

CoinText: SMS Wallet
Send & Receive Bitcoin Cash without Internet
CoinText.io and @CoinText

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Description

Send and receive Bitcoin Cash without Internet. A wallet for the world's unbanked.

CoinText is a text message (SMS) Bitcoin Cash wallet. Transact bitcoin cash with any mobile phone in the world using simple text commands without Internet, smartphones, apps, accounts or passwords. Secured and settled on the Bitcoin Cash (BCH) blockchain.

Mission statement

Cryptocurrency will only change the world if people use it as money. Our mission is to introduce billions of new users to Bitcoin Cash by on-boarding them through our CoinText SMS wallet.

We believe CoinText is the easiest and most powerful tool to increase Bitcoin Cash adoption because it doesn't require registration, downloads, or Internet and it incentivizes people to join. People get a wallet by texting CoinText, or when someone sends BCH to their phone. In this way, one person can on-board many others into CoinText merely by texting some BCH to their friends and family. No other tool or service creates a wallet for new users this easily.

The ability to transact with an international currency like Bitcoin Cash over SMS (Short Message Service), without Internet, will uncap the immense potential of underbanked people around the world. Many people in developing areas are already familiar with trading mobile minutes as currency over SMS using feature phones (dumbphones). The CoinText wallet is just as easy to use but connects them to global finance.

Besides facilitating phone-to-phone transfers, CoinText plans to develop a full suite of tools where transacting Bitcoin Cash over SMS is beneficial including merchant solutions, ATMs, gaming and sports betting, vending machines, smartlocks and much more in the SMS-Economy-of-Things.

History

Early Bitcoin developers waxed poetic about helping the world's poor and unbanked, but high Bitcoin Core (BTC) network fees and slow transactions killed many promising projects. An early attempt at an SMS bitcoin wallet was Coinapult, first conceived by cryptocurrency pioneer Erik Voorhees. Coinapult never caught on because it was clunky to use with complicated commands, and it required users to register and create a web wallet on their system in order to transact over SMS. Additionally, Coinapult didn't succeed because it didn't properly incentivize new adoption.

Now that Bitcoin Cash has restored the vision of on-chain scaling, CoinText is positioned to deliver on the original promise of helping the unbanked and tap the potential of global commerce using SMS. CoinText doesn't require registration, offers painless and incentivized on-boarding, has simple intuitive commands, is secured directly on the BCH blockchain, and will have native uses like gaming.

Target population

Feature-phone users without an Internet connection will likely benefit most from the CoinText SMS wallet. However, it also has many exciting usecases for smartphones in the industrialized world. Ultimately CoinText is unique because it also allows users to transact phone-to-phone without an Internet connection. This feature opens a wide range of market possibilities for CoinText in rural areas where

people are underbanked and smartphone adoption has yet to reach maturity. While smartphone adoption appears to have taken over the industrialized world (77% in US¹), a majority of humans still don't have them. According to Statista:

“The number of smartphone users is forecast to grow from 2.1 billion in 2016 to around 2.5 billion in 2019, with smartphone penetration rates increasing as well. Just over 36 percent of the world's population is projected to use a smartphone by 2018, up from about 10 percent in 2011.”²

Although smartphone adoption is experiencing incredible growth, 64% of the world still doesn't have one. We have a great opportunity to introduce feature phone users to Bitcoin Cash while also creating compelling uses for smartphones.

The first (beta) users will be Bitcoin Cash enthusiasts who we believe will become ambassadors for the CoinText project. Out of the gate CoinText will have local numbers in Western countries. Anyone residing outside of those regions can still use the CoinText numbers if they have an international texting plan with their cell provider. Our ultimate objective is to reach every mobile phone in the world with as local a number as feasible.

Product overview

Every full phone number (country code + area code + number) is unique to a single mobile device. CoinText leverages each phone number as a unique identifier and puts them through a proprietary algorithm. The result is used as the seed for a Bitcoin Cash keypair, which is always created on the fly and never stored. This means that every phone number in the world can have a corresponding Bitcoin Cash address that is unique to that number.

The system stacks an API server, consisting of the Bitcoin Cash and CoinText libraries and an in-memory data cache. The system does not write data to disk and stores no information about phone numbers, keypairs, or transactions pushed through the system. All transactions are settled immediately on-chain and all transaction records are pulled from the Bitcoin Cash blockchain. The API server communicates with a global Tier-1+ SMS gateway provider, offering carrier redundancy with send and receive to every phone on Earth.

Users can on-board to the system by using the cash or deposit commands. They can also be on-boarded by another user who sends Bitcoin Cash to either a phone number (using send) or its associated address (using withdraw). The balance command retrieves the balance of the unspent outputs for the phone number (address). More on commands below.

¹<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/12/evolution-of-technology/>

²<https://www.statista.com/statistics/330695/number-of-smartphone-users-worldwide/>

Privacy & security

App wallets like Jaxx or Coinomi require permission from app stores before users can access them. If app stores don't like something they do, the apps can be banned. App wallets also tell the world that you have cryptocurrency on your phone. As long as you delete your chat history with the CoinText wallet, no one can see that you have access to cryptocurrency. This may be important, for instance, if you're at a bordercrossing in a country that's unfriendly to cryptocurrency; they won't know you're hodling. Incidentally, the CoinText wallet may protect users in all civil asset forfeiture or theft scenarios better than wallet apps, making it a more private walking-around wallet.

CoinText doesn't hold private keys or keep records of transactions. The wallet is a bot. It only does what users command it to do. CoinText has no ability to stop or censor transactions. Nor can CoinText recover wallets if users lose their mobile numbers. But even in the heavily-surveilled Western world, using CoinText with a prepaid burner phone makes it extremely private and difficult to stop. Grey marketeers will rejoice.

The wallet does rely on some third-party infrastructure to function. CoinText has no control over those APIs. If for any reason they are compromised, the wallet could cease to function and will not be recoverable by CoinText or anybody else. We'll have shadows for these APIs in case one goes down, but we don't have backups of wallets. Thus, CoinText is best used as a wallet to use bitcoin cash, not for storing life savings.

Simple commands

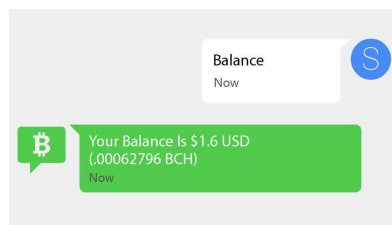
CoinText wallet has four basic commands; balance, deposit, send, and withdraw. CoinText sends a confirmation after every successful action. Save CoinText's number to your Contacts for easier use in the future.

Get Started

You get a CoinText wallet and some free BCH when you text the word **CASH** to CoinText's number in your region.

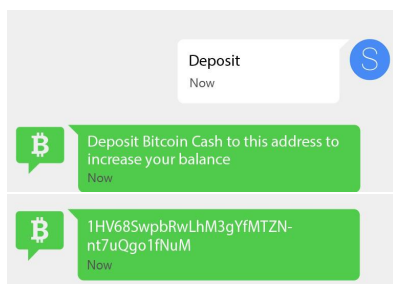
Check Your Balance

Text the word **BALANCE** to CoinText.



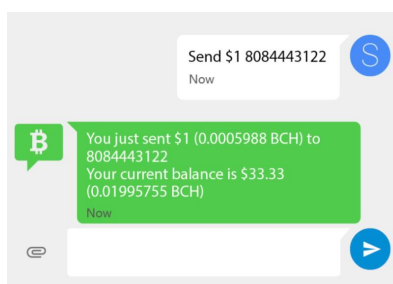
Add Funds

Text the word **DEPOSIT** to CoinText.



Send BCH to a Phone Number

Text the word "SEND" space "\$amount" space "your friend's cell number" to CoinText.



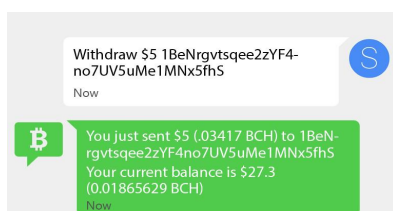
The Send command also works by replacing the dollar amount with the exact amount of BCH being sent or by texting the word **ALL** in place of the amount as a shortcut to moving the full balance of your CoinText wallet.

- Text: Send .001 BCH 8084443122
- Text: Send ALL 8084443122

Sending to a US number with the "1" in front also works.

Withdraw BCH to External Wallet

Text the word "WITHDRAW" space "\$amount" space "your external BCH address" to CoinText



The withdraw command also works with using the amount of BCH being sent or by texting the word "ALL" to withdraw the full balance.

- Text: Withdraw .0002 BCH 1HV68SwpbRwLhM3gYfMTZNnt7uQgo1fNuM
- Text: Withdraw ALL 1HV68SwpbRwLhM3gYfMTZNnt7uQgo1fNuM

Help

Text "HELP" to CoinText to review wallet commands.

Additional uses

Because the CoinText wallet works over cellular networks without Internet, there are many other exciting potential uses. CoinText will offer an API and development stack for businesses and other developers to expand the SMS economy and SMS-of-Things.

Here are some the applications beyond simple phone-to-phone transactions that CoinText aims to develop:

Merchant solutions for independent vendors

- Food trucks, street kiosks, ticket scalpers, drug dealers, etc.
- Text Buy Hat10 VendorsCell# to CoinText
 - Response: That item costs \$15 (.0075 BCH). Are you sure you want to buy it? Text YES if you're sure.

ATMs

- SMS Bitcoin Cash ATMs can function independently of Internet
 - Works in rural areas
 - Much more portable and easy to set up than ATMs that require WiFi.

On-demand utilities

- Instantly pay for 1 hour of electricity without Internet
- Pay for potable water instantly by text
- SMS pay-at-the-pump rural gas pumps

SMS gaming and sports betting

- Simple games like coin flip, rock-paper-scissors, blackjack, and emoji slots can be done over SMS

- Text “Bet \$1 Heads” to CoinFlip API number, or Text “Spin \$1” to Emoji Slots API number
- Sports betting can also be done over SMS
 - Text Bet \$100 Mayweather to Sportsbook API number

Response: “You have successfully placed a \$100 wager on Mayweather v McGregor. If you win, \$130 will be returned to your wallet shortly after the fight.”
 - API service in area with legal gaming. Anyone with international texting could technically participate.

Vending machines in rural areas

- Anyone with a phone could buy from cashless vending machines without Internet using our SMS technology.

SMS Smartlocks

- Airbnb lock that opens only if guest’s phone number pays
- Hotels and rural cabins
- Self-storage and lockers
- Gated entrances

Objectives

Our long-term objective is to create a self-sustaining tool that is used by billions of people. This means eventually collecting enough in fees to fund ongoing management, marketing and development. Our first objective in 2018 is to spread adoption of Bitcoin Cash by on-boarding 1 million new users with a faucet. We need funding for this faucet and the marketing to drive traffic to it. Additionally, we’ll use funds to expand the suite of SMS tools to further grow adoption for Bitcoin Cash by multiplying the amount of use-cases. CoinText is currently exploring seed funding.

2018 Roadmap

First Quarter

- Launch beta with basic wallet commands in US, Canada, UK and Australia.
- Test and launch merchant commands and solutions

Second Quarter

- Expand to more regions with local numbers

- South Africa, Northern Europe, Malaysia, India (English-speaking)
- Add more currency pairs (euro, yuan, yen)
- Test gaming and betting applications

Third Quarter

- Language translations for Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese
- Launch number in Japan, China,
- Develop and test ATMs Fourth Quarter:
- Launch local numbers in Spanish-speaking nations.
- Make and deploy SMS Bitcoin Cash ATMs

About CoinText

CoinText was founded in 2018 by developer Vin Armani in cooperation with Counter Markets and Coinivore. We are committed to creating a world that doesn't need fiat currency. CoinText will remain unbanked like its users. All labor and expenses will be paid using Bitcoin Cash to encourage circulation.

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