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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WHY BITCOIN?

Especially if you are not interested in Bitcoin.



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.

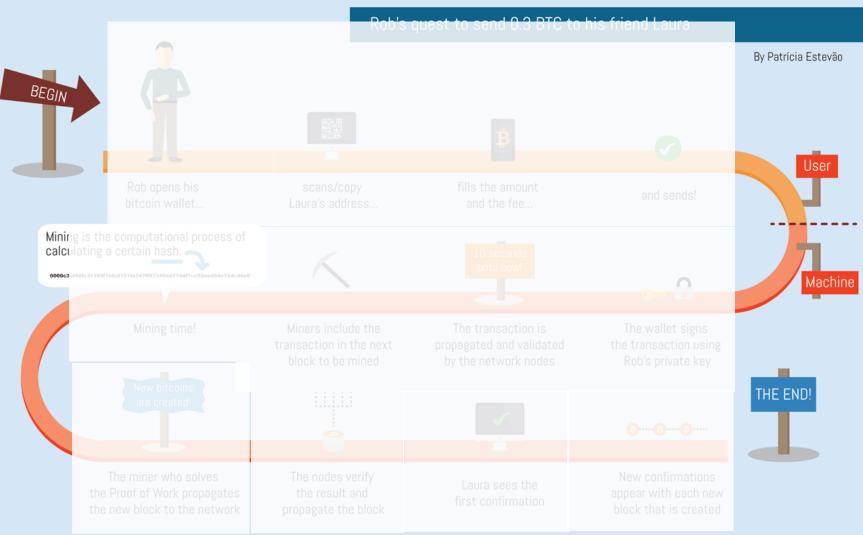
i) Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



BASICS

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

THE BITCOIN TRANSACTION LIFE CYCLE



- 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)

tb1qra8a # tb1qra8a # tb1qqjlp... # Transaction # to singles... # Transaction # Transaction # Transaction # Fee

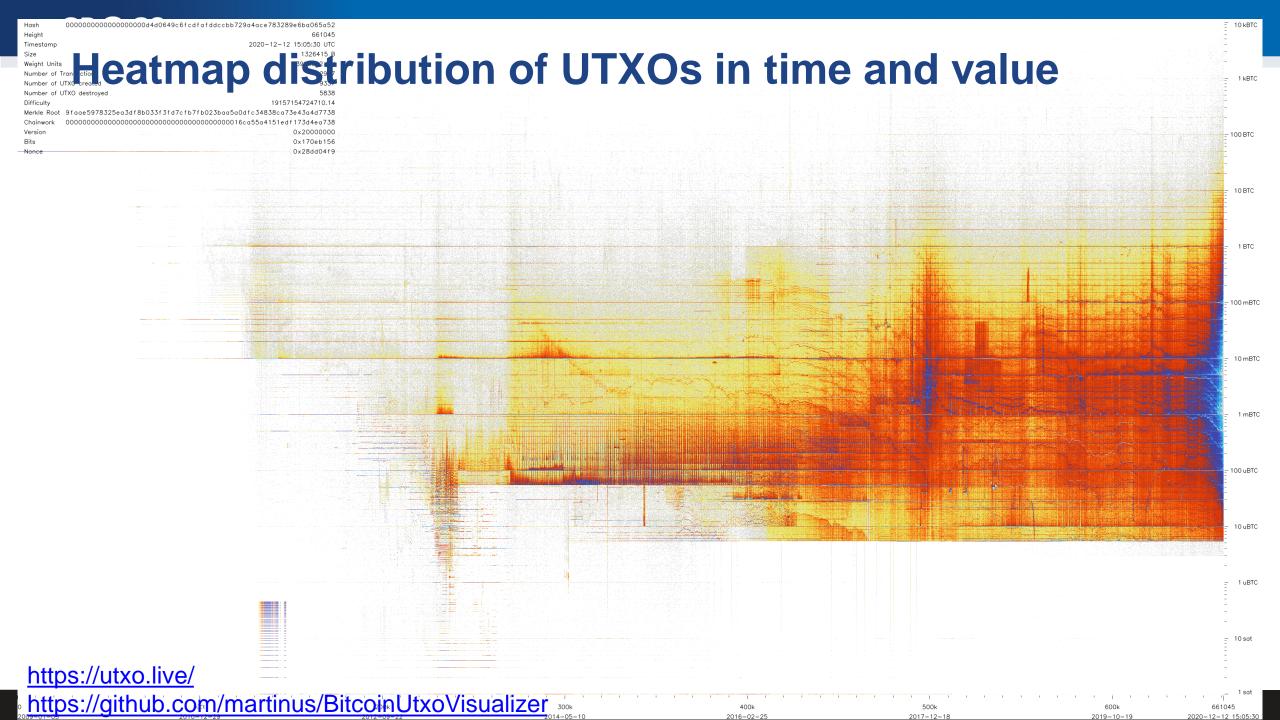
- Where are my bitcoins?
- Public ledger of all transactions (blockchain)
 - Replicated between all Bitcoin fullnodes (P2P network)
- "Bitcoin holdings" sum of values of not-yet-spent transactions control
 - Unspent Transaction Output (UTXO)
- "Bitcoin receive" operation generate variable part of lockscript (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"



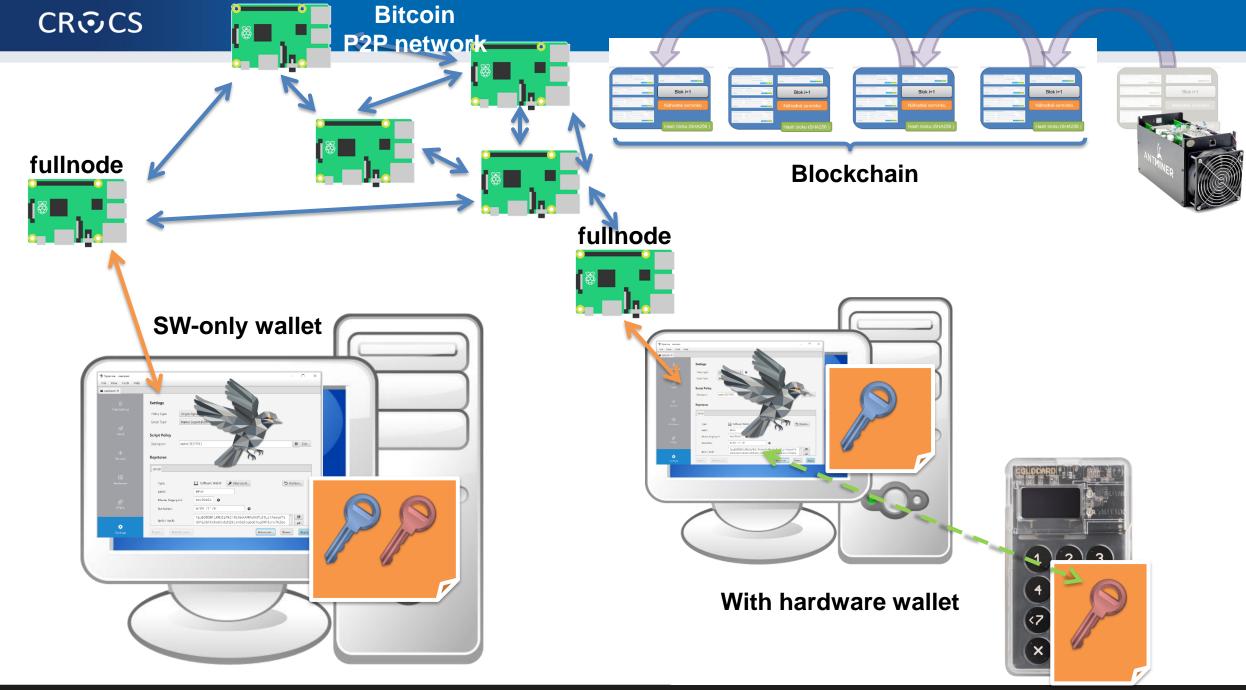
https://statoshi.info/d/00000009/unspent-transaction-output-set?orgId=1&refresh=10m&from=1483225200000&to=now





Problem: How to allow for permissionless participation?

BITCOIN NETWORK





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

REACHABLE BITCOIN NODES

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

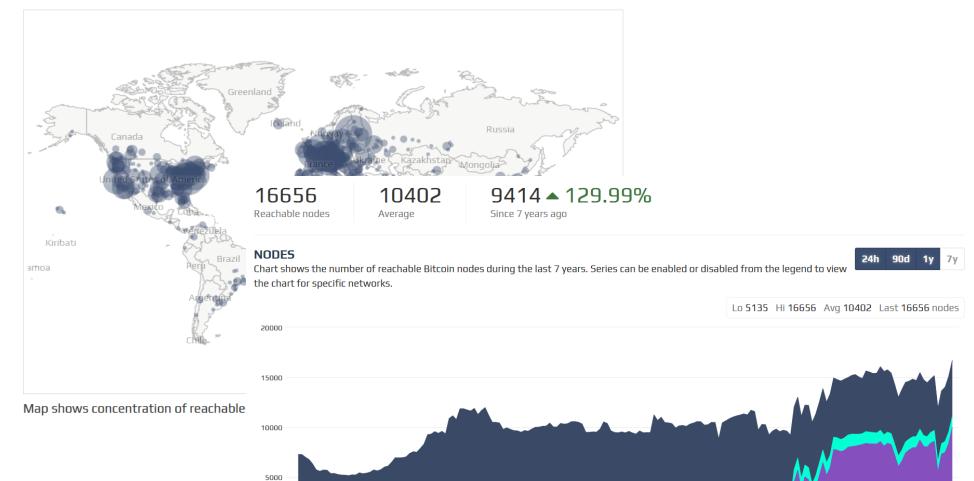
16537 NODES

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%)





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)

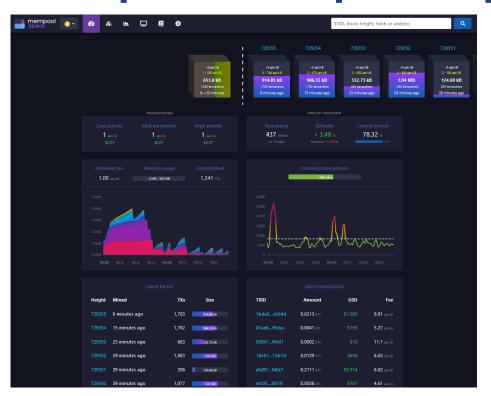
- Mainnet main, global production network ("real" bitcoins)
- Testnet testing network (global, some mining happens...)
 - Restarted from time to time, contains many different types and versions of TXs
- Regtest local instance of Bitcoin network
 - Used for local testing (integration, regression, debugging)
 - 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

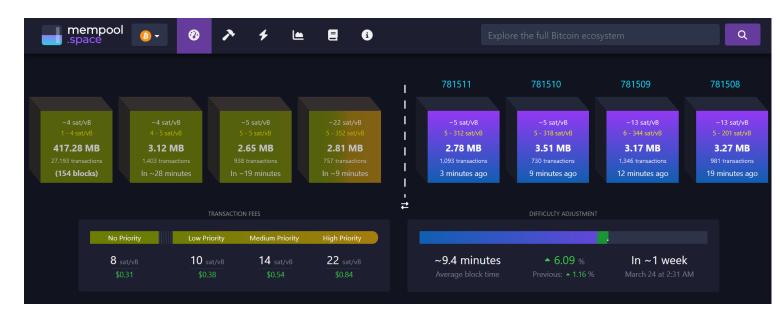
Mempool – unconfirmed transactions

- 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)



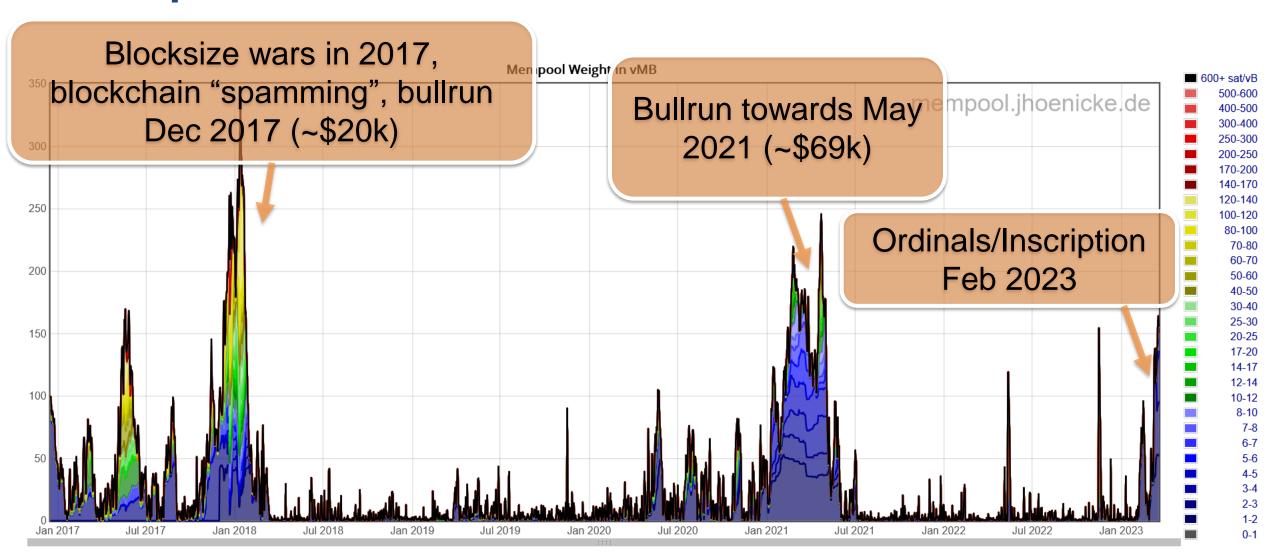
Popular mempool explorer – https://mempool.space





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

Mempool size in time





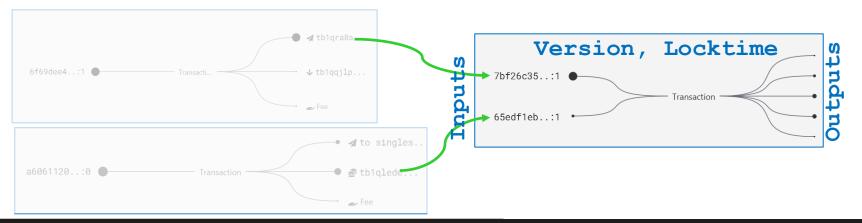
DEMO: LOOK AND COMMENT THE CURRENT MEMPOOL STATE



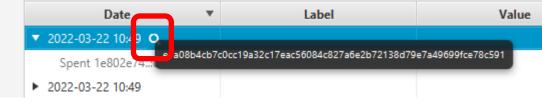
TRANSACTION

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)

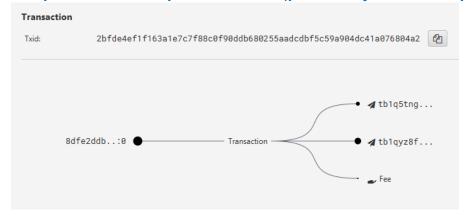




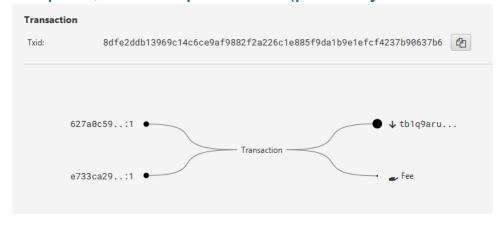


Various transactions can be created

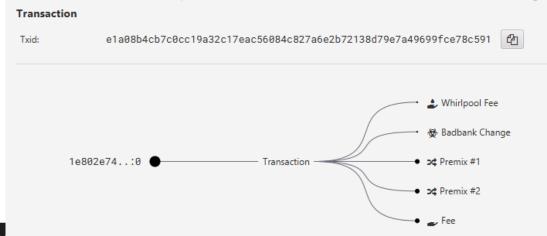
One input, two outputs + fee (possibly classic pay)



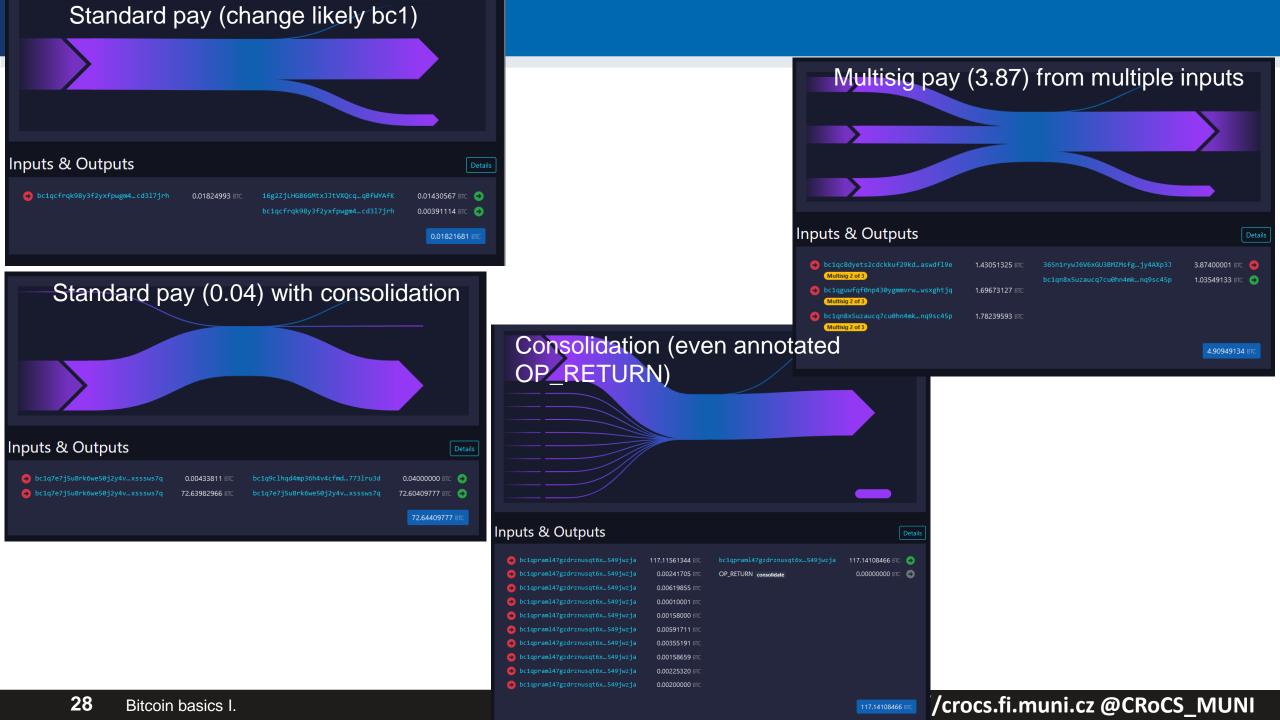
Two inputs, one output + fee (possibly consolidation)



One input, many outputs, fee (CoinJoin premixing)



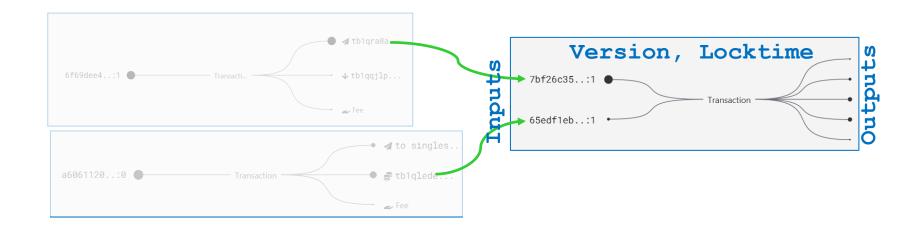
Many inputs, many outputs, fee...





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

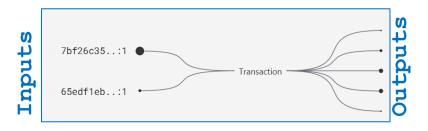




LOCK AND UNLOCK SCRIPTS

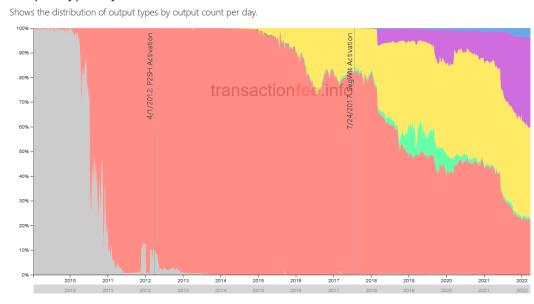


Types of receiving "addresses"



- 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)

Output Types by Count



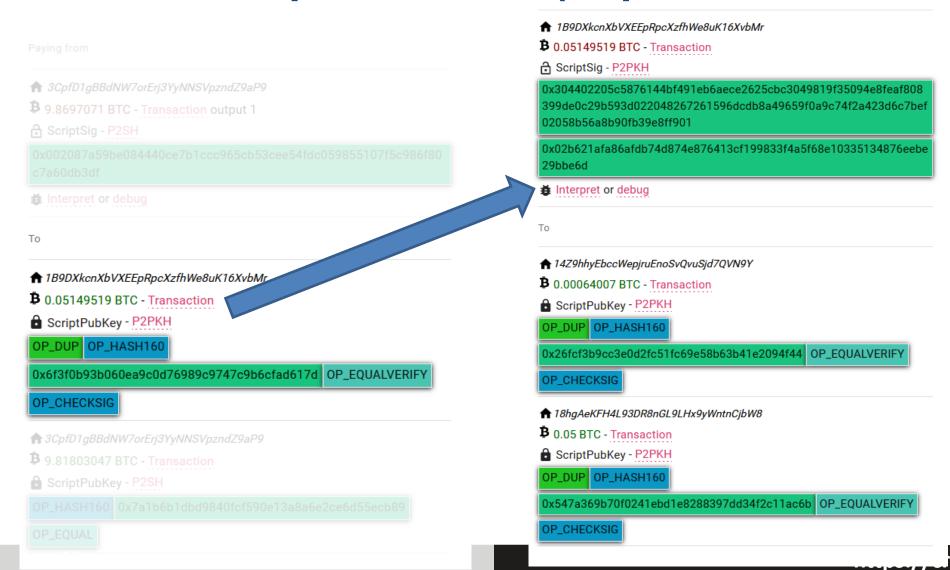
P2PK P2PKH P2PKH P2MS P2MS P2FTURN P2SH P2WPKH P2WSH P2TF

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



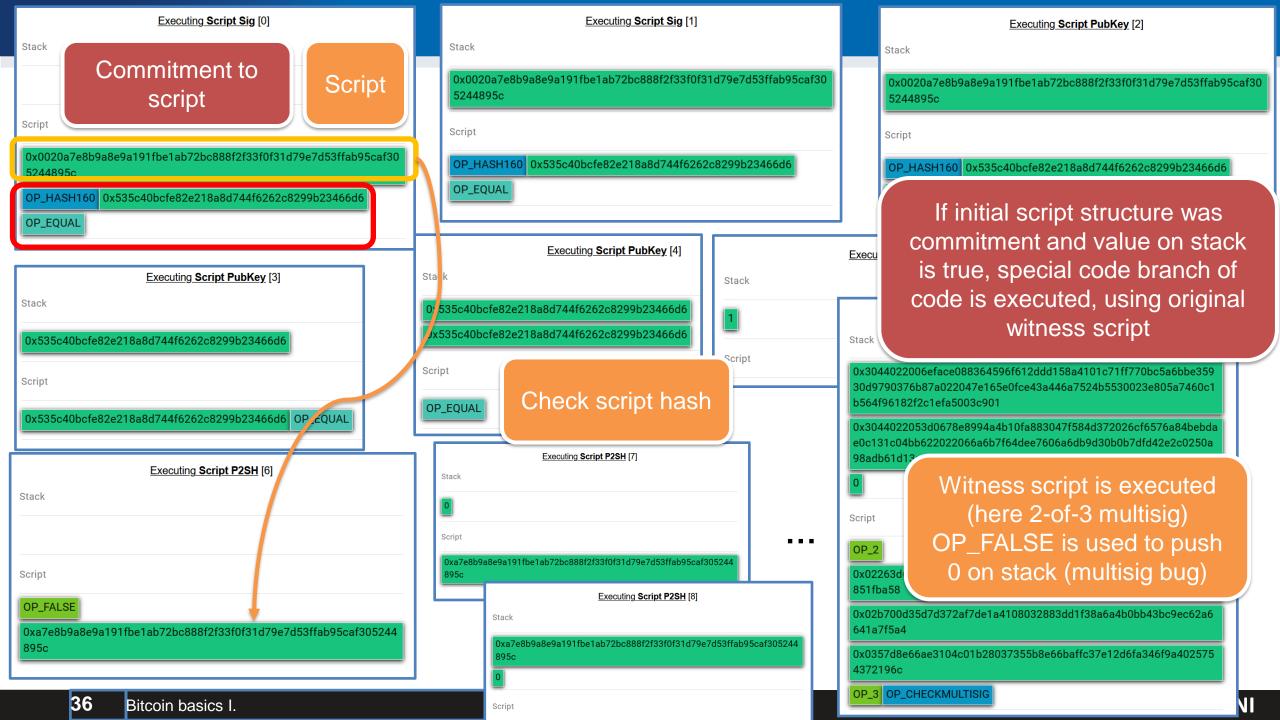
P2PKH - script execution (https://nioctib.tech/)





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



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/8d31992805518fd62daa3bdd2a5c4fd2cd3054c9b3d ca1d78055e9528cff6adc
 - https://nioctib.tech/#/transaction/f2f398dace996dab12e0cfb02fb0b59de0ef039 8be393d90ebc8ab397550370b
 - More details: https://bitcoinjs-guide/v5/part-three-pay-to-script-hash/puzzles/computational_puzzle_sha1_collision_p2sh.html
 - Similar bounties for

CR©CS



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 nonfinancial 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-doop-return-transactions-impact-bitcoin/
 - https://opreturn.org/

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Paying from

↑ 1HnhWpkMHMjgt167kvgcPyurMmsCQ2WPgg

B 0.0022 BTC - Transaction output 1

☆ ScriptSig - P2PKH

0x30450220446df4e6b875af246800c8c976de7cd6d7d95016c4a8f7bcdb ba81679cbda242022100c1ccfacfeb5e83087894aa8d9e37b11f5c054a75 d030d5bfd94d17c5bc953d4a01

0x045901f6367ea950a5665335065342b952c5d5d60607b3cdc6c69a03d f1a6b915aa02eb5e07095a2548a98dcdd84d875c6a3e130bafadfd45e694 a3474e71405a4

Interpret or debug

To

A No address

B 0 BTC - not spent yet

ScriptPubKey - NULL DATA

charley loves heidi

OP_RETURN 0x636861726c6579206c6f766573206865696469

↑ 1HnhWpkMHMjgt167kvgcPyurMmsCQ2WPgg

B 0.002 BTC - Transaction

ScriptPubKey - P2PKH

OP_DUP OP_HASH160

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

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...)

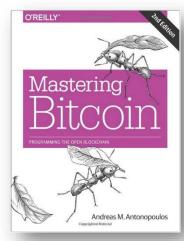


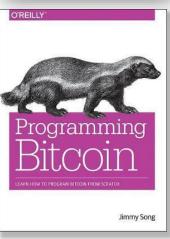
Study materials

- 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