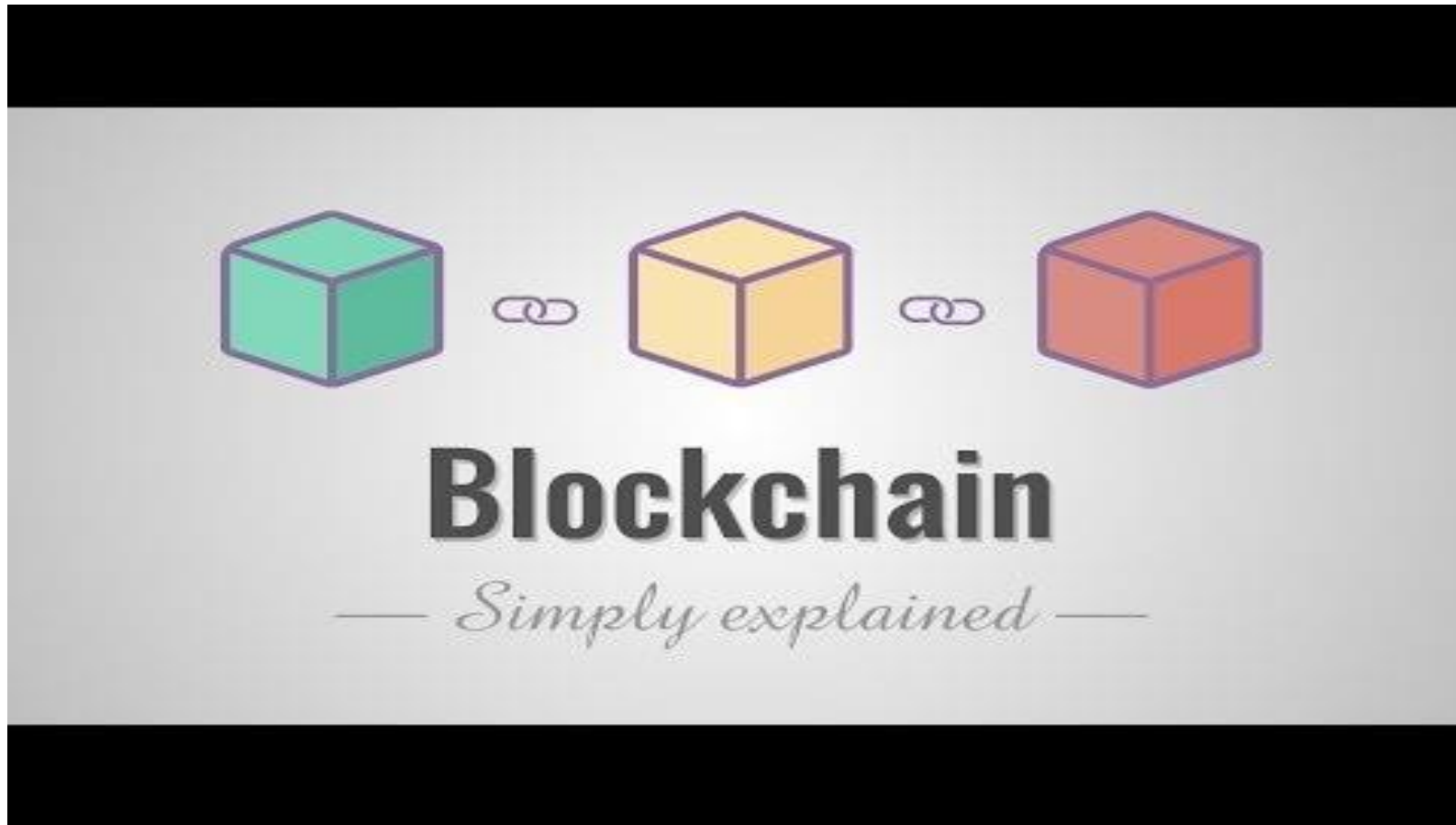
“A **blockchain**, originally block chain, is a growing list of records, called blocks, that are linked using **cryptography**. Each block contains a cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp, and transaction data (generally represented as a Merkle tree).”

# Blockchain Definition

“Blockchain is a data structure that’s **secure** (tamper-resistant) by the nature of cryptography and a **decentralized** database by giving a network of users each a copy of the data and the possible ability to modify those data and a **trustless system/distributed network** by allowing users to constantly check on one another to reach a single consensus.”

- Samuel Tang

# Blockchain Definition



By:



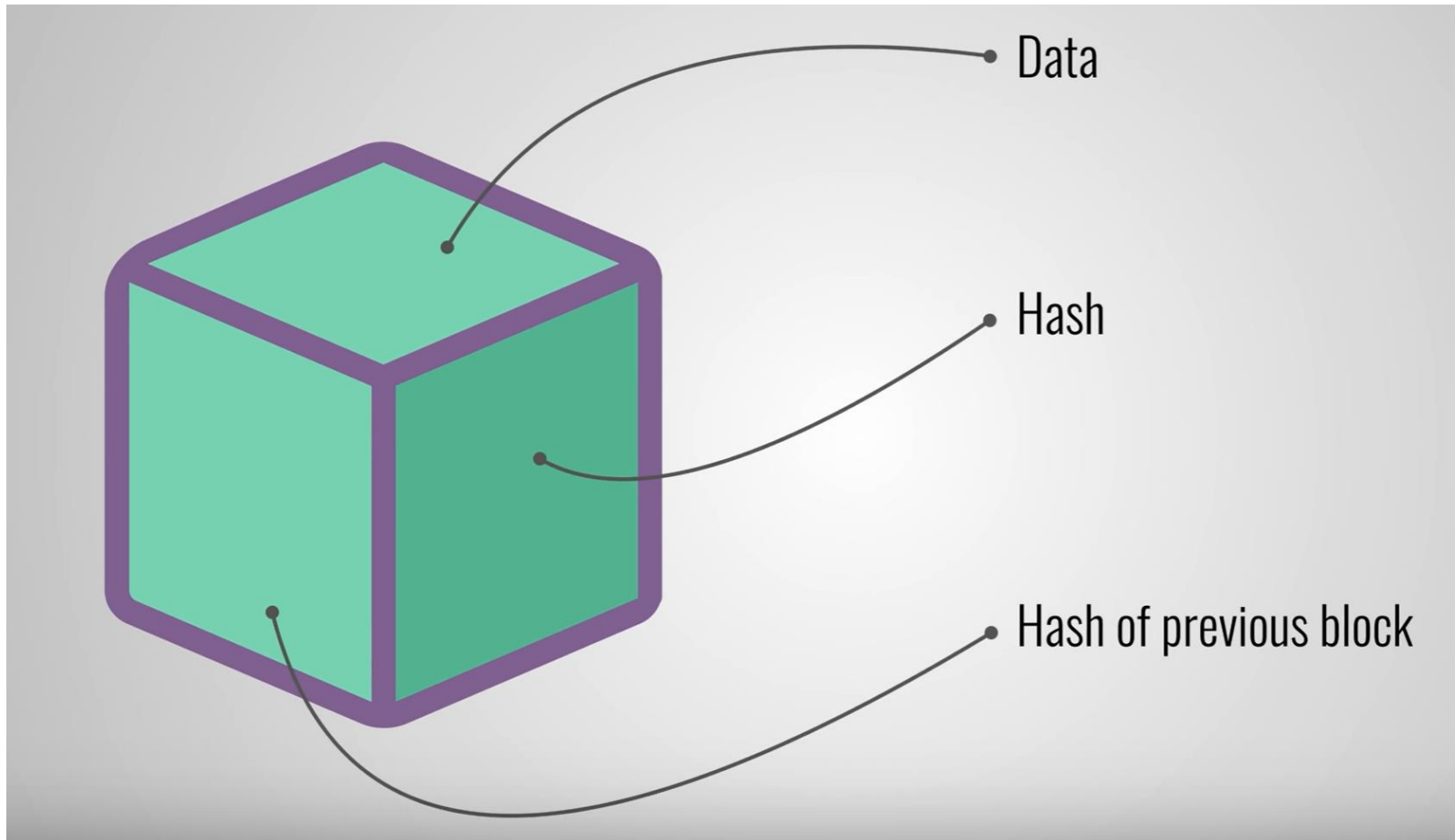
**Simply Explained - Savjee**  
158K subscribers

Source: Simply Explained – Savjee, Youtube  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSo\\_ElwHSd4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSo_ElwHSd4)



# Blockchain Definition

## Data Storage



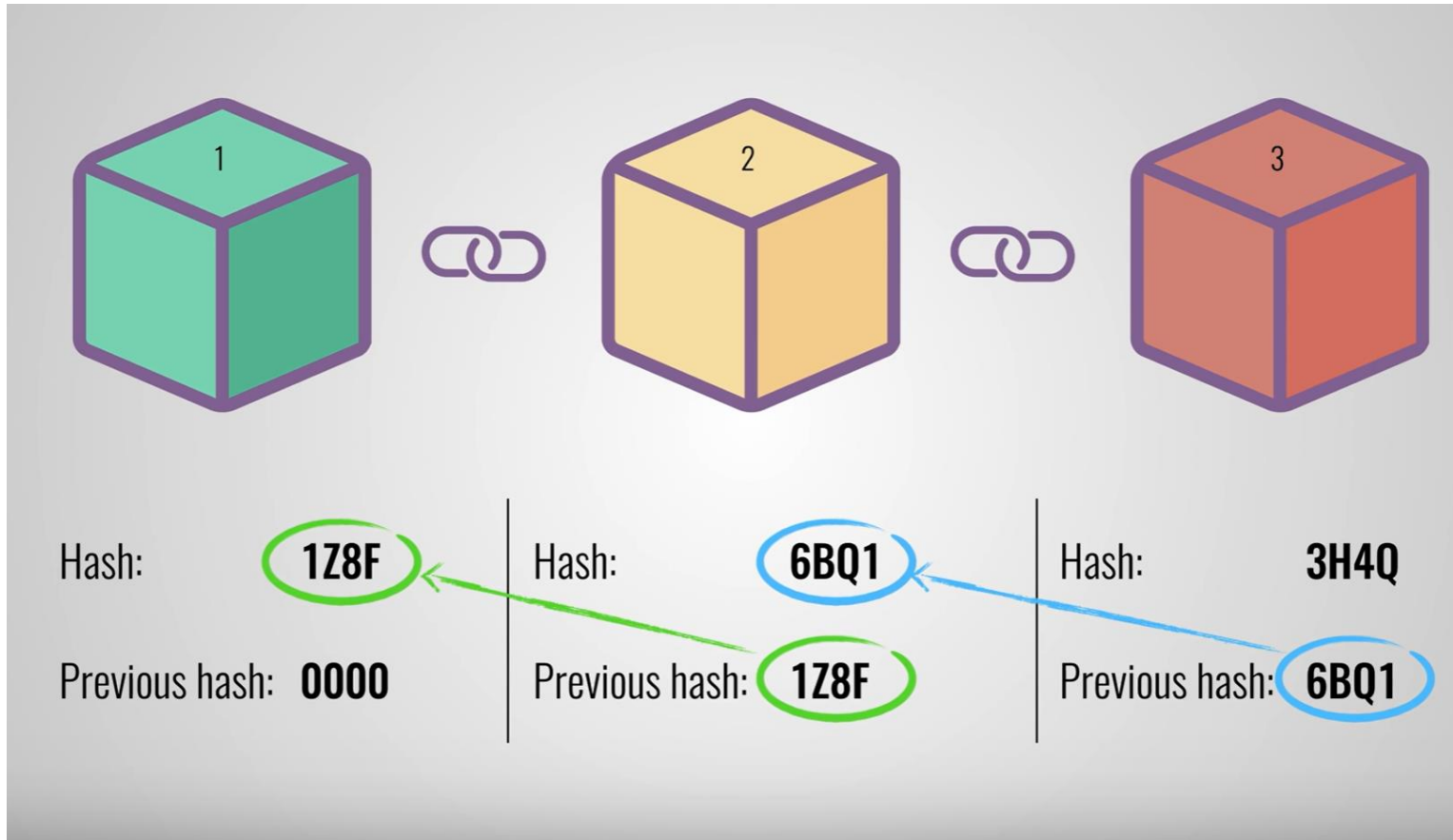
By:



**Simply Explained - Savjee**  
158K subscribers

# Blockchain Definition

Chain of Blocks



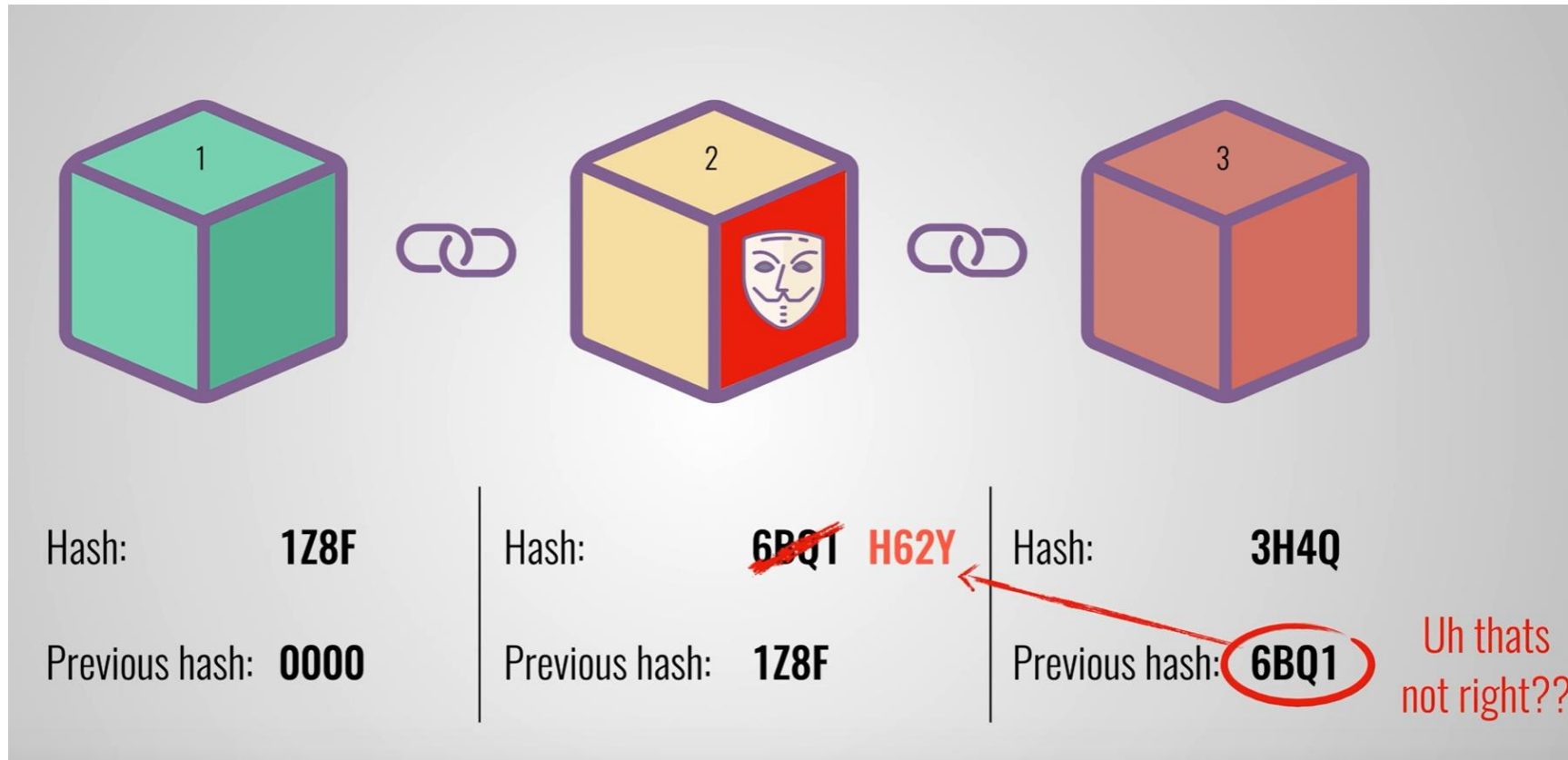
By:



**Simply Explained - Savjee**  
158K subscribers

# Blockchain Definition

Tamper-Resistant



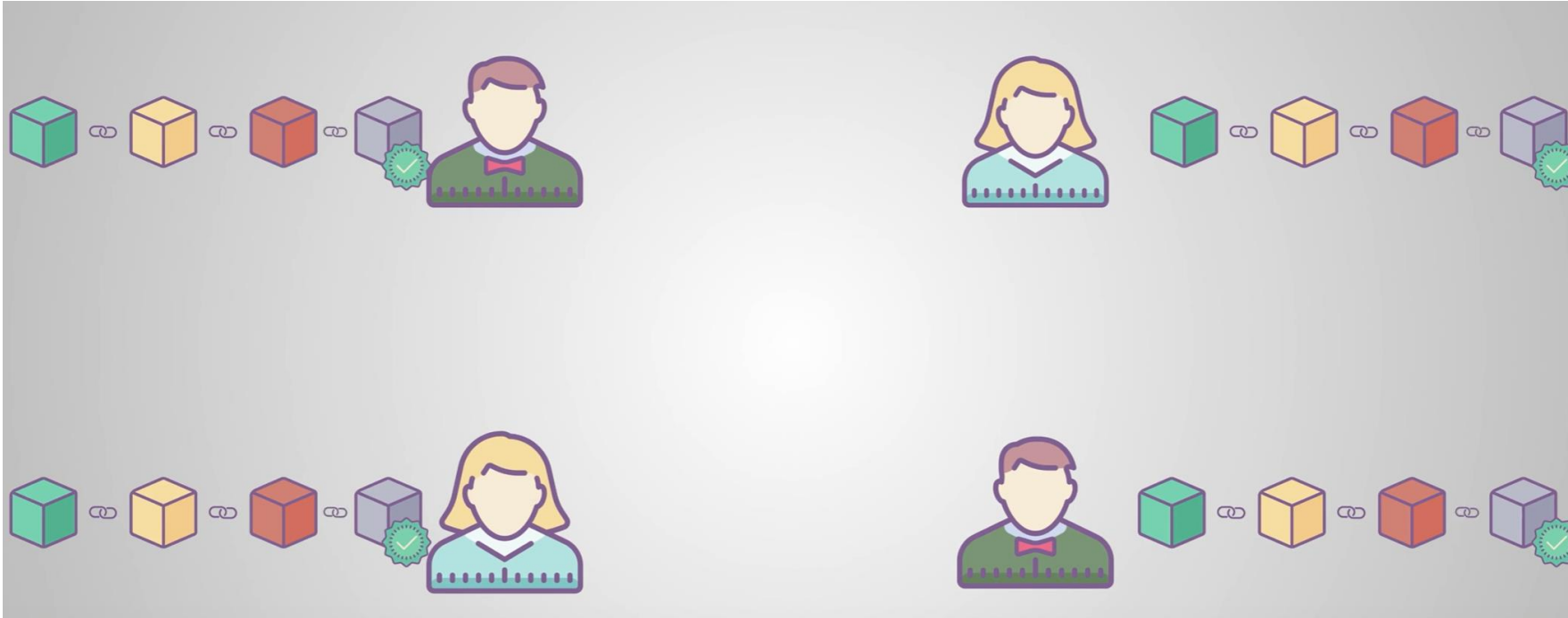
By:



Simply Explained - Savjee  
158K subscribers

# Blockchain Definition

Distributed/Decentralized

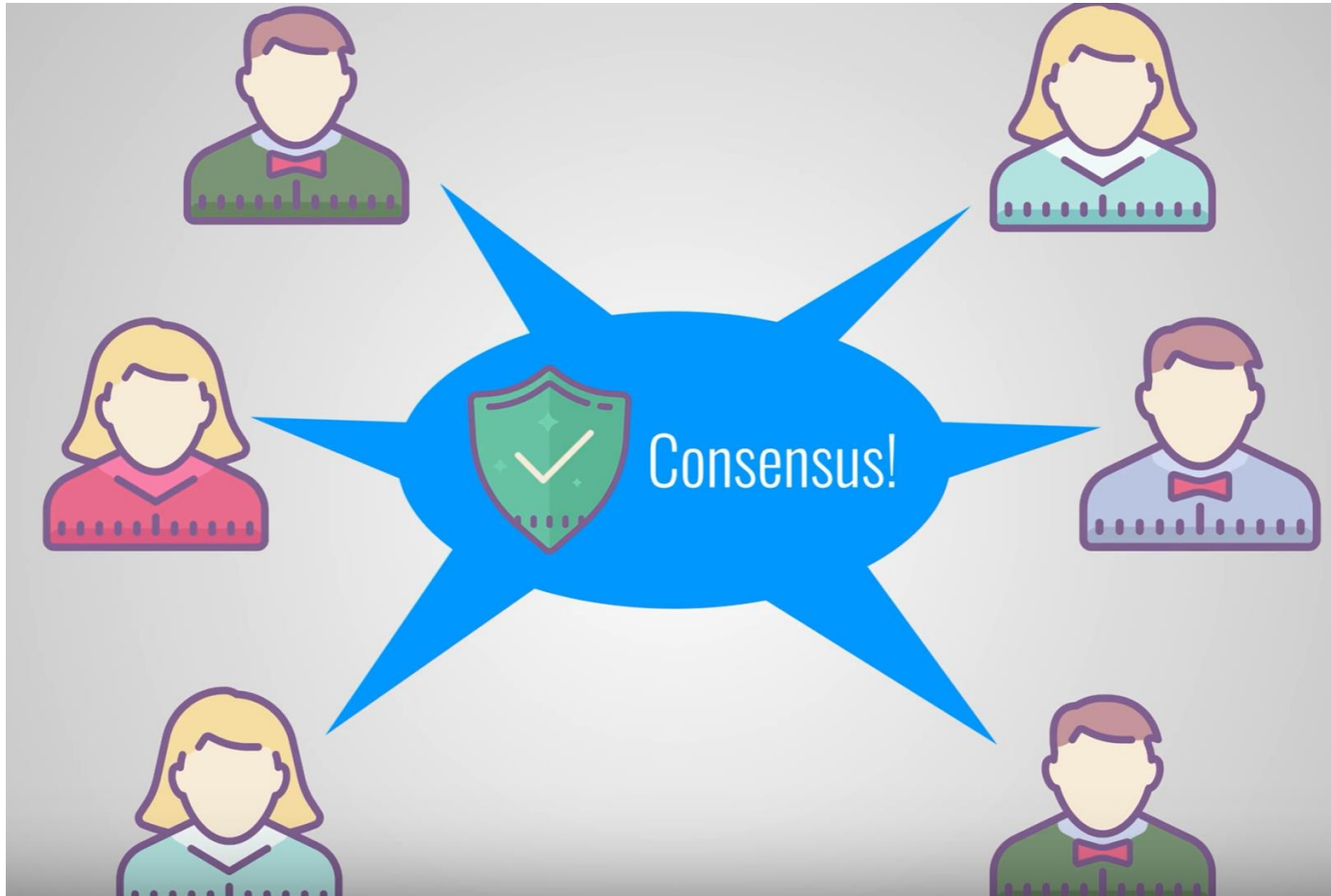


By:



**Simply Explained - Savjee**  
158K subscribers

# Blockchain Definition Consensus



By:



**Simply Explained - Savjee**  
158K subscribers

# Blockchain Definition

## Core Idea:

Blockchains == an immutable ledger of data without relying on a central authority



# Blockchain Definition

Additional Material:

- Blockchain Explained, Investopedia,  
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blockchain.asp>
- Understand the Blockchain in Two Minutes, YouTube,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r43LhSUUGTQ>
- 'Blockchain' is Meaningless, The Verge,  
<https://www.theverge.com/2018/3/7/17091766/blockchain-bitcoin-ethereum-cryptocurrency-meaning>
- A simple explanation of how blockchain works, Medium,  
<https://medium.com/the-mission/a-simple-explanation-on-how-blockchain-works-e52f75da6e9a>
- What is blockchain technology?, IBM,  
<https://www.ibm.com/blockchain/what-is-blockchain>



Questions?



# Blockchain Applications

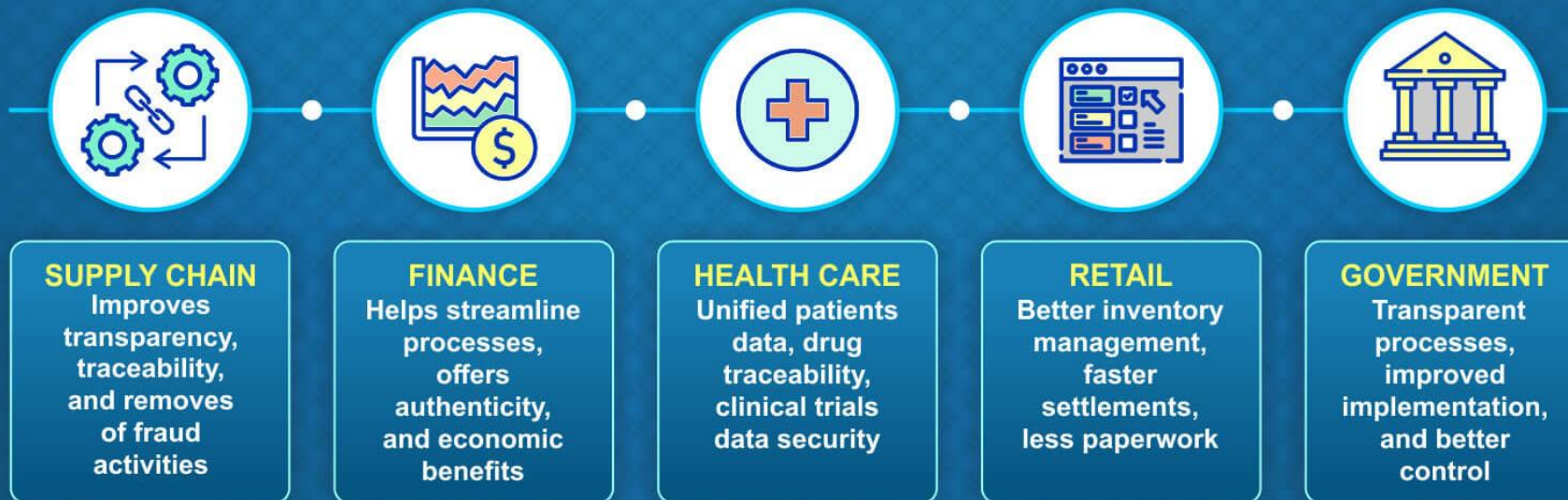
# Discussion

What are some applications of blockchain that you can think of?

## WHY BLOCKCHAIN IS IMPORTANT TO BUSINESS



## 5 VERTICALS THAT BLOCKCHAIN WILL IMPACT MOST

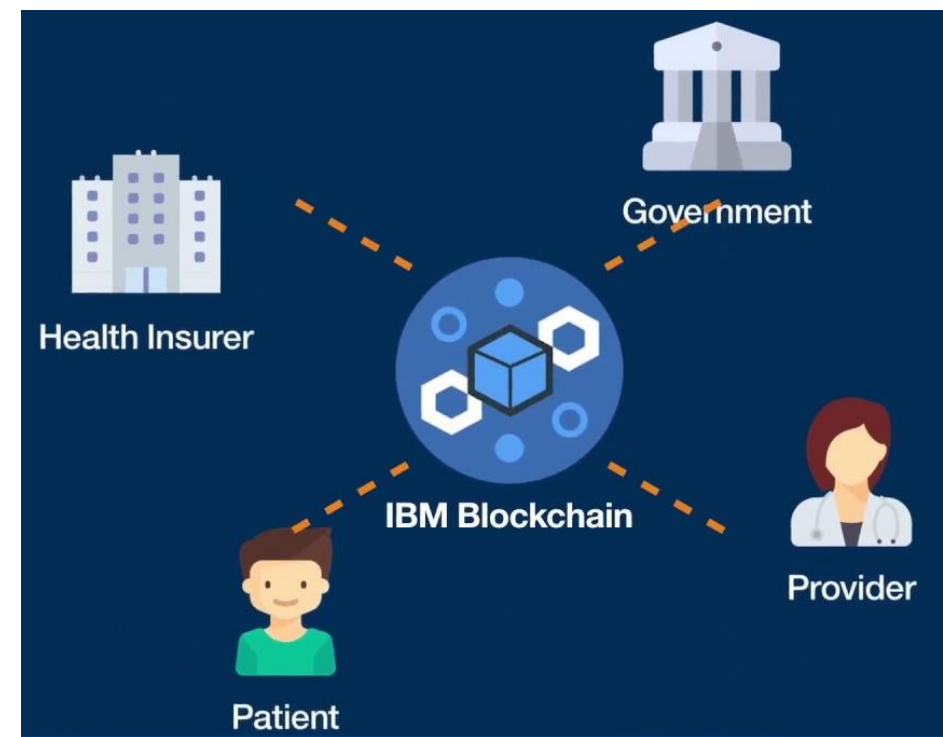


CREATED BY **101BLOCKCHAINS.COM**

# Blockchain Applications

## Potential Applications

- **Cryptocurrency**
  - Bitcoin
  - Ethereum
  - ...
- **Healthcare**
  - patients assign access rules for their medical data
  - same record for all parties
- **Government**
  - secure online voting system

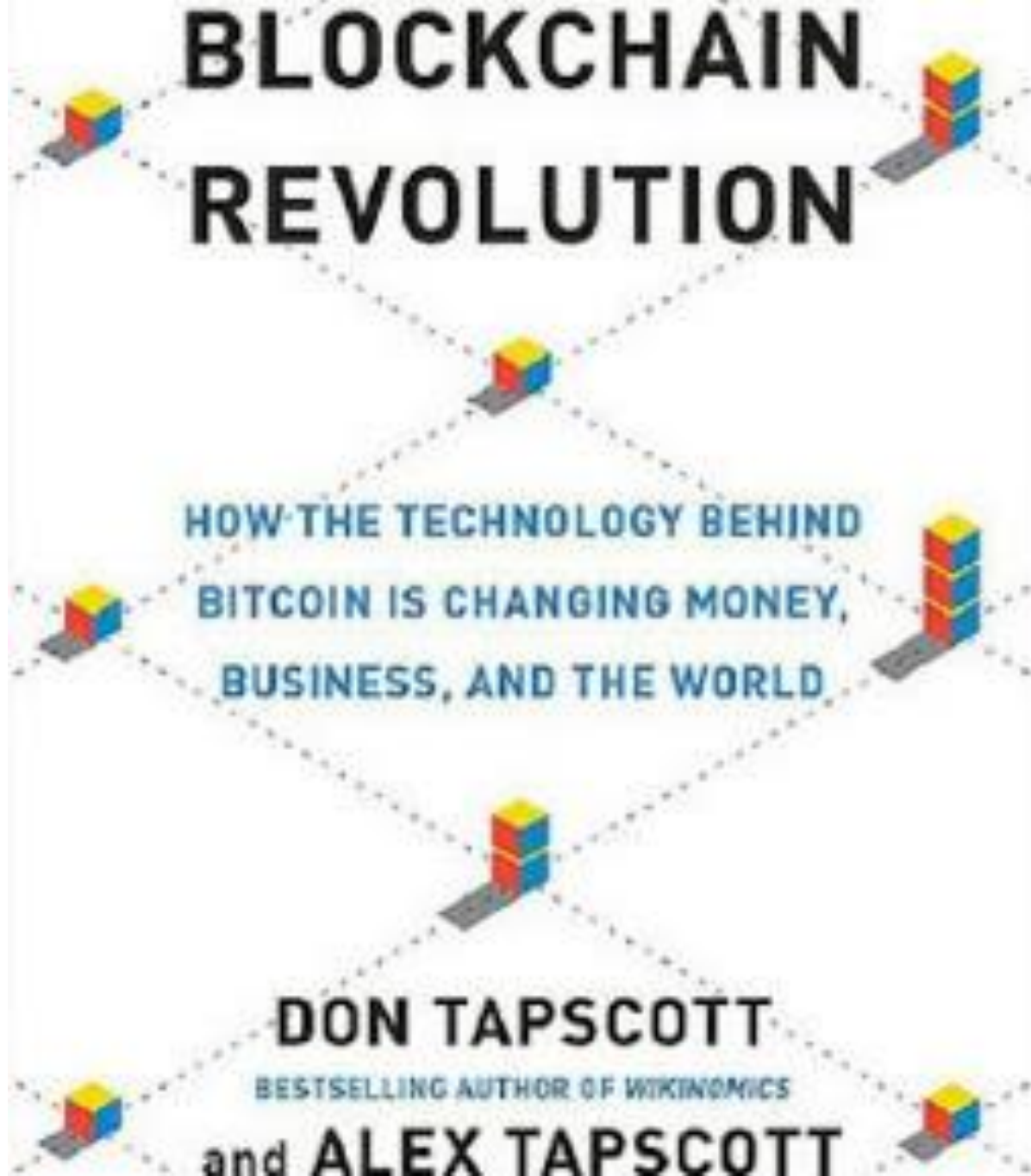




# Blockchain Applications

## Potential Applications

- **Music**
  - musicians to receive equitable royalty payments
- **Insurance**
  - improved transparency
- **Digital identification**
  - more secure management & storage of digital identities with tamper-proof infrastructure
- **Supply chain**
  - IBM Food Trust – used by Walmart to trace lettuce
- and more...



Source: <http://www.alextapscott.com/in-the-press/blockchain-revolution-excerpt-don-alex-tapscotts-upcoming-book/>



Questions?

# More Resources

- [Digital Gold](#) by Nathaniel Popper
- [Blockchain Revolution](#) by Alex & Don Tapscott
- [Blockchain at Berkeley](#) Fundamentals Decal by University of California, Berkeley
- [Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies](#) by Princeton University
- [Next: Blockchain](#) documentary by ox3production
- [Introduction to Blockchain](#) by codecademy



Introduction  
to  
Blockchain  
by  
Samuel Tang



Thank you for listening!  
See you in two weeks!

