

Press release, University College London, 10 March 2016.

"London Blockchain Security and Financial Cryptography Research Competition and Research Prize Fund 2016"

Rules: prizes and bounties are awarded to **students and individual researchers** doing bitcoin blockchain or other financial cryptography research on a voluntary basis or as part of their university curriculum. Prizes can be awarded to anyone who has attended UCL bitcoin/research seminars or/and have partially or fully participated in our **code breaking competition** [not obligatory]. Remote participation is allowed and participants from universities other than UCL can also participate as guests [with our permission]. Participants from business and start-ups are allowed, however blockchain professionals and well-funded professional researchers will not qualify for cash research prizes unless we decided otherwise.

Ethics: We support the ethos of bitcoin and blockchain community. This is a self-funded effort to crowd-source security research for the benefit of a broader community which intends to protect their financial assets stored in blockchains. This is primarily a game which is declared of public interest. Our primary goal is to provide cash prizes of moderate size in order to demonstrate the honest effort of researchers in order to discover security vulnerabilities in bitcoin and blockchain systems and in order to increase the awareness about potential and real attacks on these systems.

Sponsors: Blockchain.com, Tramonex, Clearmatics, complymatic, UCL bitcoin seminar donators.

Jury: Dr. Nicolas Courtois, Jonathan Bootle, University College London.
Email: for submissions and queries = <initial.family_nameATucl.ac.uk>

The following prizes will be awarded on or after 14 March 2016 [may change without notice]:

- 1 BTC bitcoin password cracking price,
- 1 BTC for reverse engineering work,
- 1 BTC for developing a prototype side channel attack on ECDSA in bitcoin or web server,
- 1 BTC for best female or minority code breaker at UCL or among external participants
- 1 BTC for blockchain data mining and visualisation software development,
- 1 BTC for formalizing and analysing attacks mathematically with publishable outcomes,
- 1 BTC for funny discovery/work/creation about bitcoin and blockchain security.

Additional prizes will be awarded in October 2016 for master thesis and other research work.

- 5 BTC for a contribution to security of bitcoin/blockchain in a Master thesis/student work.
- 5 BTC for discovery of attacks bugs or flaws in ZK proofs, ring signatures, ECCs, key management and other advanced cryptographic techniques relevant to blockchain tech.