

# Solana Validator Documentation

Solana is a blockchain built for mass adoption. It's a high performance network that is utilized for a range of use cases, including finance, NFTs, payments, and gaming. Solana operates as a single global state machine, and is open, interoperable and decentralized.

## Command Line Interface and Tool Suite

To get started using the Solana Command Line (CLI) tools:

- [Install the Solana CLI Tool Suite](#)
- - Quickly get setup
- locally with the CLI, optionally build from source
- [Introduction to the CLI conventions](#)
- - Understand the common
- conventions used within the CLI tool suite
- [Choose a cluster](#)
- - Select a Solana
- network cluster to connect (e.g.devnet
- ,testnet
- ,mainnet-beta
- )
- [Create a wallet](#)
- - Create a command line wallet for
- use within the CLI and beyond

## Understanding the Architecture

Get to know the underlying architecture of how the proof-of-stake blockchain works:

- [Clusters](#)
- - a collection of validators that work
- together for consensus
- [Validators](#)
- - the individual nodes that are the
- backbone of the network
- [Runtime](#)
- - the native programs that are core to the
- validator and the blockchain

## Running a Validator

Explore what it takes to operate a Solana validator and help secure the network.

- [Validator vs RPC node](#)
- - Understand
- the important differences between voting and non-voting validators on the
- network
- [System requirements](#)
- - Recommended hardware
- requirements and expected SOL needed to operate a validator
- [Quick start guide](#)
- - Setup a validator and
- get connected to a cluster for the first time

## Learn more

[### Developers ### Operate a Validator ### Architecture Next What is a Validator?](#)