Nonce

A random sequence of numbers that miners have to find in order to validate the block of a public blockchain and the difficulty target associated with it. Nonces are one of the elements included in the block header of public blockchains.

Blocks of private blockchains do not have nonces.

Open source

Open-source software is software with a source code that anyone can inspect, modify and improve.

Oracle

Blockchains cannot access data outside their network. An oracle is a data feed – provided by a third-party service provider – designed for use in smart contracts on the blockchain, which provides external data and triggers smart contract execution when pre-defined conditions are met. Such conditions could be any data, such as the temperature, payment completion, price fluctuations, etc. Oracles are the only way for smart contracts to interact with data outside of the blockchain environment and are, therefore crucially important.

QR code

A QR code is a machine-readable code consisting of an array of black and white squares, typically used for storing URLs or other information and which can be read by the camera on a smartphone.

Shard/sharding

Sharding means partitioning a very large database into smaller, faster, more easily managed parts called data shards. The word "shard" means a small part of a whole.

Single point of failure

An element or part of a system that, if it fails, will disable the entire system.