MAY 24th 2022
Online • 10h Lisbon time (UTC)

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

BLOCKCHAIN & CRYPTOCURRENCIES

SUPPORT TECHNOLOGIES AND FUTURE TRENDS OF BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Mário Marques da Silva – Chairman
Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa & Instituto de Telecomunicações

CRYPTOCURRENCIES OR CRYPTOASSETS

João Duque
Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão

VALUE CHAIN TRANSPARENCY ENABLED BY BLOCKCHAIN

Nuno Almeida
Ernest & Young

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Ionut Stoica
European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training

UAL - Dep. de Engenharias e de Ciências da Computação

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Support Technologies and Future Trends of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies

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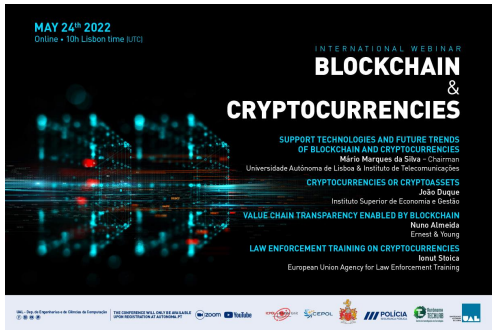


Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Bitcoin
3. Blockchain
4. Mining

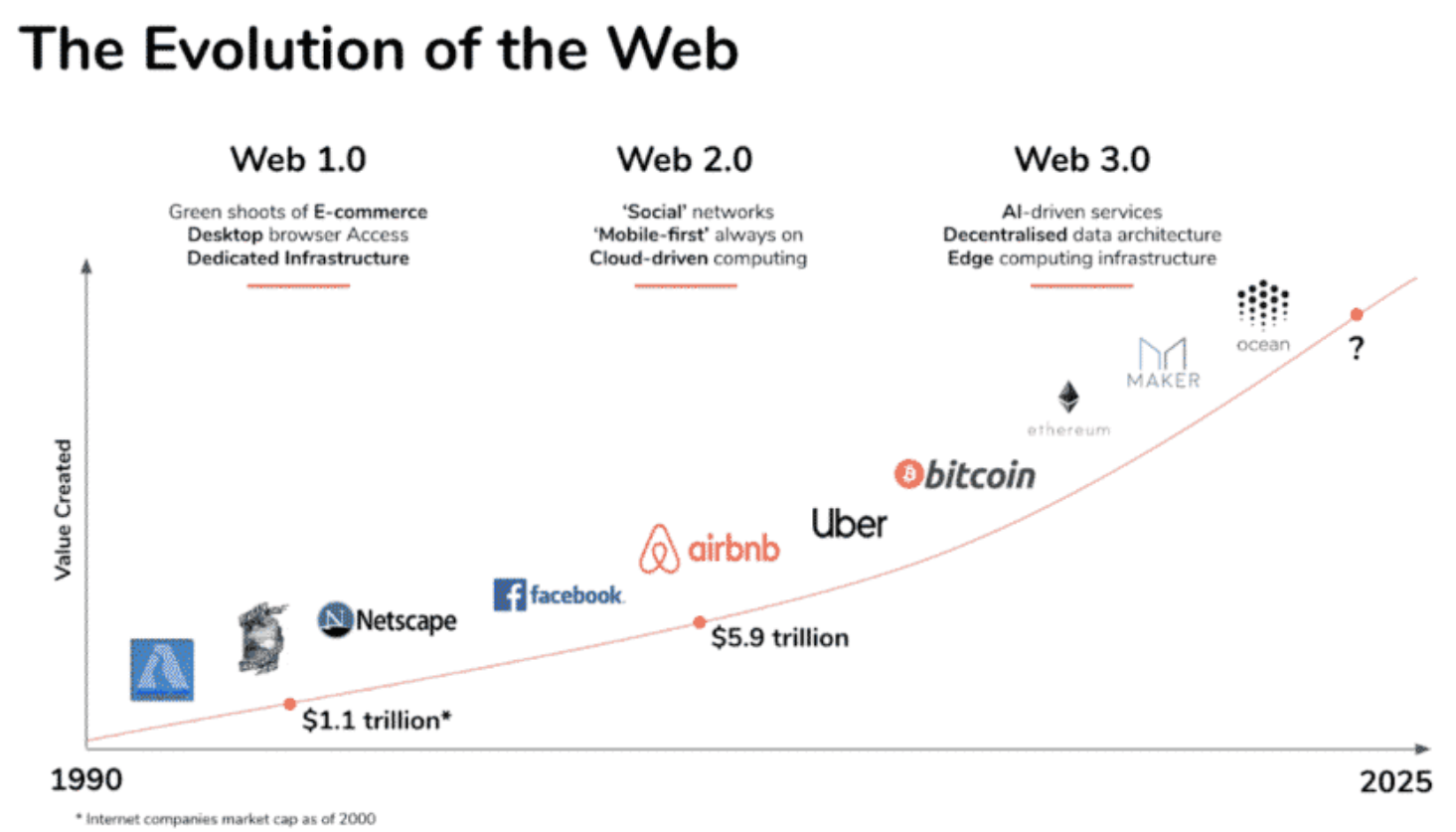
Agenda

1. **Introduction**
2. Bitcoin
3. Blockchain
4. Mining

1. Introduction

With the massive use of the Internet, there is a need for a Currency with the same requirements: **Global** and **Instantaneous**.

Moreover, cryptocurrencies are **Decentralized** and **Secure**.



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. **Bitcoin**
3. Blockchain
4. Mining

2. Bitcoin

*"Bitcoin is a smart currency, designed to be evolved by smart engineers. It **eliminates the need for banks**, frees you from credit card fees, **exchange fees**, wire transfer fees, and **reduces the need for "lawyers" or "juries"** in transactions… all good things."*

Peter Diamondis, Founder & President of X Prize Foundation

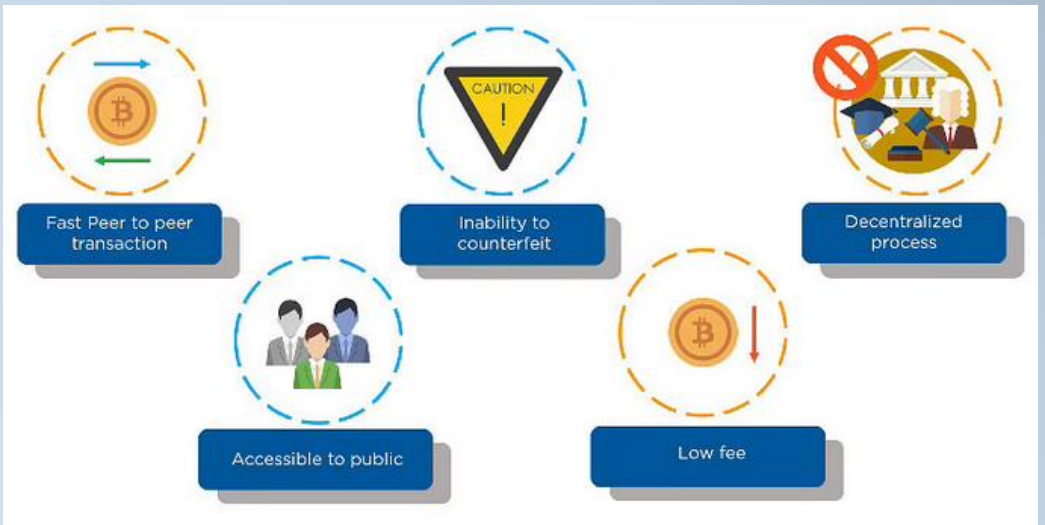
- Currency without governance, without intermediaries, without borders, decentralized and secure.
- As is the Internet (except decentralized and secure [Web 3.0])

2. Bitcoin

Owning US$ 96 Billions, CEO of Binance, Changpeng Zhao, is the 11nd Richest in the World

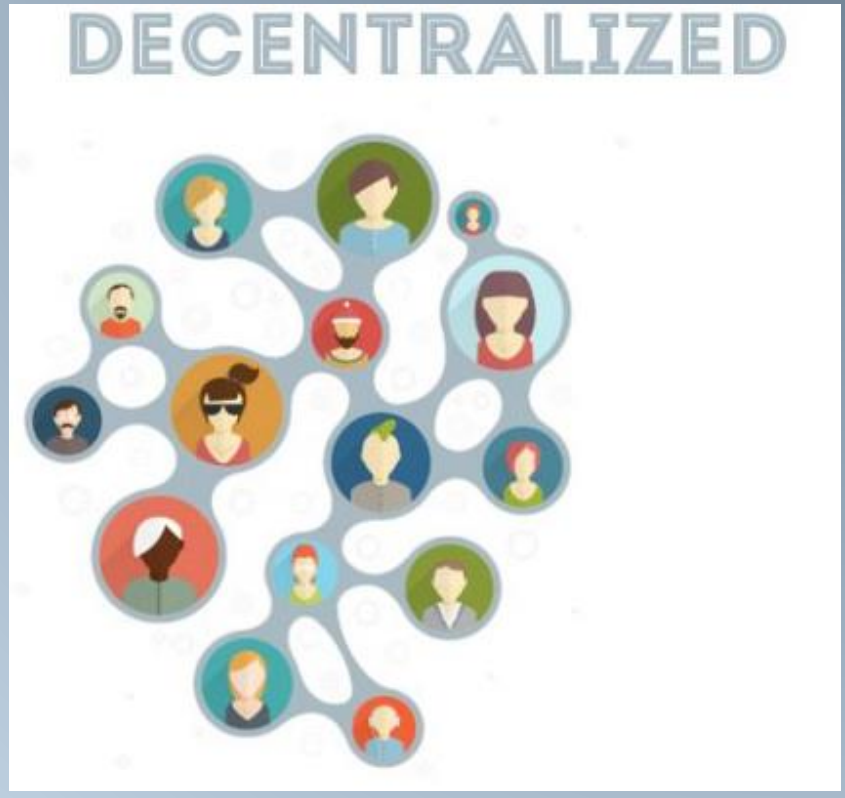
2. Bitcoin

- Bitcoin is the mostly known cryptocurrency (the first):
  - Created in 2009 by Satoshi Nakamoto
  - **Descentralized and without intermediaries** (not controlled by governaments and banks)
  - **Global**
  - **Secure / Trustable**
  - Without intermediaries (faster, cheaper and more private than fiat currency)
  - Used for shopping, investment, payments, etc. [although some only see it as an investment of “stock market” type]
  - Uses Blockchain Technology, allowing peer-to-peer transfers [based on secure criptography]: utilizes the computer networks of users (instead of a central server)



2. Bitcoin

- Bitcoin is the mostly known cryptocurrency (cont.):
  - Limited to 21 Millions
  - More **secure** and **less charges** than conventional online transfers
  - More secure than fiat currencies (cash - €€€ $$$) → easy to be counterfeit
  - Transfers realized 24/7, processed rapidly.
  - Transactions are Pseudonyms (not anonymous)
    - Each person has a wallet with a public address (Bitcoin Address):
      - Wallets are visible in the blockchain, as well as the transfers from A to B, with value X.
  - Around 30% of the persons worldwide are unable to have a conventional bank account.



2. Bitcoin

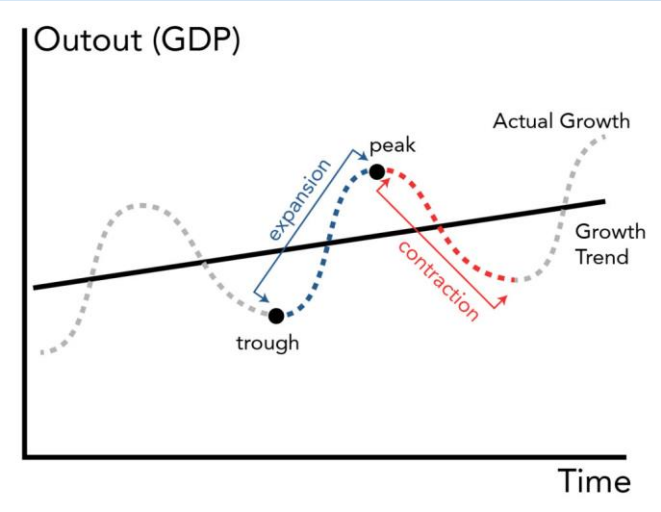
- Fiat money is a government-issued currency that is not defined by a physical commodity, such as gold or silver.
  - Subject to printing, to mitigate economical factors or bank failures, governments, etc., causing inflation/devaluation, with implications over peoples' savings.

2. Bitcoin

FIAT	BITCOIN
Unlimited reserve of value. More can be printed at any time.	**Limited** value reserve. There is a maximum limit of 21 million Bitcoins in the world.
Currency value **influenced by the interests of specific Stakeholders** – Governments and Banks (there are privileged customers).	Democratic currency – Nobody has absolute control. **All stakeholders are equal**.
Expensive transfers that require a third party to process them: Banks.	**Low-cost, direct** person-to-person transfers (without intermediaries).
Slow and bureaucratic **transfer process**. 48 hours or more for international transfers. Only 5 days a week.	**Instant transfers** – speed of the Blockchain network that processes them 24/7.

2. Bitcoin

- There are 3 ways to acquire Bitcoins:
  - **Buying Bitcoins** through an Exchange (ex: Coinbase, Binance, Webull or eToro, etc.).
  - **Accepting Bitcoins** in the Sale of Products and Services
  - **Mining Bitcoins** (implies investment in Hardware and energy, for Mathematical processing called "Proof of Work")



2. Bitcoin

Bitcoin Address

1El144JY6R7TCmj3BGzjpofqf9EqP9vLKJm

Private Key

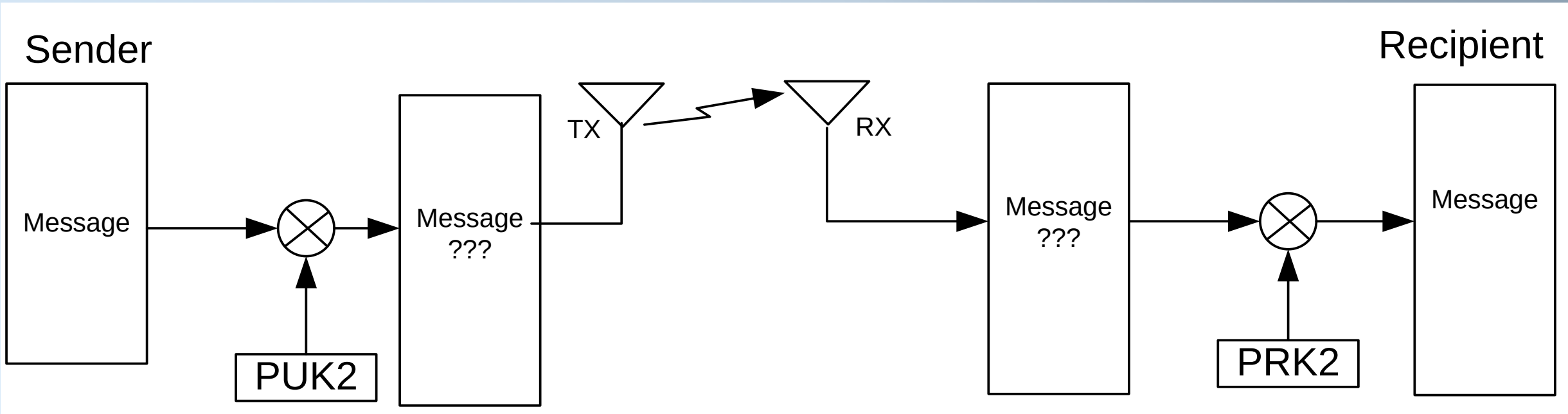
6JCG34xv2a040op1BfSwPicBNUNCuk9Ht1qWMgWoMJWJpownAAi

Public Key

0798694TR67C50Z680FVRD54SX9L833137Y30K70062CCEF18L5213I9R471P0107

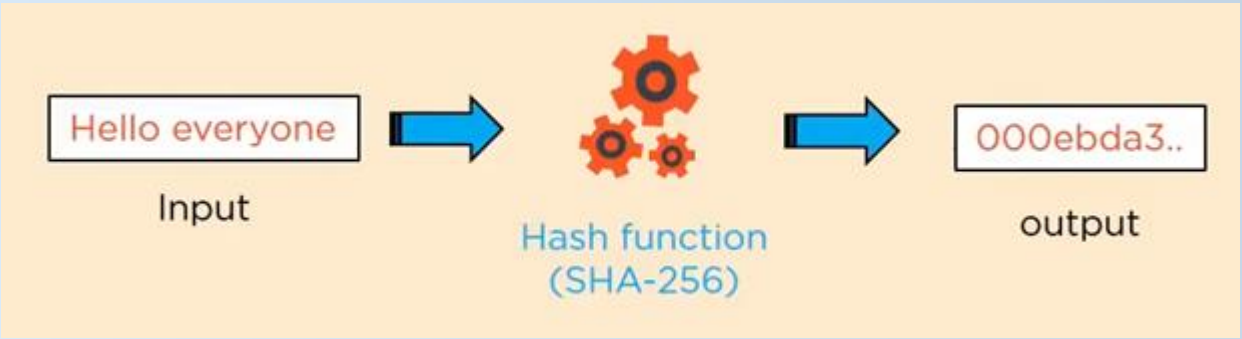
2. Bitcoin

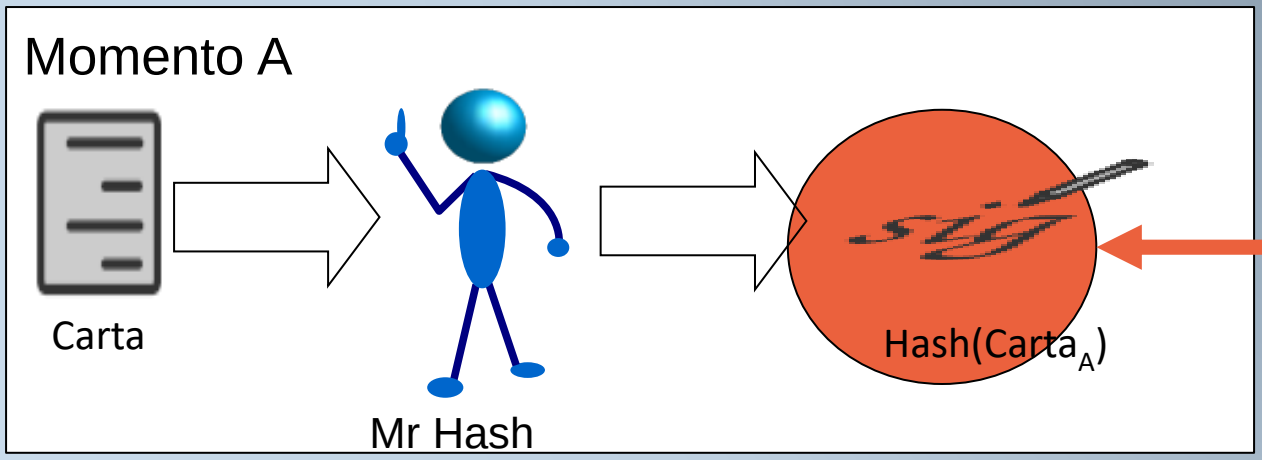
- Symmetric encryption (same key to encrypt and decrypt) has vulnerabilities associated with its prior distribution
- In asymmetric encryption: The confidentiality of the private key must be ensured, that is, it must be kept secret by its legitimate user.
  - The public key is freely distributed to all users.

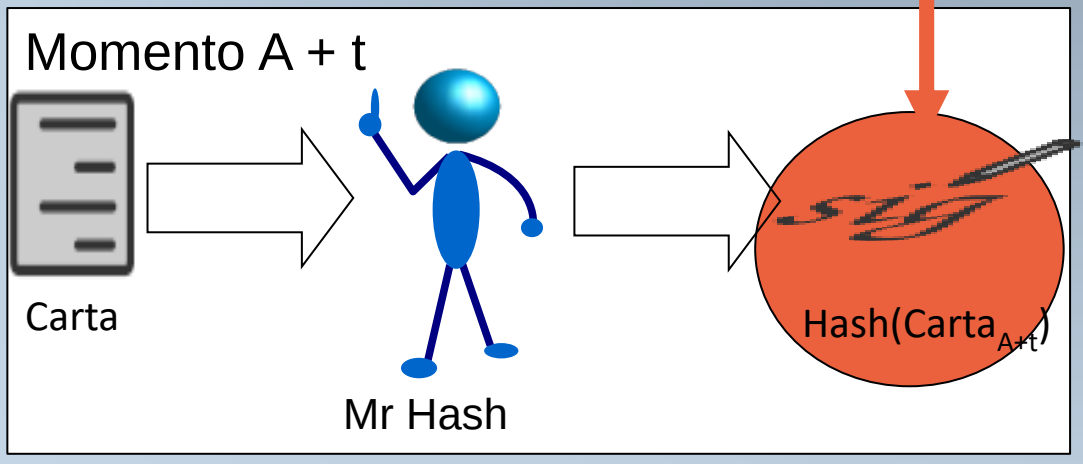


2. Bitcoin

- Hash function is used as "signature"
- A cryptographic function that performs a checksum
- Bitcoin Blockchain uses SHA-256, generating 256-bits from any string
- One-way function: From Hash sum it is impossible to get the block of data.
- **But what if a Hacker accesses the content and its Hash, modifying both?**
  - Solution?

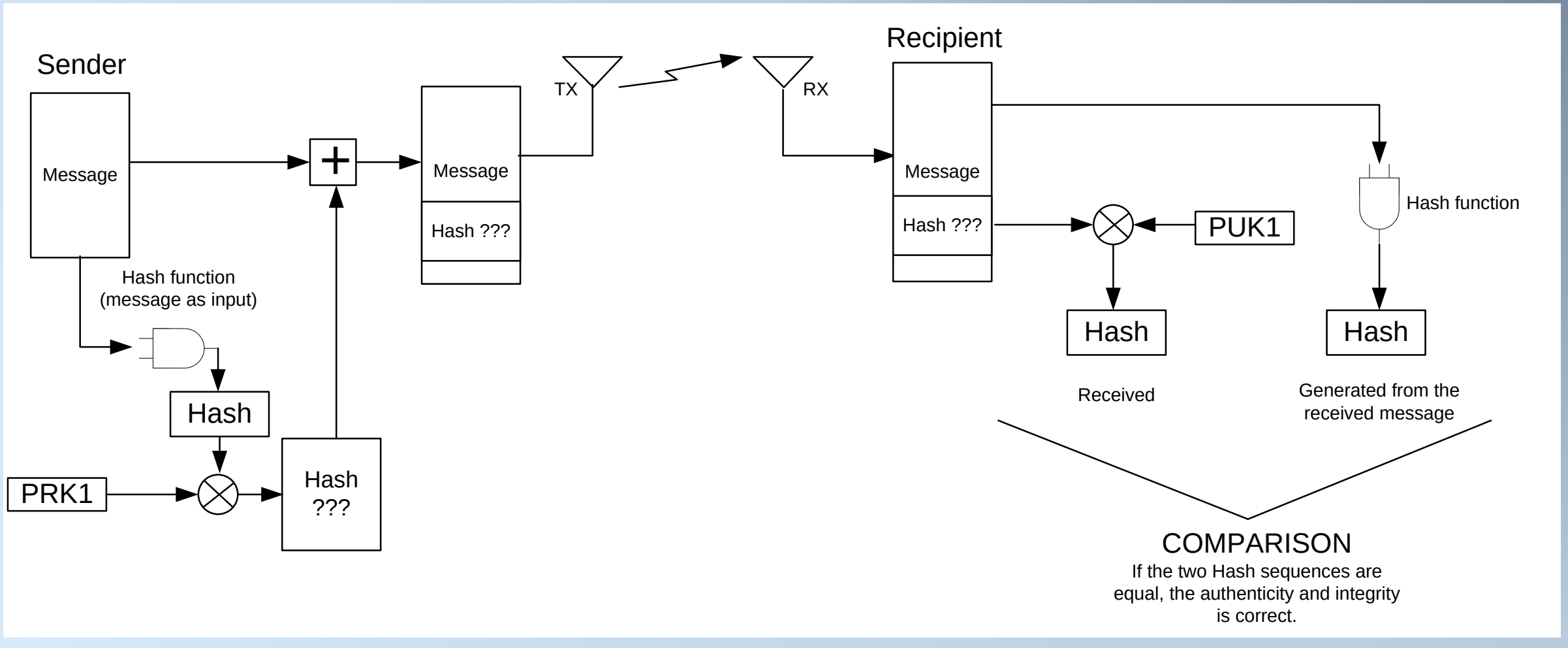






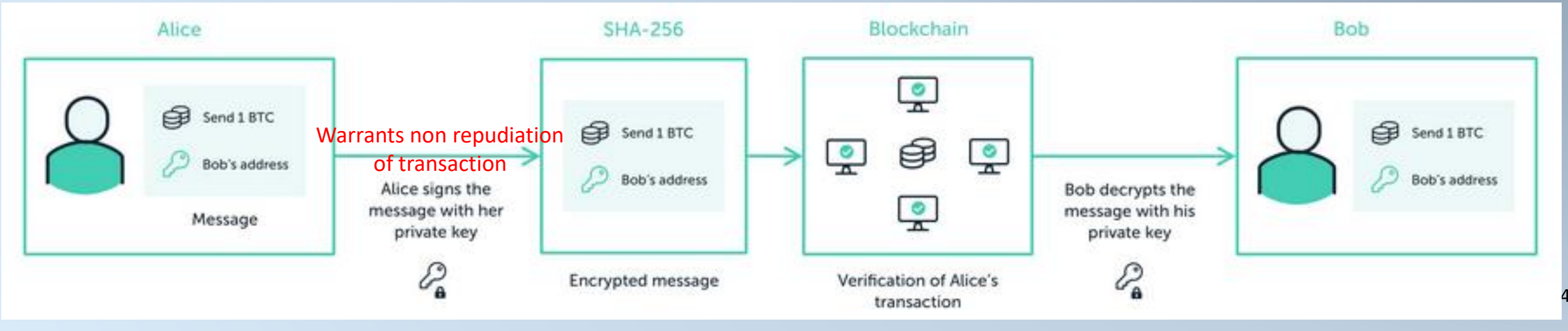
2. Bitcoin

Blockchain also uses **Digital Signature** to verify the **integrity**, **authenticity** and to avoid **non-repudiation** of data.



2. Bitcoin

- To perform a transaction, 3 elements are invoked:
  - Transaction sender's Private Key (stored in Wallet)
  - Public key of the recipient of the transaction (as if it were the recipient's IBAN)
  - The transaction amount
  - Still exists:
    - The Bitcoin Address: Corresponds to a shortened version of the Public Key but cannot be generated from it.
    - 12 Word Phrase (Seed Phrase): Allows retrieval of Wallet Private Key and Bitcoin Address. Allows recovery of access to funds even in the event of losing access to the original Wallet.
- The Private Key, 12-word phrase, and the Password to access the Wallet must be kept (paper). If you lose, the cryptocurrencies are lost.



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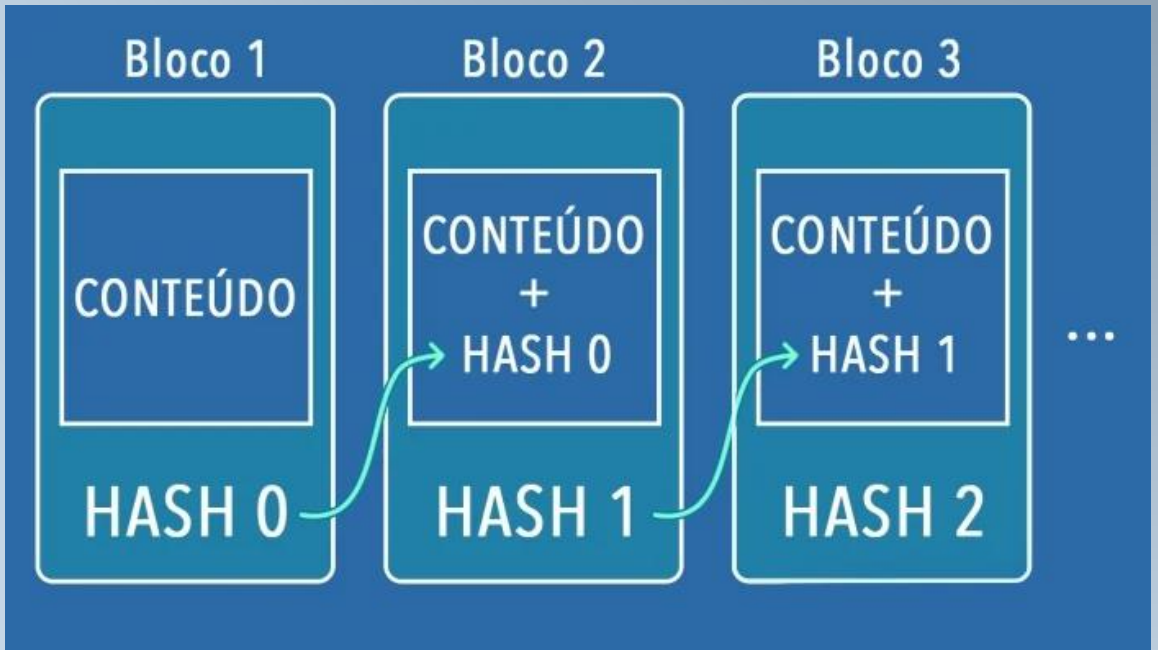
4. Mining

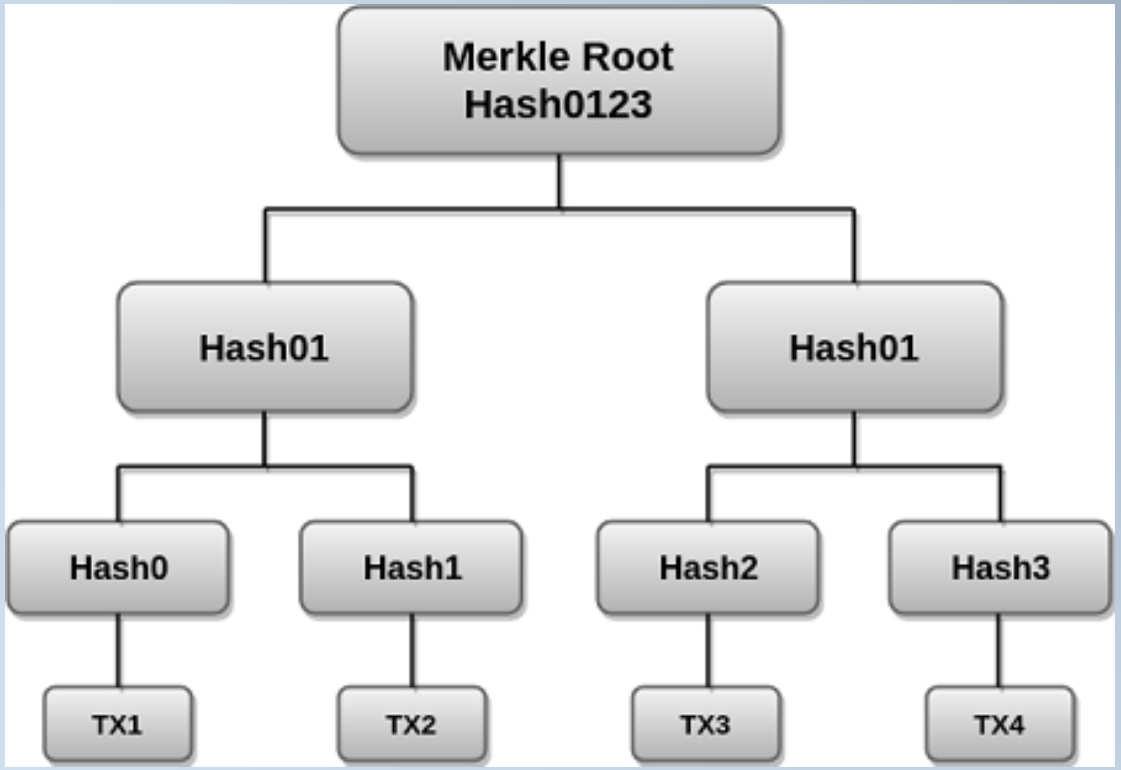
3. Blockchain

- Chain of Blocks
  - **Secure** and **Decentralized** (peer-to-peer, rather than centralized on a bank's central computer - server)
- Blockchain is an event **registration/recording system**, with applications in various sectors, not being specific to Cryptocurrencies
- **Secure infrastructure that allows all events, data, and documents to be digitally stored, with integrity, authenticity, and without the possibility of non-repudiation (digitally signed).**
- Each block stores details about a set of **transactions carried out in the last 10 minutes** (approx.), with the origin, destination, value, and "timestamp"
- Contains the Distributed Ledger (i.e., events logbook): Distributed database where digital currency **transactions are recorded in chronological order**
- **Mining**: consists of **processing/validating each block**, done in a **decentralized** way (instead of being done by a centralized server)



3. Blockchain

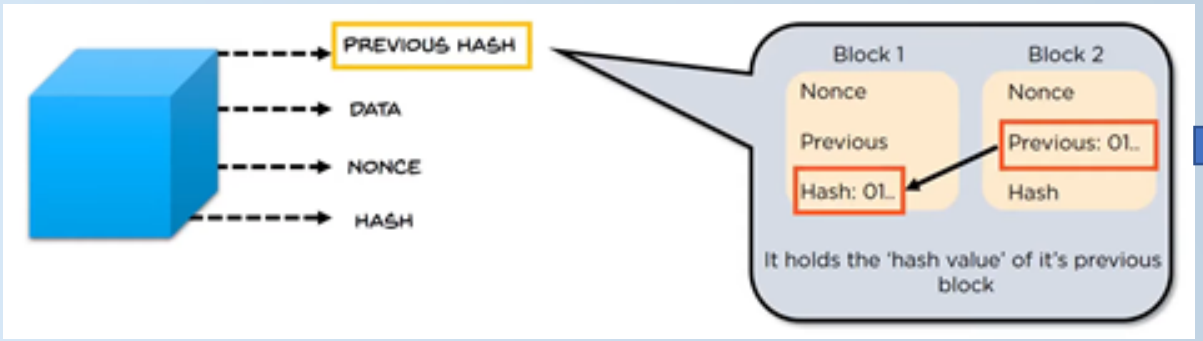
- Merkle Tree aims to verify individual transactions on the network.
- In the Merkle Tree, the **Hashes of individual transactions**, known as **Transaction IDs**, are grouped repeatedly using the SHA-256 algorithm, until a Hash identifies the entire tree.
- This **last Hash is known as Merkle Root** or Root Hash. The Merkle Root, the Merkle Tree identifier, is **part of the block header**.

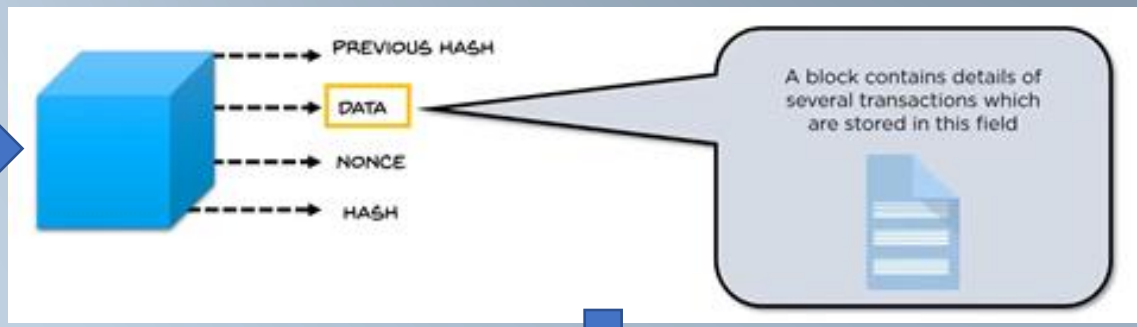


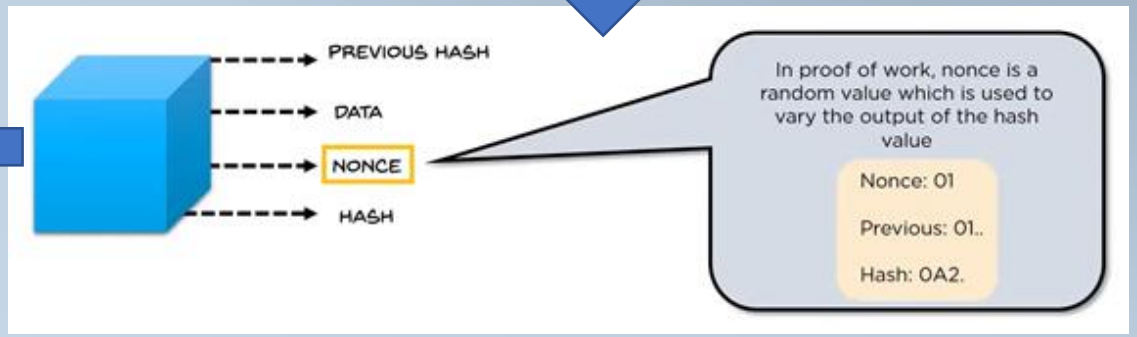
3. Blockchain

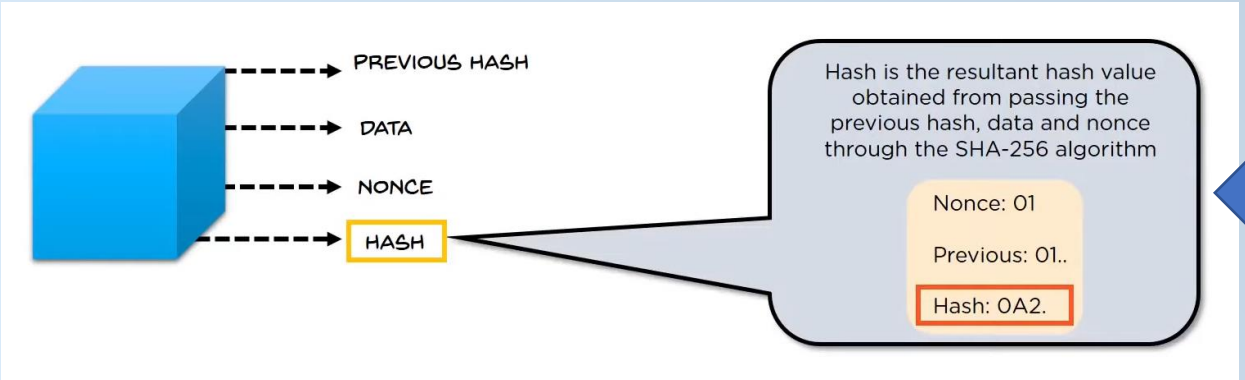
Blockchain is a chain of blocks. **Each block has 4 fields**:

- **Data**: The set of transactions included in this block (last 10 minutes) – after being mined and validated, they are included in the block.
- **Hash**: It is the Hash Sum value, obtained by passing the fields of the "Previous Hash", "Data" & "Nonce" block through the SHA-256 algorithm, corresponding to the digital signature of the block.
- **Previous hash**: Hash value of the previous block. This way, the blocks are interconnected, avoiding fraud, and **creating the CHAIN OF BLOCKS**.
- **Nonce**: Corresponds to a random value used to vary the Hash Sum output.
  - In the "proof of work" validation algorithm (verification of the transaction in the block), performed during Mining, this **random value is validated** so that the **Hash Sum is less than a certain value**.









3. Blockchain

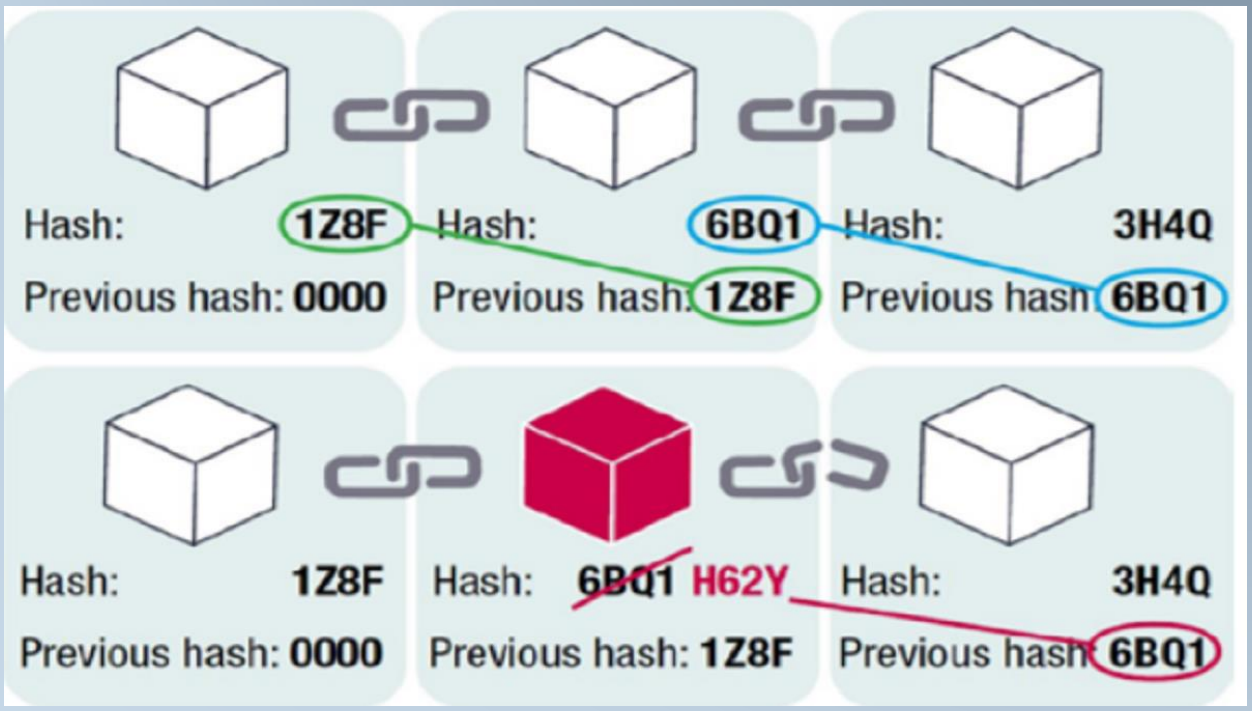
- Blockchain was not created with BTC but rather, in 1991, in order to have **data organized in a sequential way to prevent alteration of documents or events, or modification of data**.
- In the context of Bitcoin, Blockchain was adapted by Satoshi Nakamoto (2009) to function as a "Distributed Ledger".
- With blockchain, **everything you do is recorded**. Hence, it is possible to make all types of contracts without the possibility of **non-repudiation** (smart contracts). It **opens up disruptive prospects for the future**.
- Blockchain can be **used in the business world** (e.g., **insurance** or **aviation** to allow **audits** to be carried out after an accident to determine its causes)
- **Reliable Electronic Voting** must be implemented using Blockchain.
- It is anticipated that **Web 3.0 will be based on Blockchain** Technology, due to its **Decentralized and Trusted approach** (as opposed to Server Oriented approach)
- Blockchain has advantages in terms of protection from computer attacks. It is secure (encryption), distributed and identifies what was done, when and by whom.

Corporations are still only just figuring out the potential applications of blockchain technology, but its use is already growing more quickly than anyone could have predicted

(Lex Sokolin, head economist for Consensys)

3. Blockchain

- For a Hacker to change a block, he would have to change the Hash value of all the following blocks, which would require a very high processing power (close to impossible), and which would have to be validated by more than half of the network computers.
  - Blockchain is resistant to data modification (no one has succeeded, until today).



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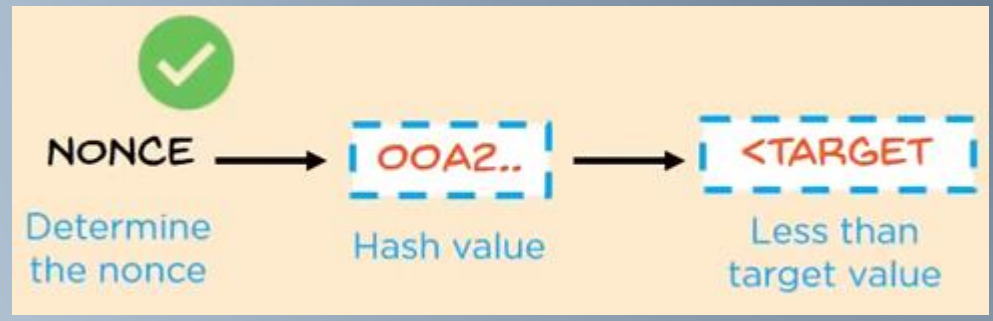
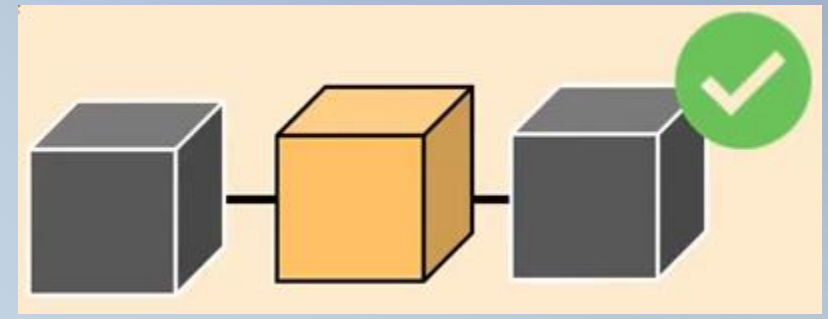
4. **Mining**

4. Mining

- **Mining is validation processing called Proof-of-Work** (PoW). It is through PoW that cryptocurrency transactions are digitally validated and added to the "blockchain ledger" (record of all transactions on the network).
- **PoW**: is performed through a **puzzle, which consists of the calculation of successive Hash functions** (encryption), used to verify the block transactions that are updated in the "Distributed Ledger" network.
- The **computer protection of PoW** (decentralized versus Server) lies in the **validation difficulty associated with Mining** and in the approval of more than half of the network users.
  - If processing were easy, modifying the data would also be easier
- This processing requires Great Processing Power.
- As a reward, the miner(s) receive 6.25 BTC (started at 50 BTC), after finding the solution (first to go).
- This mathematical process must be carried out in a maximum time of 10 minutes.
- The reward is halved every 210,000 blocks (approximately 4 years).
- In this way, **the number of BTC in circulation increases up to the limit of 21 Million**.
  - In the end, miners will only be rewarded through transaction costs.

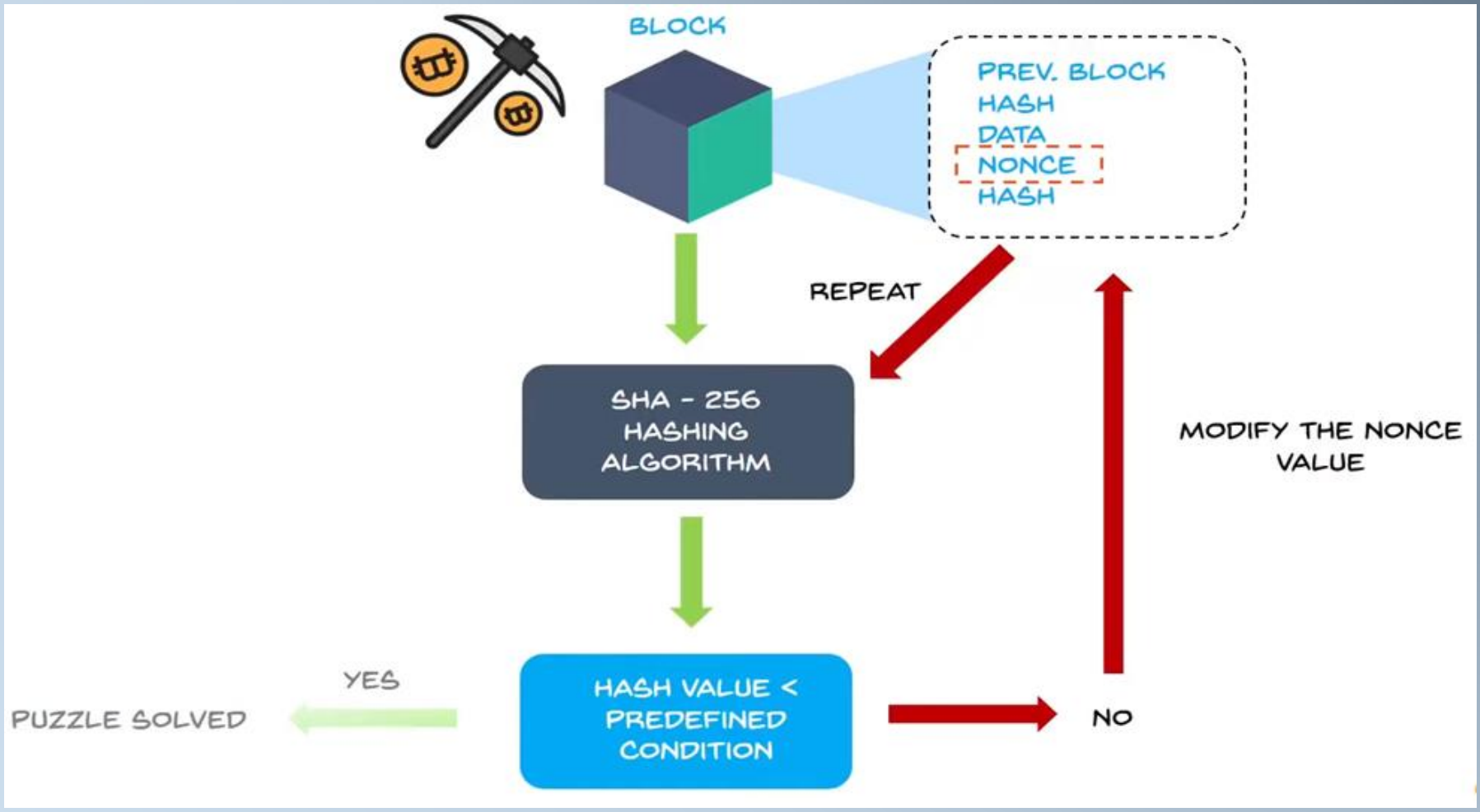


The puzzle is solved by varying a nonce which produces a hash value lower than a predefined condition



4. Mining

- The “predefined condition”, or “Hash Target”, is found in the header, being expressed as a 67-digit number that determines the Mining difficulty.
- This difficulty is calculated based on the number of miners competing to find the Hash function, being adjusted every 2016 blocks (based on the time it took previous miners to solve the equation).
- The “predefined condition” aims to keep the block validation to a maximum of 10 minutes.



4. Mining

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ In PoW, a predefined condition is adjusted for every 2016 blocks (approximately every 14 days)
- ✓ An average time to mine a block is 10 minutes

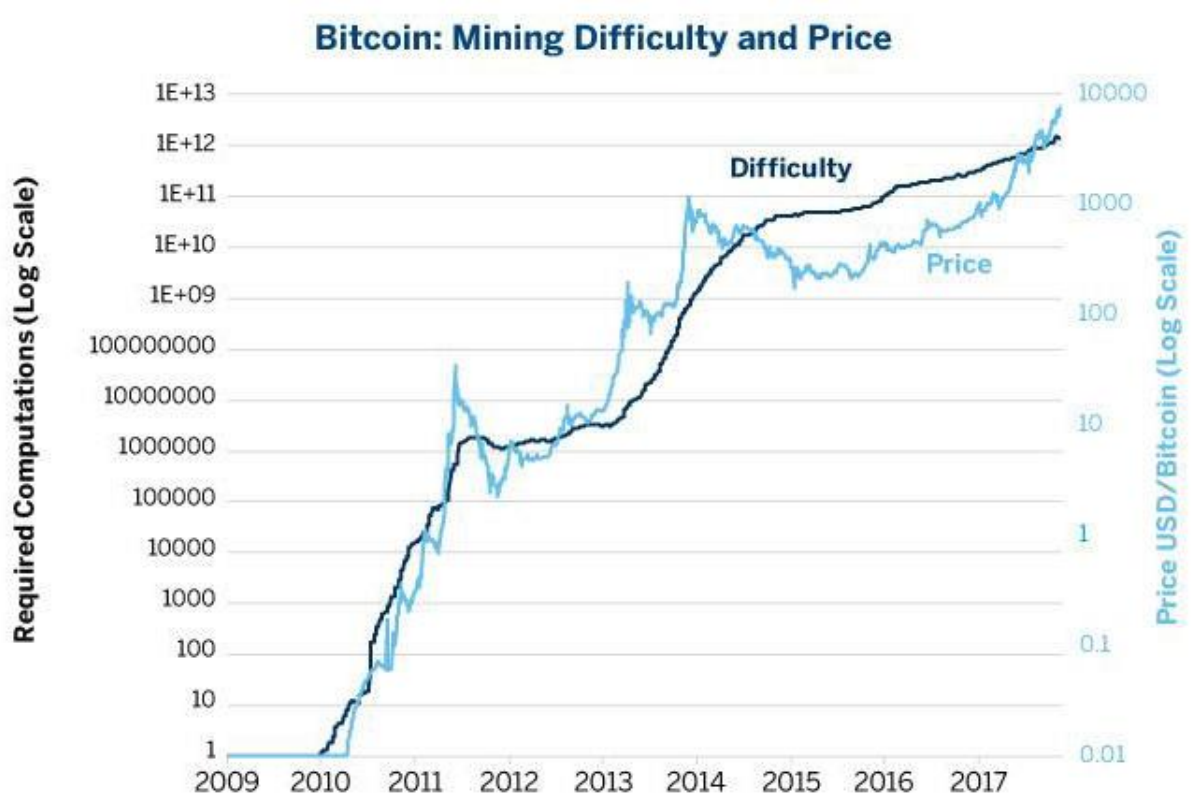
$$\text{Hash Target}_{(new)} = \frac{\text{Hash Target}_{(current)} * \text{Avg. time taken to generate last 2016 blocks}_{(mins)}}{10_{(mins)}}$$

4. Mining

DID YOU KNOW?

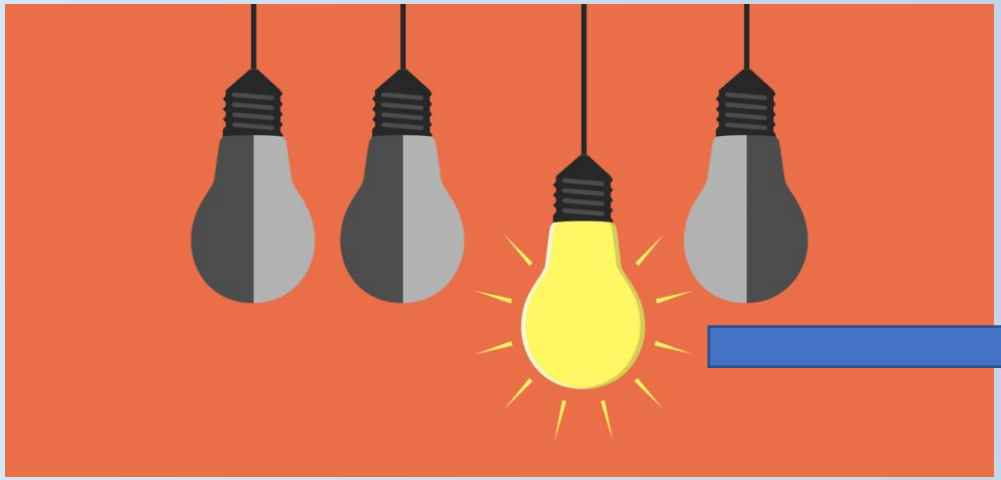
- ✓ The difficulty (condition) of the puzzle changes depending on the time it takes to mine a block

$$\text{Difficulty}_{(new)} = \frac{\text{Hash Target}_{(genesis\ block)}}{\text{Hash Target}_{(current\ block)}}$$



4. Mining

- Initially, mining was performed with CPUs. As the difficulty level increased, the CPUs became inefficient.
- They started using GPUs (faster).
- However, **energy consumption** has increased (became exaggerated).



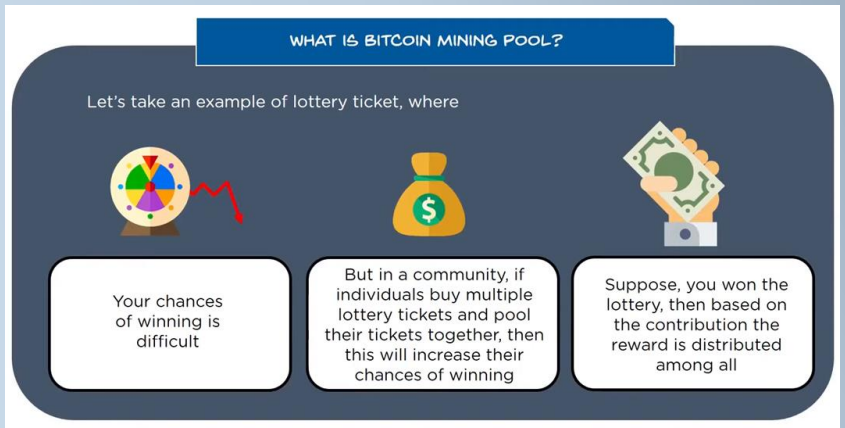
- Solution: use ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit). They are "chips" designed for specific functions, instead of "Multi-Purpose", so they are much more efficient (**consumes less power and are faster for Mining**) -> But a lot of **Noise** and **Heating** (choose the appropriate location for ASIC).
  - This solution allowed Mining to be profitable.
- Mining a block (many transactions carried out in about 10 minutes) costs about 200 Euros of Electricity.
- To mine, you still need Software (ECOS, BeMine, or Kryptex Miner) and a Wallet.

4. Mining

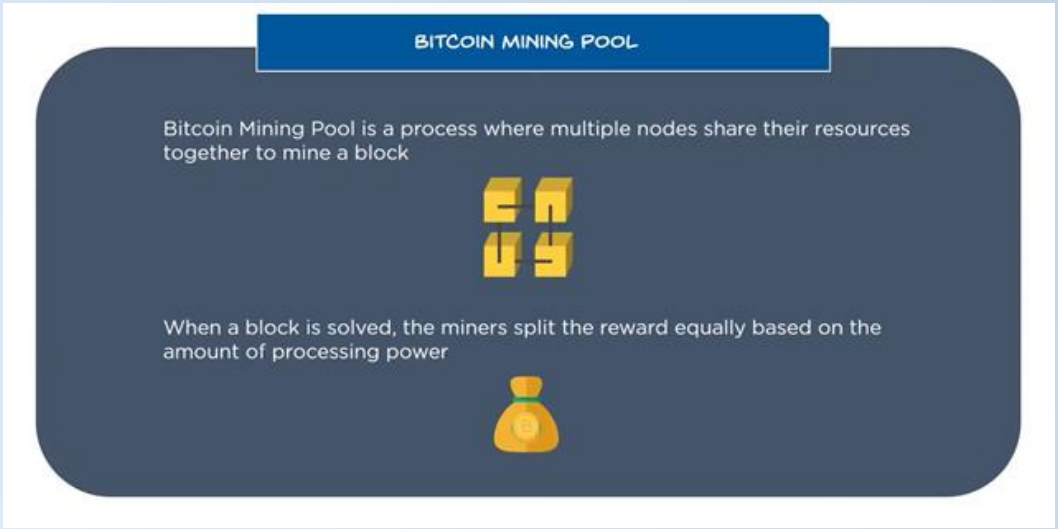
Antminer S19 Pro	M30 S++	Antminer T19
Manufacturer: Bitmain	MicroBT	Bitmain
Hashrate: 110 TH/s [TH/s - trillions Hash per second]	Hashrate: 112 TH/s	Hashrate: 84 TH/s
Energy Consumption: 3250 W	3472 W	3150 W

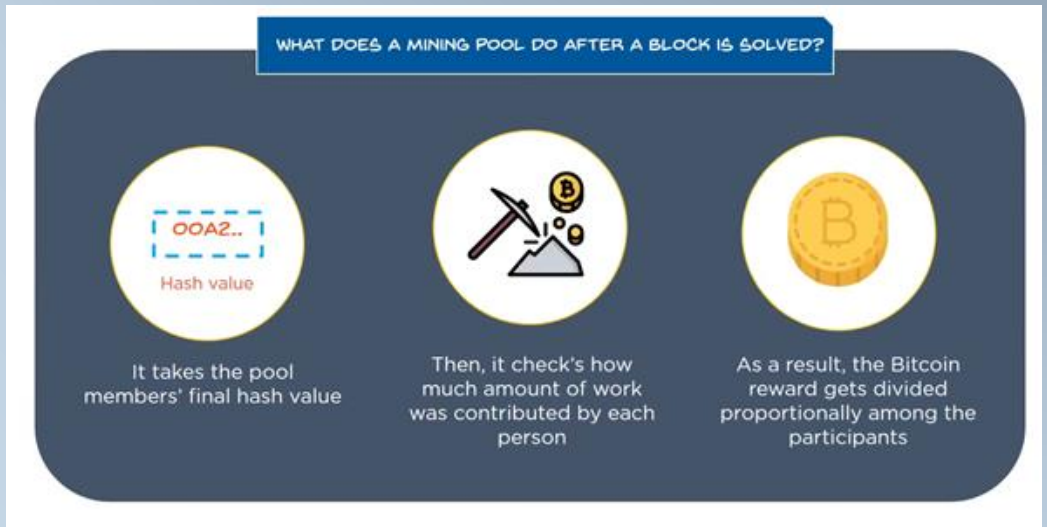
4. Mining

- Mining can be done in 2 ways:
  - Individually. The probability of success, i.e., of being able to perform the Proof of Work in a maximum of 10 minutes, is reduced. In addition, it requires a lot of processing power.



  - In Pool (group): Increases the probability of success, using Distributed Computing.

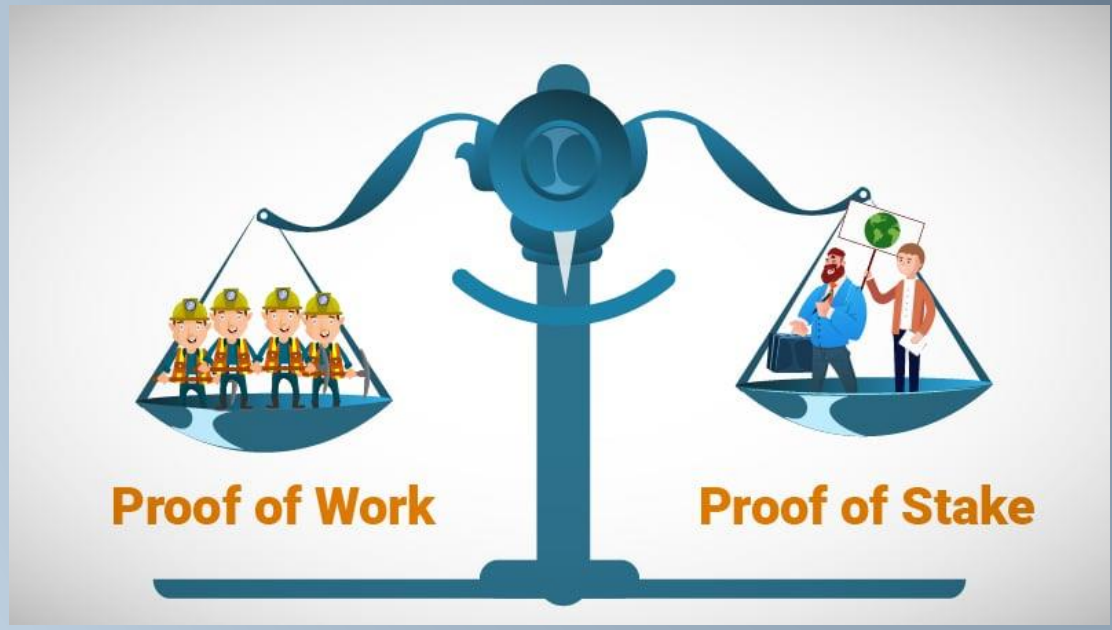




4. Mining

Alternative to PoW (mining): Proof of Stake (PoS):

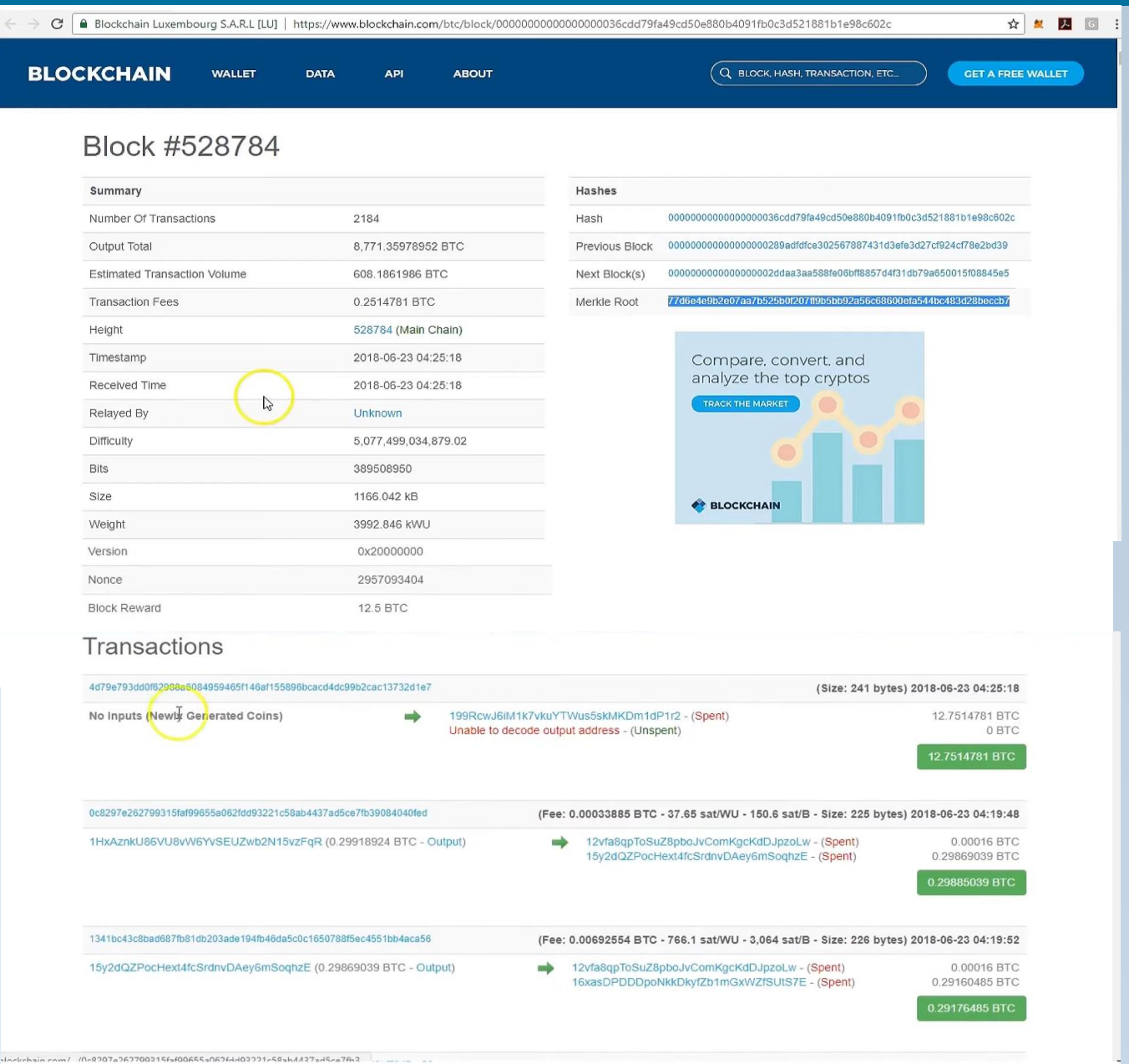
- In order to make **validation more efficient and cheaper (avoiding extensive electrical consumption)**, several currencies (eg **Ethereum**) are **migrating from Proof of Work to Proof of Stake**.
- They are **machines (software) selected at random to work as validators of the blocks of transactions** on the network, interconnecting the various blocks of the Blockchain.
- PoS consists of a validation process of a block, whose responsible is determined by the PoS algorithm.
    - At the very least, voting shares must be distributed properly to avoid becoming a



Alternative to PoW (mining): Proof of Stake Authority (PoA):

- PoA: Transactions and blocks are **validated by authorized accounts, known as validators (supernodes with special privileges)**. Validators run software to allow the block of transactions. The process is **automated by the software** without human intervention.
- In PoA, individuals earn the right to become validators, so there is an incentive to maintain the position they have earned. By assigning a reputation to the identity, validators are encouraged to maintain the transaction process as they do not want to have their identities associated with a negative reputation. This is considered more robust than PoS (proof of stake).
    - It has the inconvenience of **being able to have an agreement between Stakeholders acting as PoA, approaching the centralized system.**
    - In **PoS the validators are all the same** (selected randomly). In the **PoA they are users with additional privileges**.

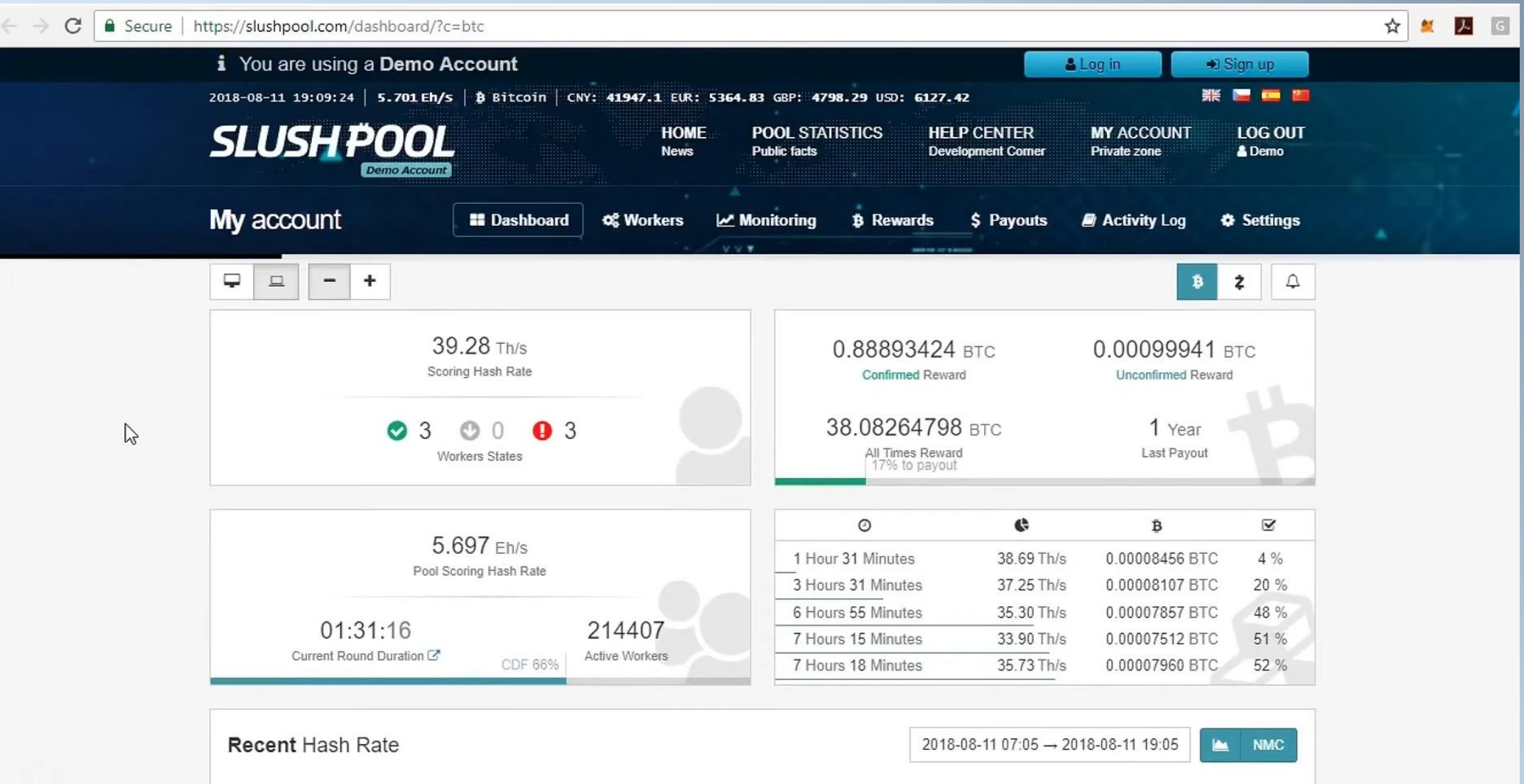
1. The Digital Transformation



A block of a blockchain

1. The Digital Transformation

- Mining Pool



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Bitcoin
3. Blockchain
4. Mining

THANK YOU