



What is Ripple?

Ripple is the company behind XRP, a cryptocurrency backed by Gold. It was founded in September 2012 under the name OpenCoin. The name was changed to Ripple Labs, and finally to Ripple (RippleNet). It was designed to replace SWIFT, the most used money transfer network, in order to remove the “middleman” process, and provide banks with quick, low-cost, and easy cross-border transactions.

Ripple basically acts as an agent between two parties in a transaction and validates exchanges. Ripple’s exchanges are not limited to XRP, but works with a variety of cryptocurrencies (i.e. Bitcoin), and may act as a bridge between different international cryptocurrencies. XRP’s RippleNet is also more secure and significantly faster than other networks—Bitcoin may take hours to complete a transaction, while Ripple takes seconds. Unlike other cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ripple uses discernment in who can validate its transactions. The validators update their ledgers every three to five seconds as new transactions come in to ensure all ledgers match. Mismatched ledgers are identified almost instantly and addressed to validate transactions securely and efficiently.

If you are wondering what it costs to use Ripple, the answer is very little—only 0.00001 XRP per transaction, which is obviously a small fraction of what banks charge to do cross-border transactions, and much cheaper than Bitcoin transactions.

If you would like to know more, you may want to check out these two articles:

<https://www.forbes.com/advisor/investing/cryptocurrency/what-is-ripple-xrp/>

<https://cointelegraph.com/blockchain-for-beginners/what-is-ripple-a-beginners-guide-for-understanding-ripple>