Please comment on slides with anything unclear, incorrect or suggestions for improvement
https://drive.google.com/file/d/16zVbDqjxpEgUEAweWTCrijpjvTsONW8h/view?usp=sharing

PV204 Security technologies

Bitcoin basics I.

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CROCS
Centre for Research on Cryptography and Security

WHY BITCOIN?

Especially if you are not interested in Bitcoin.

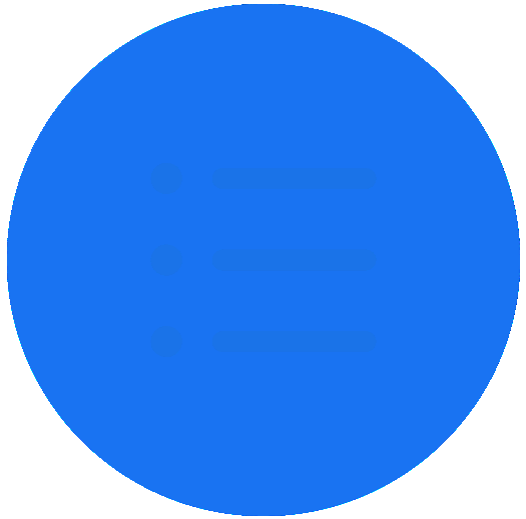
“Bitcoin fixes everything!”

https://twitter.com/DominicFrisby/status/1388448025970884609

Goals for the lecture

- Bitcoin does not fix everything, but is on a frontline
  - No safety net, no chargeback, attacker anonymous => security technique must really work, great for battle-testing security ideas, natural “bug bounty program”
- 6 main tech pieces we will cover (also usable outside Bitcoin world)
  1. How to backup key(s) (single seed, BIP39, Shamir)
  2. How to make always fresh keys (derivation via BIP32, also address privacy)
  3. How to protect signing key against malware
     - (multisig, hardware wallet, airgap pc + tx broadcast, mpc sig)
  4. How to introduce restricted signing policy (time, limit… lockscript/multisig)
  5. How to protect your financial privacy (CoinJoin, Tor)
  6. How to use hardware wallet with secure element

slido

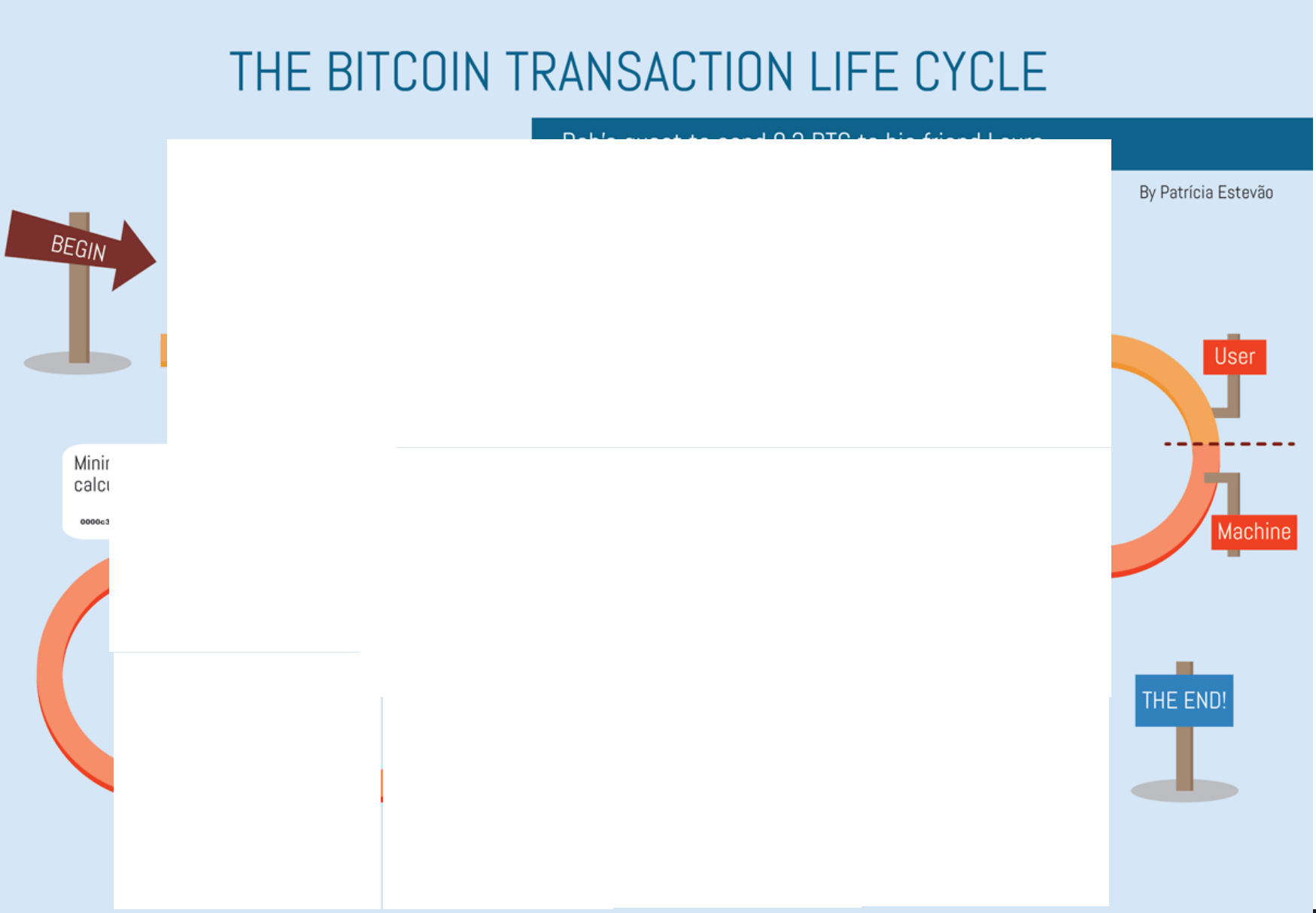


What is your previous exposure to the cryptocurrencies? Please check all items which applies to you.

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

BASICS

https://livebitnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/bitcoin-transaction-life-cycle-high-resolution-1.png



- Wallet
- Address
- Fee
- Transaction
- Signing
- Network nodes
- Block
- Mining
- Proof of Work
- Verification
- Block reward
- Tx confirmation
- And many more…

Main design goals of the Bitcoin

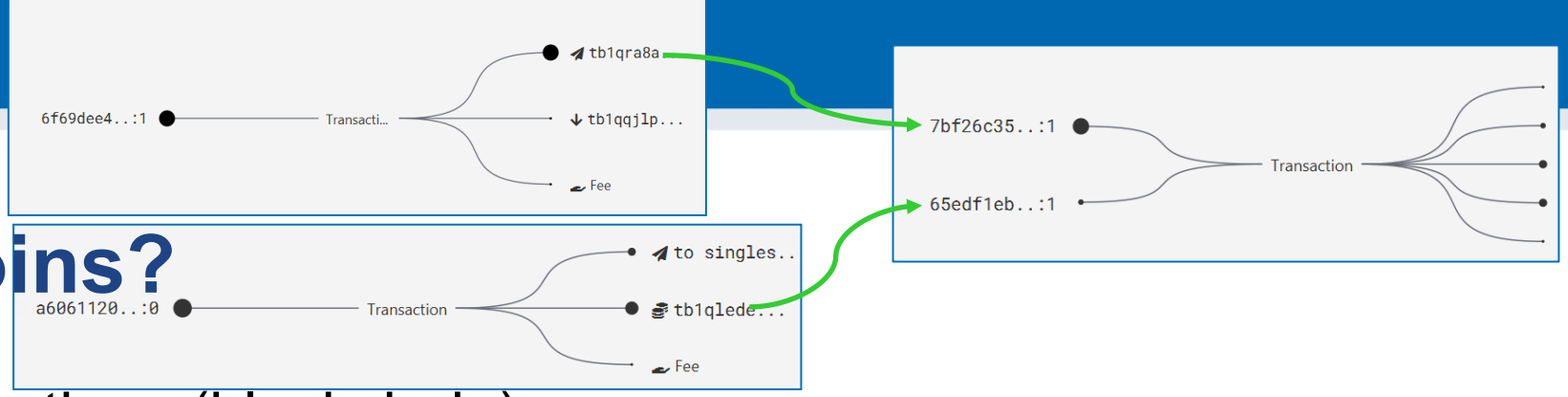
1. Decentralization
   - No central authority or intermediary (=> no single point of failure), possibility of self-custody
   - No limitation on network participants (no permission to join is required)
   - Applies to executing a transaction, but also development, infrastructure, mining…
2. Transparency
   - All transactions recorded on public ledger; validity of every “bitcoin” easy to verify
   - Total number of bitcoins in circulation easy to assess (monetary policy, fixed supply)
3. Security based on cryptography (mainly signature, hash functions)
   - Ownership of bitcoins proved only cryptographically (no “chargeback” based on human decision)
   - Protection of bitcoins reduced to protection of private key(s)
4. Pseudonymity of participants
   - bitcoins connected to public keys, not usernames (does not automatically mean anonymity!)

Problems to tackle

- How to prevent double spending?
- How to allow for permissionless participation?
- Who will store authoritative copy of public ledger?
- How to prevent modification of ledger history?
- Who will include next block in blockchain?
- How to maintain decentralization in distant future?
- …

Double-spending problem and Bitcoin's solution

- Digital data are inherently easy to copy perfectly
  - If used as monetary coins, how to prevent double/triple… spending the same coin?
  - Previous proposals (eCash, B-money, Bit Gold..) required central party for prevention
- Digital coin X is "spent" by a transaction between users A and B
  - Double spend is another transaction from A to C using same coin X
- If all transactions are ordered strictly in time, double spend is not possible
  - Later transaction with same coin X is invalid
  - Decentralized ordering is costly as all participants need to agree on global state
- If ordered after every transaction => costly and slow
- Bitcoin orders in batches of transaction every 10 minutes on average
  - User needs to wait one (or more blocks) for ordering (longer => higher certainty)



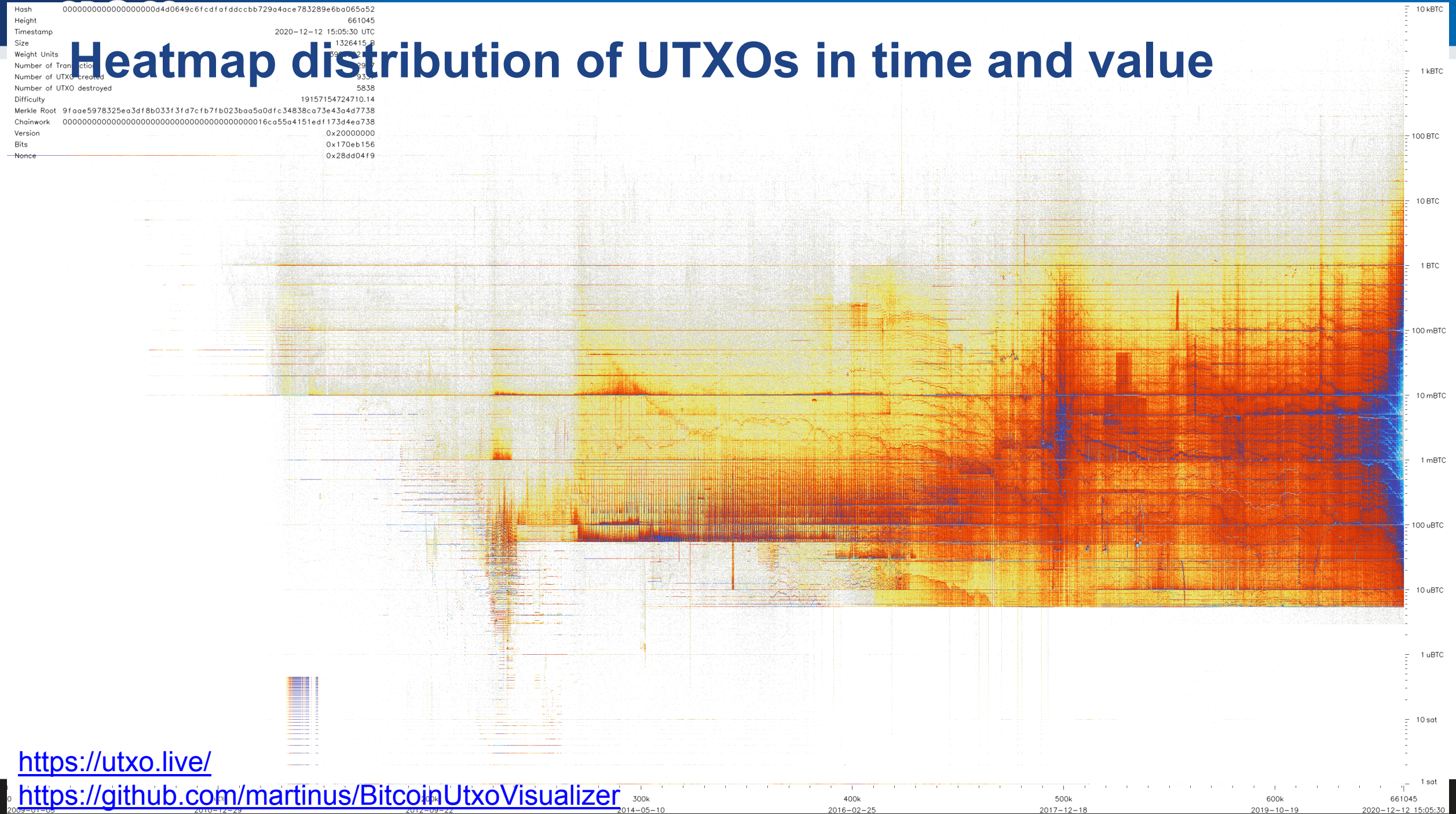
Where are my bitcoins?

- Public ledger of all transactions (blockchain)
  - Replicated between all Bitcoin fullnodes (P2P network)
- “Bitcoin holdings” - sum of values of not-yet-spent transactions control
  - Unspent Transaction Output (UTXO)
- “Bitcoin receive” operation – generate variable part of lockscript (public) and share with sender + monitor blockchain for my transaction
- “Bitcoin send” operation – take “your” UTXO and use it as input to new one
  - Specify recipient by script specifying what must be done int future send (lockscript)
  - Typical lockscript is “prove that you can sign with private key corresponding to THIS public key”
- Protection and handling of private keys is paramount
  - “Not your keys, not your bitcoin!“

UTXO set = all currently valid “bitcoins”

https://statoshi.info/d/000000009/unspent-transaction-output-set?orgId=1&refresh=10m&from=1483225200000&to=now

Heatmap distribution of UTXOs in time and value



https://utxo.live/

https://github.com/martinus/BitcoinUtxoVisualizer

Problem: How to allow for permissionless participation?

BITCOIN NETWORK

Bitco
2P net

fullnode

fullnode

Blockchain

SW-only wallet

With hardware wallet

P2P Bitcoin network map https://bitnodes.io/

REACHABLE BITCOIN NODES

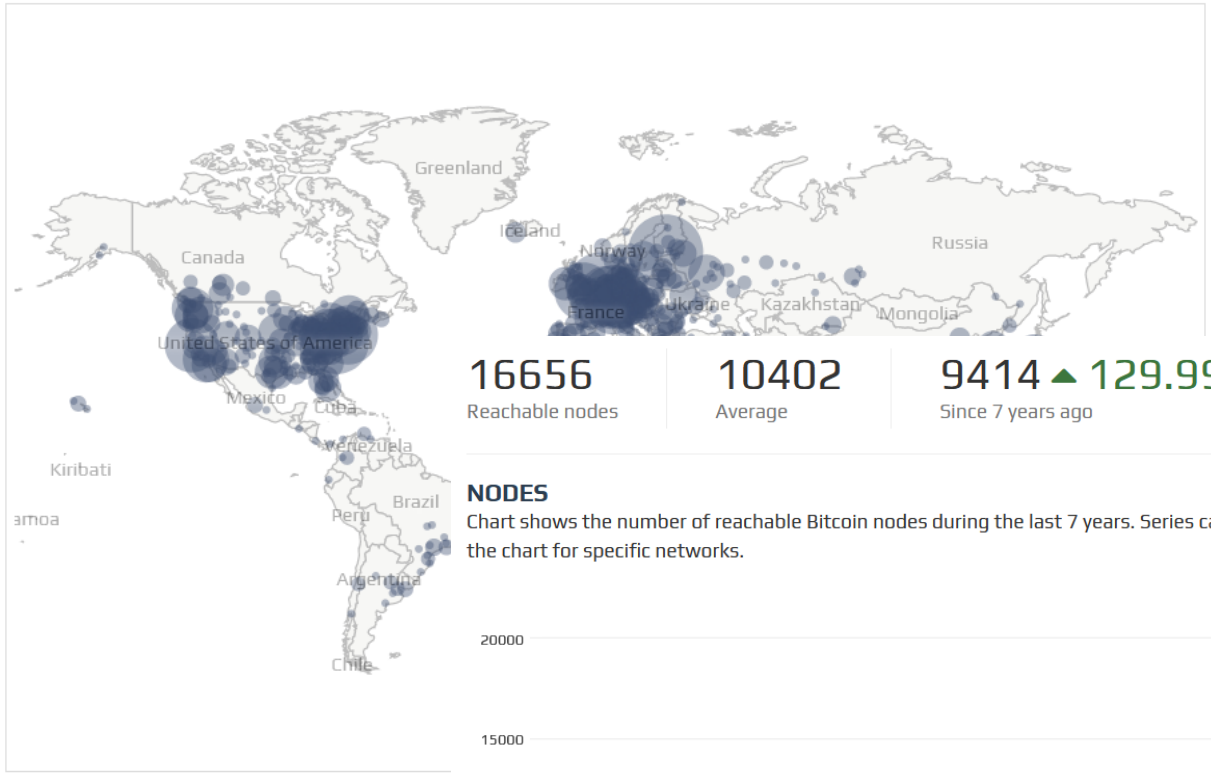
Updated: Sat Mar 18 10:21:17 2023 CET

16537 NODES CHARTS

IPv4: +0.1% / IPv6: +0.6% / .onion: +21.8%

Top 10 countries with their respective number of reachable nodes are as follows.

RANK	COUNTRY	NODES
1	n/a	9992 (60.42%)
2	United States	1752 (10.59%)
3	Germany	1403 (8.48%)
4	France	448 (2.71%)
5	Netherlands	398 (2.41%)
6	Canada	273 (1.65%)
7	Finland	240 (1.45%)
8	United Kingdom	211 (1.28%)
9	Russian Federation	169 (1.02%)



Map shows concentration of reachable

16656 Reachable nodes

10402 Average

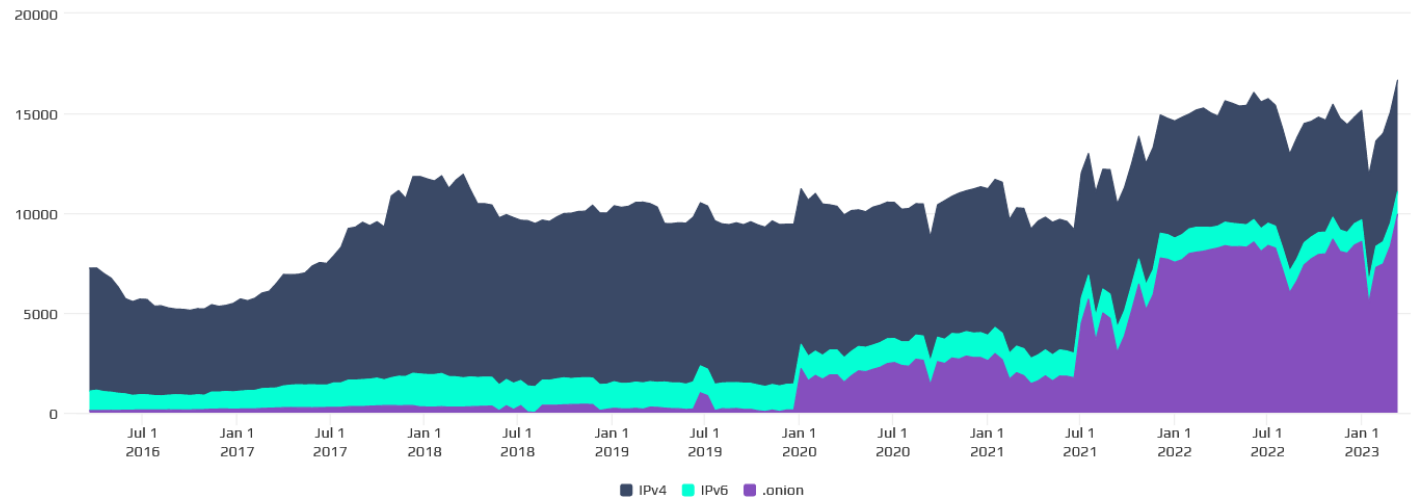
9414 ▲ 129.99% Since 7 years ago

NODES

Chart shows the number of reachable Bitcoin nodes during the last 7 years. Series can be enabled or disabled from the legend to view the chart for specific networks.

24h 90d 1y 7y

Lo 5135 Hi 16656 Avg 10402 Last 16656 nodes



What is Bitcoin “fullnode”

- Software capable to connect and interact with P2P network
- Downloads whole blockchain, fully verifies all blocks (PoW) and transactions starting from the Genesis block (or trusted checkpoint)
  - Dynamically builds own UTXO set (unspent txs) and Mempool (unconfirmed txs)
- Propagates new incoming blocks and transactions
- No formal specification of Bitcoin consensus exists
  - Bitcoin Core software is defacto specification (https://github.com/bitcoin/bitcoin)
  - Other implementations also exists (but large majority of nodes are Bitcoin Core)
- Currently several days to fully synchronize (CPU/bandwith), ~465GB
- Can be run over Tor to protect user privacy
- Bitcoin wallet needs to connect to some fullnode (your = better privacy)

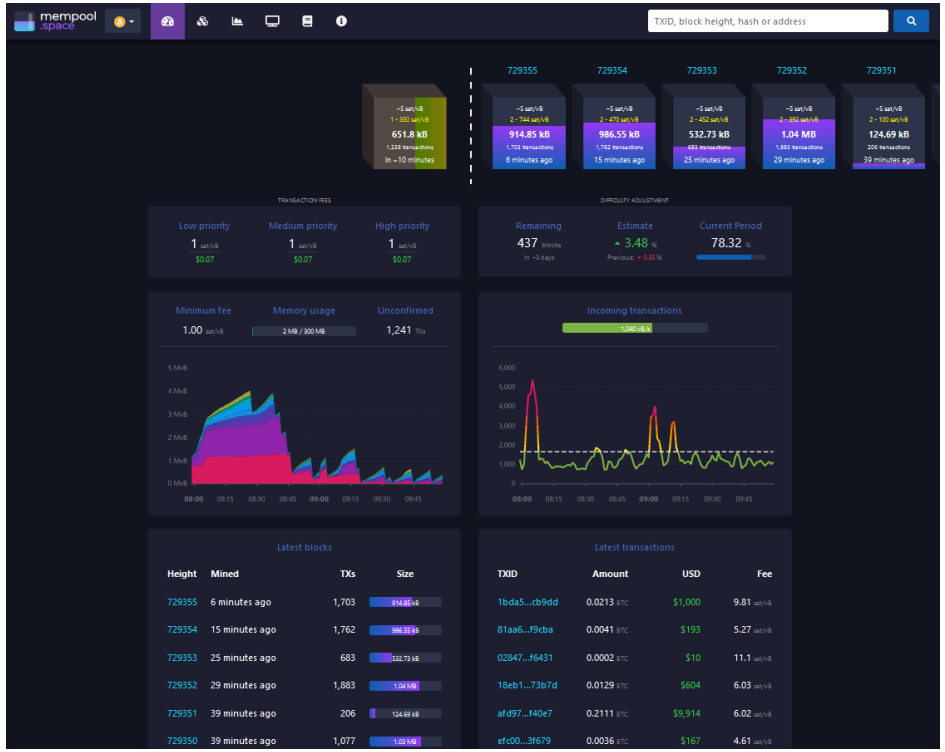
Networks in Bitcoin (Mainnet, Testnet, Regtest, Signet)

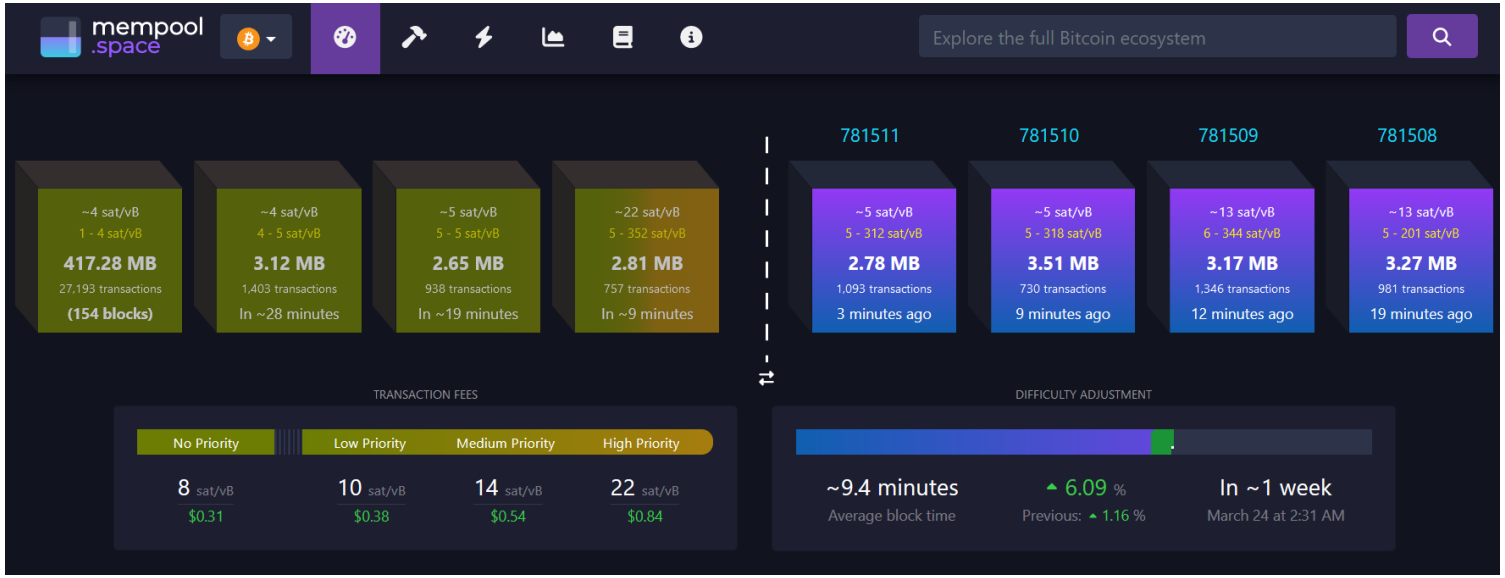
- Mainnet – main, global production network (“real” bitcoins)
- Testnet – testing network (global, some mining happens…)
  - Restarted from time to time, contains many different types and versions of TXs
- Regtest – local instance of Bitcoin network
  - Used for local testing (integration, regression,debugging)
  - Blockchain started from block 0, you are the only miner
  - (mined bitcoins unusable on Mainnet)
  - You can insert own transactions, decide on mining new blocks, debug…
- Signet – testing network like Testnet, but with features not yet active on Mainnet
  - Initially for testing Taproot, now for future possible softforks
- (Lighting – second layer network of payment channels atop of mainnet)
  - Practically instant and very low fees independently from mainnet

Mempool – unconfirmed transactions

- Every fullnode maintains own list of unconfirmed transactions (mempool)
  - No single global mempool! But local mempools tend to synchronize quickly
- Miners construct next block from transactions maximizing profit (mostly)
- What if tx is in a mempool, but with too low fee (not getting confirmed)?
  1. Child pays for parent –additional transaction spending output of previous (high fee)
  2. Replace By Fee (RBF) flag – new tx, but with higher fee, replaced by nodes
  3. (Wait for purge, pay miner out of band…)
- If too many unconfirmed txs present, some existing are purged (removed)
  - Default size of mempool (for Bitcoin Core) is ~300MB
  - Selection depends on configuration (low-fee tx, large tx, old tx)
  - If discarded, it can be re-inserted later from other nodes or resubmitted (by owner)

Popular mempool explorer – https://mempool.space





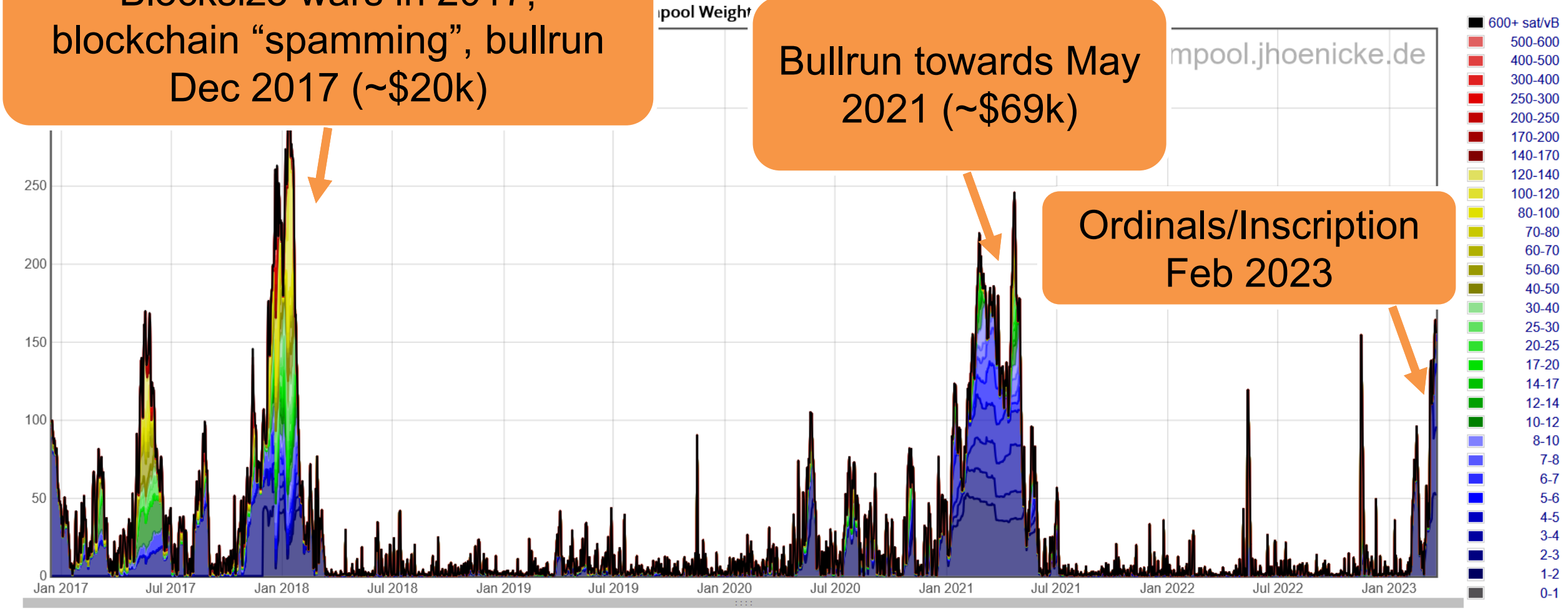
- Can be run on your own fullnode (privacy improvement)
- Testnet version https://mempool.space/testnet

Mempool size in time

Blocksize wars in 2017, blockchain “spamming”, bullrun Dec 2017 (~$20k)

Bullrun towards May 2021 (~$69k)

Ordinals/Inscription Feb 2023

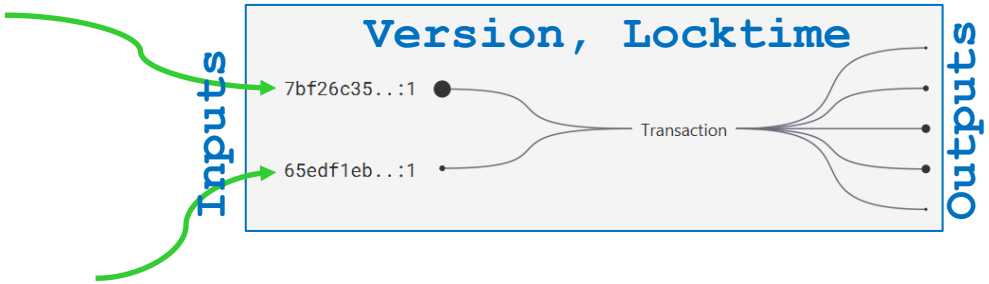


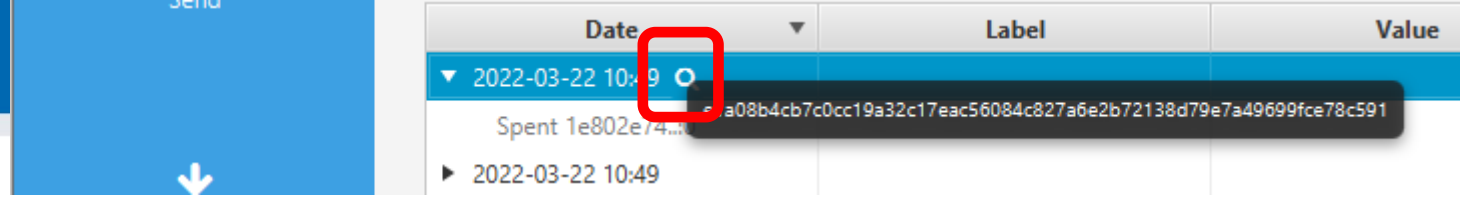
DEMO: LOOK AND COMMENT THE CURRENT MEMPOOL STATE

TRANSACTION

Transaction components

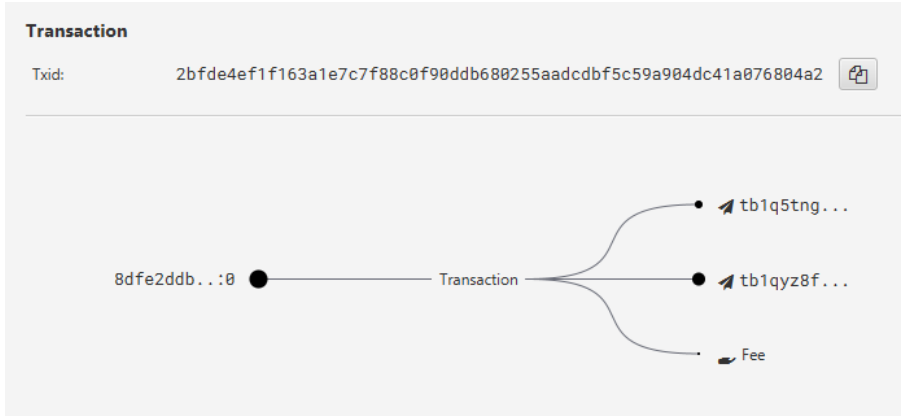
- Binary structure optimized for small size (further decreased over time)
  - Version
  - Inputs (bitcoins spent, points to some previous tx outpt + unlock script)
  - Outputs (bitcoins received, description of lock script)
  - Locktime (when starts to be valid, absolute or relative, time or block height)
- Can be created offline, broadcasted immediately or later (Lighting)



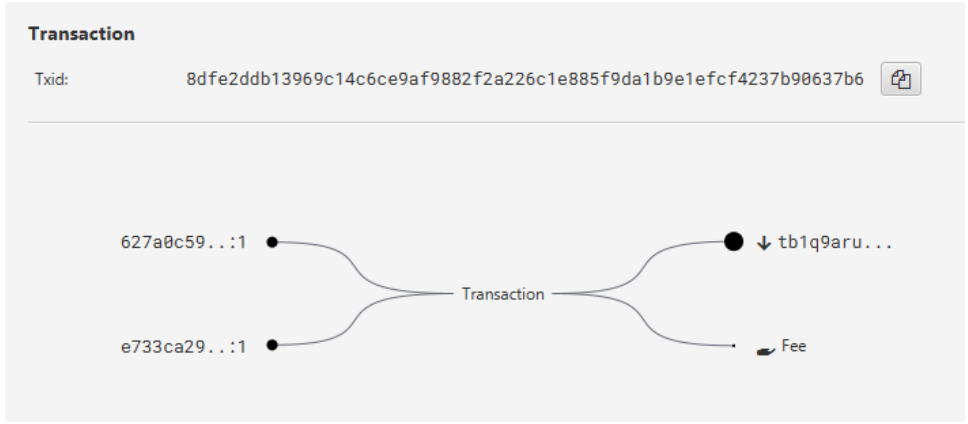


Various transactions can be created

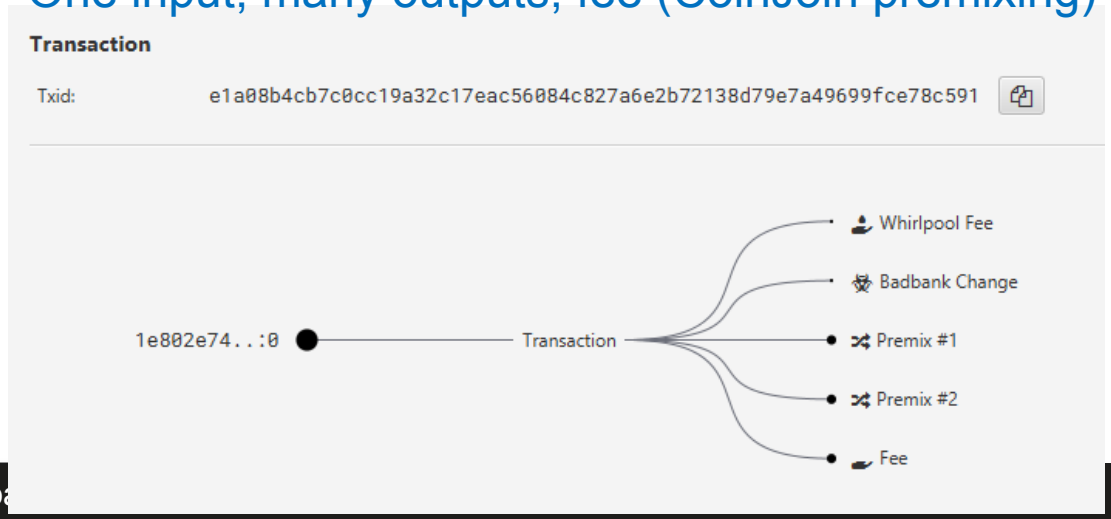
One input, two outputs + fee (possibly classic pay)



Two inputs, one output + fee (possibly consolidation)

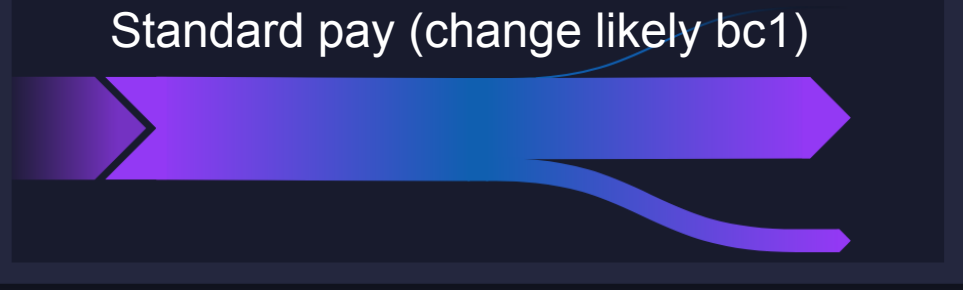


One input, many outputs, fee (CoinJoin premixing)



Many inputs, many outputs, fee…

Standard pay (change likely bc1)

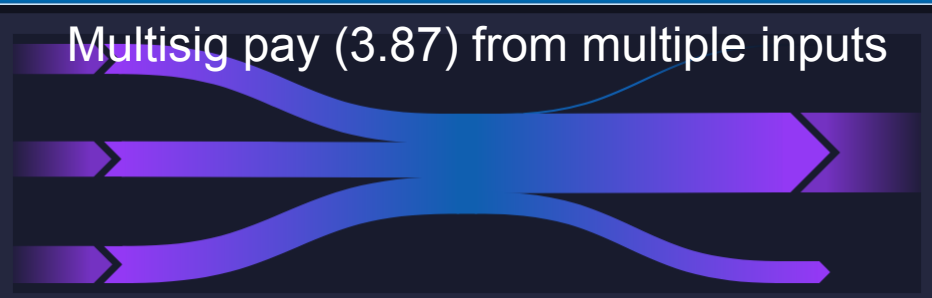


Inputs & Outputs

Details

bc1qcfrqk98y3f2yxfpwgm4…cd3l7jrh	0.01824993 BTC	16g2ZjLHG86GMtxJJtVXQcq…qBfWYAfK	0.01430567 BTC
		bc1qcfrqk98y3f2yxfpwgm4…cd3l7jrh	0.00391114 BTC
			0.01821681 BTC

Multisig pay (3.87) from multiple inputs

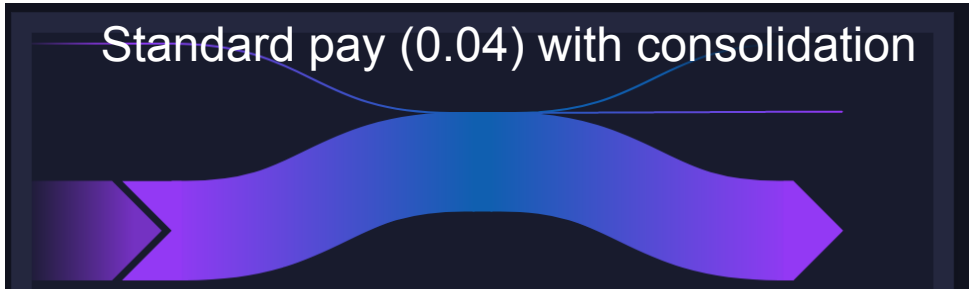


Inputs & Outputs

Details

bc1qc8dyets2cdckkuf29kd…aswdfl9e Multisig 2 of 3	1.43051325 BTC	36Sn1rywJ6V6xGU3BMZMsfg…jy4AXp3J	3.87400001 BTC
		bc1qn8x5uzaucq7cu0hn4mk…nq9sc45p	1.03549133 BTC
bc1qguwfqf0np430ygmmvrw…wsxghtjq Multisig 2 of 3	1.69673127 BTC		
bc1qn8x5uzaucq7cu0hn4mk…nq9sc45p Multisig 2 of 3	1.78239593 BTC		
			4.90949134 BTC

Standard pay (0.04) with consolidation

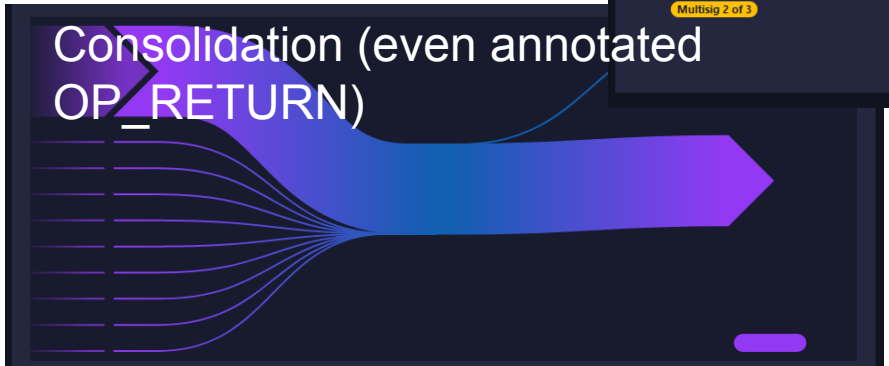


Inputs & Outputs

Details

bc1q7e7j5u8rk6we50j2y4v…xsssws7q	0.00433811 BTC	bc1q9clhqd4mp36h4v4cfmd…773lru3d	0.04000000 BTC
bc1q7e7j5u8rk6we50j2y4v…xsssws7q	72.63982966 BTC	bc1q7e7j5u8rk6we50j2y4v…xsssws7q	72.60409777 BTC
			72.64409777 BTC

Consolidation (even annotated OP_RETURN)

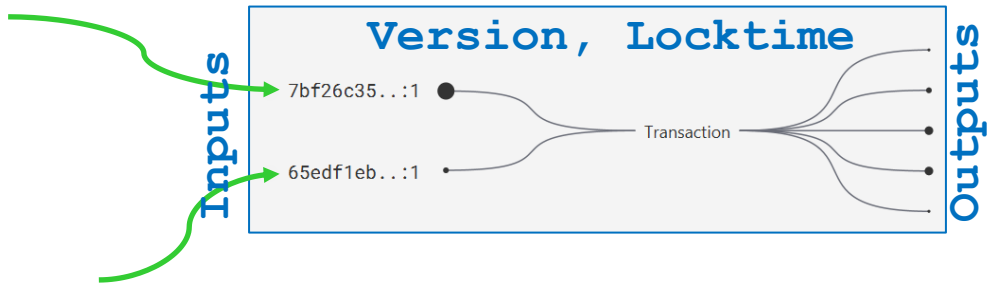


Inputs & Outputs

Details

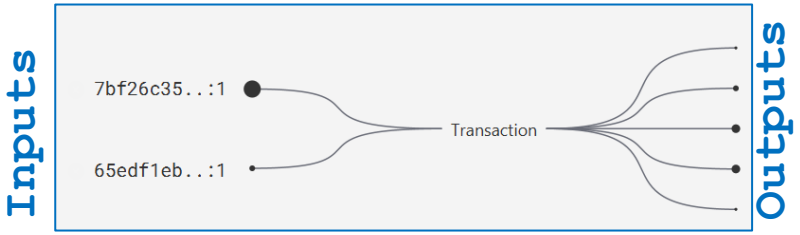
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	117.11561344 BTC	bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	117.14108466 BTC
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00241705 BTC	OP_RETURN consolidate	0.00000000 BTC
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00619855 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00010001 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00158000 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00591711 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00355191 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00158659 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00225320 BTC		
bc1qpraml47gzdrznusqt6x…549jwzja	0.00200000 BTC		
			117.14108466 BTC

DEMO: LOOK AT CURRENT MEMPOOL TRANSACTIONS (CONFIRMED, UNCORFIRMED)

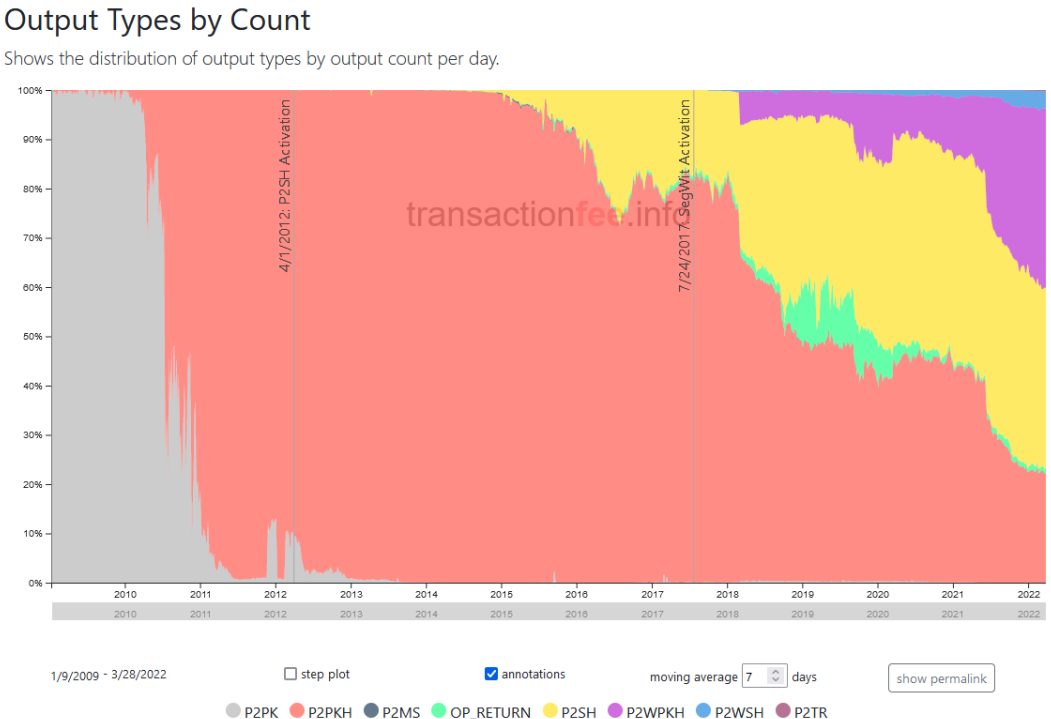


LOCK AND UNLOCK SCRIPTS

Types of receiving “addresses”



- There is no ”address” defined in Bitcoin network
- Standard patterns how to construct lock script emerged over the time
  - e.g., unlock if signature is verifiable with the public key stored in lock script (P2PK)
  - “Address” is the variable part of the lock script differing between (different receivers / transactions)
- *Notation warning: scriptSig (script + signature), scriptPubKey (initial meaning script + public key == P2PK)*
- Well-known standard types of lock scripts
  - Pay-to-public-key (P2PK)
  - Pay-to-public-key-hash (P2PKH, starts with 1)
  - Pay-to-script-hash (P2SH, BIP16)
  - OP_RETURN (any data 40B)
  - Native Pay-to-witness-script-hash (P2WSH, starts with 3)
  - P2WSH-nested-in-P2SH
  - P2SH-P2WPKH, P2SH-P2WSH
  - Native P2WPK, P2WSH (Bech32, starts with bc1)
  - Pay-to-Taproot (P2TR, Schnorr signature, starts bc1p)

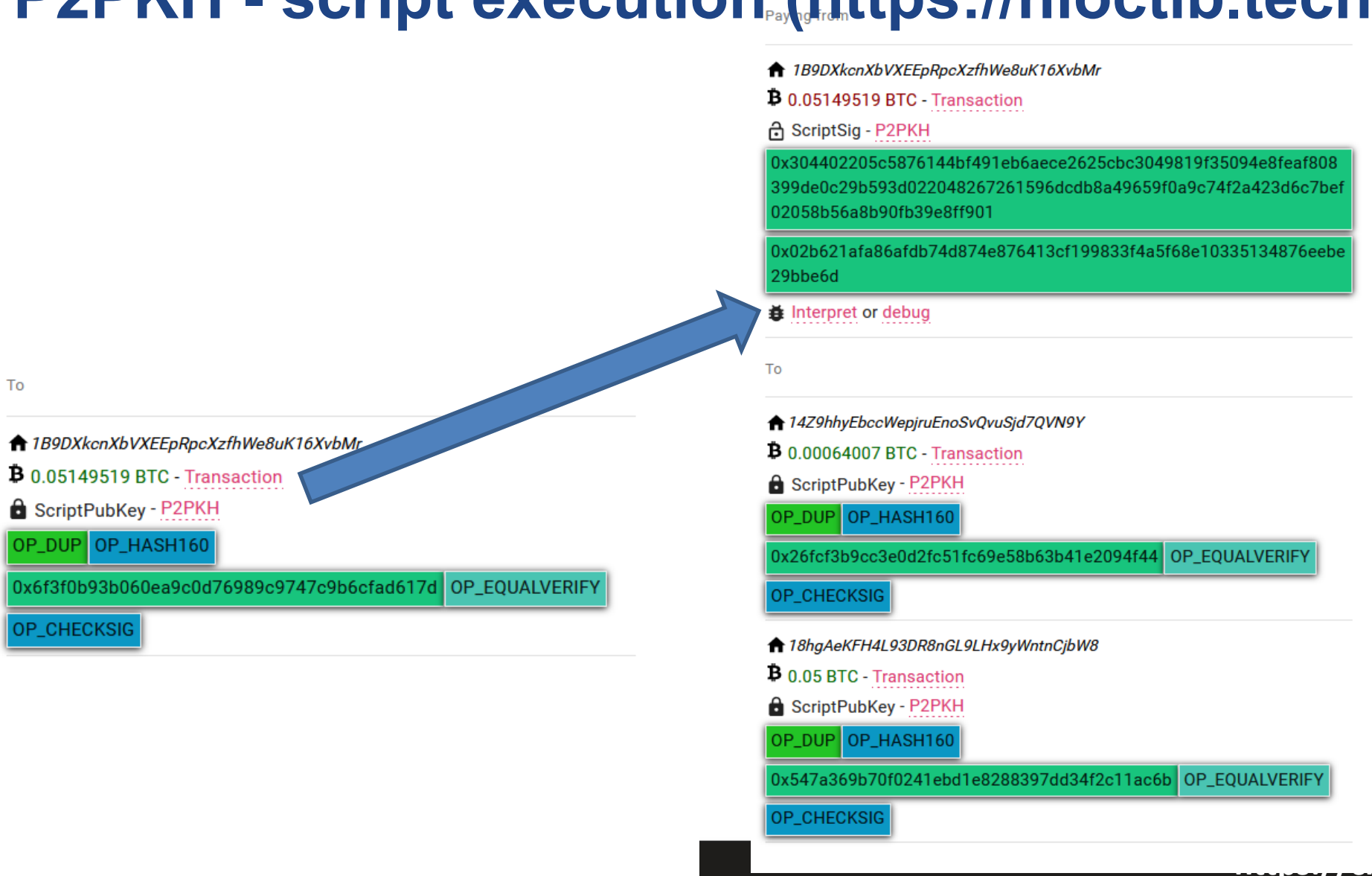


Pay-to-public-key (P2PK), Pay-to-public-key-hash (P2PKH)

- Pay-to-public-key (P2PK)
  - Lock script contains direct value of public key and instructions to push signature and verify with the public key
  - Used initially by Satoshi and others, now infrequent
  - Disadvantage: if practical dlog attack against secp256k1 is found, private key can be computed
- Pay-to-public-key-hash (P2PKH), starts with ‘1’
  - Lock script contains hash of public key later used for signature verification
  - Advantage: smaller lockscript, attacker does not know public key until spent

https://nioctib.tech/#/transaction/f2f398dace996dab12e0cfb02fb0b59de0ef0398be393d90ebc8ab397550370b
https://nioctib.tech/#/transaction/feff813f13340060f641c11ab1307bb1b8cabcdcc3af1aed8a089e38c8407aef

P2PKH - script execution (https://nioctib.tech/)



Stack

Script

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script Sig** [1]

Stack

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script Sig** [2]

Stack

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [3]

Stack

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [4]

Stack

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_HASH160 0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d

OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [5]

Stack

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [6]

Stack

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d

0x6f3f0b93b060ea9c0d76989c9747c9b6cfad617d

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [7]

Stack

1

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_VERIFY OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [8]

Stack

0x02b621afa86afdb74d874e876413cf199833f4a5f68e10335134876eebe29bbe6d

0x304402205c5876144bf491eb6aece2625cbc3049819f35094e8feaf808399de0c29b593d022048267261596dcdb8a49659f0a9c74f2a423d6c7bef02058b56a8b90fb39e8ff901

Script

OP_CHECKSIG

Executing **Script PubKey** [9]

Stack

1

Script

Execution Succeeded

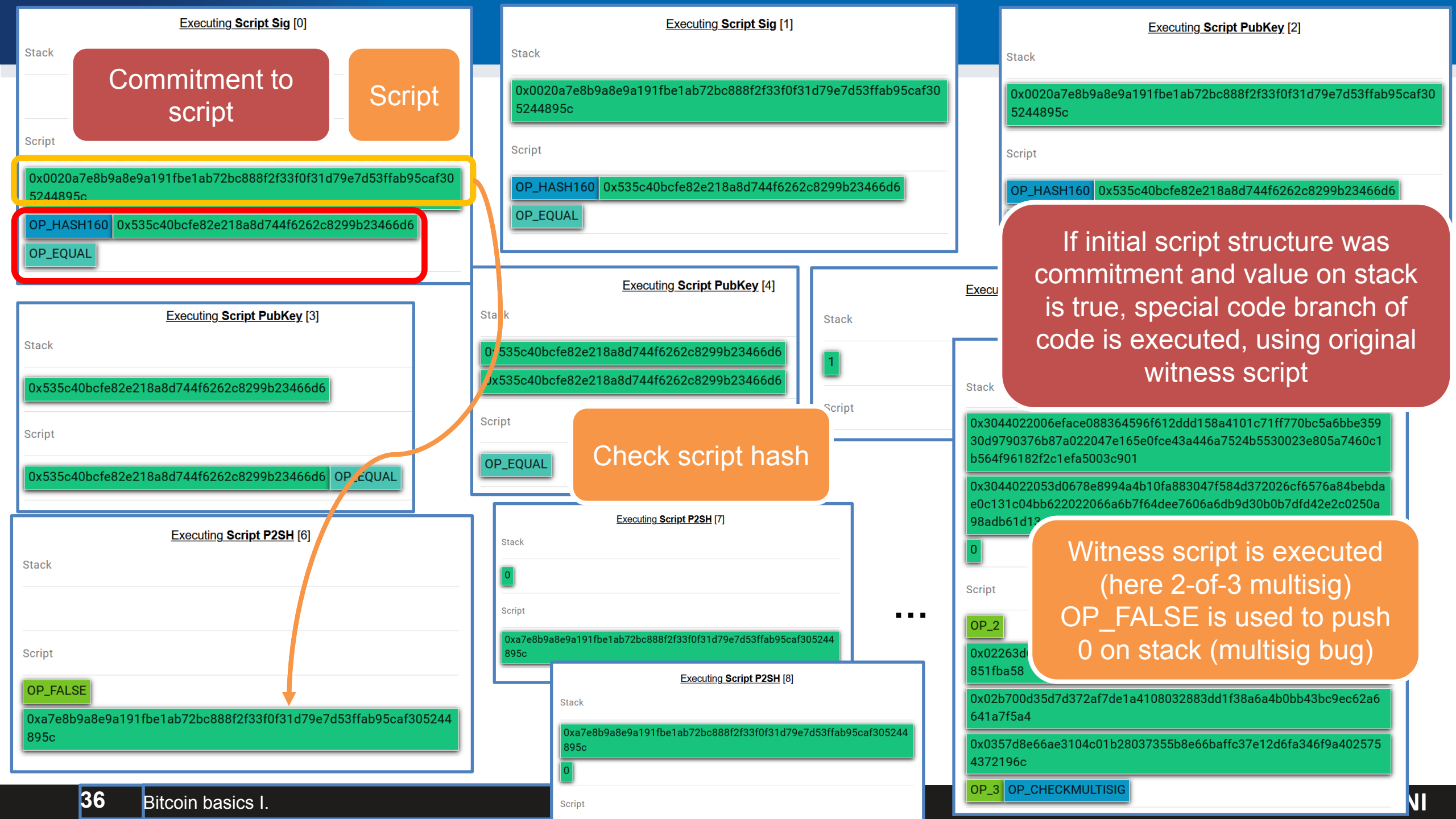
Stack

1

Script

Pay to script hash (P2SH), BIP16, starts with ‘3’

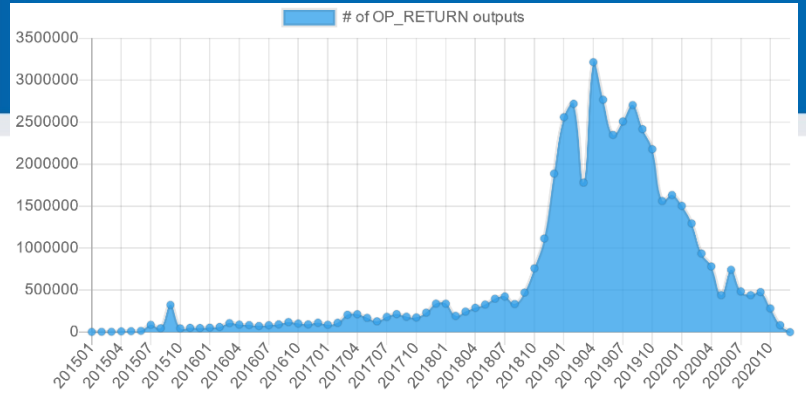
- Lock script separated into two parts
  - 1) commitment to the script (hash value, checked later)
  - 2) actual lock script (hash value must match the commitment)
- Sending tx sets output’s ScriptPub to the commitment
  - Shorter as only hash is posted, not whole lock script
  - Lock script is provided only later when spending (privacy, fee to be paid)
  - Lock script can have multiple spending paths (Merkle tree) and only the one used is posted (better for privacy)
- Redeeming tx provides actual lock script + unlock script


Executing Script Sig [0]
Stack
Commitment to script
Script
Script
0x0020a7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
OP_HASH160
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
OP_EQUAL
Executing Script Sig [1]
Stack
0x0020a7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
Script
OP_HASH160
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
OP_EQUAL
Executing Script PubKey [2]
Stack
0x0020a7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
Script
OP_HASH160
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
If initial script structure was commitment and value on stack is true, special code branch of code is executed, using original witness script
Executing Script PubKey [3]
Stack
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
Script
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
OP_EQUAL
Executing Script PubKey [4]
Stack
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
0x535c40bcfe82e218a8d744f6262c8299b23466d6
Script
OP_EQUAL
Check script hash
Stack
1
Script
Stack
0x3044022006eface088364596f612ddd158a4101c71ff770bc5a6bbe35930d9790376b87a022047e165e0fce43a446a7524b5530023e805a7460c1b564f96182f2c1efa5003c901
0x3044022053d0678e8994a4b10fa883047f584d372026cf6576a84bebdae0c131c04bb622022066a6b7f64dee7606a6db9d30b0b7dfd42e2c0250a98adb61d1
0
Script
OP_2
0x02263d
851fba58
0x02b700d35d7d372af7de1a4108032883dd1f38a6a4b0bb43bc9ec62a6641a7f5a4
0x0357d8e66ae3104c01b28037355b8e66baffc37e12d6fa346f9a4025754372196c
OP_3
OP_CHECKMULTISIG
Witness script is executed (here 2-of-3 multisig) OP_FALSE is used to push 0 on stack (multisig bug)
Executing Script P2SH [6]
Stack
Script
OP_FALSE
0xa7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
Executing Script P2SH [7]
Stack
0
Script
0xa7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
Executing Script P2SH [8]
Stack
0xa7e8b9a8e9a191fbe1ab72bc888f2f33f0f31d79e7d53ffab95caf305244895c
0
Script

Interesting, non-standard scripts

- SHA1 collision bounty
  - Bitcoins locked to script requiring two different inputs hashed to same SHA1 hash
  - Redeemed shortly after Google published SHA1 collision blocks
    - https://blockstream.info/tx/8d31992805518fd62daa3bdd2a5c4fd2cd3054c9b3dca1d78055e9528cff6adc
    - https://nioctib.tech/#/transaction/f2f398dace996dab12e0cfb02fb0b59de0ef0398be393d90ebc8ab397550370b
  - More details: https://bitcoinjs-guide.bitcoin-studio.com/bitcoinjs-guide/v5/part-three-pay-to-script-hash/puzzles/computational_puzzle_sha1_collision_p2sh.html
  - Similar bounties for

OP_RETURN



- If OP_RETURN is encountered during execution of unlock+lock script, it is FALSE
  - Such output is provably unspendable
- Somewhat controversial instruction
  - Some feels, that blockchain shall not be used for non-financial data (USDT was initially on Bitcoin via OP_RETURN)
  - But there were already ways how to store arbitrary data into blockchain anyway (e.g., bytes of value, invalid address)
- Analysis of OP_RETURN data
  - https://www.blockchainresearchlab.org/2020/03/13/how-do-op-return-transactions-impact-bitcoin/
  - https://opreturn.org/

Paying from

1HnhWpkMHMjgt167kvgcPyurMmsCQ2WPgg

0.0022 BTC - Transaction output 1

ScriptSig - P2PKH

0x30450220446df4e6b875af246800c8c976de7cd6d7d95016c4a8f7bcdbba81679cbda242022100c1ccfacfeb5e83087894aa8d9e37b11f5c054a75d030d5bfd94d17c5bc953d4a01

0x045901f6367ea950a5665335065342b952c5d5d60607b3cdc6c69a03df1a6b915aa02eb5e07095a2548a98dcdd84d875c6a3e130bafadfd45e694a3474e71405a4

Interpret or debug

To

No address

0 BTC - not spent yet

ScriptPubKey - NULL DATA

charley loves heidi

OP_RETURN 0x636861726c6579206c6f766573206865696469

1HnhWpkMHMjgt167kvgcPyurMmsCQ2WPgg

0.002 BTC - Transaction

ScriptPubKey - P2PKH

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

0xb8268ce4d481413c4e848ff353cd16104291c45b OP_EQUALVERIFY

OP_CHECKSIG

https://nioctib.tech/#/transaction/f2f398dace996dab12e0cfb02fb0b59de0ef0398be393d90ebc8ab397550370b

Miniscript (A. Poelstra, P. Wuille, S. Kanjalkar, 2019)

- Language for easier and error-prone creation of Bitcoin scripts
  - Subset of Bitcoin script language
  - Human-readable, easy to express complex locking conditions
  - https://bitcoin.sipa.be/miniscript/
- Simple building blocks (policies)
  - Single-key, Multi-key,
  - Time-locks, Check-sequence,
  - Hash-lock…
- Compiler creates optimal script
  - And cost analysis

Supported policies:

- `pk(NAME)`: Require public key named *NAME* to sign. *NAME* can be any string up to 16 characters.
- `after(NUM)`, `older(NUM)`: Require that the `nLockTime/nSequence` value is at least *NUM*. *NUM* cannot be 0.
- `sha256(HEX)`, `hash256(HEX)`: Require that the preimage of 64-character *HEX* is revealed. The special value `H` can be used as *HEX*.
- `ripemd160(HEX)`, `hash160(HEX)`: Require that the preimage of 40-character *HEX* is revealed. The special value `H` can be used as *HEX*.
- `and(POL,POL)`: Require that both subpolicies are satisfied.
- `or([N@]POL,[N@]POL)`: Require that one of the subpolicies is satisfied. The numbers N indicate the relative probability of each of the subexpressions (so `9@` is 9 times more likely than the default).
- `thresh(NUM,POL,POL,...)`: Require that NUM out of the following subpolicies are met (all combinations are assumed to be equally likely).

Miniscript examples

A single key

Policy

```
pk(key_1)
```

Miniscript output:

```
pk(key_1)
```

Spending cost analysis

- Script: 35 WU
- Input: 73.000000 WU
- Total: 108.000000 WU

Resulting script structure

```
<key_1> OP_CHECKSIG
```

A 3-of-3 that turns into a 2-of-3 after 90 days

Policy

```
thresh(3,pk(key_1),pk(key_2),pk(key_3),older(12960))
```

Miniscript output:

```
thresh(3,pk(key_1),s:pk(key_2),s:pk(key_3),sln:older(12960))
```

Spending cost analysis

- Script: 122 WU
- Input: 166.250000 WU
- Total: 288.250000 WU

Resulting script structure

```
<key_1> OP_CHECKSIG OP_SWAP <key_2> OP_CHECKSIG OP_ADD OP_SWAP <key_3>
OP_CHECKSIG OP_ADD OP_SWAP OP_IF
  0
OP_ELSE
  <a032> OP_CHECKSEQUENCEVERIFY OP_0NOTEQUAL
OP_ENDIF
OP_ADD 3 OP_EQUAL
```

BLOCKS AND MINING

Problem: Who will include next block in blockchain?

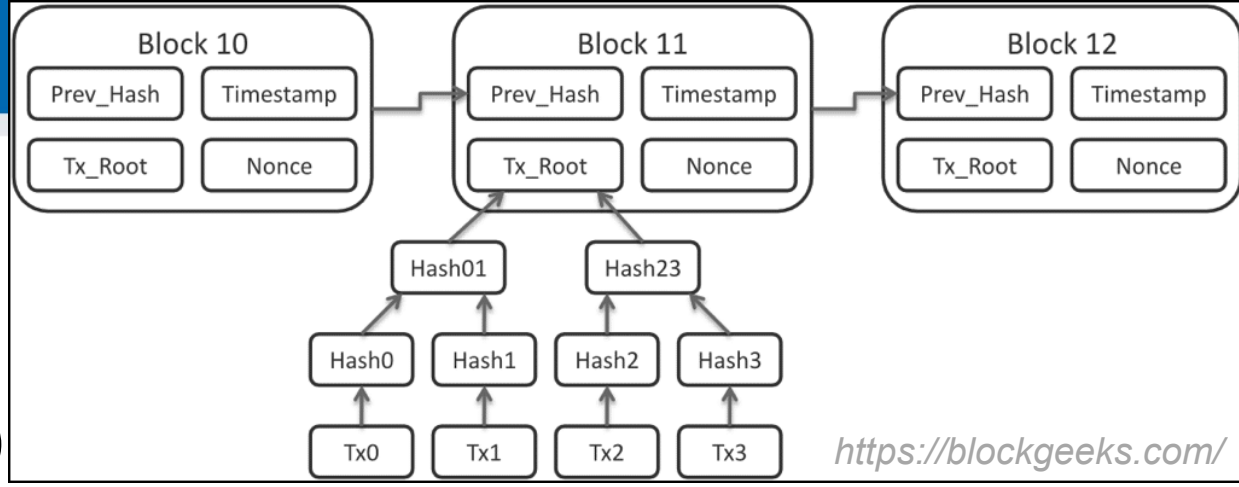
- Transactions (state updates) has to be included somehow into block to be “permanently” valid
- Entity including new block has special position and power
  - Can decide which transactions (state updates) will be included
    - May lead to censorship of certain transactions
    - May lead to transactions reordering impacting the financial value (e.g. MEV)
  - Can decide where new block is appended
    - Shall be last previous block, but can cause malicious forks abandoning part of previously extended blockchain (e.g., 51% attack to rewrite history)
  - Typically receive some reward (motivation for participation)
    - May cause long-term centralized accumulation of underlying token

Who can include next block to blockchain?

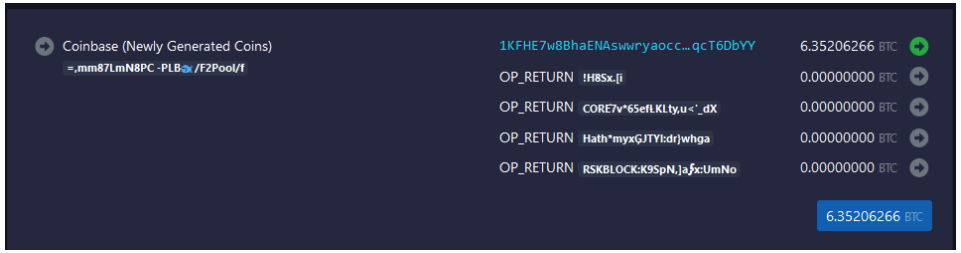
We will focus mainly on Proof Of Work used in Bitcoin

- Proof of Work (PoW, Bitcoin, Ethereum 1.0, Zcash…)
  - Solver of computationally hard puzzle can include new block
- Proof of Stake (PoS, Zcoin, Cardano, BNB, Ethereum 2.0…)
  - More coins you own, higher the probability you will be selected to include next block
  - Various variants, Stake pools…
- Merged Mining (Namecoin…)
  - Hash of block from the chain is included in coinbase tx of other chain (typically Bitcoin)
  - The chain is not performing own mining, Bitcoin miners are getting reward for inclusion of other chains
- Proof of Proof (PoP)
  - Hash of block from other chain is included in Bitcoin transaction (typically OP_RETURN)
  - Security of other chain is improved by security of Bitcoin blockchain
- Proof of Authority (PoA)
  - Small number of trusted actors create new blocks

Bitcoin block



- Header (80 B) + data (up to ~4MB)
  - Version
  - Previous block hash (linking to past blockchain)
  - Merkle root of all included transactions (Coinbase tx + others)
  - Timestamp (unix time)
  - Bits (specification of required mining difficulty)
  - Nonce (variable part to mine , now insufficient)



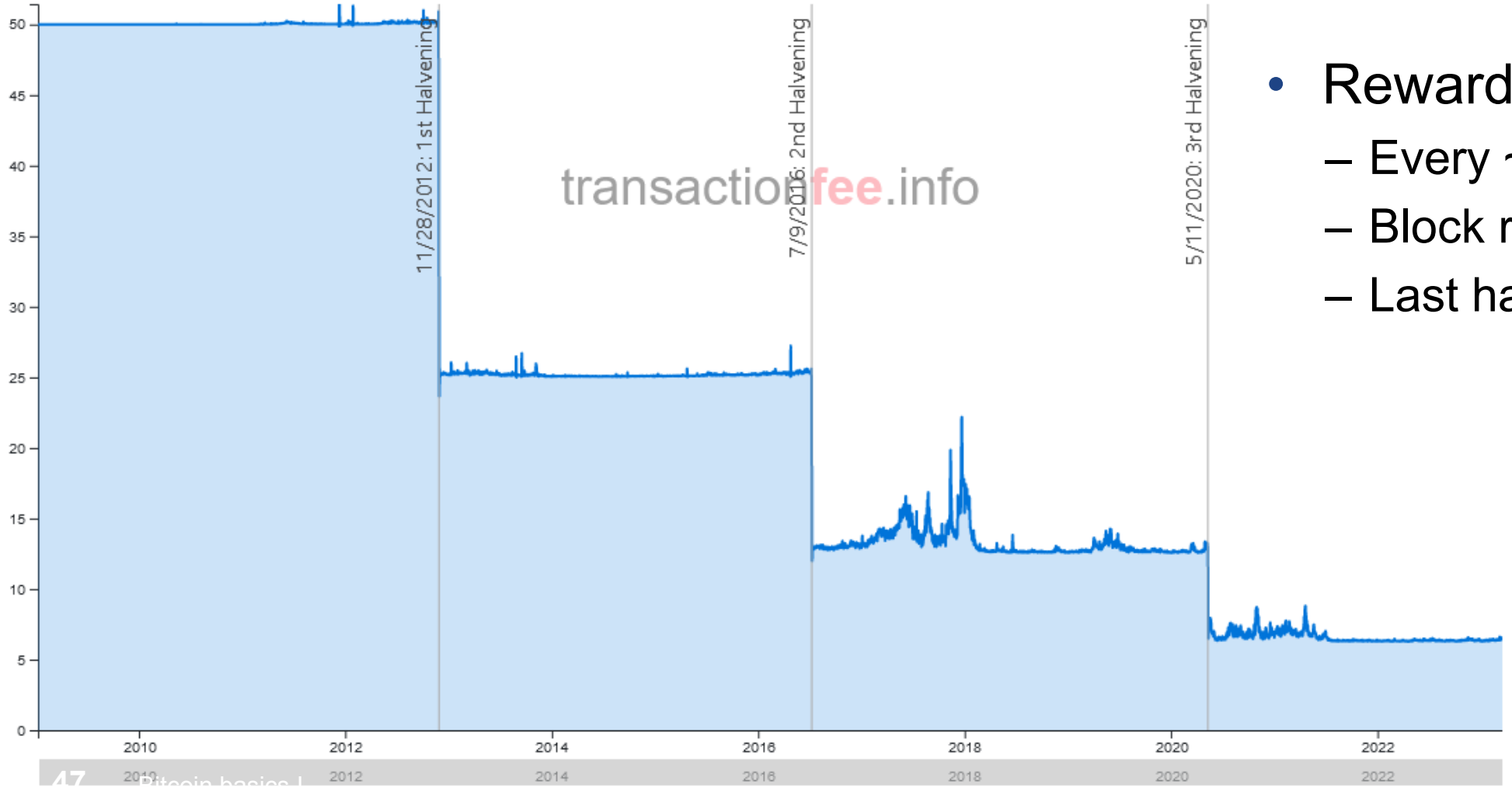
- Coinbase transaction (reward for miners, emission of new bitcoins)
  - First transaction in every block (only one)
  - Only one input, previous TX ID = 0x0000..00, prev. TX index = 0xffffffff
  - (Typically) equal to block reward + all fees from included transactions

Mining in Proof of Work chains

- Crucial for security of blockchain (no rewrite of history)
- Initially on CPU (Satoshi: everyone can participate 1 CPU 1 vote)
- CPU→GPU →FPGA →ASIC
- Initially solo mining, later collaborative mining (too little chance alone)
- First mining pool: SlushPool in Prague (now Braiins Pool)
  - Miners join their hashrate, fraction of reward based on number of partial solutions
- Cambridge university centre for alternative finance (CBECI)
  - Where are the miners? https://cbeci.org/mining_map/
  - More mining details: https://cbeci.org/cbeci/methodology

Miner reward – coinbase output: block + fees

Shows the average coinbase transaction output amount.



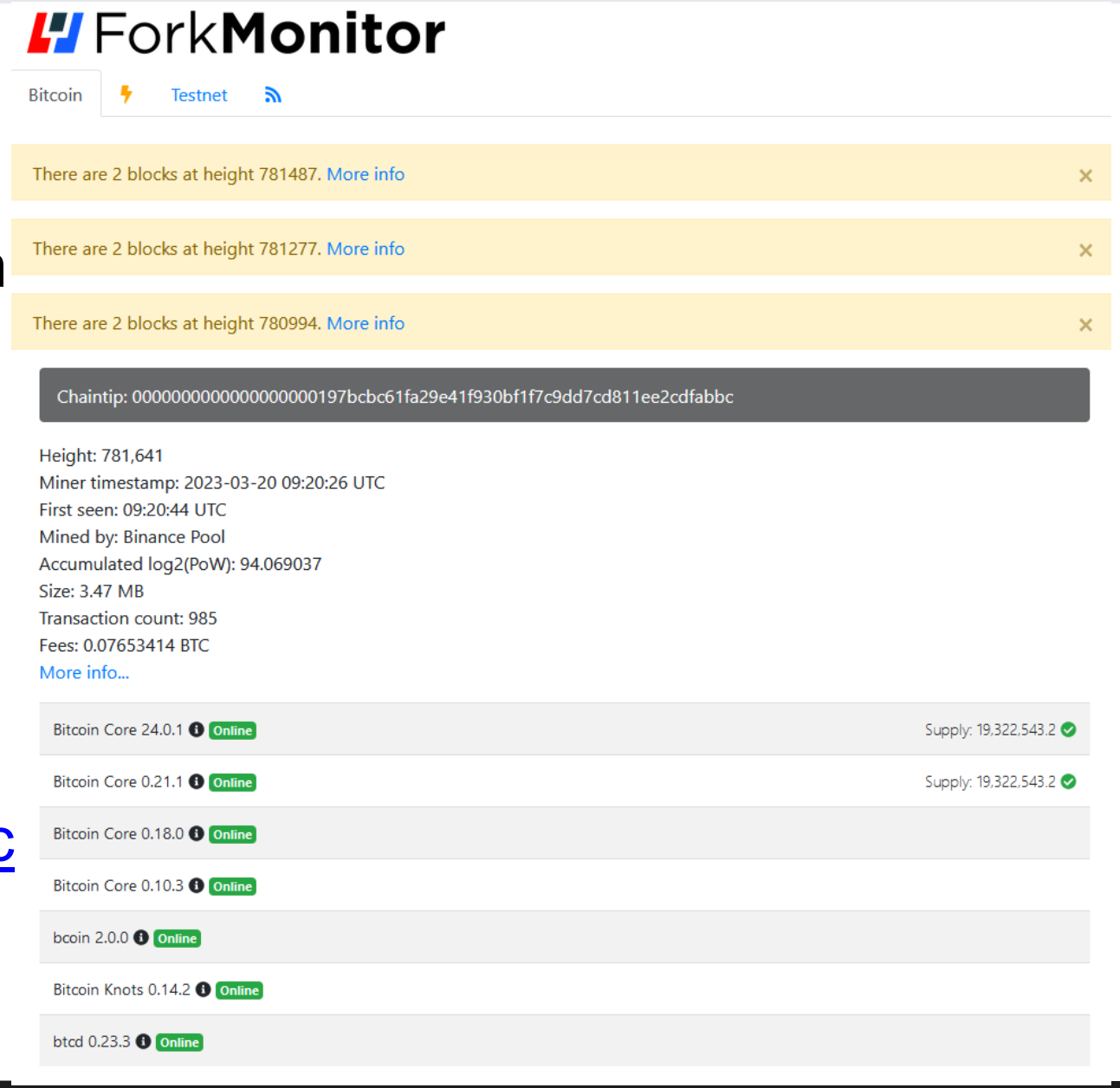
- Reward halving
  - Every ~4 years
  - Block reward drops to ½
  - Last halving in year 2140

Hashrate in time (~320EH/s = $3.2*10^{20}$ hash/sec = 2^{66} /sec)

https://mempool.space/graphs/mining/hashrate-difficulty#all

Blockchain forks

- Occasional natural forks happen
  - (not to be confused with softforks)
- Quickly resolved
  - usually, next block
- Sometimes temporary double-spent can occur
  - Same input used in different txs
- https://forkmonitor.info/nodes/btc



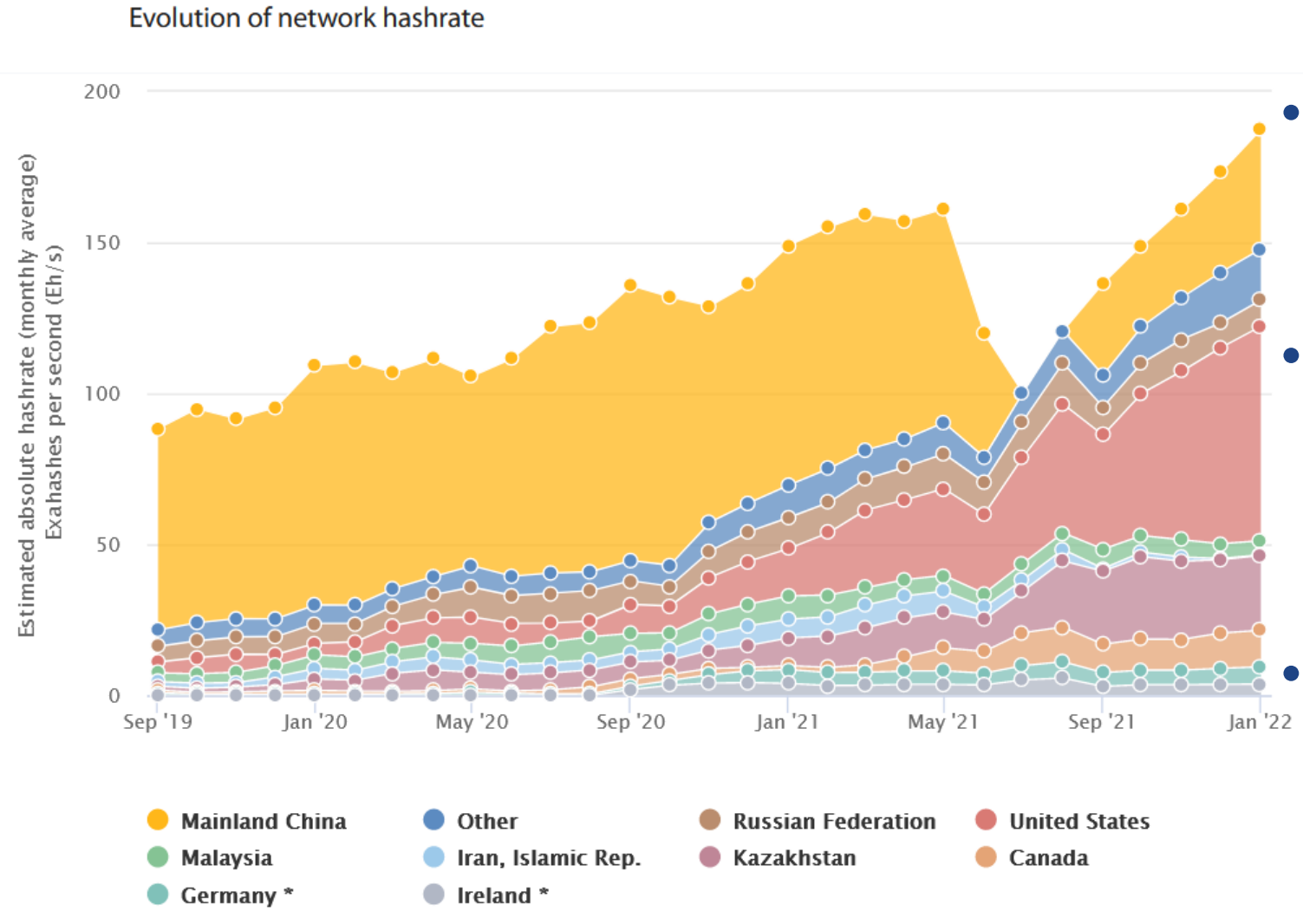
DEMO: SHOW DIFFICULTY ADJUSTMENT

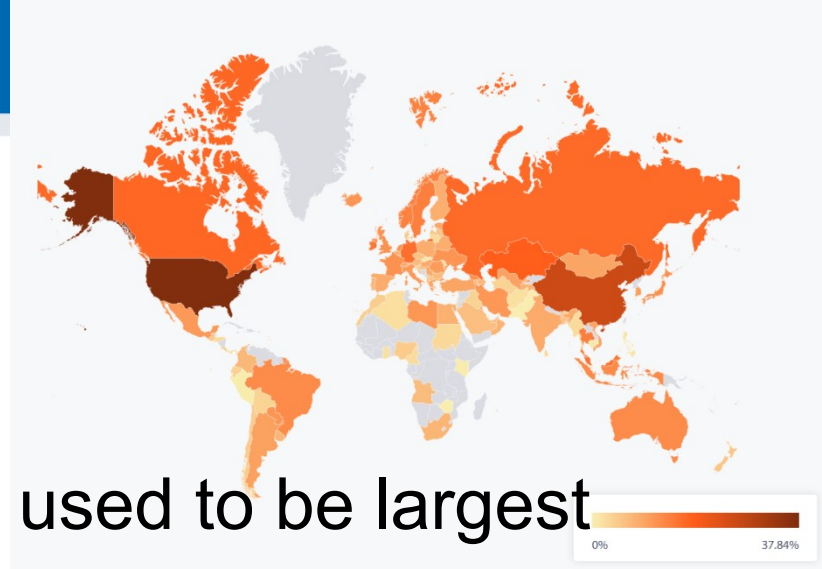
Difficulty adjustment

- Bitcoin shall have one block every ten minutes (on average)
- Block must have overall hash with specific number of leading zeroes (March 2023 ~75 binary 0)
  - Miners change part of block header to try different hashes until required found
- How to specify the number of leading zeroes for decades in future?
  - Speed of new blocks found depends on the overall speed of hashing
  - Overall speed of hashing depends on technology advancements (single chip) and number of chips deployed
  - Impossible to predict technology and interest into distant future
  - If # zeroes is too low => blocks are found too fast (and vice versa)
- Idea of difficulty adjustment (part of consensus protocol), https://en.bitcoin.it/wiki/Difficulty
  - Check number of actually mined blocks every 2016 blocks (shall be ~14 days)
    - Increase/decrease difficulty for next period based on actual number of mined blocks
  - Every full node can deterministically compute expected difficulty (lower # zeroes rejected)
- Block hash must be below the “Target” number (computed to avg keep 1 block / ~10 min)
  - “Target” is transformed to “Bits” (condensed 4 bytes number – coefficient (3B) + exponent (1B))
  - Current difficulty is relative number of current Target with respect to Target of Genesis block

https://cbeci.org/mining_map/

Bitcoin mining map (January 2022)





- China used to be largest
  - >80% (till 2018, slow decrease)
  - Mining ASICS made in China
- China evicted “all” miners in May 2021
  - Officially 0% (unofficially still active)
  - Now coming back 21.11%
- Resulted in strong increase in:
  - US 37.84%, Kazakhstan 13.22%
  - Canada 6.48%, other 9% …

Is Bitcoin mining wasteful?

- Heavily discussed topic (“Bitcoin will boil the oceans by 2020”)
- Some questions to ask (**Do your own research!**)
  - What value you are getting for the energy expended? (neutral decentralized monetary system)
  - Miners want the cheapest energy available to maximize profits => energy nobody wants => waste energy
  - What is the source of the energy used? (btc mining 60-70% “green” energy due to its low cost)
  - Can mining help to stabilize electrical grid with intermittent (solar, wind) sources? (instant turn on/off of mining ASICs, consumption of only cheap (= not demanded) energy)
  - How long is mining hardware profitable before dismantling? (depends on energy price, 5+ years)
  - Can miners finance construction of energy sources (hydro…) at places otherwise not viable financially (stranded energy)?
  - Can miners incentivize higher portion of intermittent (solar, wind) sources? (bigger source even when low sun/wind?)

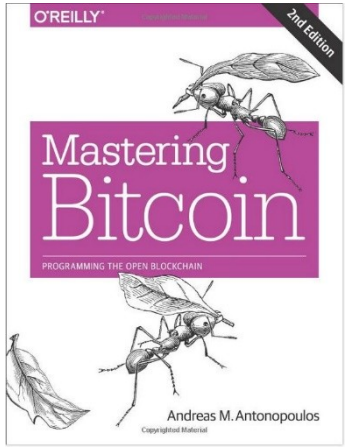
Warning: Why not put “blockchain” everywhere?

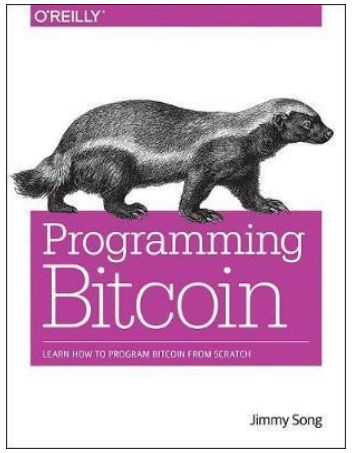
- ~~“Blockchain not Bitcoin”, “Blockchainize everything”~~… claims
- Permissionless distributed consensus on global state is very expensive
  - Confirmation time, storage space, energy expenditure (PoW)…
  - Most applications does not need it!
  - Especially when other components of application are centralized (development, governance decisions, data storage…)

Study materials

- Mandatory reading
  - Bitcoin's academic pedigree (Arvind Narayanan, Jeremy Clark)
    - https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3132259 (copy in IS)
    - Explanation of roots of Bitcoin key components
- If you were not familiar with basics of Bitcoin before
  - Watch ‘But how does bitcoin actually work?’ by 3Blue1Brown (26min)
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBC-nXj3Ng4
  - Read slides Hello Bitcoin (including notes under every slide)
    - From https://www.hellobitco.in/, copy of slides in IS

Further reading





- Mastering Bitcoin (Andreas M. Antonopoulos and others)
  - https://github.com/bitcoinbook/bitcoinbook
- Programming Bitcoin (Jimmy Song)
  - https://github.com/jimmysong/programmingbitcoin
- List of interesting resources
  - https://blockonomi.com/bitcoin-educational-resources/
  - https://learnmeabitcoin.com/, https://learnmeabitcoin.com/technical/

THANK YOU FOR COMING, SEE YOU NEXT WEEK