Blockchain Technology Lab

Lab - 3

Aim: Explore a tool to learn the architecture of "Blockchain".

Hash:

SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm 256-bit) is a cryptographic hash function that produces a fixed 256-bit hash value from any input. It is part of the SHA-2 family, designed by the NSA and published by NIST.

Key Characteristics:

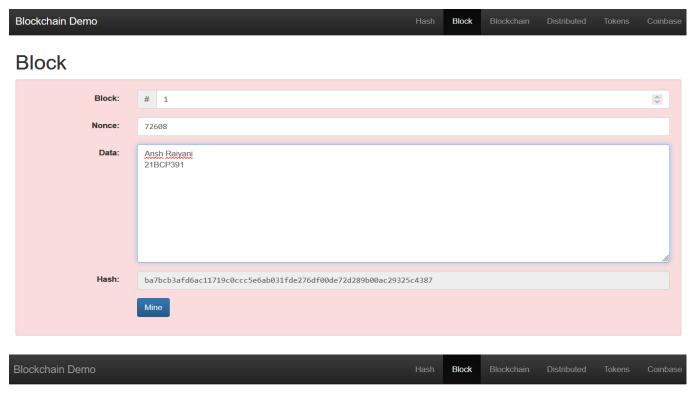
- Fixed-Length Output: Always generates a 256-bit hash.
- Deterministic: Same input yields the same hash.
- Fast Computation: Efficiently computes hash values.
- Pre-image Resistance: Infeasible to reverse-engineer the input from the hash.
- Collision Resistance: Infeasible to find two different inputs with the same hash.

Blockchain Demo		Hash	Block	Blockchain	Distributed	Tokens	Coinbase
SHA256 Hash							
Data:	this is a hash example						
Hash:	66d5958141d30a99509b221e447b74c6df1dc83239dde2c1673e521acb	Faa8a8					/h

Block:

Basic Structure of Block:

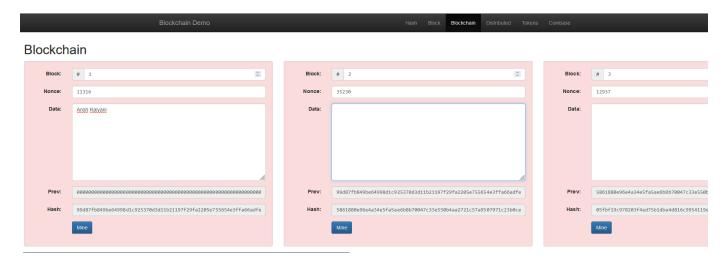
- 1. <u>Block Number</u>: Unique identifier for every block.
- 2. <u>Nonce</u>: To make a block valid, we have to add a number called nonce to the input to create a hash that starts with 4 zeros. There is a consensus in a blockchain network that governs what is considered to be a valid hash. In the case of this example, a hash starting with 4 zero will be considered correct.
- 3. Data: This field contains the data stored in the block
- 4. <u>Hash:</u> The hash field shows the SHA-256 hash value of the block, which includes the block number, nonce, and data.

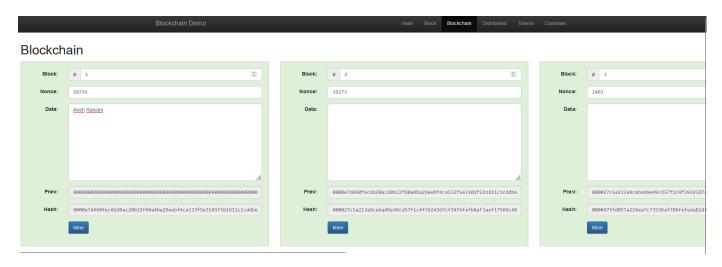


Block



Blockchain:





Why are there a certain number of zero's in the starting of the hash?

The leading zeros in a blockchain hash signify the difficulty level set by the network to maintain a consistent block generation time. The requirement for a hash to have a certain number of leading zeros is a way to enforce the difficulty target. A hash is simply a large number, and having more leading zeros means the hash value is smaller.

For example, a target requiring three leading zeros (e.g., 000xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) is much harder to find than one with just one leading zero (e.g., 0xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx).