

Glossary of Terms used in FTSE Russell Digital Asset Documents

v1.2



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Glossary

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Air-gapped Cold Storage

A network security measure employed on one or more computers to ensure that the computer is physically isolated and not connected in any way to other devices or networks.

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BIP32

A Bitcoin design idea, which was approved and became standard, that states the necessity for a digital asset to be compatible with the Hierarchical Deterministic (HD) wallet protocol, allowing multiple public and private key pairs to be derived from a single starting point.

BIP39

A Bitcoin design idea that was approved and became standard, which states the necessity for a digital asset to use mnemonic phrase to serve as a backup to recover one's wallet.

BIP44

A specific implementation of BIP32 that defines a logical hierarchy for deterministic wallets based on an algorithm described in BIP32.

Bitcoin Improvement Proposals (BIPs)

Open-design documents used to propose the introduction of new Bitcoin standards and features.

Blockchain

A blockchain is an immutable, peer-to-peer digital ledger that facilitates the recording of transactions.

Byzantine Fault-Tolerance

A feature that allows a distributed network to resist against arbitrary or erratic information produced by a fraction of its participants.

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Closed Issue

A bug, problem, or potential improvement that was resolved after it was reported in a code repository.

Circulating Supply

The number of tokens that are publicly available and circulating in the market for a digital asset.

Codebase (or Code Base)

A collection of computer code used to build an application or software.

Code Repository

A file archive and web hosting platform where developers can store and share computer software.

Commit, Pull Request, Merged Pull Request

Terms associated with the uploading of modified computer code into a code repository.

Contributor

A person who contributes to the development of code in a particular code repository.

Consensus

A general agreement amongst blockchain network participants on which state of the network is correct.

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Digital Asset

An asset that is issued and transferred using distributed ledger or blockchain technology.

Distributed Version-Control

A web-based interface, such as GitHub or GitLab, that mirrors a complete codebase and its full history across every developer's computer.

Diverse Validation Quorum

Unique, publicly identifiable validators actively producing blocks on a blockchain.

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GitHub

A popular platform that hosts code repositories and provides version control functionality.

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Hardware Security Modules (HSM)

A cryptographic appliance designed to protect sensitive data by safeguarding digital keys that are used to encrypt or decrypt digital signatures and other cryptographic functions.

Hierarchical Deterministic Wallet

A hierarchical deterministic wallet is a digital asset wallet that derives its private key from a seed, such as a set of words.

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Mnemonic Passphrase Backups

A group of pseudo-random words used to derive a private key.

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Open Issue

A bug, problem, or potential improvement reported in a code repository that has yet to be resolved.

Open-Source License

A type of license for computer software that allows its source code to be used, modified, and/or shared in compliance with specific terms and conditions.

Open-to-Close-Issue Ratio

The number of open issues compared to the number of closed issues in a code repository.

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Private Key

A unique, secret key that pairs with a public key to allow users to encrypt and decrypt a wallet and sign transactions.

Proof-of-Stake

A form of consensus algorithm that requires network validators to stake or lock assets native to the network in order to validate transactions and achieve distributed consensus.

Proof-of-Work

A form of consensus algorithm that requires network validators to solve a mathematical problem with computing power in order to validate transactions and achieve distributed consensus.

Public Key

A cryptographic code unique to a personal address that is shared in the distributed ledger or blockchain.

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Stablecoin

Digital assets designed so their price is pegged to a specific value, whether it be cryptocurrency, fiat money, or to exchange-traded commodities (such as precious metals).

Standardised Signature Algorithm

A cryptographic protocol approved by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

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Target Repository

The primary codebase that is stored in the code repository that powers the associated platform's user-facing services.

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Validator

An entity that is responsible for verifying transactions within a distributed ledger or blockchain.

Vulnerability Reporting Workflow

A formalised method to report bugs and security vulnerabilities in a codebase.

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Wallet

An app or program that allows people to store and retrieve their digital assets.

Further information

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