

BIP: 179
Title: Name for payment recipient identifiers
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Abstract

This BIP proposes a new term for 'address'

Specification

The new term is: *Bitcoin Invoice Address*

The *Bitcoin* and *Address* parts are optional. The address suffix should only be used as a transitional step.

A *Bitcoin Invoice Address* is a string of characters that can be used to indicate the intended recipient and purpose of a transaction.

Motivation

Bitcoin addresses are intended to be only used **once** and you should generate a new one for every new incoming payment. The term 'address' however indicates consistency because nearly everything on the internet or the offline world with the term 'address' is something that rarely or even never changes (postal address, email address, IP addresses (depends heavily on the provider), etc.) The motivation for this BIP is to change the term address to something that indicates that the address is connected to a single transaction.

Rationale

The reason why we use *Bitcoin Invoice Address* or just *Invoice* is to emphasize that it is single-use. The terms *Bitcoin* and *Address* are optional for the following reasons: For *Bitcoin*:

- Useful for multicoins wallets to indicate that it belongs to Bitcoin
- Indicates a difference between a lightning and an on-chain invoice

For *Address*:

- To not confuse users with a completely new term
- To show that it is where you send something to
- To not break backwards compatibility

This gives us the four following possibilities:

- Bitcoin Invoice Address
- Bitcoin Invoice
- Invoice Address
- Invoice

Backwards Compatibility

To avoid issues, the 'Address' suffix is permitted, but not recommended. The suffix 'Address' remains so users should be immediately able to recognize it until the new term is widely known.

Acknowledgements

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