privacy jenga

how a tower of blocks can strengthen our intuition around privacy
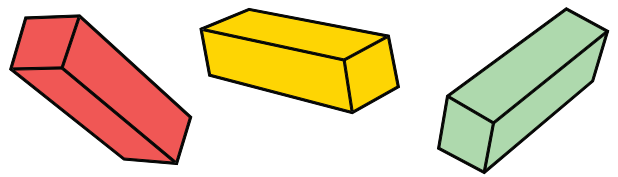
a bitcoin jenga zine
<3 amiti & stacey

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like this zine?

learn how to create your own privacy jenga game at bitcoinjenga.com

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it's ok if you make some mistakes.

although it's possible, a tower rarely falls over when removing a single block

however, a porous structure is vulnerable to even threats like a gentle breath or a mildly competent government.

when our structure is strong, it requires a stronger, assertive effort to knock over.

which means its okay to make some mistakes. what's important is attending to your overall structure.
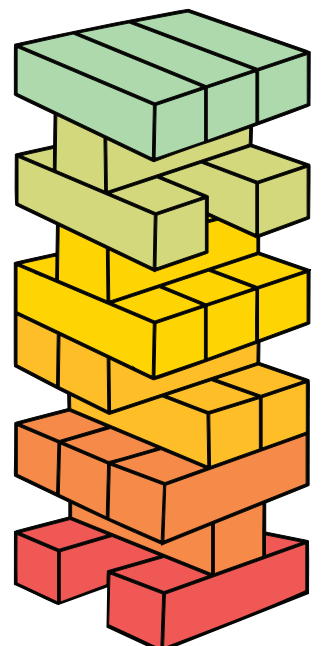
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behold, a tower of blocks!!

we can use a tower of blocks to strengthen our intuition around what it means to stay private.

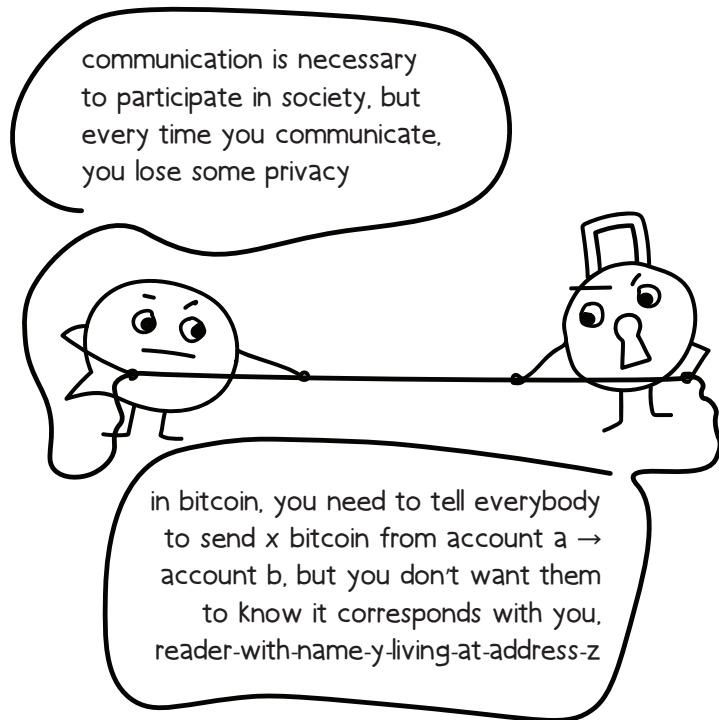let's imagine the collapse of the tower to be an irreversible consequence

for example...

your authoritarian government identifies your bitcoin contributions to the fight for democracy, and you face the risk of jail time.
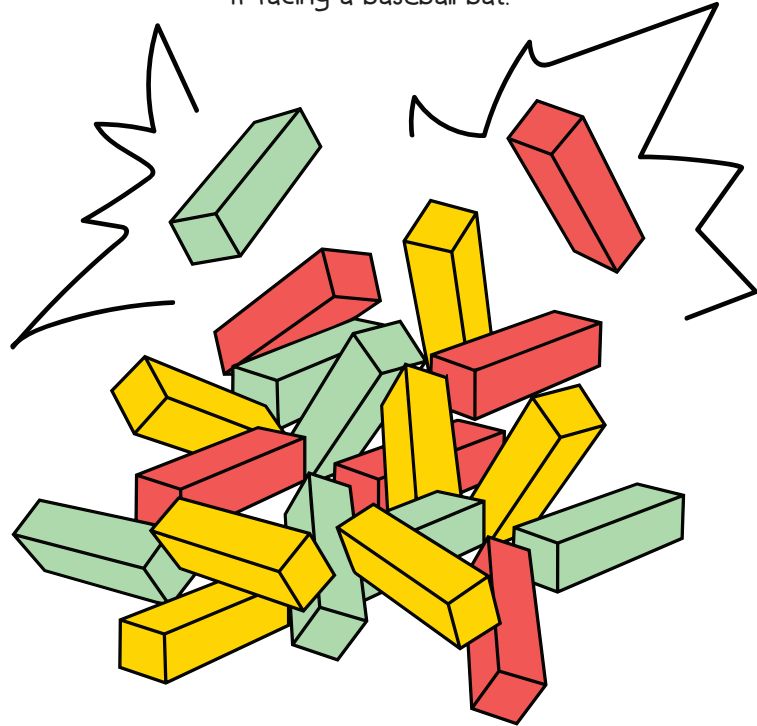
that's kind of a big deal.

there is a fundamental tension between privacy & communication

communication is necessary to participate in society, but every time you communicate, you lose some privacy

in bitcoin, you need to tell everybody to send x bitcoin from account a → account b, but you don't want them to know it corresponds with you, reader-with-name-y-living-at-address-z
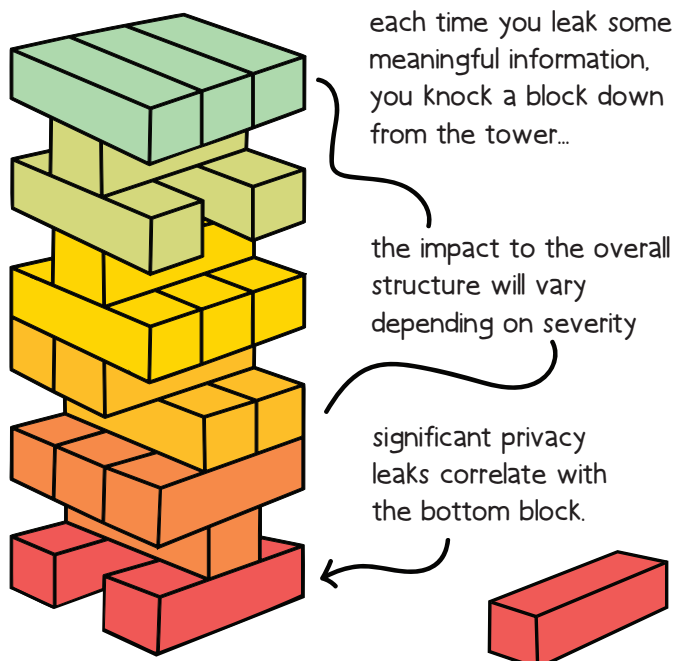
& it's important to calibrate for your environment...

we have to play a different game entirely if facing a baseball bat.

the stronger your tower, the harder it is for your adversary to knock it over

each time you leak some meaningful information, you knock a block down from the tower...

the impact to the overall structure will vary depending on severity

significant privacy leaks correlate with the bottom block.

here are some examples around how you use bitcoin

low:
talking about bitcoin publicly

medium:
using a compromised block explorer

high:
sending funds from a KYC exchange that a government warrant can retrieve