

HONEYCOMB WEB3 SOLUTIONS · PLAIN-ENGLISH REFERENCE · FREE EDITION

The Crypto & Web3 Glossary

192 terms a business operator actually runs into — defined in clear, everyday language,
organized in three reading tiers, with the terms that work together linked.

Vocabulary is a map, not a list.

192 TERMS · 10 CATEGORIES · 3 TIERS · 2026 EDITION

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Educational and informational only — not advice of any kind.

Three tiers, one **map**.

Every term carries a tier tag. **Foundation** is where to start — the terms everything else assumes. **Operator** is the working vocabulary of running a business near this technology. **Advanced** covers deeper mechanics — useful the day you meet them, skippable until then.

Most terms also carry a **Works with** line naming the terms they operate alongside. Follow those threads and the vocabulary assembles itself into how the system actually fits together — custody leads to keys, keys lead to backups, backups lead to recovery risk.

Definitions describe how things work in plain terms — they never tell you what to buy or do. That part stays with you. The searchable version of this glossary lives free at honeycombweb3solutions.com/learn/glossary.

Wallets & Keys.

Where control lives — the keys decide everything downstream.

Wallet [FOUNDATION]

Software or hardware that lets you view your crypto holdings and authorize transactions. The wallet stores your keys, not the coins themselves — the coins live on the blockchain.

WORKS WITH: Private Key · Custody · Address · Blockchain

Custodial Wallet [FOUNDATION]

A wallet where a company holds your keys for you, similar to a bank holding your money. You access it with a login rather than a private key.

WORKS WITH: Private Key · Wallet

Non-Custodial Wallet [FOUNDATION]

A wallet where you alone hold the keys. No company can access or freeze the funds, and no one can recover them for you if the keys are lost.

WORKS WITH: Wallet

Hot Wallet [FOUNDATION]

A wallet connected to the internet, such as a phone or browser app. Convenient for frequent use and more exposed to online threats than offline storage.

WORKS WITH: Wallet

Cold Wallet [FOUNDATION]

A wallet kept offline, such as a hardware device or paper backup. Used for storing holdings that are not accessed often.

WORKS WITH: Wallet

Hardware Wallet [FOUNDATION]

A physical device that stores keys offline and signs transactions internally, so the keys never touch an internet-connected computer.

Private Key [FOUNDATION]

A secret value that authorizes spending from a wallet. Anyone who has it controls the funds, so it is never shared.

WORKS WITH: Public Key · Signing · Seed Phrase · Wallet

Public Key [FOUNDATION]

A value derived from the private key that can be shared. It is used to generate receiving addresses and verify signatures.

WORKS WITH: Private Key

Seed Phrase [FOUNDATION]

A list of 12 or 24 words that can recreate a wallet and all its keys. It is the master backup and is never entered into websites or shared with anyone.

WORKS WITH: Recovery Phrase · Seed Phrase Theft · Wallet Backup · Wallet

Recovery Phrase [FOUNDATION]

Another name for a seed phrase — the words used to restore a wallet on a new device.

WORKS WITH: Seed Phrase · Wallet

Passphrase [ADVANCED]

An optional extra word or password added on top of a seed phrase to create a separate hidden wallet. Sometimes called a 25th word.

WORKS WITH: Seed Phrase · Wallet

Address [FOUNDATION]

A string of characters that funds are sent to, similar to an account number. Addresses are derived from public keys and can be shared freely.

WORKS WITH: Receiving Address Verification · Test Transfer · Address Poisoning

Vanity Address [ADVANCED]

An address generated to contain a chosen pattern of characters, such as a name. Cosmetic only and does not change how the address works.

WORKS WITH: Address

Key Pair [ADVANCED]

The matched private key and public key that together control a wallet.

WORKS WITH: Private Key · Public Key · Wallet

Signing [OPERATOR]

The act of using a private key to approve a transaction or message, proving the request came from the key holder without revealing the key.

WORKS WITH: Private Key · Transaction

Wallet Backup [OPERATOR]

A saved copy of the seed phrase or keys that allows a wallet to be restored if the device is lost or damaged.

WORKS WITH: Seed Phrase · Wallet

Custody [FOUNDATION]

Who actually holds and controls an asset. Every wallet, platform, and payment setup answers this question one way or another — it is the single most useful question to ask about any crypto arrangement.

WORKS WITH: Custodial Wallet · Self-Custody · Custodian · Wallet

Self-Custody [FOUNDATION]

Holding your own keys, so you alone control the funds. Maximum control, and maximum responsibility: there is no company to call if keys and backups are lost.

WORKS WITH: Seed Phrase · Recovery Risk · Hardware Wallet

Watch-Only Wallet [OPERATOR]

A wallet set up with only the public address, so you can see balances and activity but cannot spend. Useful for monitoring without exposing keys.

WORKS WITH: Address · Wallet

Paper Wallet [OPERATOR]

Keys or a seed phrase written or printed on paper and stored offline. Simple and offline, but vulnerable to fire, water, loss, and anyone who reads it.

WORKS WITH: Seed Phrase

Networks & Infrastructure.

The rails themselves: what the ledger is and who keeps it honest.

Blockchain [FOUNDATION]

A shared digital ledger maintained across many computers. Records are grouped into blocks and linked in order, making past entries very hard to change.

WORKS WITH: Block · Node · Public Ledger

Block [FOUNDATION]

A batch of transactions recorded together on a blockchain, time-stamped and linked to the block before it.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Node [FOUNDATION]

A computer running blockchain software that keeps a copy of the ledger and helps check and relay transactions.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Mainnet [FOUNDATION]

The live, real-value version of a blockchain where actual transactions take place.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Testnet [FOUNDATION]

A practice version of a blockchain using valueless test tokens, used to try things out without risking real funds.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Layer 1 [OPERATOR]

A base blockchain that settles its own transactions, such as the main networks themselves.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Layer 2 [OPERATOR]

A network built on top of a Layer 1 to process transactions faster or cheaper, then record results back to the base layer.

WORKS WITH: Rollup · Layer 1 · Gas Fee

Sidechain [ADVANCED]

A separate blockchain connected to a main chain that runs under its own rules while allowing assets to move between them.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Bridge [OPERATOR]

A tool that moves assets or information from one blockchain to another. Bridges add steps and have been a frequent target of technical problems.

WORKS WITH: Wrapped Token · Wrong Chain Error · Network Selection · Blockchain

Consensus [ADVANCED]

The process by which a network agrees on which transactions are valid and what the shared record says.

Proof of Work [ADVANCED]

A consensus method where computers compete to solve a calculation to add the next block, consuming energy in the process.

WORKS WITH: Consensus · Block

Proof of Stake [ADVANCED]

A consensus method where participants lock up tokens for the chance to validate blocks, generally using far less energy than proof of work.

WORKS WITH: Proof of Work · Consensus

Validator [ADVANCED]

A participant that checks and confirms transactions under a proof-of-stake system.

Miner [ADVANCED]

A participant that adds blocks under a proof-of-work system by performing the required calculations.

Hash [ADVANCED]

A fixed-length fingerprint produced from data. Any change to the data produces a completely different hash, which helps detect tampering.

Block Explorer [OPERATOR]

A public website for looking up transactions, addresses, and blocks on a given network.

RPC [ADVANCED]

A connection point that lets wallets and apps read from and send transactions to a blockchain network.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Decentralization [ADVANCED]

The degree to which control of a network is spread across many independent participants rather than held by one party.

WORKS WITH: Spread

Fork [ADVANCED]

A change to a network's rules. A soft fork is backward-compatible; a hard fork creates a separate path that older software will not follow.

Rollup [ADVANCED]

A Layer 2 design that processes many transactions off the main chain, then posts a compressed summary back to it. The main way busy networks scale today.

WORKS WITH: Layer 2 · Layer 1

Chain ID [ADVANCED]

A number that uniquely identifies a blockchain network. Wallets use it to make sure a transaction is signed for the intended network and not replayed on another.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Blockchain

Faucet [OPERATOR]

A service that hands out small amounts of valueless testnet tokens so developers and learners can practice without real funds.

WORKS WITH: Testnet

Halving [ADVANCED]

A scheduled event on some networks, most famously Bitcoin, where the reward for adding new blocks is cut in half — slowing how fast new coins are created.

WORKS WITH: Miner · Proof of Work · Supply

Lightning Network [ADVANCED]

A payment layer built on top of Bitcoin that routes many small, fast payments through channels, settling back to the main chain later.

Transactions & Fees.

What actually happens when value moves, and what it costs.

Transaction [FOUNDATION]

An instruction recorded on a blockchain, such as moving tokens from one address to another.

WORKS WITH: Confirmation · Finality · Transaction Hash · Blockchain

Confirmation [FOUNDATION]

Each additional block added after the one containing a transaction. More confirmations make a transaction increasingly settled.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Block

Finality [OPERATOR]

The point at which a transaction is considered permanent and will not be reversed. Different networks reach finality differently.

WORKS WITH: Transaction

Irreversibility [OPERATOR]

The property that a confirmed blockchain transaction generally cannot be undone, refunded, or cancelled by any party.

WORKS WITH: Chargeback · Test Transfer · Crypto Refund · Transaction

Gas [FOUNDATION]

The fee paid to have a network process a transaction. The amount changes with how busy the network is.

WORKS WITH: Gas Fee · Priority Fee · Network Congestion · Transaction

Gas Fee [FOUNDATION]

The total cost of a transaction's gas, paid in the network's own token.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Token · Gas

Network Fee [FOUNDATION]

A general term for the cost of getting a transaction processed by a blockchain network.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Blockchain

Nonce [ADVANCED]

A counter attached to each transaction from an address that keeps transactions in order and prevents duplicates.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Address

Mempool [ADVANCED]

The waiting area where submitted transactions sit before being included in a block.

WORKS WITH: Block

Pending [FOUNDATION]

A transaction that has been submitted but not yet confirmed in a block.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Block

Failed Transaction [OPERATOR]

A transaction that did not complete. On some networks a fee is still charged for the attempt.

WORKS WITH: Transaction

Slippage [OPERATOR]

The difference between an expected price and the actual price when a trade settles, common during fast-moving conditions.

Dust [ADVANCED]

An amount of crypto so small it is worth less than the fee required to move it.

Transaction Hash [OPERATOR]

The unique identifier of a transaction, used to look it up on a block explorer. Also called a TxID.

WORKS WITH: Block Explorer · Transaction · Block

Memo / Tag [OPERATOR]

An extra reference some networks require alongside the address so the recipient knows which account a payment belongs to.

WORKS WITH: Address

Priority Fee [ADVANCED]

An optional extra fee, sometimes called a tip, paid to get a transaction processed sooner when a network is busy.

WORKS WITH: Transaction

Batching [ADVANCED]

Combining several payments into a single transaction to save fees — common practice for exchanges and businesses that send many payments.

WORKS WITH: Transaction

Network Congestion [OPERATOR]

A period when more transactions are submitted than a network can quickly process. Fees rise and confirmations slow until it clears.

Refund Address [OPERATOR]

An address a sender designates to receive funds back if a payment cannot be completed. Some payment processors ask for one up front because blockchain payments have no automatic reversal.

WORKS WITH: Crypto Refund · Payment Processor · Blockchain · Address

Assets & Tokens.

The things that move — coins, tokens, and what stands behind them.

Cryptocurrency [FOUNDATION]

A digital asset recorded on a blockchain that can be transferred between addresses without a central intermediary.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Coin [FOUNDATION]

A digital asset native to its own blockchain, used to pay that network's fees.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Token [FOUNDATION]

A digital asset created on top of an existing blockchain rather than having its own network.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Stablecoin [FOUNDATION]

A token designed to hold a steady value, often tied to a currency such as the US dollar.

WORKS WITH: Stablecoin Peg · Proof of Reserves · Fiat · Token

Fiat [FOUNDATION]

Government-issued currency such as dollars or euros, as opposed to crypto.

Fiat On-Ramp [OPERATOR]

A service that converts government currency into crypto.

Fiat Off-Ramp [OPERATOR]

A service that converts crypto back into government currency.

Wrapped Token [ADVANCED]

A token that represents an asset from another chain, allowing it to be used on a network where it does not natively exist.

WORKS WITH: Token

Stablecoin Peg [OPERATOR]

The target value a stablecoin aims to hold, such as one dollar. A 'depeg' is when it drifts from that target.

WORKS WITH: Collateral · Proof of Reserves · Stablecoin

NFT [FOUNDATION]

A token that represents ownership of a specific unique item rather than an interchangeable amount.

WORKS WITH: Token

Token Standard [ADVANCED]

A shared set of rules that tokens follow so wallets and apps can handle them consistently.

Supply [OPERATOR]

The amount of a token that exists. Circulating supply is the portion currently available; max supply is the upper limit if one is set.

WORKS WITH: Token

Decimals [ADVANCED]

How finely a token can be divided. This affects how amounts are displayed and entered.

WORKS WITH: Token

Burning [ADVANCED]

Permanently removing tokens from circulation by sending them to an unusable address.

WORKS WITH: Address

Minting [ADVANCED]

Creating new tokens or NFTs and recording them on the blockchain.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Airdrop [OPERATOR]

A distribution of tokens to many addresses, sometimes used for promotion. Unexpected airdrops can also be a lure used in scams.

WORKS WITH: Dusting Attack · Scam

Proof of Reserves [OPERATOR]

A published attestation that a platform or issuer actually holds the assets it claims to hold. Methods and rigor vary widely — the existence of a report is a starting point for questions, not the end of them.

WORKS WITH: Custodian · Stablecoin · Compliance

Collateral [ADVANCED]

Assets locked up to back a loan, a position, or a stablecoin. If the collateral loses value, the arrangement built on it comes under pressure.

WORKS WITH: Stablecoin

CBDC [ADVANCED]

A central bank digital currency — a digital form of a national currency issued by its central bank. Different from crypto in that a central authority runs it.

Memecoin [ADVANCED]

A token created around a joke, meme, or moment rather than a described use. Prices are driven almost entirely by attention and can move violently in both directions.

WORKS WITH: Token

Real-World Asset [ADVANCED]

A token representing something outside crypto, such as a treasury bill, invoice, or property share. The token is only as good as the legal and operational structure connecting it to the real thing.

WORKS WITH: Treasury · Invoice · Token

Exchanges & Markets.

Where crypto is bought, sold, and held by platforms.

Exchange [FOUNDATION]

A platform for buying, selling, or swapping crypto.

WORKS WITH: Centralized Exchange · Decentralized Exchange · Custodian

Centralized Exchange [FOUNDATION]

An exchange run by a company that holds customer funds and manages accounts, often shortened to CEX.

WORKS WITH: Exchange

Decentralized Exchange [FOUNDATION]

An exchange that lets users trade directly from their own wallets through smart contracts, often shortened to DEX.

WORKS WITH: Exchange

Order Book [ADVANCED]

A live list of buy and sell offers on an exchange.

WORKS WITH: Exchange

Market Order [OPERATOR]

An instruction to trade immediately at the best available current price.

Limit Order [OPERATOR]

An instruction to trade only at a chosen price or better.

Liquidity [OPERATOR]

How easily an asset can be bought or sold without moving its price much.

Liquidity Pool [ADVANCED]

A shared pot of tokens that a decentralized exchange uses to enable trading.

WORKS WITH: Liquidity Provider · Impermanent Loss · Decentralized Exchange · Exchange

Market Cap [OPERATOR]

An asset's price multiplied by its circulating supply, used as a rough measure of relative size.

WORKS WITH: Supply

Volume [OPERATOR]

The total amount of an asset traded over a given period.

Spread [ADVANCED]

The gap between the highest buy offer and the lowest sell offer.

Trading Pair [OPERATOR]

Two assets quoted against each other, showing how much of one it takes to get the other.

KYC [OPERATOR]

'Know Your Customer' — the identity checks many platforms perform to meet regulatory requirements.

WORKS WITH: Compliance · Centralized Exchange

Withdrawal [FOUNDATION]

Moving crypto out of a platform account to an external wallet address.

WORKS WITH: Address · Wallet

Deposit Address [FOUNDATION]

The address a platform gives you to send funds into your account there.

WORKS WITH: Address

Custodian [OPERATOR]

A company whose business is holding assets safely on behalf of others. Exchanges act as custodians for funds kept on the platform.

OTC Desk [ADVANCED]

An over-the-counter service that arranges large trades directly between parties instead of on the open order book, reducing price impact for big amounts.

WORKS WITH: Order Book

Maker & Taker Fees [ADVANCED]

The two fee rates most exchanges charge: makers add offers to the order book, takers accept existing ones. Taker fees are usually higher.

WORKS WITH: Order Book

Delisting [OPERATOR]

When an exchange removes an asset from trading. Holders are typically given a window to withdraw before support ends.

WORKS WITH: Exchange

Apps, Contracts & DeFi.

Programs that hold and move money by themselves — and the permissions you grant them.

Smart Contract [FOUNDATION]

A program stored on a blockchain that runs automatically when its conditions are met, without a middleman.

WORKS WITH: Smart Contract Audit · Approval · dApp · Blockchain

dApp [FOUNDATION]

A decentralized application that runs on smart contracts rather than a single company's servers.

DeFi [OPERATOR]

Decentralized finance — financial services such as lending or trading provided through smart contracts.

Wallet Connection [OPERATOR]

Linking your wallet to an app so it can request transactions. The app cannot move funds without you approving each request.

WORKS WITH: Wallet

Approval [OPERATOR]

Permission you grant a contract to use a certain token from your wallet. Broad or unlimited approvals are worth reviewing carefully.

WORKS WITH: Token Allowance · Revoke · Malicious Approval · Wallet

Token Allowance [OPERATOR]

The specific amount a contract is permitted to spend from your wallet under an approval.

WORKS WITH: Approval · Wallet

Revoke [OPERATOR]

Withdrawing a permission previously granted to a contract.

Staking [ADVANCED]

Locking up tokens to support a network or service, sometimes in exchange for rewards. Terms and risks vary by program.

WORKS WITH: Proof of Stake · Validator · Yield · Exchange

Yield [ADVANCED]

A return some platforms describe on deposited or staked assets. Stated yields are not guaranteed.

Liquidity Provider [ADVANCED]

Someone who deposits tokens into a liquidity pool to support trading.

WORKS WITH: Liquidity Pool · Liquidity

Oracle [ADVANCED]

A service that feeds outside information, such as prices, into smart contracts.

Gas Limit [ADVANCED]

The maximum amount of gas you allow a transaction or contract interaction to use.

WORKS WITH: Transaction · Gas

Governance Token [ADVANCED]

A token that grants a vote in decisions about a project or protocol.

WORKS WITH: Token

DAO [ADVANCED]

A decentralized autonomous organization — a group coordinated through smart contracts and member voting rather than a traditional company structure.

Total Value Locked [ADVANCED]

The total value of assets deposited in a protocol, often shortened to TVL.

Smart Contract Audit [OPERATOR]

An independent review of a contract's code by an outside security firm, looking for flaws before real funds rely on it. An audit reduces risk; it does not eliminate it, and unaudited contracts carry unmeasured risk.

WORKS WITH: Bug Bounty · Testnet · Audit Trail

Bug Bounty [OPERATOR]

A standing offer to pay outside researchers who responsibly report security flaws — a signal a project takes its attack surface seriously.

MEV / Front-Running [ADVANCED]

When those who order transactions profit by inserting or reordering trades around yours, sometimes worsening your price. One reason large trades use protections or OTC desks.

Impermanent Loss [ADVANCED]

A loss liquidity providers can experience when the prices of pooled tokens move apart. The name undersells it — the loss is real if you withdraw after the move.

WORKS WITH: Liquidity

Payments & Business Use.

Crypto as a payment rail: requests, settlement, and getting it into the books.

Crypto Payment [FOUNDATION]

Paying for goods or services by transferring crypto from a customer's wallet to a merchant's address.

WORKS WITH: Payment Request · Settlement · Network Selection · Address

Payment Request [OPERATOR]

A message or code specifying an address and amount so a customer can pay correctly.

WORKS WITH: Address

Invoice [FOUNDATION]

A bill that may include a payment address, amount, and reference for a crypto payment.

WORKS WITH: Crypto Payment · Address

QR Code [FOUNDATION]

A scannable image that fills in payment details automatically to reduce typing errors.

Settlement [FOUNDATION]

The point at which a payment is final and the funds are usable by the recipient.

Chargeback [FOUNDATION]

A reversal of a payment by a bank or card network. Standard blockchain payments do not have an equivalent automatic reversal.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Merchant Wallet [OPERATOR]

A wallet a business uses to receive customer payments, often kept separate from operating funds.

WORKS WITH: Segregation of Funds · Payment Processor · Wallet

Payment Processor [OPERATOR]

A service that helps businesses accept payments and may handle conversion or record-keeping.

WORKS WITH: Auto-Conversion · Payment Link · Payment Rail

On-Chain Payment [OPERATOR]

A payment recorded directly on the blockchain.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Off-Chain Payment [OPERATOR]

A payment handled by a provider's internal system and not individually recorded on the blockchain.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Reconciliation [OPERATOR]

Matching received payments against invoices or records to confirm the books are accurate.

WORKS WITH: Export Path · Audit Trail · Invoice

Network Selection [OPERATOR]

Choosing the correct blockchain for a payment. Sending on the wrong network is a common and often unrecoverable mistake.

WORKS WITH: Wrong Chain Error · Chain ID · Test Transfer · Blockchain

Receiving Address Verification [OPERATOR]

Confirming an address is correct before sharing it, often by checking the first and last characters.

WORKS WITH: Address

Payment Rail [OPERATOR]

The underlying network a payment travels on — a card network, a bank transfer system, or a blockchain. Each rail has its own speed, cost, and failure behavior.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Payment Link [OPERATOR]

A shareable link that opens a hosted checkout with the amount and details pre-filled, so the payer never types an address by hand.

WORKS WITH: Address

Auto-Conversion [OPERATOR]

A processor feature that converts incoming crypto to a stablecoin or bank currency immediately at receipt, reducing exposure to price swings between sale and settlement.

WORKS WITH: Stablecoin · Settlement

Crypto Refund [OPERATOR]

Returning funds from a crypto payment. Because there are no chargebacks, refunds are a manual, deliberate payment back to the customer — which is why merchants record a refund address and reference at the time of sale.

WORKS WITH: Refund Address · Crypto Payment · Address

Micropayment [OPERATOR]

A very small payment, often under a dollar, practical only on rails whose fees are lower than the payment itself.

Remittance [OPERATOR]

Money sent across borders, often by workers to family. A frequently cited use for crypto rails because traditional remittance fees are high.

Safety & Security.

The traps that actually catch people, and the calm habits that bounce them off.

Phishing [FOUNDATION]

A trick that imitates a trusted site or message to capture keys, seed phrases, or logins.

WORKS WITH: Impersonation · Social Engineering · Seed Phrase Theft

Scam [FOUNDATION]

A scheme designed to take funds through deception, false promises, or impersonation.

WORKS WITH: Impersonation

Rug Pull [OPERATOR]

When the people behind a project disappear with funds or abandon it suddenly.

Social Engineering [OPERATOR]

Manipulating a person into revealing secrets or approving actions, rather than attacking technology directly.

Seed Phrase Theft [OPERATOR]

The loss of funds that follows when someone obtains your recovery words. This is why the words are never typed into websites.

Wrong Chain Error [OPERATOR]

Sending an asset on a network the recipient is not watching, which can make the funds unreachable.

Wrong Address Error [OPERATOR]

Sending to an incorrect address. Because transactions are generally irreversible, the funds usually cannot be retrieved.

WORKS WITH: Address

Two-Factor Authentication [FOUNDATION]

A second login step beyond a password, such as a code from an app, often shortened to 2FA.

WORKS WITH: SIM Swap · Passkey · Password Manager

Malicious Approval [OPERATOR]

A contract permission that grants more access than expected, sometimes used to drain wallets.

Impersonation [ADVANCED]

Pretending to be a known company, person, or support agent to gain trust.

Address Poisoning [OPERATOR]

A trick that places a look-alike address in your history hoping you copy it by mistake.

WORKS WITH: Clipboard Malware · Receiving Address Verification · Address

Test Transfer [FOUNDATION]

Sending a tiny amount first to confirm an address and network work before sending the full amount.

WORKS WITH: Wrong Address Error · Irreversibility · Address

Cold Storage [FOUNDATION]

Keeping holdings offline to reduce exposure to online threats.

Recovery Risk [OPERATOR]

The reality that self-custodied funds cannot be restored by any company if keys and backups are lost.

SIM Swap [OPERATOR]

An attack where someone convinces a phone carrier to move your number to their device, then intercepts your text-message login codes. A key reason app-based or hardware 2FA beats SMS.

Clipboard Malware [OPERATOR]

Malicious software that silently replaces a copied wallet address with an attacker's address. The defense is verifying the pasted address in full before sending.

WORKS WITH: Address · Wallet

Dusting Attack [ADVANCED]

Sending tiny amounts of crypto to many addresses to track activity or bait interaction. Unexpected small deposits are best left untouched.

Passkey [OPERATOR]

A phishing-resistant login method that uses a cryptographic key stored on your device instead of a password. Increasingly supported by exchanges and platforms.

WORKS WITH: Phishing

Password Manager [FOUNDATION]

An app that generates and stores strong, unique passwords. Foundational hygiene for every account that touches money — though seed phrases stay offline, not in it.

AI & Modern Tech.

The other technology wave on your desk — directed with judgment.

Artificial Intelligence [FOUNDATION]

Software that performs tasks normally associated with human reasoning, such as recognizing patterns or generating text.

WORKS WITH: Large Language Model · AI Agent · Machine Learning

Machine Learning [FOUNDATION]

A type of AI that improves at a task by learning from data rather than following fixed rules.

Large Language Model [FOUNDATION]

An AI system trained on large amounts of text to understand and generate language, often shortened to LLM.

Generative AI [FOUNDATION]

AI that produces new content such as text, images, or code.

Prompt [FOUNDATION]

The instruction or question given to an AI system to get a response.

Training Data [OPERATOR]

The information an AI system learns from. Its quality and limits shape the system's behavior.

Hallucination [OPERATOR]

When an AI produces information that sounds confident but is inaccurate or invented.

WORKS WITH: Training Data · Prompt

Model [OPERATOR]

A trained AI system that takes input and produces output based on what it learned.

Automation [OPERATOR]

Using software to perform repetitive tasks with little or no human involvement.

API [OPERATOR]

A defined way for software systems to talk to each other and exchange data or actions.

WORKS WITH: Exchange

On-Chain AI [ADVANCED]

Emerging approaches that combine AI services with blockchain records or payments.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Tokenization [ADVANCED]

Representing a real or digital asset as a token on a blockchain. In AI, the term separately means breaking text into small units a model processes.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain · Token · Model

AI Agent [OPERATOR]

An AI system that can take multi-step actions toward a goal — browsing, filling forms, calling tools — rather than only answering. Powerful, and worth clear boundaries about what it may touch.

WORKS WITH: Prompt Injection · Automation · API

Context Window [ADVANCED]

The amount of information an AI model can consider at once. Anything outside it is effectively forgotten, which explains why long conversations can lose the thread.

WORKS WITH: Model

Prompt Injection [OPERATOR]

An attack that hides instructions inside content an AI reads — a webpage, email, or document — trying to hijack what the AI does next. A reason to limit what agents can access and act on.

Inference [ADVANCED]

The act of a trained model producing an answer. Training happens once at great cost; inference happens every time you use the model.

WORKS WITH: Model

Multimodal [ADVANCED]

An AI system that works across more than one kind of input or output — text, images, audio — rather than text alone.

Operations & Records.

Running it like a business: records, access, and repeatable process.

Cost Basis [OPERATOR]

The original value recorded for an asset, used as a reference for record-keeping. Tax treatment varies and is outside this reference.

WORKS WITH: Reconciliation · Export Path

Audit Trail [OPERATOR]

A clear, reviewable record of transactions and actions.

WORKS WITH: Public Ledger · Export Path · Incident Log

Public Ledger [FOUNDATION]

The openly viewable record of transactions on a blockchain.

WORKS WITH: Blockchain

Pseudonymity [OPERATOR]

Addresses are not directly tied to names, but activity is public and can sometimes be traced.

WORKS WITH: Chain Analytics · Public Ledger

Wallet Labeling [OPERATOR]

Naming or tagging wallets and addresses to keep records organized.

Treasury [OPERATOR]

The funds an organization holds and manages, including any crypto holdings.

WORKS WITH: Segregation of Funds · Spending Policy · Wallet Labeling

Compliance [OPERATOR]

Following the laws and rules that apply to an activity. Specifics depend on jurisdiction and are outside this reference.

Whitelist [OPERATOR]

A pre-approved list of addresses permitted for certain actions.

Multi-Signature [OPERATOR]

A setup that requires approval from several keys before a transaction can proceed, often shortened to multisig.

WORKS WITH: Access Control · Spending Policy · Treasury · Transaction

Spending Policy [OPERATOR]

Internal rules an organization sets for how and when crypto can be moved.

Segregation of Funds [OPERATOR]

Keeping different pools of money in separate wallets or accounts — customer payments, operating funds, reserves — so records stay clean and one problem cannot touch everything.

Access Control [OPERATOR]

Deciding and documenting who can view, move, or approve funds and under what conditions. The operational backbone behind multi-signature setups and spending policies.

WORKS WITH: Multi-Signature

Export Path [OPERATOR]

A defined way to get transaction records out of a wallet or platform and into your books — CSV, API, or reports. Worth confirming before the first payment, not after.

WORKS WITH: Transaction • Wallet • API

Chain Analytics [ADVANCED]

Tools and services that trace and label on-chain activity. Used by exchanges and investigators, and a reminder that public ledgers are public.

Incident Log [OPERATOR]

A written record of what happened, when, and what was done during a payment problem or security event. Turns a stressful moment into a documented, improvable process.

Honest by design.

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