

# Blockchain Beyond the Hype: Syllabus

January 16, 2020 / 9:00 AM - 10:00AM EST

## Important Links

### [Workshop Hackpack](#)

Pre-workshop checklist, and resources to explore during and after the workshop.

### [Hack the North 2020++ Event Schedule](#)

Check this out to stay up-to-date on activities, workshops, and other key happenings this weekend.

## Motivator

Blockchain is a fascinating field, yet it is sometimes difficult to see past the marketing hype and understand what is the fundamental value proposition of the many projects in the field. Many people get this wrong, and many people have lost. Understanding blockchains critically is key - it is easy to overlook some details about their inner functions, and we have had plenty of cases on how overlooking some of them has easily led to million dollar losses.

## Prerequisite Knowledge

In order to get the most out of this workshop you should be comfortable with the following concepts:

- High-level understanding of basic Cryptographic operations, such as hashing, signing, and asymmetric encryption.

## Learning Outcomes

This is what you will walk away from the workshop able to do:

- Know which fundamental problem does a Blockchain solve
- Understand in high-level how a Blockchain does that
- Be aware of the fundamental blockchain problems and limitations
- How newer Blockchain projects are trying to counter said disadvantages

## Timeline (1 hour)

Time	Module	Description
30 min.	Value propositions of a Blockchain	Explore a Blockchain fundamentally - what does it guarantee, and how. You will also get to explore a live and running Blockchain yourself :)
10 min.	Bitcoin, how does it work, and why does it have value?	We will go over how currencies work in very high-level, why bitcoin is a completely different model, and how does it use blockchain to create value.
10 min.	Ethereum and its smart contract ecosystem	We will introduce Ethereum as another very successful example on the application of blockchain tech.
5 min.	Up next for Blockchain projects	What problems are left unsolved, and which other projects are working on them.