



Quick Blockchain Q&A

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[Can blockchain keep healthcare data safe?](#)

“Blockchain” is a word that’s being thrown around quite a bit these days, along with “bitcoin” and “cryptocurrency.” But how many people actually know what blockchain is, and how it functions?

While blockchain is undoubtedly very complex, you’ll learn the basics in the following quick Q&A, with some of the most common questions – and answers – about this hot new technology.

1. What is blockchain?

Answer: Blockchain is a decentralized record of digital data, made publicly accessible to everyone. Data contained in blockchain is protected by encryption in the form of highly complex math problems, and transactions cannot be modified without verification.

2. What is the relationship between bitcoin and blockchain?

Answer: Bitcoin is a type of “cryptocurrency,” or digital currency, that can be used for commercial exchange through the blockchain system.

3. Is blockchain used exclusively to buy and sell?

Answer: No! Blockchain can be used to transfer information as well as currency. One of the advantages of blockchain is that such transfers are direct, and do not require an additional processing fee.

4. Is blockchain safe to use?

Answer: Yes, blockchain is safe to use. Although it is publicly accessible, data is carefully protected by encryption. As with any emerging technology, however, there are possibilities for “loopholes” in safety.

5. What are the advantages of blockchain?

Answer: Blockchain supplies security and transparency for both commercial transactions and transactions within specific industries. Data can be verified without relying on a third-party, and the transfer of information or currency is direct and immediate, leaving less room for error – or hacking.