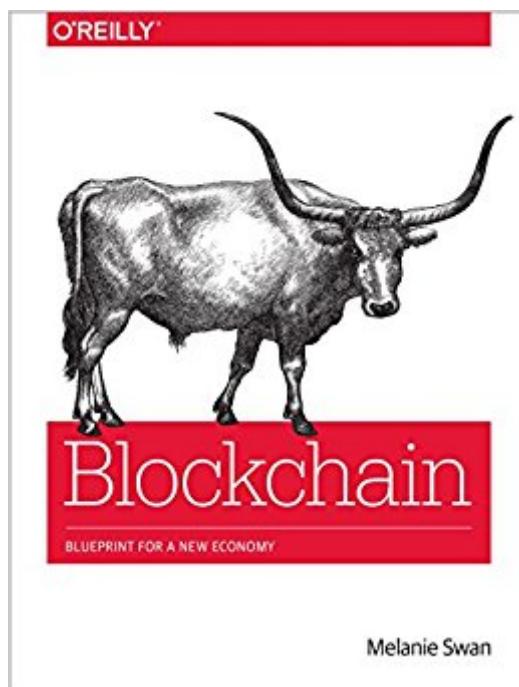The book was found

Blockchain: Blueprint For A New Economy

Synopsis

Bitcoin is starting to come into its own as a digital currency, but the blockchain technology behind it could prove to be much more significant. This book takes you beyond the currency ("Blockchain 1.0") and smart contracts ("Blockchain 2.0") to demonstrate how the blockchain is in position to become the fifth disruptive computing paradigm after mainframes, PCs, the Internet, and mobile/social networking.Author Melanie Swan, Founder of the Institute for Blockchain Studies, explains that the blockchain is essentially a public ledger with potential as a worldwide, decentralized record for the registration, inventory, and transfer of all assetsÃ¢â¬â•not just finances, but property and intangible assets such as votes, software, health data, and ideas.Topics include:Concepts, features, and functionality of Bitcoin and the blockchainUsing the blockchain for automated tracking of all digital endeavorsEnabling censorship?resistant organizational modelsCreating a decentralized digital repository to verify identityPossibility of cheaper, more efficient services traditionally provided by nationsBlockchain for science: making better use of the data-mining networkPersonal health record storage, including access to oneÃ¢â¬â„¢s own genomic dataOpen access academic publishing on the blockchainThis book is part of an ongoing OÃ¢â¬â„¢Reilly series. Mastering Bitcoin: Unlocking Digital Crypto-Currencies introduces Bitcoin and describes the technology behind Bitcoin and the blockchain. Blockchain: Blueprint for a New Economy considers theoretical, philosophical, and societal impact of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies.

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Customer Reviews

Melanie Swan is the Founder of the Institute for Blockchain Studies and a Contemporary Philosophy MA candidate at Kingston University London and UniversitÃƒÂ© Paris VIII. She has a traditional markets background with an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and work experience at Fidelity and JP Morgan. She has a new markets background as an entrepreneur and advisor to startups GroupPurchase and Prosper, and developed virtual world digital asset valuation and accounting principles for Deloitte. She was involved in the early stages of the Quantified Self movement, and founded DIYgenomics in 2010, an organization that pioneered the crowdsourced health research study. She is an instructor at Singularity University, an Affiliate Scholar at the Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, and a contributor to the EdgeÃ¢ ¬â„¢s Annual Essay Question.

If you want to truly understand Blockchain - this book is a must and every page is packed with important pieces to the puzzle.

This is the first O'Reilly book I have ever (since 1992 ever, I own shelves of them, and in my computer bookshop days sold thousands of them) found anything less than great and it was a bit of a shock, so much so that I am compelled to write (I think) my first ever review about it.Reading it (at least the first 46% of it, where I gave up) was like waking up back in the dot.com days with a hyperactive sales evangelist cornering me in a jammed elevator, making claim after hyperbolic claim (distributed artificial intelligence, world peace, godhood!) about Blockchain while doing very little to explain what it actually was. Actually on reflection some of the claims seem conflated with those of the Kurzweil Singularity stuff - yes sure Blockchain might be a part of that, but it doesn't help to include it in the book.I'm sorry, I know writing and editing books is very hard work, and the author's excitement about Blockchain is palpable if rather unfocused, but this one really feels like it was a padded-out dash to a deadline. Maybe it would have been better as a shorter essay.

It is very basic book

The book offers a great discussion on what blockchain is, what problems it is solving, and what the future may hold. The book is not a how-to on the implementation details of blockchain.

Perhaps the reason I have organized my life to be biased towards more freedom and less money is

that money is, to me, unpleasant stuff. It's unhygienic and stressfully complex. Cryptocurrencies do seem to have the former under control, but, to me, they do nothing for the latter. I'm no stranger to public key cryptography (my PGP key is from 1999) and while I think it's great that the fundamental ideas of asymmetric cryptography are being applied with enthusiasm in diverse fields, I'm not sure LaZooz and its ilk are really the harbingers of profound progress that this book seems to think they are.To start with this book was filled with grand but hollow language. For example."Blockchain technology can potentially unleash an important element of creativity and invention in anyone who encounters the concepts in a broad and general way. This is in the sense that it is necessary to understand the new ideas separately and together.""Blockchain technology could be used in the administration of all quanta.""The specifics of how they might be different or similar are emerging, and there is presumably a lot of functionality fungibility...""...blockchain could become a mechanism for applied ethics.""...just adding blockchain technology as a feature to existing... activities could be enabling.""The concept is 'blockchain technology + in vivo personal connectome' to encode and make useful in a standardized compressed data format all of a person's thinking.""...units of synaptic potentiation in brains...""...reunderstood..."Once past the style issues the book was pretty much a non-technical advertisement for using blockchain strategies. There is a lot of hand waving such as, "Tomorrow, the contract could be automatically completed by a software program..." While a bit nebulous, more interesting to me is the tone of this next bit, " participants... should satisfactorily inform themselves of the security details." Take that, lottery-winning Nigerian princesses! Security details would have been a practical use for this book had it contained any. On the contrary, it had problems like proposing the idea of a "Blockchain Passport - Proof of Existence" while using the unfortunate example of person who we know has at least some other form of "proof" of existence _as a different person_ (i.e. Satoshi).I personally am interested in blockchains for attestation. But the concept is invalid without the monetary incentives of cryptocurrency (as far as I can tell). If that cryptocurrency is victim to a mania, panic, or crash, the attestation (and loads of wonderful things this book promises) will go down with it.One of the more grander promises the book makes on behalf of blockchain technology is more freedom. Perhaps the restrictions on consumer genomics are indeed "a classic case of personal freedom infringement". Perhaps they are a classic case of medical fraud amelioration. But is this the place to cogently worry about such issues? The idea that purer capitalism will make health care markets optimal is facile without some deeper philosophical discussion about medical ethics. Or as the book says "We do not want to reduce the qualitative aspects of life to a purely and nakedly economic situation."Speaking of facile, thinking that blockchains will be fundamental in curing the deep problems of scientific publishing is nonsense.

That problem was specifically targeted and completely cured in 1989 with a brilliant invention called the World Wide Web. And yet, astonishingly, scientific publication seems to be the last obvious application to be tentatively migrated to the web. I fail to see how blockchains will somehow overcome the scientific community's inability to use their own technologies. (Disclaimer - I work in a university research lab.)I was actually hoping that this book would have a good _technical_ introduction to blockchain technology without going into actual coding (the O'Reilly SSH book is a good example of that) but this book had almost nothing of value in that respect.Although the technical details of blockchains, remain somewhat vague in my mind I did learn that Bitcoin uses elliptical curve cryptography. I'm no expert but on November 6, 2013, Bruce Schneier wrote, "I strongly believe that the NSA has a significant advantage in breaking ECC." Not exactly inspiring confidence. But let's assume this is an implementation detail which will be ironed out in the glorious blockchain technologies that emerge on solid cryptographic principles. The same solid fundamental cryptographic principles which make PGP such a broad success with everyone you ever email. You're all using PGP and having key exchange parties, right?Though this book was mostly dreamy cheerleading, there was a tiny bit of circumspection. The Mt.Gox fiasco was begrudgingly mentioned with the understanding that such a fate is not inevitable. In fact, "Other self-regulating industries include movies, video games, and comic books." That's certainly not very strong. First of all, I truly hate to mention it but there is a despicable movie industry involving children that isn't so good about self-regulating. Of course the main industries which can't be trusted to self-regulate, (or correctly, can be trusted to *not* self-regulate) are banks and other industries that handle other people's money.The book ends with pure speculative Kurzweilian science fiction. "For example, if you are an AI or a digitally uploaded human mindfile, smart contracts could possibly..." And (spoiler alert) "Even beyond conceiving of blockchain technology as a core infrastructural element to scale the future of human progress, ultimately it might be a tool for increasing the information resolution of the universe." It's not completely inconceivable that the singularity could come from blockchain technology (obviously since this book conceives it). However, after reading this book, the idea still seems frivolous to speculate about.At the end of the day, money is about trust. Whether it's your country's central bank or Mt.Gox, the flavor of that trust tastes the same. This book tastes like Kool-Aid.

I'm sorry, but save your money. Seriously, the first two chapters may be worthwhile, but after that the book completely degenerates and never at any point recovers. It becomes endlessly repetitive, seemingly forgetting it has only just three, four, maybe 10 sentences back written almost the exact

same sentence. The effects of caffeine are everywhere: it just gushes orgasmic desire for the blockchain and everything imaginable in the universe it will eventually touch 'transform, effect, change every conceivable dimension of our economic, social, and political lives...'. Really, this is the main problem: its incredibly grating and irritating to read, becomes, really, the perfect representative of what wrong with these 'innovations' and the groups that produce them and why we should be wary. For that, its worth reading I guess, as a case-study in its own right.On the other hand there is the incredibly poor research that the book is based on. Posts in chatrooms and at the bottom of some blog count for the author as substance enough to expound on the great potentials already being worked out in the blockchain community. Fair enough, this kind of research will save you the time of browsing a few websites yourself; the problem, though, is that the author seems to make the subtle leap from the sometimes interesting content of these internet-comments to deducing broad academic significance of them and elaborating them in an academic language that seems to establish their significance as already accepted(Deleuze and Heidegger get mentioned a couple times, strangely). That, unfortunately is far from the truth and what you end-up with is an endlessly recurring confrontation with the naivete of the author and or their ignorance of what should count as real research on a topic and or their attempt to evangelize something in a revolutionary language in order to drum-up interest, all integrity put aside. And that's also the problem I see in this space generally: one 'white-paper' after another, another long 'logical analysis' of the security of a 'coin' decomposing into increasingly complex system of conditional 'proofs' relying on nothing more than basic natural language for their establishment. Too much of it is amateurs simulating professionalism or ignorance masquerading as intelligence..Anyway, apologies for my rant. I think this stuff is interesting, the blockchain, etc. But this book doesn't amount to much more than a collection of notes that would probably, if properly edited, fit on a single sheet of paper front and maybe back.

all fluff no stuff

Very good start to read this book for beginners like me. Very comprehensive on many aspects on recent developments in this area. Of course, the examples mentioned basically are in US and Europe. Actually, it shocks me as it really has potential to change the way of a society organized and interaction between people and any organization.

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