Introduction to Blockchain

Oleg Lodygensky - LAL - Mai 2017

https://www.lal.in2p3.fr

http://www.u-psud.fr

http://www.cnrs.fr

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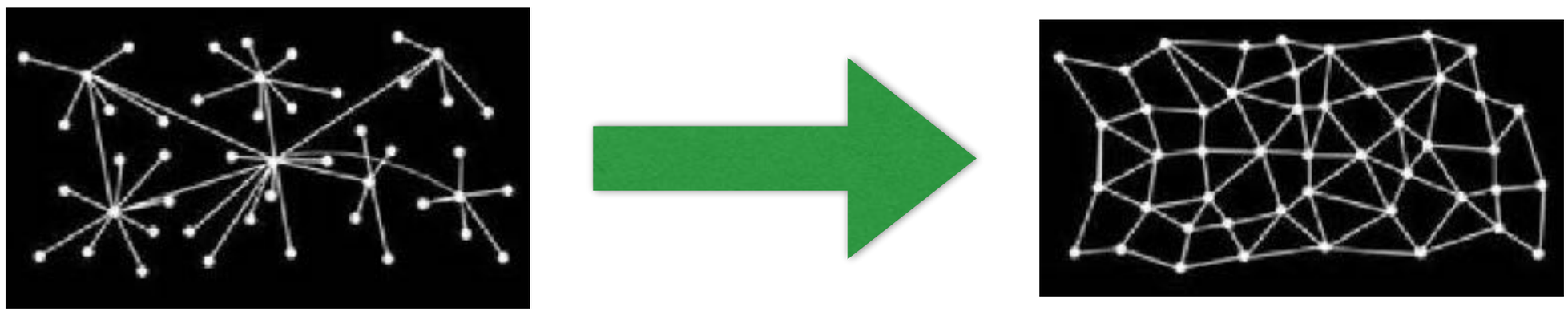
Blockchain

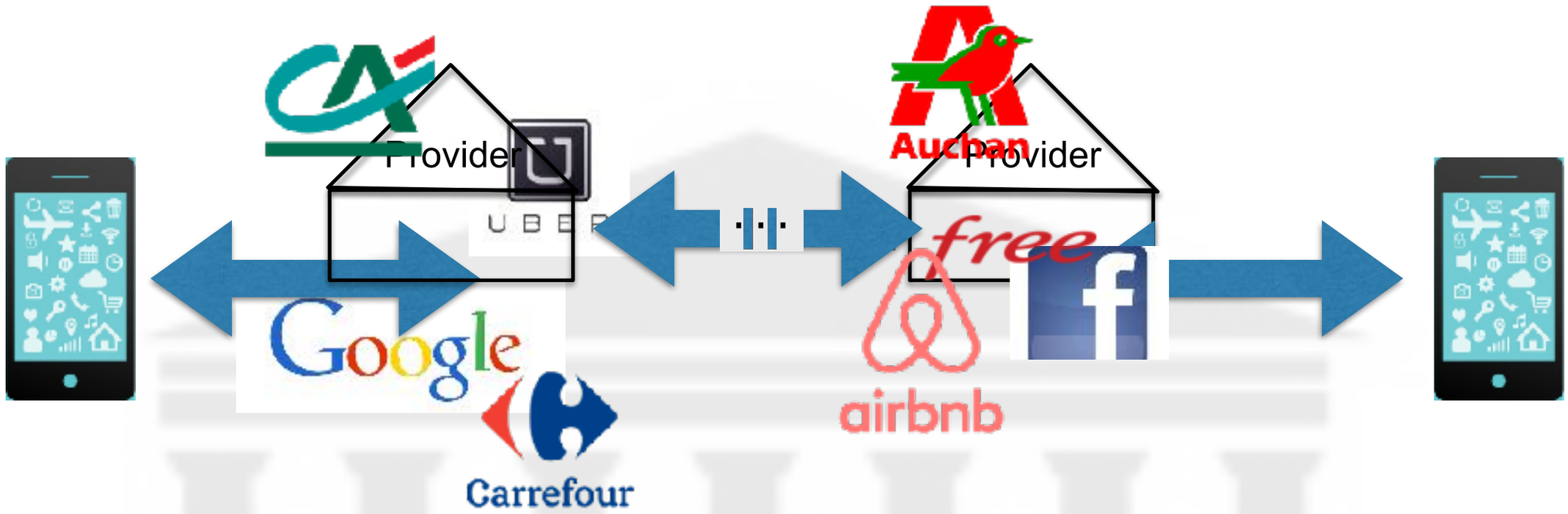
Since 2009

Open Source

- ★ Electronic transaction revolution
- ★ Digital assets management
- ★ Decentralized transactions



Centralized transaction



Centralized infrastructures manages:

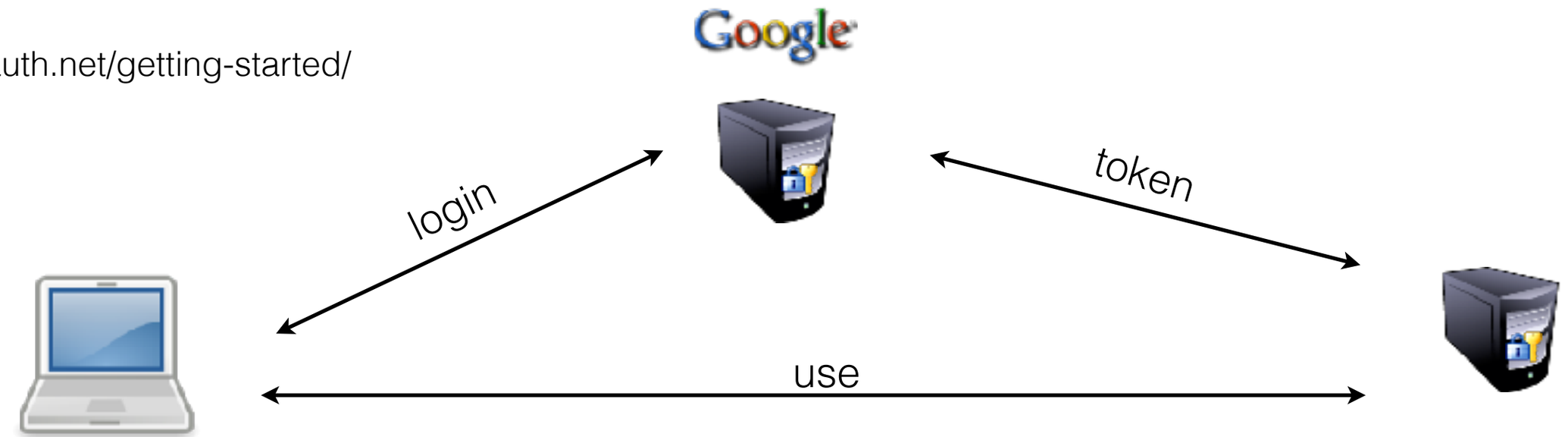
- identity
- assets
- transactions

Centralized Transactions Issues

1. Identity management
2. Censorship
3. Vulnerability
4. Costs

Centralization Issue #1 : Identity Management

https://oauth.net/getting-started/



Action tracking

Problem

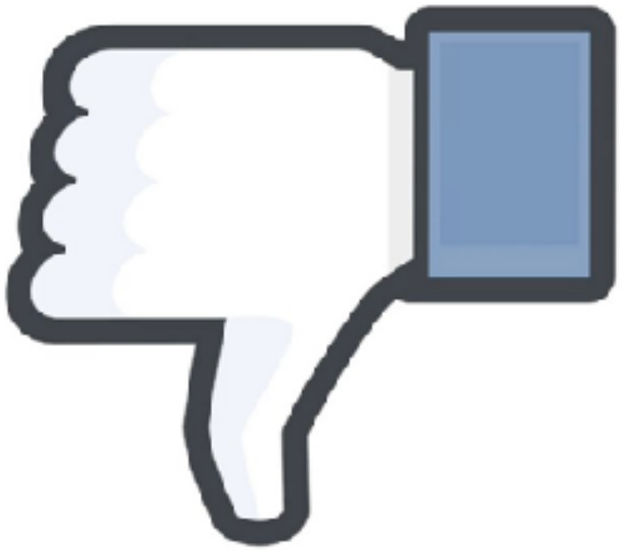
Identity provider may:
- refuse your registration
- close your contract
- fail / shut down

Private life intrusion

Centralization issue #2: Censorship

Quelqu'un a fait des mouillettes ?

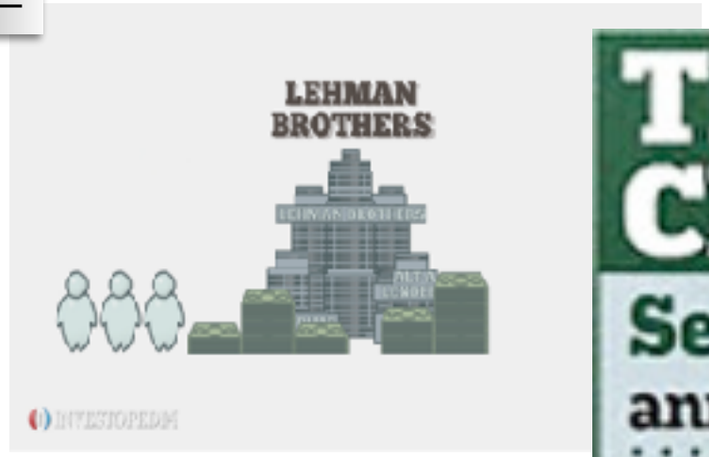
source photo : wafs



Problem

Who write the rules ?

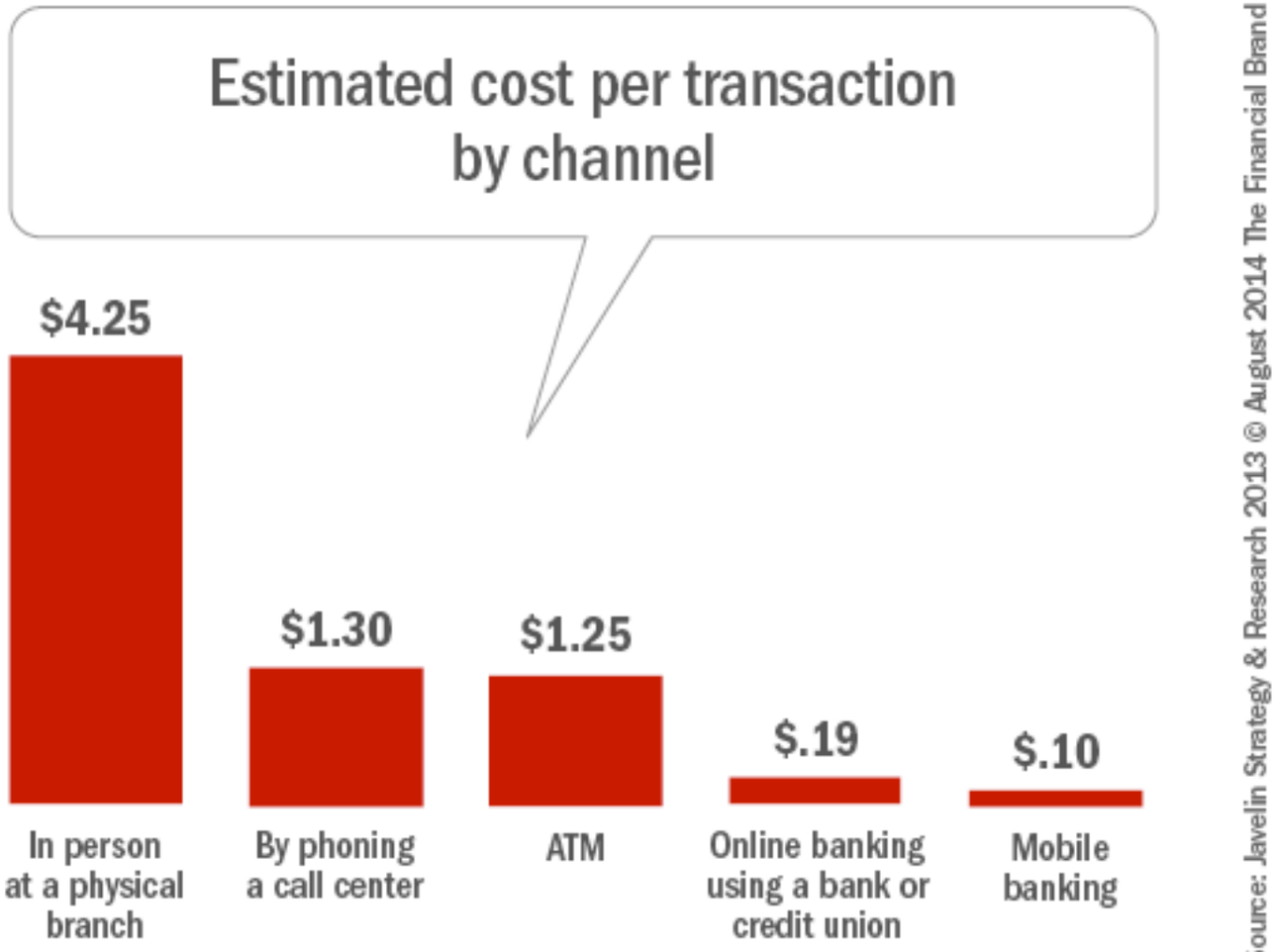
Centralization issue #3 : Vulnerability



Problem

What compensations ?

Centralization issue #4 : Transaction costs



Problem

What about micro payment ?

Decentralization promises

https://cleantechnica.com/2011/11/28/americas-energy-future-a-battle-between-entrenched-utilities-and-clean-local-power/

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Main Paradigmes

- P2P Network
- Shared Ledger
- Distributed Consensus
- Security

P2P network

Random topology

Fault tolerant

Unbounded communications

Untrustable

Latency

Shared ledger

Distributed DB

Unalterable data

Full History

Gossiping flood

Horodated

Ownership

Distributed consensus

Frauding & Stealing Resistance

Collective decision-making process

Transaction is kept if and only if the consensus is reached

Security

Security is ensured at different levels:

- electronic keys
- encryption
- distributed validation
- data replication
- linked blocks (history)

<u>Until now blockchain protocol has never been hacked</u>

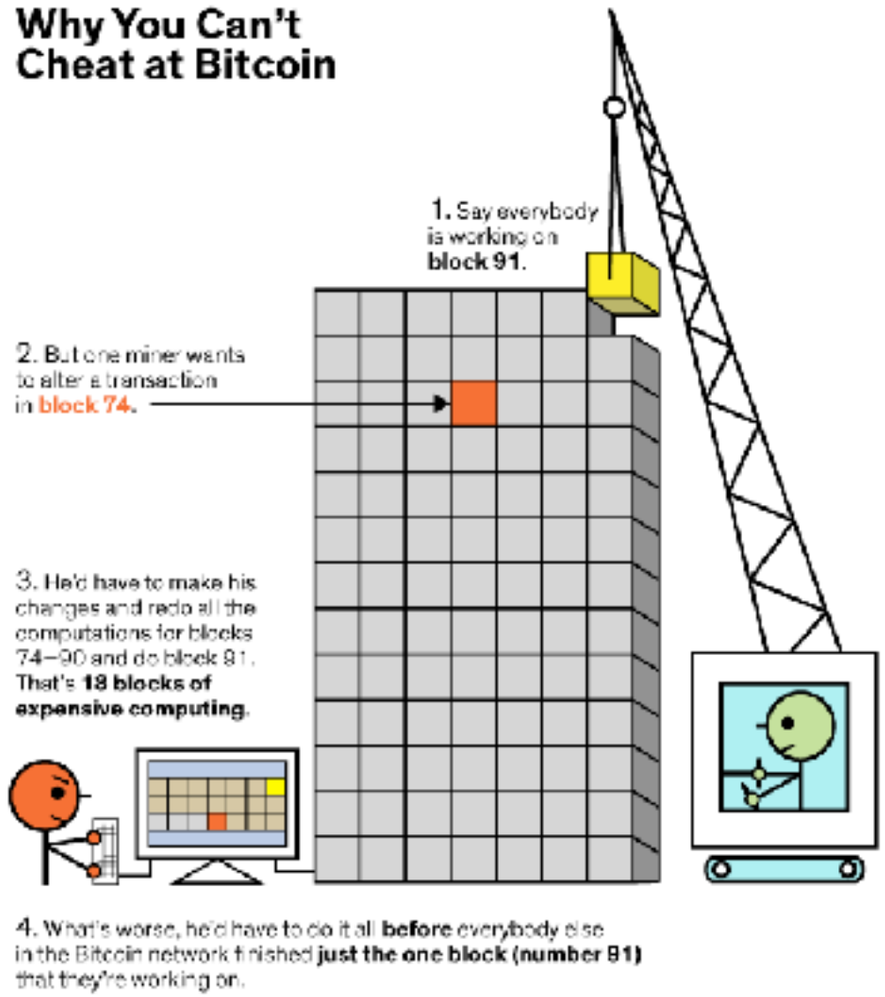

Illustration: Mark Montgomery/IEEE Spectrum

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Coin

Coins are immutable:

- they can be created
- they must be digitally signed

They can’t be modified in any manner:

- no transfert
- no division
- no combination

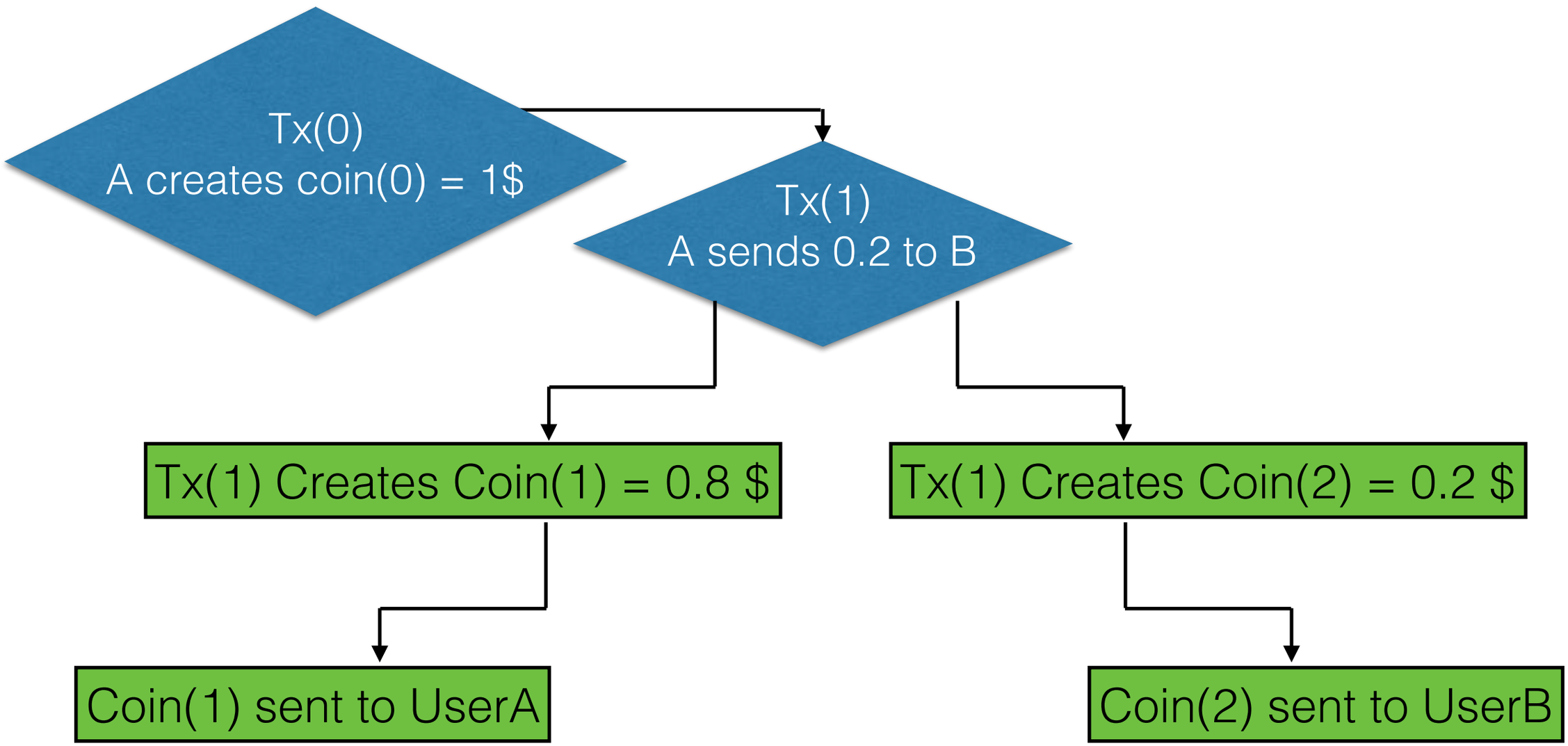
Transactions

Transactions aim to:
- consume coins
- create new coins

Requirements:
- sig(consumed coins) must be valid
- sum(consumed coins) == sum(created coins)
- must sign (created coins)

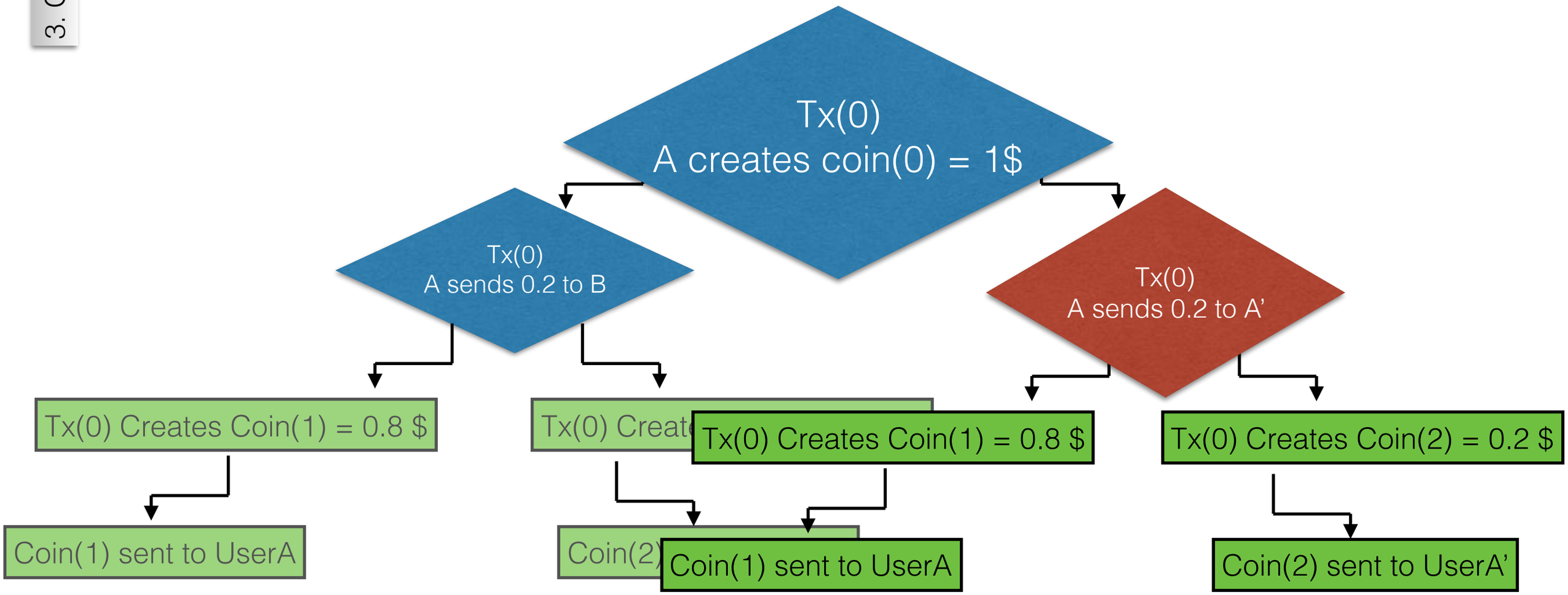
Validation is cryptographic only !

Transactions



Registered in the ledger by **consensus**
(*by blocks of transactions for efficiency*)

Double Spent Attack



The theory says there is no way to determine the « honest » path.

If validating nodes are randomly chosen,
distributed consensus is **probabilistic** only !

Incentives

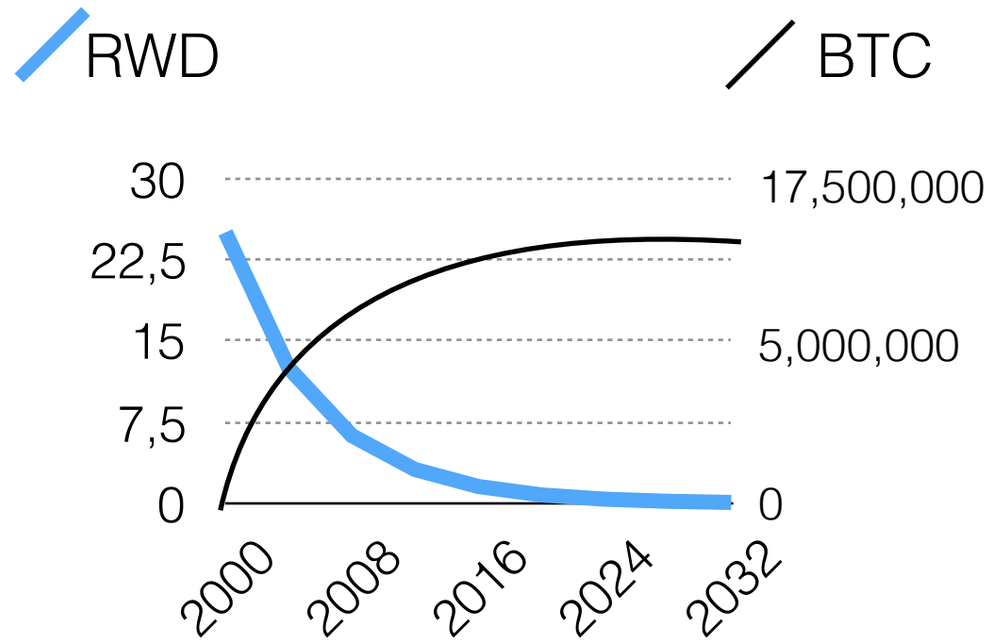
Incentives aim to encourage nodes to be honest

-1- **Rewards**

Block creator get reward

if created block ends on long-term consensus branch

- started at 25Btc
- halves every 4 years



-2- **Fees**

Transaction author may create a transaction
where outputValue < inputValue
The remaining is a « tips » for the block validator

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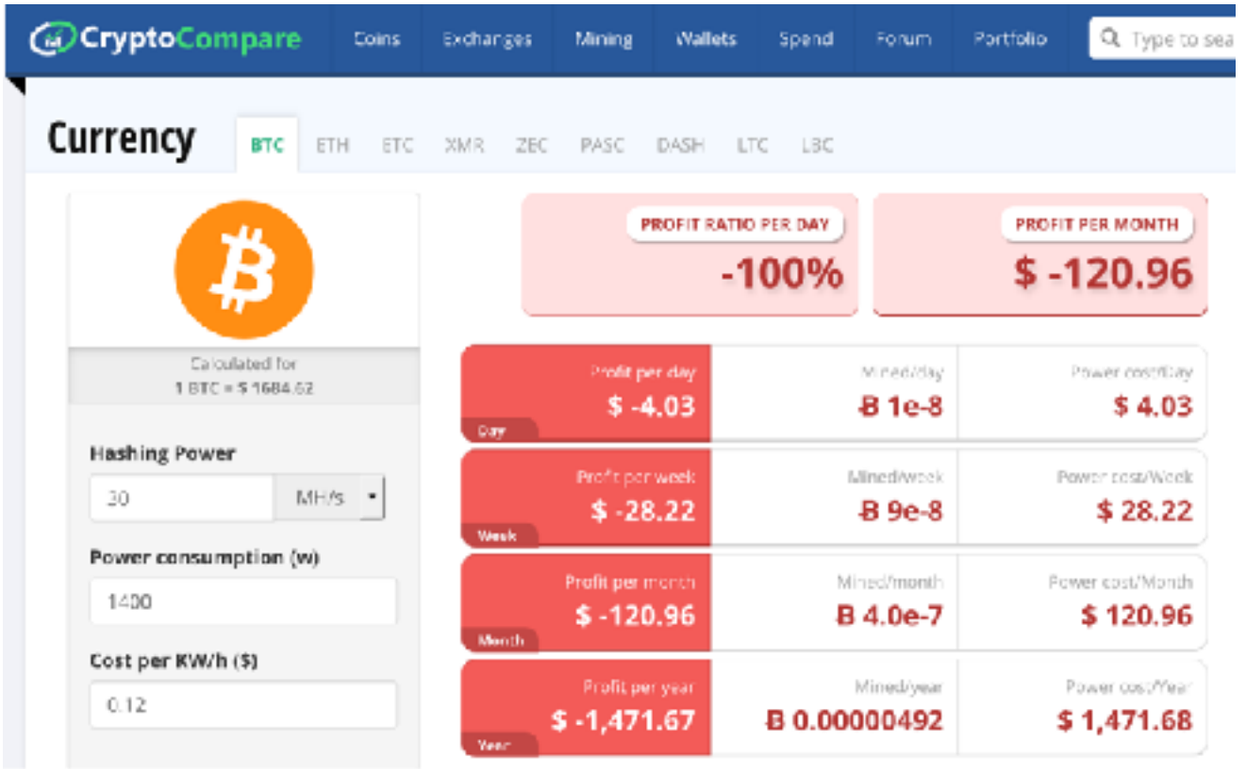
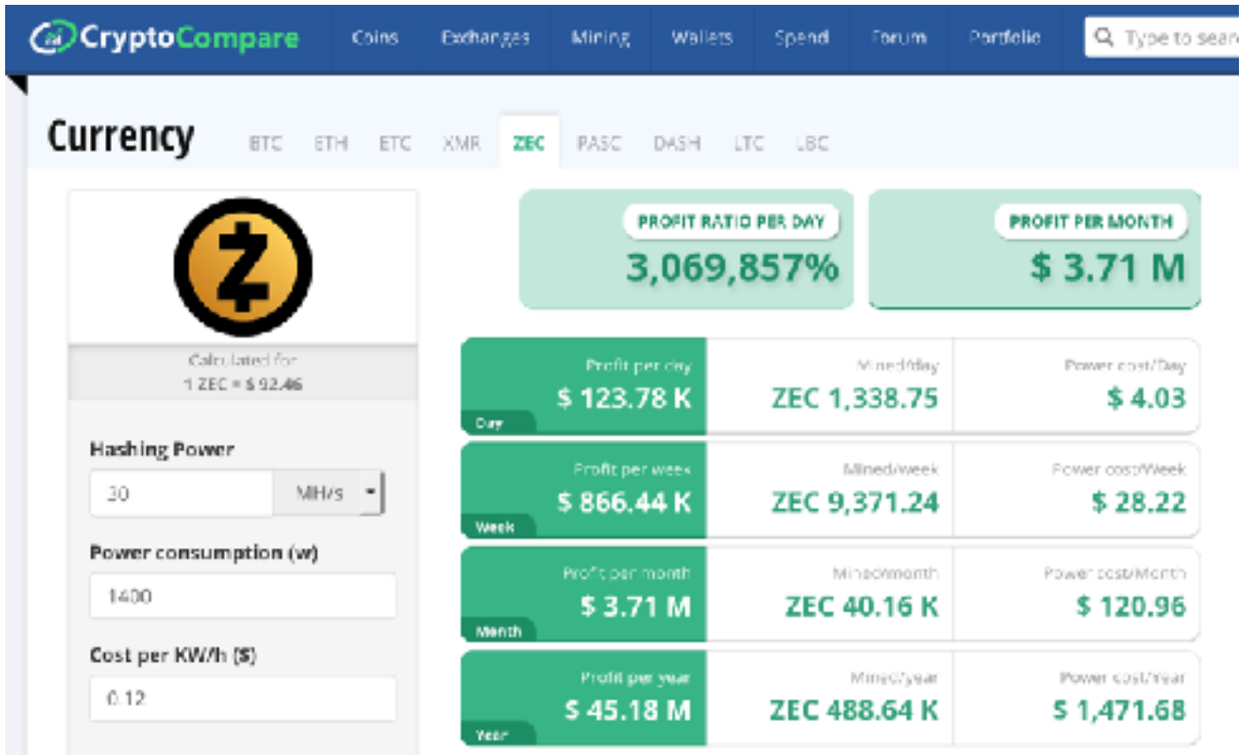
Usage

1. Mining
2. Funding and trading
3. Decentralized id
4. Decentralized IT

Usage #1: mining





https://www.cryptocompare.com/mining/calculator/

Usage #2: Trading & Funding

https://www.cryptocompare.com/coins/btc/overview

http://www.coindesk.com/icos-changing-way-vcs-deal-startups/

https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/japan-receive-its-first-interest-paying-bitcoin-deposit-accounts/

Usage #3: decentralized Id

https://medium.com/@etherparty/signing-into-the-backend-with-ethereum-and-json-web-tokens-9d1e765deed3

etherparty Follow

Smart Contracts Made Simple

Apr 6 · 3 min read

Signing into the backend with Ethereum and JSON Web Tokens

Written by: Jonathan Brown

In a previous life, before I got involved in blockchain technology, I was participating in the Drupal community for 10 years.

Towards the end of this period I created the integration between Drupal and Mozilla Persona. Persona was an attempt to make account management a proper part of web browser functionality. Ultimately, Persona was shut down.

Later, I learned about the MetaMask browser plugin. MetaMask enables a web browser to run Ethereum-based applications, essentially enabling front end Javascript (JS) applications to directly interact with Ethereum.

Usage #4: decentralised IT

Chasm: Fault-Tolerant, Information-Theoretic Secure Cloud Backup

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Drawbacks

1. Scalability

Seven transactions per second can take place and each block of transactions requires a minimum delay of 10 minutes to confirm.

2. Resistance to centralization

Proof-of-work activity has been mostly consolidated into four primary mining organizations, all based in China. This alters the conception of blockchain as a decentralized system. Any two of these four could theoretically collude and would together constitute a majority of the computational resources (hash power) needed for mining, and could then control the updating of the distributed ledger.

3. Transparency

All transactions are public, which has its pros and cons in terms of access to transactional information but not necessarily identification of participants to the network

4. Governance

The original author of the Bitcoin open-source software is unknown and is open to question. Thus there is no clear structure for decision-making and the Bitcoin blockchain is heavily dependent on individual personalities and agendas

http://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/the-cios-guide-to-blockchain/

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Blockchain 2.0

Post Crypto Currency Era

Crypto currencies have demonstrated technologies revolutionizing transactions.

We are at the end of mining process; post crypto currency poses several challenges:

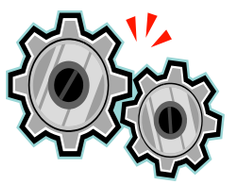
- What to do with all this computing power (several Tera flops available) ?
- Where to spend crypto currency?

- The Blockchain VM is very (deliberately) limited
- What to do with blockchain in the IT world?

Smart Contracts

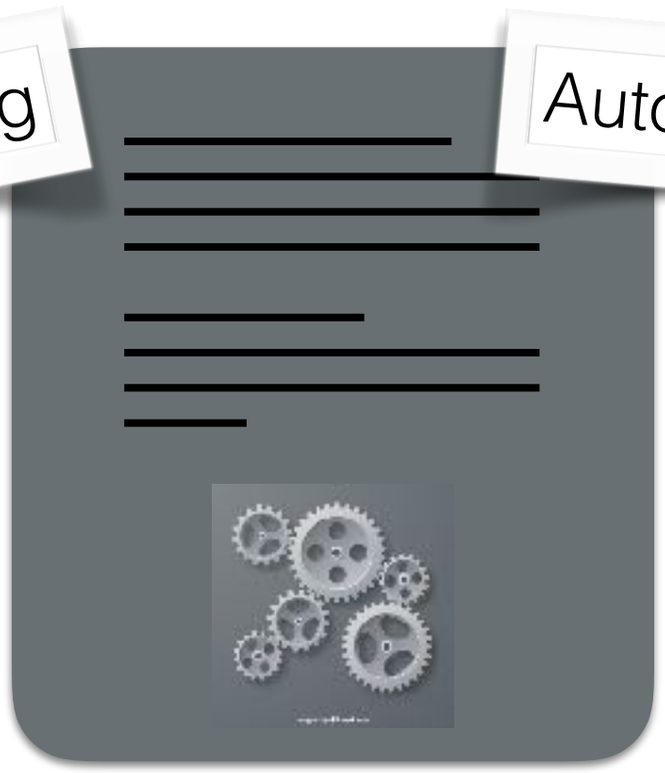
Smart contracts
aim to write
distributed applications (*dApps*).

I have written an application



Co working

Autonomous



I want to use an application

Immutable

Bloc[illegible]duction

Solidity

http://solidity.readthedocs.io/

Solidity is a contract-oriented, high-level language whose syntax is similar to that of JavaScript and it is designed to target the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM).

```
pragma solidity ^0.4.0;

contract SimpleStorage {
    uint storedData;

    function set(uint x) {
        storedData = x;
    }

    function get() constant returns (uint) {
        return storedData;
    }
}
```

Conclusion

- Bitcoin
  - ➡ Crypto currency introduced the first blockchain with success

- Blockchain
  - ➡ introducing SmartContracts to break limitations
  - ➡ we can now write decentralized application