

## Reading Questions for Thursday, February 7, 2019

We ask you to submit comments on the following papers by midnight Wednesday February 6:

- SoK: Research Perspectives and Challenges for Bitcoin and Cryptocurrencies.
- A Survey on Consensus Mechanisms and Mining Strategy Management in Blockchain Networks.

Your comments should include both answers to the specific reading questions and generic response about the papers. You are welcome to include any questions you have about the papers in your comments. After submitting your own comments, you'll be able to see others' submitted comments. You can comment on others' submissions and answer raised questions on Canvas. Discussion on Canvas is strongly encouraged.

### 1 Reading Questions

1. The authors of “A Survey on Consensus Mechanisms and Mining Strategy Management in Blockchain Networks” discussed several consensus mechanisms. Which one is most appealing to you as a scheme for permissionless blockchains? Why?
2. “A Survey on Consensus Mechanisms and Mining Strategy Management in Blockchain Networks” discusses selfish mining strategies. Describe at a high level how a selfish miner can benefit from “dishonest” behavior in mining.
3. Section V of “SoK: Research Perspectives and Challenges for Bitcoin and Cryptocurrencies” talked about some proposed changes to bitcoins. Which one, if any, you think is most appealing? Why?

## **2 Generic Response**

Respond to the papers following the guidelines in the course syllabus (under “Submit Comments and Presenting Papers”). Since we are reading survey papers, some guidelines may not apply.