

FinTech

Case Study 5. Demystifying blockchain and cryptocurrency

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Overview

1. **Innovative applications of blockchain technology**
2. Academic reading
3. Takeaway

Case study

- ▶ **Bitfury: Blockchain for Government**
 - ▶ Bitfury: a company that initially specialized in bitcoin mining
 - ▶ Bitfury partnered with the country of Georgia's government
 - ▶ Apply the technology to land titling, sales, and transfers
 - ▶ Resolve issues of governance and trust, while decreasing costs
 - ▶ Competitors looking to enter the sector and offer similar solutions
 - ▶ Governments also looking to develop their own technologies
- ▶ When reading the case, consider the following:
 - ▶ What problems has Bitfury had in onboarding potential new clients, particularly governments?
 - ▶ Can Bitfury use the successful case to attract new clients?
 - ▶ How can Bitfury differentiate themselves from their competitors?

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Academic reading

- ▶ **Is Bitcoin Really Untethered?**
 - ▶ JF 2020
- ▶ **Trading and Arbitrage in Cryptocurrency Markets**
 - ▶ JFE 2020
- ▶ **Sex, Drugs, and Bitcoin: How Much Illegal Activity Is Financed through Cryptocurrencies?**
 - ▶ RFS 2019
- ▶ **Initial Coin Offerings: Financing Growth with Cryptocurrency Token Sales**
 - ▶ RFS 2020

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Takeaway

- ▶ Demystifying blockchain technology and cryptocurrency
 - ▶ Video 5-2
- ▶ Quiz