



Satoshi Nakamoto

Satoshi Nakamoto is the founder of [bitcoin](#), and initial creator of the [Original Bitcoin client](#).

The precise identity of Satoshi Nakamoto remains unknown and it is unclear whether Satoshi is an individual or a group of people. Satoshi Nakamoto is also behind the world's first blockchain database, and the author of the bitcoin white paper [\[1\]](#).

Satoshi was active in the development of bitcoin up until December 2010 [\[2\]](#). As a pioneer and creator of bitcoin, Satoshi was the first to solve the [double-spending problem](#) for digital currency using a peer-to-peer network.

It is speculated that Satoshi Nakamoto has disappeared permanently, due to the suggestions indicated in recent messages. [\[3\]](#)

Identity

The identity of Satoshi Nakamoto outside of bitcoin is currently unknown. All that is truly known about the identity of Satoshi is that they are from Japan.

Most of the theories about the identity of Satoshi has been put forward by computer science experts, cryptocurrency analysts and media outlets outside of Japan [\[4\]](#).

Emails that were used by Satoshi originated from an anonymous mail hosting service (vistomail) as well as one from a free webmail account (gmx.com). The account sends mail when connected via Tor.

Possible Identities

Several theories have been put forward about individuals believed to be Satoshi Nakamoto. [\[5\]](#)

Hal Finney

Some people believe that Hal Finney could be the man behind Satoshi Nakamoto. He was a pre-bitcoin cryptographic pioneer and was only the second person – after Satoshi himself – to use the technology ^[6].

Forbes journalist Andy Greenberg reported that he had lived a few blocks from Satoshi's family home and was the first to ever receive bitcoin.

Greenberg speculated that Hal Finney may have been the ghostwriter for Satoshi Nakamoto. The theory was put forward after Greenberg requested aid from writing analysis consultancy Juola & Associates.

However Greenberg concluded that Hal Finney may not be Satoshi after meeting with him and listening to his denials.

Dorian Nakamoto

Dorian Nakamoto is a Japanese American man living in California. In a 2014 article published in NewsWeek, journalist Leah McGrath Goodman highlighted a number of facts that suggest that Dorian Nakamoto is the man behind bitcoin ^[7].

One of those facts is that Dorian's full name is Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto. In the article, she revealed that Dorian Nakamoto worked as a systems engineer on classified defense projects. He also worked as a physicist at Cal Poly University in Pomona.

According to Goodman, Dorian himself seemed to confirm that he was indeed the creator of bitcoin, after making the following statement in her interview with him: "I am no longer involved in that and I cannot discuss it. It's been turned over to other people. They are in charge of it now. I no longer have any connection".

This resulted in additional media interest ^{[7][8]}.

However, in subsequent interviews Dorian denied any connection to bitcoin and claimed that he was in fact referring to his previous work for military contractors ^[9].

This was followed by a Reddit interview where he stated that he initially thought Goodman's question was related to his work in Citibank ^[10].

Nick Szabo

Nick Szabo is a decentralized currency enthusiast who published a paper on "Bit Gold", thought to be a precursor to Bitcoin ^[11]. Skye Grey, an internet researcher ran a reverse textual analysis which linked Szabo's unique phrases and writing to those of the original bitcoin white paper.

Another analyst, Nathaniel Popper said that Szabo was the likely creator of bitcoin in an article published by the New York Times. He said: "the most convincing evidence pointed to a reclusive American man of Hungarian descent named Nick Szabo." [12]

However, despite the speculation, Szabo has repeatedly denied that he was involved in the creation of bitcoin.

In an article published in 2011, Szabo said: "Myself, Wei Dai, and Hal Finney were the only people I know of who liked the idea (or in Dai's case his related idea) enough to pursue it to any significant extent until Nakamoto (assuming Nakamoto is not really Finney or Dai)." [13]

Craig Wright

Craig Wright, an Australian Academic was put forward as another potential candidate for the creation of bitcoin by a 2015 article published in Wired. The article speculated that Craig "either invented bitcoin or is a brilliant hoaxer who very badly wants us to believe he did" [14]

Craig Wright refused to respond to press enquiries and subsequently closed his Twitter account.

A separate article published by Gizmodo claimed to have evidence from a hacker who purportedly gained access to Wright's email accounts. It said that Satoshi Nakamoto was a joint pseudonym for Craig Steven Wright and the late David Kleiman, a computer forensics scientist. [15]

Former Director of the [Bitcoin Foundation](#) Jon Matonis along with Gavin Andresen, Bitcoin Developer and Ian Grigg, a cryptographer, supported Wright's claims. [16]

However, these claims were widely disputed as a hoax by the bitcoin community, and even Wired ran an article claiming that there was a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the claims. [17]

Strangely, despite refusing to acknowledge claims that he was the real 'Satoshi Nakamoto', The Times newspaper reported that Craig Wright was using UK libel law to sue people who denied he was the inventor of bitcoin. [18]

Then in 2009, Wright registered US copyright for the bitcoin white paper and the code for bitcoin 0.1 [19].

However the United States Copyright Office issued a press release clarifying that this was not the case [20].

David Kleiman

David Kleiman was a computer forensics expert, an author/coauthor of multiple books and a noted speaker at security related events.

He was one of the first bitcoin miners and may have been involved in the invention of the digital currency [bitcoin](#), according to Gizmodo ^[21].

Kleiman had a longstanding history in computer security and he designed systems that were used by the government. He contributed to Cryptography and Security mailing lists, which discussed cryptosystems and the politics of cryptography. ^{[22] [23]}

Kleiman was also a member of the Metzdown Cryptography mailing list where Satoshi Nakamoto first announced bitcoin in 2008. ^[24]

Satoshi Nakamoto Team

The plausibility of many of the proposed identities of Satoshi Nakamoto have led some to speculate that Nakamoto might instead be a team of people rather than just one individual.

This popular theory was put forward in an article published by Wired, in which it claimed that Satoshi Nakamoto could be a team of people. ^[2]

New speculations about the identity of Satoshi Nakamoto crop up regularly in the media ^[25].

Possible Motives

Satoshi Nakamoto left some clues about the possible motives behind the creation of bitcoin. In a quote published in Genesis Blocks, Satoshi stated: "The Times 03/Jan/2009 Chancellor on brink of second bailout for banks". ^{[26][27][28]}

This suggests that the 2008 recession, failures of fiat currency and bank bailouts played a part in the creation of the digital currency.

Further clues were left in subsequent cryptography files with the following quotes:

"Yes, [we will not find a solution to political problems in cryptography,] but we can win a major battle in the arms race and gain a new territory of freedom for several years.

"Governments are good at cutting off the heads of a centrally controlled networks like Napster, but pure P2P networks like Gnutella and Tor seem to be holding their own." ^[28]

"It's very attractive to the libertarian viewpoint if we can explain it properly. I'm better with code than with words though." ^[29]

These quotes suggest that decentralisation and freedom formed part Satoshi's motivation to create bitcoin. The themes of decentralisation and financial security remain at the heart of bitcoin and blockchain technology to this day.

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