



# **Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps**

*Daniel Drescher*

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## **Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps** Daniel Drescher

In 25 concise steps, you will learn the basics of blockchain technology. No mathematical formulas, program code, or computer science jargon are used. No previous knowledge in computer science, mathematics, programming, or cryptography is required. Terminology is explained through pictures, analogies, and metaphors.

This book bridges the gap that exists between purely technical books about the blockchain and purely business-focused books. It does so by explaining both the technical concepts that make up the blockchain and their role in business-relevant applications.

### **What You Will Learn:**

What the blockchain is

Why it is needed and what problem it solves

Why there is so much excitement about the blockchain and its potential

Major components and their purpose

How various components of the blockchain work and interact

Limitations, why they exist, and what has been done to overcome them

Major application scenarios

## Who This Book Is For:

Everyone who wants to get a general idea of what blockchain technology is, how it works, and how it will potentially change the financial system as we know it

## Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps Details

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Author : Daniel Drescher

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# **From Reader Review Blockchain Basics: A Non-Technical Introduction in 25 Steps for online ebook**

## **Muwaffaq says**

The book is NOT entertaining. It is however one of the best books I have ever read in terms of explaining a complex idea or system. The continuous metaphors and repetition and summaries are what allow any somewhat patient reader to understand the basics of the blockchain with very very limited mathematics. It is not very long either. If you are interested in learning about the concepts behind the blockchain I cannot recommend this more highly

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## **Warren Mcpherson says**

Probably a good introduction for people who are uncomfortable with bitcoin but want to understand blockchain technology.

The descriptions are a bit abstract, the first chapters are "terminology and technical foundations" and "thinking in layers and aspects". Systematic descriptions of critical ideas have a satisfyingly thorough feel. The chapters are short with pretty good descriptions. It is sometimes not clear that most of the ideas have a history of their own. For instance "gossip" is used as an analogy for the communications protocol, but the reader might not realize that the "Gossip Protocol" has a history of its own. The whole book is presented as a study in abstract ideas. This is fine but it would often be easy to give pointers on how the reader might expand on each idea.

I think many people would benefit from a more direct approach. But I know there are people who don't want to know about bitcoin who might benefit from this book. Ironically it does not get into smart contracts or alternate consensus mechanisms but sticks to the technology used in bitcoin.

This book is pretty short and simple.

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## **Andrew Pratley says**

A very clearly explained introduction into the emerging world of Blockchain. Since this innovation will influence much of how our future lives are lived & organized it is really worth the effort to understand both the idea of it & its implications for all of us.

We could be moving into an era of less centralization & much greater decentralization. A world encompassing more choice & greater freedom. The Blockchain is designed with a view of helping us to get there.

Highly recommended.

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## **Ahmad hosseini says**

This book teaches the basic concepts that make up the blockchain in a nontechnical fashion and in a concise and comprehensible. It addresses the three big questions that arise when being introduced to a new technology: What is it? Why do we need it? How does it work?

It creates interesting metaphors for each of the major components that I liked them.

What is blockchain?

The blockchain is a purely distributed peer-to-peer system of ledgers that utilizes a software unit that consist of an algorithm, which negotiates the informational content of ordered and connected blocks of data together with cryptographic and security technologies in order to achieve and maintain its integrity.

With this definition, I do think that for the non-technical person, the second half of the book might be a challenge - it spends some time in some deeply technical concepts.

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## **Elvin says**

The book delivers the non-technical introduction it promises in a clear way with metaphors in each step. My most favourite metaphor in the book is the one where author explains how Blockchain algorithm implements consensus in a distributed peer to peer system. It compares it to the way dirt pavements are naturally evolved in parks in addition to existing pre-planned ones.

If you have a technical background and understand at least the basics of distributed systems and security(authentication, authorisation, asymmetric cryptography) you will find it too verbose to read. If you are someone familiar with these concepts I'd recommend to find a book that's more to the point and concise than this one so that you save your valuable time.

Another thing worth highlighting in my opinion is the outlines after each section. They are merely the repetition of what's described in the given section in a concise manner. I'd suggest reading the respective outline first before reading the section - that way you'll know if you really need to read the chapter.

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## **Conrad Mason says**

a great intro to the blockchain for someone who is not to technically minded

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## **Mike Maurer says**

This is a good introduction to the concept of blockchain. It covers the basics and creates interesting metaphors for each of the major components. I picked it up to give me an overview of the terms and logic blocks.

While it says it is in a conversational style, it actually is pretty dry. The first half is fast, while the second half begins to get thick as the concepts layer on top of one another. The book could have been condensed even further if it didn't stick to its structure, which lends itself to repeating things several times.

The book has given me a point to launch into other more detailed books on blockchain technology. This book steers as much as possible away from BitCoin, taking a more general approach to how blockchains are constructed. On to more books about the subject.

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### **Jim Olson says**

This was my 3rd "what the heck is this Blockchain thing?" book. The 1st 2 were very basic, and this was a great follow-up to them, going into more detail about the nuts-and-bolts without it being a truly technical/know-how dissertation. I'm an IT professional just trying to get a grasp on the technology to see if there is any reason I should give it any more mind-share for work - or if we can just ignore it. Especially after reading the equivalent of "Blockchain for dummies" (but not literally) first, this was a great deeper dive without being a how-to book.

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### **Dolf van der Haven says**

This book is excellent. It manages to explain the concepts, technology and workings of blockchain in concise, simple words, without resorting to unnecessary technical, mathematical or programming language. Not only does it explain the concepts, it also explains why technical elements are necessary in its architecture and how these work logically together.

Happily, it stays away from the focus on bitcoin and the likes that other books on blockchain often emphasise.

The only thing I am missing are concrete examples of the use of blockchain that are currently available (other than cryptocurrencies).

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### **Jakub says**

I was looking for a book that would on approachable level goes through the potential applications of the Blockchain. This book didn't cover this for me for two main reasons:

First - Too much of the book is actually on the technical level explaining how does the blockchain works. Basically it is distributed system using cryptographical knowledge to enable distributed identification, authentication and authorization - This information is covered in around 50% of the book.

Second - In the part explaining the Bitcoin the user either simplifies the economic system and the current state of the money or misses quite a lot of knowledge about how does the money system works at the moment.

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### **Mostafa Esmat says**

I like this books alot!!

i'm starting to read about blockchain. This book is an amazing introduction to the technology and how it works. It's chapters are short and simple. Unlike other books on the same topic, you dont feel lost reading

this book.

It's kinda technical in the sense that it shares with you broadlines. If you're interested to know, it makes it very easy to point you to the right direction.

I will definitely recommend this as the very first book to read on the topic, but shouldn't be your last ;)

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### **Roozbeh Daneshvar says**

I think this was a very good book to gain a big picture of blockchain and understand the major components. I also liked that it did not fall into the trap of talking about cryptocurrencies only and contained the discussions around blockchains in general. It seemed that the book was written in a haste, as the large number of typos and grammatical mistakes suggested that it was not even edited once. Also, there was plenty of repetition in the text. I do not mind repetitions if they help in conveying the contents better; it is just that a large portion of the text was redundant and repeating the same topics over and over again, without adding new angles or sides. On the same line, be prepared for a lot of empty and white pages in the book (in a nutshell, the book could be written much more succinctly). Regardless, this was the best general book about blockchain I have read and I strongly recommend it to whoever wants to learn more about this new technology.

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### **Oskar Díaz says**

Acabo de hacer un par de entrevistas en una empresa dedicada a la gestión de cryptomonedas. Al final han pasado de mi ojeté, pero el asunto me ha interesado bastante hasta el punto de ponerme a leer libros sobre Blockchain como este.

Blockchain es una tecnología, una arquitectura, un diseño, una idea de un genio con mucho tiempo libre que se basa en internet, en posibilitar una gestión descentralizada de información donde la autenticidad, la integridad y la seguridad se puedan garantizar sin necesidad de tener un servidor central o una empresa detrás. Una especie de torrent-emule P2P colaborando entre todos, pero en vez de para compartir ficheros, para compartir, generar y supervisar transacciones de todo tipo.

Este libro es el primero de una larga lista que tengo hecha y te va introduciendo paso a paso en numerosos conceptos que te deben al menos sonar antes de ponerte con el meollo. Está muy bien explicado incluso para alguien que, como yo, no tenía prácticamente ni puta idea de nada.

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### **Juraj Húska says**

If you are unfamiliar with the blockchain, this is a solid introduction. The whole topic is divided into smaller chunks, which are alone easier to comprehend. The learning path author chose for you, by selecting just enough of information into each chapter is just good. I liked also the metaphors from the real world used to simplify abstract concepts. Of constructive feedback, is in relation to repeating information several times over multiple chapters. Imho book can be more concise.

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## **Lisa Neo says**

Though this book is a non-technical book but I can't help get quite hung up on the definition or terminologies in the first 3 chapters. And some concepts can be misleading to non-technical readers. For example, in chapter 4, author talks about integrity threat in P2P systems, citing technical failures as 1 of 2 threats for distributed system. But technical failures is a threat to any system, distributed or centralised.

I'm still reading but am wondering if it's worth reading. This book is still on technology, so minimally I still expect the technical concepts be conveyed correctly, and not misleading.

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