

Fundamentals of Owning Digital Assets: Sovereign Ownership & Self-Custody

Pete Bonacci, Nik Fahrer, Brian Fisher, Daniel Johnston / December 2024



Meet the Presenters



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- Blockchain & Digital Assets
 Practice Leader
- Avid runner
- Travel enthusiast



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- Managing Consultant IT Risk & Compliance & Digital Asset Fellow
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- Traveler and hiker



Pete Bonacci

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- Spicy food lover



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- Consultant IT Risk & Compliance & Digital Asset Fellow
- Avid weightlifter
- Disc golfer



Agenda

- 1. Custodial and Self-Custodial ownership models
- 2. On-chain transactions and demonstration
- 3. Risks of different ownership models





Housekeeping Items

• The presentation is not investment, financial, legal, or tax advice.

- Please consult your advisor.
- Please ask questions
 - There is no such thing as a stupid question.
 - We will try to answer as many as we can.





01 Custodial & Self-Custodial Ownership Models



Types of Exposure to Digital Assets Three Primary Avenues

Direct Acquisition

 Purchasing assets through an exchange or acquiring assets directly through mining or direct receipt



Indirect Acquisition

 Purchasing Bitcoin Spot ETFs (securitization of underlying asset) (<u>11 current Bitcoin Spot ETFs</u>)

LIST OF APPROVED BITCOIN FTES

APPROVED BITCOIN ETFS	TICKER	EXPENSE RATIO		
Bitwise Bitcoin ETFs	BITB	0.20% (0.00%)		
Ark 21 Shares Bitcoin ETF	ARKB	0.25% (0.00%)		
Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund	FBTC	0.25% (0.00%)		
iShares Bitcoin Trust	IBIT	0.25% (0.12%)		
Vanruck Bitcoin Trust	HODL	0.25%		
Franklin Bitcoin ETF	EZBC	0.29%		
WisdomTree Bitcoin Fund	втсw	0.30% (0.00%)		
Invesco Galaxy Bitcoin ETF	втсо	0.39% (0.00%)		
Valkyrie Bitcoin Fund	BRRR	0.49% (0.00%)		
Hashdex Bitcoin ETF	DEFI	0.94%		
Grayscale Bitcoin Trust GBTC 1.50%				

Indirect Exposure

 Invest in companies within the digital asset industry





Approved ETFs and List of Exchanges

First... What is a Cryptocurrency wallet & why do we need them?

Public Key

- A public key in a cryptocurrency wallet functions like a bank account number.
- When a user generates a wallet, a public key is automatically created to identify the account.
- This key is used to encrypt messages intended for a specific recipient and can be freely shared with others to receive blockchain assets. Within a blockchain network, these public keys become crucial for the identification and communication process within a blockchain network.

Private Key

- Seed phrases are like passwords but are much harder to remember, which is why it is crucial to secure them properly.
- Unlike a public key, which can be shared openly, the private key should be kept secure and confidential.
- Used to authorize transactions and access funds within the wallet through a digital signature that validates the ownership of digital assets on the blockchain.
- Private keys utilize a seed phrase, which can be 12 to 24 words long. Users cannot specifically select the words that are used as part of the seed phrase.

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Public Key vs. Private Keys



Hot or Cold?

Hot Wallets (Online)

- Purpose: more convenient and conducive for trading along with quick access for transactions
- Software
- Easy access to assets anywhere and anytime via a mobile device or through a web browser.
- · Majority of hot wallets are free to use
- More prone to cybersecurity vulnerabilities such as hacking or DDOS "distributed denial-of-service" attack

Cold Wallets (Offline)

- Purpose: best suited for long term storage similar to a bank vault
- Hardware
- Only accessible in a specific manner: plugging wallet into a computer (Ledger)
- In 2024 the price of a cold wallet starts at \$50 due to the intial hardware cost
- Less susceptible to cybersecurity breaches but also require additional safeguards to prevent damage or theft





Wallet Brands

Custodial vs. Self-Custodial **A comparative analysis** Custodial

- Custodian (third party) control over funds
- Private key control lies with third party
- Accounts can be restored in the case of lost seed phrase
- Slower withdrawals due to regulatory checks (KYC/AML)
- Hot wallet (connected to internet)

Self-Custodial

- User has complete control of funds
- Users have control over private keys
- Accounts cannot be recovered in the case of lost seed phrase
- Withdrawals are faster and settle real time
- Ability to have offline accessibility (cold wallet)





Custodial Ownership Model

Custodial



MKraken







Benefits & Limitations of Using a Custodial Wallet



Limitations of Custodial Wallets



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Self-Custodial Ownership Model







02

On-chain transactions & demonstration



On-Chain Transactions What is it?

Definition:

 On-chain transactions in cryptocurrency refer to transactions that are recorded and validated directly on the blockchain's main network. These transactions are processed by the blockchain's consensus mechanism, such as Proof of Work (PoW) or Proof of Stake (PoS), and once confirmed, they become a permanent part of the blockchain ledger



Key Points:

- Security and Transparency: On-chain transactions are highly secure and transparent because they are validated by the entire network and cannot be altered once recorded2.
- **Processing Time and Fees:** They can be slower and more costly compared to off-chain transactions due to the resource-intensive validation process and potential network congestion.
- **Immutability:** Once an on-chain transaction is confirmed, it is immutable, meaning it cannot be changed or reversed



Live Demonstration

Agenda:

- 1. Swap fiat for Ethereum (ETH) on Coinbase
- 2. Send Ethereum to MetaMask Wallet from Coinbase
- 3. Navigate to UniSwap (DEX) to swap Ethereum for USDC
- 4. Send USDC to Coinbase from MetaMask Wallet
- 5. Review transactions on Etherscan.io (Public Blockchain Explorer)

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Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer





Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer

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Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer




Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer

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Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer





Interacting with dApps using your Self-Custody Wallet Step 5: Reviewing On-Chain Transaction via Blockchain Explorer





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Step 1: Navigate to MetaMask.io and Download the Chrome Extension



Note: MetaMask can be installed on various browsers. Listed below are compatible browsers.

- Google Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge
- Brave
- Opera



Step 2: Add MetaMask as an Extension



An Ethereum Wallet in vour Browser

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Step 3: Create a New Wallet



Once you have MetaMask added as an Extension, you are now able to create your Self-Custody wallet.

Be sure before proceeding that you do agree with MetaMask's "Term of Use"

If you have an existing wallet, you can select this option and use your seed phrase to recover your account.



Step 4: Create a Password for your MetaMask Wallet

赋 METAMASK

		2	3	
Cr	reate password	Secure wallet	Confirm secret recovery phrase	
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Be sure to opt-out of sharing your data with MetaMask

Help us improve MetaMask

We'd like to gather basic usage and diagnostics data to improve MetaMask. Know that we never sell the data you provide here.

Learn how we protect your privacy while collecting usage data for your profile.

When we gather metrics, it will always be...

 ${}^{\checkmark}$ $\,$ Private: clicks and views on the app are stored, but other details (like your public address) are not.

 $\checkmark~$ General: we temporarily use your IP address to detect a general location (like your country or region), but it's never stored.

 ${}^{\checkmark}$ $\,$ Optional: you decide if you want to share or delete your usage data via settings any time.

We'll use this data to learn how you interact with our marketing communications. We may share relevant news (like product features).

We'll let you know if we decide to use this data for other purposes. You can review our Privacy Policy for more information. Remember, you can go to settings and opt out at any time.



Create a password that you are comfortable with however be sure to add complexity to your password so it cannot be easily guessed. Also, secure this password as this will be used to access your wallet in the event you are logged out on your browser!



Step 5: Secure your wallet using a Secret Recovery Phrase



Secure your wallet

Before getting started, watch this short video to learn about your Secret Recovery Phrase and how to keep your wallet safe.



What is a Secret Recovery Phrase?

Your Secret Recovery Phrase is a 12-word phrase that is the "master key" to your wallet and your funds

How do I save my Secret Recovery Phrase?

- Write down and store in multiple secret places
- Store in a safe deposit box

Should I share my Secret Recovery Phrase?

Never, ever share your Secret Recovery Phrase, not even with MetaMask!

If someone asks for your recovery phrase they are likely trying to scam you and steal your wallet funds.

It is highly recommended that when setting up your MetaMask wallet that you secure your account by generating the Secret Recovery Phrase.

Your Secret Recovery Phrase will be a 12-word phrase that allows a user to be able to access their wallet in the event you forget your password.

SECURE YOUR SECRET RECOVERY PHRASE AND NEVER SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE!!!!



Write down this 12-word Secret Recovery Phrase and save it in a place that you trust and only you can access.

Tips:

- Write down and store in multiple secret places
- Store in a safe deposit box





Step 6: Confirm your Secret Recovery Phrase to finalize creation of your MetaMask Wallet



created for this demonstration.



Step 7: Understanding the MetaMask Wallet Dashboard

Blockchain Network Connection: By default, your MetaMask wallet will be connected to Ethereum Mainnet, You can configure your connection to other network, i.e., Binance Smart Chain or Arbitrum. Be sure when conducting onchain transactions that you are connected to the right network.



Public Address: This key is used to encrypt messages intended for a specific recipient and can be freely shared with others to receive blockchain assets.

Step 1: Navigate to Coinbase.com to Sign up for an Account



mazars

Step 2: Creating your Coinbase Account as an Individual using your Email Address

Welcome! Who are you creating this account for?

Individual

Trade and transfer crypto, earn rewards, and hold crypto securely

Business

Manage teams and portfolios, accept crypto payments, access APIs, and more

Not sure? Explore our trading platforms

Create your account

Access all that Coinbase has to offer with a single account

Email



By creating an account you certify that you are over the age of 18 and agree to the Privacy Policy and Financial Privacy Notice.

Your email address will be used to access your Coinbase account. If you have forgotten your password, your email address will be used to reset your password so be sure your email account is secured with a strong password.

Enter the 6-digit code we emailed you						
Verify your email danlel.johnston@us.forvismazars.com. This helps us keep your account secure by verifying that it's really you.						
Enter code						
Resend code in 27						
Go back						



Step 3: Create a Password to your Coinbase Account

Create a password

Protect your account by creating a strong password.

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ľ	New password						
Ø	A minimum of 8 characters						
Ø	Lower and uppercase case letters						
Ø	At least 1 number						
Ø	At least 1 symbol						
	Continue						

Create a password that you are comfortable with however be sure to add complexity to your password so it cannot be easily guessed. Do not forget to secure your password as this will be used to login to your Coinbase account each time. Never let your browser save your password!!

Step 4: Input your Full Name and Telephone for Verification over Account



Step 5: Complete Account Setup per KYC / AML Regulations

Complete account setup

<u>Regulations</u> requires us to collect and verify your information

Create your account Add a password and secure your account Complete

- About you Add personal details and financial status O Approx. 2 min
- Verify your identity
 Upload and verify your identity documents
 Approx. 5 min
- I certify that I am 18 years of age or older, I agree to the User Agreement.



KYC (Know Your Customer) regulations are essential for cryptocurrency exchanges to ensure compliance with financial laws and to enhance security. Here's a breakdown of what KYC involves and why it's important:

- Identity Verification: KYC requires users to provide personal information and documents, such as a government-issued ID and proof of address, to verify their identity.
- Anti-Money Laundering (AML): KYC helps exchanges comply with AML regulations, which aim to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.
- User Accountability: By linking transactions to verified identities, KYC increases accountability and reduces the risk of illegal activities.
- **Building Trust:** KYC fosters trust among users and investors, as it ensures that all participants have been vetted.
- Security: Enhanced security measures, such as biometric verification, are often part of the KYC process to protect user data and prevent fraud

Step 5: Complete Account Setup per KYC / AML Regulations

Select your citizenship

Coinbase is <u>legally required</u> to collect this information. If you're a citizen of more than one country, please pick one.



Your personal details

We are required by <u>financial regulations</u> to ask this question. Enter the last 4 digits of your social security number to begin.

Enter the last 4 digits of your SSN



Continue

Sign out



Step 5: Complete Account Setup per KYC / AML Regulations

Change

Change

Ø

Is this info accurate?

Please double-check that the info here matches your government-issued ID.

Daniel Johnston Full name

Date of birth

•••• Last 4 digits of your SSN

Most recent address	

Sign out

Confirm

To comply with $\underline{regulations}$ and protect you from fraud, we need to confirm the information below.

What will you use Coinbase for? Coin Select an option What is your source of funds? Select an option What is your primary employment status? What is your primary employment status? Select an option Select an option

Verify your info

Coinbase is legally required to collect this information.

What's the total value - including cash and crypto - that you expect to transfer to your Coinbase account in the next 12 months?

elect an option	~	

What industry do you work in?

Select an option

 Submit

Sign out



Step 6: Understanding the Coinbase Dashboard



Step 7: Submission of Identification (to send/receive crypto) for KYC/AML Regulation



The time it takes for Coinbase to verify your identification can vary. Typically, the process takes between 10 minutes to 48 hours. This is dependent on the volume of requests and the clarity of the documents submitted.



03 Risks & Controls



In the News – Case Studies Real incidents and what could have been done differently!

Custodial Wallet

- Hackers Steal \$100,000+ Worth of BTC From Coinbase User (May 2019)
- Attacker used a SIM-swapping attack. Attacker requested a telecom carrier to redirect the traffic of a mobile phone number to a device which they control. This device was used to obtain two-factorauthentication (2FA) codes to reset their email password, and then their Coinbase password, granting control over the victim's online account.

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Self-Custodial Wallet

- MetaMask Issues Warning Following \$650K iCloud Phishing Scam (April 2022)
- The victim received multiple text messages to reset his Apple account password. The Attacker then called the victim posing as Apple Support investigating suspicious activity. The victim provided the attacker with a six-digit verification code. As the victim stored his wallet seed phrase in his iCloud account, the attacker gained access to his MetaMask wallet and transferred all funds.

Source: Hackers Steal \$100,000+ Worth of BTC From Engineering Manager at Crypto Custodian BitGo Source: MetaMask Issues Warning Following iCloud Phishing Scam



Controls for Custodial Wallets Third party controls your private keys

Here are some practices you can follow to better secure your custodial accounts:

- Use Reputable Services
- Enable Two-Factor Authentication
- Regularly Monitor Accounts review transaction logs for unauthorized access
- Strong Password Practices use unique, complex passwords for accounts
- Regular Audits Ensure the custodian undergoes regular security audits





Controls for Self-Custodial Wallets You control your private keys

Here are some practices you can follow to better secure your wallets:

- Secure Private Keys and Seed Phrases
- Avoid Cloud Storage for Key Backups
- Keep Wallet Software Updated
- Use Hardware Wallets
- Be Cautious of Third-Party Integrations
- Stay Vigilant Against Phishing Attempts




Some Common Scams! Watch out for these to protect your digital assets

- Phishing Look out for unsolicited messages asking for personal information and illegitimate websites asking you to connect your wallet
- Ponzi Schemes Be cautious when you see a project promising high returns on crypto investments
- Fake Wallets Scrutinize any wallet where you enter your seed phrase
- Verify Sources and Use Official Apps Make sure you only download wallets and interact with projects through official sources



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Stay Informed!

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