# Cryptocurrency transactions have certain inherent characteristics that differ from traditional payments (e.g., wires, ACH). These inherent characteristics have implications for financial crimes compliance, investigations, and asset recovery.

## Pseudonymous

A sender does not need to collect any personally identifiable information on the recipient to send a crypto transaction – all that is required is the alphanumeric string of the recipient's wallet address (or public key).

## Disintermediated

Crypto transactions can be conducted peer-to-peer (P2P). A recipient's public key is sufficient for the sender to transfer funds without the help of a trusted intermediary like a bank or payment processor.

## Irreversible

Crypto transactions are called push-based. Once they are committed, they cannot be unwound. The only way for a sender to get their money back is for the recipient to willingly send the funds back. This is a property of being disintermediated.

## Rapid

Crypto transactions are fast (usually 10 mins or less) and if executed peer-to-peer, are not subject to any value limits – this means that a sender can execute a large transaction (e.g., $1MM eq.) in mere minutes.

## Borderless

By virtue of their other properties (i.e., speed, disintermediation, pseudonymity), crypto transactions, when performed P2P, are borderless. The locations of the transaction's sender and recipient have no impact on the speed at which the transaction can be executed.

## Public

The most common and most popular cryptocurrencies have public blockchains and public block explorers. This means that transaction details, including the originator and beneficiary's public addresses, the transaction amount, and the transaction date are all publicly visible.