



# Distributed Futures



*An open source research programme for Smart Ledgers and new technologies*

## **The Quantum Countdown: Quantum Computing and the Future of Smart Ledger Encryption**

Tuesday, 20 February 2018, London

**Z/Yen Group Limited**  
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London EC2R 7HG  
United Kingdom  
tel: +44 (20) 7562-9562



# Sponsored By

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The Z/zen Group

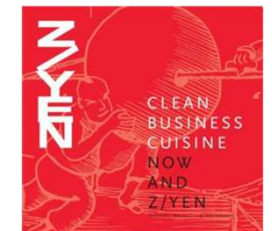
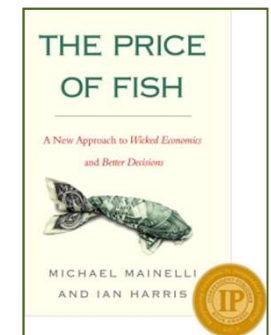
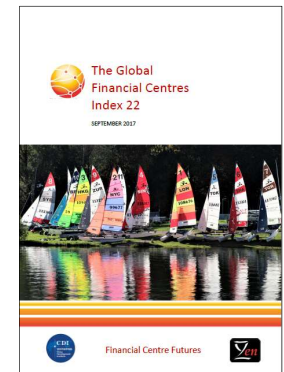
# Agenda

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- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 08:45 – 09:00 | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 09:00 – 09:05 | <b>Welcome</b><br><i>Bob McDowall, Cardano Foundation</i>   |
| 09:05 – 09:30 | <b>Introduction and Background</b><br><i>Michael Mainelli, Executive Chairman, Z/Yen Group</i>  |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | <b>The Quantum Countdown: Report Walkthrough</b><br><i>Maury Shenk, Managing Director, Lily Innovation</i>  |
| 10:00 – 10:40 | <b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ True area for Smart Ledger risk</li><li>◆ Modelling of response time for the PQC Problem</li><li>◆ Policy-making and advocacy</li><li>◆ Insurance</li></ul> |
| 10.40 – 10:45 | <b>Summary</b>  |
| 10:45         | <b>Formal Close</b>   |



- ◆ Special – City of London’s leading commercial think-tank
- ◆ Services – projects, strategy, expertise on demand, coaching, research, analytics, modern systems
- ◆ Sectors – technology, finance, voluntary, professional services, outsourcing
  - Independent Publisher Book Awards Finance, Investment & Economics Gold Prize 2012 for *The Price of Fish*
  - British Computer Society IT Director of the Year 2004 for PropheZy and VizZy
  - DTI **Smart Award** 2003 for PropheZy
  - *Sunday Times* Book of the Week, *Clean Business Cuisine*
  - £1.9M **Foresight Challenge Award** for Financial Laboratory visualising financial risk 1997



# Smart Ledger Research

**Smart Ledger Geostamping**  
Steps Towards Interoperability & Standards

CARDANO FOUNDATION

The Journal of Financial Perspectives: FinTech

Article:  
**Sharing ledgers for sharing economies: an exploration of mutual distributed ledgers (aka blockchain technology)**

EY Global Financial Services Institute Winter 2015 | Volume 3 - Issue 3

EY  
Builds a better working world

Professors Michael Mainelli and Mike Smith  
Z/Yen Group Limited

**The Missing Links In The Chains?**  
Mutual Distributed Ledger (aka blockchain) Standards

pwc

CARDANO

STATES OF ALDERNEY

November 2016

**Auditing Mutual Distributed Ledgers (aka Blockchains)**  
A Foray Into Distributed Governance & Forensics

DasCoin  
The Currency of Trust

November 2017

**Responsibility Without Power?**  
The Governance Of Mutual Distributed Ledgers (aka Blockchain)

CARDANO FOUNDATION

July 2017

**Chain Of A Lifetime:**  
How Blockchain Technology Might Transform Personal Insurance

December 2014  
A Long Finance report prepared by Z/Yen Group

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**Chain Reaction:**  
How Blockchain Technology Might Transform Wholesale Insurance

July 2016  
A Long Finance report prepared by Z/Yen Group  
Principal authors: Michael Mainelli and Richard Morgan

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SWIFT INSTITUTE

SWIFT Institute Working Paper No. 2015-007

THE IMPACT AND POTENTIAL OF BLOCKCHAIN ON THE SECURITIES TRANSACTION LIFECYCLE

MICHAEL MAINELLI  
ALISTAIR MILNE

PUBLICATION DATE: 09 MAY 2016

This report and opinions expressed in this paper are those of the authors. SWIFT and the SWIFT Institute have not read any published version of this paper. Therefore the views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of either SWIFT or the SWIFT Institute.

**From Slips To Smart Contracts**  
Intelligent Technology In The London Wholesale Insurance Market

A Long Finance report prepared by Z/Yen Group  
January 2017

Sponsored by the  
London Market Group  
LMG

**A Wholesale Insurance Executive's Guide To Smart Contracts**

A Long Finance report prepared by Z/Yen Group  
January 2017

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# Draft Report



The Quantum Countdown  
Quantum Computing And The  
Future Of Smart Ledger Encryption



February 2018





# Distributed Futures Programme

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We work in partnership with many stakeholders to learn together and build the vital infrastructure needed to make Smart Ledgers a success.

Our research is structured around four themes:

- ◆ Society
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Economics
- ◆ Politics

And it's directed at four outcomes:

- ◆ Expanding frontiers
- ◆ Changing systems
- ◆ Delivering services
- ◆ Building communities

# Project Balance & Sequencing

	Not Started	Planning	Underway	Completed
	SOCIAL	TECHNOLOGICAL	ECONOMIC	POLITICAL
EXPANDING FRONTIERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart Ledgers/World Trade</li> <li>Pensions</li> <li>Human Adjudication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart Ledger Geostamping</li> <li>Fractal Characteristics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liquidity</li> <li>Economic Impact of SL's</li> <li>Money Supply Rules</li> <li>Industry Pilot - Shipping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Ledgers</li> </ul>
CHANGING SYSTEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provability in 'Smarts'</li> <li>Past Financial Scandals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Quantum Countdown</li> <li>Timestamping</li> <li>Commodities Ledgers</li> <li>GDPR &amp; Permissioning Logic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voting Structures</li> <li>IP Rights - Music</li> <li>Crypto Energy Consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyber-Catastrophe ILS</li> <li>Surveillance Techniques</li> <li>Taxation</li> </ul>
DELIVERING SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interplanetary C#ASMs</li> <li>Directory Services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visualising Smart Ledgers</li> <li>Tokenless Architecture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Token Simulation</li> <li>Audit &amp; Accounting</li> <li>Protection &amp; Indemnity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competing Currencies</li> </ul>
BUILDING COMMUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-Learning/Micro courses</li> <li>Games &amp; Fun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards/Interoperability</li> <li>Technical Fora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ledger Learning/Simulation</li> <li>Performance Benchmarking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RegTech</li> <li>Regulatory Consultations</li> </ul>



# Terminology Evolving

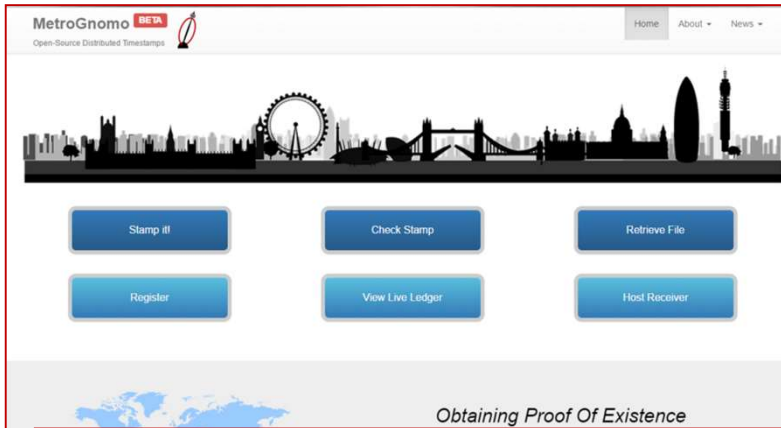
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- ◆ **ledger** – a record of transactions
- ◆ **distributed** – divided among several or many, in multiple locations
- ◆ **mutual** – shared in common, or owned by a community
- ◆ **mutual distributed ledger (MDL)** - a record of transactions shared in common and stored in multiple locations
- ◆ **mutual distributed ledger technology** – a technology that provides an immutable record of transactions shared in common and stored in multiple locations
- ◆ **blockchain** - “a transaction database shared by all nodes participating in a system based on the Bitcoin protocol”
- ◆ **smart ledger** – MDL with embedded, executable code

# Smart Ledgers Hold Immense Promise

Area	Possible Applications
Financial instruments, records, models	Currency, private and public equities, certificates of deposit, bonds, derivatives, insurance policies, voting rights associated with financial instruments, commodities, derivatives, trading records, credit data, collateral management, client monies segregation, mortgage or loan records, crowd-funding, P2P lending, microfinance, (micro)charity donations, account portability, airmiles & corporate tokens, etc.
Public records	Land and property titles, vehicle registries, shipping registries, satellite registries, business license, business ownership/incorporation/dissolution records, regulatory records, criminal records, passport, birth/death certificates, voting ID, health and safety inspections, tax returns, building and other types of permits, court records, government/listed companies/civil society, accounts and annual reports, etc.
Private records	Contracts, ID, signature, will, trust, escrow, any other type of classifiable personal data (e.g. physical details, date of birth, taste) etc.
Semi-private/semi-public records	High school/university degrees and professional qualifications, grades, certifications, human resources records, medical records, accounting records, business transaction records, locational data, delivery records, genome and DNA, arbitration, genealogy trees, clinical trials, etc.
Physical keys	Key to home, hotel, office, car, locker, deposit box, mail box, Internet of Things, etc.
Intellectual property	Copyrights, licenses, patents, digital rights management of music, rights management of intellectual property such as patents or trademarks, proof of authenticity or authorship, etc.
Other records	Cultural, historical events, documentary (e.g. video, photos, audio), (big) data (weather, temperatures, traffic), SIM cards, archives, geostamping, etc.

# Application: MetroGnomo – Timestamping & Datalogging

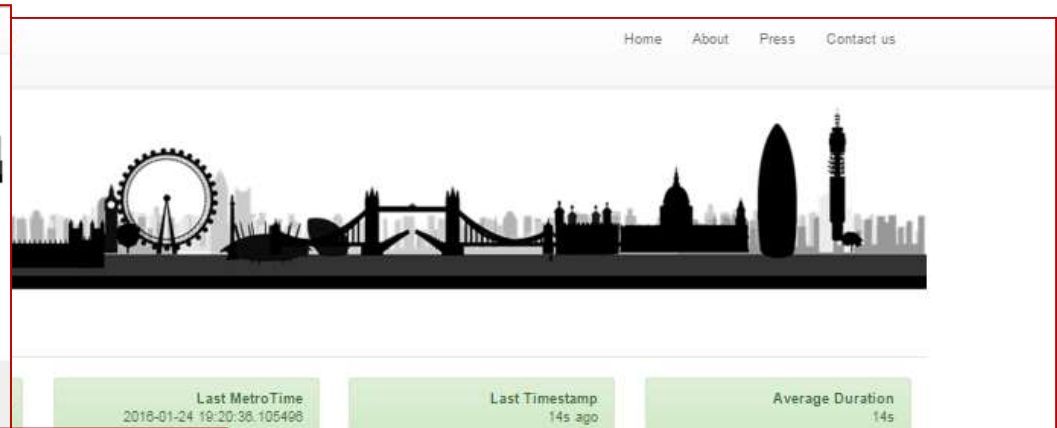



MetroGnomo BETA  
Open-Source Distributed Timestamps

Home About News

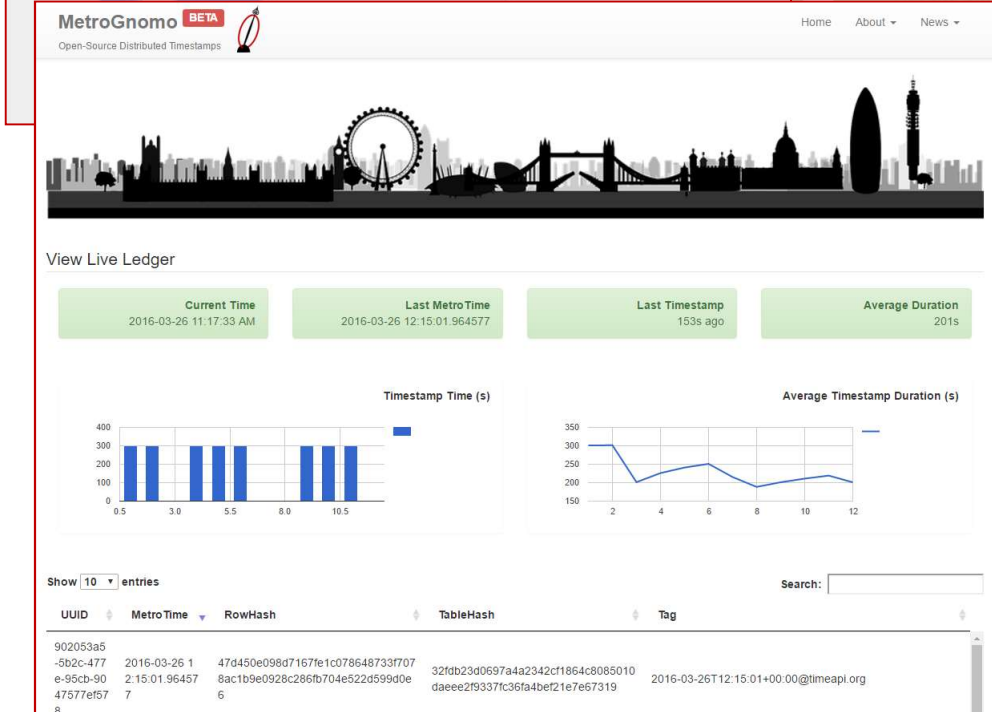
Stamp it! Check Stamp Retrieve File Register View Live Ledger Host Receiver

Obtaining Proof Of Existence



Home About Press Contact us

Last Metro Time: 2016-01-24 19:20:36.105496  
Last Timestamp: 14s ago  
Average Duration: 14s



MetroGnomo BETA  
Open-Source Distributed Timestamps

Home About News

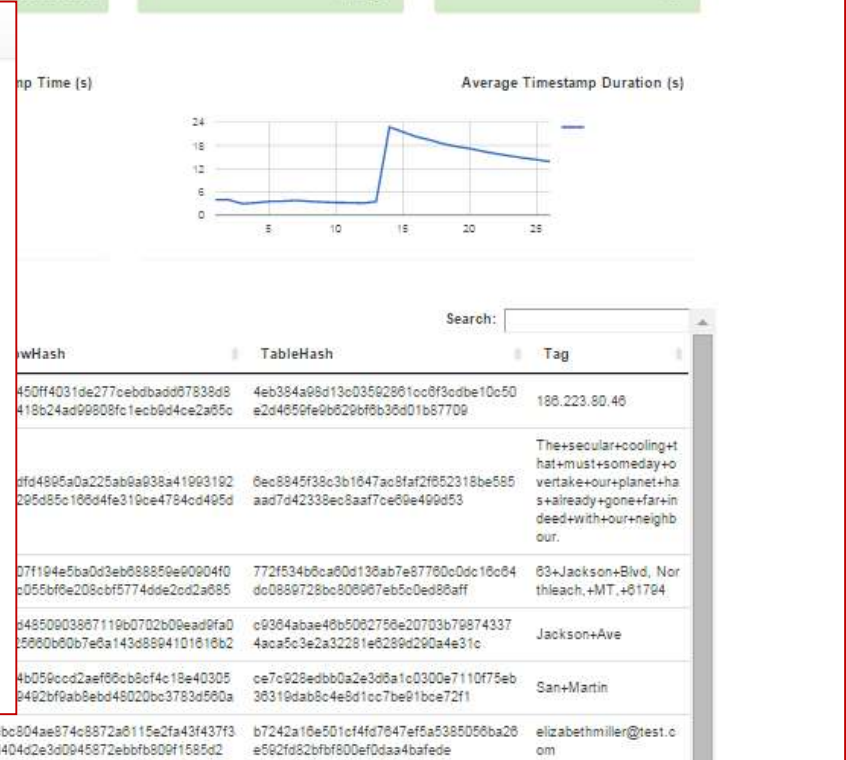
View Live Ledger

Current Time: 2016-03-26 11:17:33 AM  
Last Metro Time: 2016-03-26 12:15:01.964577  
Last Timestamp: 153s ago  
Average Duration: 201s

Timestamp Time (s) and Average Timestamp Duration (s) charts

Show 10 entries

UUID	Metro Time	RowHash	TableHash	Tag
902053a5				
-5b2c-477	2016-03-26 1	47d450e09807167fe1c078648733707	321db23d0697a4a2342cf1864c8085010	
e-95cb-90	2.15.01.96457	8ac1b9e0928c286b704e522d599d0e	daeec2f9337fc36fa4be121e7e67319	2016-03-26T12:15:01+00:00@timeapi.org
47577ef57	7	6		



Search: [input]

RowHash	TableHash	Tag
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df4895a0a225ab9a938a41993192 26fd85c106d4fe319ce4784cd49fd	6ec8845f38c3b1647ac8faf2f852318be585 aad7d42338ec8aaf7ce69e499d53	The+secular+cooling+hat+must+someday+overtake+our+planet+has+already+gone+far+in+deed+with+our+neighbor+our.
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0185e888-4a74-49fb-8c0 c-cb55cc4f417f	2016-01-24 19:20:28.909764	elizabethmiller@test.com



# **The Quantum Countdown: Quantum Computing and the Future of Smart Ledger Encryption**

**Maury Shenk**

Managing Director, Lily Innovation

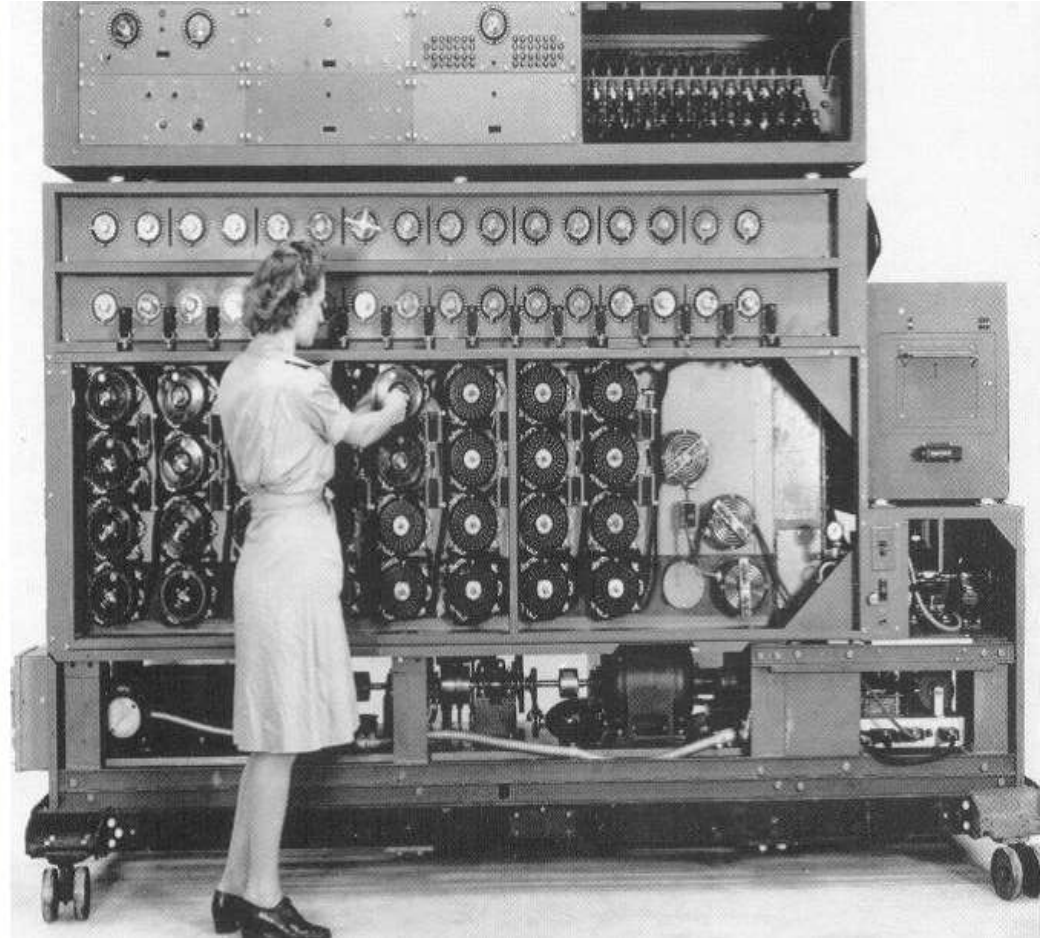
# The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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<sup>3</sup> *Large-scale* <sup>2</sup> *quantum computers*  
would pose <sup>4</sup> *a serious threat* to the  
security of <sup>1</sup> *public key cryptography*

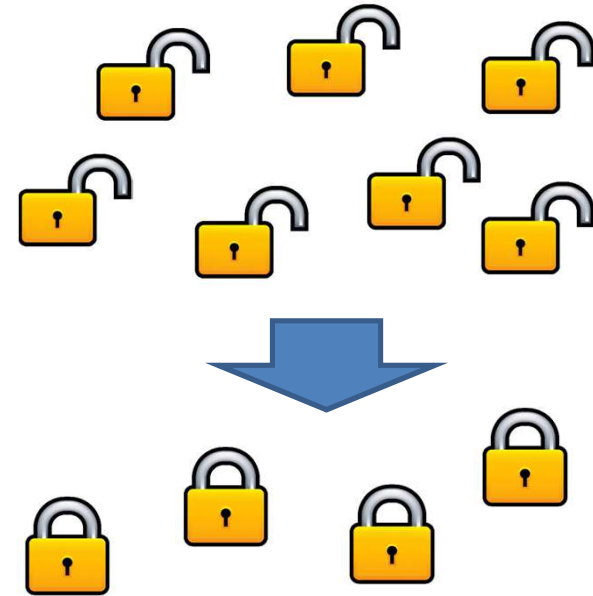
So <sup>6</sup> *what should affected entities do,*  
and <sup>5</sup> *when?*

# Symmetric Cryptography



# Public Key Cryptography

- ◆ Uses public and private keys for each communication, avoiding need for key exchange
- ◆ Based on problems that are “hard” in one direction (eg knapsack problem or integer factorisation)
- ◆ Used for Smart Ledger digital signature



Technique	Sender Uses	Recipient Uses	Why It Works
<b>Public key secure communication</b>	Recipient's public key	Recipient's private key	Only recipient (using her private key) can read messages encrypted with her public key
<b>Public key digital signature</b>	Sender's private key	Sender's public key	Only sender can sign with her private key, and recipient can use the sender's public key to confirm signature



# The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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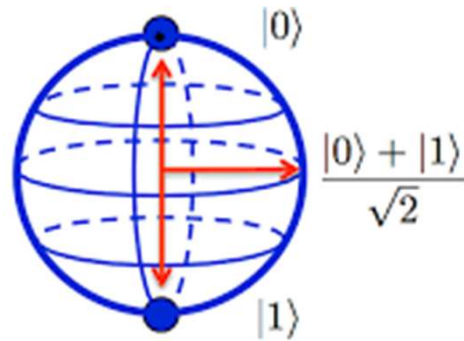
So <sup>6</sup> *what should affected entities do,*  
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# Quantum Phenomena

● 0

● 1

**Classical Bit**



**Qubit**

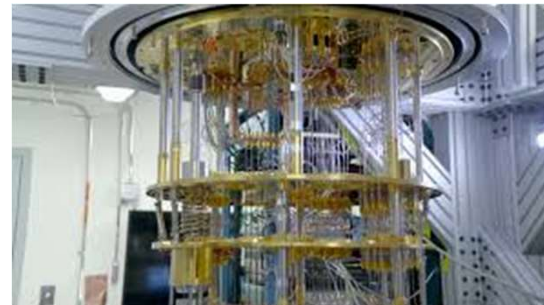
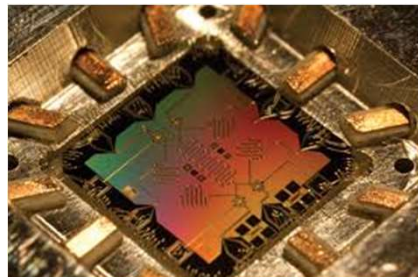
**Superposition**



**Entanglement**

# Quantum Computers

- ◆ Proposed by Richard Feynman in 1981
- ◆ Progress with entangled qubits
  - 1998 – 2
  - 2011 – 14
  - 2017/2018 – 17 (IBM, Intel), 50 (IBM), 49 (Intel, Google)
- ◆ Physical qubits (the numbers above)
  - Low-temperature devices showing quantum effects
  - Decoherence – currently after ~ 90 microseconds
- ◆ Logical qubits (do not exist yet)
  - Stable computing devices
  - 10,000+ physical qubits required for one logical qubit
  - 3000-5000 logical qubits required to attack current public key cryptography



# The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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# The Quantum Threat

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- ◆ The new math!
- ◆ Shor's algorithm
  - Discovered in 1994 at Bell Laboratories
  - Would allow a sufficiently powerful quantum computer to solve quickly the hard problems underlying the most common public key cryptography algorithms (including RSA, ECDSA, Diffie-Hellman)
    - ❑ RSA is commonly used for securing web connections
    - ❑ ECDSA is standard algorithm for blockchain signatures
    - ❑ "Sufficiently powerful" means about 3000-5000 logical qubits for RSA-2048
  - Prompted increased interest in quantum computers
- ◆ Grover's algorithm
  - Discovered in 1996 at Bell Laboratories
  - Provides quadratic speed-up for attacking symmetric cryptography and hash algorithms
  - Hash algorithms (particularly SHA-256) are key for blockchain
- ◆ But there are good alternatives that avoid these threats

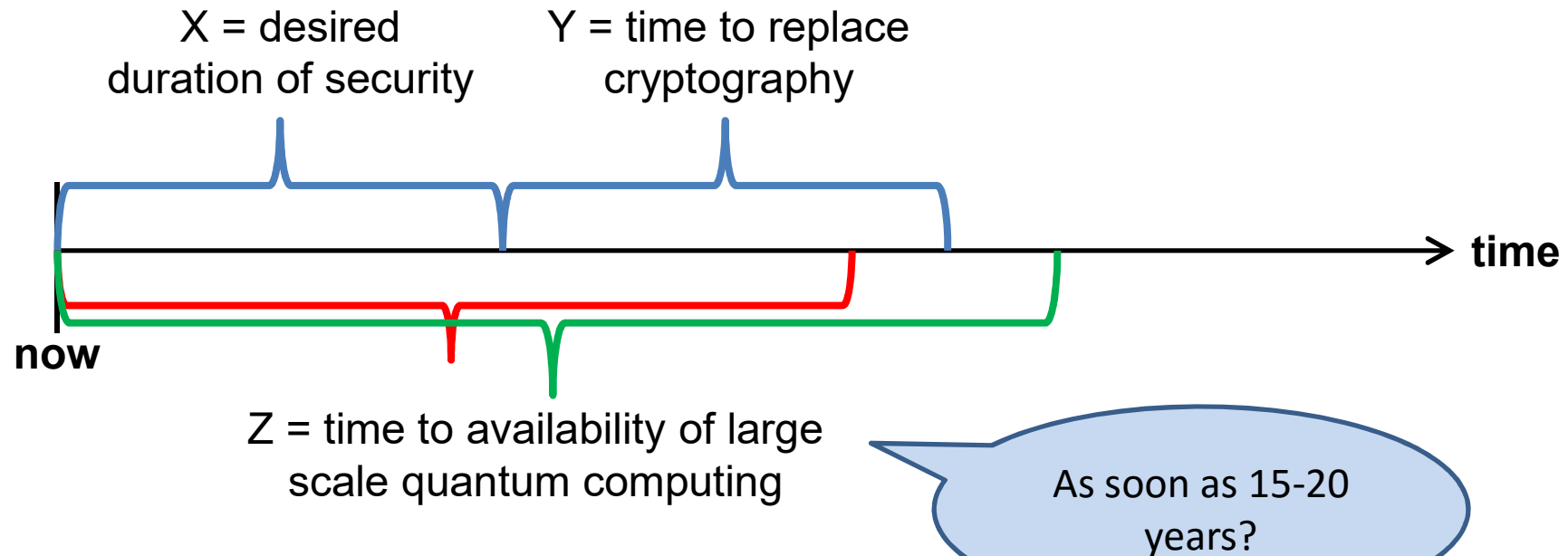
# The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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# The Mosca Inequality



- ◆ For each system:
  - If  $X + Y < Z$ , there is time to act
  - If  $X + Y > Z$ , it may already be too late to entirely avoid the post-quantum cryptography problem
- ◆ Some systems may fall into the second category – particular issue for blockchain / Smart Ledgers, where X is very large

# The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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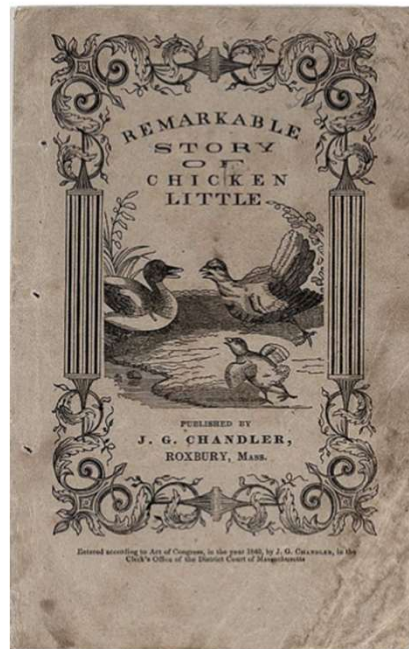
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So <sup>6</sup> *what should affected entities do,*  
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# Don't Panic

- ◆ Is this like the Y2K problem? – no certain deadline
- ◆ Maybe more like climate change? – uncertainty as to timing and impacts

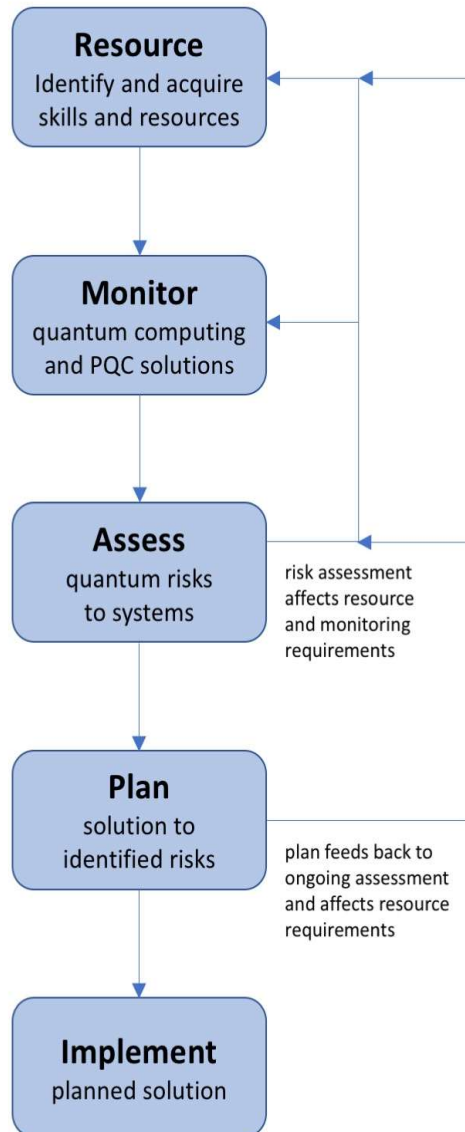


# Good Solutions Exist or Are Coming

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- ◆ EU PQCRYPTO recommendations (2015)
- ◆ US National Institute of Standards and Technology competition (2016 - around 2022)
- ◆ Promising families of quantum-resistant algorithms
  - Lattice
  - Signature-based
  - Code-based
  - Multivariate
  - Supersingular elliptic curve isogeny

# A Programme of Action



## ◆ An obvious conclusion?

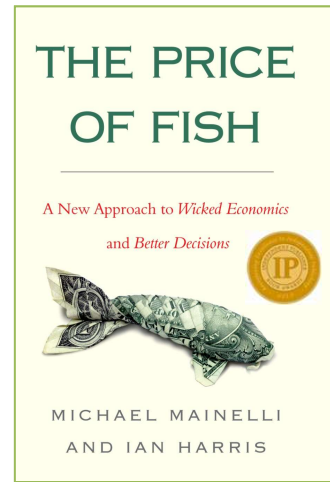
- New systems should be quantum resistant from the start, to avoid risks (and costs of re-engineering)
- But many Smart Ledgers and other new systems are not taking this approach, including because most familiar / off-the-shelf components are not quantum-resistant

## When Would We Know Our Commerce Is Working?



“Get a big picture grip on the details.”

*Chao Kli Ning*



Thank you!