



# The Cryptography behind Cryptocurrency

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# What is Cryptocurrency? Why do people use it?

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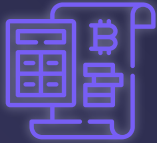
Cryptocurrency is a peer-to-peer digital asset used as a means of exchange. This internet currency uses cryptography to secure the transaction.

- No need to rely on banking institutions or the government
- Not tied to any country or subject to any regulation
- Purchases can be made anonymously

The basic building block for Bitcoin and a blockchain system is cryptography.

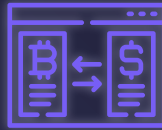
# How is Bitcoin Acquired?

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## Direct Purchase

Buying Bitcoin at the current market value



## Transaction

Selling products and receiving Bitcoin as payment



## Creation

Creating Bitcoin through a computer or machine

# Mining



## Purposes

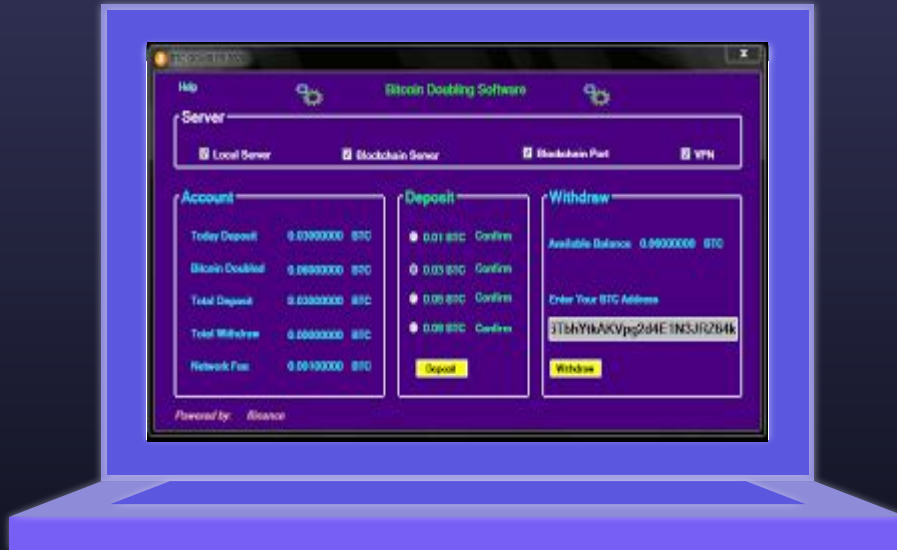
1. Verifies transaction records across networks
2. Contributes to blockchains
3. Adds credibility to networks

Users solve complex mathematical puzzles on supercomputers to discover new blocks.

- Limited amount of Bitcoin available to be mined, which allows the system to prevent inflation



# Bitcoin Encryption



Bitcoin token balances are kept using public and private keys.

- Public key: address published to the world; others may send funds to
  - Analogous to Bank Account Number
- Private key: authorize Bitcoin transmissions
  - Analogous to ATM PIN

# Bitcoin Encryption Cont.

Private keys produce a public key via a one-sided algorithm: **ECDSA**  
(Elliptical Curve Digital Signature Algorithm)

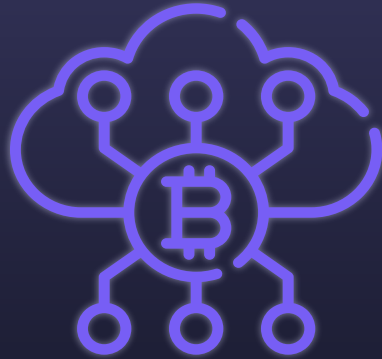
- Public keys can never be reverse-engineered to produce private keys
- A private key is usually a 256-bit number
- Total address space:  $2^{160}$

*Private Key:*

KxeNcRw8mBfyLrnnXQymQkogLjvmn6uJCmSWLRmZ6Mt3Hzfgo1mY

*Deposit Address:*

1MnU3iyTeej69DKGGKo6vU3H3dKKZ9ZL6u



# Proof-of-Work

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Demonstrate that the computer completed algorithms to solve the problem

Enter any message to check its SHA-256 hash

Message	<input type="text" value="886"/>
Hash	<input type="text" value="000f21ac06aceb9cdd0575e82d0d85fc39bed0a7a1d71970ba1641666a44f530"/> 0.415ms

## Hash Proof-of-Work Example

If Person A claims “886” produces a hash starting with 000, anyone is able to verify Person A’s statement.

For Bitcoin, the process requires supercomputers.

- Finding a string with the first 40 bits being 0’s could take a trillion attempts.
- The proof string needs to be hashed and matched with desired bits to confirm the proof of work as valid.



# Mining from the Block Chain



1

## Hashed Transactions

Mining software takes the active transactions and double hashes them (applies SHA-256 twice).

2

## Chain Creation

Software creates block headers to keep track of blocks and related information.

# Mining from the Block Chain Cont.

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3

**Nonce**

The 4-byte field is adjusted and incremented each time a block is mined.

4

**End Comparison**

Block is compared to the “target”, which is compressed and stored in bits. The hash must be less than or equal to the target.

## Example of End/Target Comparison

### Example of Real Expanded Hash Solved by Miners:

```
0000000000000000000008263b489e924db823edbec18b715eed6c53ecabb  
49a07
```

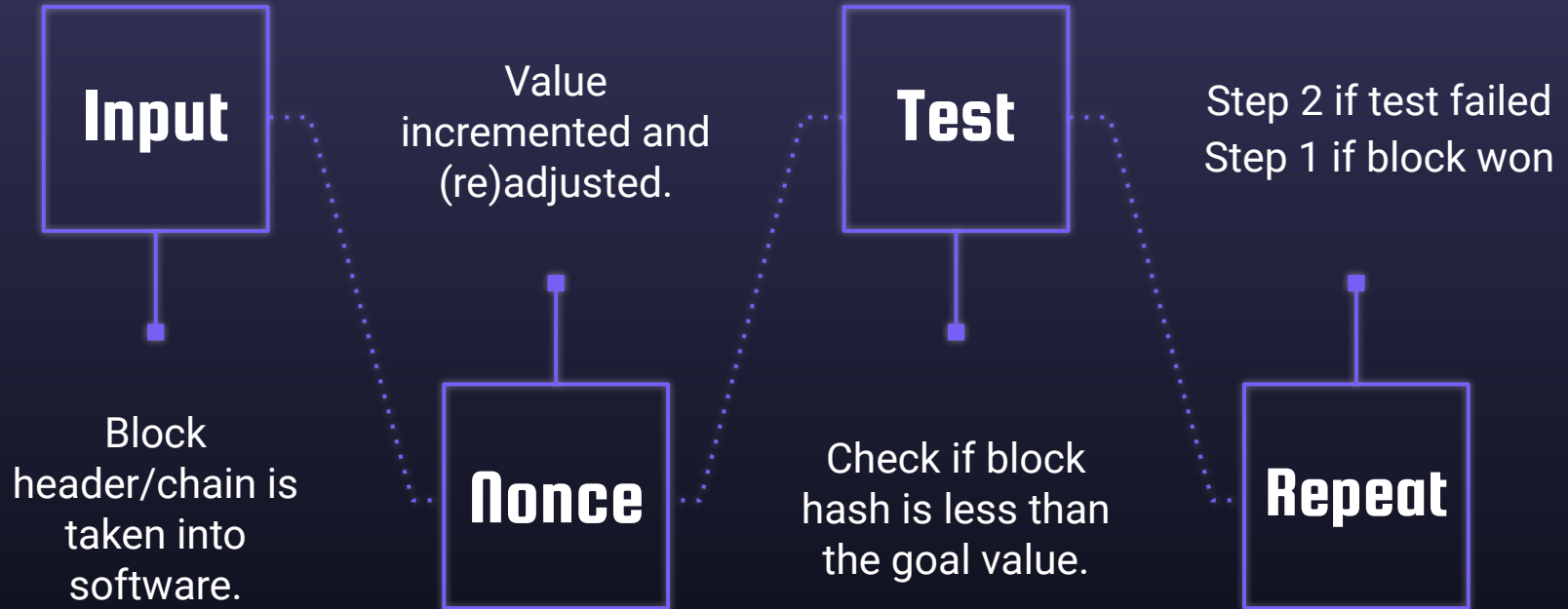
*Example of Possible Expanded Target Compared Against:*

00000000000000000008263c29900000000000000000000000000000000  
00000

The comparison is to check if the SHA-256 Hash Block is less than or equal to the target.

- b489 is less than c299 in the example, so the miner won the block.

# Mining Process Summary





# Demo

Python Blockchain with Mining

# References & Sources

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- <https://www.blockchain.com/explorer>
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/core-finance/money-and-banking/bitcoin/v/bitcoin-proof-of-work>
- <https://www.pluralsight.com/guides/the-cryptography-of-bitcoin>
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- <https://www.bitcoinmining.com/>