



## What is Stellar?

Stellar is an open-source\* network payment technology—similar to Ripple—allowing fast, cheap transfers of funds. The Stellar blockchain was launched in 2014 by Jed McCaleb (also founder of Mt. Gox and co-founder of Ripple). On Stellar, you can create, send, and trade almost all digital representations that have value, such as paper and digital currencies, real estate, art, etc. Like Ripple, Stellar is designed so all countries' financial systems can freely exchange with each other on a single network. Stellar's main token (though it does accept other cryptos) is Stellar lumens or XLM, now backed by silver. (Remember, Ripple uses XRP which is backed by gold.)

Both Stellar and Ripple use similar protocols and both created a limited number of tokens, which can never be increased. The main difference is that the majority of XRP tokens are controlled by Ripple, a for-profit company, while most XLM (lumens) tokens are held by the nonprofit Stellar Development Foundation. Their customer bases also differ: Ripple works with established banking institutions and consortiums while Stellar focuses on developing markets.

\*In regard to cryptocurrency and blockchain, an open source network is a public and transparent way to keep records and eliminates virtually all operator tampering or revisions.

<https://www.fool.com/investing/stock-market/market-sectors/financials/cryptocurrency-stocks/stellar>

<https://www.investopedia.com/news/what-stellar>

<https://stellar.org/learn/intro-to-stellar>