## Privacy in Smart-Contract based fair exchanges

**Preston Haffey** 

University of Calgary MSc. Computer Science

## Plan:

- Basic Exchange
- Fairness in exchange
- Exchange digital item for digital coins
- Blockchains
- Smart contracts
- Smart-contract based fair exchanges
- Privacy during disputes
- Providing privacy in disputes

An Exchange













## But what can go wrong?







## An Exchange: What else can we try?



Without trust, we've reached an impasse

Alice and Bob want a **fair** exchange where Alice and Bob are guaranteed to receive exactly what they wanted or lose nothing.



It has been proven that two-party fair exchange is impossible to achieve without a Trusted Third Party (TTP).



Cleve, R.: Limits on the security of coin flips when half the processors are faulty. In: Proceedings of the eighteenth annual ACM symposium on Theory of computing. pp. 364–369 (1986)

Garbinato, B., Rickebusch, I.: Impossibility results on fair exchange. 10th International Conference on Innovative Internet Community Systems (I2CS) – Jubilee Edition 2010– (2010)

Pagnia, H., Gärtner, F.C.: On the impossibility of fair exchange without a trusted third party. Tech. rep., Technical Report TUD-BS-1999-02, Darmstadt University of Technology (1999)









**Optimistic Exchange** 













 $\text{REVIEWS} \sim \quad \text{NEWS} \sim \quad \text{TECH} \sim \quad \text{MONEY} \sim \quad \text{WELLNESS} \sim \quad \text{HOME} \sim \quad \text{CARS} \sim \quad \text{DEALS} \sim \quad \text{$ 

# Teen pays \$735 for photo of Xbox One on eBay

A British teenager gets suckered out of \$735 when attempting to buy a Day One special-edition Xbox One console on eBay.

https://www.cnet.com/news/teen-pays-735-for-photo-of-xbox-one-on-ebay/ (Accessed Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 2022, Story from 2013)

## Replacing TTP with Blockchains (Decentralized Trust)

Dziembowski, S., Eckey, L., Faust, S.: Fairswap: How to fairly exchange digital goods. In: Proceedings of the 2018ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security. pp. 967–984. ACM (2018)

Eckey, L., Faust, S., Schlosser, B.: Optiswap: Fast optimistic fair exchange. In: Proceedings of the 15th ACM Asia Conference on Computer and Communications Security. pp.543–557 (2020)

## What are blockchains?

From	То	Amt
Bob	Alice	7.00
Alice	Bob	2.00
Charlie	Alice	6.00
Bob	Charlie	10.00
	From Bob Alice Charlie Bob	FromToBobAliceAliceBobCharlieAliceBobCharlie



Entry	From	То	Amt
1	Bob	Alice	67.00
2	Alice	Bob	4.00
3	Charlie	Alice	9.00
4	Bob	Charlie	12.00



Entry	From	То	Amt
1	Bob	Alice	41.00
2	Alice	Bob	25.00
3	Charlie	Alice	12.00
4	Bob	Charlie	18.00

## Network of Distributed Nodes that maintain a ledger



Accounts on blockchains use public / private key cryptography.

Digital signatures:

Generate a signature *sig* on a message *M* using a **private key**. The signature can be verified with the **public key** 

*sig* <- Sign(*M*, **B**)

Verify(*M*, *sig*, ) := 1/0



### What are blockchains?







Using smart contracts run on blockchains





#### Smart Contracts



Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM) Global state machine

= 0

2

1



**Still Public / Permissionless** 



OpCode	Gas
ADD	3
SUB	3
LOAD	4

Computing and Storage "on chain" in the EVM is expensive and requires Gas to be paid.



## Merkle Tree

# H()

- Arbitrarily large input
- Fixed size output
- Preimage resistance
- Second preimage resistance
- Collision resistance

**Commit** to data x with H()

 $H(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{h}$ 

For x' where H(x') = h'

If h' = h, very likely x = x'



Use Merkle Trees to prove that an element  $x_i$  belongs to the sequence at position i

















IF checks pass: MerkCommit(∏<sub>≧</sub>()) == MerkRoot∏

MerkCommit(z) == MerkRootz















How can we show a single gate without revealing information about the computation?

Problem: Two inputs, and the output (3 wires) are made public.

#### Limit Our Selves to Arithmetic Circuits

Addition and Multiplication operations over a Galois Field  $GF(p^n)$ , for prime p.



Randomize the arithmetic circuit using (m+1)-(m+1) additive secret sharing





Set m = 2

x1 -> (r1,r2,r3)

 $x1 = r1 + r2 + r3 \mod p^n$ 



 $GF(p^n)$ 

Ishai, Y., Sahai, A., Wagner, D.: Private circuits: Securing hardware against probing attacks. In: Annual International Cryptology Conference. pp. 463–481. Springer (2003)

## We need a circuit that can execute on our inputs







More Info:

Avizheh, Sepideh & Haffey, Preston & Safavi-Naini, Reihaneh. (2022). Privacypreserving FairSwap: Fairness and privacy interplay. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies. 2022. 417-439. 10.2478/popets-2022-0021.

Sepideh Avizheh, Preston Haffey, and Reihaneh Safavi-Naini. 2021. Privacyenhanced OptiSwap. *Proceedings of the 2021 on Cloud Computing Security Workshop*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 39–57. DOI:https://doi.org/10.1145/3474123.3486756