Blockchain and Digital Currencies

Lecture 1

2019-09-02

Syllabus

- Class:
  - Lectures: Monday & Thursday 3:30 – 5:20 PM
  - Location: PHBS Building, Room 335
- Instructor: Haiyang Zheng
  - Email: hyzheng@phbs.pku.edu.cn
  - Phone: 86-755-2603-4026
  - Office: PHBS Building, Room 649
  - Office Hour: Tuesday 9-11 AM(tentative)
- TA:
  - TBA

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Course web site: https://github.com/hyzphbs/2019.M1.BlockChain

- Blockchain at Berkeley, 2018 Fall (**DeCal**)

- Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency Technologies (Princeton textbook) by Narayanan, Bonneau, Felten, Miller, and Goldfeder: (**BOOK**)

- Special thanks to Professor Jaehyuk Choi, who kindly provided the course materials that he used for his class!

- More reading materials will be posted on the course website.

- Guest lectures from industrial experts (9/16 and 9/26).

Grading

- Attendance: 20%
- Homework: 30%
- Exam (2019/10/24): 30%
- Project: 20%
- Grade in letters (e.g., A+, A-, … ,D+, D, F).
  - **(1) No more than 30% can receive A+, A and A minus;**
  - **(2) No more than 90% can receive B and above.**

Homework 0

- Create your Github repository (public) as www.github.com/YOUR_ID/PHBS_BlockChain_2019

- Recommend to use GitExtension https://sourceforge.net/projects/gitextensions/

- Upload homework file using markdown (.md) syntax see https://guides.github.com/features/mastering-markdown/

- Reading assignment: [Book 1.1-1.3]

Discussions

- Good and bad
  - Pseudonymous
  - Hyperinflation, …

- Replacing banks completely?
  - Credit and loans, risk management, investments, …

- Information sharing vs. information notarization
  - "The internet allows us to talk to each other efficiently, while the blockchain allows us to agree on what each of us said. " – from Youtube
  - Notary, BT, News stories, …

Thank you!

- Ready for the new technologies
- Keep an eye on it
- Know how it works
- Do not buy pizza