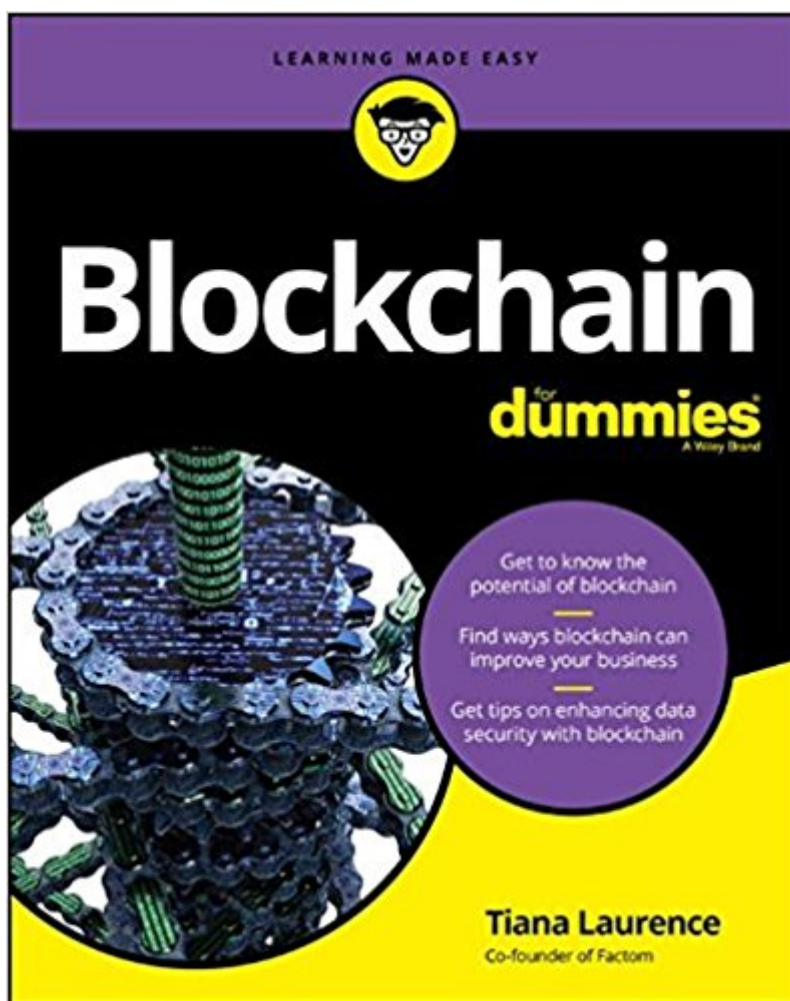




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# Blockchain For Dummies (For Dummies (Computers))



## Synopsis

Find out what Blockchain is, how it works, and what it can do for you Blockchain is the technology behind Bitcoin, the revolutionary 'virtual currency' that's changing the way people do business. While Bitcoin has enjoyed some well-deserved hype, Blockchain may be Bitcoin's most vital legacy. Blockchain For Dummies is the ideal starting place for business pros looking to gain a better understanding of what Blockchain is, how it can improve the integrity of their data, and how it can work to fundamentally change their business and enhance their data security. Blockchain For Dummies covers the essential things you need to know about this exciting technology's promise of revolutionizing financial transactions, data security, and information integrity. The book covers the technologies behind Blockchain, introduces a variety of existing Blockchain solutions, and even walks you through creating a small but working Blockchain-based application. Blockchain holds the promise to revolutionize a wide variety of businesses. Get in the know about Blockchain now with Blockchain For Dummies and be ready to make the changes to business that your colleagues and competitors will later wish they'd done. Discover ten ways Blockchain can change business Find out how to apply a Blockchain solution See how to make data more secure Learn how to work with vendors Filled with vital information and tips on how this paradigm-changing technology can transform your business for the better, this book will not only show you Blockchain's full potential, but your own as well!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Get to know the potential of blockchain Find ways blockchain can improve your business Get tips on enhancing data security with blockchain Learn how Blockchain changes business

Blockchain&#151;the revolutionary technology behind the Bitcoin phenomenon&#151;can also revolutionize financial transactions, data security, and information integrity for your business. This book shows you how it works and how your company can tap into its power. Discover different types of blockchains, what they can do, and the basics of blockchain platforms. You&#39;ll also find out how blockchain powers Bitcoin and benefits a variety of other industries. Be the first on your block with blockchain and reap the rewards! Inside&#8230 Blockchain fundamentals Blockchains built for specific purposes The influence of blockchain How to acquire and apply a blockchain solution Secure your data with blockchain Ten blockchain rules you should never break

Tiana Laurence is a co-founder of Factom, a company that provides blockchain-based solutions for many business uses, including enhanced security for IoT. Factom has been named one of the 20 most influential blockchain companies.

This book is an excellent introduction to the Blockchain, as well as some of the main associated crypto currencies. I have to be honest, however, and admit that I don't understand about a third of it, which makes me feel bad in light of the title of this series. In any event, if you want to learn about how blockchain technology is being developed and how it will be used in the future, this is a good place to start. It's written in such a way so that the reader can easily skip over parts that are either too technical or not of interest. The series is also a bit expensive, hence 4 stars instead of 5.

I did not want to have to learn anymore about blockchain than I already have. There are so many scams and con artists out there right now talking companies into buying some product that they have included the blockchain name in that it makes me laugh and cry at the same time. Agile, SOA, Machine Learning, AI, VR, AR, IT (intelligent things), MicroService, Mesh, Digital, Scrum, DevOps, IoT, and now blockchain. Silver bullets and buzzwords. Don't get me wrong, they are all valuable when used correctly. We just keep buying really expensive and shiny knives to take to a gun fight. We now have a big pile of rusty knives. With blockchain, our IT department has fallen victim to the CEO reading an article on an airplane about blockchain and how every tech tech savvy company in the world is using it in some way. Our team was tasked with reviewing blockchain and determining whether or not it would be useful for our purposes. After reviewing it and I filed a report saying that it would be a complete waste of time of money and resources "at this time". Buzz, sirens, >>WRONG

## ANSWER

There are many books and resources on internet on Blockchain and its applications. This book by Tiana Laurence has the right balance between readability and clear exposition and technical details. Further, it provides useful links to resources on internet and step-by-step guide to how to use many of these resources. I teach a class on Blockchain applications to MBA students at UCLA Anderson. Will recommend this book to my students.

First a quick heads up: a lot of the activities this directs you to often will incur additional costs and fees. The author does mention these things, but it's not always clear, and I don't think it CAN be clear since this is a new and changing technology within lots of new companies, including the author's clearly disclosed involvement with Factom, a company she helped found. Specifically, with Bitcoin. Though you can set up Bitcoin wallets for free, there are transactions fees incurred when actually transferring funds. As recommended by the author in the chapter on Bitcoin, I put \$5.00 into an account. Upon transferring a small amount to a second wallet in blockchain.info I did incur both a network fee of \$1.00 and a small transaction fee of six cents. Just be aware of this in advance. If you've never set up a Bitcoin account or wallet I do recommend going through the steps I did in Chapter 3, "Getting Your Hands on a Blockchain." I must also note that due to the dynamic nature of the technology and referenced web sites, many of the directions have already become slightly obsolete. It's not too difficult to figure out how to do what the author is suggesting or directing, but the more specific the directions in interacting with a web site the higher the chance of some deviation in reality. This barely scratches the surface of the real underlying technologies themselves, so if you're interested in investing, mining for cryptocurrency tokens, or interacting with API's you'll have to go elsewhere. If you're new to the idea of blockchains, this is your book. In library land we have something called "annotated bibliographies." Basically, you get a full citation and direction to the source material, with a paragraph or paragraphs summarizing the citation. So in this book, you get something similar. As a leaping off point this is a great place to begin to pursue things in depth. A strength of the book is the breadth of the different activities developing as of this minute. Most people won't even need to go through all of the chapters, and the author often recommends skipping certain areas if you're not interested. As an overview of blockchains, this is excellent. It is what I would call a "broad and shallow" work, and that's obviously by design via the "for dummies" reference. But make no mistake, this book is NOT for dummies. The conceptual possibilities of blockchains slowly dawned on me as I went through this book. I actually recommend that you DO

go through the sections in which you're not interested as you may find out that down the road a concept used for real estate contracts might end up being relevant in another field. Startling concepts, good book, great leaping off point, not for dummies. Highly recommended for the eclectic nerd that would be comfortable with concepts in contracts, currency, anonymity, and security issues. Finally, the author regularly points out the potential risks that exist in companies and players in this new industry (and I'm not sure it can even be described as a coherent industry!). Yes, I loved this book.

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