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The Bitcoin Tutorial: Develop An Intuitive Understanding Of The Currency And Blockchain Technology



Synopsis

Bitcoin has attracted its share of headlines, hype, and hyperbole. Do you want to truly understand the crypto-currency and its underlying blockchain technology, so you can reach your own conclusions and make informed decisions? The Bitcoin Tutorial is a unique approach to fully understanding Bitcoin. It starts by explaining contemporary cryptography and confidently works through the blockchain and the currency. Each concept is explained from first principles, building upon the preceding material. Intuition is developed step-by-step, fostering real understanding. Some elements of Bitcoin are counter-intuitive, for example, the bitcoin blockchain is completely public AND the bitcoin currency is fantastically secure. That may strike you as contradictory because, based on conventional thinking, "public" connotes unprotected and "secure" implies secret. The Bitcoin Tutorial pulls back the curtain and de-mystifies key elements including cryptography, transactions, blocks, the blockchain, the peer-to-peer network, full nodes, mining nodes, wallets, and of course, the bitcoin currency. Counter-intuitive elements are explained and contradictions are resolved. The Bitcoin Tutorial is written for a broad spectrum of readers, from the intellectually curious to the technically savvy: New users deciding if and how to get started Existing users wanting more knowledge and confidence Developers eager to understand the technology behind the APIs Investors performing due diligence on blockchain companies Chapters are structured in sections of increasing detail to match your level of interest: "The view from 30,000 feet" sections provide a non-technical summary of the topic at hand making use of physical-world analogies. The material is simple and accurate, without being dumbed down. "The view from the ground" sections present the core of the topic step-by-step, building complete understanding. There are lots of examples--many using actual transactions and blocks in the bitcoin blockchain--explained in their entirety without hand-waving or shortcuts. "The view for the truly curious" sections take a deep-dive into select topics. The material is intended for those of you keen on "sticking your head under the hood" for a closer look at the underlying machinery. Blockchain technology has tremendous potential in applications outside crypto-currency: there is broad interest in financial, legal, government, and other circles. The Bitcoin Tutorial focuses on the bitcoin blockchain, as it is both widely recognized and wonderfully accessible to everyone. [from the author] While researching Bitcoin for my own work, I realized that most of the literature tells the story awkwardly: starting with bitcoin the currency and slowly working back to the underlying blockchain technology. Mystifying concepts are presented and readers are left hoping they'll "get it" later. The innovative blockchain technology is oversimplified. Essential fundamentals such as cryptography are glossed over. None of that helps readers develop an intuitive understanding of Bitcoin. As explained above, The Bitcoin

Tutorial takes a different approach. You'll learn and understand more about bitcoin and blockchain technology. My ultimate objective for writing this book? Equip you with the intuitive understanding needed for informed, confident use and exploration of the bitcoin currency and blockchain technology!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book for someone like me who wants to understand bitcoin and blockchain technology. Intelligently written, linear style tutorial with an easy conversational style that kept me engaged while explaining esoteric topics such as cryptography. I had heard before that bitcoin is only the tip of the iceberg for a great new technology which allows full public viewing but is very secure, but could never understand how that can possible exist. This tutorial helped me understand how these divergent concepts can actually bend back into one convergent idea. I also love the hyperlinks in the electronic book, they allow me to explore some the content at a later date with easy (lazy) access by just referring back to this book.

I've always been interested in Bitcoin, but wasn't sure where to go for the good solid foundation of

understanding I desired, while also being exposed to all aspects of Bitcoin. This book gave what I was looking for, and much more. I learned the foundations of hashing and cryptography, and the underlying structures and protocol. Then ultimately I came to understand the mechanics of bitcoin mining, how the distributed Bitcoin network of full nodes works, and even how to safely choose and manage my own bitcoin wallet. This book is organized very well, to teach you the basic underlying principles of bitcoin, before getting into discussions of the hows and whys. I also really appreciated the extensive use of footnotes for additional auxiliary information. Each chapter is constructed to provide a high level description of the concepts at the beginning of each chapter (the view from 30,000 ft.), and then the lower levels (the view from the ground) if you are prepared to dive into the nitty-gritty details. Even the details are presented in an interesting and engaging manner, with lots of examples and analogy (with a sprinkling of humor as well). Who knew it would be fun to learn about SHA-256 hashes, elliptic curve mathematics, and Merkle trees. The best part is, after learning the basics, this book gives you the understanding needed to appreciate and make decisions for yourself about the role of Bitcoin in the world, and where it is headed, instead of just being fed someone else's opinions. Bruce Kleinman makes it clear that he has written this book to help the reader come to his or her own conclusions, by providing a full view of Bitcoin from the ground up. I both enjoyed and was educated by this approach, and I look forward to his next endeavor.

The Bitcoin Tutorial is an outstanding book. Mr. Kleinman completely delivers on the cover's promise to enable an intuitive understanding of Bitcoin and the blockchain technology. Along the way, he shares the history and fundamentals of mathematics, cryptology and security that makes Bitcoin possible. The Bitcoin Tutorial is technical, enjoyable, detailed and highly recommended. I look forward to Mr. Kleinman applying his keen insight and wit to other significant and weighty topics.

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