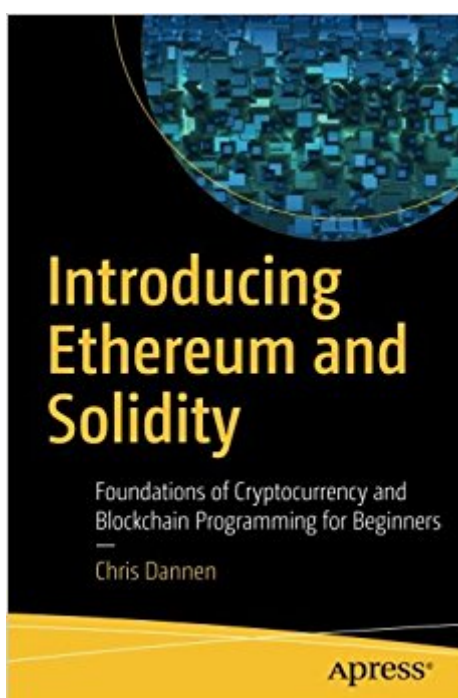


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# Introducing Ethereum And Solidity: Foundations Of Cryptocurrency And Blockchain Programming For Beginners



## Synopsis

Learn how to use Solidity and the Ethereum project – second only to Bitcoin in market capitalization. Blockchain protocols are taking the world by storm, and the Ethereum project, with its Turing-complete scripting language Solidity, has rapidly become a front-runner. This book presents the blockchain phenomenon in context; then situates Ethereum in a world pioneered by Bitcoin. See why professionals and non-professionals alike are honing their skills in smart contract patterns and distributed application development. You'll review the fundamentals of programming and networking, alongside its introduction to the new discipline of crypto-economics. You'll then deploy smart contracts of your own, and learn how they can serve as a back-end for JavaScript and HTML applications on the Web. Many Solidity tutorials out there today have the same flaw: they are written for "advanced" JavaScript developers who want to transfer their skills to a blockchain environment. Introducing Ethereum and Solidity is accessible to technology professionals and enthusiasts of all levels. You'll find exciting sample code that can move forward real world assets in both the academic and the corporate arenas. Find out now why this book is a powerful gateway for creative technologists of all types, from concept to deployment.

**What You'll Learn**

- See how Ethereum (and other cryptocurrencies) work
- Compare distributed apps (dapps) to web apps
- Write Ethereum smart contracts in Solidity
- Connect Ethereum smart contracts to your HTML/CSS/JavaScript web applications
- Deploy your own dapp, coin, and blockchain
- Work with basic and intermediate smart contracts

**Who This Book Is For**

- Anyone who is curious about Ethereum or has some familiarity with computer science
- Product managers, CTOs, and experienced JavaScript programmers
- Experts will find the advanced sample projects in this book rewarding because of the power of Solidity

## Book Information

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Chris Dannen is a partner and founder at Iterative Instinct, a hybrid investment fund focused on cryptocurrency trading and seed-stage venture investments. He was formerly a corporate strategist for Fortune 500 companies. A self-taught programmer, he holds one patent; this is his fourth book. Chris is an avid traveler who has trekked across 20 countries, bicycled from Rome to Barcelona in 30 days, and summited Mount Fuji in under six hours. He was formerly a Senior Editor at Fast Company and today consults on technical content for major publishers. He graduated from the University of Virginia in three years and now resides in New York, NY.

Solidity is covered in just a couple of chapters. A kind of scattered writing format with a lot of introductory background. Not sure why anyone interested in learning solidity would need so much basic background info. But then again...it is titled as just an introduction.

This is one of the worst books I ever read. It uses tons of annoying metaphors to explain simple concepts at a high level without actually explaining them in needed level of technical details. Ten metaphors to explain what Blockchain is. Another five metaphors to explain what EVM is. A subchapter on explaining difference between Digital and Analog computer, seriously? With all due respect to Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, and I do mean it, what does she has to do with Ether? Nothing! Why is her picture taking half of the page? Finally on page 72 you get to section titled "Learning to Program the EVM". But your excitement does not last long. This section starts with this sentence: "Sometimes it's easier to learn a new habit than to break old one." And then spends five paragraphs explaining what it means without making much sense. At last, on page 99 (you are past half a book now) you get to practical exercise of creating Token (a type of Smart Contract). There are a few screen shots, but none of them readable, was it so hard to make it figures bigger? To do that exercise you are required to copy and paste some code from GitHub. There is no explanation in the book what this code dose. The code is not reproduced in its entirety in the book; there is just fuzzy picture of it. Yet there is a clearly looking picture of Grace Hopper... This is where I am now, there a few more chapters to go through, if I find something useful in them I will update this review, but I hugely doubt that

It was very painful to read through the book. The author tends to write things he wants to talk about without considering what readers want to read. For example, under chapter title of "Mist Browser", he talks about many different things with very little touching of what a Mist browser does. Piles of paragraphs with no clear logical paths or relations are throughout the book almost everywhere. I was reading another one-star comment: "This is one of the worst books I ever read. It uses tons of annoying metaphors to explain simple concepts at a high level without actually explaining them in needed level of technical details." I cannot agree more. Lack of technical depths really made this book one of the worst I ever read, too. I wasn't sure how it could have gotten so many 5-star ratings. I guess it wasn't written for me.

The topics follow no logical flow. Topics are like headlines on one page and then three pages later a little detail, and then three pages later a little more detail, and three chapters later we continue with the topic. The book is an incoherent mumbo-jumbo of facts poured into a blender and dumped into this book. A Google search has a more logical flow on the topics.

I bought this book because I was looking for a structured introduction to Ethereum and Solidity, the programming language for smart contracts in Ethereum. Unfortunately the book is written in an unstructured way and often misses to explain even the most fundamental principles. Hence I returned it to .When reading the table of contents you may think that all the important concepts of Ethereum are covered, but this is not true. Often, the concept mentioned in the heading is not explained at all (e.g. [“Merke Patricia Trees”](#) on page 122) or the provided information was copied from the Internet without any additional explanations (e.g. [“How Ethereum Uses Stale Blocks”](#) page 118). In other cases information is scattered through the book and presented in wrong order (e.g. cryptography and cryptographic signatures are mentioned on page 7 without explaining cryptographic hash functions. They are mentioned on page 55, which is much too late, because readers need to know them in order to understand cryptographic signatures).Chapter 4 is symptomatic for the poor quality of this book. Based on its title [“Solidity Programming”](#) (pp. 69 [“Solidity”](#) [“Hello World”](#) for Ethereum and a step-by-step guide through the language supported by concise examples. Unfortunately, the author does not even try to explain that language. Instead he discusses [“Global Banking”](#) and [“Complementary Currency”](#). The first two snippet of Solidity code that the author presents in this chapter is (1) a piece of code by which a programmer can bypass the compiler and let the EVM execute a given operation [“assembly{”](#) and (2) code that illustrates how to implement a for-loop with EVM Op-Codes (the assembler equivalent in Ethereum). Who on earth starts introducing a programming language by presenting such niche topics before explaining anything else? Finally, on page 80 the author presents one page of Solidity code but without any explanation. The chapter finishes with listings of Solidity keywords, properties and operators. Yes, formally the author introduced [“Solidity”](#) but he missed the chance to explain and teach it.

If you're a programmer, and you're ready to start writing some code, this book will likely leave you disappointed. It is an introduction to Ethereum, not a comprehensive guide. Before reading this book, I barely knew what a block chain was. Not, I have a better understanding of that, as well as some of the differences between Ethereum and Bitcoin. I was already familiar with Public Key

Cryptography, but I didn't understand how it could be used to authenticate the sender. Now, I understand that. I'm really looking forward to the O'Reilly book, **MASTERING ETHEREUM**, which is due out several months from now. In the meantime, I am glad I was able to get started with this one.

A useful introduction to the world of Cryptocurrency and Blockchain programming. Most useful for an individual who is completely new to the subject.

This is a good introductory book on cryptocurrency in general and Ethereum in particular.

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