



---

## What is blockchain?

Blockchain is an **encrypted**, distributed database shared across multiple computers or nodes that are part of a community or system. It's a system for keeping records without a central authority. A **decentralized ledger** that is almost impossible to falsify. Blockchain allows for the creation, **verification** and updating of records by everyone.

### Database

A database is a collection of **information** that is stored electronically on a computer system. Information, or data, in databases is typically structured in table format to allow for easier searching and **filtering** for specific information.

### So how does a blockchain differ from a database?

One key difference between a typical database and a blockchain is the way the data is **structured**. A blockchain collects information together in **groups**, also known as blocks, that hold sets of information. Blocks have certain storage **capacities** and, when filled, are chained onto the previously filled block, forming a **chain** of data known as the "blockchain." All new information that follows that freshly added block is **compiled** into a newly formed block that will then also be added to the chain once filled. This system also **inherently** makes an irreversible timeline of data when implemented in a decentralized nature. When a block is filled it is set in stone and becomes a part of this **timeline**. Each block in the chain is given an exact **timestamp** when it is added to the chain.

So, all blockchains are databases but not all databases are blockchains. A database structures its data into tables whereas a blockchain, like its name implies, structures its data into **chunks** (blocks) that are chained together.

### What does Decentralization mean?

The **dispersion** or distribution of functions and powers without the need for central authority.

**Decentralized platforms** are aiming to solve this problem of data ownership. The objective is to **gain control** of your own data and establish a secured and sometimes anonymous access to applications over the **internet**.