

# Account Model

In order to join the NEAR ecosystem, users need to create an account. NEAR accounts are unique when compared to other blockchain ecosystems.

## [Human-Readable Accounts](#)

NEAR leverages [human-readable accounts](#) to simplify remembering them. In this way, accounts have addresses such as `alice.near` instead of long strings of random characters.

## [Permissions Through Access Keys](#)

NEAR accounts can have multiple [keys](#), each with their own set of permissions. This allows to grant specific authorizations to third-parties, while keeping the option to revoke them at any time.

## [Simple to Develop Smart Contracts](#)

NEAR accounts can optionally hold a simple program, known as [a smart contract](#). In NEAR, developers can create smart contracts using languages such as Javascript or Rust.

## [Mutable State \(Storage\)](#)

NEAR accounts have a state (storage) which can mutate when the user or the account's contract performs a transaction.

# Comparison With Ethereum

If you're familiar with development on Ethereum, it's worth making a quick note about how accounts are different. The table below summarizes some key differences:

Ethereum Wallet	NEAR Account	Public Identifier	Public Key (0x123...)	Account ID (alice.near)	Secret Key	Private Key (0x456...)
Multiple Keypairs with permissions: -FullAccess key -FunctionCall key	Characteristics - Private key gives full access - Account doesn't have to be created via a transaction - Permission-based keypair - Account ID must be created via blockchain transaction	<a href="#">Edit this page</a>	Last updated on Aug 16, 2022	by gagdiez	Was this page helpful?	Yes No

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