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Alternatives to Blockchains

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Fully decentralized and transparent ledgers, often called blockchains, represent one end of a design spectrum whose other end is opaque centralized mechanisms such as traditional financial systems. This talk will explore other solutions along this design space that make different tradeoffs in terms of transparency, decentralization, scalability, and accountability to provide a more holistic view of the broader area of shared ledgers. In particular, this talk will cover: proof-of-stake, "useful" proof-of work, and other consensus protocols; Stellar, Certificate Transparency, RSCoin, and other trust configurations; and definitions of transparency and accountability in distributed settings.

Reading:

- George Danezis and Sarah Meiklejohn, Centrally Banked Cryptocurrencies, Cryptology ePrint Archive: Report 2015/502, https://eprint.iacr.org/2015/502