



Blockchain →

advanced database mechanism that allows transparent information sharing within business network

- stores data in blocks that are linked together in a chain.

- Imp concepts

- Blocks → Data in block
- Node → Branches
- Miner → create new blocks on chain through process → mining.



Blockchain Appln

- Cryptocurrency
- Cybersecurity
- Accounting & record keeping
- Supply Chain
- Healthcare
- Automobile
- Govt.
- Sports.
- E-commerce.

* Symmetric key cryptography

Asymmetric

- encryption & decryption use same key for both ends of conversation.
- cipher text \rightarrow same or smaller (than original)
- encryption is fast
- transfer large data.
- provides confidentiality
- key length \rightarrow 128 or 256 bits
- resource utilization is less
- security is less as one key for 2 purpose.
- Isn't used in digital signatures.
- Two diff keys - public key & private key.
- cipher text \rightarrow same or larger (original)
- slow
- transfer small amt of data
- provides confidentiality, authenticity & non-repudation
- 2048 or higher
- resource utilization is high
- more secure.
- Is used in digital signatures.

* Elliptic Curve Cryptograph (ECC) -

- Key based technique for encrypting data.
- focuses on pairs of public & private keys for decryption & encryption.
- substitute for RSA cryptographic algo.
- Decryption take more time.
- Much safer than RSA & is currently in process of adapting.
- encryption takes less time.
- relies on properties of elliptic curves,
 $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$

(x, y)

curves have set of points that satisfy eqⁿ.

- public key is derived from private key
- ECC → used for digital signatures.

Use Cases → used in secure communication protocols

- SSL/TLS for secure web browsing

* Cryptographic Hash Functions -

- cryptographic tool \rightarrow transform input data into fixed-size string of characters.
- verify data integrity & create digital signature
- unique hash \rightarrow each unique input.
- small change in input \rightarrow vastly different hash.
- Hash \rightarrow irreversible.
- Popular hash algo \rightarrow SHA-256 & MD54.
- used to password storage to protect user data.
- resistant to collision (same hash for diff inputs)
- Data Verification
- data security / integrity

* SHA (256) - Secure Hash Algoⁿ

• Message length
• Digest length
• Irreversible

- cryptographic hash function.
- data integrity & security.
- input data & produces 256 fixed size hash value.
- is irreversible, can't deduce input from hash.
- change in input \rightarrow diff hash.
- verify data integrity.
- part of SHA-2 family.
- password storage & digital signature.
- quick & reliable way to verify data.
- Used in cryptocurrency \rightarrow Bitcoin.
- crucial for ensuring security & trustworthiness.

* DSA - Digital Signature Algo

- asymmetric cryptographic algo
- For digital signature.
- involves pair of public & private key.
- signature \rightarrow prove authenticity of msg

Benefits \rightarrow Message Authentication
Integrity Verification
Non-repudiation

- Highly robust
- Better speed
- Less storage
- Patent Free

Steps \rightarrow Key Generation
Signature "—" \rightarrow " \rightarrow "
Key Distribution
Signature Verificⁿ

* Merkle Tree -

- fundamental part of BCT
- ds → data verification
- integrity & validity of data
- saving memory or disk spaces
- proofs & management require → tiny amt of info → transmit across network
- organize data in hierarchical tree like structure
- each leaf → piece of data or transaction
- parent node → hashes of child node
- top node → root → represents entire dataset
- verify specify data → within a large dataset
- reduce need to process all data for verification

* Benefits of Blockchain

- Security & Immutable Records
- Reduced Fraud & Chargebacks
- Decentralized
- Faster Transactions
- Lower Transaction Cost
- Improved Transparency
- Cross-Border Payment
- Data Privacy

* Limitation of BCT

- Data Recovery
- Adoption & Education

- Integration Challenge
- energy consumption
- scalability →
- latency
- transaction costs
- User Experience
- Regulatory Compliance
- Lack of Regulation

Centralization

Decentralization

third party involve	Yes	No
Control	Full control with central authority	Control with users
Hackable	more prone	Less prone.
Single point of failure	Yes	No.
Ease of use	Easy	Not easy
exchange fees	Higher fees	Less Fees.
Anonymity	Not ^{user} anonymous	offers anonymity.
Decision making	slow	Fast
Communication flow	systemized vertically	Free & open
Prime benefit	proper leadership & coordination	Sharing responsibilities & workload
App'l Area	small sized organization	large sized organization

Blockchain Layers:

- 1) **Applⁿ & Presentation Layer** • top layer of BT
 - user interface & applⁿ built.
 - wallet management, smart contract execution
 - directly interact with various BC activities.

• bridge technical complexity of blockchain for end users.
• adoption & usability.
- 2) **Data Layer** -
 - blockchain's data structure resides.
 - chain of blocks → set of transactions
 - data storage & retrieval mechanism.
 - distributed database
- 3) **Network Layer** -
 - handles communication & connectivity aspects of network
 - peer to peer connection b/w nodes.
 - exchange info
 - Bitcoin Network protocol
- 4) **Consensus Layer** -
 - all nodes on network agree on state of blockchain
 - rules & mechanisms for validating & adding new transaction
 - prevents double spending & secures blockchain against malicious actors.
- 5) **Infrastructure or hardware layer**
 - involves deployment & management of nodes or servers
 - highly specialized & expert infrastructure
 - data center provides necessary infrastructure
 - high speed internet → essential for nodes.
 - security considerations are critical.