

Blixt project overview

[Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Telegram](#) (283 members as of Jan 2022)

[Github](#) (issues labeled UX)

[App Store](#) (Testflight) & [Google Play](#)

[Trello board](#) with roadmap

Project purpose (from the website)

Blixt Wallet is a non-custodial open-source Bitcoin Lightning Wallet for Android and iOS with a focus on usability and user experience. It's currently aimed towards Bitcoin users who want to try out using Lightning Network.

Background

- Github repo created in July 2019
- First release (v 0.2.0) via Github in April 2021
- Main developer is [hsjoberg](#) (Hampus)
- Design is also handled by Hampus
- Built using React Native, Ind, Neutrino
- Looking to keep up with features Muun, Phoenix, etc which have more resources
- [YouTube video](#) with Hampus discussing the project with Bitcoin Magazine

Bitcoin Design Community involvement

- We did a [wallet review](#) on October 22, 2021 ([Figma teardown](#))
- The collaboration with Hampus was great and fruitful, he was happy to get feedback and quickly improved the app based on some of our suggestions

Target audience

Looking at the project purpose above, the audience are users who already own Bitcoin and are familiar with it, and who want to try the Lightning Network. "Trying" implies light use cases around understanding how things work and basic sending and receiving (unlike

[Breez](#), for example, which wants to enable a whole Lightning economy with point-of-sale, podcasts, etc).

The purpose also contains the word “currently”, so there might be longer-term ideas that should be discussed with Hampus.

From Telegram

- “One of them being the privacy-focused ones that run Blixt through Tor and perhaps opens a channel towards their own node (to further improve privacy), these people should ignore things like this.” - Hampus on 27/07/2021
- “The audience has been pro users, my theory is that they saw everything Blixt has so far feature wise, which made them happy” - Hampus on 14/11/2021
- “I want to provide a convenient experience for newbies while at the same time provide flexibility for power users.” - Hampus on 18/11/2021

Per Hampus, current audience is enthusiastic users who enjoy all the features and tools in the wallet. Goal is to focus on newbies.

Features

- Automatic channel creation during initial deposit of funds (removes friction from onboarding, see [design guide](#))
- Support for custom LSPs (good for self-sovereignty and privacy)
- The website emphasizes support of cutting-edge Lightning features
- “I want to add a non-custodial and independent wallet made in an open fashion, not backed by venture capital.” - Hampus on 18/11/2021

Design direction & resources

Per the website:

The design philosophy behind Blixt Wallet is to provide a clean and straightforward interface and user experience for doing transactions. Effort has been made to make sure that the transaction log is descriptive and clear.

From Telegram

- “Like Blixt is supposed to be your daily wallet going to the groceries, it does not need to connect or manage your home node.” - Hampus on 01/11/2021

- *"Yep I remain optimistic on sidechains, whatever shape they take actually. Because long-term I'm not sure that mainchain bitcoin will be possible to use by we plebs. So yeah, I haven't told you guys this, but yes this is the vision I have for Blixt loooong term" - Hampus on 13/11/2021*
- *"What I'm trying to say is that I don't want Blixt to have a reputation of being difficult to use. Then the Blixt project has failed." - Hampus on 19/11/2021*
- *"It's likely Blixt will be a "LNURL-pay" wallet, I think it's heading to that direction right now.*
- *"Lightning Address and Lightning-box will be a big part of Blixt, so maybe it'll just default to that instead of invoice creation" Hampus on 2/01/2022*
- *"Swapping LN<->On-chain is something I am looking at though. Probably will have something done this year. I don't see Blixt supporting USDT." Hampus on 12/01/2022*
- *"Not in how Ind works right now. But this is major concern for scaling moving forward. Really I should to talk Breez about joining forcing on fixing this one. It's not my fault, but it might be fatal for the project if I cannot resolve it" (about delegating route lookup in Blixt)- Hampus on 17/01/2022*
- *"I am thinking more about letting Blixt users talk to each other, as an option" - Hampus on 24/01/2022*
- *"But @Yadree's idea about splitting bill is quite interesting. It could even serve a a potential MVP/pilot project." - Hampus on 25/01/2022*
- *"Hampus, [Jan 28, 2022 at 1:55:31 PM]: Just some random thoughts, good UX for me is a UX that Bitcoiners understand. Then after that we can go beyond Bitcoiners and focus on mainstream. Case in the point, Lightning Address is one of my primary focuses right now. A normie doesn't give a shit about this, Bitcoiners do"*
- *Hampus, [Jan 28, 2022 at 2:18:47 PM (Jan 28, 2022 at 4:24:25 PM)]: "Well Muun is a pretty easy to use wallet. Blixt is supposed to be that, but I'm no UX designer. In fact truth be told my decisions made all you power users come here rather than n00bs. But I believe Blixt is somewhere in the middle On paper we got most of the things the other easy-to-use wallets have. So it's a matter of polish I think"*
- *"But I don't think the Lightning browser is an issue. It's probably the most misunderstood feature - Hampus on 28/01/2022*

Otherwise, there don't seem to be any other design resources (might need to look more closely).

Telegram review

[Full data from Telegram](#)

[Link to affinity diagram session](#)

List of improvements pointed by Bitcoin design during the first review that still needs to be done

- Separate create and restore a wallet as a primary and secondary button
- Seed validation progress - show incorrect word immediately
- Provide better status updates on that first on-chain deposit
- Cropped buttons on the welcome and help page at edges , scroll problem on iPhone XS
- Generated invoice transaction history is confusing
- Won't automatically open a channel on iOS

Results from sorting the data from the Telegram chat

About Users

- Blixt wants to cater to 2 types of users: pro users and newbies
- At the beginning, the users have been pro-users and they were driving the decisions on which feature should be included in Blixt
- Newbies & pro-users are considered to be Bitcoiners. A newbie user is Bitcoiner is not super familiar with Lightning and want to try it out

There's connectivity issues with Tor

- Users don't know what that they should restart the app if they're using Tor

Feature requests

- There's a range of different individual feature requests (see the board)
- There's a desire to improve the transactions log coming from Hampus itself
- There's a quite of few features request around payments (sending notification when payment arrive, have a max send, a pre-payment button that starts looking for the best path at that moment, etc)
- Keysend features requested as well (have a message field or the key send / have a sort key send tx to only show chats)

Users have difficulties opening channels

- Users don't understand autopilot & lnd autopilot crashing at times
- Difficulties with sending, receiving, knowing where some funds went and when they will arrive (due to connectivity issues, not having enough sats, not waiting enough, not syncing the app or not understanding channel reserve)
- Channels having been force-closed, but there's not enough data about that
- Difficulties with opening channels caused by not knowing the minimal amount needed
- Improvements needed for channel management & opening channels
 - Have more detail in channel management such as a screen with the possibility to set fees, feature to click and keysend push funds directly, list of txs done through that channel
 - Missing onboarding step regarding autopilot
 - Users need to know that Blix LN channels need to be active and have enough sats

Blix is a node and not enough users know about that and about the need to keep the app on

A lot of issues are coming from the state of Lightning at the moment

- Max send
- Lnd crashing
- Receiving payment offline
- Delegating the route lookup

Users are confused with on-chain and Lightning balance

- Solution suggested by a user: convert to ln balance button
- Anything works as long as it makes it clear that there's some more funds

About Blix

- Blix's purpose is to be your daily wallet that you use
- Blix is feature-rich & users like that
- Blix description: powerful & user-friendly
- It was a design decision to make on-chain secondary
- Blix is really striving to be user-friendly

Blixt long-term vision

- Possible future Blixt wallet experience:
 - Lightning Address becomes prime.
 - Instead of a BOLT11 invoice when you press on the Receive button, you're presented with your Lightning Address bob@blixtwallet.com.
 - The scannable QR code goes to a LNURL-pay code, which represents the same data as the Lightning Address.
 - This is all already connected to your Lightning Box, where if you were offline at the time of a payment, it would go to your box instead.
 - It's also auto-connected to Dunder, which will open a channel towards you when necessary.
- Idea of being able to split bills
- Let users talk to each other
- Make advanced features more hidden
- Consideration for Hosted channels
- Using Blixt as POS

About Connectivity

- App needs to stay on & connected since it's a full node
- Takes a long time to receive funds, close channels, update balance
- Solution: need minimal sync before ready to use / see if LN channels are active / restart the app if using Tor/ if you use Tor, you have to stay on Tor always

Privacy & Security issues

- Screen recording
- Privacy argument for hiding tx log

UI problems

- Too zoomed in
- iOS problems - swipe not working
- Screen sizing issues

Random

- Need more data for iOS crashes
- iCloud backup problems
- Interested in sidechains
- Opening channel to umbrel increasingly popular

- Accessibility for blind people
- Lightning address for Blixt & Lightning browser
- Dunder