Storing Data, Inscriptions and Bitcoin Resiliency

Kostas Karasavvas



Agenda

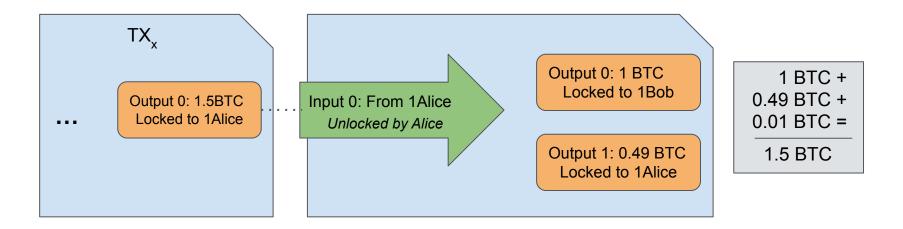
• Quick Introduction to basic concepts

• Different ways of storing data with examples

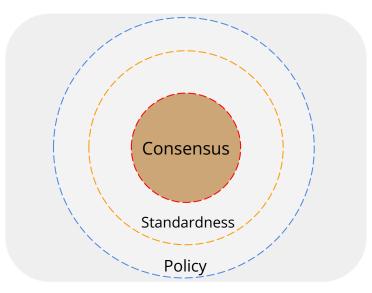
• Discuss Protocol's Resilience

Transactions and UTXOs Basics

- Funds are locked with scripts
 - they require an unlocking script to spend them
- Unspent Transaction Outputs are were the funds reside
 - they are tracked by every node

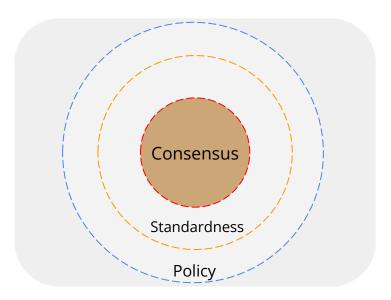


Transaction Validity vs Standardness



Node

Transaction Validity vs Standardness



- A valid transaction does not need to be standard
- A miner can add valid transactions even if non-standard
- A standard transaction needs to also be valid
- Non-standard transactions are not relayed
- A user can only add standard transactions

Node

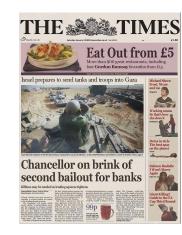
Storing Data directly – OP_RETURN

- An opcode that allows storing a small amount of data into the blockchain
- Valid OP_RETURN transactions can be up to the block size limit (1MB)

 and more than one per tx
- Standard OP_RETURN transactions can be up to 80 bytes
 - and only one per tx
- OP_RETURN outputs are ignored wrt the UTXO set
 - this is important as it does not bloat the network

- Coinbase transactions
 - \circ only for miners
 - genesis block

aed3754889f65dff83504fd0a	a8b78e1b69fc22c5396c67df23b0e607bf4e0d67
© Coinbase	
SCRIPTSIG (ASM)	OP_PUSHBYTES_3 ef9c09 OP_PUSHNUM_2 O P_RETURN_240 OP_LESSTHAN OP_ABS OP_L ESSTHAN OP_PUSHDATA4 <push end="" past=""></push>
SCRIPTSIG (HEX)	03ef9c0952f09f909f4e5954696d65732030 392f4170722f323032302057697468202432 2e335420496e6a656374696f6e2c20466564 277320506c616e20466172204578636565664 732032303038205265736375652020144d69 6e6564200500ba5e4800
WITNESS	00000000000000000000000000000000000000
NSEQUENCE	0×00



- Coinbase transactions
 - \circ only for miners
 - \circ genesis block

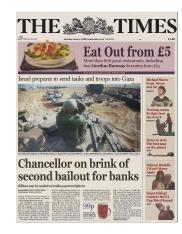
d3754889f65dff83504fd0a	8b78e1b69fc22c5396c67df23b0e607bf4e0d6
Coinbase	
SCRIPTSIG (ASM)	OP_PUSHBYTES_3 ef9c09 OP_PUSHNUM_2 O P_RETURN_240 OP_LESSTHAN OP_ABS OP_L ESSTHAN OP_PUSHDATA4 <push end="" past=""></push>
SCRIPTSIG (HEX)	03ef9c0952f09f909f4e5954696d65732030 392f4170722f323032302057697468202432 2e335420496e6a656374696f6e2c20466564 277320506c616e2046617220457863656564 732032303038205265736375652020144d69 6e6564200500ba5e4800
WITNESS	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
NSEQUENCE	0×00



04ffff001d0104455468652054696d65732030332f4a616e2f32303039204368616e63656c6c6f 72206f6e206272696e6b206f66207365636f6e64206261696c6f757420666f722062616e6b73

- Coinbase transactions
 - only for miners
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ed3754889f65dff83504fd0a	a8b78e1b69fc22c5396c67df23b0e607bf4e0d67
Coinbase	
SCRIPTSIG (ASM)	OP_PUSHBYTES_3 ef9c09 OP_PUSHNUM_2 O P_RETURN_240 OP_LESSTHAN OP_ABS OP_L ESSTHAN OP_PUSHDATA4 <push end="" past=""></push>
SCRIPTSIG (HEX)	03ef9c0952f09f909f4e5954696d65732030 392f4170722f323032302057697468202432 2e335420496e6a656374696f6e2c20466564 277320506c616e2046617220457863656564 732032303038205265736375652020144d69 6e6564200500ba5e4800
WITNESS	000000000000000000000000000000000000000
NSEQUENCE	0×00



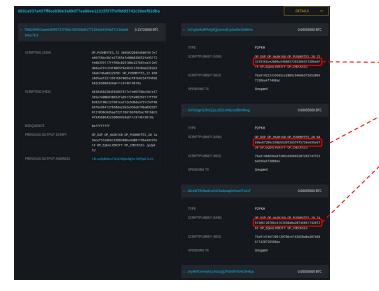
04ffff001d0104455468652054696d65732030332f4a616e2f32303039204368616e63656c6c6f 72206f6e206272696e6b206f66207365636f6e64206261696c6f757420666f722062616e6b73

Impy Important EThe Times 03/Jan/2009 Chancellor on brink of second bailout for banks

- Fake addresses
 - unintended use
 - o tx 8881a937a437ff6ce83be3a89d77ea88ee12315f37f7ef0dd3742c30eef92dba

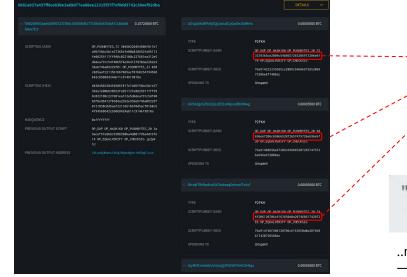
81a937a437ff6ce83be3a89d77	7ea88ee12315f37f7ef0dd3742c30eef92dba		DETAILS
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	36eb746a09229f01_OP_PUSHBYTES_33_030 c8d5aaf2213561bb70d5acf01b8c54794568 642cb5068424ab11c914619818a	73205e61748	9365ce2889c546865726528 8ac
	4838458228454506f817e7a96f56bc5b1e27 345e7e00b838652fa95172fe88259117ff99 8c922100c227681ea312e5464ea791c54f40	SPENDING TX Unspent	
	65f6e964127838da2262e936eb746a09229f 0121030c8d5aaf2213561bb70d5acf01b8c5 4794568642cb5068424ab11c914619818a		0.00005500 E
		түре. Р2РКН	
	OP_DUP_OP_HASH160_OP_PUSHBYTES_20_3a 9acet57a986c93083406add801799add1bfe 14_OP_EQUA_VERIFY_OP_CHEOK516_(p2pk h)	696e67206c6	ASH160 OP_PUSHBYTES_20 (95b652072657475725e696e) VENIFY OP_CHECK516
		SCRIPTPUBKEY (HEX) 76491463696 6e694e67203	e67286c696b652872657475 8ac
		SPENDING TX Unspent	
			0.00005500 8
		туре Р2РКН	
		61205120706	ushife op pushevites 20 c5163650d0a207468617420 VERIPY OP_CHECKSIG
		SCRIPTPUBKEY (HEX) 76391474672 61742072658	86120705c6163658d8a2074 8ac
		SPENDING TX Unspent	
			0.00005500 E

- Fake addresses
 - \circ unintended use
 - o tx 8881a937a437ff6ce83be3a89d77ea88ee12315f37f7ef0dd3742c30eef92dba



223339365ce2809c5468657265206973206e6f74 68696e67206c696b652072657475726e696e6720 746f206120706c6163650d0a2074686174207265

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 - o tx 8881a937a437ff6ce83be3a89d77ea88ee12315f37f7ef0dd3742c30eef92dba



223339365ce2809c5468657265206973206e6f74 68696e67206c696b652072657475726e696e6720 746f206120706c6163650d0a2074686174207265

"396\âThere is nothing like returning to a place that re

..mains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered. — Nelson Mandela

- Fake public keys in multi-signature outputs
 - unintended use
 - o tx 691dd277dc0e90a462a3d652a1171686de49cf19067cd33c7df0392833fb986a

591dd277dc0e90a462a3d652a11	71686de49cf19067cd33c7df0392833fb986a		DETAILS -
=0 2663cfa9cf4c03c609c593c3e91fede70 cd44:7	129123dd42d25639d38a6cf50ab4 3.27114316 BTC		0.00000001 BTC
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		PE UNKNOWN	0.00000001 BTC

- Fake public keys in multi-signature outputs
 - o unintended use
 - o tx 691dd277dc0e90a462a3d652a1171686de49cf19067cd33c7df0392833fb986a

 2613clabel4c01c609c591c3431lee47029123dd41c3553bd13acc50a cd4c7 SCRIPTSIG (ASM) GP_PODENTES_73_344 SCRIPTSIG (ASM) GP_PODENTES_73_344 SCRIPTSIG (ASM) SCRIPTSIG (ASM)			
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			Unspent

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776e6c6f61642074686520666f6c6c6f77696e67207472616e73616374696f6e732077697 468205361746f736869204e616b616d6f746f277320646f776e6c6f61

6420746f6f6c2077686963680a63616e20626520666f756e6420696e207472616e7361637 4696f6e20366335336364393837313139656637393764356164636364

- Fake public keys in multi-signature outputs
 - o unintended use
 - o tx 691dd277dc0e90a462a3d652a1171686de49cf19067cd33c7df0392833fb986a

2663cfa9cf4c03c609c593c3e91fede70 cd44:7	29123dd42d25639d38a6cf50ab4 3.27114316 BTC	=0 UNKNOWN	0.00000001 BTC
	OP_PUSHBYTES_73 3046022100c8aadeeb38		UNKNOWN
	19a367676476201ac47366671a863ac9779 86cb46861725669717022100c30b5111cf5 65b67931480ab78763a2200e51865ce464c1e 5cr441707267310801 00_PUSH87TE_33 0 31e64c46171646280ba256211ca64dab7597 9c570d220c876d996769668827ne3		PC PRIVAU N. D. PRICHYTE, S.E. 1-27380 975335557696596556512324316326 c.656761746524256153675708045361526 c.6567617465242303130313230313313831 12037720803448f Or 2-1503987155, 55 7766 6c676164207488552065676c23277595665 2017426164207488552065676c23277595458
	493046022100C8aadeeb3819a36767de762b 1act d1e6671a85a3c777936Cc04681725e6 9716221082b373117656057931740ab7 87daa220e618e5ce64c1e5c74d1707267a1 d081218118c54687fb365bac23c5f1c6d 4abf5975c570d22b2876d996f59668827ac3		2017/12/01/02/30102/103/01/02/01/02/102/102/102/ 2015/01/2017/2016/2016/01/02/102/01/02/102/ 7/300497/2016/2017/02/000/01/02/2016/2016/ 5/20669775664/2016/02/3004/3016/2016/2016/ 5/2066975664/2016/02/3004/313/31/31/30/ 4/69676209662/3014/02/01/2016/2016/ 5/73937743551646/31541 CP_PUSININ_3 0 P_OBC/0004NLT350
	0xfffffff OP_DUP_OP_HASH50_OP_PUSHBYTES_20_dd 92de0038fc226a330f228b8c0bb20a859264 5b_OP_EQUALVERIFY OP_OHECKSIG (<i>p2pk</i> <i>h</i>)		51411c22000073534558576966696c55616b 73204361626c6567617465204261636b7570 04046361626c6567617465204261636b7570 30343138131257275008643647477666c67 616420746865206666f6c6c6777696c672074
			7261667361374696766732077697468203 617467358692464516616467746727320 646777665676141642074676767620776869 63808051616202625806667756645206566 207472616673616374696765203663353363 64393837313195566373937643561648363 645386
			Unspent
			0.00000001 BTC

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776e6c6f61642074686520666f6c6c6f77696e67207472616e73616374696f6e732077697 468205361746f736869204e616b616d6f746f277320646f776e6c6f61

6420746f6f6c2077686963680a63616e20626520666f756e6420696e207472616e7361637 4696f6e20366335336364393837313139656637393764356164636364

cablegate-201012041811.7z

Download the following transactions with Satoshi Nakamoto's download tool which can be found in transaction 6c53cd987119ef797d5adccd

Bitcoin Trivia / Hidden Gems (?)

• Coinbase, (Saint) Eligius pool: Catholic prayers

Benedictus Sanguis eius pretiosissimus. -- Benedictus lesus in sanctissimo altaris Sacramento. -- Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, ... -- ...and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. -- O Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love for Thee. --Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine!

- Replies:
 - "Oh, and god isn't real, sucka. Stop polluting the blockchain with your nonsense."
 - "FFS Luke-Jr leave the blockchain alone!"
- And reply (link: Rick-rolling!):
 - "Militant atheists, http://bit.ly/naNhG2 -- happy now?"
 - Rick Astley Never Gonna Give You Up
 - Stored in OP_RETURN (>80 bytes)

We're no strangers to love You know the rules and so do I A full commitm ent's what I'm thinking of You would n't get this from any other guy I ju st wanna tell you how I'm feeling Go tta make you understand CHORUS Never gonna give vou up. Never gonna let v ou down Never gonna run around and d ou Never gonna make you cry nna say goodbye Never gonna ie and hurt vou We've known been aching but you're too shy to sa side we both know what's been going on We know the game and we're gonna plav it And if you ask me how I'm feeling Don't tell me you're too blind to see (CHORUS) CHORUSCHORUS (Ooh give you up) (Ooh give you up) (Ooh) never gonna give, never gonna give (give you up) (Ooh) never gonna give, never gonna give (give you up) We've known each other for so long ' our heart's been aching but you're t to say it Inside we both know what's been going on We know the gam e and we're gonna play it (TO FRONT)

From Ken Shirriff's blog

Bitcoin Trivia / Hidden Gems (?), cont.

- Nelson Mandela tribute
 - in fake addresses!

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013)

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death." ...

• Bitcoin's logo has been extracted as well...





Bitcoin Trivia / Hidden Gems (?), cont.

- The original Bitcoin Paper, Len Sassaman tribute, Creature simulator in Basic, ...
- Text from Bhagavad Gita, 1000 digits of pi, several images

- And... the Wikileaks cablegate data !
 - 2.5MB file (cablegate-201012041811.7z)
 - 130 separate txs, each containing 20k bytes
 - Each donating 1 Satoshi to Wikileaks



From Ken Shirriff's blog

- Such transaction outputs are part of the UTXO set
 - network nodes are bloated (for ever!)

- OP_RETURN was the preferred way to store data
 - however, data amount was limited to 80 bytes

OP_RETURN Wars

- Counterparty meta-protocol (layer 2)
 - Early 2014 (Bitcoin Core 0.9.0)
 - used to create assets on top of Bitcoin (other coins, NFTs, etc)
 - OP_RETURN allowed only 40 bytes back then, which, was not enough
 - used multi-signature outputs to encode the meta-protocol
 - thus bloating the UTXO set
- Accused of bloating the network
- A proposal for an 80 bytes OP_RETURN
- Not accepted by the Bitcoin developers

OP_RETURN Wars, cont.

- Counterparty continued using multi-signature outputs
- Some nodes started filtering (censoring?) them
- Counterparty started to store data differently
 - Filters were updated ...
- Bitcoin Core 0.12 (2016): increased to 80 bytes
 - Counterparty started using OP_RETURN
- Indirect storage craze subsided
 - high fees

Segwit (v0)

- Segregates witness from transaction
 - several benefits, primarily fixing transaction malleability
 - but now we are concerned only about blocksize
- 1MB limit
- Segwit part of txs have a 75% discount
 - the witness (spending) part !
- 4MB weight limit
 - expected size with full segwit txs was up to ~2.8MBs

Segwit (v0), cont.

- Maximum tx weight is 400kBs
 - standardness rule
 - note standardness for legacy size txs is 100kBs
- Maximum script size is 3600 bytes
 - standardness rule consensus is 10000 bytes

Taproot (v1)

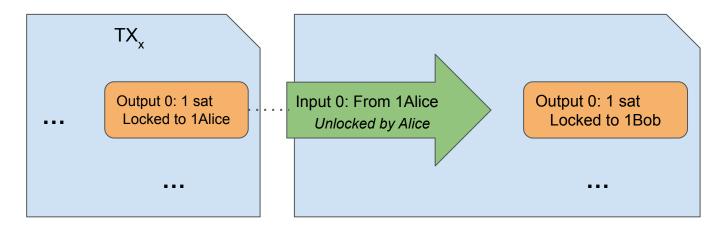
- Removed the maximum script size limit
 - not 3.6kBs for standardness or 10kBs for consensus anymore
 - script size is limited by the block weight only

• These limits were removed to allow for more sophisticated scripts

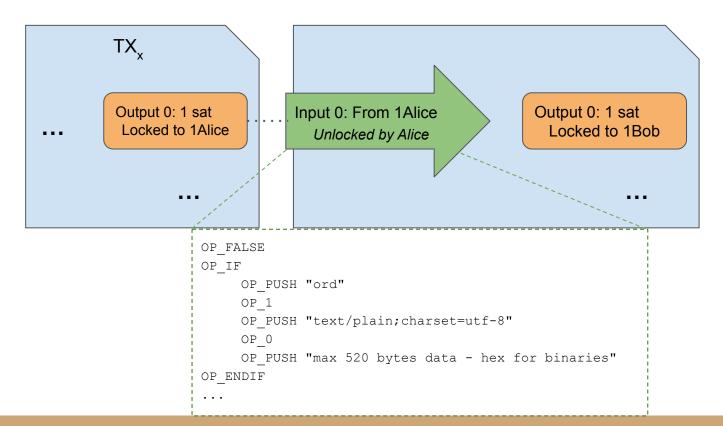
Inscriptions

- Indirect method to store data
- A taproot tx (output) is required
- A second tx spends it by including a really big script
 - the inscription is in the unlocking script (witness script)
- Because it is spent it does **not** burden the UTXO set

Inscriptions



Inscriptions



Inscriptions, cont.

```
OP_FALSE

OP_IF

OP_PUSH "ord"

OP_1

OP_PUSH "text/plain;charset=utf-8"

OP_0

OP_PUSH "max 520 bytes data - hex for binaries"

OP_ENDIF
```

```
... any other unlocking conditions...
```

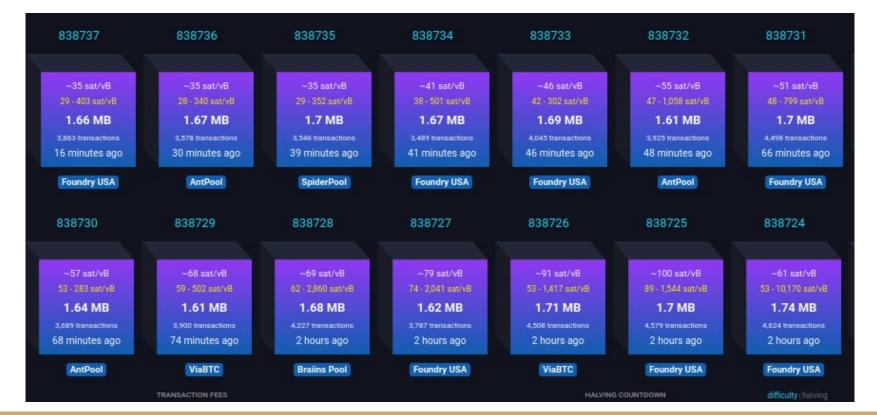
Full blocks and Tx Fees

- Block 774628
 3.96MBs
- Several blocks >3MBs
- Miners received more tx fees
 - useful as reward decreases
- These are rare...
 - most blocks are 1.5-2MBs
 - hyped a lot
 - additional usage to increase fees

Block < 7	774628 >			×
Hash	0000004f2cf3d 😰	Fee span	0 - 187 sat/vB	
Timestamp	2023-02-01 22:38 (3 weeks ago)	Median fee		
Size	3.96 MB	Total fees	0.009 BTC \$204.45	
Weight	3.99 MWU	Subsidy + fees	6.259 BTC \$146,235.70	
Health 🚯	100%	Miner	Luxor	
	Expected Block 🚥		Actual Block 🛛	

Full blocks and Tx Fees

(11 Apr 2024 @ 09.41 UTC)



Resiliency: filtering / censoring

- Pushback from part of the community
 - Blockspace should be for transactions only
 - Now what?
- Suggestion to filter inscriptions
 - check for OP_PUSH "ord" etc
 - hmm, they tried that with Counterparty, remember?
- Can we really do it?
 - Probably not.
- Should we try and censor txs in the only truly neutral platform?

Resiliency: blockchain size

- The blockchain will get bigger though
 - and more difficult to be downloaded
- By default Bitcoin ignores validating unlocking scripts before certain checkpoints
 - can disable with assumevalid=0
 - still downloads everything but can prune as usual
- Note that it would be possible to not download them at all in the future
 - \circ no plans for this though

Resiliency: future of inscriptions

• Are inscriptions equivalent to NFTs from other platforms?

• Is the inscriptions craze over now?

• Will inscriptions still be here in 5 years from now?

Resiliency

- Unchecked storage was available before
 - market is always coming into an equilibrium
- Several meta-protocols and L2s
 - help sustainability via increased tx fees
- Bitcoin is a neutral settlement layer
 - probably the only one
- Something to worry about?

Thank You





Python Bitcoin Library (FOSS) https://github.com/karask/python-bitcoin-utils



Bitcoin Programming Book (CC)

https://github.com/karask/bitcoin-textbook



Thessaloniki's Bitcoin and Blockchain Tech Meetup

https://www.meetup.com/BlockchainGreece-1/ @Thess_Bitcoin

