

# What is NEAR?

NEAR is a user-friendly and [carbon-neutral](#) blockchain, built from the ground up to be performant, secure, and infinitely scalable.

In technical terms, NEAR is a [layer one](#), [sharded](#), [proof-of-stake](#) blockchain built with usability in mind.

In simple terms, NEAR is a blockchain for everyone.

## Why Choose NEAR?

NEAR has been developed with a focus on performance and usability, both for developers and users.

### Simple to Use

1. Uses [human-readable accounts](#)
2. (e.g. `alice.near`)
3. )
4. .
5. Leverages a web-based wallet
6. , no need for users to install programs or browser extensions.
7. Possess a simple yet rich system of Access Keys
8. to handle account permissions.

### Fast and Environmentally Friendly

1. Transactions are incredibly fast
2. (~1s transactions)
3. and cheap
4. (< 1¢ in fees).
5. The network is [certified carbon-neutral](#)
6. .
7. NEAR consumes in a year
8. the same energy [bitcoin consumes in 3 minutes](#)
9. .

### Great Developer Experience

1. Enables making smart contracts using Javascript
2. or Rust
3. .
4. Simple onboarding
5. , thanks to its complete documentation and a multitude of examples.
6. NEAR DevRel holds office hours every weekday
7. , where anybody can participate.
8. 30% of gas fees goes to the developers.

### A Technical Marvel

1. Scales infinitely
2. and resists short-term usage spikes thanks to its [sharding](#)
3. .
4. Interoperable with Ethereum
5. using [Rainbow Bridge](#)
6. (first trustless bridge ever created)
7. .
8. EVM compatible
9. with [Project Aurora](#)
10. (Deploy your Solidity contracts with ease)
11. . [Edit this page](#) Last updated on Mar 7, 2024 by Damián Parrino Was this page helpful? Yes No

[Previous](#) [Home](#) [Next](#) [Account Model](#)