Satoshi Nakamoto



Satoshi Nakamoto (fl. 31 October 2008 – 26 April 2011)[1] is the name used by the presumed pseudonymous[2][3][4][5] person or persons who developed bitcoin, authored the bitcoin white paper, and created and deployed bitcoin's original reference implementation.[6] As part of the implementation, Nakamoto also devised the first blockchain database.[7] Nakamoto was active in the development of bitcoin until December 2010.[8]

Nakamoto's true identity is unknown. Various people have been posited as the person or group of people behind his name. He used a Japanese name and gave his residence as Japan,[9] but many have speculated that he is actually a British software and cryptography expert who worked on bitcoin in the United Kingdom.[10][11] If Nakamoto is an individual person, then his bitcoin holdings make him one of the wealthiest people in the world. His wallet, which has been untouched since 2010, holds an estimated 1.1 million bitcoins. At their July 14, 2025 price of more than $123,000 each, these were worth nearly $135 billion.[12]

Characteristics and identity

Nakamoto has never revealed personal information when discussing technical matters.[8] On his P2P Foundation profile as of 2012, he claimed to be a 37-year-old man who lived in Japan,[9] and gave his date of birth as 5 April 1975.[26] Some theorize that the date referenced the signing of Executive Order 6102, which prohibited the ownership of gold coins in the United States, and 1975 as the year it was repealed. Author Dominic Frisby categorized the date as an "obscure but brilliant reference" and as "extremely political".[26]

It is speculated Nakamoto is unlikely to be Japanese due to their native-level use of English.[8] The bitcoin white paper was not initially translated into Japanese.[27] Analysis of the time of his posts indicates activity aligning with a western time zone. Stefan Thomas, a Swiss software engineer and active community member, graphed the timestamps of each of Nakamoto's bitcoin forum posts (more than 500); the chart showed a steep decline to almost none between 5 a.m. and 11 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time (midnight to 6 a.m. Eastern Standard Time). This was between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Japan Standard Time, suggesting an unusual sleep pattern for someone living in Japan. As this pattern held even on Saturdays and Sundays, it suggested that Nakamoto was consistently asleep at this time.[28]

Others have considered that Nakamoto might be a team of people. Dan Kaminsky, a security researcher who read bitcoin's code,[29] said that Nakamoto was either a "team of people" or a "genius";[30] Laszlo Hanyecz, a developer who had emailed Nakamoto, had the feeling the code was too well-designed for one person;[8] Andresen has said of Nakamoto's code: "He was a brilliant coder, but it was quirky."[31]

The use of British English and slang in both source code comments and forum postings, such as the expressions "bloody hard", "lad" and "mate" as well as terms such as "flat" and "maths", and the spellings "grey" and "colour",[18] as well as double-spaced sentences led to speculation that Nakamoto is British, or a citizen of a Commonwealth nation.[8][15][30][32][33] The incorporation of text in the first bitcoin block from the headline of an article on the front page of London's *Times* newspaper on the same day suggests he was located in the UK.[11][18][19]

Possible identities

Nakamoto's identity is unknown,[34] but speculations have focussed on various cryptography and computer science experts, most of whom are of non-Japanese descent.[8] Bitcoiners and cryptographers have suggested various methods by which a person could prove their identity as Nakamoto, such as moving the earliest bitcoins mined or signing a message with the key associated with the first bitcoins.[35] On the other hand, a denial of being Nakamoto is very difficult to confirm.

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Elon Musk denied he was Nakamoto in a tweet on 28 November 2017, responding to speculation the previous week in a Medium post by a former SpaceX intern.[88]