From Blockchain to Consensus: Design and Challenges of Cryptographic Currencies

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(SSIE Conference Room)

Over the last years, the popularity of cryptographic currencies has skyrocketed. Although the technology behind Bitcoin, presumably the most important cryptocurrency to this day, is far from perfect, it has proven to be quite resilient in practice. This talk will provide a high-level overview of the technology behind Bitcoin, highlighting its most important design choices as well as a variety of challenges it has to deal with, including incentive incompatibilities, scaling issues and a lack of anonymity threatening the financial privacy of its users.

Malte Möser is a PhD student at the Information Security Research Group at the University of Münster. His research interests include cryptographic currencies, anonymity and privacy. He is currently a visiting researcher at Cornell University, where he is working on enabling richer financial contracts in Bitcoin.

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