



The Science of the Blockchain

By Roger Wattenhofer

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FinTech developers and managers understand that the blockchain has the potential to disrupt the financial world. The blockchain allows the participants of a distributed system to agree on a common view of the system, to track changes in the system, in a reliable way. In the distributed systems community, agreement techniques have been known long before cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin (where the term blockchain is borrowed) emerged. Various concepts and protocols exist, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. This book introduces the basic techniques when building fault-tolerant distributed systems, in a scientific way. We will present different protocols and algorithms that allow for fault-tolerant operation, and we will discuss practical systems that implement these techniques.

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The Science of the Blockchain By Roger Wattenhofer Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #88826 in Books
- Published on: 2016-01-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .28" w x 6.00" l, .39 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 124 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Roger Wattenhofer is a professor at ETH Zurich. Before joining ETH Zurich, he was at Brown University and Microsoft Research. His research interests include fault-tolerant distributed systems, efficient network algorithms, and cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin. He has published more than 250 scientific articles.

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