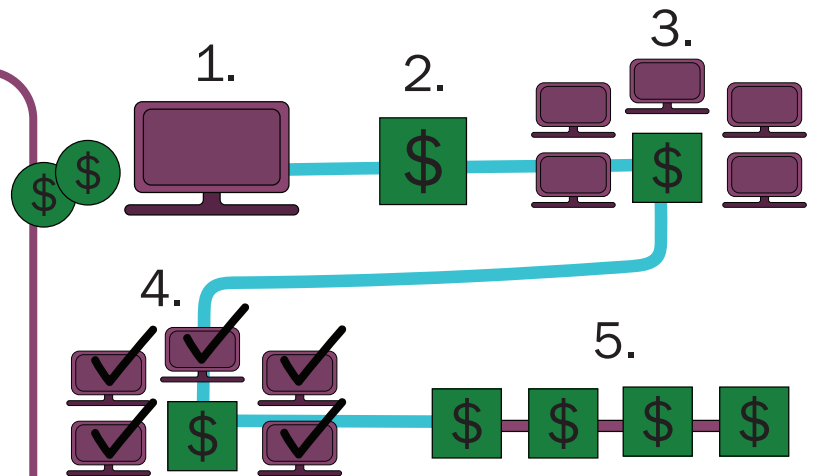


**CONCEPT** Blockchain technology is a decentralized software-based ledger that records the exchange of unique instances of value such as currency, property, and digital assets via the internet without requiring a third-party intermediary such as a bank or government.

## BACKGROUND

Blockchain technology is new, existing for around 10 years. The first major innovation was bitcoin, which is an experimental digital currency valued around \$40,000+ per coin with an \$800 Billion market cap. The second innovation was blockchain in general, with the realization that the technology bitcoin utilized could be implemented to create more alternative currency and inter-organizational cooperation. “Smart contracts” were then invented on the Ethereum blockchain system, which allowed loans and bonds to be represented. Over the last ten years, miners have used powerful computers to glean much of the available digital currency available and establish it on the blockchain, which has increased cryptocurrency and blockchain technology’s validity in the eyes of the public.



## REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

Blockchain technology has the potential to impact all record-keeping processes, including the way transactions are initiated, processed, authorized, recorded and reported. Changes in business models and business processes may reshape financial systems and global power structures. One common criticism is the concern that it could hasten climate change, because of the amount of computing power it takes to authenticate data on the blockchain.