Introduction

- Alchemy API Reference Overview
 - Chain APIs Overview
- Enhanced APIs Overview
- Alchemy Quickstart Guide

Resources

- FAQ
- - Feature Support By Chain
- Throughput
- _
- Batch Requests
- Gas Limits
- Error Reference
- Compute Units
- .
 - Pricing Plans
 - Compute Unit Costs

NFT API

- NFT API Quickstart
- NFT API Endpoints Overview
- NFT API FAQ
- Ownership & Token Gating
- getNFTsForOwner get
 - getOwnersForNFT get
- getOwnersForContract get
- isHolderOfContract get
- getContractsForOwner get
- getCollectionsForOwner get
- NFT Metadata Access
 - getNFTMetadata get
 - getNFTMetadataBatch post
- getContractMetadata get
- getCollectionMetadata get
- invalidateContract get
- getContractMetadataBatch post
- getNFTsForContract get
- getNFTsForCollection get
 - searchContractMetadata get
- refreshNftMetadata post

- Spam Detection getSpamContracts get isSpamContract get isAirdropNFT get reportSpam get Rarity Data • summarizeNFTAttributes get computeRarity get Sales & Marketplace Data

 - - getFloorPrice get
 - getNFTSales get
 - NFT API V2 to V3 Migration Guide
 - NFT API V2 vs. V3 Endpoint Differences
 - NFT API V2 Methods (Older Version)
 - getNFTs get
 - getNFTMetadata get
 - getNFTMetadataBatch post
 - getContractMetadata get
 - getContractMetadataBatch post
 - getNFTsForCollection get
 - getOwnersForToken get
 - getOwnersForCollection get
 - getSpamContracts get
 - isSpamContract get
 - isAirdrop get
 - · invalidateContract get
 - getFloorPrice get
 - computeRarity get
 - searchContractMetadata get
 - summarizeNFTAttributes get
 - isHolderOfCollection get
 - getNFTSales get
 - getContractsForOwner get
 - reportSpam get

Transfers API (Tx History)

- Transfers API Quickstart
- **Transfers API Endpoints**

alchemy getAssetTransfers post

Transaction Receipts API

- **Transaction Receipts Endpoints**
 - alchemy getTransactionReceipts post

Token API

- Token API Quickstart
- Token API Endpoints
- - alchemy getTokenBalances post
 - alchemy_getTokenMetadata post
 - alchemy getTokenAllowance post

Subgraphs

- Subgraphs Quickstart
- Supported Subgraph Chains
- Developing a Subgraph
 - Graph CLI
 - · Creating a Subgraph
 - Project Structure
- Data Sources
- Writing Mappings
- Moving your Subgraph to Production
 - Deploying a Subgraph
 - Subgraph Versioning
- · Querying a Subgraph
- Deleting a Subgraph
- Direct Database Access
- Community subgraphs

Webhooks

- Notify API Quickstart
 - Notify Tutorials and Applications
 - Notify API FAQ
- **Custom Webhooks Quickstart**
 - Custom Webhooks FAQ
- Custom Webhooks GraphQL Examples
- Custom Webhook Filters
- Custom Webhook Variables
- Custom Webhook API Methods

- Read Variable Elements get Create a Variable post • Delete a Variable delete Update a Variable patch Notify API Methods Get all webhooks get · Get all addresses for an Address Activity webhook get Create webhook post · Add and remove webhook addresses patch
 - - · Replace webhook addresses put
 - Update webhook status put
 - Update webhook NFT filters patch
 - Update NFT metadata webhook filters patch
 - Get all webhook NFT filters get

 - Delete webhook delete
 - Webhook Types
 - Custom Webhook
 - Address Activity Webhook
 - Mined Transaction Webhook
 - Dropped Transaction Webhook
 - NFT Activity Webhook
 - NFT Metadata Updates Webhook

Websockets

- **Subscription API Quickstart**
- Best Practices for Using WebSockets in Web3
- Subscription API Endpoints
 - alchemy minedTransactions
 - alchemy pendingTransactions
- newPendingTransactions
- newHeads
 - logs

Trace API

- Trace API Quickstart
- Trace API Endpoints
 - trace block post
- trace_call post

- trace_get post
- trace_rawTransaction post
- trace replayBlockTransactions post
- trace_replayTransaction post
 - trace transaction post
 - trace_filter post
- Trace API Resources
 - What are EVM Traces?
 - Trace API vs. Debug API
 - What is trace transaction?
 - What is trace block?
 - What is trace filter?
 - trace call vs debug traceCall

Debug API

- Debug API Quickstart
- Debug API Endpoints
 - debug traceCall post
 - debug traceTransaction post
- debug_traceBlockByNumber post
- debug_traceBlockByHash post

ACCOUNT ABSTRACTION

- Bundler API Quickstart
- Bundler API Endpoints
 - eth_getUserOperationReceipt post
- eth_supportedEntryPoints post
- eth getUserOperationByHash post
- eth sendUserOperation post
 - rundler maxPriorityFeePerGas post
 - eth_estimateUserOperationGas post
- Bundler API Fee Logic
- Factory Addresses
- Gas Manager Coverage API Quickstart
- Gas Manager Coverage API Endpoints
 - alchemy requestPaymasterAndData post
 - alchemy requestGasAndPaymasterAndData post
- Gas Manager Coverage API Fee Logic
- Gas Manager Deployment Addresses
- <u>UserOperation Simulation Endpoints</u>
 - alchemy simulateUserOperationAssetChanges post

- AA-SDK
- **Account Abstraction FAQ**

Embedded Accounts

- **Accounts API Endpoints**
- Create Account post
- - Send Auth Email post
 - Authenticate User post
 - Get User post
 - Sign Message post
 - Register New Authenticator post

Gas Manager Admin API

- Gas Manager Admin API Quickstart
- Gas Manager Admin API Endpoints
 - Create Policy post
- Get Policy get
- Delete Policy delete
- Replace Policy put
 - Get All Policies get
- Update Policy Status put
- · Get Policy Stats get
- Get Sponsorships get

Alchemy Transact

- **Transact Quickstart**
- **Reinforced Transactions**
- **Transaction Simulation**
 - Asset Changes
 - Execution Simulation
 - Bundle Simulation
 - Transaction Simulation Examples
- Transaction Simulation FAQs
- **Transaction Simulation Endpoints**
 - alchemy simulateAssetChanges post
 - alchemy simulateAssetChangesBundle post
- alchemy simulateExecution post
- alchemy_simulateExecutionBundle post
- **Gas Optimized Transactions**
 - alchemy_getGasOptimizedTransactionStatus_post

alchemy_sendGasOptimizedTransaction post
 Private Transactions
 eth_cancelPrivateTransaction post
 eth_sendPrivateTransaction post

Alchemy SDK

- Alchemy SDK Quickstart
 - How to use Alchemy SDK with Typescript
 - Examples Using the Alchemy SDK
- How to Manage a Multichain Project Using Alchemy SDK
- Alchemy SDK Surface Overview
 - Alchemy SDK vs. Raw API Methods
- SDK Core Methods
 - call SDK
 - send SDK
- estimateGas SDK
 - findContractDeployer SDK
 - getBalance SDK
- getBlock SDK
- getBlockNumber SDK
- getBlockWithTransactions SDK
 - getCode SDK
 - getFeeData SDK
- getGasPrice SDK
- getLogs SDK
- getStorageAt SDK
 - getTokenBalances SDK
- getTokenMetadata SDK
- getTokensForOwner SDK
- getTransactionCount SDK
 - getTransactionReceipt SDK
 - getTransactionReceipts SDK
- isContractAddress SDK
- getAssetTransfers SDK
- SDK NFT Methods
 - getNftsForOwner SDK
- getNftMetadata -SDK

 getNftMetadataBatch - SDK refreshNftMetadata - SDK • getNftSales - SDK searchContractMetadata - SDK • summarizeNftAttributes - SDK • getNftsForOwnerIterator - SDK getNftsForContractIterator - SDK getContractMetadata - SDK getNftsForContract -SDK getTransfersForOwner - SDK • getTransfersForContract - SDK • getMintedNfts - SDK • getOwnersForNft - SDK getOwnersForContract - SDK getSpamContracts -SDK isSpamContract - SDK • refreshContract - SDK getContractsForOwner - SDK • getFloorPrice - SDK • computeRarity - SDK • verifyNftOwnership - SDK **SDK Transact Methods** • getTransaction - SDK sendTransaction - SDK sendPrivateTransaction - SDK cancelPrivateTransaction - SDK waitForTransaction - SDK • estimateGas - SDK • getMaxPriorityFeePerGas - SDK • simulateAssetChanges - SDK • simulateAssetChangesBundle - SDK • simulateExecution - SDK • simulateExecutionBundle - SDK **SDK Debug Methods**

traceCall - SDK

• traceTransaction - SDK traceBlock - SDK **SDK Notify Methods** getAllWebhooks - SDK • getAddresses - SDK • getNftFilters - SDK • createWebhook - SDK • updateWebhook - SDK • deleteWebhook - SDK SDK WebSockets Endpoints **SDK Ethers Utils** arrayify • formatUnits • concat hexConcat • dnsEncode • hexDataLength formatEther • hexDataSlice • hexStripZeros • hashMessage • isHexString • isValidName • joinSignature splitSignature • toUtf8Bytes <u>hexValue</u> • toUtf8String <u>hexZeroPad</u> • <u>zeroPad</u> hexlify • <u>id</u> isBytes • isBytesLike • Interface

- namehashparseEtherparseUnits
- stripZeros
 Alchemy SDK V2 to V3 Migration Guide
 - Alchemy SDK V2 vs. V3 Method Differences
- SDK V2 Methods
 - call SDK
- getAssetTransfers SDK
 - getMintedNfts SDK
- verifyNftOwnership SDK
- getOwnersForNft SDK
- computeRarity SDK
- getTransfersForContract SDK
 - getNftsForOwner SDK
 - refreshContract SDK
- getOwnersForContract SDK
 - getFloorPrice SDK
 - isSpamContract SDK
- findContractDeployer -SDK
- getSpamContracts SDK
- getGasPrice SDK
- getBalance SDK
 - getBlock -SDK
- getBlockWithTransactions SDK
- estimateGas SDK
- getBlockNumber SDK
- getCode SDK
- getFeeData SDK
- getLogs SDK
- getNftMetadataBatch SDK
- getTokensForOwner SDK
 - getStorageAt SDK
- getTokenBalances SDK
- getTransactionCount SDK

- getTokenMetadata SDK
- getTransactionReceipt SDK
- send SDK
- getTransactionReceipts SDK
 - getTransaction SDK
 - isContractAddress SDK
- getNftMetadata SDK
- getNftSales SDK
 - cancelPrivateTransaction SDK
- sendPrivateTransaction SDK
- traceTransaction SDK
- simulateExecutionBundle SDK
- simulateExecution SDK
- getMaxPriorityFeePerGas SDK
- simulateAssetChangesBundle SDK
- estimateGas SDK
- simulateAssetChanges SDK
 - traceBlock SDK
 - waitForTransaction SDK
- traceCall SDK
- sendTransaction SDK
- updateWebhook SDK
 - refreshNftMetadata -SDK
- createWebhook SDK
- getNftFilters SDK
- getAddresses SDK
- summarizeNftAttributes SDK
- deleteWebhook SDK
- searchContractMetadata SDK
- getAllWebhooks SDK
- getNftsForOwnerIterator SDK
 - getNftsForContractIterator -SDK
- getContractMetadata SDK
- getTransfersForOwner SDK
 - gotin

Ethereum

- Ethereum API Quickstart
- Ethereum API FAQ
- Ethereum Developer Guide to the Merge
 - How to decode an eth call response
- How do I distinguish between a contract address and a wallet address?
- Ethereum API Endpoints
- eth_blockNumber Ethereum post
- eth_getBalance Ethereum post
 - eth_getLogs Ethereum post
 - eth_chainId Ethereum post
 - eth_getBlockByNumber Ethereum post
- eth_accounts Ethereum post
- eth_feeHistory Ethereum post
- eth estimateGas Ethereum post
 - eth gasPrice Ethereum post
 - eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Ethereum post
- eth_getBlockReceipts Ethereum post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Ethereum post
- eth_getCode Ethereum post
- eth_getProof Ethereum post
- eth_getStorageAt Ethereum post
 - eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Ethereum post
- eth_getTransactionByHash Ethereum post
 - eth_getTransactionCount Ethereum post
- eth_getTransactionReceipt Ethereum post
- eth_getUncleByBlockHashAndIndex Ethereum post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Ethereum post
 - eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Ethereum post
 - eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Ethereum post
- eth_maxPriorityFeePerGas Ethereum post
- eth_protocolVersion Ethereum post
- eth_sendRawTransaction Ethereum post
 - net_listening Ethereum post

- net version Ethereum post
- web3_clientVersion Ethereum post
- web3 sha3 Ethereum post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Ethereum post
 - eth_call Ethereum post
 - eth_getBlockByHash Ethereum post
- eth_createAccessList Ethereum post
- eth newFilter Ethereum post
 - · eth_getFilterChanges Ethereum post
 - eth getFilterLogs Ethereum post
 - all and Dischelling Ethanson
- eth_newBlockFilter Ethereum post
- eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Ethereum post
- eth_uninstallFilter Ethereum post
 - eth_subscribe
- eth unsubscribe

Polygon PoS

- Polygon PoS API Quickstart
- Polygon SDK Examples
- Polygon PoS API FAQ
- Polygon PoS API Endpoints
 - bor_getAuthor Polygon PoS post
 - bor_getCurrentProposer Polygon PoS post
 - bor_getCurrentValidators Polygon PoS post
- bor_getRootHash Polygon PoS post
- eth_accounts Polygon PoS post
 - eth_call Polygon PoS post
 - eth_chainId Polygon PoS post
- eth_estimateGas Polygon PoS post
 - eth_gasPrice Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getBalance Polygon PoS post
- eth_getBlockByHash Polygon PoS post
- eth_getBlockByNumber Polygon PoS post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Polygon PoS post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getCode Polygon PoS post

- eth_getFilterChanges Polygon PoS post
- eth_getFilterLogs Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getLogs Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getRootHash Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getSignersAtHash Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getStorageAt Polygon PoS post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Polygon PoS post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getTransactionByHash Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getTransactionCount Polygon PoS post
 - eth getTransactionReceipt Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getTransactionReceiptsByBlock Polygon PoS post
 - eth_sendRawTransaction Polygon PoS post
 - eth_uninstallFilter Polygon PoS post
 - net_listening Polygon PoS post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Polygon PoS post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Polygon PoS post
 - eth_newBlockFilter Polygon PoS post
 - eth_newFilter Polygon PoS post
- eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Polygon PoS post
- web3_clientVersion Polygon PoS post
- eth_createAccessList Polygon PoS post
 - eth_blockNumber Polygon PoS post
- bor_getSignersAtHash Polygon PoS post
- net_version Polygon PoS post
- eth_getProof Polygon PoS post
 - eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Polygon PoS post
 - eth_subscribe Polygon PoS
 - eth unsubscribe Polygon PoS

Polygon zkEVM

- Polygon zkEVM API Quickstart
- Polygon zkEVM API FAQ
 - What is the difference between Polygon zkEVM and Ethereum?
 - What is the difference between Polygon zkEVM and Polygon PoS?
- Polygon zkEVM Endpoints

- eth_getTransactionCount Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_call Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_chainId Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_newBlockFilter Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_estimateGas Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_newFilter Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_gasPrice Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_sendRawTransaction Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getBalance Polygon zkEVM post
- eth uninstallFilter Polygon zkEVM post
- - eth_getBlockByHash Polygon zkEVM post
 - net_version Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getBlockByNumber Polygon zkEVM post
 - web3_clientVersion Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm batchNumber Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getCode Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getFilterChanges Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getFilterLogs Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_getBatchByNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getLogs Polygon zkEVM post
 - zkevm_getBroadcastURI Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getStorageAt Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_isBlockConsolidated Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Polygon zkEVM post
 - zkevm_isBlockVirtualized Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_verifiedBatchNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getTransactionByHash Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_virtualBatchNumber Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getCompilers Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getUncleByBlockHashAndIndex Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Polygon zkEVM post
- .

- eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- eth_protocolVersion Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_blockNumber Polygon zkEVM post
 - eth_getTransactionReceipt Polygon zkEVM post
 - zkevm_batchNumberByBlockNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_consolidatedBlockNumber Polygon zkEVM post
- zkevm_estimateFee API Polygon zkEVM post
 - zkevm_estimateGasPrice API Polygon zkEVM post

Arbitrum

- · Arbitrum API Quickstart
 - Arbitrum SDK Examples
- Arbitrum API FAQ
- Arbitrum vs. Ethereum API Differences
- Arbitrum API Endpoints
 - eth_call Arbitrum post
 - eth_estimateGas Arbitrum post
- eth_accounts Arbitrum post
- eth blockNumber Arbitrum post
- eth_chainId Arbitrum post
 - eth_gasPrice Arbitrum post
 - eth_getBalance Arbitrum post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Arbitrum post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Arbitrum post
- eth_getCode Arbitrum post
 - eth getFilterChanges Arbitrum post
- eth_getFilterLogs Arbitrum post
- eth_getLogs Arbitrum post
 - eth_getStorageAt Arbitrum post
 - eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Arbitrum post
 - eth_getTransactionCount Arbitrum post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Arbitrum post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Arbitrum post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Arbitrum post
 - eth_newBlockFilter Arbitrum post

- eth_newFilter Arbitrum post
- eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Arbitrum post
- eth_uninstallFilter Arbitrum post
- net_listening Arbitrum post
- net_version Arbitrum post
- web3_clientVersion Arbitrum post
- web3_sha3 Arbitrum post
- eth sendRawTransaction Arbitrum post
 - eth_createAccessList Arbitrum post
 - eth maxPriorityFeePerGas Arbitrum post
- eth_feeHistory Arbitrum post
- eth_getBlockByHash Arbitrum post
 - eth_getBlockByNumber Arbitrum post
 - eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Arbitrum post
 - eth_getTransactionByHash Arbitrum post
- eth_getProof Arbitrum post
 - eth_getTransactionReceipt Arbitrum post
 - eth_getUncleByBlockHashAndIndex Arbitrum post
 - eth_subscribe
 - eth unsubscribe

Optimism

- Optimism API Quickstart
 - Optimism SDK Examples
- Optimism API FAQ
 - Optimism Error Codes
- Optimism API Endpoints
 - eth_call Optimism post
 - eth_estimateGas Optimism post
 - eth_accounts Optimism post
 - eth_blockNumber Optimism post
 - eth_chainId Optimism post
 - eth_gasPrice Optimism post
 - eth_getBalance Optimism post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Optimism post
 - eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Optimism post

- eth_getCode Optimism post
- eth_getFilterChanges Optimism post
- eth_getFilterLogs Optimism post
- eth_getLogs Optimism post
- eth_getStorageAt Optimism post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Optimism post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Optimism post
- eth_getTransactionByHash Optimism post
 - eth_getTransactionCount Optimism post
 - eth_getTransactionReceipt Optimism post
 - eth_getUncleByBlockHashAndIndex Optimism post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Optimism post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Optimism post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Optimism post
- eth_newBlockFilter Optimism post
- eth_newFilter Optimism post
- eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Optimism post
 - eth_protocolVersion Optimism post
 - eth_sendRawTransaction Optimism post
- eth_syncing Optimism post
 - eth_uninstallFilter Optimism post
- net_listening Optimism post
 - net_version Optimism post
- web3_clientVersion Optimism post
- web3_sha3 Optimism post
- eth_getBlockByHash Optimism post
- eth_getBlockByNumber Optimism post
 - eth_getProof Optimism post
- eth_subscribe
- eth_unsubscribe

Base

- Base API Quickstart
- Base API FAQ
- Base API Endpoints
- •
- eth_accounts Base post

- eth_blockNumber Base post
- eth_call Base post
- eth_chainId Base post
- eth_estimateGas Base post
 - eth_feeHistory Base post
 - eth_gasPrice Base post
- eth_getBalance Base post
- eth_getBlockByHash Base post
- eth_getBlockByNumber Base post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Base post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Base post
- eth_getCode Base post
- eth_getFilterChanges Base post
- eth_getFilterLogs Base post
- eth_getLogs Base post
- eth_getProof Base post
- eth_getStorageAt Base post
 - eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Base post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Base post
- eth_getTransactionByHash Base post
- eth_getTransactionCount Base post
- eth getTransactionReceipt Base post
- eth_getUncleByBlockHashAndIndex Base post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Base post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockHash Base post
- eth_getUncleCountByBlockNumber Base post
- eth_maxPriorityFeePerGas Base post
- eth_newBlockFilter Base post
- eth_newFilter Base post
- eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Base post
- eth_protocolVersion Base post
 - eth_sendRawTransaction Base post
- eth_syncing Base post
- eth uninstallFilter Base post
- otti_drimotam iitor _bacc pot

- net_listening Base post
- web3_sha3 Base post

* Solana

- Solana API Quickstart
- Solana API FAQ
- Solana API Endpoints
- •
- getAccountInfo post
- •
- simulateTransaction post
- .
- getBalance post
- - getBlock post
- getBlockCommitment post
 - getBlockProduction post
- getBlocks post
- getBlocksWithLimit post
- getBlockTime post
- •
- getClusterNodes post
- getEpochInfo post
- getEpochSchedule post
- getFeeForMessage post
- getFirstAvailableBlock post
 - getGenesisHash post
- getHealth post
- getHighestSnapshotSlot post
- getIdentity post
- getInflationGovernor post
- getInflationRate post
- getInflationReward post
- getLargestAccounts post
- getMaxRetransmitSlot post
- getMaxShredInsertSlot post
- getMinimumBalanceForRentExemption post
- getMultipleAccounts post
- getProgramAccounts post
- getRecentPerformanceSamples post
- getSignaturesForAddress post

- getSignatureStatuses post
- getSlot post
- getSlotLeader post
- getSlotLeaders post
 - getSupply post
- getTokenAccountBalance post
- getTokenAccountsByOwner post
- getTokenSupply post
 - getTransaction post
 -
- getVersion post
 - getVoteAccounts post
 - isBlockhashValid post
- minimumLedgerSlot post
- sendTransaction post
 - requestAirdrop post
- getBlockHeight post
 - getRecentBlockhash post

Astar

- Astar API Quickstart
- Astar API FAQ
- Astar API Endpoints
 - eth_accounts Astar post
 - eth_getTransactionReceipt Astar post
 - eth_maxPriorityFeePerGas Astar post
- eth_blockNumber Astar post
 - eth_call Astar post
- eth_chainId Astar post
- eth_gasPrice Astar post
- eth_getBalance Astar post
 - eth_getBlockByHash Astar post
 - eth_getBlockByNumber Astar post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByHash Astar post
- eth_getBlockTransactionCountByNumber Astar post
- eth_getCode Astar post
 - eth_getStorageAt Astar post

- eth_getTransactionByBlockHashAndIndex Astar post
- eth_getTransactionByBlockNumberAndIndex Astar post
- eth_getTransactionByHash Astar post
- eth_getTransactionCount Astar post
- eth_getUncleByBlockNumberAndIndex Astar post
- eth_sendRawTransaction Astar post
- net_version Astar post
- web3 clientVersion Astar post
 - web3_sha3 Astar post
- - eth_getLogs Astar post
 - eth_getFilterChanges Astar post
- eth_getFilterLogs Astar post
- eth_newFilter Astar post
 - eth_newPendingTransactionFilter Astar post
 - eth_uninstallFilter Astar post
- eth_newBlockFilter Astar post
- eth estimateGas Astar post
- eth_subscribe
 - eth_unsubscribe

STARKNET

- Starknet API Quickstart
- Starknet API FAQ
- Starknet API Endpoints
 - starknet_addDeclareTransaction post
- starknet_getClassAt post
 - starknet_addDeployAccountTransaction post
- starknet_getClassHashAt post
- starknet_addInvokeTransaction post
- starknet_getEvents post
 - starknet blockHashAndNumber post
 - starknet_getNonce post
- starknet_blockNumber post
- starknet_getStateUpdate post
- starknet_call post
- starknet_getStorageAt post

- starknet chainld post
- starknet getTransactionByBlockIdAndIndex post
- starknet estimateFee post
- starknet_getTransactionByHash post
- starknet_getBlockTransactionCount post
- starknet_getTransactionReceipt post
- starknet_getBlockWithTxHashes post
- starknet_pendingTransactions post

 - starknet_getBlockWithTxs post
 - starknet syncing post
- starknet_getClass post
 - starknet_estimateMessageFee post

What is the difference between Polygon zkEVM and Polygon PoS?

Learn about the differences between Polygon zkEVM and Polygon

In this guide, we will explore the key differences between the origina Polygon PoS and Polygon zkEVM, delving into their respective architectures, consensus mechanisms, data availability options, and more. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Polygon zkEVM extends and enhances the broader Polygon ecosystem while addressing the challenges associated with scaling the Ethereum blockchain.

Scaling Solution

Polygon PoS primarily uses a Plasma framework and a Proof-of-Stake (PoS) consensus mechanism to create a sidechain that runs parallel to the Ethereum mainnet. Polygon zkEVM, on the other hand, uses a ZK-Rollup architecture that leverages zero-knowledge proofs to provide a<u>Layer 2 solution</u> on top of Ethereum.

Consensus Mechanism

Polygon PoS relies on a set of validators that participate in the PoS consensus mechanism to validate and confirm transactions on the sidechain. Polygon zkEVM uses a Consensus Contract that supports permissionless participation of multiple coordinators (Sequencers and Aggregators) to produce and validate batches in L2.

Data Availability

In Polygon PoS, data is stored on the sidechain, which provides a separate blockchain for transaction processing. Polygon zkEVM offers two options for data availability under a Hybrid schema: Validium (data is stored off-chain) and Volition (data and validity proofs are on-chain for some transactions and only proofs for others).

Smart Contract Compatibility

Polygon PoS is a sidechain that offers EVM (Ethereum Virtual Machine) compatibility. This means that developers can deploy and run Ethereum smart contracts on the Polygon PoS sidechain. However, EVM compatibility implies that while the sidechain supports Ethereum smart contracts, there may be some differences in the execution environment. As a result, in rare situations when dealing with complex dapps and low-level code developers may need to make certain adaptations or use sidechain-specific features when working with Polygon PoS.

In contrast, Polygon zkEVM is a ZK-Rollup that focuses on achieving EVM equivalence. EVM equivalence implies a higher level of compatibility with Ethereum, allowing existing Ethereum smart contracts to be deployed and run on Polygon zkEVM without any modifications. Developers do not need to change languages or tooling, and they can experience a seamless transition when deploying their smart contracts on the EVM-equivalent rollup. EVM equivalence effectively recreates the

entire Ethereum execution environment.

The key distinction is that EVM equivalence, as offered by Polygon zkEVM, provides "less friction" compared to EVM compatibility, as offered by Polygon PoS. Polygon zkEVM is designed to offer transparent deployment and complete Ethereum compatibility, allowing developers to maintain the same development workflow as on Ethereum, without the need for any kind of modification or re-implementation of code. In summary, Polygon zkEVM is focused on being a near-perfect replica of Ethereum's execution environment, while Polygon PoS is focused on offering compatibility with Ethereum smart contracts within the context of a sidechain.

Security

Polygon PoS relies on its PoS validators to secure the sidechain, which operates independently from Ethereum. Polygon zkEVM inherits the security of the Ethereum mainnet by publishing validity proofs on-chain, ensuring that off-chain computations are correct and secure.

Transaction Finality

Polygon PoS sidechains offer fast transaction finality with relatively low transaction fees. Polygon zkEVM uses zero-knowledge proofs to offer quick finality to off-chain transactions while reducing latency and fees.

Conclusion

While both Polygon PoS and Polygon zkEVM provide Layer 2 scaling solutions for Ethereum, they differ in their architecture, consensus mechanisms, data availability options, and implementation details. Polygon zkEVM, in particular, leverages ZK-Rollup technology to achieve improved scalability, security, and EVM-equivalence while ensuring quick transaction finality.

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What is the difference between Polygon zkEVM and Ethereum? Polygon zkEVM Endpoints Did this page help you? Yes No