

blockchain the insights you need from harvard Ebook

Blockchain The Insights You Need From Harvard

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Blockchain: The Insights You Need from Harvard Bus

blockchain the insights you need from harvard bus o?er a compelling window into

one of the most transformative technologies of our time. As blockchain continues to reshape industries and redefine how trust and transparency operate in the digital age, Harvard Business School has emerged as a leading authority, providing deep analysis and pragmatic perspectives that help businesses and individuals navigate this complex landscape. Whether you are a seasoned professional or simply curious about what blockchain means for the future, understanding these insights can equip you with the knowledge to make smarter decisions.

Understanding Blockchain Through the Lens of Harvard Business

School

Blockchain is often described as a decentralized ledger technology that enables secure, transparent, and tamper-proof transactions without the need for intermediaries. While this technical description is accurate, the insights from Harvard Business School (HBS) go beyond the buzzwords and delve into how blockchain can fundamentally alter business

models, supply chains, and even governance structures.

At its core, HBS emphasizes blockchain's potential to disrupt traditional systems by enabling new forms of collaboration and trust. Unlike conventional centralized databases, blockchain's distributed nature means that multiple parties can maintain a shared record, reducing friction and increasing accountability.

Why Harvard Business School's Perspective Matters

Harvard Business School isn't just another academic institution commenting on emerging tech; it is a hub of rigorous research, case studies, and real-world applications. Their insights are grounded in empirical evidence and practical strategies, making them invaluable to executives, entrepreneurs, and policymakers alike.

For instance, HBS research highlights that blockchain is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, it requires thoughtful integration tailored to the specific needs and challenges of each sector. This nuanced viewpoint prevents the hype-driven pitfalls that often accompany new technologies.

Key Insights from Harvard Business School on Blockchain's

Business Impact

One of the standout contributions from Harvard Business is their detailed exploration of blockchain's impact on traditional industries. From finance to healthcare, their analysis reveals how blockchain can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance security.

Revolutionizing Financial Services

In the financial sector, blockchain's ability to streamline payments, settlements, and

compliance is well documented by Harvard Business experts. They point out that banks and fintech companies can leverage blockchain to eliminate intermediaries, speed up cross-border transactions, and cut down fraud risks.

Moreover, Harvard Business research stresses the importance of regulatory clarity and collaboration between private firms and governments to unlock blockchain's full potential in finance. This insight is crucial for businesses aiming to navigate the complex regulatory environments surrounding cryptocurrency and digital assets.

Transforming Supply Chain Management

Supply chain transparency and traceability are other areas where Harvard Business School offers profound insights. Blockchain can provide an immutable record of product provenance, which is essential for industries like food, pharmaceuticals, and luxury goods. According to HBS studies, companies that adopt blockchain for supply chain management can significantly enhance trust among stakeholders and end consumers. This not only helps prevent counterfeiting but also improves recall processes and compliance with sustainability standards.

Enhancing Digital Identity and Trust

Beyond finance and supply chains, Harvard Business explores how blockchain can reinvent digital identity management. In an era where data breaches and privacy concerns are rampant, blockchain provides a decentralized way to control personal information securely.

HBS scholars argue that blockchain-based identity solutions can empower individuals, reduce identity theft, and simplify verification processes across sectors such as healthcare, education, and government services.

Practical Tips from Harvard Business School for Implementing Blockchain

Understanding blockchain's promise is one thing, but effectively implementing it is another challenge altogether. Harvard Business School offers practical guidance that can help organizations avoid common mistakes and maximize blockchain's benefits.

Start with Clear Business Objectives

One recurring theme in HBS research is the importance of defining clear goals before adopting blockchain. Rather than jumping on the technology bandwagon, companies should identify specific problems that blockchain can solve better than existing solutions.

Focus on Collaboration and Ecosystem Building

Blockchain's power lies in its network effect – its value increases as more participants join and interact. Harvard Business experts recommend fostering partnerships and creating ecosystems where multiple stakeholders collaborate transparently.

This approach is especially relevant for industries like supply chains and healthcare, where data sharing across organizations is critical.

Invest in Skills and Education

Since blockchain is a rapidly evolving field, HBS underscores the need for continuous learning and talent development. Organizations should invest in educating their workforce

about blockchain fundamentals, regulatory trends, and technological advancements.

By building internal expertise, companies can stay ahead of the curve and innovate responsibly.

The Future Outlook: What Harvard Business School Predicts

Looking ahead, Harvard Business School envisions blockchain evolving beyond cryptocurrencies into a foundational technology for the digital economy. Their thought leaders anticipate broader adoption in areas such as decentralized finance (DeFi), tokenization of assets, and smart contracts automation.

However, they also caution that widespread blockchain adoption will require overcoming significant hurdles, including scalability, interoperability, and governance challenges.

These insights encourage businesses to adopt a long-term perspective and remain adaptable.

Blockchain and the Rise of Decentralized Finance (DeFi)

DeFi represents a major frontier analyzed by Harvard Business scholars. By removing traditional financial intermediaries, DeFi platforms promise more inclusive and accessible financial services. Yet, HBS also stresses the need for robust risk management and regulatory frameworks to ensure stability and consumer protection.

Tokenization and New Business Models

Tokenization – the process of converting real-world assets into digital tokens on a blockchain – is another area where Harvard Business research shines. This innovation

could revolutionize asset ownership, liquidity, and fundraising, creating new opportunities for businesses and investors alike.

Smart Contracts as Automators of Trust

Smart contracts, self-executing agreements coded on blockchain, are highlighted by HBS as powerful tools for automating complex transactions with transparency and speed. Their adoption could reduce legal disputes and operational inefficiencies across industries.

Engaging with the insights from Harvard Business School on blockchain provides a well-rounded understanding that goes beyond hype and speculation. By appreciating the strategic, operational, and regulatory dimensions detailed in their research, businesses and individuals can unlock blockchain's true potential in a thoughtful and impactful way. Whether you're exploring blockchain's impact on finance, supply chain, or digital identity, the knowledge distilled by Harvard Business School offers a trusted roadmap for navigating this dynamic technology.

Question

Answer

What key insights does

'Blockchain: The Insights You

Need from Harvard Business'

offer for business leaders?

The publication provides comprehensive insights on

how blockchain technology can transform business

models, enhance transparency, improve security, and foster innovation across industries.

How does blockchain impact supply chain management according to Harvard Business insights?

Harvard Business highlights that blockchain increases supply chain transparency, reduces fraud, improves traceability of goods, and streamlines operations by providing a decentralized and immutable ledger.

What challenges of blockchain adoption are discussed in 'Blockchain: The Insights You Need from Harvard Business'?

The key challenges include scalability issues, regulatory uncertainties, integration complexity with existing systems, and the need for industry-wide standards and collaboration.

How can companies leverage

blockchain to create competitive

advantage based on Harvard

Business insights?

Companies can use blockchain to enhance trust with

customers and partners, reduce costs through

automation and smart contracts, and develop new

business models that capitalize on decentralized

networks.

What future trends in blockchain

technology are identified in

'Blockchain: The Insights You

Need from Harvard Business'?

Future trends include the rise of decentralized

finance (DeFi), increased adoption of blockchain in

healthcare and government sectors, integration with

AI and IoT, and the development of more scalable

and energy-efficient consensus mechanisms.

****Blockchain: The Insights You Need from Harvard Business Review****

blockchain the insights you need from harvard bus represents a critical entry point

for professionals and academics eager to understand the transformative potential of

blockchain technology. As the digital landscape evolves, organizations across industries grapple with the implications of decentralized ledgers, smart contracts, and tokenization. Harvard Business Review (HBR), known for its rigorous business analysis, provides a nuanced perspective that goes beyond hype, addressing how blockchain can alter competitive dynamics, operational efficiencies, and trust mechanisms in business ecosystems.

Understanding Blockchain's Business Implications Through Harvard's Lens

Harvard Business Review approaches blockchain not merely as a technological innovation but as a strategic tool reshaping industry structures. Their insights emphasize that blockchain's appeal lies in its ability to establish trust without central intermediaries, enabling peer-to-peer transactions verified through cryptographic consensus. This fundamental shift challenges traditional notions of control held by banks, governments, and large corporations.

One of the central themes in HBR's coverage is blockchain's potential to reduce transaction friction and cost. By automating verification processes and creating immutable records, blockchain can streamline supply chains, enhance transparency, and reduce fraud. However, HBR also cautions against viewing blockchain as a panacea, highlighting technological limitations such as scalability issues and the energy consumption concerns associated with proof-of-work consensus algorithms.

Strategic Value of Blockchain in Different Industries

Harvard Business Review offers industry-specific analyses illustrating how blockchain's benefits vary by context.

Financial Services: HBR underscores blockchain's role in revolutionizing

1.

payments, settlements, and trade finance by enabling near-instantaneous transaction finality. Blockchain-based platforms can reduce counterparty risk and simplify compliance through transparent audit trails.

Supply Chain Management: The technology's capacity for provenance tracking is

2.

highlighted as a game-changer, ensuring authenticity and ethical sourcing, which is critical for sectors like pharmaceuticals, food, and luxury goods.

Healthcare: HBR discusses blockchain's promise in securing patient data and

3.

facilitating interoperability between disparate health systems, potentially improving patient outcomes and reducing administrative overhead.

Government and Public Sector: Applications in voting systems, land registries,

4.

and identity verification are explored, with emphasis on enhancing transparency and reducing corruption.

These examples illustrate that blockchain's impact is not uniform. Each sector faces

unique challenges and opportunities when integrating blockchain into legacy systems.

Key Features and Challenges Highlighted by Harvard Business

Review

Harvard Business Review's insights frequently return to core blockchain features that confer both strengths and challenges.

Decentralization and Trust

At the heart of blockchain's innovation is decentralization. By distributing the ledger across multiple nodes, blockchain removes the need for a trusted third party. This democratization of data management can disrupt centralized authorities and empower smaller players within markets. However, HBR notes that decentralization also complicates governance questions about who controls the protocol and how consensus is reached remain open and contentious.

Transparency vs. Privacy

Blockchain's immutability and transparency are double-edged swords. While they foster accountability, they can also expose sensitive business information or personal data if not carefully managed. Harvard Business Review suggests hybrid models combining public and permissioned blockchains as pragmatic solutions to balance openness with confidentiality.

Scalability and Performance

The scalability debate, frequently covered by HBR, addresses how blockchain networks

handle increasing transaction volumes. Public blockchains like Bitcoin and Ethereum have faced criticism for limited throughput and high latency. HBR highlights ongoing developments such as layer-two solutions and alternative consensus algorithms (e.g., proof-of-stake) aimed at improving performance without compromising security.

Adoption Barriers and Organizational Readiness

Beyond technology, Harvard Business Review delves into the organizational and strategic aspects of blockchain adoption.

Regulatory and Legal Landscape

HBR points to regulatory uncertainty as a significant hurdle. Since blockchain disrupts traditional intermediaries and crosses borders, regulatory frameworks lag behind technological advances. Companies must navigate complex compliance requirements, which differ widely by jurisdiction, complicating global deployment.

Talent and Expertise

A shortage of skilled blockchain professionals remains a bottleneck. According to HBR's research, organizations investing in blockchain need to build in-house expertise or partner with specialized firms to effectively harness the technology's potential.

Integration with Existing Systems

Legacy IT systems pose integration challenges. Harvard Business Review recommends a phased approach—starting with pilot projects and gradually increasing blockchain adoption to mitigate risks and build internal confidence.

Future Outlook and Strategic Recommendations

Harvard Business Review's comprehensive analysis suggests that blockchain will not replace existing technologies overnight but will instead augment and transform specific business processes. For executives, the key takeaway is to develop a clear blockchain strategy aligned with organizational goals rather than pursuing technology adoption for its own sake.

Identify Use Cases with Clear Value: Focus on processes where blockchain's

1. unique features—such as tamper-proof records or decentralized trust—address real pain points.

Collaborate in Ecosystems: Blockchain's network effect means that value often

2. accrues from multi-party participation, encouraging partnerships across industries.

Stay Informed on Regulatory Changes: Proactively engage with policymakers

3. and industry groups to shape favorable regulatory environments.

Invest in Capabilities: Develop internal skills and foster a culture that embraces

4. experimentation and innovation.

By following these principles, businesses can position themselves to leverage blockchain's disruptive potential while mitigating risks.

The insights drawn from Harvard Business Review provide a measured, well-researched foundation for understanding blockchain's evolving role in business. As the technology matures, these perspectives remain valuable for leaders seeking to navigate complexity and harness blockchain as a strategic asset.

blockchain technology, Harvard Business Review, blockchain applications, digital ledger, decentralized

finance,

blockchain

strategy,

business

innovation,

supply

chain

management, cryptocurrency trends, blockchain adoption

Blockchain For Dummies

Blockchain For Dummies

Blockchain For Dummies: A Simple Guide to Understanding the Buzz

blockchain for dummies ? if those words have ever made you pause in confusion,

you're not alone. The concept of blockchain can seem intimidating, especially when it's

surrounded by technical jargon and hype. But breaking it down into bite-sized, simple ideas makes it much more approachable. Whether you're curious about cryptocurrencies, digital security, or the future of technology, understanding blockchain is a great place to start. So, let's dive into what blockchain really is, why it matters, and how it's reshaping the world – all explained in a way that anyone, even absolute beginners, can grasp.

What Is Blockchain? A Beginner's Explanation

At its core, blockchain is a digital ledger or record-keeping system that is decentralized and secure. Imagine a notebook shared among many people where every transaction or piece of information is recorded – but instead of one person controlling the notebook, everyone involved has a copy. This makes it almost impossible to cheat or change what's written without others noticing. Each page in this notebook is called a 'block,' and the pages are linked together in a chronological order forming a 'chain' – hence the name blockchain.

Why Decentralization Matters

Traditional databases are usually controlled by a central authority, like a bank or a company. This central control can be a vulnerability because if that authority is compromised, the whole system can be at risk. Blockchain's decentralized nature means there's no single point of failure. Data is spread across many computers (often called nodes), and each one verifies the information independently. This redundancy increases security and trustworthiness drastically. For anyone new to the topic, thinking of

blockchain as a shared Google Doc that's impossible to edit without consensus helps simplify the idea.

Understanding Blocks and Cryptography

Each block contains a list of transactions or data, a timestamp, and a unique code called a hash. The hash is generated by complex mathematical algorithms and acts like a fingerprint for the block. If someone tries to alter the data inside a block, its hash changes, breaking the chain's continuity and alerting everyone to tampering. This use of cryptography ensures data integrity and security, which is why blockchain is often described as tamper-proof.

Why Blockchain Matters: Real-World Applications

By now, you might wonder why all this technical stuff is important. The blockchain for dummies approach helps clarify that blockchain isn't just a buzzword – it's a revolutionary way to handle trust and transactions in the digital age.

Cryptocurrency: The First Popular Use

Most people first hear about blockchain in the context of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum. These digital currencies rely on blockchain to operate without a central bank or middleman. Transactions are verified by the network and recorded on the blockchain, making them transparent and secure. For beginners, understanding cryptocurrency is a great entry point into the broader world of blockchain.

Beyond Money: Other Blockchain Innovations

Blockchain isn't just for cryptocurrencies. Its potential is vast, including:

Supply Chain Management: Tracking products from origin to store shelves to

1.

ensure authenticity and ethical sourcing.

Digital Identity Verification: Giving individuals control over their personal data

2.

and reducing fraud.

Smart Contracts: Self-executing contracts that automatically enforce terms

3.

without intermediaries.

Voting Systems: Creating transparent and tamper-proof elections.

4.

Healthcare Records: Securing patient data while allowing easy access for

5.

authorized professionals.

These examples show how blockchain for dummies can understand the technology's

impact beyond just digital money.

How to Get Started with Blockchain

If you're intrigued by blockchain and want to explore further, here's a simple roadmap to follow.

Learn the Basics

Start with foundational resources designed for beginners. Books, online courses, and explainer videos tailored to 'blockchain for dummies' are widely available. Focus on understanding key concepts like decentralization, cryptography, and consensus mechanisms.

Experiment with Cryptocurrencies

One practical way to experience blockchain is by using cryptocurrencies. Setting up a digital wallet and making small transactions can demystify the technology. Many platforms offer test environments where you can try crypto without real money.

Explore Blockchain Applications

Look beyond currency. Try engaging with blockchain-powered apps or services like decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms, NFT marketplaces, or supply chain trackers. This hands-on approach reveals how blockchain integrates into everyday life.

Stay Updated and Join Communities

Blockchain is a rapidly evolving field. Following news outlets, blogs, and joining online forums can keep you informed. Communities for blockchain beginners offer support and answer questions, making learning more enjoyable.

Common Misconceptions About Blockchain

Understanding blockchain for dummies also involves clearing up some myths that often confuse newcomers.

Blockchain Is Only About Bitcoin

While Bitcoin popularized blockchain, the technology itself has countless other uses. Many

industries are adopting blockchain for purposes unrelated to cryptocurrencies.

Blockchain Is Completely Anonymous

In reality, most blockchains are pseudonymous, meaning transactions are visible on the ledger but tied to digital addresses, not personal identities. Some blockchains focus on privacy, but total anonymity is rare.

Blockchain Is Slow and Inefficient

Early blockchain systems struggled with speed and scalability, but newer technologies and solutions like layer-2 protocols are addressing these issues, making blockchain faster and more practical.

Why Blockchain For Dummies Should Care

You might ask yourself, "Why invest time in understanding blockchain?" The truth is, blockchain technology is becoming foundational to how we conduct business, manage data, and interact online. From securing financial transactions to protecting personal identities, knowing how blockchain works equips you to navigate our increasingly digital world confidently.

Moreover, as blockchain disrupts traditional industries, opportunities arise in jobs, investments, and innovation. Being informed means you can make smarter decisions, avoid scams, and possibly even contribute to shaping the future.

In essence, blockchain for dummies isn't just a catchy phrase – it's an invitation to anyone to grasp a powerful technology that's here to stay. With curiosity and a bit of

efort, blockchain no longer needs to be a mystery but a tool you understand and can use.

Question

Answer

What is blockchain in

simple terms?

Blockchain is a digital ledger technology that records transactions across many computers in a way that the records cannot be changed retroactively, making it secure and transparent.

How does blockchain work

for beginners?

Blockchain works by grouping transactions into blocks, which are then linked together in a chain. Each block contains a unique code called a hash, and any change in a block alters its hash, making tampering easily detectable.

What are some common

uses of blockchain

technology?

Blockchain is commonly used for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, supply chain management, secure voting systems, digital identity verification, and smart contracts.

Is blockchain only useful for
cryptocurrencies?

No, blockchain has many uses beyond cryptocurrencies. It
can improve transparency and security in various
industries such as finance, healthcare, logistics, and real
estate.

How can beginners start
learning about blockchain?

Beginners can start by reading simplified guides, taking
online courses, experimenting with blockchain-based
apps, and following reputable blockchain news sources to
understand the technology and its applications.

Blockchain For Dummies: A Clear and Concise Guide to Understanding Blockchain
Technology

blockchain for dummies is a phrase that hints at the growing need to demystify the

complex world of blockchain technology for beginners and non-experts alike. As
blockchain continues to disrupt industries ranging from finance and supply chain
management to healthcare and beyond, having a straightforward, accessible explanation
becomes essential. This article aims to break down what blockchain really means, how it
functions, and why it matters?without drowning you in technical jargon.

What Is Blockchain? A Simplified Overview

At its core, blockchain is a decentralized digital ledger that records transactions across multiple computers. Unlike traditional databases managed by a central authority, a blockchain distributes data in a way that makes it nearly impossible to alter or hack. Each record, known as a "block," is linked to the previous one, forming a chronological "chain" of information.

This decentralized nature ensures transparency and security. The technology underpins cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, but its applications extend far beyond digital money. For those searching "blockchain for dummies," the key takeaway is that blockchain is essentially a secure, transparent, and tamper-proof way to store and transfer data.

How Does Blockchain Work?

To understand blockchain, imagine a public ledger book accessible to everyone on a network. When a transaction occurs, it is grouped with others into a block. This block is then verified by network participants, often called miners or validators, through consensus mechanisms like Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS).

Once verified, the block is added permanently to the chain, and the information is distributed across all nodes in the network. This widespread distribution makes it extremely difficult for any single party to manipulate the data.

Key Features of Blockchain Explained for Beginners

When discussing blockchain for dummies, it's important to highlight the features that

distinguish blockchain technology from conventional systems. These include decentralization, immutability, transparency, and security.

Decentralization: No single entity controls the blockchain, reducing the risk of

1.
centralized failure or fraud.

Immutability: Once data is recorded, it cannot be changed or deleted, ensuring a

2.
permanent record.

Transparency: Transactions are visible to all participants, fostering trust and

3.
accountability.

Security: Advanced cryptographic techniques protect the data from unauthorized

4.
access and tampering.

These characteristics enable blockchain to create trust in environments where traditional intermediaries may be absent or unreliable.

Blockchain vs. Traditional Databases

A common question among blockchain beginners is how blockchain differs from standard databases. While both store information, the comparison reveals fundamental distinctions:

Control: Traditional databases are typically controlled by a central

administrator,

1.

whereas blockchain is decentralized.

Data Alteration: In databases, data can be edited or deleted; blockchain data is

2.

immutable.

Transparency: Blockchain networks allow all participants to view transaction

3.

history, unlike private databases.

Security: While databases rely on perimeter defenses, blockchain uses

4.

cryptography and consensus for security.

For novice learners exploring blockchain for dummies, understanding these differences is critical to appreciating blockchain's potential and limitations.

Applications of Blockchain Technology

Beyond cryptocurrencies, blockchain's impact spans multiple sectors. Here are some prominent use cases that illustrate its versatility:

1. Financial Services

Blockchain enables faster, cheaper cross-border payments by removing intermediaries. It also supports smart contracts—self-executing agreements with programmed conditions—that reduce paperwork and fraud risk. Banks and fintech companies are

increasingly integrating blockchain into their infrastructure.

2. Supply Chain Management

By providing an immutable record of product provenance, blockchain enhances transparency and traceability in supply chains. Consumers can verify the authenticity of goods, while companies can track shipments in real time, improving efficiency and accountability.

3. Healthcare

Blockchain facilitates secure sharing of patient data between providers while preserving privacy. It also helps combat counterfeit drugs by tracking their origin and distribution.

4. Digital Identity

Blockchain offers individuals greater control over their identities, reducing reliance on centralized authorities. This technology helps prevent identity theft and simplifies verification processes for online services.

Pros and Cons of Blockchain Technology

To provide a balanced perspective valuable to anyone researching blockchain for dummies, it's important to consider both advantages and disadvantages.

Pros:

1.

Enhanced security and reduced fraud

1.

Increased transparency and traceability

2.

Lower costs by eliminating intermediaries

3.

Improved efficiency and speed of transactions

4.

Cons:

2.

Scalability challenges?blockchain networks can struggle with large

1.

transaction volumes

High energy consumption, especially with PoW consensus

2.

Regulatory uncertainty across different jurisdictions

3.

Complexity and lack of widespread understanding hinder adoption

4.

These factors illustrate why blockchain, though promising, is not a one-size-fits-all solution.

Blockchain Terminology Simplified

For those diving into blockchain for dummies, grasping the jargon can be daunting. Here

are some commonly used terms explained briefly:

Node: A computer participating in the blockchain network.

1.

Consensus Mechanism: The process by which network participants agree on the

2.

validity of transactions.

Smart Contract: Self-executing code on the blockchain that automatically enforces

3.

agreements.

Cryptocurrency: Digital currency that uses blockchain technology for secure

4.

transactions.

Ledger: The record of all transactions maintained on the blockchain.

5.

Understanding these basic terms helps newcomers navigate the blockchain ecosystem more confidently.

Future Outlook: Where Is Blockchain Headed?

The blockchain landscape is evolving rapidly. Innovations such as layer 2 solutions are addressing scalability issues, while energy-efficient consensus algorithms like Proof of

Stake are reducing environmental impact. Governments and enterprises worldwide are exploring blockchain for public services, voting systems, and digital currencies.

For beginners learning about blockchain for dummies, staying informed about these trends is essential. As the technology matures, it is likely to become more user-friendly and integrated into everyday applications, potentially transforming the way we exchange value and information.

Exploring blockchain doesn't require technical expertise but rather a willingness to understand fundamental principles and real-world applications. With resources becoming more accessible, blockchain is moving from a niche concept to a mainstream technology—and grasping its basics is the first step toward harnessing its potential.

blockchain basics, blockchain technology, blockchain explained, blockchain for beginners, blockchain guide, blockchain tutorial, blockchain concepts, blockchain overview, blockchain simplified, blockchain introduction

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