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Introduction

Mintlayer is a long-term, secure solution for scaling and accelerating the future of decentralized finance.

Today, **sustainability** is rarely considered when designing blockchain technology. Consequently, we are presented with a problem where many existing and dominating networks face a cluster of issues. **Blockchains get clogged**, causing a spike in transaction **fees**, and their users face high **barriers of running a node**. This **sacrifices** the core feature of the blockchain technology: **decentralization**.

Currently, the DeFi ecosystem runs on the Ethereum (ETH) blockchain, where nodes can only be managed by **specialized servers rather than average users**. This policy achieves nothing in terms of the chain's usability: fees are skyrocketing and most users are left outside of the blockchain's governing decisions. These conditions pose **security threats for daily users** that mostly rely on light nodes or custodians, and lead to more **centralized project choices**. Several examples, such as

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rollbacks and fork upgrades, end up being discussed within a very tiny niche of users, primarily miners or the most influential public figures.

The **lack** of future-proof sustainability and **long-term plans for scalability**, combined with a complex technical architecture, make Ethereum an unsuitable long-term solution for truly decentralized finance. The clogged network cannot guarantee **proper functionality of DEXs** without off-chain layer solutions such as the Lightning Network, while gigantic nodes have increasingly slow syncing time. Moreover, the built-in Turing-completeness, which is part of the protocol, causes users and investors to encounter risks while interacting with **smart contracts**.

Mintlayer is creating the very first sustainable architecture for decentralized finance, inheriting its security model from Bitcoin.

Next: Blockchain architecture

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