

Internet Financial EXchange (IFEX)

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Lock-in Considerations

In deference to Jaron Lanier's call for humanistic concerns in technology, it may be noted that by dealing exclusively with metadata concerning transactions rather than settlement mechanics per se, Lanier's 'lock-in' (the indeliberate exclusion of alternative approaches to value transfer should IFEX become popular) is largely avoided.

In addition, IFEX development included consultation with both monetary theorists [ENDOFMONEY] and the largest global network of alternate fiscal communities [CES]. It is hoped that including this breadth of perspective has reduced the risk of lock-in as well as increasing scope for future collaboration between the internet technical community and these types of communities.

Heartening in this regard is the following anecdote: during early discussions a member of the IETF's energy Working Group expressed interest in the use of an arbitrary commodity trading protocol for the management of finite energy resources, for example in embedded systems; there is conceivably no reason why IFEX could not be used for such purposes.

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