BLOCKCHAIN INTELLIGENCE GROUP

CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINER

Cryptocurrency, Blockchain & NFTs
An Introduction for Financial Crime Investigators

Presented by

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April 22, 2022

ACFE NY Chapter



Thank You!

Thank you for requesting a copy of my presentation from the NYCFE Spring Fraud Conference on April 22, 2022. It is a pleasure to connect with you. I am pleased to be able to provide to you many of the slides I presented at the virtual conference.

If you belong to a local, state, or national organization and have an interest in this presentation, for your event please do not hesitate to contact me, my contact information is one the next slide. Keep up the great work fighting financial crime and fraud. Stay safe, Bill

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Cryptocurrency

Bitcoin, and blockchain create P2P for finance, contracts, etc.
Decentralized Finance – financial transactions without banks.



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Twitter: https://twitter.com/WJCallahan3



QLUE

Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Forensic Analytics

An investigation tool is critical to track, trace and monitor cryptocurrency activities across currencies, exchanges and jurisdictions. It also helps to fight terrorist financing, money laundering and cybercrime. Importantly, it helps you to locate assets that have been dissipated

Wallet and Transaction Risk Analysis

Easy-to-understand transaction risk scoring, to meet regulatory compliance and cryptocurrency AML, CTF, KYC and OFAC efforts.

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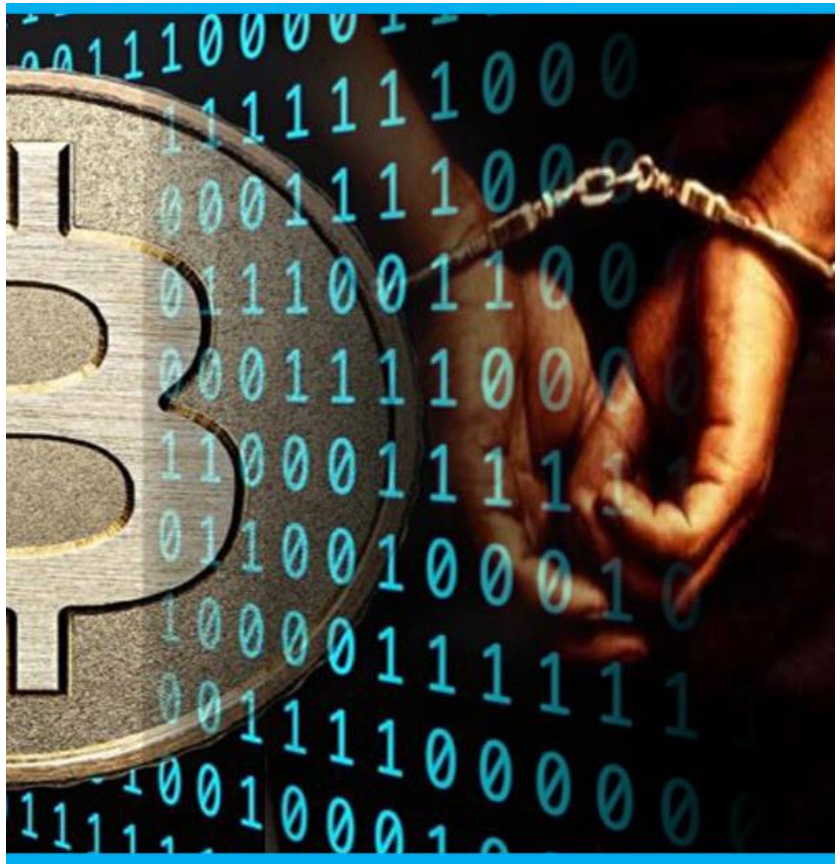
Cryptocurrency Investigator Training

Cryptocurrency Investigator Certification Course

Far more than a simple introduction to bitcoin, this is a certified cryptocurrency training solution for law enforcement investigators and compliance professionals

This cryptocurrency training is your way to gain a solid, in-depth understanding of how to track, trace and monitor cryptocurrency transactions and/or crypto crimes.

After completing the modules, you will be better prepared to identify and investigate illicit activities involving cryptocurrency.



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Goals for Today

- Provide some basic fundamental understanding of Cryptocurrency, Blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), NFTs and basic investigative techniques.



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Virtual Currency

What is it?

Digital payment system

Perception of Elevated levels of confidentiality

Entrenched in both domestic and international commerce

Over 17,000 cryptocurrencies

Highly Volitale



How Many Cryptos (February 2022)

Coinbase, one of the biggest exchanges, currently tracks 9,494 currencies.

CoinMarketCap (CMC), a cryptocurrency price tracking website, shows on top that there are 17,543 cryptocurrencies out there, but lists 9,358 on its index.

CoinGecko, another price tracker, lists 12,563 cryptocurrencies.

TokenSniffer, a hack coin scanning website, has historically detected 1,210,508 tokens (it scans different blockchains to 'sniff' out all new tokens) — out of which more than 82,000 basically scams.



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What is Virtual Currency (aka Digital Assets)?

- Virtual currency is a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded and functions as
  - a medium of exchange; and/or
  - a unit of account; and/or
  - a store of value, but does not have legal tender status (i.e., when tendered to a creditor, is a valid and legal offer of payment) in any jurisdiction.



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What is Virtual Currency (aka Digital Assets)?

It is neither issued nor guaranteed by any jurisdiction and fulfils the above functions **only by agreement within the community of users** of the currency.



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What is Virtual Currency (aka Digital Assets)?

Virtual currency is distinguished from **Fiat Currency** (a.k.a. “real currency,” “real money,” or “national currency”), which is the coin and paper money of a country that is designated as its legal tender.



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What is Virtual Currency (aka Digital Assets)?

Virtual currencies are issued by private developers.



4 Categories of Cryptocurrency



- Transactional
- Platform
- Utility
- Application

Transactional Cryptocurrencies

This is the category which cryptocurrency is originally intended for. The most popular of them all is without a doubt Bitcoin. The intention of this cryptocurrency is to remove the control of central authority and cutting out the middleman in our day-to-day transaction.



Platform Cryptocurrencies

This category creates a form of bedrock that facilitates the operation of other decentralized application. Ethereum being the most widely used smart contracts platform to date. Platform cryptocurrencies provide the foundation as well as buildings blocks that allows the swift development of other decentralized apps/cryptocurrencies



Utility Cryptocurrencies



A utility cryptocurrency is a cryptocurrency designed for a specific purpose. Siacoin is one of the notable examples. Siacoin is designed to facilitate a decentralized storage network which is a fairly unique concept and novel application of blockchain technology.

Application Cryptocurrencies

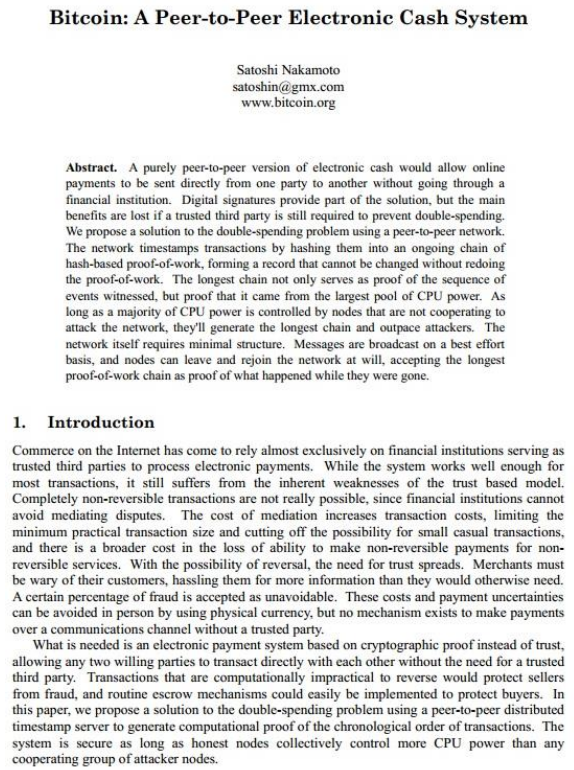


Application Cryptocurrencies refers to the class of cryptocurrencies that were based upon the platform cryptocurrencies - dAPP or Dapps

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What is Bitcoin?

- Designed as a peer-to-peer (P2P) value transmission system based on cryptography - a currency
  - Eliminates the need for a centralized third party (Federal Reserve, financial institution)
  - Not good or evil, just another ‘format’ for value transfer
  - Pseudonymous vs anonymous
- Can be used in true P2P or through online wallet service (Coinbase, eToro, BitFlyer, Kraken, etc.)
- No one owns (true p2p), transaction fees with exchanges.
  - Fees may be required by network. Ethereum very expensive currently.
- Push system, irreversible



Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

Satoshi Nakamoto
satoshin@gmx.com
www.bitcoin.org

Abstract. A purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution. Digital signatures provide part of the solution, but the main benefits are lost if a trusted third party is still required to prevent double-spending. We propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer network. The network timestamps transactions by hashing them into an ongoing chain of hash-based proof-of-work, forming a record that cannot be changed without redoing the proof-of-work. The longest chain not only serves as proof of the sequence of events witnessed, but proof that it came from the largest pool of CPU power. As long as a majority of CPU power is controlled by nodes that are not cooperating to attack the network, they'll generate the longest chain and outpace attackers. The network itself requires minimal structure. Messages are broadcast on a best effort basis, and nodes can leave and rejoin the network at will, accepting the longest proof-of-work chain as proof of what happened while they were gone.

1. Introduction

Commerce on the Internet has come to rely almost exclusively on financial institutions serving as trusted third parties to process electronic payments. While the system works well enough for most transactions, it still suffers from the inherent weaknesses of the trust based model. Completely non-reversible transactions are not really possible, since financial institutions cannot avoid mediating disputes. The cost of mediation increases transaction costs, limiting the minimum practical transaction size and cutting off the possibility for small casual transactions, and there is a broader cost in the loss of ability to make non-reversible payments for non-reversible services. With the possibility of reversal, the need for trust spreads. Merchants must be wary of their customers, hassling them for more information than they would otherwise need. A certain percentage of fraud is accepted as unavoidable. These costs and payment uncertainties can be avoided in person by using physical currency, but no mechanism exists to make payments over a communications channel without a trusted party.

What is needed is an electronic payment system based on cryptographic proof instead of trust, allowing any two willing parties to transact directly with each other without the need for a trusted third party. Transactions that are computationally impractical to reverse would protect sellers from fraud, and routine escrow mechanisms could easily be implemented to protect buyers. In this paper, we propose a solution to the double-spending problem using a peer-to-peer distributed timestamp server to generate computational proof of the chronological order of transactions. The system is secure as long as honest nodes collectively control more CPU power than any cooperating group of attacker nodes.

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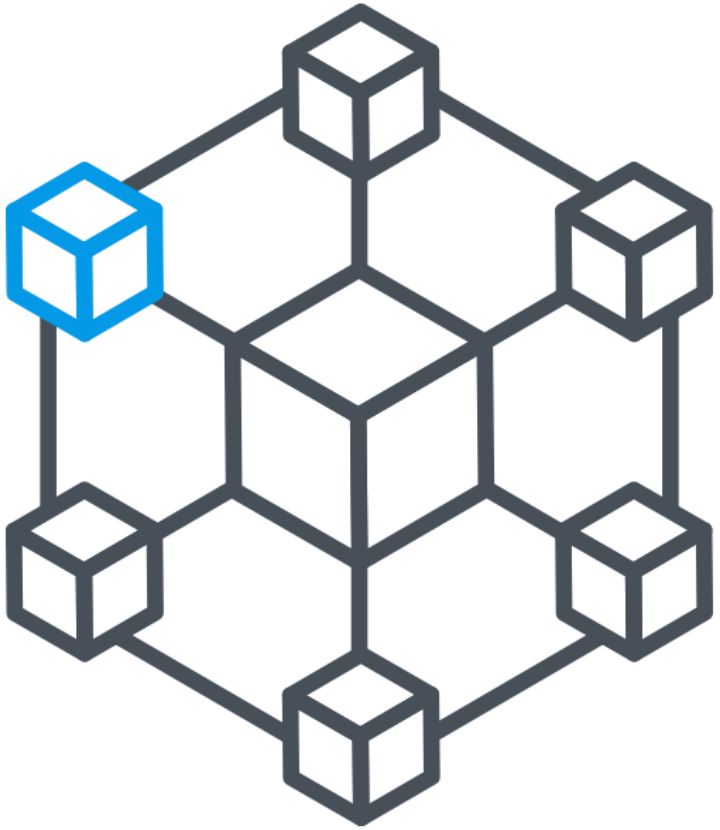
Satsohi Nakamoto

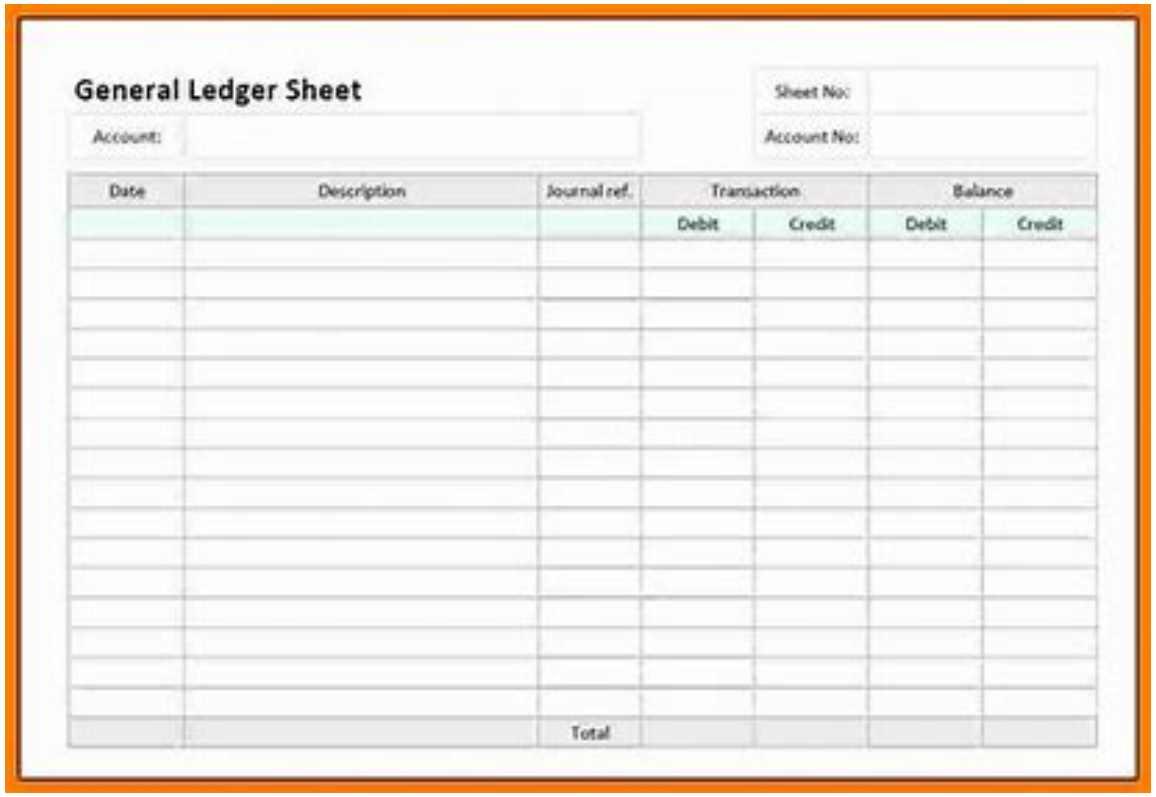


Satoshi Nakamoto is **the name used by the presumed pseudonymous person or persons who developed bitcoin, authored the bitcoin white paper, and created and deployed bitcoin's original reference implementation.** Nakamoto also devised the first blockchain database. In the process, Nakamoto was the first to solve the double-spending problem for digital currency using a peer-to-peer network.

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Blockchain = Public Ledger





General Ledger Sheet

Sheet No:

Account:

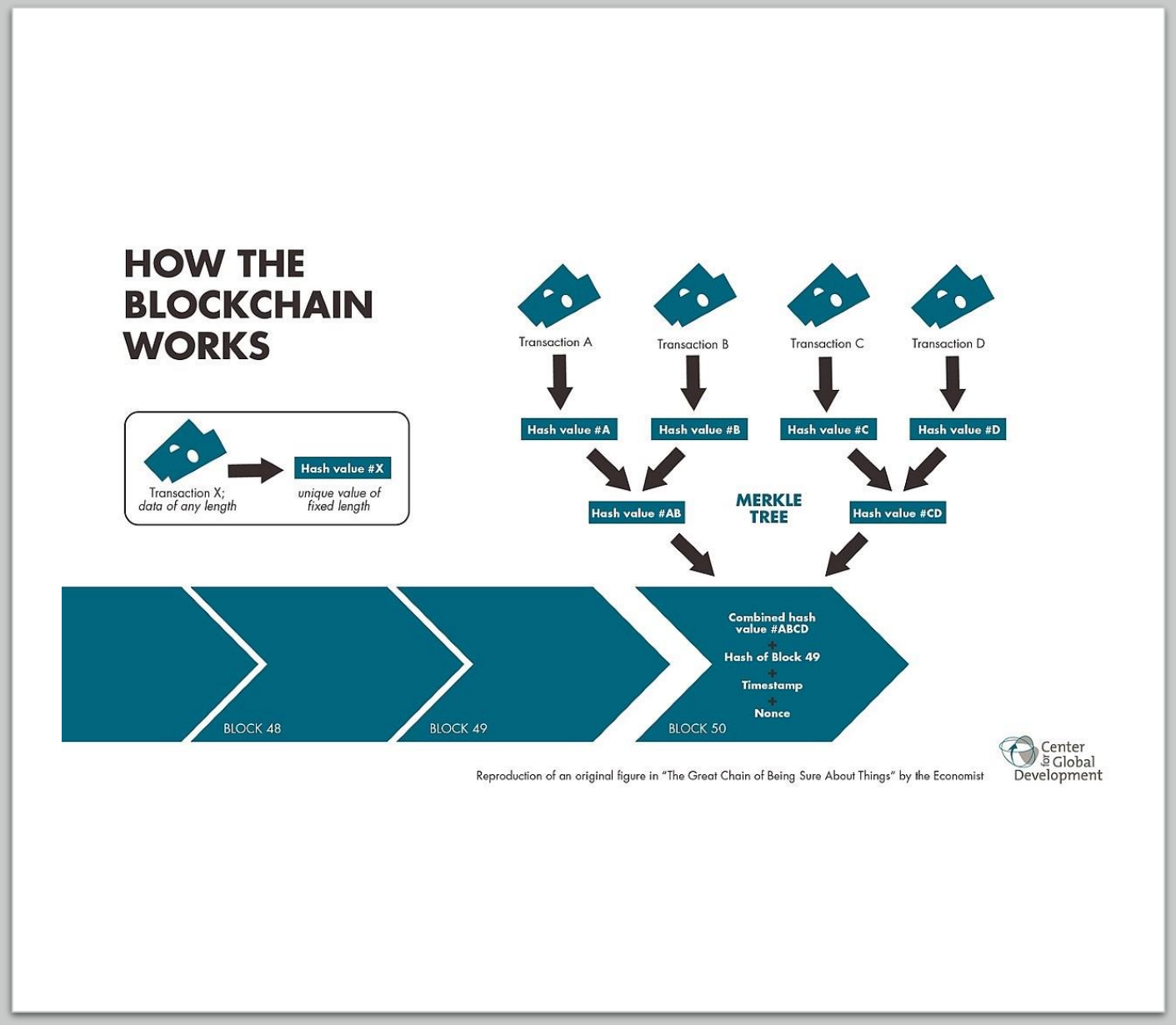
Account No:

Date	Description	Journal ref.	Transaction		Balance	
			Debit	Credit	Debit	Credit
		Total				

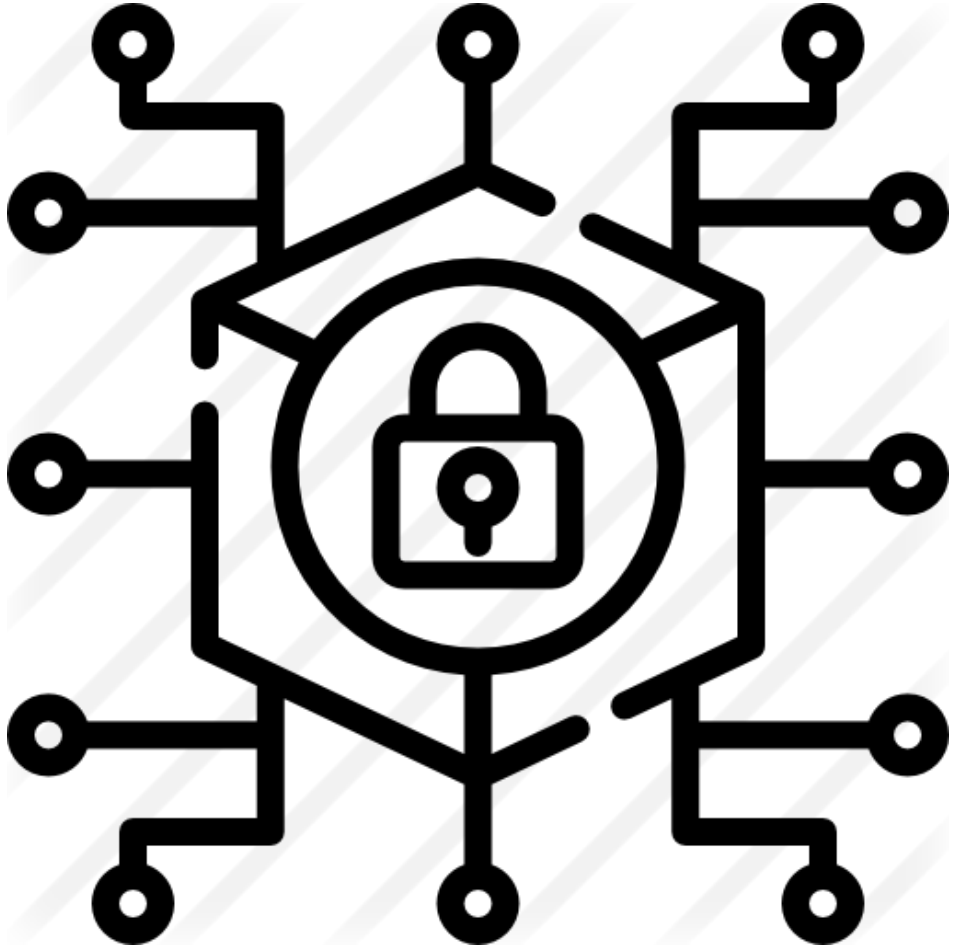
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What is Blockchain?

A type of distributed ledger consisting of blocks of data. Each block is connected to the next block using a cryptographic hash referencing the previous block.

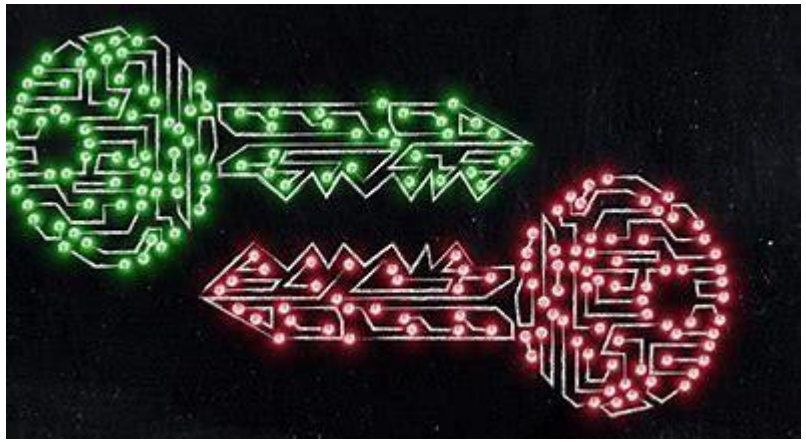


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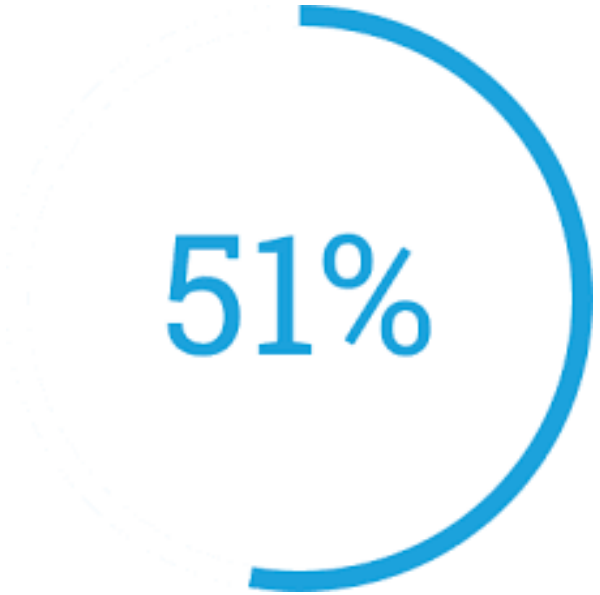


Cryptography

- Cryptocurrency are digital assets that are confirmed on a blockchain using cryptography.
- They are called cryptocurrencies because they use cryptography that has been proven to be impenetrable
- Cryptocurrencies are not secured by people or trust, but by math. (Trustless)



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Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System

- How do you prevent someone from spending a bitcoin multiple times?
- “The Double Spend Problem”
- Use digital signatures, form a record that can not be changed
- Voluntary nodes
- 51% are working correctly to confirm transaction

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Cryptocurrency Mining

Bitcoin mining is the process of adding transaction records to **Bitcoin's** public ledger of past transactions or blockchain. This ledger of past transactions is called the block chain as it is a chain of blocks.



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Mining & Validation

- Bitcoin ‘Miners’ operate computers and BTC software that are part of the transaction validation process
- P2P BTC transaction initiated (Ex. John sends Doug one bitcoin)
  1. Cryptographic problem transmitted to miners (billions hash computations/sec)
  2. Once 1st miner solves the problem (proof of work), trans to other miners (date/time) to verify
  3. Transaction is validated by consensus (while eliminating the need for third party validation). Permanent & Irreversible . Transaction visible in near real-time. Blocks resolve roughly every ten minutes..
  4. Transactions fully validated within approximately two hours.

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Mining & Validation

- ‘Winning’ miner is rewarded with newly created BTC – the mining function
  - 21 million BTC limit and created at pre-determined rate (halved every 210,000 blocks)
    - Cryptographic problems get more difficult as BTC is mined
    - Inflationary control
- Currently, between 160-180 million terahashes (trillion) computations/sec in computational power mining BTC (160-180 quintillion per second worldwide)
- Bitcoin mining consumes one-half percent of worldwide energy. The network consumes the equivalent of the amount of power generated by 8-9 nuclear plants.



Hot Wallet

- Highly accessible funds
- Connected to the internet
- Vulnerable to phishing and hacking



Cold Wallet

- Highly secure
- Less accessible funds
- Not connected to the internet

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The key distinction between a hot and cold wallet is that hot wallets are connected to the internet, while cold wallets are not.



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Example of a Bitcoin Hash/Address

Bitcoin address 1MpmhCc9yq5Sj78f83zLdvUQFK3E4s9xpz

Hash	e46b5fb1b1162e1e04bebba241d71821a433acff
Number of confirmed transactions	4
First transaction	753 days ago
Last transaction	411 days ago
Total Received	25.8 mBTC
Balance	0 BTC

Transaction 28d8cf3389c7b7b7da29091f294e3c07b42fbceca00aff48bd9f444e54519d49 (fees: 8.22 mBTC)



Risk Scoring & Investigative Resources

BitRank Verified® is a **blockchain intelligence software** that provides **fast, easy, and accurate real-time monitoring** and **scoring of transactions and wallets** to stop transactions with bad actors and sanctioned entities.

Cryptocurrency exchanges, ATMs, crypto custodians, and others around the world use our powerful software to accelerate business performance and do away with cumbersome compliance methods, creating a safe and compliant environment to avoid regulators' costly audits.

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Wallets

- Wallets store btc public/private keys – electronic file
  - P2P versus online wallets
- Wallet addresses appear as hash values- string of numbers and letters
  - Ex. 1Q2cAA8EcdGpMZgFAwSpyCJVzqkTLsx
  - Public key (wallet address) & private key
- Physical coin representations
- Quick reference (QR) codes
- Hardware wallets





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Bitcoin wallet addresses always start with a “**1**”, “**3**”, **or** “**bc1**”, making them easily distinguishable from public keys and private keys. Bitcoin public keys and addresses are presented in various formats.

What's the Big Deal?



- BTC, in current form, can be more efficient than current financial solutions because the centralized 3rd party is eliminated
- Blockchain can create trust between two parties (or more) who do not know each other.
- Blockchain works well for financial transactions, but potentially for any situation in which the need for a 3rd party is not ideal (smart contracts).
  - Legal documents/agreements, voting, authentication, doc storage, supply chain
- Can work well for merchants without volatility risk
  - Instant currency conversion, no chargebacks
  - Increasing number of merchants like Overstock, Home Depot, Starbucks and AirBnB.

Travel Rule

The Travel Rule is the common name for **FATF Recommendation #16 on combating money laundering**. It requires both financial institutions and crypto companies—otherwise known as Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs)—to collect personal data on participants in transactions exceeding 1,000 USD/EUR.

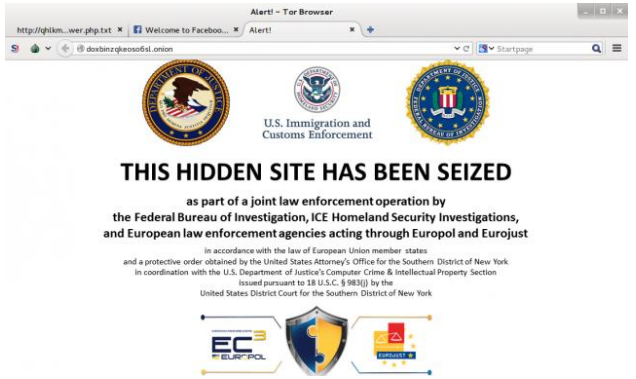


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AML Considerations

- Dark Net / Dark Market
  - Accessible only through TOR (The Onion Router) which anonymizes users web activity by utilizing multiple proxy servers
    - Bounces from many different servers in different countries
- BTC has been popular in the dark market where many illegal items are sold including compromised credit card data
  - Push system, irreversible, instant, no chargebacks (unlike credit cards)
  - Crypto currencies can be pushed through tumblers that co-mingle currency making it more difficult to track through the blockchain
  - In the U.S., online currency exchanges like Coinbase and Bitstamp are required to register as MSBs and follow AML rules
  - FATF Travel Rule was supposed to apply to all VASPs as of 2020.





The Cryptocurrency Compliance Playbook

Download Blockchain Intelligence Group's complimentary Cryptocurrency Compliance Playbook U.S. Edition

www.blockchaingroup.io



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Cryptocurrency Frauds and Scams

- Fake Investments
  - IPO vs. ICO
- Mining Scams
- Fake Bounty and Airdrop Giveaways
  - Social Media Influencers and Celebrities
- Crypto Pump and Dump Scams
- Fake Crypto Exchanges
- Blackmailing Scams
- Romance Scams
- Ransomware



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Fake Investments

- **Shit coin** refers to fake cryptocurrency coins, or tokens with no potential for the long term value. This type of cryptocurrency scam tries to convince an investor of the benefits of a relatively unknown coin, asking him to buy the fake project with the promise that it will be worth more in due time.



IPO vs. ICO

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Initial Public Offering

Process through which a **private** corporation is listed as a **public** corporation by offering its stock to the general public.

Registered broker performs DD.

Disclosures

SEC Approval

Initial Coin Offering

Investors generally **do not receive ownership** shares in a company, but rather digital tokens to be used within the boundaries of the platform.

Little to no regulation

Track record of earnings required

SEC and other Regulators trying to build a framework

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Mining Cryptocurrency Scams

- Cryptocurrency mining is a specialized crypto activity and requires a huge involvement of financed funds for mining equipment. Scammers claim to offer a fixed return for investing in their mining programs or platforms. Scammer resort to use edited images, promises of big profits, and fake testimonials to convince victimo part with your fiat or cryptocurrency.



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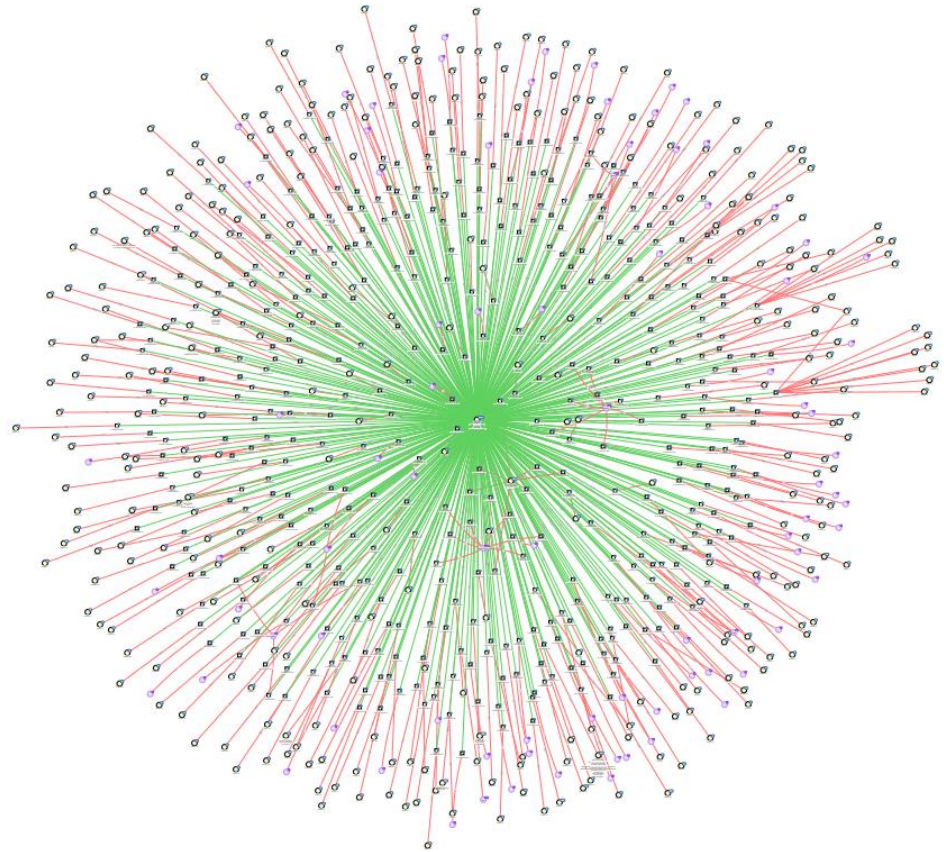
Fake Bounty and Airdrop Giveaways

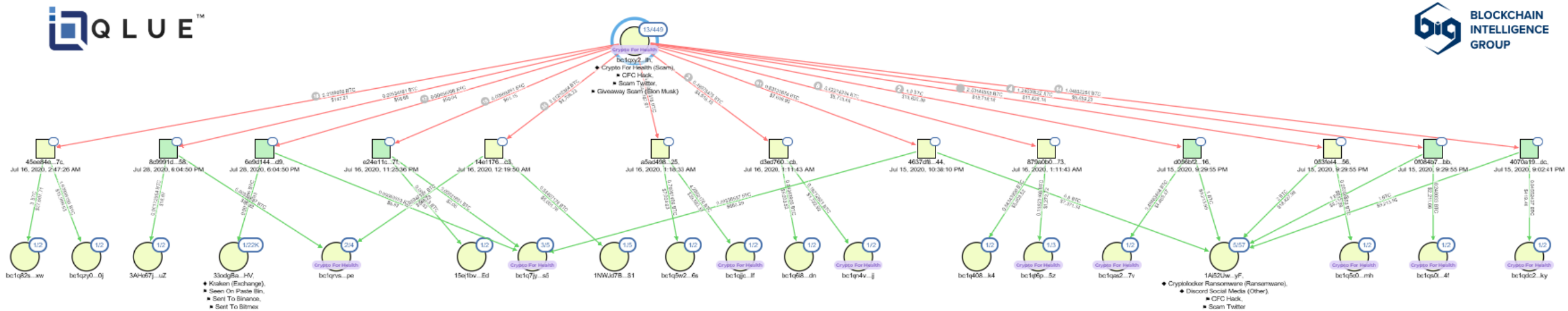
A classic example is the fake '5000 BTC Binance Giveaway' – where the perpetrators created fake social media profiles and web links, asking users to join with a promise to get a part of the 5000 BTC available for grabs.

Victims will be asked for some crypto deposit, before being eligible to win in the giveaway, or the victim may be asked to register on a clone platform, as the scammer tries to steal your log in, or data details for later access through phishing.



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Crypto For Health
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◆ Crypto For Health (Scam),
▪ CFC Hack,
▪ Scam Twitter,
▪ Giveaway Scam (Elon Musk)
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◆ Discord Social Media (Other),
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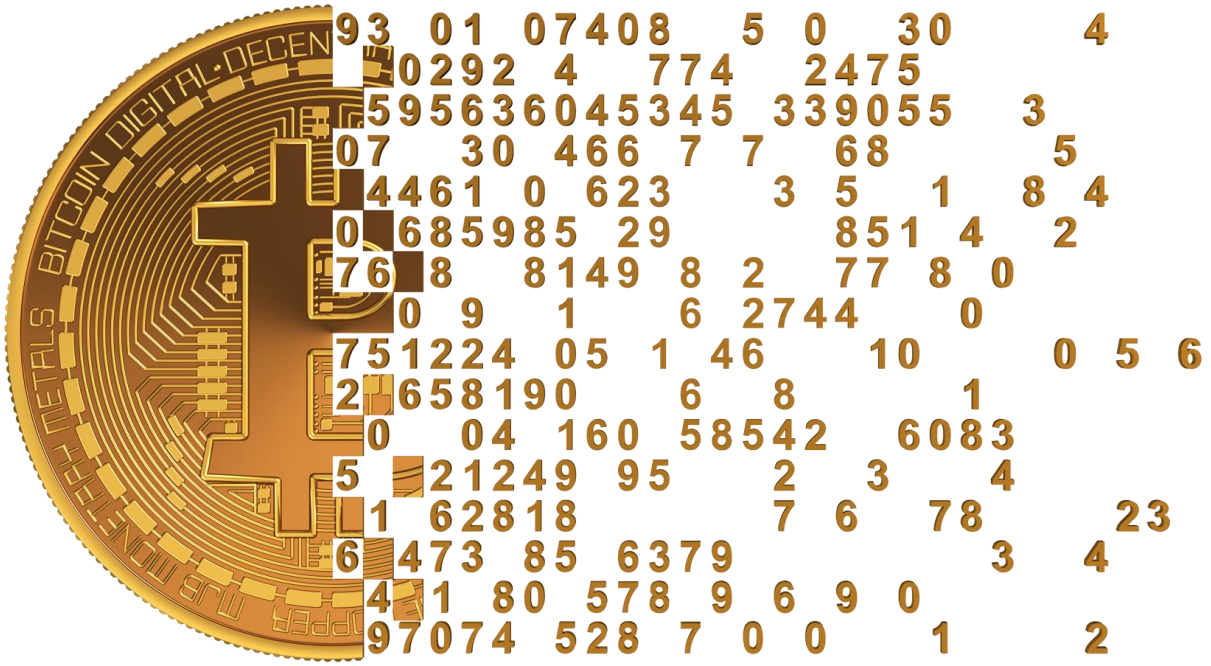
Crypto Pump and Dump Scams



- Usually happen to cryptocurrency traders (retail vs. institutional), when new crypto-coins are freshly introduced into the market. Lack the basic features that determines the value.
- The people behind such crypto projects may use FUDs, or controversies to push the price of the cryptocurrency high, so their own investment can increase.
- As soon as people starts buying and the price spokes, the scammers start selling their own stakes in the project and the price will fall drastically to almost know value.
- Lack of research and FOMO.

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Fake Crypto Exchanges



Scammers set up fake cryptocurrency exchanges.

These fake exchanges may trick users by offering extremely competitive prices that attract them into thinking they got a very cheap transaction fees, quick easy access.

Be sure to use a reputable exchange when buying or selling cryptocurrency

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Blackmailing Scams

Blackmail attempts in which strangers threaten you in exchange for bitcoin as a means of extortion. Usually by email, where the sender transmits a message claiming that he/she hacked into your computer and is operating it via remote desktop protocol (RDP) and a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The sender says that a key logger has been installed and that your web cam was used to record you doing something you may not want others to know about.

The sender provides two options – send BTC to suppress the material, or send nothing and see content sent to your email contacts and spread across your social networks.

Scammers use stolen email lists and other leaked user information to mass-mail thousands of individuals.



Phishing and Spear Phishing

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Scam is an advanced model which employs tools and behavioral predictability of the victim.

For e-mail phishing, they try to get access to your security passwords, or wallet by sending clone links of websites or infiltrating your PC/device through malware.

They usually send out mail to their victims – telling them that their investments account have been tampered, and they should reset their password(s).

“Your blockchain wallet password is under review, click here blocchain.com to reset password.”

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Romance Scams

- A Romance Scam is a confidence trick involving feigning romantic intentions towards a victim, gaining their affection, and then using that goodwill to get the victim to send money, fiat or crypto, to the scammer under false pretenses or to commit fraud against the victim. These scams are often perpetrated by organized criminal gangs, targeting multiple victims at a time

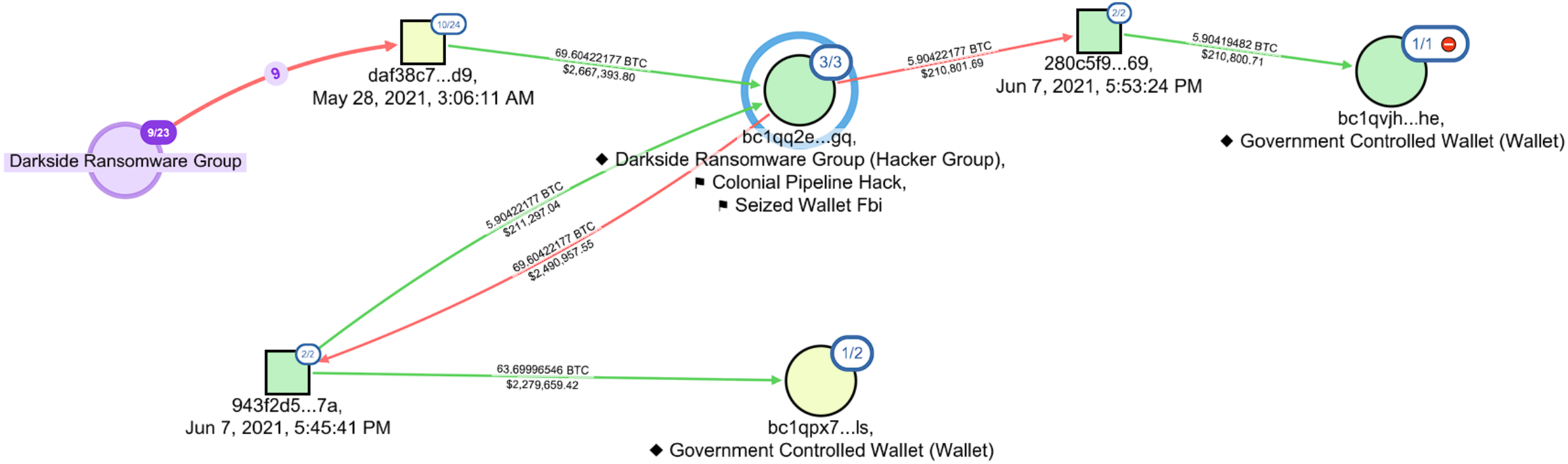


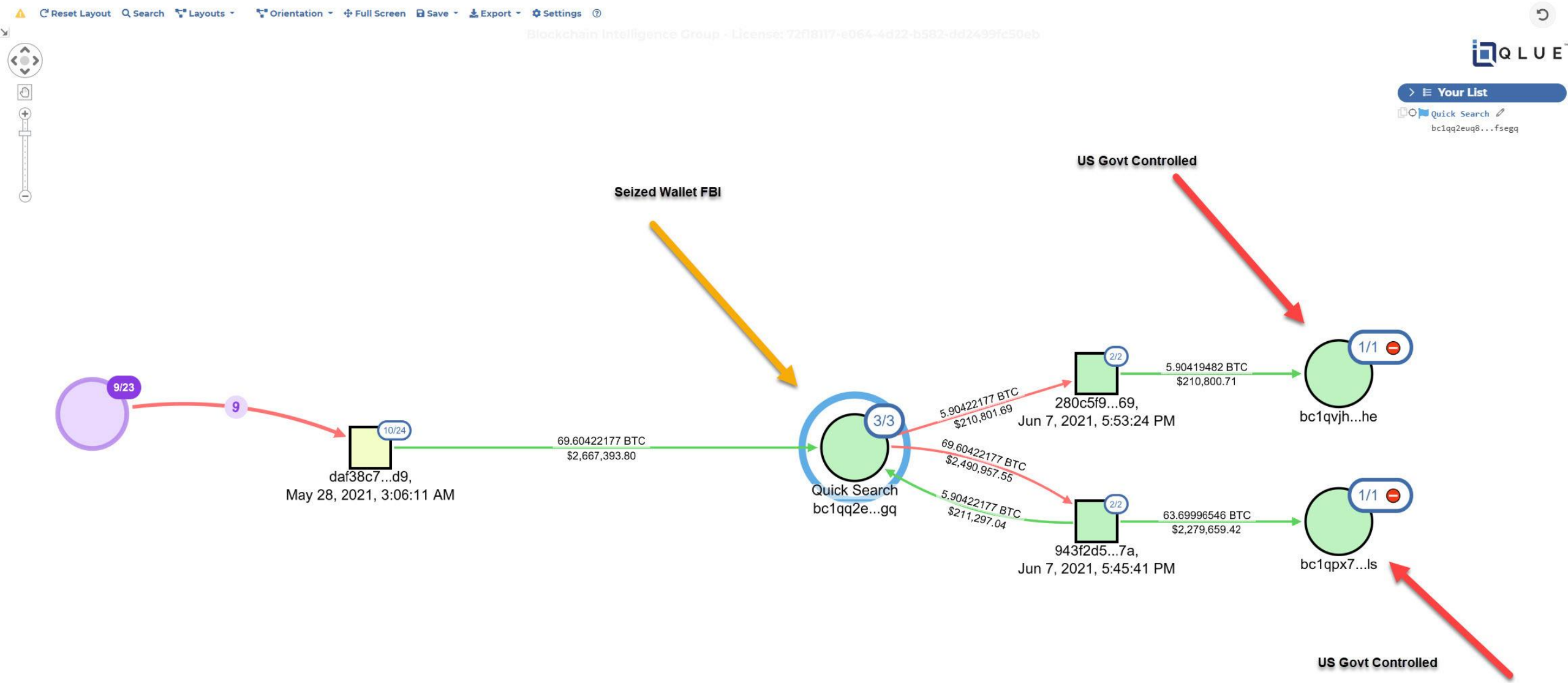
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Ransomware

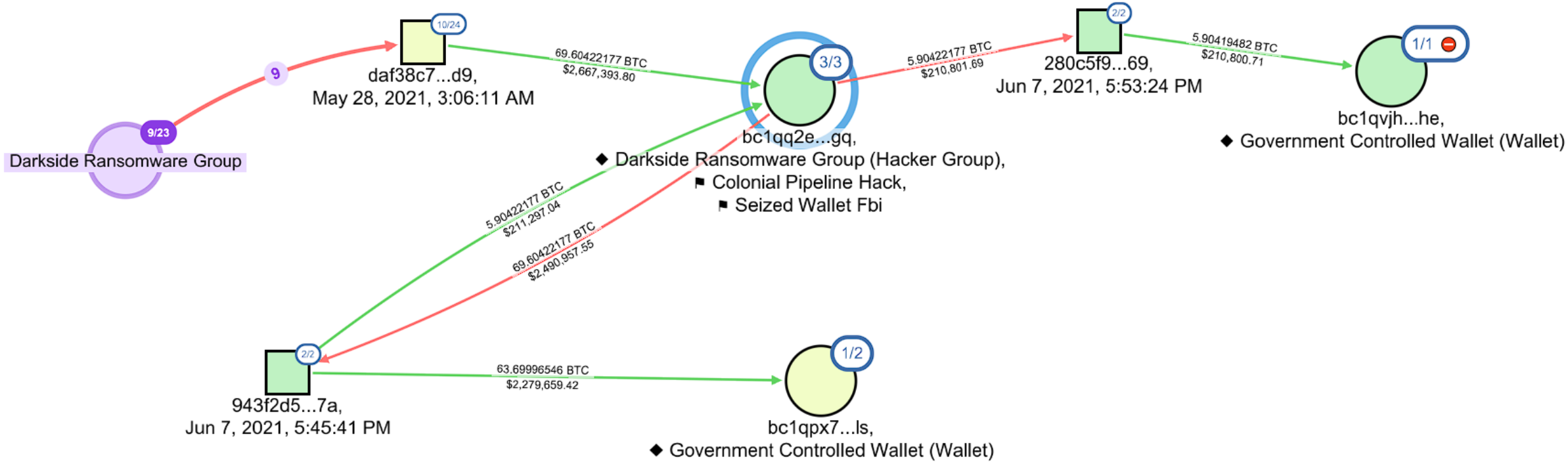
- A type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.



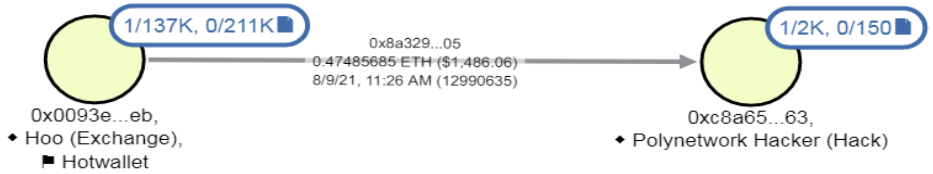

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⚑ Colonial Pipeline Hack,
⚑ Seized Wallet Fbi
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◆ Government Controlled Wallet (Wallet)


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May 28, 2021, 3:06:11 AM
69.60422177 BTC
$2,667,393.80
3/3
Quick Search
bc1qq2e...gq
5.90422177 BTC
$210,801.69
2/2
280c5f9...69,
Jun 7, 2021, 5:53:24 PM
5.90419482 BTC
$210,800.71
1/1
bc1qvjh...he
69.60422177 BTC
$2,490,957.55
5.90422177 BTC
$211,297.04
2/2
943f2d5...7a,
Jun 7, 2021, 5:45:41 PM
63.69996546 BTC
$2,279,659.42
1/1
bc1qpx7...ls
US Govt Controlled

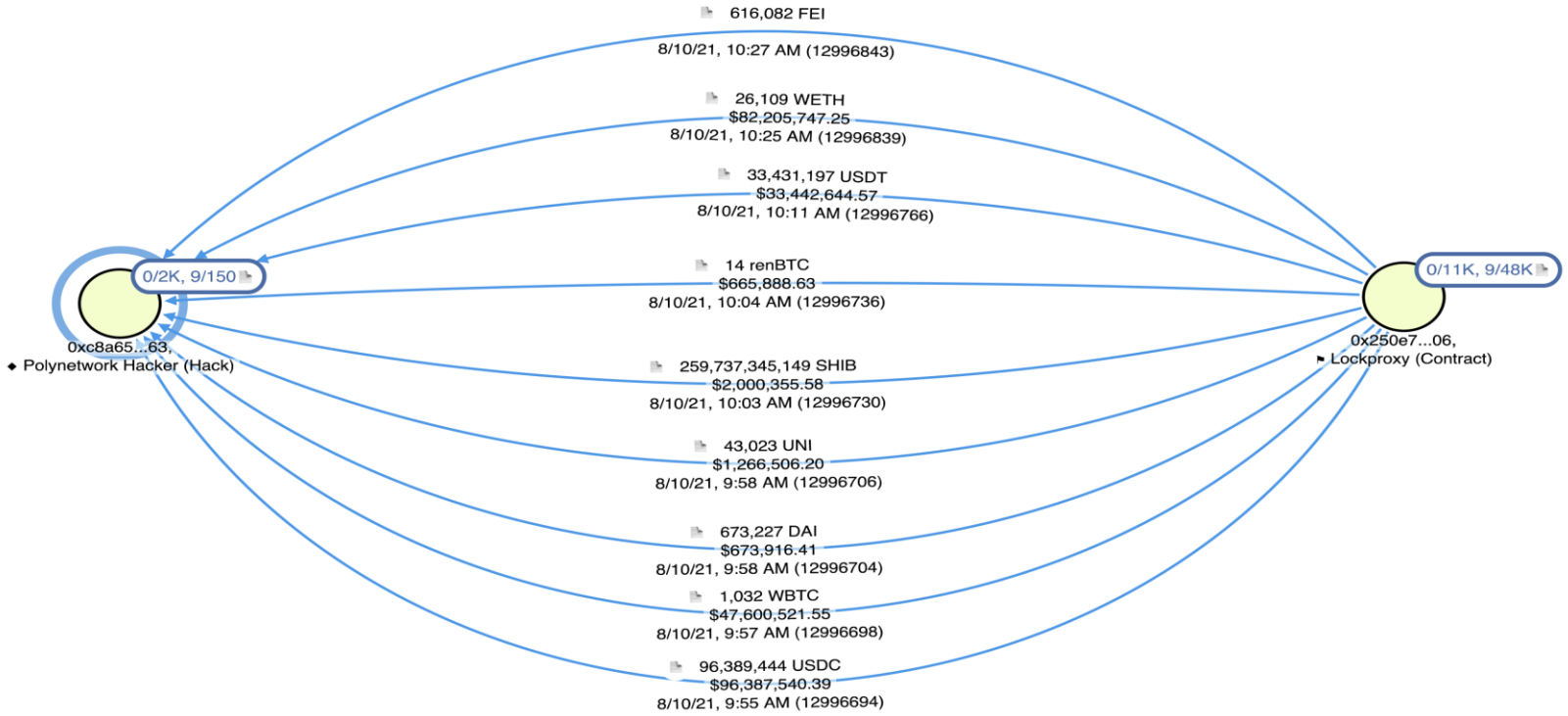
Cryptocurrency & Blockchain Forensic Tools


9/23
Darkside Ransomware Group
9
10/24
daf38c7...d9,
May 28, 2021, 3:06:11 AM
69.60422177 BTC
$2,667,393.80
3/3
bc1qq2e...gq,
◆ Darkside Ransomware Group (Hacker Group),
⚑ Colonial Pipeline Hack,
⚑ Seized Wallet Fbi
5.90422177 BTC
$210,801.69
2/2
280c5f9...69,
Jun 7, 2021, 5:53:24 PM
5.90419482 BTC
$210,800.71
1/1
bc1qvjh...he,
◆ Government Controlled Wallet (Wallet)
5.90422177 BTC
$211,297.04
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2/2
943f2d5...7a,
Jun 7, 2021, 5:45:41 PM
63.69996546 BTC
$2,279,659.42
1/2
bc1qpx7...ls,
◆ Government Controlled Wallet (Wallet)

Series of events on the Ethereum Blockchain:

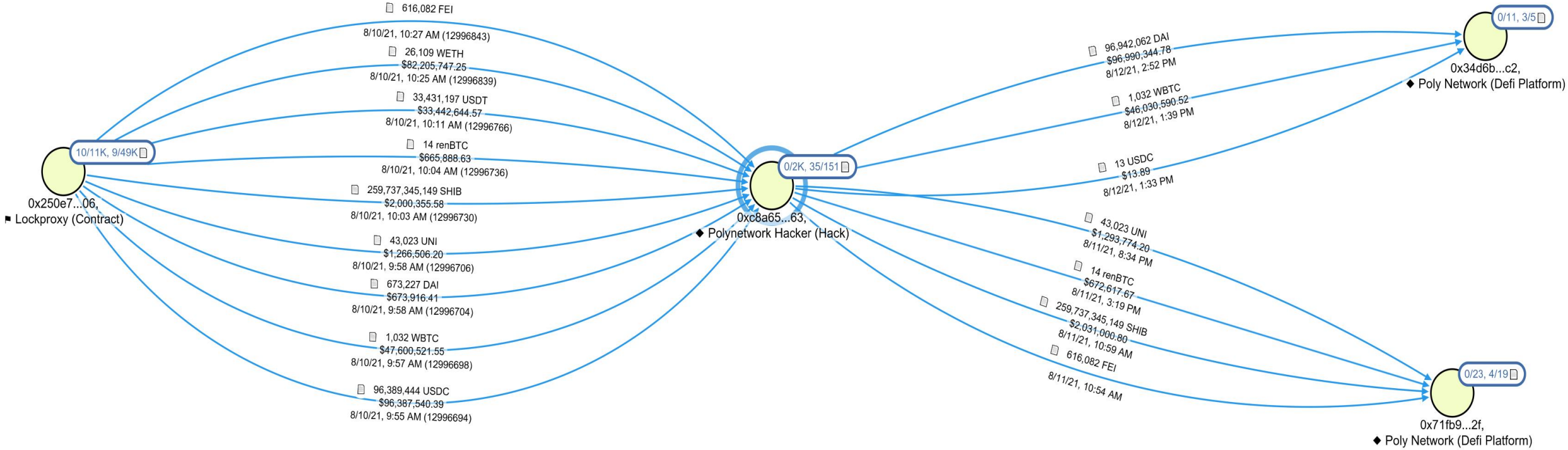


The graph above shows the transaction between Hoo exchange and the hacker. On Aug 9, 2021, The PolyNetwork hacker withdrew 0.47 ETH from Hoo.com (Exchange), Which was used to pay gas fees for the transaction associated with the hack.



The graph shows the token transfers to PolyNetwork hacker’s address

All transactions between Poly Network and the Hacker



Messages between Poly Network and the Hacker:

The Poly Network has been actively sending messages to the hacker using ‘0x0e860f44d73f9fdbaf5e9b19afc554bf3c8e8a57’ address on the Ethereum network.

These are some of the messages which weren’t encrypted.

Poly Network

Can you connect us? contact@poly.network

We can offer you a security bounty when you return all the remaining assets.We will provide a secure address through e-mail.

The decision made by DAO can't changed the fact that the assets are stolen from crypto believers.We want to offer a security bounty and we hope it will be remembered as the biggest white hat hack in the history.

We are preparing a multi-sig address controlled by known Poly addresses

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Some encrypted messages between Poly Network and the hacker

```
¨2|uoËºº®ò\PHH!ÂÐè^ÒO50;)yJÑ}¦:äLLØ]-sÝ$=TZ÷cQÎåZv¶È}§ÝCÊsZS§Pj¡nÙeY£YÐ¥s7
ôÖ½²FtheXçÉ«ºÖ
ÅòóÏ7ºói âVæÒ+£cí
```

View Input As

https://etherscan.io/tx/0x76c8bb50b66b9c21655c2379ebd023100aec3df551dffbb8c33ee11764b10544

```
d8cd85a08a41d32fd7f9ea34e03e4c37027183eb4ca2a819907fa18f72115db29ace316ecab1c057ec035f996a8b51f02f58dfad08a82a165c6cc407231e
8928f614c4f74776c7feb54b70e816534ae7a337b5a27ccf497966d61ef8b434cdceb1b7793e2ddc996420ac4c71ab5f700a8b328b48be08c05c3e648fef
e2d45012aaa4a5cc54dfa25aac1eb9d39170bb0f57c1654354d067a7030a4193b79eba42b7e0408e47dec1c262e6be73cf3aa34e7df6c1abc9b46b164fcc
dc107dca054e1b49eb693bef8bbe42448114e06096d92aa4c735838aeca0c7ad52b83e928c44509526bd0cad81d76f321f5e429c721ec8c48c6618de0250
6012a5702abdca6ac94e578125cc415e1bd1ae27ca812f1202a8be2eda74546c8d88dc417d7514728d12c0919d74ce356b0365ab8b5f66918d
```

View Input As

https://etherscan.io/tx/0x64c237d37a39662c8386a6f4893c5852486c3d1bbc68605465c603061ddf7d13

Certified Cryptocurrency Investigator (CCI)

- **Module 1**
- Introduction to Cryptocurrency covers the basics of fiat and cryptocurrencies and how it can be used in both legitimate and illicit activities.
- **Module 2**
- The Bitcoin Trail delves into cryptocurrency mining, common criminal schemes where bitcoin is used.
- **Module 3**
- The Dark Web gives an overview of the part of the internet commonly used by criminals and their criminal enterprises.
- **Module 4**
- Cryptocurrency and the Criminal Element reveals the criminal element of cryptocurrency and how to identify and track
- **Module 5**
- Blockchain Forensics deepens understanding of the intricacies of blockchain and explores analytical tools for investigating crypto crimes.

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ONE FREE MODULE WHEN YOU BUY ALL FIVE

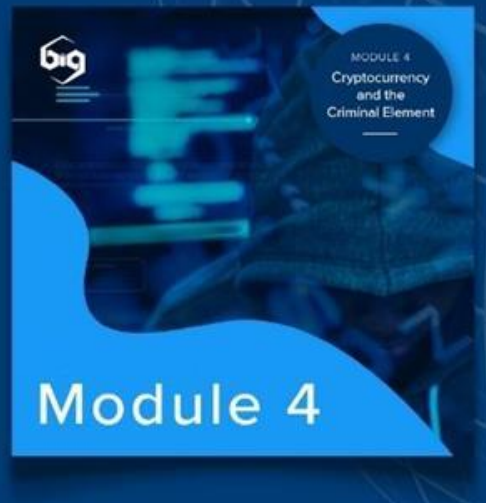
USE PROMO CODE

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Expires May 22, 2022

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