

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

X

PRELUDE

XIV

Who is this book for?

XV

Who is this book not for?

XVI

Online resources

XVII

Requirements

XVII

Goals and structure

XIX

FOREWORD

XX

INTRODUCTION

22

Why Rust and bitcoin are handsome together

23

ANALYZING THE WHITEPAPER

28

Brief history and overview of bitcoin

29

The whitepaper pulled apart

30

Introduction

30

Transactions

31

Timestamp Server

33

Proof-of-Work

33

Network

35

Incentive

37

Reclaiming Disk Space

38

Simplified Payment Verification

39

Combining and Splitting Value

40

Privacy

41

Calculations

41

Conclusion

46

Final evaluation and next steps

46

SETTING UP

50

Installing Rust

52

Rustup vs native packages

54

Installing VS Code and/or Rust Analyzer

58

Installing Rust Analyzer

58

Installing and setting up VS Code

60

Creating a workspace and starting with Rust	64
Crates	64
Dependency management	65
A tiny Cargo command reference	67
Workspace setup	70
Rust: The first contact	72
Hello world	73
Extended example	82
Referring to Rust documentation	94

TAMING RUST'S LEARNING CURVE

Memory model	98
Strings in Rust	99
Lifetimes of owned vs unowned values	107
Pattern matching	110
Global "variables" in Rust	117
Object-Oriented Programming in Rust	118
Visibility and privacy	119
User-defined types (structs and enums)	119
Static dispatch	122
Generic param bounds	124
Dynamic dispatch	126
Functional Programming in Rust	127
Immutability	128
The type system	129
Functions and closures	133
Iterators	148

KEEPING RUST CULTURED

Rustfmt	151
Clippy	156

IMPLEMENTING A BITCOIN LIBRARY

Data types	164
Error handling in Rust	171
Option<T> - Values might be absent	200
Result<T, E> - Recoverable errors	205
Panics - Errors we cannot recover from	208
Error handling in btclib	210
Difficulty	224
Mining	232

Blockchain methods	233
Splitting up the big file	259
Serialization into and deserialization out of files	264
Utility binaries	269
CREATING A CPU MINER	282
Networking	286
Miner that can talk to a node - Asynchronous Rust	291
Futures and promises	292
Tokio in miner	296
BUILDING A BITCOIN NODE	318
Organization	321
Node discovery	323
Fetching the blockchain from other nodes	326
Handling requests	332
Wrapping up	344
MAKING A CLI/TUI WALLET	348
Making a CLI wallet	350
The core of the wallet	365
The main() function	372
TUI wallet version	376
Logging and the util module	376
Core updates	380
Setting up tasks	392
Cursive user interface	397
The main file	417
CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS	424
Evaluating our project	425
Recommended reading from Braiins	426
Other resources for Rust and BTC	426
Rust	427
Bitcoin	428
Final words and opinions of Lukáš Hozda, Gentleman (not written by Laurence Stern)	429