RGB: Private and scalable smart contracts for Bitcoin and Lightning Network



RGB history

- Originally proposed by Giacomo Zucco & Peter Todd in 2016
- Engineered and developed by Dr. Maxim Orlovsky
- Supported by Tether Inc/Bitfinex, Pandora Core AG & other sponsors in early 2019
- Pandora Core AG is the leading technological force behind the development
- Governed by non-profit LNP/BP Standards Association, Switzerland

RGB and beyond

- RGB: non-blockchain (but client-side-validated) smart contracts
 - Much more _privacy_ (even more than blockchain-based ZK)
 - Much more _scalability_ (works over P2P non-consensus networks like lightning)
 - Much more _safe_ programmability due to separation of concerns
 - Much more _ownership_ instead of "governance"
- Pure cypherpunk stuff
 - Created by coders & scientists
 - No token!
 - 100% non-profit, open-source, but still anarcho-capitalistic (strong ownership focus)
 - Developed & maintained by Swiss LNP/BP Association (non-profit), which we plan to grow into something alike Linux Foundation & IETF in the future for LNP/BP stack
 - "John Galt's" solution to the world problems

What is RGB?

Client-validated state, bearer rights and smart contract system working at Layer 2/3 in Bitcoin and Lightning Network.

- Works with Lightning Network
- No on-chain usage nor trackable footprint: client-validated paradigm
- Scales independently from blockchain
- Zero-knowledge & privacy built on best research-based products
 - Mimblewhimble: Bulletproofs by Andrew Poelstra
 - Liquid: Confidential Assets by Blockstream

Smart contract is

- A pre-arranged agreement
- of trade (i.e. mutual voluntary exchange of goods)
- automatically executed under certain conditions, where "automatic" means
 - * anonymous: no KYC is done
 - * trustless: no need to do KYC to protect from the failure to execute contract

Smart contract components

- Agreement: the code
- Goods: digital assets
- Conditions: contract parties or external actors able to call some code

Ownership & access: core properties

- Ownership: digital assets must be owned by a well-defined party
- Access: only well-defined parties should be able to call the contract execution

Pure blockchain/layer 1 approach is wrong:

- Mixing code, ownership and access rights into a single layer ("blockchain")
- which is inherently *unscalable* and well-trackable (*anti-privacy*) since VERIFICATION is needed by the whole world
- With Turing-complete code operating at the same level,
 compromising security
- Running non-censorship-resistant consensus algorithms (PoS, PoW forks with small hashing power)

Challenges with digital assets today

Low scalability

- limited by blockchains, which are inherently unscalable
- no layer 2 assets

Poor privacy

- Everyone in the world sees the transactions
- Zero-knowledge is nearly absent for the assets even if it is present in blockchain (Monero, Grin, Beam, ...)

Challenges with digital assets today

• Inefficient smart contracts

- Asset ownership is mixed with contract business logic
- Pseudo-decentralized (governance problem)
- Not formally verified languages (security problem)

RGB was created to solve these issues

RGB is:

- "Sharding made right"
- "DAG made right"
- "Digital assets made right"
- "Smart contracts made right"
- "Confidentiality made right"

What is possible to do with RGB?

- Fungible assets & securities
 - Centrally or federation-issued
 - Issued anonymously or publicly
 - With possible secondary issuance, demurrage, inflation,
- Different forms of bearer rights
- Non-fungible assets (collectibles, game skins, art tokenization)
- Decentralized digital identity & roaming profiles
- Complex accounting systems & utility tokens

And it's all:

- Scalable
- Confidential
- Working over Lighting Network
- With DEX functionality
- Operating as a bearer instrument

Examples of RGB Smart Contracts

- Each asset (fungible or non-fungible) issued by somebody is a separate smart contract
- Each root identity (like "master identity key") is a separate smart contract
- Each case of provable audit log on RGB (like a patient's medical history at a hospital) is a separate smart contract

RGB Smart Contract consists of

- Single smart contract Genesis node
 - Created by issuer
 - Committing to Schema
 - No commitments in bitcoin transaction graph
- Branching tree of State transition nodes
 - Created by owners during state ownership transfers
 - Always committed into transaction graph
 - Linked to each other (up to genesis) with single-use-seals
- Simplicity scripts, taken from Schema, Genesis and direct upstream line of transitions
 - Extend each other according to parent node rules

 (i.e. Genesis can add scripts only when allowed by Schema, state transition only when allowed by Schema AND Genesis AND all previous state transitions)

Schema

- Shared by many contracts, i.e. sort of a "contract type"
- Defines rules for client-side validation of smart contract nodes (i.e. genesis and state transition) at both per-node level and as an upstream DAG
- Wallets, exchanges, payment providers etc integrate RGB schemata, not particular smart contracts (for instance, they integrate Fungible Assets Schemas, not USDT or particular asset)
- Immutable for eternity by social consensus
- Not committed to bitcoin blockchain (b/c no reason to do so)
- Smart contract is created under certain schema when it includes a hash of the corresponding schema data+structure+scripts

Initial list of Schemas

- Can be vendor-defined
- To have a broad support by software, most common must be standardized

Subject	Schema name	LNP/BP Standard	Analog to
Fungible assets	RGB-20	LNPBP-20	ERC-20
Collectibles	RGB-21	LNPBP-21	ERC-721
Reputation/indentity	RGB-22	LNPBP-22	n/a
Audit log	RGB-23	LNPBP-23	n/a

Smart contracts

	"Ethereum-style"	RGB	
• Parties of the agreement	loosely defined	issuer and current owners	
• Agreement:	Bockchain-stored contract + ABI file	Client-stored contract genesis + state transitions	
- Current state	<pre>blockchain-stored data: * publicly visible * non-confidential * non scalable * no 2nd layer support</pre>	<pre>client-stored data: * no chain analysis * confidential * scalable * 2nd layer support</pre>	
- State change rules	custom EVM code	schema & simplicity script	
- Ownership rights	Custom Evn Code	bitcoin script	
• Mutability	Pseudo-immutable: immutable in promice, censored my miners & creators in fact	Well-defined mutability rights at genesis & schema level by issuer Mutable by new owners within the scope of rules	

Problem 1: Blockchain does not scale

Problem 2: Blockchain is transparent

1. There always must be an owner

- Smart contract state is not a "public good" (Ethereum/"blockchain" approach); it must always have a well-defined ownership (private, multisig...).
- RGB defines ownership by binding/assigning state to Bitcoin transaction outputs with single-use seals: whoever controls the output owns the associated state
- I.e. RGB leverages Bitcoin script security model and all its technologies (Schnorr/Taproot etc).

2. State ownership != state validation

- Ownership defines WHO can change the state
- Validation rules (client-side validation) define HOW it may change

2. State ownership != state validation

- Ownership controlled by Bitcoin script, at Bitcoin blockchain level (non-Turing complete)
- Validation rules controlled by RGB Schema with Simplicity script (Turing-complete)

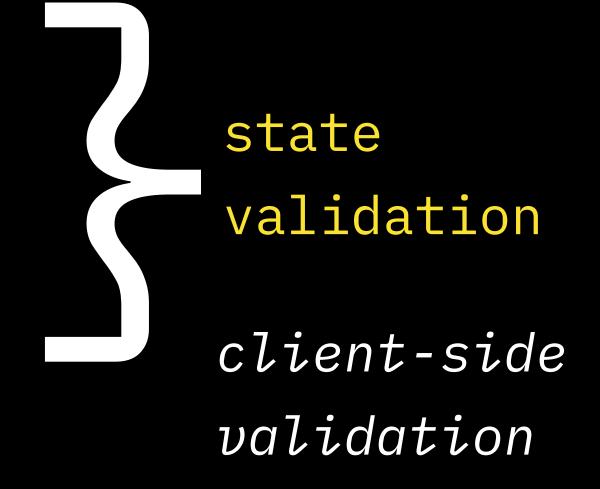
This allows to avoid mistake done by "blockchain smart contracts" (Ethereum/EOS/Polkadot etc): mixing of layers & Turing completeness into non-scalable blockchain layer

Also it makes possible for smart contracts to operate on top of Layer 2 solutions (Lightning Network)

RGB Smart Contracts:

- Bitcoin script: bare, hashed and Taproot
 - Multisigs, state channels, swaps...
- Scriptless scripts: private, less footprint
- RGB
 - Using schema & simplicity language
 - No blockchain footprint
 - Confidential
 - Nearly fully Turing-complete





Thus, RGB smart contract is:

- Distributed system
- Where nobody has the complete view of the current state
- But it is still globally consistent (has consensus) because of:
 - Single-use seals based on bitcoin PoW (with possible LN as an intermediary)
 - Social consensus on the same client-side validation rules (Schema)
- Only owners has access to their owned state + a slice of state history DAG directly related to the owned state

Rights management under RGB smart contract

• RGB rights:

Smart-contract defined types of actions, which can be taken only by a party owning some part of the smart contract state.

- Ownership of the assets
- Ownership of the identity
- Right to inflate asset supply
- Right to create child identities
- Right to prune/prune assets

_ ...

Rights management under RGB smart contract

- Types of allowed rights are **defined** at Schema.

 They named state types

 (b/c each right must have some current state/value, even if this is an "empty value")
- Initial rights are assigned by the contract issuer in Genesis
- Rights can be transferred (together with the new state value) to new owners with state transitions
- Rights (state) ownership is controlled with bitcoin scripts via single-use-seal mechanism
- Who will be the next owner for particular right is always defined by the party that currently have that right (i.e. state owner)
- Client-side validation: rights transfers MUST be always validated backwards by the new owners according to validation rules.

Right transfer/state transition validation rules

- Defined by Schema using two main instruments:
 - Schema structure (how rights can be decided among descendants)
 - Simplicity scripts (how the state of some rights may evolve).

 For instance, for assets script requires that a sum of outputs must be equal to a sum of outputs.
- Can be further **restricted** (and not extended) at the level of **genesis** and each state transitions
- Validated by new owners backwards up to the genesis within a particular subgraph
- Violation of the rights in one smart contract ownership branch does not affects smart contract integrity in other branch

Security measures

- Each right (i.e. state) does not have a direct access to the information on the state under other rights
- If required, rights can have a "shared state" using metadata; Schema and Genesis explicitly defines whether this is allowed
- State can be "hidden" (made confidential) with zero knowledge; which state MUST be hidden is defined by the Schema

Schema defines

- Types of metadata and their value restrictions (like max length for strings; max value for integers etc)
- Types of rights (i.e. state) and their value restrictions
- How rights transfers (state transitions) can be organized:
 - which metadata they must provide
 - which rights can be (or must be) transferred jointly
 - history validation rules for each of the rights, defined using Simplicity (like "sum of outputs must be equal to the sum of inputs)
- How these rules can be further limited or extended at the level of genesis and individual state transitions

Main components of RGB

- 1. Commitments in transactions, proving unique history
 - private
 - zero storage cost
 - work both with blockchain (layer 1) and Lightning Network (layer 2)
 - meaning extreme scalability
- 2. Off-chain data & code held by asset/contract owner
 - zero blockchain storage cost
 - assets are linked to transaction outputs, which define their ownership & prevent double-spending (single-use seals)
 - off-chain smart contract code defines asset evolution

RGB schema is not a script, but is a data structure

may (or may not) contain script extensions (for dynamic part of the validation)

RGB Schema: Contractum Language

github.com/rgb-org/contractum-lang

- Just a convenient way of defining new schema requiring no rust coding knowledge
- Impossible to define invalid/internally inconsistent schema
- Not a script language!
 This is data definition language, like
 HTML, XML, YAML etc
- May contain scripts for dynamic validation (once VM for RGB will be completed)

```
final contract RGB20 implements FungibleAsset {
         field ticker: str
         field name: str
         field contractText: str?
10
         field issuedSupply: value
11
         field precision: uint8
12
         field created: timestamp
13
14
15
         assigns inflationRight: value∗
         assigns assetsOwnership: value+ {
16
            validate() {
17
                 diff = parent[..].sum() - self[..].sum()
18
                 if diff != 0 {
19
                     error(failures.FungibleAsset.Inflation(diff))
20
21
22
23
         assigns renominationRight: decl?
24
         assigns burnEpochOpening: decl?
25
26
         fn validateSupply() {
27
             if self.issuedSupply != self.assetsOwnership[..].sum() {
28
                 error(failures.FungibleAsset.IncorrectIssue())
29
30
31
32
        validate() {
33
            validateSupply()
35
36
         transition AssetTransfer fulfills assetsOwnership+ {
37
             assigns assetsOwnership: value+
38
39
```

Which VM to use for RGB?

• do something custom?

• Simplicity: - not VM :(- not ready :(- no toolchain for devs :(- way too complex to understand how to program • WASM: (and actually the same applies to LLVM, JVM, CLR + they have even more negative sides) - requires a lot of customization for blockchain/client-side-validation applications - the only version is from Parity Labs, doing Polkadot, infamous with creating contracts multiple times hacked • IELE or kEVM: - EVM on drugs :(- a lot of custom unneeded functionality for non-bitcoin type of cryptocurrency

AluVM - from "arithmetic logic unit"

github.com/internet2-org/aluvm-spec

- Purely functional & arithmetical: each operation is an arithmetic function
- No external state; converts set of inputs into false/true validation result
- Extremely robust & deterministic: no exceptions are possible
 - no stack (register-based VM)
 - no random memory access
 - no I/O, memory allocations
- If it compiles, it will always run successfully
- Easy to be implemented in hardware, like in FPGAs

RGB vs existing alternatives

RGB compared to Liquid Confidential Assets:

- Works with Lightning Network
- Replaces Large Borromean signatures range proofs with modern Bulletproofs
- No blockchain space consumption!
- Universal smart contract system
- Works on Bitcoin mainnet, does not require federation

RGB compared to OMNI/Colored coins/ Counterparty:

- No blockchain consumption
- Much higher privacy
- Works with LN without its modifications

RGB compared to Ethereum/EOS/other "corporate blockchains":

- RGB is NOT a blockchain!
- Works on and with Bitcoin: the only censorship-resistant unconfiscatable hard money

Omni BOLT compared to RGB LN:

- Breaks BOLT message compatibility
- Breaks BOLT tx structure compatibility
- No backports from LND
- No TLV extensions
- Requires separate nodes for OMNI Bolt and Bitcoin LN
- Requires Omni Core backend, can't work with just Bitcoin Core

RGB & other Bitcoin tech

- Interoperable with Liquid
- Does not require changes to LN layer
- Leverages Taproot & Schnorr on the base layer
- Unified invoicing for RGB, Bitcoin and LN
- Can work with existing node implementations, but also has Rust-implementations (BP Node, LNP Node, RGB Node)

What does RGB have now?

• https://www.rgbfaq.com/community/getting-familiar-with-rgb

RGB and beyond

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 - Much more _privacy_ (even more than blockchain-based ZK)
 - Much more _scalability_ (works over P2P non-consensus networks like lightning)
 - Much more _safe_ programmability due to separation of concerns
 - Much more _ownership_ instead of "governance"
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 - No token!
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 - "John Galt's" solution to the world problems

RGB vs Ethereum recap

	"Ethereum-style"	RGB
• Parties of the agreement	loosely defined	issuer and current owners, good role distinction
• Agreement:	Bockchain-stored contract + who-knows-who-keeps ABI file	Client-stored data only
- Current state	blockchain-stored data: ★ publicly visible ★ non-confidential ★ non scalable ★ no 2nd layer support	<pre>client-stored data: * no chain analysis * confidential * scalable * 2nd layer support</pre>
- State change rules	custom EVM code	schema & simplicity script
- Ownership rights		bitcoin script
• Mutability	Pseudo-immutable: immutable in promise, de facto censored my miners, Vitalik® & contract creators	Well-defined mutability rights at genesis & schema level by issuer Mutable by new owners within the scope of rules

RGB vs Ethereum in simple words

Ethereum

is a mess:

- needless token (why do we need ETH?)
- no clear ownership rights at any level
- governance worse than with a government
- all layers mixed together
 - bugs & hacks
 - unscalable
 - low privacy
- constant hard forks
- contract can contain backdoors

RGB

quite the opposite:

- no token
- bitcoin-level safety guarantees of ownership
- scalable over layer 2 and 3 solutions (LN, DEX, smart contracts on top of RGB)
- extreme confidentiality
- clear ownership rights & mutability due to client-side-validation
 - no miners involved
 - issuers lose control the moment they create a contract
 - owners are always in control and know all terms & conditions upfront; no backdoors are possible

"Multi-blockchain world" criticism

- Only a single blockchain should serve censorship resistance needs;
 other blockchains are not needed since they are either
 non-confidential or unscalable and insecure
- All data must be kept by data owners (client-side-validation); they may pay for delegating that, but not in "communistic way" (like with blockchains)
- What we need is isolated contracts (like with RGB), interoperable with each other via layer 2 & 3 (LN)
 instead of connected "internet of blockchains"
 - THE COMMON CONTROL OF STOCKONATION
- True proof of stake is a stake you can lose for breaking RGB contract in a multipeer LN channel and not public & censorable blockchain shit tokens

RGB mission

- Much more _privacy_ (even more than blockchain-based ZK)
- Much more _scalability_
 (it works over P2P non-consensus networks like lightning)
- Much more _safe_ programmability due to separation of concerns
- Much more _ownership_ instead of "governance"

What will drive RGB adoption?

• Scalability

Governments like blockchains because they can control validators and do chain analysis (even more with new "ZK"-blockchains)

Enterprise follows the government because it's scared of its enforcement power, so enterprise/corporates comply/cooperate (like they did even with Nazis)

BUT: how the fuck they are going to scale with that shit? Blockchains, fortunately for us, do not scale!

So, our chance is: before the governments will understand what the new shift of paradigm on client-side-validation coming from cypherpunks is about (and previously this took years for bitcoin), normal companies will have a window to start using RGB because ... they need digital scalability!

Building adoption

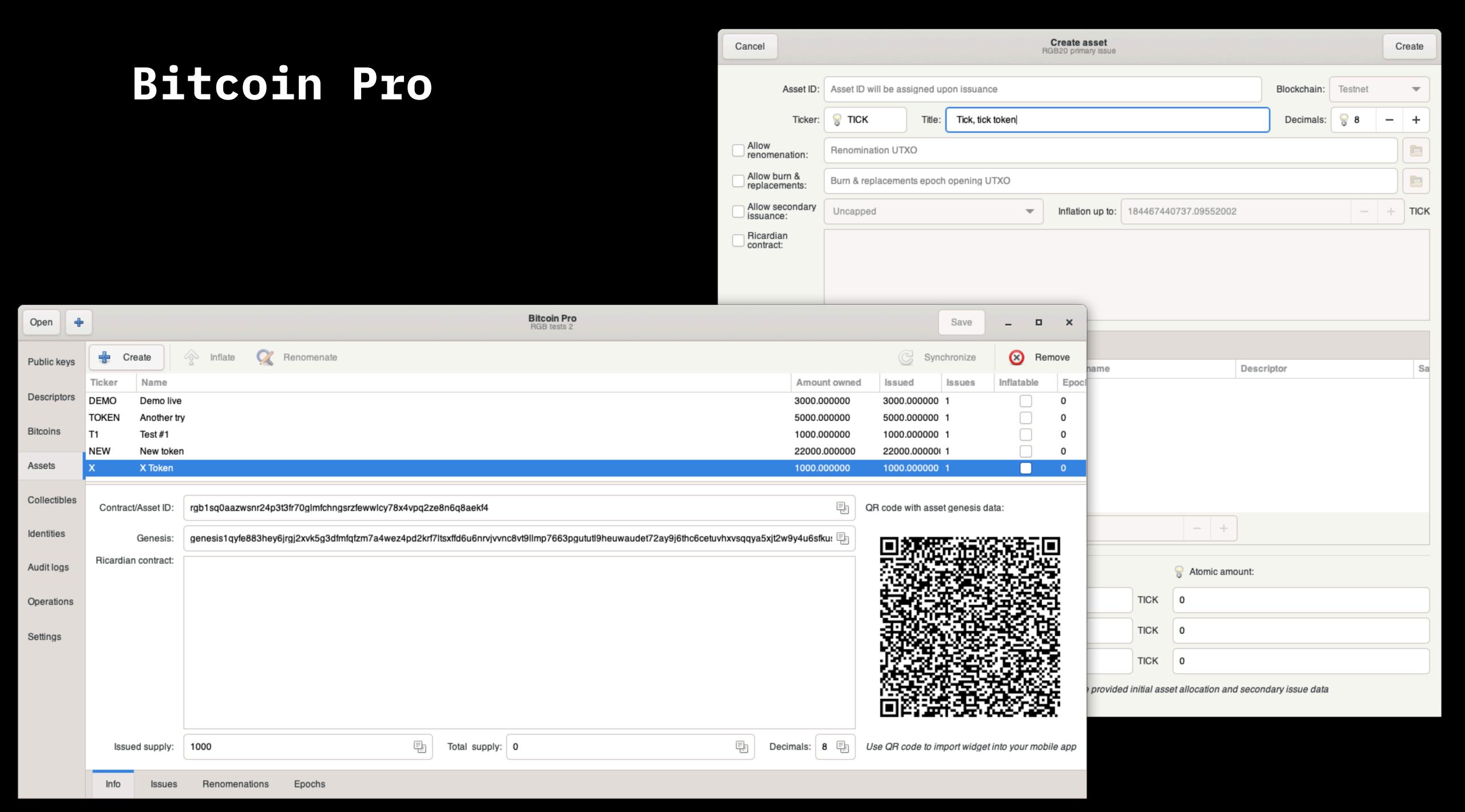
- User- and dev-facing tools are critical!
- Tools may be for-profit/commercial, since we need to provide support for businesses. Finally, we are anarcho-capitalists, not socialists!
- Open-source and "free to use if self-supported, paid for professional support" set of tools is required for real adoption
- Devs of the original protocol are able to deliver initial toolset to the market since they understand all possibilities of the new protocols
- Pandora Core AG run by RGB devs gives initial set of tools for devs & users matching those criteria

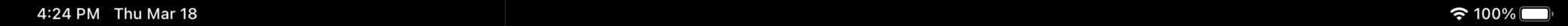
Build on LNP/BP Association tools

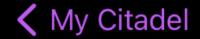
- These tools are just integration of & UI on top of LNP/BP tools, simplifying life for users & devs:
 - Client-side-validation and LNP/BP Core Libraries
 - RGB Core library & Node
 - LNP Core library & Node
 - Descriptor wallet library
- You can DIY your tools, even commercial
- Even more: you can use Pandora Core tools for free to start using RGB tomorrow!

What are these tools?

- Bitcoin Pro: MIT-licensed tool for professional asset issuers (and even non-RGB professional bitcoiners)
 GTK+-based, all desktop platforms, pure Rust
- Citadel SDK: MIT-licensed SDK for wallet devs to get RGB & LN running spending just a week on integration
- MyCitadel suite of products: wallet apps, appliances, private cloud
- ...one more thing which we will uncover today
- …even more LN & DEX-related things to come by the end of the year













Default

X Token
1,000.00000 X
Unknown

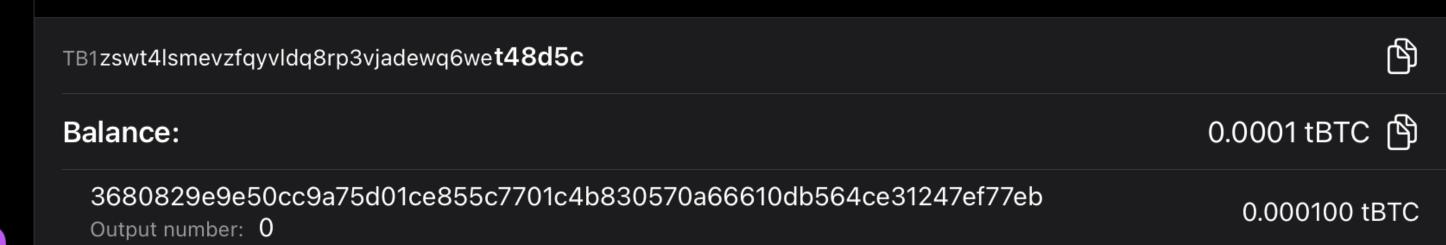
Bitcoin (testnet)
0.000100 tBTC

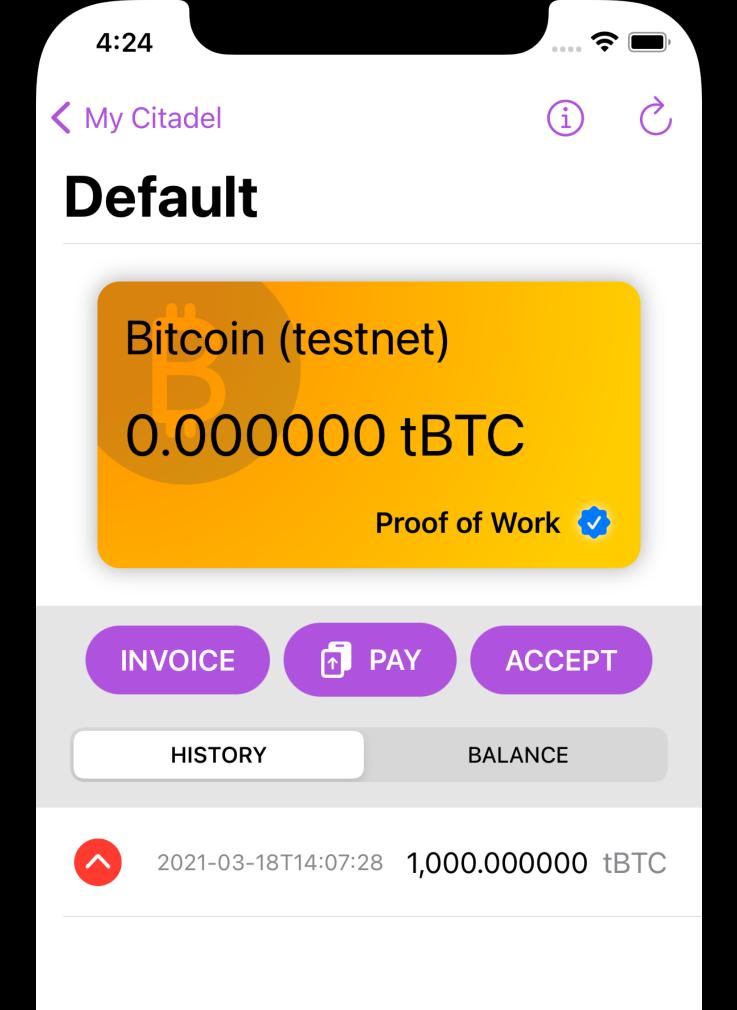
Proof of Work

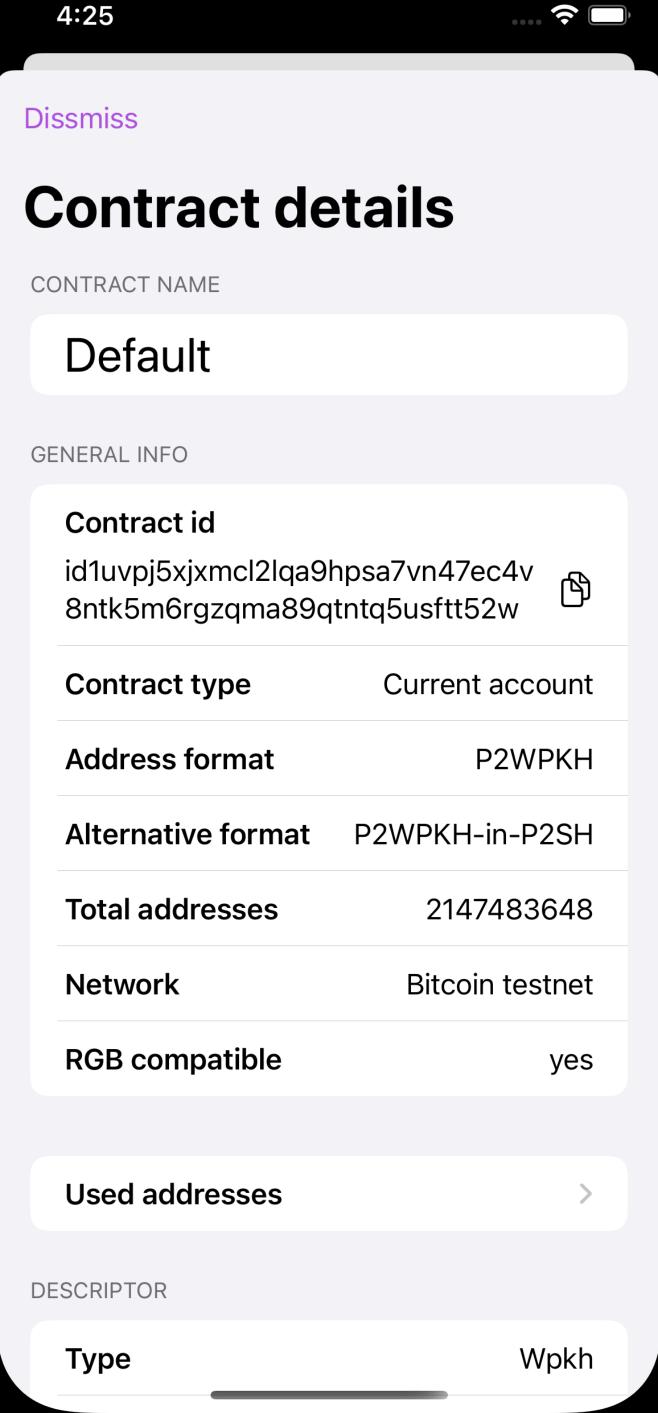


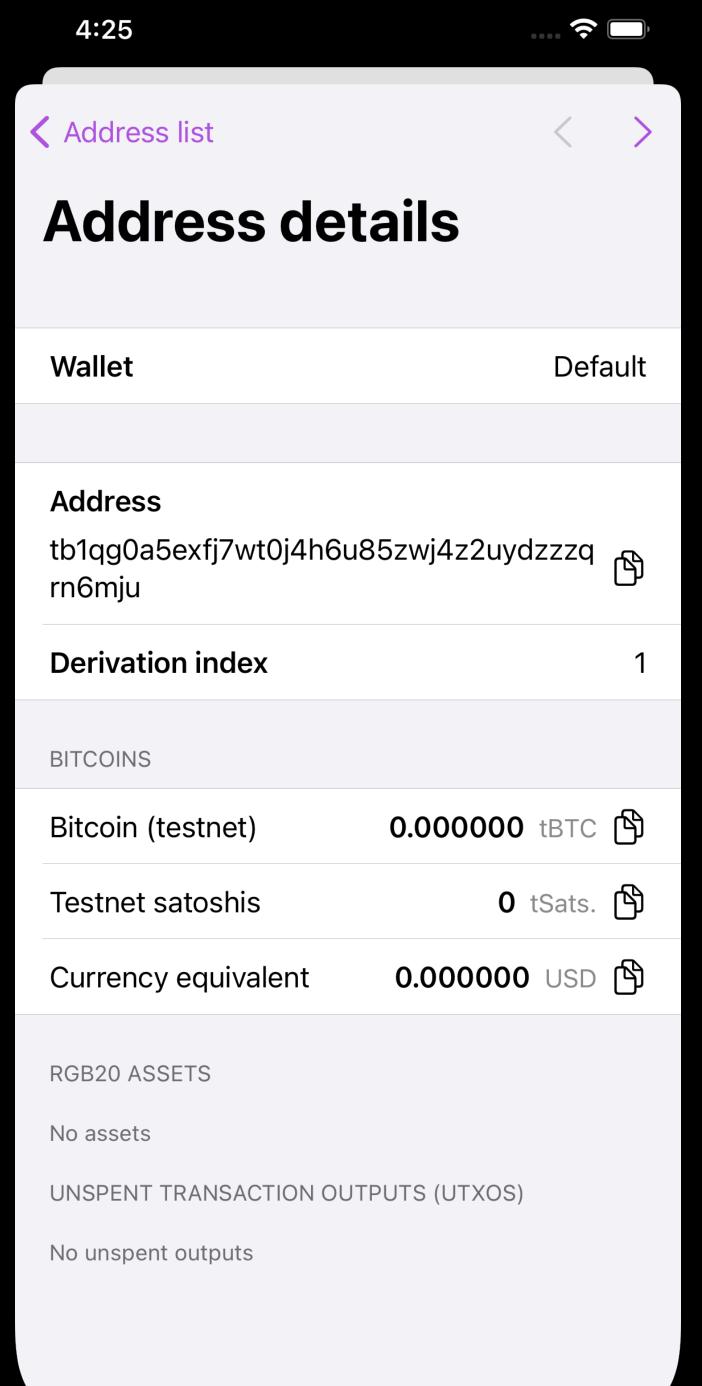
Balance

ADDRESS







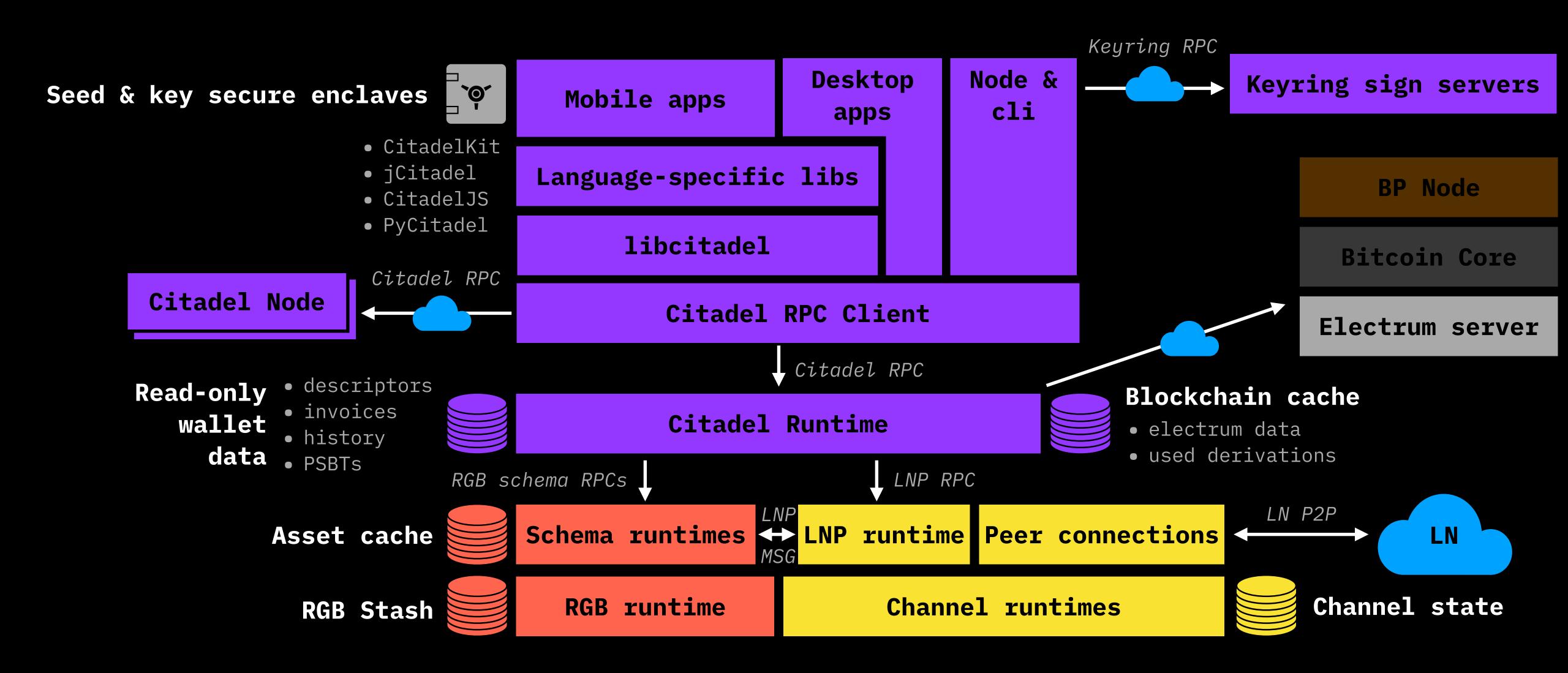


Citadel SDK

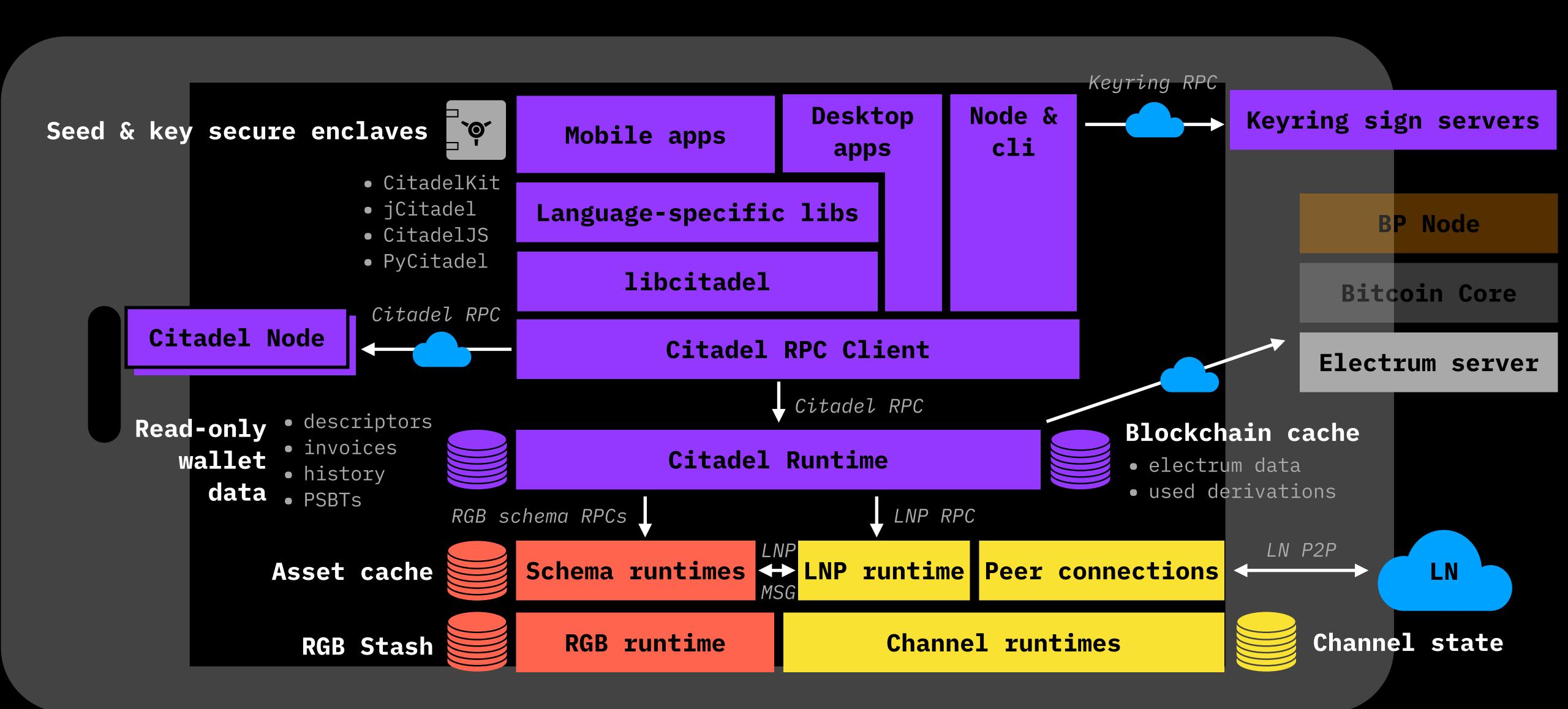
- Single point of integration for all cool stuff (RGB, LN, Taproot, miniscript, multisigs & descriptors; DLC & DEX in the future ...)
- Simple API hiding complexity of RGB and LN nodes management, Electrum integration & and wallet data storage (call just one method for RGB or LN payment with an invoice)
- Native libraries with OOP API for:

 Apple platforms, Android & JavaWIP, NodeJSWIP, PythonWIP
- MIT-licensed with tech support & integration services by Pandora Core AG
- Can be used in personal/enterprise setups with shared wallets
 (across devices or company employees) using
 self-hosted MyCitadel Box or private cloud-hosted MyCitadel Node by Pandora Core AG
 with revenue sharing for wallet development companies

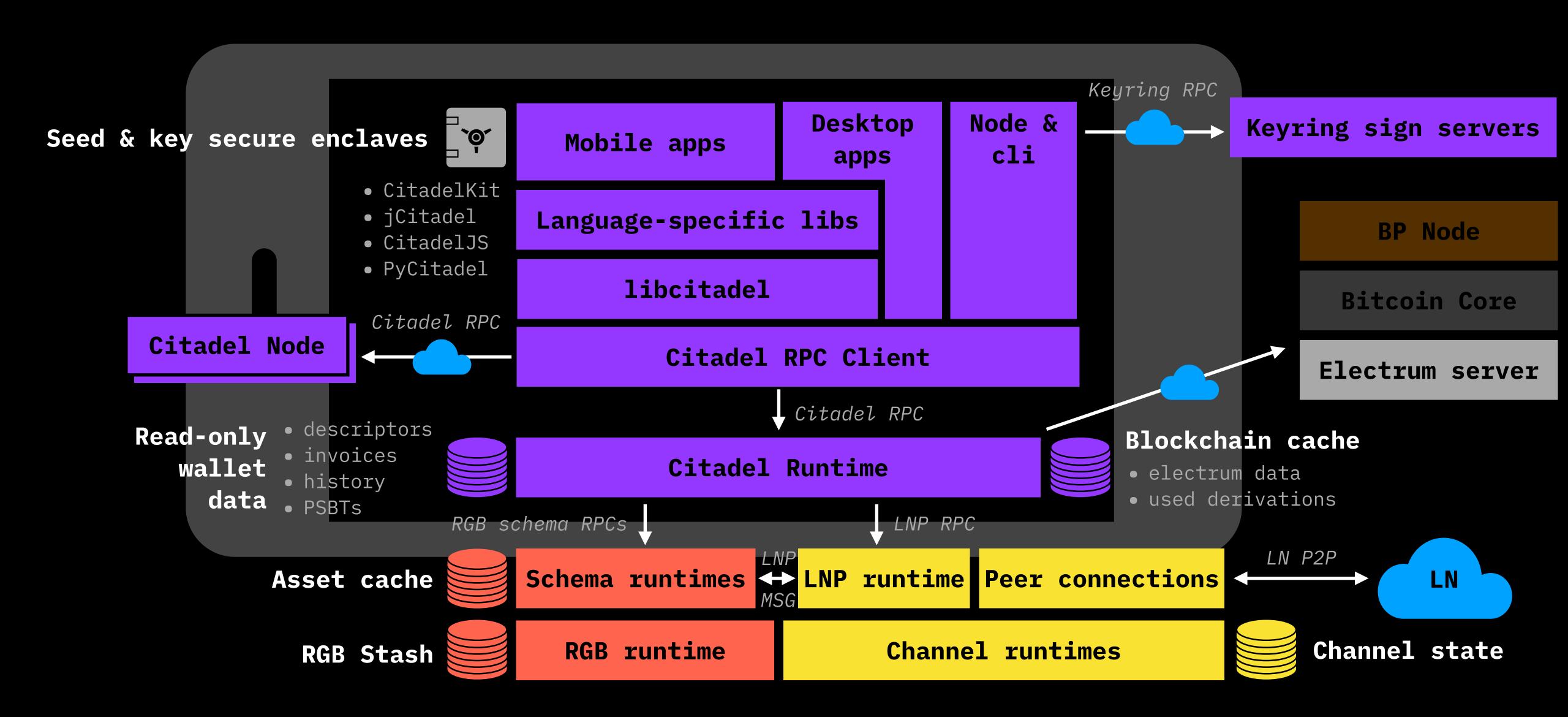
Wallet architecture (based on Citadel SDK)



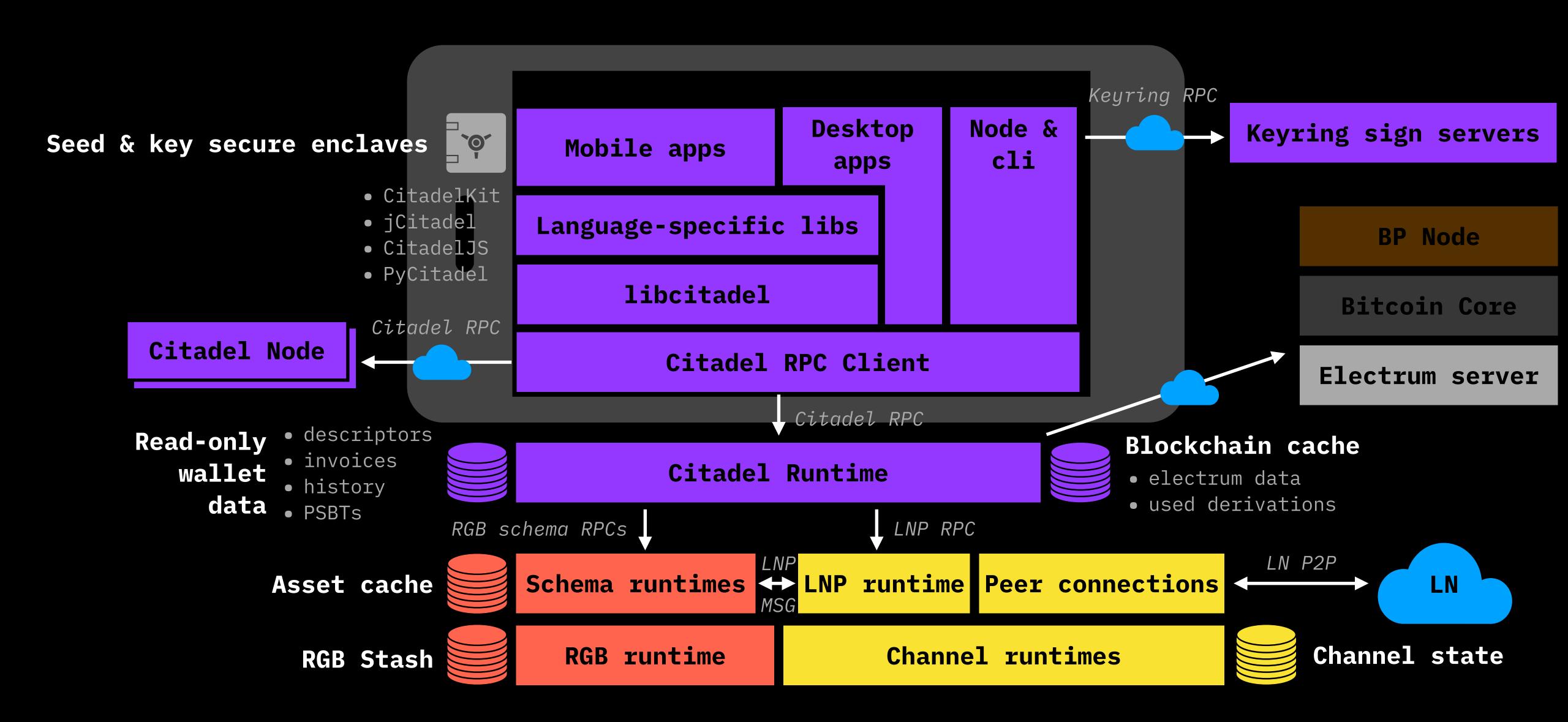
Everything can run on mobile!



...or with external RGB & LN nodes



...or just as a client



When Citadel?

- Citadel SDK technology preview available today on github.com/MyCitadel
 - main *Citadel runtime* implementing 100% of business logic for RGB, miniscript & multisigs (LN, Taproot expected by June)
 - C- and Swift class library (*libcitadel & CitadelKit*)
 NodeJS, Java & Python are expected by June and end of summer
 - Wallet developers technical support starts mid-summer (upon LN completion)
- MyCitadel Node for self-hosting or enterprise setups at v0.1 beta
- MyCitadel Box hardware appliance running MyCitadel Node, in cooperation with Nodl
 expected by the end of summer
- MyCitadel Cloud (in cooperation with Nodl) this autumn

Keyring: signature server infrastructure

- Manage multisig policies for a hot custody
- ...including enterprise + personal/family setups
- 100% PSBT compatible, Taproot & MuSig-ready
- RGB compatible (and supports pay-to-contract key tweaks)
- Part of Citadel suite: works well with the Citadel SDK and MyCitadel wallet, hardware & private cloud setups
- Under development: expected by the end of year

RGBex.io

The first RGB explorer

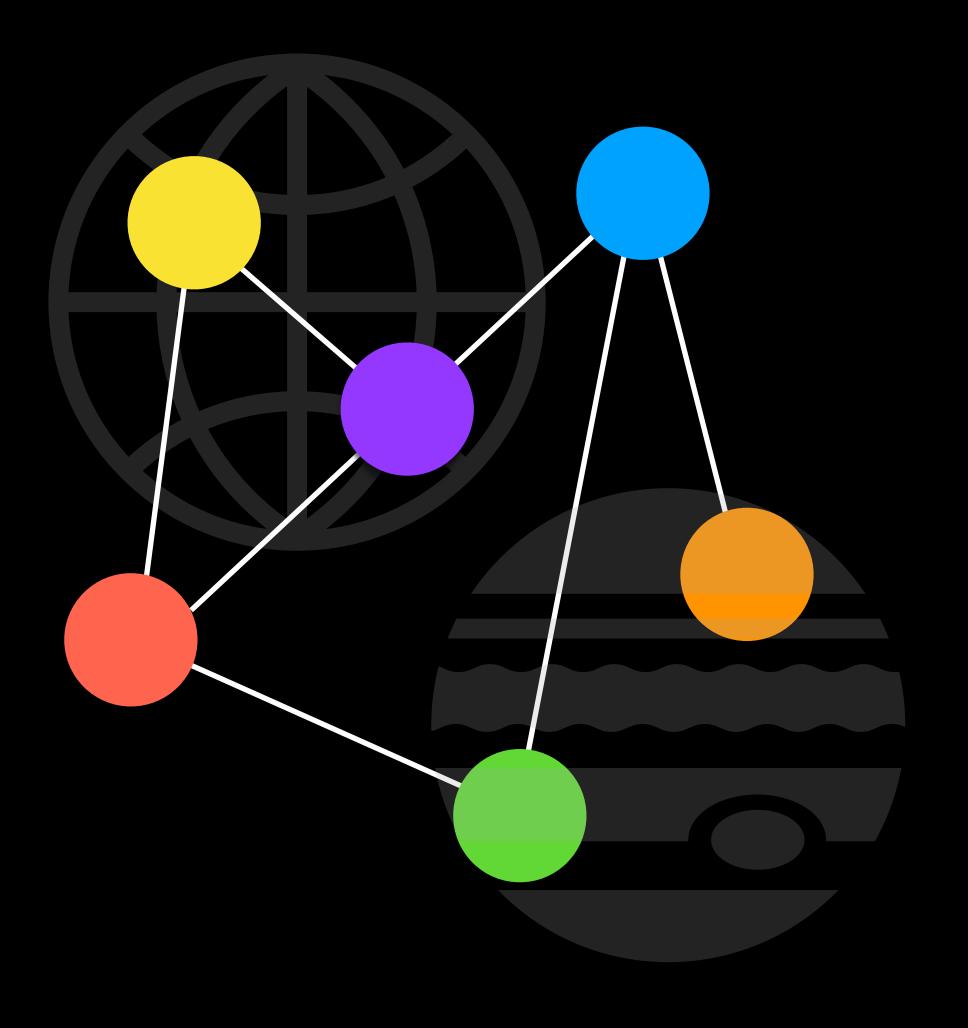
... and it is not a "blockchain explorer": no chain analysis, tracking etc. Just publishing & sharing information about your assets

RGBex is

- Playground for RGB assets, including NFTs
- Playground for Bifrost infrastructure experiments
- Playground for RGB-based identity management

Architecture: Internet2 by LNP/BP Association

- Everything made of modular compact microservices:
 you can distribute your software across mobile devices & servers,
 including cloud, Docker, Kubernets the way you like
- Talking to each other over binary encrypted LN-style protocol on top of ZeroMQ: no old, slow and insecure JSON RPCs etc, no HTTP or plain text data
- All business logic is written in Rust:
 - Blazingly-fast
 - Deterministically secure and highly robust in runtime
- API is wrapped in language-specific class libraries with good OOP abstractions



Internet2

github.com/internet2-org

We are hiring

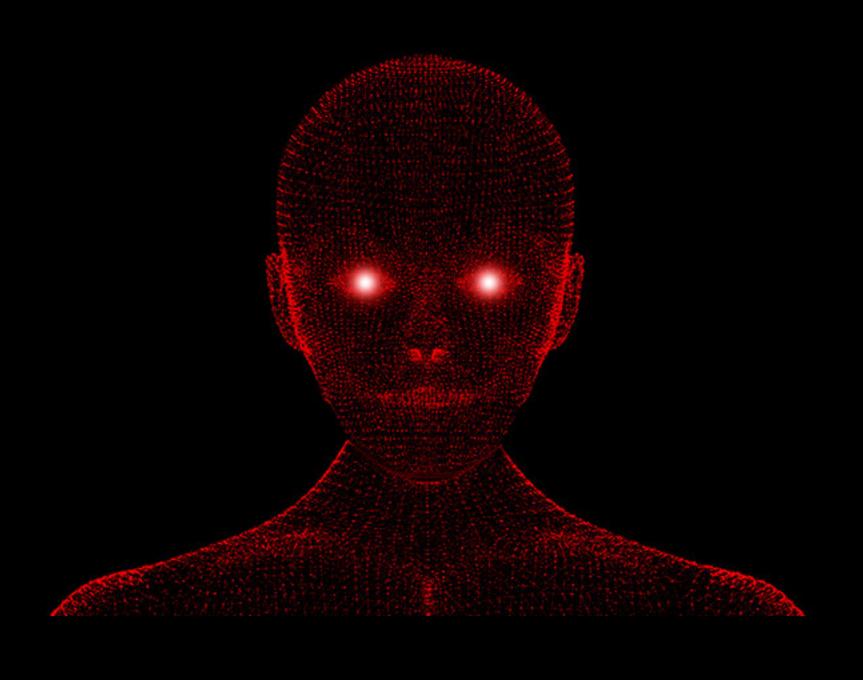
- Cool rust devs: LNP/BP Association
 for working on LNP Node, NFTs, identity, LN DEX, BP Node
 Taproot, PSBT2, descriptors & miniscript
 Internet2 protocols
 work with Blockstream, Square Crypto engineers, TLS creator
- Android dev: MyCitadel wallet with Kotlin & Jetpack Compose experience

We are fundraising

- LNP/BP Association donations for 2021
 - private
 - corporate
 - LNP/BP membership
 - LNP/BP memorable tokens (zero-value indeed, just a memento :)
 - will have a separate presentation for 2021 Roadmap
 - Bitfinex/Tether Inc, Fulgur Ventures and Pandora Core were major contributors in 2020 & Q1 2021, but more scale & resilience is desired for the rest of 2021

- Pandora Core AG <u>investments</u> for further product development, marketing & support:
 - Citadel & MyCitadel suits (SDK, node, wallets, appliance, cloud, custody)
 - Bitcoin Pro enterprise
 - future (not yet) uncovered DEX-related products (joint project with HodlHodl)
- Federation <u>participation</u> to run RGB-wrapped decentralised-issued non-custodial* Bitcoin (RGB30)
 - Exchanges, wallets & cool tech guys
 - More programmability & privacy to Bitcoin!





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- Co-founder and COO at Pandora Core
- Co-author of The #FreeAI Manifesto
- Twitter @OlUkolova