

Self-Custody in 60 Minutes

Establish a robust minimum viable custody setup within one hour that is resilient to single-point failures while remaining simple enough to operate under stress.

- Basic understanding of private keys, seeds (BIP39), and receive vs. change addresses.
- Two distinct hardware wallets—recommended: **Coldcard Mk4** (Bitcoin-only, air-gapped) and a second device (Trezor Model T or Ledger Nano X).
- Coordinator software—recommended: **Nunchuk Wallet** (desktop/mobile) for optional multisig.
- Steel backup (fire/water resistant), tamper-evident bags, and a safe/offsite location.

- 1) Procure devices from official vendors; verify packaging integrity.
- 2) On Coldcard, update firmware and verify the file signature; initialize entirely offline.
- 3) Generate a new seed and set a strong PIN; record the seed to steel backup (no photos, no cloud).
- 4) Set up the second hardware wallet with a separate seed; repeat backup procedures.
- 5) Create a watch-only wallet to verify receive addresses without exposing keys.
- 6) Optional: Use Nunchuk to create a 2-of-3 multisig (Coldcard + second HW + mobile hot-key for travel funds). Store quorum recovery instructions separately.
- 7) Perform a small send/receive test on each wallet. Confirm addresses on-device before signing.

- Never type a seed on a computer; generate and verify only on the hardware device.
- Store backups in geographically separated locations; avoid keeping keys and backups together.
- Do not share xpubs casually—watch-only setups can leak balance/transaction privacy.
- Perform a quarterly test-restore to catch backup drift and device failures early.

- **Coldcard Mk4** (air-gapped, PSBT via microSD)
- **Nunchuk Wallet** (multisig coordinator, policy controls, watch-only)
- Steel backup plates (e.g., Cryptosteel Capsule)
- Tamper-evident bags; fireproof safe

Quarterly: test■restore from seed; check address derivations; rotate passphrases if policy requires.

Semiannual: firmware review (update only if security■relevant); review storage site integrity and access lists.