

[2018-07-10] CryptorTrust Launch Blockchain Investment Vehicle

Cryptor Trust is offering a new investment vehicle focused on Blockchain venture, named Blockchain Investment Inc., short called 'BI', the company is now open for investors worldwide. Opportunity to Invest in the drivers of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Full article on: <https://cryptortrust.com/news/cryptor-trust-launch-blockchain-investment-vehicle/>

[2016-08-03] news.bitcoin.com-Bitcoin Price Dives 22% After \$60 Million ...

Bitcoin Price Dives 22% After \$60 Million Bitfinex Hack On August 2nd, during the course of the day, the price of Bitcoin steadily dropped until mid-afternoon eastern standard time, when the currency's value suddenly plummeted. This decline period was most likely due to Bitfinex announcing their security had been breached, resulting in stolen customer funds. The exchange immediately halted all services and posted this announcement on their website: [READ MORE >>>](https://news.bitcoin.com/bitfinex-hack-bitcoin/)

<https://news.bitcoin.com/bitfinex-hack-bitcoin/>

[2016-05-18] This is how bitcoin exchange BitBargain responds to DDoS attacks

It's become a tragic common practice, where every bitcoin exchange will have to go through a DDoS attack at some point. Since bitcoin is still a nascent technology, bitcoin exchanges are often new and don't have battle-tested security. Since exchanges are the custodians of customer funds, they have become targets of hackers and all-around bad people trying to steal and extort them. Read more:

<http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/this-is-how-bitcoin-exchange-bitbargain-responds-to-ddos-attacks/>

[2016-03-12] Use Bitcoin To Donate To Any US Charities Through Catapultian

Would you use a service like Catapultian to donate to charities with Bitcoin? Using Bitcoin and other digital currencies for social good is a great way to bring some positive attention to the world of cryptocurrencies. That is easier said than done, though, as not all charities accept Bitcoin payments just yet. But that situation is coming to a change thanks to Catapultian, as they let anyone donate Bitcoin to any charity in the United States. Quite an interesting development to say the least. <http://themerple.com/use-bitcoin-to-donate-to-any-us-charities-through-catapultian/>

[2021-07-06] Swiss UBS Warning: Reg crackdowns could pop crypto markets bubble

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/bitcoin-btc-unsuitable-professional-investors-regulation-china-binance-ubs-2021-7> Crackdowns by regulators make bitcoin unsuitable for pro investors and could pop the bubble, UBS said. The bank pointed to China clamping down on mining, and the growing concern over crypto in the UK and US. It also said the common practice of trading crypto with leverage is likely to draw regulators' attention.

<https://decrypt.co/75238/ubs-regulatory-crackdowns-could-pop-bubble-like-crypto-markets>
<https://cointelegraph.com/news/investors-stay-clear-ubs-warns-regulators-could-pop-bubble-like-crypto-markets...>

[2017-11-16] Survey: Bitcoin Investors Won't Sell Until Price Nears \$200k

Survey: Bitcoin Investors Won't Sell Until Price Nears \$200k
New survey data highlights the ideological and economic factors driving some investors to purchase bitcoin. A new report published today by LendEDU – which has conducted several similar studies in the past year – details the responses from 564 poll-takers. Of those, roughly 40% of participants said that they invested in bitcoin because they believe it is "a world changing technology." Twenty-one percent of those involved say its because bitcoin is "a long term store of value, like gold or silver", with roughly 15% of those saying they bought in because a friend or family member recommended it. Those who said they think the price is "too low" accounted for 14% of respondents, while just 8% said they planned to use bitcoin as a payment method.
<https://www.coindesk.com/survey-plurality-of-bitcoin-users-think-it-can-change-world/>

[2018-02-23]CNBC - Your bitcoin may be lost for good if you die without a plan

Your bitcoin may be lost for good if you die without a plan for it
As people increasingly live their lives online, the amount of investment, social media and photo storage accounts they own has grown. You need to plan for how your loved ones will access those assets in the event that you are no longer able to. Start by taking inventory of everything you have acquired, and decide who should handle them when you're gone. If you haven't planned for how to pass on your bitcoin or your online investment account, those assets could get lost when you die. As more and more people live their lives online, so do their assets. That goes for everything from digital currency and investment accounts to social media and photo storage. That creates a unique challenge for estate planning: How should digital accounts be handled after you pass away? Many states have attempted to address this by adopting the Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act established by the nonprofit Uniform Law Commission. The law expands a fiduciary's purview to include digital assets in addition to material property. A total of 36 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands have enacted the bill, according to Suzanne Brown Walsh, a partner at law firm Murtha Cullina. But even with legislative efforts, the burden still largely falls on individuals to plan for what will happen to those assets. "It's more difficult, because 20 years ago we didn't have assets that were essentially going to disappear," Walsh said. "We certainly didn't have an asset that wasn't accessible if a private key was lost." Leave cryptocurrency keys
Private keys are required to access cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin, one of the assets that's most at risk of vanishing. "It's all going to slip through the cracks unless someone knows about it," Walsh said. If you don't leave the private key, a number that enables the cryptocurrency to be spent, that will create a problem for your estate, she said. Companies that hold those assets receive inquiries from fraudsters who pretend to represent the deceased. At the same time, an unwitting fiduciary could toss out the cryptocurrency without realizing it. "I don't think people look at thumb drives and automatically think cryptocurrency," Walsh said. "It's all going to slip through the cracks unless someone knows about it." -Suzanne Brown Walsh, partner at Murtha Cullina
Unlike traditional bank or securities accounts, most wallet services that hold cryptocurrencies don't have you name beneficiaries. Leaving instructions on how to access those private keys will help prevent the loss of those assets. Everplans, a digital estate planning company, recently added a section where users can leave instructions on where their private keys are and how to access them. Take inventory
Most people don't realize how many digital accounts they actually have, according to Lee Poskanzer, founder and CEO of Directive Communication Systems, a company that helps manage digital assets. Poskanzer said his clients start by thinking they have five or 10 digital accounts and ultimately realize they have more than 80. That includes everything from investment accounts, utilities and telecommunications to emails, social media and real estate properties. For online accounts, there are two directives you can make. One is to take action to delete or remove accounts or transfer assets, such as loyalty points in rewards programs. The other instructs what should happen to information, including Dropbox files or email messages. "Account

holders need to make both wishes known," Poskanzer said. "Otherwise, their accounts can live on in perpetuity." Include sentimental assets Certain accounts, particularly social media or photo storage, might not have a monetary value, yet could cause emotional distress if your heirs are cut off from them. "One of the most important things that I would want to get passed down to my kids is the photos I've taken of them," said Abby Schneiderman, co-founder and co-CEO of Everplans. "It's incredibly important that they know how to access them." Social media is another area where your legacy lives on even if you don't. That can include reminders of birthdays or anniversaries that can be painful to those left behind. The experience of seeing his best friend's image on Facebook after he died motivated Jeff Perkins to found TrustedHeir, which provides software to help estate planners plan for digital assets. You want to leave instructions for what you want to happen to those accounts when you die. Tips to keep in mind Maintain an up-to-date list of your online accounts Include everything from Snapchat to WhatsApp and even any virtual assets you may buy through online video games, said Poskanzer of Directive Communication Systems. Decide who will handle those accounts Name the people in your life who will take care of those accounts when you die, Everplans' Schneiderman recommended. "This is a project," Schneiderman said. "You can do it bit by bit." Pay attention to the details The person you name executor of your physical estate may not be the best person to handle your digital assets. "Your wife may not be as well-versed in technology, so you might want a son or daughter to manage those accounts for you," TrustedHeir's Perkins said. Rules will vary by site Facebook, for example, handles as many as 9,000 deaths per day, according to Perkins, and has clearly defined rules for memorialized accounts. Google, on the other hand, has a time-based trigger that will close your account if you don't log in after a certain number of days. Consider a password manager Changing passwords and two-factor authentication can make it more difficult for your loved ones to access your accounts after you're gone. Timothy McGrath, managing partner at Riverpoint Wealth Management in Chicago, recommends that his clients use a password manager such as mSecure or Dashlane to help streamline account management. You should also leave instructions for your executor on how to access those properties, McGrath said, including your cellphone and password manager. More from Personal Finance: Don't ignore this gap when signing up for Medicare That 'doctor's appointment' and other excuses your boss isn't buying Fees could sink your retirement savings. What to do about it <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/02/22/your-bitcoin-may-be-lost-for-good-if-you-die-without-a-plan-for-it.html>

[2021-03-21] NYDIG head "major firms to announce Bitcoin 'milestones' next week"

My brother mentioned this to me yesterday that he heard an interview with Robbie Guttman from stoneridge, I did some searching and came across this from the 17th of March, 4 days ago. Interesting in many ways and could be a bit worrying as more Elite's enter the space. Quote "I know starting more or less next week, you're going to see an absolute drumbeat of pretty game-changing milestones from some of these firms." — Stone Ridge co-founder Quote Gutmann, also the co-founder of \$10B asset manager Stone Ridge, told the "On the Brink" podcast on Mar. 15 that we can expect to see announcements from some of the firm's strategic partners that will drastically change the traditional financial landscape. Source > <https://cointelegraph.com/news/nydig-head-says-major-firms-will-announce-bitcoin-milestones-next-week>

[2018-07-09] Stiglitz, Roubini and Rogoff lead joint attack on bitcoin

The problem is not when people in power start requiring very strict regulations on bitcoins, but the enforcement of those regulations. They plainly do not have the manpower and the technical capability to do it. Also, the people in power should first stop the money laundering ring that involves

some of the biggest banks in the world before attacking bitcoin. Or maybe the big banks' monopoly on money laundering is threatened by bitcoin? hehehe Three of the world's most respected economists have led a joint attack on bitcoin, claiming the digital currency will be "regulated into oblivion" as governments globally move to clamp down on money laundering. Joseph Stiglitz, Nouriel Roubini and Kenneth Rogoff have renewed their assault on the cryptocurrency believing it will be subject to further sharp and damaging falls as authorities crack down on criminals using bitcoin to launder money and avoid taxes. Stiglitz, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, told Financial News: "You cannot have a means of payment that is based on secrecy when you're trying to create a transparent banking system." "If you open up a hole like bitcoin then all the nefarious activity will go through that hole, and no government can allow that." The price of the digital currency has fallen sharply from a high of almost \$20,000 in December last year to below \$6,000 at the end of June. Rogoff, the former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, said government regulation would trigger further steep falls. "Bitcoin could easily be worth just \$100 in 10 years," said the Harvard University professor. "People in power will move to regulate anonymous transactions. That you can be sure of." Read in full

<https://www.fn.london.com/articles/stiglitz-roubini-and-rogooff-lead-joint-attack-on-bitcoin-20180709>

[2016-08-03] Thomson Reuters joins R3 blockchain consortium

Thomson Reuters has joined a consortium of the world's biggest financial institutions that is working on how to use blockchain technology in global financial markets, the company said on Tuesday. Blockchain technology powers the digital currency bitcoin, enabling data sharing across a network of individual computers. It has gained worldwide popularity due to its perceived usefulness in recording and keeping track of assets across practically all industries. Thomson Reuters will be the first major data and technology provider to join R3, the consortium of more than 55 banks and other financial institutions. New York-based fintech firm R3 formed the consortium last year. <http://www.dealstreetasia.com/stories/thomson-reuters-joins-r3-blockchain-consortium-49397/>

[2018-02-24] Overstock CEO Puts 'Millions Of Dollars' Into Unknown Coin, Compare

Overstock CEO Puts 'Millions Of Dollars' Into Unknown Coin, Compares To Bitcoin Patrick Byrne, the CEO of Overstock, which was the first major retailer to accept Bitcoin (BTC) back in 2014, has said that he is "not really interested in cryptocurrencies per se," but revealed a little-known Blockchain project his company has invested "millions of dollars" into in an interview with Business Insider Friday, Feb. 23. When asked if he's interested in "everything cryptocurrency" or "really interested in the Blockchain [sic]", Byrne prefaced his answer by saying he is "really letting something big out of the bag", going on to reveal both Overstock's and his personal interest in a virtually unknown Blockchain project called Ravencoin, which launched very quietly on Jan. 3, 2018. The Ravencoin project's single blog post, published Nov. 1, 2017, opens with a sentence designed to peak the interest of a Game of Thrones-loving crypto investor: "In the fictional world of Westeros, ravens are used as messengers who carry statements of truth." The post goes on to describe Ravencoin as "a use case specific Blockchain, designed to efficiently handle one specific function: the transfer of assets from one party to another." Ravencoin was first mentioned on Bitcointalk.org on Jan. 14, 2018 in a post that described its Jan. 3 launch as containing "very little info regarding the future of the project," but that "since then, several community members have learned that there is an active development team on this coin." Byrne told Business Insider that Overstock has put "millions of dollars into teams" for Ravencoin, stating confidently, "[w]e think this coin actually has quite a future." Byrne then compared Ravencoin to leading cryptocurrency Bitcoin, saying: "It's Bitcoin, but a thousand times more energy efficient." In his interview with Business Insider, Byrne follows the project's 4-page whitepaper in identifying the problem of the rising

expenses of BTC mining and its centralization around ASIC production and cheap electricity. Byrnes claims that Ravencoin solves said problems by being "ASIC resistant" and "redemocratiz[ing] mining," going on to describe the current concentration of industrial-level mining in China: "Anyone can download this software, and you don't have an advantage by having this big mining warehouse in China." A four day old post on the /r/cryptocurrency sub-Reddit titled "What are your thoughts on Ravencoin?" further highlights the relatively unknown status of the project: "This coin is very new and also implements a brand new algorithm, X16R. Surprised that there's not a single mention of it in this subreddit, even though thousands of miners are already mining this coin. Is it being kept secret to keep mining difficulty down?" Only one person has responded so far, the day it was posted, saying: "Never heard of it until now." Byrne also told Business Insider that because Overstock was the first major corporation to accept BTC as far back as 2014, the company deserves credit for keeping Bitcoin relevant: "I like to think that we saved that community [Bitcoin] about five years in their adoption cycle." In early January of this year, a glitch with Overstock's payment system inadvertently allowed customers to pay with Bitcoin and Bitcoin Cash (BCH) interchangeably for a three-week window before the mistake was caught, charging customers in BTC or BCH at a 1:1 ratio and thus giving BCH holders a massive, unintentional discount. Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/overstock-ceo-puts-millions-of-dollars-into-unknown-coin-compares-to-bitcoin>

[2017-11-03] Jerome Powell: Good News for Cryptocurrency?

Quote Donald Trump is scheduled to announce Jerome Powell as the new Fed Chairman. His thoughts on Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency. Some have called him a bitcoin skeptic, but from watching and listening to him, I just don't see it. I would say he is neither pro bitcoin, but more importantly, he is also not against it either. And that is the big one! Here was his quote on the topic: "Nothing against bitcoin, nothing against you know, private currencies.... We generally look at some of the risk of cryptocurrencies associated with money laundering and those sorts of issues but we're not broadly opposed or supportive of alternative currencies. I think from a Fed standpoint, I would say I am very cautious on the idea of a Fed digital currency. That's something central banks are generally looking at, but I would say my approach to that would be very, very cautious." A few very important takeaways from his statement... #1 – He is not a fan of state backed cryptocurrencies. That is huge news at a time when several other large countries are working on exactly that. #2 – He seems to be looking at regulating bitcoin/cryptocurrencies as opposed to banning them. Again, this is also big news as well in a time when many others are going the banning route. The most important point in all of this wasn't actually mentioned in that quote above but was mentioned by him in a previous speech. It has to do with WHY he said he didn't like the idea of a state backed crypto... According to Powell, he doesn't like the idea of a state backed crypto because he feels like it will hamper technological innovation. Say what? You mean someone actually gets it?! Read more here... Many are saying that the Fed Chairman position is actually the second most powerful one just below POTUS. This can be the reason why any comment or pronouncement from the Chair can have repercussions all over the financial markets everywhere in the world. I have read some comments expressing some concerns about Mr. Powell but according to the article above we have nothing to worry about as the man has shown some good grasp about cryptocurrency and most likely he can never be the enemy of Bitcoin but at the same time we should not be expecting a walk-in-the-park treatment as well. What is your opinion on Mr. Powell as the coming Fed Chairman?

[2016-12-18] Bloomberg: in 2016 Bitcoin surpassed all major currencies

Bitcoin, a "fuzzy digital currency" as it was christened by Bloomberg economic news agency, surpassed in 2016 all major leading world currencies, stock indexes and commodity contracts. When Bitcoin just appeared, it was often called as The Next Big Thing in the financial markets and the

apparent continuation of the monetary evolution in the digital world. However, reaching record levels in 2013, the coin against the backdrop of Mt Gox' collapse and prohibitive measures in individual countries started to lose its value. So, during the summer of 2015 Bitcoin rate was around \$ 200...<https://bit.news/eng/bloomberg-2016-bitcoin-surpassed-major-currencies/>

[2021-03-08] Norway-Listed Aker to Put 100% Bitcoin in Treasury Reserves

Norway-Listed Aker to Put 100% Bitcoin in Treasury Reserves of New Investment Unit From Coindesk. Quote Owned by billionaire Kjell Inge Roekke, the firm's new investment entity, Seetee, is going all in on bitcoin. Yet another big player enters the Bitcoin space. Interesting to see a european high profile company make the move. I wonder if they have been influenced by Michael Saylor.

[2018-02-23] Japan: Only 0.16% Of 2017 Money Laundering Reports Came From Crypto

Japan: Only 0.16% Of 2017 Money Laundering Reports Came From Crypto Exchanges The proportion of suspected money laundering cases involving cryptocurrency in Japan is a fraction of the fiat total for 2017, new data reported by Nikkei Asian Review shows. As Nikkei reports, quoting statistics from Japan's National Police Agency, from April to December 2017, cryptocurrency exchanges reported 669 instances of suspicious activity they suspect could be money laundering. This compares to around 347,000 cases reported by banks in 2017, 15,400 from credit card companies and 13,300 from credit unions, Nikkei reports, citing police records. The total number of money laundering reports for the whole of 2017 stood at just over 400,000. The reporting period for cryptocurrency began in April, 2017 after new legislation obliged exchange operators to increase transparency and adhere to anti-money laundering regulations. The figures are promising against a continued narrative from international governments that money laundering is a key battleground to be targeted by increased regulations. Of the 669 cases, it is likely many involved "questionable transactions repeated frequently in a short span of time," Nikkei notes, further reducing the number of bad actors involved in the practice. Japan continues to keep a close eye on its fledgling exchange sphere. In the wake of Japanese crypto exchange Coincheck's \$530m In hack in January, 2018, reporting obligations for exchanges have tightened, with finance minister Taro Aso confirming "impartial" inspections by regulators are occurring across exchanges. In Australia meanwhile, Cointelegraph reported earlier this week, cryptocurrency "scams" sparked 1200 complaints to consumer watchdog the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission last year. Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-only-016-of-2017-money-laundering-reports-came-from-crypto-exchanges>

[2016-01-08] Bitcoin Price Soars To New Highs; Global Markets Slump

In a time when global markets seem to be faltering, bitcoin – the controversial digital currency – surprised everyone with its new found momentum on Thursday. Earlier this week, the trading halt in China failed to spark any major reaction in bitcoin. In fact, BTC/USD traded in a narrow range prior to Thursday. Read more at

<http://www.econotimes.com/Bitcoin-Price-Soars-To-New-Highs-Global-Markets-Slump-140062#XuzwCfbPMTuHyW4B.99>

[2016-05-15] Leaderless, Blockchain-Based Venture Capital Fund Raises

\$100 Mln

A new entity called The DAO, created using the Bitcoin-inspired financial platform Ethereum, has collected more than \$100 million worth of cryptocurrency since late April, and will use the funds to support projects in the sharing economy. The DAO is being touted as a model for a new kind of organization, created and run using blockchain software rather than conventional corporate structures.<http://fortune.com/2016/05/15/leaderless-blockchain-vc-fund/>

[2016-12-14] Integrating NFC Technology In Bitcoin Wallet Cards

General Bytes, a bitcoin and blockchain technology provider, has manufactured a new bitcoin wallet card that can be used at every Near Field Communication (NFC) point of sale. A Czech Republic-based Bitcoin hardware manufacturer, General Bytes, decided to replace QR codes with NFC bitcoin wallets for bitcoin point of sale (POS). The company thinks that the new NFC technology can simplify the user experience while transacting with bitcoin. Meanwhile, other market experts and competitors think introducing NFC technology into bitcoin POS machines won't really make a big difference as they are all automatic systems. You can read more and take part in the discussion here: <https://coinidol.com/integrating-nfc-technology-in-bitcoin-wallet-cards/>

[2018-07-03] Voorhees vs Schiff: Bull Meets Bear at NY Bitcoin Debate

A debate between an infamous bitcoin detractor and one of the cryptocurrency's most well-known entrepreneurs made sparks fly in New York City Monday. Hosted by the Soho Forum, a monthly Manhattan debate series, the event saw Erik Voorhees, the CEO of exchange service ShapeShift, argue that government-backed monies will eventually be replaced by bitcoin and blockchain innovations. The world's largest cryptocurrency, he said, just needs gradual adoption to eventually triumph. However, the debate was far from a one-sided showcase. There to represent the opposition, Peter Schiff provided more than a healthy dose of skepticism. Perhaps most damningly, he argued people are not currently buying into bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies to use them; they're here to get rich, he said. The economist said that bitcoin is primarily seen as a speculative asset. Moreover, even people who do plan to use bitcoin cannot do so easily. Bitcoin is not, at present, a reliable store of value, he continued. Schiff pointed out that the price of a bitcoin can change hour-to-hour, which makes it difficult for people to price goods or negotiate contracts using the cryptocurrency. "The biggest problem with bitcoin and why it can never be used as money is because [currency] has to be a reliable store of value, not just a medium of exchange," he said. Voorhees did not see market fluctuations as an issue. He told the crowd: "I remember when it was a big deal when bitcoin moved 50 percent. Today, it's a big deal when it moves 10 percent. I think in a few years it'll be a big deal when it moves 2-3 percent. While bitcoin is volatile today, I think this problem is self-correcting." Still, the event did see both provocateurs find common ground. Schiff, for example, doesn't believe in fiat currency. "The fiat system that we have now is not going to work," but "replacing fiat currency with digital currency is not an improvement," he said. See More: <https://www.coindesk.com/voorhees-vs-schiff-bull-tackles-bear-at-bitcoin-debate/>

[2017-07-13] You can't buy much online with bitcoin, says report

If you've stumbled onto a stash of bitcoins and want to do some online shopping, the bad news is you probably won't be buying much. This year, the cryptocurrency is only accepted by three out of the top 500 online merchants, reports Bloomberg. That's down from five from last year, making using Bitcoin to buy things from merchants a lot tougher. The lack of merchants is puzzling, given the gains from bitcoins recently -- one bitcoin is worth more than an ounce of gold -- and may be a sign

that the cryptocurrency is better off as an asset than currency. The Bloomberg report also mentioned that transaction fees could be an issue why the cryptocurrency is not widely accepted. With fees climbing, smaller transactions aren't worth it compared to using other payment methods. <https://www.cnet.com/news/you-cant-really-shop-much-online-with-bitcoin-says-report/>

[2017-11-12] Confusion and Euphoria As Bitcoin Cash Surges Past \$30 Billion

Confusion and Euphoria As Bitcoin Cash Surges Past \$30 Billion "BITCOIN CASH IS BITCOIN NOW." Issued by Li Ang, head of China-based bitcoin mining outfit Canoe Pool, the proclamation may not be distinguishable from typical cryptocurrency banter. However, the difference this time around is the context. No idle statement, Ang's comment comes amid what can only be characterized as one of the biggest migrations of capital yet seen in the nascent asset class. Billions are on the move in the crypto markets, and it's plainly observable where the funds are headed. After hitting a record high above \$800 on Friday, the price of bitcoin cash, the alternative cryptocurrency forked from the bitcoin blockchain in August, has doubled within 24 hours, hitting a high of \$1,856 according to figures from data provider CoinMarketCap. At that price, bitcoin cash is now valued at more than \$30 billion, passing ethereum for second-place standing in the market. The move follows the sudden decision this week by a group of businesses and mining pools to suspend an effort to change the rules of the bitcoin software. Called Segwit2x, or simply "2x" by some, the effort would have increased bitcoin's block size – one way by which its transaction capacity can be measured. But while bitcoin's developers and technologists lauded the suspension, miners and entrepreneurs lamented what they described to CoinDesk as a decision that would inspire others to migrate to blockchains more accommodating to their ideas and ideals. And if it was unclear at the time which alternatives would win favor, bitcoin cash is already proving the primary beneficiary. Early and active in migrating support appears to be bitcoin's miners. According to data from Fork.lol, at roughly 4:30 UTC on Sunday the total amount of mining power backing the bitcoin cash blockchain surpassed that of the bitcoin blockchain. When asked about the move Jiang Zhuoer, founder of bitcoin mining pool BTC.TOP, said simply that "2x fans" are moving both funds and mining hardware to bitcoin cash. "BTC is going to die," Zhuoer said. Hapio Yang, CEO of mining pool operator ViaBTC, responded similarly, indicating he believes that businesses and investors are now migrating funds to bitcoin cash. "I think more and more bitcoin holders are starting to understand what is the real bitcoin," he said via WeChat. Doom sellers Indeed, spurred by a sudden change in market outlook, bitcoin cash supporters appeared emboldened in their remarks. No doubt part of the equation is the soaring valuation of the protocol, which after debuting at \$4 billion in August, hasn't exactly solve some of its more pressing open questions. Still, Jake Smith, general manager of cryptocurrency web portal Bitcoin.com, owned by investor and block size increase advocate Roger Ver, doubled down on the idea that the new investment dollars represent more than a speculative migration in the market soon to pass. Smith noted that with the price boost bitcoin cash's value proposition can only now be strengthened by what he categorized as its ultimate performance increases over the bitcoin blockchain. "I think a positive feedback loop has been created. This is waking people up to the shaky foundations BTC is built on," he said. Smith went so far as to describe the typical doomsday situation predicted by those supporting larger blocks – that bitcoin's transaction backlog will continue to grow, its transactions will become more expensive, and that these two factors will decrease user experience and force users to migrate. Other supporters like bitcoin cash developer Juan Garavaglia chalked up the day's price movements to "better planning" by those using the protocol. "Bitcoin Core is unable to execute, has a poor roadmap [and is] disconnected with market needs," Garavaglia said. "We can execute, we have smooth coordination with key market actors and we address market needs." Skeptical voices If those boasts sound familiar, so too was the rhetoric from those who were more apt to read the bitcoin cash price movements with more incredulity. Jack Liao, the CEO of Hong Kong-based mining firm LightningASIC, for instance, sought to frame the idea that the bitcoin cash price increase

represented any real uptick in interest in the project as "total bullshit." One of the leaders behind the bitcoin gold cryptocurrency, set to launch tomorrow, Liao has been a noted critic of bitcoin's mining operators, in particular, Bitmain – one of the industry's largest sellers of specialized mining chips and the operator of several mining pools. For those following the scaling debate, Bitmain's conduct has been one of the larger contentious narrative points, and Liao (like others) believes the explosion seen in the bitcoin cash market value is nothing more than an orchestrated bid by the firm (and its supporters) to prop up the market. "Many, many investors just see the change in hash rate," he said. "But they cannot support such a big bitcoin cash price." Beijing-based over-the-counter Zhao Dong reported a similar sentiment in some circles, crediting the price to manipulation by miners and investors who have supported Segwit2x and bitcoin cash in the past. Bitmain and Ver were both signatories of the agreement that sparked the 2x software. "They have money, they have hash power, they have everything need to pump the bitcoin cash price," he said. Indeed, one of the more interesting theories at the moment revolves around an unconfirmed PasteBin conversation that seems to foretell yesterday's market move. (Though this may say more about current paranoia in the industry at large). Swing states Still, that's not to say the reaction was broken along partisan lines. Willy Woo, recently named one of CoinDesk's Top 5 Token Analysts of 2017, sees the price move as perhaps one to watch. In contrast to other alternative cryptocurrencies that he said may lack value propositions, he went so far as to color bitcoin cash as a more nuanced option. "It's backed by a lot of money from China controlling its price and supporting its network. If you buy bitcoin cash, you are betting that China wants it to dominate. That's a strategic and geopolitical bet," he told CoinDesk. Bobby Lee, CEO of mining pool and exchange operator BTCC, had a similar reaction. Long a business that supported the Segwit2x proposal to upgrade the blockchain, he reads the price boost in bitcoin cash as an obvious side effect of the decision to block the upgrade. While he acknowledged that it's yet to be seen whether this weekend's movements amount to anything more than a quick speculative fervor, he still hinted the situation remains one he'll be watching and observing. Of particular concern for Lee, and others, is the decline in bitcoin's total mining power. Lee went so far as to suggest that any continuing decline in this metric could cut into an attribute that has traditionally been one of the cryptocurrency's defining characteristics. Lee concluded: "If BTC's hash power continues to fall, then I do think BTC has long-term trouble." Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/confusion-euphoria-bitcoin-cash-30-billion-2000/>

[2016-08-01] BTCUSD Price Technical Analysis – Bears Taking Control!

BTCUSD finally made a strong breakout of its consolidation pattern or symmetrical triangle formation. Price broke to the downside, signaling that sellers are getting the upper hand that further losses are likely. The chart pattern is approximately \$100 in height so the resulting breakdown could last by the same amount. The moving averages are still oscillating but it's likely the 100 SMA will make a downward crossover after this sharp break lower. These indicators are around the top of the triangle so these could hold as dynamic resistance in the event of a pullback. Stochastic is already indicating oversold conditions so buyers might be ready to regain control. Similarly RSI is in the oversold area, which means that sellers might need to take a break soon. A pullback could find resistance at the \$650 broken triangle support or at the resistance at \$660. A break past that area could show that bullish momentum is back in place and that the longer-term uptrend has a chance to resume. <http://www.forexminute.com/btcusd-price-technical-analysis-bears-taking-control/>

[2018-06-29] JEI-Erian calls bitcoin a buy if its price falls below \$5,000

After tumbling some 70 percent from its peak, bitcoin is reaching a point where even an authority like Mohamed El-Erian thinks it could be a buy. The chief economic advisor at Allianz, considered one of the most influential financial market thinkers in the world, said Friday that the cryptocurrency would be worth considering if it falls before \$5,000. Bitcoin was trading around \$5,870 as El-Erian

made his remarks to CNBC's "Squawk Box." "I don't think you get all the way back to \$20,000, but I do think that you need to establish a base whereby the people who really believe in the future of bitcoin consolidate and then that provides you a lift," he said. Bitcoin saw a meteoric rise in 2017 as digital currencies surged in popularity and dozens of competitors came to market. However, a number of obstacles, from continued stories of fraud to threats of a regulatory hammer coming down across the world, has caused a big pullback since a December price peak of more than \$19,000. Now, the question turns to what is the future of cryptos and the shape that bitcoin and others will take. Where at one point there were more than 40 digital currencies with market caps above \$100 billion, bitcoin now alone holds that designation, according to CoinMarketCap. El-Erian said cryptocurrencies likely won't be currencies at all but more like commodities. "I suspect that if you look 10 to 15 years down the road, we will have digital currencies but the public sector will have involvement in that. It will not be pure bitcoin," he said. "But the blockchain technology, take that seriously." More...

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/29/el-erian-calls-bitcoin-a-buy-if-its-price-falls-below-5000.html>

[2020-12-11] CoinGecko released its November 2020 Report

CoinGecko released its November 2020

Report: <https://bitcoingarden.org/coingecko-released-its-november-2020-report/> CoinGecko, the world's leading independent cryptocurrency aggregator, has just released its November 2020 Report. In their analysis of the market, CoinGecko highlighted Bitcoin's price reaching its new All-Time High (ATH) at \$19,725. The new ATH comes 3 years after its previous high of \$19,665. It is likely due to the stream of institutional investors as well as the anticipation for the launch of S&P Dow Jones Indices set for 2021. Overall, the news of mainstream adoption has helped to promote a more positive sentiment towards cryptocurrency, particularly Bitcoin. In November, the market outperformed October's growth (46% vs 20%) by recording yet another year high at \$554 billion, far surpassing the previous high of \$378 billion. Furthermore, the trading volume saw an amazing increase of 82% from the previous month. The rally was led by institutional investors and mainstream media as more recognised the opportunities in adopting crypto....

[2017-11-09] Portugal's Central Bank Governor: Bitcoin Isn't a Currency

Portugal's Central Bank Governor: Bitcoin Isn't a Currency Hélder Rosalino, the governor of Portugal's Central bank, Banco de Portugal (BdP), recently spoke to Portuguese publication ECO about bitcoin, cryptocurrencies, blockchain technology, and Fintech in general. To Rosalino, it's important that people know "a cryptocurrency isn't a currency" to Portugal's central bank. To the financial institution's governor, a currency needs to both store value and have the ability to be used as credit. Per Rosalino, when a central bank issues currency, it's creating a liability on its balance sheet that needs to be paid. He stated (roughly translated): Quote A currency, to be classified as such, needs to have two fundamental characteristics: The first is to associate itself with the idea of store of value, then, on that currency there must be a right to credit. When a central bank creates a currency, it creates a liability on its balance sheet that has to be paid. If, one day, everyone was to hand that currency over to their banks, then the central bank would have to pay, and the liability would be

eliminated. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/portugals-central-bank-governor-bitcoin-isnt-a-currency/>

[2017-07-13] First Swiss Bank To Allow Its Clients to Exchange and Hold Bitcoins

A Swiss private bank with 50 years of expertise in wealth management – Falcon Group – has become the first local bank to offer a new feature of blockchain asset management, including Bitcoin, to its clients. Now, Switzerland becomes more cryptocurrency friendly. A new service has become available through Falcon Group's cooperation with Bitcoin Suisse AG, a regulated crypto financial broker based in Switzerland. The bank has already received approval from FINMA (the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority) to launch this unique product. Read the full article: <https://coinidol.com/first-swiss-bank-to-allow-exchange-and-hold-bitcoins/>

[2016-03-08] Bitcoin Technical Analysis for 03/08/16 – The Plot Thickens

The Bitcoin market is never boring and this past week didn't disappoint with the flash crash to \$380. The price has since rebounded and Bitcoin is currently trading at \$414. One of the main factors which undeniably contributed to the price slump is Bitcoin's transaction backlog which occurred around March 3rd. Last week the network got flooded with spam transaction, which effectively increased the fee required to confirm transactions in a timely manner. As a result, many services that accepted Bitcoin received a flood of customer complaints that their payments weren't going through. This caused many merchants to remove Bitcoin as a payment options from their store, furthermore an article published on The Verge titled "Bitcoin's nightmare scenario has come to pass" received an extraordinary amount of shares which also attributed to the weekend selloff. Read More: <http://themerikle.com/technicalanalysis/bitcoin-technical-analysis-for-030716/>

[2018-02-16] Trader at Chicago Firm Stole Millions in BTC, Faces 20 Year Sentence

Late 2017 will long be remembered as the time when bitcoin went mainstream. Prices were mooning, and the general atmosphere was one of fear of missing out. That sentiment was especially true in trading circles, and more traditional outlets were experimenting with cryptocurrency divisions in order to take advantage. One such experiment went sour, as a trader attempted to play upon relative company ignorance by shorting bitcoin and covering personal margin calls, with the affair ending in million dollar losses and a first of its kind federal prosecution. Bitcoin Trader Faces 20 Years in Prison Consolidated Trading, LLC's Joseph Kim, according to federal authorities, emailed, "Until the end I was perversely trying to fix what I had already done. I can't believe I did not stop myself when I had the money to give back, and I will live with that for the rest of my life. You have every apology I have to give, I am sorry to betray you all like this." John R. Lausch Jr, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois in conjunction with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), insists Mr. Kim "worked as an assistant trader for...a Chicago trading firm that recently formed a cryptocurrency group to engage in cryptocurrency trading...Over a two-month period in the Fall of last year, Kim misappropriated at least \$2 million of the firm's Bitcoin and Litecoin cryptocurrency for his own personal benefit, and he made false statements and representations to the company's management in order to conceal the theft." According to reports, Mr. Kim had previous experience in cryptocurrency by way of working in South Korea for a time after graduating from the prestigious University of Chicago. He joined Consolidated in the Summer of 2016 as an assistant bond trader. Employees describe him as having gone by the online name "degen," as in 'degenerative gambler'. It's the first federal criminal prosecution of its kind in Chicago, and Mr. Kim, 24, is being charged with one count of wire fraud punishable by up to 20 years in prison. U.S. v. Kim, 18-cr-107, states "from September through November 2017, Kim transferred more than \$2 million of the trading firm's Bitcoin and Litecoin to personal accounts to cover his own trading losses, which had been incurred while trading cryptocurrency futures on foreign exchanges." Learn more: <https://news.bitcoin.com/trader-at-chicago-firm-stole-millions-in-btc-faces-20-year-sentence/>

[2016-07-29]-CCN-Gary Johnson consider granting pardons to Ross Ulbricht

Libertarian Presidential Candidate Would Consider Ross Ulbricht Pardon
Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson has said that he would consider granting pardons to several high-profile convicts of hacking and computer-related crimes such as Ross Ulbricht, Edward Snowden, and Chelsea

Manning.<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/libertarian-prez-would-consider-ross-ulbricht-pardon/>

[2016-05-15]Swift Is Hacked Again. The Bitcoin/Blockchain Fat Lady Sings.

Swift Is Hacked Again. The Bitcoin/Blockchain Fat Lady Sings.
The SWIFT payment system failed again this week. The tone of Swift's announcement intimated the end of life on the planet earth as we know it. Swift's description of the system's attackers was apocalyptic, and did nothing to minimize the skills of the attackers, adding that the funds seized might be, of course, reinvested to give the hackers a kind of turboboost of evil. My sources tell me the culprit is Brainiac from the planet Zod...<http://seekingalpha.com/article/3975082-swift-hacked-bitcoin-blockchain-fat-lady-sings>

[2020-10-08] Admiral says Bitcoin and crypto threaten democracy in South America

What definition of democracy was he talking about? The American democracy where every other nation follows their rules? This is similar to their peace process. If you are not with it and its interests, they will bomb you hehehehe.
US Southern Command aims to better control unruly regimes in South America, but cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin are making things a little more difficult.
For Navy Admiral Craig Faller, head of US Southern Command, the use of cryptocurrency throughout the "young democracies" of the Southern Hemisphere is a problem for the United States—and he is taking this "threat" very seriously.
Read in full

<https://decrypt.co/44218/us-southern-command-crypto-threatens-democracy-south-america>

[2016-07-28] Payza launches prepaid card internationally

Global payments platform Payza, which is based in London, has announced the international expansion of the Payza Prepaid Card, now available to most countries all over the globe.
Read more: <http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/payza-launches-prepaid-card-internationally/>

[2020-10-14]Unqualified investors can buy up to \$8K of crypto says Bank of Russia

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/unqualified-investors-can-buy-up-to-8k-of-crypto-says-bank-of-russia>
Quote[...] When the Bank of Russia first suggested the 600,000 ruble crypto purchases limit back in 2019, the amount was worth about \$9,100. [...] Looks to me that this is a thinly-veiled form of capital controls to prevent the value of RUB from collapsing.

[2017-07-09] Mark Karpeles, Former CEO of the Bankrupt Bitcoin Exchange Mt Gox

The trial of Mark Karpeles is finally to get underway next week regarding the missing 750,000

bitcoins, now worth nearly \$2 billion, according to AFP. The Frenchman is expected to plead not guilty according to his lawyer Kiichi Iino, who further said Karpeles was keeping calm as the trial gets underway. "The charges (against Karpeles) only cover a subset of the issues which were happening at MtGox, so I don't expect that we will find out most of the information we want to know," Kolin Burges, a British investor who said he lost several hundred Bitcoins in the Mt Gox collapse, told AFP. Karpeles was arrested back in August 2015 with the Japanese detaining him for nearly a year, until he was released on bail in 2016, awaiting the trial which is now to begin. He presided over what back then was the biggest bitcoin exchange by far, handling around 80% of the trading volume, but the platform was always besieged by troubles. A hack of MT Gox in 2011 gave bitcoin a reputation of being unsafe, with its rise in popularity in spring 2013 meeting MT Gox's technical difficulties through DDoSing and inability to handle demand, leading to a price fall. When bitcoin's popularity soared again in November and December 2013, sending its price to an all time high of around \$1,000, MT Gox failed to process bitcoin withdrawals, later announcing that due to a bug in bitcoin's protocol, called transaction malleability, all their bitcoin had been hacked. Researchers found only 2,000 bitcoins had been stolen through transaction malleability, with blockchain explorers further discovering MT Gox had 200,000 bitcoins it had not revealed. They later admitted to the 200,000 bitcoins, which are still being held by the trustee awaiting distribution to creditors, but what happened to the rest remains unknown. Their internal database was leaked, with analysis showing the loss may have been incurred in 2011, but the data was patchy, so it's not clear whether it was a one-off theft or a slow bleed of bitcoins. Karpeles himself has faced allegations of embezzlement, with some suggesting he was living a lavish lifestyle, renting an \$11,000-a-month penthouse, with some proposing he might have slowly spent the bitcoins himself. After now more than three years, little light has been shed on the events. A blockchain analysis company seemingly claimed to have found the missing coins, but later told trustnodes they "did not claim to know where the money is today only where it went." The trial might, perhaps, reveal in more detail what exactly happened during the three or four years prior to MT Gox's demise, not least because the prosecution will have to thoroughly present their case. They will probably focus on somewhat easier aspects, such as proving he did not keep customer's deposits into separate accounts, but they may go into more detail, especially as MT Gox's bank accounts should have left a clear money trail. The complexity suggests it will probably go for months, with MT Gox creditors unlikely to receive their funds before the end of the trial. Once the trustee does distribute the funds, MT Gox creditors may receive their full investment, perhaps even with profits, as bitcoin's price rise has now made MT Gox technically solvent. <http://www.trustnodes.com/2017/07/09/mark-karpeles-former-ceo-bankrupt-bitcoin-exchange-mt-gox-heads-trial>

[2016-03-04] Japan to adopt new safeguards for bitcoin users

TOKYO -- Japan's cabinet approved new regulations Friday governing transactions involving cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, aiming to improve transparency and protect consumers. Japan currently has no laws specifically covering cryptocurrencies and effectively treats them as objects. The new regulations designate bitcoin as a legal form of payment fulfilling the functions of currency.

Although the 2014 bankruptcy of Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange operator Mt. Gox had stoked fears about the safety of cryptocurrencies, usage is back on an upswing. Japan now has seven cryptocurrency exchanges and an estimated 50,000 or so bitcoin users. Daily transaction volume has tripled over the past three months to around 600 million yen (\$5.26 million). More than 1,000 stores now take payment in bitcoin, including restaurants, dentists and nail salons. <http://asia.nikkei.com/Politics-Economy/Policy-Politics/Japan-to-adopt-new-safeguards-for-bitcoin-users>

[2016-07-28] themerkle.com-Bitcoin Traders Should Explore Foreign Exchange ...

Bitcoin Traders Should Explore Foreign Exchange Arbitrage Opportunities When it comes to arbitrating Bitcoin exchanges, traders will usually stick to the same fiat currency. For example, one exchange trades 5-8 USD above or below the next, which creates a gap waiting to be exploited. Events like these are not all that uncommon, albeit less frequent than some people may like at this point. But just a week ago, a reserve scenario had taken place. The volatility across foreign exchange markets is creating some interesting shifts very few people will take advantage of. Bitcoin, due to its global appeal, can be traded against nearly every fiat currency in the world. Given the volatile nature of some of these currencies, such as the Yen, Real, and Ruble, new price gaps emerge. [READ MORE >>>](#)

<http://themerikle.com/bitcoin-traders-should-explore-foreign-exchange-arbitrage-opportunities/>

[2017-07-08] Polish Authorities Issue Sweeping Condemnation of Bitcoin and Other

Polish Authorities Issue Sweeping Condemnation of Bitcoin and Other Digital Currencies Polish authorities, regulators, and banks issued a sweeping statement warning of the risk of bitcoin, ethereum, and other cryptocurrencies. They said these currencies are not national or legal tender and cannot be used to pay taxes. They do not fall within the guidelines provided by Polish Financial Supervision Authority. Businesses, especially, should be wary about adopting or trying to use “virtual currencies.” The authority’s warning read, “Polish National Bank and Financial Supervision Commission Polish Authorities Issue Sweeping Condemnation of Bitcoin and Other Digital Currencies report that “virtual currencies” are not issued or guaranteed by the central bank of the state, not money, ie. They are not legal tender, or currency, can not be used to pay off tax liabilities and do not meet the criterion of general acceptance in retail outlets” The article, however, did mention that “virtual currencies” currently do not violate EU or national law. They just allegedly harbor a laundry list of risks, and people should recognize these risks before getting involved in the digital currency

landscape. <https://news.bitcoin.com/polish-authorities-issue-sweeping-condemnation-of-bitcoin-and-other-digital-currencies/>

[2016-11-22] Bitcoin Price Surpasses US\$1,250 In Nigeria Amid Surging Naira Value

Bitcoin Price Surpasses US\$1,250 In Nigeria Amid Surging Naira Value Bitcoin prices can vary significantly from country to country. Specific regions are subject to paying premium prices, with China being a great example. But Nigeria is warming up to Bitcoin as well, sending prices soaring to unseen levels. Just yesterday, the price per BTC touched US\$1,251.18 across Nigerian Bitcoin exchanges. Considering how the average global price was US\$725 at that time, such a large cap is rather unusual. Bitx is one of Nigeria’s most prominent Bitcoin exchanges to date. The platform attracts traders, consumers, and investors from all over the country. Interestingly enough, Bitx cannot provide ample liquidity to accommodate large trades right now. Due to this low liquidity, the price per individual BTC spiked to over US\$1,250

yesterday. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/11/22/bitcoin-price-surpasses-us1250-nigeria-amid-surging-naira-value/>

[2016-07-27] Bitcoin Startup Circle Establish Key Partnership With Major South K

KB Kookmin Bank, one of the biggest South Korean financial entities, announced the establishment

of an alliance to promote financial operations tied to blockchain and mobile technologies.<http://themerikle.com/bitcoin-startup-circle-establish-key-partnership-with-major-south-korean-bank/>

[2016-07-28] Bitcoin Impact Debated Ahead of Possible Bank of Japan Stimulus

The price of bitcoin has benefited from macroeconomic uncertainty this year, rising more than 50% over the last six months as China devalued the yuan and the UK dramatically exited the European Union. As the calendar rolls ahead to August, and excitement over these price drivers fades, market observers are beginning to wonder if further global events will benefit the digital currency's markets in 2016. Against this backdrop, a Bank of Japan (BOJ) meeting approaching later this week has many digital currency market observers wondering how any new easing announced by the central bank could come to impact the price of bitcoin. If the central bank uses additional stimulus, this move could place downward pressure on the yen's buying power, motivating market participants to flee the currency and purchase safe haven assets like bitcoin instead. Of course, the perception that this event could occur may be just as powerful given that the bitcoin price is often driven by speculation, in both senses of the word. A majority of economists participating in a recent Reuters poll – as well as the most respondents in a survey conducted by Citi – indicated their expectation is that further easing will come from the BOJ's meeting, to be held on 28th and 29th July. <http://www.coindesk.com/bank-japan-bitcoin-traders-debate-impact/>

[2017-07-07] UK Art Gallery becomes the First to Accept Bitcoin

A Mayfair art gallery has become the first in the U.K. to accept six digital currencies including bitcoin, ethereum and ethereum classic. Dadiani Fine Art, located in Cork Street, London, is revolutionizing how buyers can pay for art by connecting the worlds of technology and art together. Including digital currencies as payment options to the fine art gallery was thought up by Eleesa Dadiani, the gallery's owner. According to Dadiani, she hopes that by incorporating digital currencies such as bitcoin to the world of art it will get other businesses to start thinking about how they can adapt to change to new technological innovations. She said: "Cryptocurrencies will provide a bridge from the elitist, centralist fine art market to a decentralized open source world where many more will be able to become part of this exhilarating market." She adds that as the current system is becoming stale it needs to be disrupted and that digital currencies hold the key. "This could be a turning point for the cryptocurrency market. For many years, it has been ridiculed but when traditional businesses, such as art galleries, take it seriously it is a sure sign that this is a very important technology that will change things as we know it." Aside from offering bitcoin, the additional digital currencies on offer include ethereum, ethereum classic, ripple, litecoin and dash. However, as more altcoins become widely recognized the art gallery plans on including those too. It will also be launching its own currency, the DadiCoin, in the future. The use of bitcoin and the other digital currencies will be available for use at the launch of Dadiani's upcoming exhibition, The Noise by Mike O'Connor, owner of Heritage F1, which is the only company in the U.K. to buy and sell F1 cars. The exhibition will take place from the 14th July until the 31st July, 2017. The exhibition is a dedication to the world of motor racing where six sculptures made from the exhaust pipes of Formula One racing cars and other rare motor car memorabilia will be available for purchase. The pieces on display are expected to sell between £25,000 to £30,000. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/uk-art-gallery-becomes-the-first-to-accept-bitcoin-to-art-buyers/>

[2016-03-04] Bitcoin payments around the world are failing ...

Bitcoin payments around the world are failing as the platform is overwhelmed Bitcoin payments are failing around the world as the digital currency platform that supports it struggles to cope with a surge in demand, according to

Re/code.<http://www.businessinsider.my/bitcoin-is-collapsing-and-payments-around-the-world-are-failing-2016-3/>even when i disagree with the headline everyone must admit that, gavin and co were right when they started the discussion about blocksize 2 years ago. with 2 MB blocks we wouldn't have this press and "stuck" transactions. we would have time to build out layer 2 without stress.

[2017-07-07] Bajaj Allianz Deploys Blockchain Motor Insurance In India

We've explored the use of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology before in the case of bitflyers insurance products for retailers. Now one company is set to revolutionize car insurance by integrating blockchain technology to allow claims to be processed almost instantly, Bajaj Allianz one of the biggest insurers in India, has announced its range of products based on blockchain technology for motorists and individuals. Removing the intermediaries involved with settling claims. The platform has [READ more : https://btc.ng/bitcoin-usage/1605/](https://btc.ng/bitcoin-usage/1605/)

[2016-03-04] Cabinet of Japan Greenlights Bitcoin As Payment Method

Bitcoin puts on many different hats, depending on which country it is related to. Some states see Bitcoin as a currency, others as a commodity, and most regions don't even recognize Bitcoin at all. Things are moving in the direction of recognizing this disruptive technology as a currency with similar traits to fiat currency, though. A new set of bills has been approved by the Cabinet of Japan to recognize virtual currencies as a tool with similar functions to government-issued money.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/03/04/cabinet-of-japan-greenlights-bitcoin-as-payment-method/>

[2017-05-08] Australia Commits to Kill Bitcoin Double Tax Despite Delay

Australia Commits to Kill Bitcoin Double Tax Despite Delay The Australian government has reaffirmed its commitment to put an end to the 'double taxation' of purchases made by bitcoin and other digital currencies in the country. Over a year ago in March 2016, the Australian government, through its Treasury, released a comprehensive policy titled "Australia's FinTech Priorities" in a marked effort to boost the local financial technology industry. In it, the government pledged to address the 'double taxation' of digital currencies. "[We] will take action to prevent the double taxation of digital currencies – we won't be taxing digital currencies," stated Australian Treasurer Scott Morrison at the time, in no uncertain terms. Australian consumers are taxed twice during a transaction related to digital currencies, once for the GST (goods and services tax) on the product and again for the GST levied on the digital currency used for the payment. "If you pay \$4 in bitcoin for a coffee, you will pay 40c GST for the coffee, and 40c again for the bitcoin you used to pay for the coffee," explained Daniel Alexiuc, CEO of Australian bitcoin startup Living Room of Satoshi, speaking to CCN at the time. This is due to the Australian Tax Office deeming bitcoin as an 'intangible property', treating its transactions as barter transactions, rather than acknowledging the cryptocurrency as money or a foreign currency. Come May 2016, the Government followed up on its pledge to put an end to the GST treatment of digital currencies. "This change will ensure that consumers are no longer 'double taxed' when using digital currencies to buy goods and services already subjected to GST," the government stated in its 2016-17 Budget summary. A year later, those legislative changes to put an end to the double taxation of bitcoin purchases are yet to occur, leaving Australia's bitcoin and FinTech industry frustrated. "It could be put through Parliament very

quickly. We've been told that it is going through but it needs to be prioritized on the agenda, but it just hasn't...We're a bit disappointed with the delay," stated Danielle Szetho last month, the chief executive of industry lobby group FinTech Australia. Keeping its Promise In an official response published last week in response to recommendations by its advisory body, the Australian Government heard that "digital currencies, such as Bitcoin, should be treated as a financial supply for GST purposes." A legislative change would be required to update the definition of money to include digital currencies, the advisory body stated. To this, the Government has reiterated its earlier stance, stating in its response: The Government agrees that consumers should not be subject to the GST twice when using digital currency to purchase goods or services...Any change to the GST treatment of digital currencies is subject to formal state and territory agreement. CCN has previously reported on the three specific options that the Australian Treasury would consider to prevent the double taxation of digital currencies. In its document published last week, the Australian Government has also revealed plans toward regulating bitcoin exchanges in the country. Source: <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/australia-commits-kill-bitcoin-double-tax-despite-delay/>

[2017-11-07] Engineer 3 Years Prison for DDOS China Bitcoin Exchanges

7 November 2017 Beijing-Pan, a network security engineer, hired Russian hackers to DDOS several bitcoin exchanges in China on the darknet. Then he blackmailed these exchanges, demanding bitcoins to stop the attack. On 27th Oct ,2017, he was sentenced to 3 years in prison with 5,000 yuan fine in Beijing. <http://news.8btc.com/security-engineer-sentenced-to-3-years-in-prison-after-ddosing-china-bitcoin-exchanges-for-66-btc>

[2017-10-10] B2X: Bitcoin Exchange Bitfinex Reveals Ticker for SegWit2x Fork

B2X: Bitcoin Exchange Bitfinex Reveals Ticker for SegWit2x Fork Bitcoin exchange Bitfinex has signaled its intent to provide support for both bitcoin blockchains following the SegWit2x hard fork in November. The exchange will continue to list the incumbent blockchain as "Bitcoin" under the ticker symbol "BTC" and will list the SegWit2x blockchain as "B2X". Bitfinex made the announcement in a statement on the exchange website on Friday, stressing that it does not "intend to advocate for or against any particular hard fork" and made the decision to list the incumbent blockchain as BTC and the new one as B2X due to operational concerns. From the statement: "We have a responsibility to foster, maintain, and support orderly markets that trade continuously 24/7/365. With a hard fork that lacks clear community consensus, we cannot suspend operations and wait for a winner to emerge. Leveraged trading requires that our markets operate continuously. On operational requirements alone, we must designate such forks as new assets." Significantly, Bitfinex added that this designation would not depend on hashing power, so the original blockchain will continue to be listed as "Bitcoin" even if the B2X chain attracts more initial support from miners. However, the exchange may alter these labels in the future if "market forces suggest...a more appropriate" labeling scheme: "We are doing this for practical and operational reasons. Political considerations are irrelevant here. While we cannot change or re-assign ticker symbols, we can change the label or description associated with that ticker symbol. For the time being, BTC will continue to be labeled as "Bitcoin," and B2X will be labeled as "B2X." This will remain the case unless and until such time that market forces suggest an alternative, more appropriate, labeling scheme for one or both chains." To help maintain pricing stability after the fork, Bitfinex has created chain split tokens that enable traders to bet on the future value of the coins on each blockchain. Traders can deposit BTC and receive an equivalent amount of both BT1 (incumbent blockchain) and BT2 (SegWit2x blockchain). Following the fork, Bitfinex will convert the tokens into BTC and B2X. At present, BT1 is trading at \$3,476, while BT2 is priced at \$1,173. Bitcoin exchange Coinbase has also announced it will support both

blockchains following the fork. However, Coinbase — a SegWit2x supporter — has not revealed what labels and tickers it will apply to each chain.Source:

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/b2x-bitcoin-exchange-bitfinex-reveals-ticker-for-segwit2x-fork/>

[2018-06-22] Only a Third of the Richest Informed on Bitcoin

Despite seeing their investment return above 20% in 2017 for two consecutive years, the richest people in the world say they are not fully satisfied with their asset managers and want to learn more about crypto.Full article on Bitcoin.com

[2018-06-22] Bitcoin is mature and less volatile, a research study claims

Bitcoin price analysis: BTC/USD plummets mercilessly into another double bottom pattern; An American research institute claims Bitcoin is mature and less volatile• The study took data from major currencies including Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, and Litecoin.• BTC/USD is trading slightly below \$6,500, but the immediate support at \$6,480 is still holding ground.The cryptocurrency market is not just bleeding on Friday morning (GMT), it is sinking in the sea of red rough waters. Bitcoin price particularly has declined more than 3% on the day. The rest of the digital assets are also making considerable falls. Bitcoin is trading a double bottom pattern, but we will come to that in a bit.In the meantime, the American Institute For Economic Research (AIER) is said to have released a report that indicates that Bitcoin, the king of the cryptos has not been as volatile in comparison to other virtual currencies. The institute is independent of all third parties or special interest groups. The volatility data has been taken since the year 2013 and speaks of the maturity of Bitcoin. The study took data from other major currencies like Ethereum, Ripple, and Litecoin. The researchers at AIER explained how they reached to their conclusion saying:“Economists and statisticians measure a variable’s volatility in many ways. We choose a relatively simple metric: the average daily percentage change in price. We average the absolute value of daily percentage returns for each cryptocurrency and year.” The researchers added, “By our measure, in every year, Bitcoin is the least volatile of the five cryptocurrencies we study (we also looked at coefficients of variation, a more technical measure, which yielded similar results). Bitcoin reached its lowest average daily price movement, less than 2 percent, in 2016, before rising again to levels not seen since 2013,”More...
<https://www.fxstreet.com/cryptocurrencies/news/bitcoin-price-analysis-btc-usd-plummets-mercilessly-into-another-double-bottom-pattern-an-american-research-institute-claims-bitcoin-is-mature-and-less-volatile-201806220834>

[2020-05-06] Bitcoin Halving: Bitcoin Could Be About To Make Another Major Move

It appears that everyone is hyping up the halving to be the cause of something positively big for the price of bitcoin. However, what if this does not follow the direction that people were made to expect?"The bitcoin halving is only five days away and in the lead up to this event, we're seeing a lot of people speculating on what will happen, whether the price will go up or down, or if it will be a non-event," said Danny Scott, chief executive of U.K.-based bitcoin and cryptocurrency exchange CoinCorner"We've actually seen a 21% increase in sign ups during April (from the previous month) which adds to this year's strong growth in the build up to the halving," Scott added.Elsewhere, the London-based bitcoin exchange Luno claims it will hit 4 million users in coming days—most of whom (75%) expect the bitcoin price to be "higher" or "much higher" by the end of 2020 according to a recent user survey.The wider bitcoin and cryptocurrency industry is also cheering the coming bitcoin halving, hoping it will bring with it new users and potential sales.Read in full
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/billybambrough/2020/05/06/bitcoin-halving-bitcoin-could-be-about-to-m>

[2018-02-13] Microsoft to Embrace Decentralized Identity Systems

I urge people to read these links in full, some very interesting stuff from Microsoft. Apologies I cannot post anything from it at the moment but a quick glance has me in a positive mood. <https://cloudblogs.microsoft.com/enterprisemobility/2018/02/12/decentralized-digital-identities-and-blockchain-the-future-as-we-see-it/http://google.com/newsstand/s/CBlw8bC9tTo>

[2017-07-05] Turkey to Initiate Major Crackdown on Illegal Gambling

The Turkish government is preparing to initiate a two-year plan designed to crush illegal gambling within the nation. Among the regulations currently under consideration by the Turkish government are measures intended to prevent the use of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies for illegal gambling activities. The Turkish State Will Introduce Harsh Punitive Measures for Those Caught Involved in the Illegal Gambling Industry. Reports have revealed that Turkey is preparing to initiate a two-year long crackdown on illegal gambling, including a focus on trying to “prevent the use of alternative spending methods, such as Bitcoin, ethereum and ripple, for illegal gambling activities.” Turkey’s new gambling offensive will be implemented by the Interior and Justice Ministries in partnership with the Police Department and the Revenue Department. The departments will establish a designated task force that will comprise representatives of the Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency (BDDK), Revenues Department, Financial Crimes Investigation Council (MASAK), and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK), and will be headed by a special prosecutor. The BDDK will be tasked with preventing the use of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies for illicit gambling activities, among other duties. The Turkish state will introduce harsh punitive measures for those caught involved in the illegal gambling industry. Organizers and intermediaries who profit from illicit gambling will be forced to forfeit their income, and houses in which unlicensed gambling is taking place will be temporarily seized. Large fines will be introduced for shops such as internet cafes that facilitate their customers accessing illegal online gambling websites. The BDDK is expected to monitor banking and credit card records as a measure to detect individuals who are engaged in such activities. The search engine habits of Turkish citizens will similarly be tracked. Websites and media outlets that advertise gambling sites will be shut down, and anti-gambling propaganda will be distributed throughout internet cafes. Continue reading <https://news.bitcoin.com/turkey-to-initiate-major-crackdown-on-illegal-gambling/>

[2018-06-22] A New Giant Accelerator Lifts France's Blockchain Support and Motivation

A New Giant Accelerator Lifts France's Blockchain Support and Motivation. The new European blockchain accelerator launch that happened this week in Paris, the capital of France, is one of the signals showing how cryptocurrency technologies sectors have changed with a powerful striking effect over the past few months in the country. Chain Accelerator, Europe's giant accelerator devoted to blockchain new business ventures designed for rapid growth, will officially be based in Station F, the large startup campus which started last summer. The giant accelerator is targeting at alluring blockchain startups all over the globe. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/new-giant-accelerator-lifts-france-blockchain-support-and-motivation/>

[2016-05-13] Antonopoulos: There Are No Spam Transactions in Bitcoin

Antonopoulos: There Are No Spam Transactions in Bitcoin As Bitcoin blocks get closer to full capacity, some members of the community are claiming many of the transactions on the network are nothing more than spam.

<https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/antonopoulos-there-are-no-spam-transactions-in-bitcoin-1463081880>

[2017-11-06] Hedge Funds Push the Price of Bitcoin to New Highs

SAN FRANCISCO — The chief executive of JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, has called Bitcoin a fraud and made it clear that he will not allow his bank to begin trading the virtual currency any time soon. But that has not stopped a growing wave of big Wall Street investors — many of them hedge funds — from pouring their money into Bitcoin, helping extend an eight-month spike in its price. The price of a single Bitcoin climbed from below \$6,000 two weeks ago to above \$7,400 on Monday, more than it moved in the virtual currency's first seven years in existence. Since the beginning of the year, the value of Bitcoin has jumped over 600 percent, putting the combined value of all Bitcoin at about \$120 billion, or more than many of the largest banks in the world. The rise has been fueled by several factors, including the sudden interest in virtual currencies from small investors in Japan and South Korea. Now market watchers say a significant amount of the new money is coming from large institutional investors, many of them hedge funds looking to capitalize on the skyrocketing price. Many of the hedge funds were set up over the last year to invest exclusively in virtual currencies. The research firm Autonomous Next has said the number of such hedge funds has risen from around 30 to nearly 130 this year alone. More general-purpose hedge funds have also been buying up Bitcoin, like one run by Bill Miller, a well known mutual fund manager who spent most of his career with Legg Mason. Even more big investors are looking at the space after the Chicago Mercantile Exchange announced last week that it would launch a Bitcoin futures contract in the next few months. The contract will make it easier for financial institutions plugged into the exchange to get involved with the Bitcoin market without having to worry about holding Bitcoin itself. Bobby Cho, the head trader at one of the largest Bitcoin trading businesses, Cumberland, said that after years of hesitancy, institutional investors now accounted for most of his business. "The vast majority of the trading we do is with institutions," Mr. Cho said. "The education and research have turned into real-life activity." The entrance of these big investors creates new risks for Bitcoin. Kevin Zhou, a longtime trader in the space, said that hedge funds were more likely than small investors to pull out a lot of money at once, and that Bitcoin was still small enough that a single fund's cashing out could cause the price to drop sharply. "You could get a possible run on the bank if one large investor withdraws and that causes the price to tank," said Mr. Zhou, a co-founder of the trading firm Galois Capital. "That could cause a cascade of withdrawals." The rising importance of Wall Street is an unexpected turn for a virtual currency that was invented in 2008 by an anonymous creator known as Satoshi Nakamoto and designed to operate outside the traditional financial system. Bitcoins, even those held by hedge funds, are recorded and stored on a decentralized database known as the blockchain, kept on a network of computers around the world. The whole system is governed by so-called open source software that is maintained by a community of volunteer programmers. The lack of backing from any government or established institution has concerned many large banks. The chief executive of Credit Suisse, Tidjane Thiam, said last week that he saw no inherent value in Bitcoin, joining the list of bankers who have called the market a bubble. But some financial leaders, including Goldman Sachs's chief executive, Lloyd Blankfein, and Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund, have defended the idea that virtual currencies could one day play a role in the global financial system because they can be obtained by anyone with internet access. The debate about Bitcoin has been part of a broader explosion of interest this year in the various technological concepts introduced by the virtual currency. Many banks, including JPMorgan, have been trying to find ways to create their own decentralized databases, like the Bitcoin blockchain, that could provide a more reliable and secure way to track information. In the technology industry, there

has been a rush this year of so-called initial coin offerings, a way for entrepreneurs to raise money by creating and selling their own custom virtual currencies. Initial coin offerings have taken over \$3 billion from investors this year after attracting almost no interest before. These coin offerings have created their own demand for Bitcoin because the new coins generally have to be bought with an existing virtual currency like Bitcoin. The interest in Bitcoin could be dampened in the coming weeks, however, by a debate among Bitcoin followers. Bitcoin start-ups and programmers have been fighting for nearly three years about the best way to update the software that governs the currency and the network on which it lives. The battle is expected to come to a head this month when new Bitcoin software, backed by many of the biggest virtual currency start-ups, is released. The new software aims to double the number of transactions flowing through the network. Currently, the computers processing Bitcoin transactions are limited to about five transactions per second. Most of the programmers who maintain the Bitcoin software have opposed the changes because they say it would make it harder for individuals to track their own Bitcoins. Some of the computers on the network are likely to update to the new software while others stay with the existing rules, creating a split, or fork, in the network that would result in two separate Bitcoins. A Bitcoin fork could prove disruptive and drive away investors. But several signals suggest that the proposed rule changes are not likely to win enough support to survive for long, which would leave the status quo in place. Bitcoin has already survived past attempts to fork the software and create imitators. In August, a group of former Bitcoin supporters created Bitcoin Cash, a totally separate virtual currency that makes it easier to do small transactions, like paying for a cup of coffee. The price of Bitcoin temporarily wavered before Bitcoin Cash was introduced. All previous holders of Bitcoin were automatically granted the same number of Bitcoin Cash, and the value of those has also been rising, essentially doubling in the last month. Chris Burniske, a co-author of a book on virtual currency investing, "Cryptoassets," said most of the new investors weren't too concerned about the exact design of Bitcoin or the current debates. "I don't think a lot of the new buyers are overly concerned about the long-term technical aspects of Bitcoin," he said. They are "simply approaching it as a financial instrument." <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/06/technology/bitcoin-hedge-funds.html>

[2016-01-06] Fisher Price Will Create Future Generations Of Bitcoin Developers

When it comes to learning people to code, efforts have to start at a very young age. As we humans grow older, we become less keen on learning new things. Especially coding is an odd creature in that regard, as it is one of the more difficult things to learn at a later age. Fisher Price has come up with a bright solution to stimulate young children in learning to code. <http://bitcoinist.net/fisher-price-will-create-future-generations-of-bitcoin-developers/>

[2017-11-06] Why Buffett Sees Bitcoin Bubble

If something is "virtual," does it really exist? This question has haunted us since the beginning of our journey as Homo Sapiens. When it comes to Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, this is an important question. You can buy and sell stocks, bonds, paper currencies and commodities like corn and wheat. They exist in the real world. You can physically deliver them, although they mostly are represented in electronic form. Which brings us to Warren Buffett, one of the greatest investors ever, who recently noted: "You can't value bitcoin because it's not a value-producing asset...it's a real bubble in that sort of thing." For those of you devoted to decoding Buffett's every pronouncement, his meaning is clear: Cryptocurrencies are not tangible investments. They don't generate earnings or pay dividends. How do you really value them if they have no intrinsic or "book" value? And people who buy bitcoin are simply betting that the price will go up. Continue reading on this link... Do you think the idea that since Bitcoin is really virtual...then it has no "intrinsic" value and therefore can

possibly just be a big bubble?

[2018-02-12]Crypto Markets Remain Steady During FUD-Less Period

Monday, Feb. 12: the crypto markets are staying relative static after having experienced an uneventful weekend, with the total market cap lingering in the low \$400 bln range, never going that far below \$380 bln. Total market capitalization Bitcoin's (BTC) price has also stayed comparatively consistent as opposed to the more erratic swings earlier this year. BTC is currently trading at around \$8644.13 and up 2.68 percent over a 24-hour period by press time. Ethereum's (ETH) price is slowly inching up after dropping slightly below \$800 yesterday, Feb. 11. ETH is up about 1.69 percent over a 24-hour period and trading around \$852.69 by press time. Ethereum Chart Altcoin U.CASH, which had seen an almost 1000 percent price change over a 24-hour period yesterday, has almost broken into the top 20 coins listed on CoinMarketCap. U.CASH, which is a retail currency converter for crypto to fiat transactions, is now listed as number 21, up a little more than 300 percent over a 24-hour period and trading for around \$.20 by press time. U.CASH Chart Of the top ten coins listed on CoinMarketCap, only three are in the red. Bitcoin Cash, Cardano, and EOS are slightly down about 0.5 percent, 2 percent, and 1 percent respectively over a 24-hour period by press time. Bitcoin Cash is trading at around \$1263.94, Cardano at \$0.36, and EOS at \$8.72 by press time. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/crypto-markets-remain-steady-during-fud-less-period>

[2016-03-02] Audio: Former United States Mint Director Ed Moy discusses coinage

Former United States Mint Director Ed Moy discusses coinage http://www.bitcoin.kn/2016/03/former-united-states-mint-director-ed-moy-discusses-coinage/?utm_campaign=former-united-states-mint-director-ed-moy-discusses-coinage&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitter

[2017-11-06] IBM Pitches Blockchain to British Columbia for Pot Supply Chains

IBM is promoting the use of blockchain technology in the legal distribution of cannabis. According to a document issued to inform to the government of British Columbia, IBM is touting the use of blockchain in order to ensure consumer safety and to include regulatory oversight in the legal distribution of cannabis "from seed to sale." The feedback was issued as the Canadian province prepares a regulatory framework for a legalized cannabis industry. According to official statements, the province plans to make non-medical cannabis legal by July 2018. Describing the technology's key features, including its transparency and immutability, IBM noted that blockchain would assure the health and safety of consumers through "provenance and traceability" of products throughout the cannabis supply chain, thus eliminating fraud. The document added: "Quote"[Blockchain's] relevance to regulating cannabis is similar to its many chain of custody applications in areas such as pharmaceutical distribution and food chains." On a concluding note, IBM stated that blockchain could help the provincial government "take control" of product sourcing and sales, thus helping eliminate black market sales "completely." IBM has been revealed various blockchain supply chain trials in recent months, including one with Singapore's port operator to automate the flow of documents between trading partners. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/ibm-pitches-blockchain-british-columbia-pot-supply-chains/>

[2016-03-02] BitGo Partnership Marries Blockchain With Biometric Security

HYPR Corp., a New York, N.Y.-based firm which decentralizes the storage of biometric data to enable secure passwordless authentication across mobile, desktop and IoT systems, has partnered with Palo Alto, Calif.-based BitGo, Inc. to extend biometric authentication to the blockchain space to secure cryptocurrency, digital assets, private keys and identities. The alliance links biometric security with the blockchain. BitGo secures more than \$1 billion per month in digital assets with over 10,000 transactions on any given day. The company recently announced a new feature – BitGo Instant, which promises instant settlement for bitcoin transactions, CBN reported. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/hypr-corp-bitgo-partnership-marries-blockchain-biometric-security/>

[2019-07-22] Iran Announces Gold Backed National Cryptocurrency

<https://www.asiacryptotoday.com/iran-announces-gold-backed-national-cryptocurrency> So now US want rather to allow Libra ?

[2016-11-16] Bitcoin Enthusiast Peter Thiel Joins Trump Transition Team

Bitcoin Enthusiast Peter Thiel Joins Trump Transition Team Just last week, Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States of America in an electoral upset and unexpected victory against his opponent, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. In his first week as President-Elect, Trump started forming his transition team. On Friday, he officially added Peter Thiel to the team. What does this mean for the tech community, and specifically Bitcoin advocates? <https://news.bitcoin.com/peter-thiel-trump-transition-team/>

[2016-01-05] 99bitcoin : Bitcoin Whiteboard Tuesday – What is Bitcoin Mining?

And for today's topic: Bitcoin Mining. You have probably heard that Bitcoins are “generated” using very powerful computers solving very complicated mathematical equations. You may also have heard that Bitcoin is a network of computers that maintain a “Blockchain”. Today we're going to talk all about this and more. As usual, I'm going to keep it simple and straightforward. <https://99bitcoins.com/bitcoin-whiteboard-tuesday-what-is-bitcoin-mining/>

[2020-01-16] BTCPay Server Integrates Liquid Network Support for Faster Bitcoin

Several noteworthy players in the cryptocurrency industry utilize the Liquid Network today. They include the likes of BTSE, Bitfinex, Bull Bitcoin, OKCoin, Poolin, and Xapo, to name a few. Bringing this technology to more people will be crucial, as it can help improve overall bitcoin adoption. <https://fintoism.com/news/cryptocurrency/btcpay-server-integrates-liquid-network-support-for-faster-bitcoin-transaction-settlements/>

[2016-03-01] CD: Report: BTC Wallet Providers Failing to Make Privacy a Priority

Report: Bitcoin Wallet Providers Failing to Make Privacy a Priority Bitcoin wallet providers haven't focused on increasing privacy to promote consumer financial independence and safety over the last

year, according to the Open Bitcoin Privacy Project's (OBPP) second edition survey.<http://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-wallet-providers-failing-privacy-obpp/>

[2017-07-01] Should Other Bitcoin Wallets Implement Blockchain's Transaction Fee

Prior to the major clearance of the bitcoin mempool, the holding area for unconfirmed transactions waiting to be picked up by miners, a large number of bitcoin transactions were left unconfirmed for days despite the attachment of high fees. Such occurrences emerged due to the variation in the size of bitcoin transactions. Unlike the Ethereum network or other specific blockchain networks, transactions on the bitcoin network have different sizes depending on the number of inputs and outputs. Currently, the median size of bitcoin transaction is 226 bytes but the size of bitcoin transactions can greatly vary at times. Thus, users of wallet platforms that had fixed transaction fee recommendations which failed to take the variation in bitcoin transaction size into consideration struggled with significant delays with their transactions. Instead of calculating the size of the transaction and recommending fees based on the transaction size, the vast majority of wallet platforms simply offered two options: low or high fees that ranged from \$0.5 to \$2.5. In certain cases, users discovered that \$2.5 fee was not sufficient for transactions that have many inputs and outputs. 21 Inc's Bitcoin Fees, an open source bitcoin fee estimator, clearly recommends a fee based on the median transaction size but does not take the variation into consideration. After careful consideration of user feedback, Blockchain, the world's largest bitcoin wallet platform that oversees nearly 15 million wallets, deployed a new fee estimation program that allowed users to attach fees on a satoshis per byte basis. On June 22, Blockchain CEO Peter Smith revealed in an interview with CNBC that the bitcoin wallet startup raised \$40 million in funding from Google's investment arm Lakestar and billionaire investor Richard Branson. Smith emphasized that with the new funding round and newly acquired capital, the company will focus on addressing scalability of their product and global expansion to meet the increasing demand towards bitcoin from its international user base. "We are really focused on scaling to meet the record demand we are getting in the market. We started raising this round before the run up in the cryptomarket. It was good timing in the end because while we were closing the round, we were massively up on every level. Our traffic has been growing 15 percent week over week in last two weeks," said Smith in an interview. The implementation of the new Satoshis per byte fee estimator program is a part of the Blockchain development team's scalability roadmap in that it allows users to adapt to the increasing fee market efficiently without the necessity of manually calculating transaction size and fees. Other wallet platforms such as Samurai Wallet are also looking into the commercialization of Bitcoin Core developer Peter Todd's Replace-by-Fee method that allows users to attach a new fee in order to process stuck transactions due to low fees. As bitcoin approaches scaling, startups including Blockchain are successfully providing its users with more efficient and practical applications to ease the settlement of payments and transactions. With such applications and programs in place, the activation of a viable scaling solution such as the Bitcoin Core development team's Segregated Witness (Segwit) is expected to further enhance scalability.<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-wallets-implement-blockchains-transaction-fee-estimator/>

[2019-12-18] In Venezuela, buying up bitcoins, the rate is close to \$ 9500

I came across one of the forums. Your opinion will be interesting.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Bitcoin/comments/eamndm/in_venezuela_buying_up_bitcoins_the_rate_is_close/

[2017-07-02] Former Barclay's CEO Warns Banks of 'Kodak Moment,'

Former CEO of Barclay's, Antony Jenkins, has warned the banking community of a coming 'Kodak moment' for banks and financial institutions unless they embrace the coming fintech technology revolution. Speaking of the revolution in fintech that has precipitated the massive growth of cryptocurrencies, Jenkins said, "Now we will see the possibility not necessarily the probability of what we call a 'Kodak moment,' where increasingly banks become irrelevant to their customers." Jenkins went on to address the widespread growth of cryptocurrencies and the rise of artificial intelligence are just the beginning of the change in the way banking is handled worldwide. While some might say, Jenkins, is biased as the founder of fintech company 10X Banking, the rapid proliferation of banking solutions using Blockchain technology seem to indicate that he is providing useful guidance for the industry. With growing acceptance of cryptocurrencies in Germany, Kazakstan, as well as in Asian countries like Vietnam, the banking industry will be forced to keep pace with the fintech world. Jenkins concluded: "This is just in the footprints of what's going to happen here. As these technologies season and develop, we can imagine total transformation of the banking system, using Blockchain for example, in a world where banks don't really exist anymore." <https://cointelegraph.com/news/former-barclays-ceo-warns-banks-of-kodak-moment-push-es-to-embrace-fintech>

[2020-01-03] Alleged \$8B BTC Tulip Trust Expires With Tales of Bonded Couriers

QuoteFive years ago, the crypto community became aware of an alleged contract called the Tulip Trust. The supposed contract emerged when a few tech-based news outlets published stories on two former business partners Craig Wright and David Kleiman. According to the Tulip Trust contract story, Wright and Kleiman were ostensibly part of the group that invented Bitcoin. The trust claims that on January 1, 2020, approximately 1,100,111 BTC will be returned to Wright and now skeptics are patiently waiting for the arrival of a bonded courier. <https://news.bitcoin.com/alleged-8b-btc-tulip-trust-expires-with-tales-of-bonded-couriers/> The tulip trust must be expired right now, but some people still waiting the "tulip trust" will come. people who still trust sathosi nakamoto is David Kleiman will says BCH will take over bitcoin, what do you think about this issue?

[2016-07-22] news.bitcoin.com-KYC Dilemma: US Secret Service Seizes \$13k ...

KYC Dilemma: US Secret Service Seizes \$13k from Coinbase CustomerIn an official notification dated today, USSS announced that on June 3 it had taken control of "\$13,138.12 in U.S. Currency in Lieu of 25.0001538 Bitcoins from Coinbase Inc. Account in the Name of Richard P. Underwood." No further details were given regarding the circumstances or motives for the assets appropriation. The account holder now has until September 5 to lay claim to his one-time property. Unusually, the original balance appeared to have been converted into fiat, marking an interesting practice on the part of law enforcement. It is unclear, however, whether this was done in conjunction with Coinbase through its exchange, or separately, and how the funds are now being stored. READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/us-secret-service-seizes-coinbase/>

[2016-05-11] Former CFTC Official: Barack Obama 'Should Heed the Call' on BTC

Former CFTC Official: Barack Obama 'Should Heed the Call' on BitcoinThe Obama administration

should move quickly to embrace bitcoin and blockchain technology, a former government regulator has argued in a new op-ed.<http://www.coindesk.com/cftc-barack-obama-bitcoin/>

[2017-10-16] Trendiest Areas to be Discussed at Blockchain Conference Abu Dhabi

ICO, Banking, Energy, Healthcare, Retail and E-Gov as the Blockchain Trendiest Areas to be Discussed at Blockchain Conference Abu Dhabi:<https://bitcoingarden.org/ico-banking-energy-healthcare-retail-e-gov-blockchain-trendiest-areas-discussed-blockchain-conference-abu-dhabi/>The blockchain industry has been developing more rapidly than the boldest forecasts predicted. Having become an integral part of the financial and banking spheres, it has already occupying its niche in medicine, insurance, document circulation, energy, retail and other economy spheres. Today, the blockchain is blooming. However, it is worth knowing what we may expect from the technology in the next 6-9 months. On December 7, 2017, Abu Dhabi will host for the second time the main blockchain conference of the MENA region - Blockchain Conference Abu Dhabi (BConference), which will bring together representatives of the blockchain industry from around the world to talk about their successful experience of using the technology in the most relevant areas for the region...

[2016-05-11] Bitcoin Price Stagnates, What Happens Next?

This week has witnessed tension in the world of Bitcoin. For the most part, the currency has been on a relative bull run since this price observance series began. Users witnessed a bit of a drop amidst worry regarding claims made by a certain Dr. Wright, but afterwards, the price found its way back on the rise.<http://bitcoinist.net/bitcoin-hits-slow-mark-what-happens-next/>

[2016-05-11] Bitcoin.com Launches a High-Stakes Casino

Bitcoin.com is excited to announce a new casino portal added to our page, and a new partnership with gaming provider SoftSwiss. Casino.bitcoin.com will feature over 1,000 games from a wide array of gaming platforms, which fall under the purview of the SoftSwiss gaming license, based in Curaçao. Additionally, the leading-edge casino will also offer a welcome package for all of its new customers, and three bonus promotions per week for gaming patrons.<https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-com-launches-casino/>

[2019 - 11- 25] The 4 Possible Bitcoin Scenarios In The Long Run

Bitcoin Leaves No One Indifferent That's obvious, but I think that pointing this out is important. Some are the Bitcoin's absolute supporters and its revolution. Bitcoin is a real opportunity for them to restore a fully decentralized and trust-based financial system. Among these supporters are the famous HODLERS who are conscientiously accumulating Bitcoin month after month, whatever their price, because they are convinced that in the future their price will reach new heights. There are central bankers, economists and politicians, on the other hand, who see Bitcoin as a major risk. Nonetheless, Bitcoin's mass acceptance may clearly undermine its ability to create infinite money. Then there are the media that use Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies to create sensational headlines without bothering to understand the ins and outs of this revolutionary technology. Lastly, in the midst of all this, the general public is not sure what to think about a Bitcoin whose excessive volatility and potential role in money laundering is constantly underlined. Therefore, many people clearly do not know about Bitcoin's potential and how it might well transform their lives in the

future. The Bitcoin Future Price Makes You Imagine Whatever your position on Bitcoin, I'm sure you're intrigued by at least one thing about Bitcoin. I know because almost everyone on Earth is intrigued by this thing. Everyone asks what the Bitcoin price will be in the future. Bitcoin's future price makes you fantasy. Everyone therefore has a small prognosis: from Bitcoin influencers to economists, everybody seems to have their own views on the issue. A well-known venture capitalist with significant investments in Baidu, Skype and Tesla, Tim Draper has long believed in Bitcoin and that's why he purchased, for example, 30,000 BTC in June 2014. Consequently, its predictions on Bitcoin's future price are necessarily influenced. Tim Draper predicts a \$250,000 worth of Bitcoin in 2022! Read more at DoggBitCoin

[2016-05-11] Video: Why Bitcoin Is Wonderful - Mike Maloney

Why Bitcoin Is Wonderful (In 2 Minutes) - Vanessa Collette With Mike Maloney <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZ4bVgzp2g>

[2016-01-04] Bitcoin: How the Isle of Man is leading a cryptocurrency revolution

Bitcoin: How the Isle of Man is leading a cryptocurrency revolution The cryptocurrency pioneers are also turning their attention to blockchains or distributed ledgers in the belief that the engine behind digital currencies can be retooled for more diverse purposes. Blockchains are now being developed for uses from land registries to guarantees for luxury goods. Mr Donegan said: "The potential for this technology is absolutely huge. It is the blockchain side of things that we are excited about. We may not be Bitcoin Island so much as Distributed Ledger Island." <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bitcoin-how-the-isle-of-man-is-sparking-a-cryptocurrency-revolution-a6794756.html> the blockchain island !

[2017-06-28] Crypto Massacre: Why Ethereum, Bitcoin & Top 30 Currencies Declined

On June 27, a major correction in the cryptocurrency market occurred, bringing the market cap of the cryptocurrency market below the \$100 bln region. All top 30 cryptocurrencies fell significantly in value, recording nearly 20 to 30 percent decline in market cap. Bitcoin and Ethereum, the two largest cryptocurrencies, also recorded substantial decline in value. Bitcoin's drop in value As demonstrated by previous cryptocurrency market corrections, the decline in Bitcoin price has always led to the correction of the entire market. Thus, when Bitcoin price fell from around \$2,700 to \$2,370, the cryptocurrency market underwent a major correction, with Ethereum falling from around \$30 bln to \$22 bln in market cap. When evaluating the short-term fall of Bitcoin price, it is important to consider the analysis of two financial and security experts, Max Keiser and Andreas Antonopoulos. On June 15, after a minor correction, in response to the inquiries of investors and traders regarding the fall of cryptocurrencies in value, Antonopoulos wrote: "Some of you are wondering "why are cryptos crashing like crazy?" Yet you didn't ask "why are cryptos climbing like crazy?" That's why." The value of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are solely based on the demand of the market. Hence, like any other market, the value of cryptocurrencies alter based on the rise and decline of demand from the market. Therefore, if investors can't justify the increase in the value of Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies, it is likely that a market correction is imminent. <https://cointelegraph.com/storage/uploads/view/2f1f1c845a2391321c991997f22b2817.png> New peaks after corrections Max Keiser, an American broadcaster and the host of RT's Keiser Report, previously emphasized that Bitcoin has always had recovered beyond the previous peak in all of its previous market corrections. For instance, when Bitcoin price fell from \$2,400 to \$1,900

earlier this month, Bitcoin price hit new all-time high at \$3,000. For this reason, on June 20, Max Keiser noted that a new Bitcoin price all-time high of \$5,000 is in sight. Especially since scaling issues will be addressed shortly and Bitcoin Core's Segregated Witness (SegWit) can be activated without the execution of a hard fork that could lead to a split chain. "New all-time high for Bitcoin in sight. Regulators will be twiddling their thumbs at \$5,000, \$10,000, and beyond. Welcome to NCO (New Crypto Order)," said Keiser. Demand rising There is an increase in demand for Bitcoin rapidly across the world, and an increasing number of governments and countries are starting to recognize, acknowledge and adopt Bitcoin as a digital currency. Most recently, Poland's largest food delivery platform Pyszne that supports more than 5000 restaurants started accepting Bitcoin despite its rising fees. Demand for Ethereum, Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ethereum Classic and other cryptocurrencies is rising at a rapid rate. Short-term market corrections are important to evaluate, but investors should not consider corrections as factors for long-term growth. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/crypto-massacre-why-ethereum-bitcoin-top-30-currencies-declined-in-value>

[2017-11-02] Allianz Chief Economic Advisor: Bitcoin is a commodity

Bitcoin is not a currency, thinks Mohamed El-Erian, who is a Chief Economic Advisor in Allianz. Explaining his position on the recent economic forum in Singapore, he told: "A currency serves as a predictable store of value, and serves as a medium of exchange that's pretty stable in value as well — bitcoins aren't that there yet, they're still trying to find stability so it's more of a commodity than it's a currency." As CNBC reminds, last month the same analyst told that Bitcoin is overestimated and it does not deserve such prices (he was talking about \$4000, BTC has just surpassed \$7000 this morning). However, Allianz is the third largest financial service by revenue, and the opinion of its experts should not be underestimated. Maybe Bitcoin is a currency, but... [Read more](#)

[2016-05-10] LastPass Password Vault to Include Bitcoin Support

LastPass Password Vault to Include Bitcoin Support We have so many online services out there meant to make our lives easy. They do, up to a certain extent except for the login process which requires passwords. With concerns about the security, creating strong passwords as per the platforms specification itself is a hard task, let alone trying to remember them all... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/05/10/lastpass-password-vault-include-bitcoin-support/> [read more](#)

[2018-06-11] Bitcoin Price Crash Caused by Panic Sellers and Manipulation

In an effort to pin Bitcoin's price drop on anything other than sellers overpowering buyers, mainstream and cryptocurrency-focused media have been eager to blame Coinrail — an irrelevant and incredibly minor cryptocurrency exchange in South Korea. However, the hack of Coinrail is not to blame for the flash crash. Market manipulators and panic sellers are. Panic Selling After a prolonged period of sideways trading, market makers in the cryptocurrency space decided to slice a \$42 billion chunk off the total market capitalization over the weekend. Bitcoin is now down more than 50 percent on the year. The vast majority of mainstream and cryptocurrency-focused media has pinned the collapse on the low-profile hack of Coinrail — a borderline irrelevant exchange ranked 90th by trade volume that most readers had never previously heard of. Coinrail is not to blame. Panic sellers are. Stephen Innes, head of Asia Pacific trading at Oanda Corp. in Singapore, agrees, telling Bloomberg: "This is 'If it can happen to A, it can happen to B and it can happen to C,' then people panic because someone is selling. The markets are so thinly traded, primarily by retail accounts,

that these guys can get really scared out of positions. It actually doesn't take a lot of money to move the market significantly. Low liquidity is indeed one of the cryptocurrency market's biggest problems, as it allows as little as one account to dramatically manipulate the price of bitcoin, or other cryptocurrencies, by throwing around 1000 BTC, sparking a wave of panic selling from individuals who honestly believe there has been some fundamental change in the cryptocurrency itself. No Buyers More likely than not, the current decline in Bitcoin's price is merely a move from unchecked market manipulators who can, for all intents and purposes, drive down the price at the push of a button. Those same accounts can easily drive it right back up — as seen on April 12, when the price of bitcoin shot up over \$1000 in the blink of an eye. Meanwhile, a trip to the r/CryptoCurrency subreddit on popular social media website Reddit indeed shows mass despair as more and more traders get shaken out of the market. One post from u/shootermgavin_crypto titled "I'm Done" reads: 24/7 Market 70% down.... It's been emotional ladies and Germans but I am officially tapping out. Will leave 5k in this sh!tshow and see where it goes but the trading...no more, can't do it. Don't have the emotional fortitude. God speed sailors u/shootermgavin_crypto isn't alone. With each manipulative red candle, big-money investors continue to explore just how low they can buy bitcoin while retail traders lose all hope. <http://bitcoinist.com/bitcoin-price-panic-sellers-manipulation-coinrail/>

[2016-01-04] Christian Social Union's Proposed Financial Constraints Includes...

Christian Social Union's Proposed Financial Constraints Includes Call for Bitcoin The Christian Social Union (CSU), a leading Christian democratic and conservative political party in Bavaria, Germany is due to issue a paper detailing effective ways to combat terrorism that will include financial restraints, as the party sees it. Christian Social Unions proposed financial constraints... <http://www.altcointoday.com/christian-social-unions-proposed-financial-constraints-includes-call-for-bitcoin/>

[2016-11-10] OKLink Welcomes Indonesia's DOKU As First Mobile Wallet Partner

OKLink Welcomes Indonesia's DOKU As First Mobile Wallet Partner Big things are taking place for Bitcoin in Indonesia. DOKU, the country's leading e-wallet, has joined OKLink's blockchain payout network. As a result, this collaboration will expand OKLink's payment availability in Indonesia, allowing for faster global transfers. A significant step forward for the recently formed blockchain money transfer network. The partnership between DOKU and OKLink will offer a new payout option for real-time money transfers to Indonesia. Having the option of getting paid through a digital wallet brings more convenience to the table. After all, Indonesia is warming up to the concept of using electronic money as of late. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/11/10/oklink-welcomes-indonesias-doku-first-mobile-wallet-partner/>

[2016-01-04] Bitstamp Enables Bitcoin Purchases Through Plastic Cards In UK

Bitstamp Enables Bitcoin Purchases Through Plastic Cards In UK And Slovenia Bitcoin exchanges around the world have been looking at various ways to make the purchase of digital currency much easier for novice users. Instant bank transfers are not available in every individual country, but credit and debit cards are widely accepted. Bitstamp has enabled support for residents in the UK and Slovenia to buy Bitcoin with these traditional payments.

[2016-07-21] Bitwala to offer the world's cheapest international transfers

Bitwala, the popular European-based bill payment service that allows people to pay their bills via bitcoin has just announced that they'll soon offer the cheapest international money transfers for Dash, Ether, Dogecoin and Litecoin users. In a recent blog post, Bitwala stated that they're aware of the fact that sending money abroad can cost users a bit too much, which is why they're now enabling a new service for altcoiners. Those who wish to make SEPA or SWIFT bank transfers will have to pay and wait less. Bitwala continued by saying "With Altcoins welcomed with open arms now, not only do you have the option to pay bills or top-up your bitcoin debit card, you can now easily make USD and SEPA transfers by using Altcoins to over 35 countries that are within the list of SEPA scheme

countries." <http://themerple.com/bitwala-to-offer-the-worlds-cheapest-international-transfers-via-ether-litecoin-dash-and-dogecoin/>

[2018-6-4] The future of Cryptos seen by CFTC. !!! read this !!! It made my day.

This is what we were waiting for: But virtual currencies may – will – become part of the economic practices of any country, anywhere. Let me repeat that: these currencies are not going away and they will proliferate to every economy and every part of the planet. Some places, small economies, may become dependent on virtual assets for survival. And, these currencies will be outside traditional monetary intermediaries, like government, banks, investors, ministries, or international organizations.... <https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/SpeechesTestimony/opabeenam7>

[2018-02-05] Bitcoin Prices Again Below \$8K, But Traders Forecast Fresh Upside

Bitcoin has fallen 11.23 percent in the 24 hours to press time Monday, Feb. 5, dropping below support at \$8000 as its price continues to dictate altcoin performance. Data from Coin360 Monday shows a continuation of lacklustre price action for the largest cryptocurrency, which saw its slight rebound Saturday, Feb. 4 all but erased over the weekend. On Coinbase, Bitstamp and some other exchanges, Bitcoin failed to maintain \$8000 into Monday, hovering at around \$7900 at press time, about \$275 off Friday's multi-month lows of \$7625. Friday's dip triggered a short-term uptick that saw prices gain over \$1200 in a single hour, enthusiasm appearing to dampen once again after passing \$9000. Traders offer perspective On social media, cryptocurrency traders remained more steadfast than ever in their faith about both Bitcoin and altcoin perspectives. John McAfee, who has championed Bitcoin and recently begun focussing on specific altcoins, told Twitter followers to "get a perspective" in the face of falling value. "In a long term view, (Bitcoin) is still climbing. Forget about these short term ups and downs," he continued. Adding some perspective on the overall red-washed market, CNBC's Ran Neuner tweeted yesterday that the combined market cap of all cryptocurrencies today is the same as it was in December, 2017: At press time, the total market cap according to CoinMarketCap was around \$369 billion, about the same level as it was Dec. 6, 2017. Altcoin-focused accounts also cautioned traders against paying attention to coins' value in USD or other fiat currency terms. Others were more bullish, using various methods as proof a more serious upturn was the most likely short-term future for Bitcoin. Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-prices-again-below-8k-but-traders-forecast-fresh-upside>

[2016-01-04] Blockchains, Bitcoins and Fundraising

Why should fundraisers pay any attention to blockchains and what on earth are they anyway? Firstly, a blockchain is “a distributed database that maintains a continuously growing list of transactional data records hardened against tampering and revision”. It is a system of recording transactions like the spending of bitcoins, or agreements like contracts which are held in a series of data blocks each timestamped and linked together. Hence the name blockchain. See Wikipedia: <http://bit.ly/1MCLzcM>. This does away with a middleman or central authority authorising and validating the transactions, and leaves whole industries like banking, the law, accountancy and government susceptible to disruptive change. Even the Bank of England’s chief economist has said that blockchain related currencies could replace cash, though he perhaps underestimates its potential – who now really needs banks? <http://www.fundraising.co.uk/2016/01/04/blockchains-bitcoins-fundraising/>

[2016-02-26] Video: Keiser Report: Extinction Is Rule, Survival Is Exception

Keiser Report: Extinction Is Rule, Survival Is Exception - BitPay and Brock Pierce interviews <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meFsJkJdqwg&feature=youtu.be>

[2016-07-20] coindesk.com-Washington State Utility Raises Power Rates on ...

Washington State Utility Raises Power Rates on Bitcoin Miners A Washington State utility is raising rates on bitcoin miners, months after a dispute with the local industry began over its power usage. The Chelan County Public Utility District (PUD) announced earlier this week that, effective January 2017, electrical rates will rise for so-called "high-density load customers", or those that use 250 kilowatt hours per square foot per year. The definition, as stated by the PUD, is intended specifically to cover server farms and bitcoin mines, or data centers that specifically service network transactions. [READ MORE >>>](#)

<http://www.coindesk.com/washington-state-utility-raises-power-rates-bitcoin-miners/>

[2018-06-09] Norwegian Air CEO Launching Bitcoin Exchange, May Sell Tickets

Billionaire Norwegian Air CEO Bjørn Kjos launched the Norwegian Block Exchange (NBX) in April, a company executives say “will explore and exploit potential opportunities that lie in blockade and ledger technology.” Full article on CCN

[2016-02-26] Antpool Hashrate Drops While F2Pool Gains Close To 30%

Antpool Hashrate Drops While F2Pool Gains Close To 30% An interesting shift seems to be happening in the world of Bitcoin mining, as one of the largest mining pools is going through a significant dip in hashrate right now. AntPool is one of the mining p... <http://bitcoinist.net/antpool-hashrate-drops-while-f2pool-gains-close-to-30/>

[2018-06-07] Scam Doctor: Belgian Government Launches Crypto Scams Warning Websit

The Belgian government is giving full support to a website that is created to warn all cryptocurrency investors about the rising potential for fraud. The website is dubbed “Too Good to Be True.” In order to legally operate in Belgian financial markets, all cryptocurrency organisations or companies should have a legal license, according to the developed website. No company without a license shall be mentioned in the website's database. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/belgium-launches-crypto-scams-warning-website/>

[2017-10-30] World cryptocurrency laws still far from ideal

Alas, the strict policy towards digital currency market is still present in some parts of the world, no matter how cryptocurrency evangelists try to say the future is already here. For example, the central bank of Vietnam has announced measures the likes of which even China have not implemented – since 1 January 2018, all cryptocurrency circulation will be prohibited. A fee equal to nine thousand U.S. dollars will be charged from violators. It would be relevant to remind that Vietnam is still a one-party state with many conservatives in power. They might even genuinely think Bitcoin is a Ponzi scheme and they are doing a good service for the country by banning it. Lebanon's central bank has taken almost the same counter-coin measure on its soil. But it does not exclude issuing state-backed cryptocurrency. The latter statement matches the popular trend set by China, although we have yet to see the first state-backed altcoin – all governmental claims still remain claims. UAE, while relatively rich, does not seem to embrace cryptocurrencies without any doubt: its central bank has recently warned against the use of coins as a medium of payment and officials still believe digital currencies are not backed by anything tangible. Meanwhile in Russia, as our regular readers know, the high-level authorities have decided to... Read more

[2018-02-03] CNBC's Ran Neuner Says Bitcoin Will End 2018 At \$50,000

QuoteRan Neuner, the host of CNBC's show Cryptotrader and the 28th most influential Blockchain insider according to Richtopia, made a tweet Thursday, Feb. 1 claiming that Bitcoin will end 2018 at the price point of \$50,000. read

more: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/cnbcs-ran-neuner-says-bitcoin-will-end-2018-at-50000>

[2016-01-03] London – A Progression from FinTech to EdTech

London – A Progression from FinTech to EdTech Bitcoin as a successful digital currency so far has made headway into the FinTech sector. We already know about various instances where Bitcoin and blockchain technology has successfully provided alternative financial services to the unbanked population in both developed and developing countries

alike. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/01/03/london-fintech-to-edtech/>

[2017-03-01] Bitcoin Exchange Coinbase Stops Services in Hawaii Due to “Untenable”

Bitcoin Exchange Coinbase Stops Services in Hawaii Due to “Untenable” Regulation Prominent Bitcoin and Ethereum exchange and wallet Coinbase announced that it is forced to stop supporting customers in Hawaii due to an “impractical” and “untenable” regulatory policy. Citing the reason for indefinitely suspending its business in Hawaii, Coinbase revealed: The Hawaii Division of Financial Institutions (DFI) has communicated regulatory policies which we believe will render continued Coinbase operations there impractical. Coinbase was first notified of the restrictive regulatory policy by the DFI in September, one that makes it “impossible” for the exchange to operate in the state,

according to a member of Coinbase's legal team. Fundamentally, the regulation demands Coinbase or other digital currency operators to hold cash reserves equivalent to the value of the digital currency held for customers. Coinbase adds: This policy is obviously untenable. No digital currency business – and frankly, no commercially viable business anywhere – has the capital to supplement every customer bitcoin with redundant dollar collateral. As a result, Coinbase has now made it mandatory for Hawaii-resident users to close their accounts within the next thirty days. The exchange will also halt new account signups in America's newest state "for the indefinite future." Customers can either send their bitcoin to an alternative wallet or swap the cryptocurrency for fiat before their accounts' closure. The exchange adds that it hopes to open shop in Hawaii in the future by working with policymakers to change the law or by encouraging the DFI's commissioner to "revisit" the existing policy discretion under Hawaii law. Coinbase's exit comes at a time when Hawaii is considering a bitcoin- and blockchain-friendly bill, one that aims to establish a working group toward the exploration of digital currencies and blockchain technology in Hawaii's public and private sectors. "Digital currencies such as bitcoin have broad benefits for Hawaii. A large portion of Hawaii's tourism market comes from Asia where the use of bitcoin as a virtual currency is expanding," the bill's text read. The digital currency exchange said it was "heartened" that members of state's House of Representatives had introduced the bill and added that it would look forward to working with them. link: <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-exchange-coinbase-stops-services-hawaii-due-untenable-regulation/>

[2018-06-05] Russian Court Overturns 2016 Cryptocurrency Media Ban

A city court in St. Petersburg, Russia, has overturned a decision made by a district court in 2016 that effectively blocked cryptocurrency media site bitcoininfo.ru for the country's inhabitants. The decision came about after the court received an order from Russia's Supreme Court in April to review the case, as previously reported by CoinDesk. "The St. Petersburg City Court quashed the decision of the district court to recognize the information posted on the Bitcoininfo.ru website," the city court was quoted as saying in a Tass report Tuesday. The website's owner told the news agency that the St. Petersburg city prosecutor's statements disclosed that about 100 cryptocurrency media sites had been blocked following the ruling. More here, <https://www.coindesk.com/russian-court-overturns-2016-cryptocurrency-media-ban/>

[2017-10-27] Company Added 'Blockchain' to Its Name and Its Shares Surge 394%

A British company that has been investing in internet and information businesses is having its best day on record. On-line Plc jumped as much as 394 percent on Friday after announcing plans to change its name to On-line Blockchain Plc, following an initial climb of 19 percent on Thursday when it first announced the news. It's the biggest one-day gain for the small-cap company since its December 1996 listing. The trading volume that reached 2.9 million shares by early afternoon in London is equal to more than 16 times the entire year's trading before the last two days. "Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies are a new and exciting area we have been working on for some time," the Essex-based company said in a statement on Thursday. "We feel the time is right to re-name the company to reflect these developments, where we believe the future growth will be in our sector." The shares pared gains after the company published a follow-up release on Friday, cautioning investors that the development of its blockchain product is still at an early stage. Still, the 238 percent rise as of 2:36 p.m. in London leaves the company's market value of 4.4 million pounds (\$5.8 million) at its highest since 2005. This isn't the first time that investors have gotten excited about a name. Shares in Colorado-based Bioptix Inc. nearly doubled in value in the days leading up to its name change to Riot Blockchain Inc. earlier this month. In what seems to be a case of mistaken identity, a New York-based startup called SNAP Interactive Inc. jumped more than 150

percent in the days after Snap Inc. filed for a \$3 billion initial public offering in February. Little-known SNAP Interactive makes mobile dating apps, while Snap Inc. is the parent of the popular Snapchat photo-sharing app. Source:
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-27/what-s-in-a-name-u-k-stock-surges-394-on-blockchain-rebrand>

[2016-02-23] Video: Amir Taaki speech

Amir Taaki speech <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdzQmZKqsDU>

[2017-06-23] Bitcoin Price Technical Analysis for 06/23/2017

Bitcoin price completed its correction to the channel support and bulls are now setting their sights back on resistance. Bitcoin Price Key Highlights-Bitcoin price retreated to the ascending channel support and area of interest marked in the previous article.-This support held as expected, allowing bitcoin to rebound to the 38.2% Fibonacci extension level.-The next extension levels give an idea of how high price could go if the uptrend carries on.Bitcoin price completed its correction to the channel support and bulls are now setting their sights back on resistance.Technical Indicators SignalsThe 100 SMA is above the longer-term 200 SMA on the 1-hour time frame so the path of least resistance is to the upside. In addition, the short-term moving average lined up with the channel support, adding to its strength as a floor in the event of another dip.The Fibonacci extension tool reveals that the next ceiling could be around the \$2800 mark or the previous highs. A larger rally could last until the channel resistance around \$2850 or to the full extension just slight above the \$2900 mark.However, stochastic is already turning lower from the overbought zone to indicate a return in selling momentum. RSI also seems to be heading south as well, so bitcoin price might follow suit, even without indicating overbought conditions. Still, the gap between the moving averages is getting wider to reflect a buildup in bullish momentum.Market FactorsThe ethereum flash crash in GDAX may have sparked some jitters in the cryptocurrency market but this seems to have shored up demand for other competitors like bitcoin. Uncertainties related to Brexit are also encouraging European traders to put funds in bitcoin to pursue higher returns outside of traditional stocks or commodities.Meanwhile, news that India is moving closer to regulating bitcoin has been positive for startups and investors in the country. This was also supported by news that a bitcoin wallet startup called Blockchain has received \$40 million in funding to expand its operations to more countries.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2017/06/23/bitcoin-price-technical-analysis-06232017-support-held-expected/>

[2016-02-24] Bitcoin Roundtable Consensus: Wladimir Says 'I'm All For It'

Bitcoin Roundtable Consensus: Wladimir Says 'I'm All For It'Speaking to CoinJournal through email, Bitcoin Core lead developer Wladimir van der Laan has commented on the Bitcoin Roundtable Consensus agreement, and his comments can best be described as cautiously optimistic.<http://coinjournal.net/bitcoin-roundtable-consensus-wladimir-says-im/>

[2018-06-04]Hyperchain Blockchain Creator Completes \$234 Million Funding Round

Qulian Technology, a China-based blockchain platform developer, has announced the completion of a 1.5 billion Chinese yuan (\$234 million) Series B funding round.According to an announcement from Qulian on Sunday, the news comes just a week after the deal's lead investor Xinhua Zhongbao,

a Shanghai-listed real estate and finance firm, first disclosed its plan to invest in the project in a filing with the Shanghai Stock Exchange on May 27. The document indicated that Xinhua Zhongbao intended to invest 1.23 billion CNY (\$192 million) in Qulian through a combination of a \$17 million capital contribution transfer and a \$175 million new equity issuance. The deal resulted in the investor holding 49 percent of Qulian's shares. Founded in 2016, Qulian sets out to develop enterprise-grade solutions based on its hyperchain blockchain platform. Based on Xinhua Zhongbao's disclosure, the firm recorded revenue of \$281,000 and a net loss of \$2.34 million in 2017, while the firm was valued at \$234 million. This is the second time that Xinhua Zhongbao has shown its support for Qulian, having already purchased a small amount of the firm's shares in April 2018, at which point the investor valued Qulian at \$78 million. The three-fold increase in valuation over two months has predictably drawn scrutiny from financial regulators in China. In a letter of inquiry published on May 27, the Shanghai Stock Exchange required the lead investor to justify the rapid change in Qulian's valuation. Zhongbao Xinhua replied to the regulator: "This is a business judgement made by the company and other co-investors based on a comprehensive evaluation of Qulian. There is a risk of a mismatch in (Qulian's) income and valuation." source: <https://www.coindesk.com/hyperchain-blockchain-creator-completes-234-million-funding-round/>

[2016-02-24] CD: PwC Director: Blockchain Impact Could Create Winners and Losers

PwC Director: Blockchain Impact Could Create Winners and Losers Global professional services giant PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) became the latest big-name firm to make its blockchain service offerings public this month, unveiling a solution portfolio designed to take business clients from ideation to iteration as they explore the emerging technology. <http://www.coindesk.com/pwc-fintech-director-disruptive-blockchain-could-create-winners-and-losers/>

[2018-01-31] Coincheck hackers trying to move stolen cryptocurrency

If the hackers did their research well, then they know they only need to trade their stolen XEMs for one coin. Monero. Once they do, there is no way anyone can trace them. I reckon this might be a good time to start looking at Monero's price hehehe. Robinson said such hopping among different cryptocurrencies was becoming more prevalent among cybercriminals trying to cover their tracks. The coins that the hackers had taken made up around 5 percent of the total supply of XEM, the world's 10th biggest cryptocurrency, according to trade website Coinmarketcap. McDonald said the hackers were unlikely to try to spend anything close to all of the stolen cryptocurrency at once, because the "market simply couldn't absorb that much". If the hackers successfully moved the coins to an exchange, they were likely to try to swap them into another cryptocurrency before transferring the coins back into a conventional currency, he said. That would make the funds difficult or near impossible to trace. "I would assume that they are going to get away with some of the money," McDonald said. Read the full article <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-cryptocurrency-cybercrime/exclusive-coincheck-hackers-trying-to-move-stolen-cryptocurrency-executive-idUSKBN1FJ28Y>

[2016-07-18] Forbes.com| As Race To Offer First Bitcoin ETF Heats Up, New

As Race To Offer First Bitcoin ETF Heats Up, New Company Files To Create An Ether ETF In yet another sign that companies are eager to turn digital currencies into proper investment vehicles, a

newly formed company called EtherIndex LLC filed last Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission to launch an exchange-traded fund based on ether, the cryptocurrency that powers the Ethereum network.....<http://www.forbes.com/sites/laurashin/2016/07/18/as-race-to-offer-first-bitcoin-etf-heats-up-new-company-files-to-create-an-ether-etf/#1acedbac2d55>

[2018-02-01] Ukraine's Cyberpolice Supports Legalization of Cryptocurrencies

Ukraine's Cyberpolice Supports Legalization of Cryptocurrencies The cybercrime combating department of Ukrainian Police has voiced support for the legalization of cryptocurrencies despite sharing some concerns about them. The Cyberpolice unit also noted the need to regulate cryptos "as soon as possible". Ukrainian parliament is yet to adopt new legislation amid mounting calls from other institutions to regulate cryptocurrencies. Legalize it or Ban it It is necessary to regulate at legislative level all matters pertaining to the use of cryptocurrencies, Sergei Demedyuk, head of the Cyberpolice department, said in a statement quoted by local media. In his opinion, regulations should be adopted as soon as possible. He also pointed to the need to amend the law in order to tax crypto related transactions. The rules of operating cryptocurrency exchanges have to be determined, too, he insisted. If authorities are unable to regulate the status of cryptos in the near future the state should officially ban their circulation, the National Police representative said. Then "everyone will know that by buying and selling cryptocurrency in Ukraine they risk losing their financial investments irrevocably, in the absence of any protection or compensation", Demedyuk warned. The high-ranking police official noted, however, that Ukraine's Cyberpolice force was supportive of efforts to legalize cryptocurrencies and crypto mining in the country, despite concerns that their circulation might be "based on the same foundations as financial pyramids". Mounting Calls to Regulate Demedyuk's remarks are part of a long list of calls to legalize cryptocurrencies in Ukraine. His comments came after a study revealed that dozens of Ukrainian officials possess a total of more than 21,000 bitcoins, as news.Bitcoin.com reported. Earlier this month the status of cryptocurrencies was discussed during a meeting of the National Cybersecurity Coordination Center in Kiev. Representatives of the security services took a closer look at the "uncontrolled circulation" of cryptos in Ukraine. The cybersecurity body decided to set up a special working group to complete the legal framework. It should assist other authorities in building foundations for the crypto market, establishing procedures to monitor transactions and clarifying aspects of taxation. The Secretary of the National Security Council of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said that the development of the cryptocurrency market could not be left unattended. The Minister of Justice of Ukraine Pavel Petrenko stated that Bitcoin must be brought into the legal field adding that government institutions should respond to the phenomenon. A petition to the president to legalize cryptocurrencies was filed on January 12. While The National Bank of Ukraine remains opposed to cryptocurrencies, legislators have introduced two bills to regulate their status. The drafts have been advancing through commissions in the Rada since October. One of them aims to regulate the circulation of cryptos, and the other is designed to stimulate the cryptocurrency market and the trade of crypto derivatives. Proposed amendments to the tax code cover taxation aspects, with possible incentives for mining companies. The legalization of bitcoin, however, can take many more months, as the government must prepare subordinate statutory instruments to implement the law. Do you think Ukrainian deputies will speed up the process of adopting cryptocurrency regulations after multiple calls by other Ukrainian institutions? [SOURCE LINK](#)

[2017-10-27] Lebanon's Central Bank Governor Disses Bitcoin at Digital Currency

Lebanon's Central Bank Governor Disses Bitcoin at Digital Currency Launch The bank that prints

the money used today in Lebanon plans to launch its own digital currency. Announced Thursday by Riad Salameh, the governor of the Banque du Liban, Lebanon's central bank, it's not yet clear if the project will be based on blockchain technology, though the idea appears to have been addressed in conversation. According to local news source The Daily Star, Salameh used the opportunity to underscore why cryptocurrencies, which utilize blockchain, were ineffective in serving as national currencies. The comments were made at the 7th Corporate Social Responsibility Lebanon Forum, as part of the conference's opening ceremony. <https://www.coindesk.com/banque-du-liban-digital-currency/>

[2017-10-27] There are now more than 120 hedge funds focused solely on bitcoin

More than 90 funds focused on digital assets like bitcoin have launched this year, bringing the total number of such "crypto-funds" to 124, according to financial research firm Autonomous Next. Data shared exclusively with CNBC Friday showed that the largest share of the funds, 37 percent, used venture capitalist-type strategies and had about \$1.1 billion in assets under management. Funds focused on trading digital assets came second at 32 percent, with about \$700 million in assets under management. Funds specifically using machine learning, data science or statistical arbitrage on digital currencies came in third at 10 percent and \$100 million in assets under management, the data showed. Total assets under management by crypto-funds now stands at \$2.3 billion, according to Autonomous Next's estimates. Source: Autonomous Next

This year's surge in the price of bitcoin and another digital currency, ethereum, have drawn attention to the cryptocurrencies and the potential of their blockchain technology. Proponents say blockchain could transform the world as much as the internet did, and several major banks are researching or developing blockchain projects. Digital currency enthusiasts also attribute much of the latest surge in bitcoin to record highs above \$6,100 to increased interest from institutional investors. While several leading Wall Street banking executives remain skeptical about bitcoin, more seasoned money managers are moving into digital assets management. Notably, former Fortress hedge fund manager Michael Novogratz is launching a \$500 million digital assets fund through his new firm, Galaxy Investment Partners. The fund is expected to be the largest of its kind. Two CNBC market experts battle it out over bitcoin's future

Two CNBC market experts battle it out over bitcoin's future 5:12 PM ET Thu, 26 Oct 2017 | 01:22

Besides investing in digital currencies like bitcoin and ethereum, enthusiasts are betting on a slew of new digital coins for projects built on the same blockchain technology. The tokens are launched through a process called an initial coin offering and have raised just over \$3 billion, according to Autonomous Next. That said, many of the digital coin projects are still in very early stages. China has banned initial coin offerings, while the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has warned investors about the risks of investing in them. The overall number of crypto-funds and their assets under management is also still minuscule compared to the record \$3.15 trillion held by the hedge fund industry in the third quarter, according to HFRI. <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/27/there-are-now-more-than-120-hedge-funds-focused-solely-on-bitcoin.html>

[2019-07-14] Wells Fargo Won't Allow Customers To Buy Bitcoin

Wells Fargo's decision diverges from other leading financial institutions, who are becoming increasingly pro-crypto technology <https://bitcoinist.com/wells-fargo-wont-allow-customers-to-buy-bitcoin/>

[2017-10-26] UK Asset Manager Adds Support for Ethereum Exchange-Traded Product

UK-based asset manager Hargreaves Lansdown is moving to offer its customers access to two ethereum-based exchange-traded notes (ETNs). According to a report by CityWire, the asset manager is opening its doors to two ethereum-tied ETNs – named COINETH:SS and COINETHE:SS – that are denominated in Sweden's national currency, the krona, and the euro, respectively. The move comes just months after the company first began offering its client base some degree of access to the cryptocurrency market. In June, the firm – which was founded in the 1980s and boasted more than £61 billion in assets under management last year – announced that it was working with Swedish firm XBT Provider to allow its customers to buy shares in an ETN tied to bitcoin. That ETN, traded on Sweden's Nasdaq exchange, was first approved in 2015. The idea behind securities like XBT's ETNs is that, rather than investing directly in the market through the purchase of a cryptocurrency, investors can buy exposure through related instruments instead. Danny Cox, head of communications at Hargreaves Lansdown, described the offering as a "complex investment" for select investors. Source : <https://www.coindesk.com/uk-asset-manager-hargreaves-lansdown-adds-ethereum-etn/>

[2017-07-17]cointelegraph.com| 5 FinTech Companies to Shape the Future of

5 FinTech Companies to Shape the Future of Money With 2016 marking four years since the last halving, dropping to 12.5 bitcoins every ten minutes, what FinTech companies should we look out for in the years ahead? The birth of Blockchain technology is quickly becoming the main component of the FinTech revolution and is quite possibly considered the most innovative concept in the FinTech industry....<http://cointelegraph.com/news/5-fintech-companies-to-shape-the-future-of-money>

[2018-01-31] South Korea Detects \$600 mln Illegal Trades

The Korea Customs Service (KCS) stated on January 31 that a total of 637.5 billion won worth (~\$600 million) in foreign currencies have been exchanged illegally, including unrecorded capital outflow using cryptocurrencies. Source:

<https://hype.codes/south-korea-detects-600-mln-illegal-trades> What do you think about the use of cryptocurrency in the money laundering?

[2017-06-20]Most Popular Contactless Smart Cards in Japan Adding Bitcoin Wallets

Sony's Felica technology is behind many of the most popular contactless NFC smart cards. Already the de facto standard in Japan for commuter travel payments, Felica is being used at the point of sale, railway and air ticketing, as well as for University ID cards – to name a few. It was recently announced that bitcoin has been successfully integrated with Felica technology. Plans have been announced for each contactless smart card to include a bitcoin wallet that holds a private key on the card. Size of Felica's User Base Japanese electronics and entertainment megacorp Sony Corporation originally developed Felica contactless RFID-based smart card technology. In 2007, a company called Felica Pocket Marketing Inc. was founded to sell, promote and distribute Felica contactless cards as well as leasing card terminals to member companies. Built into smart cards, smartphones, and other devices, Felica technology is behind many of Asia's mass transit systems and can be used as e-money, e-ID, e-tickets, and membership cards. For example, the technology is in use by both of Japan's largest airlines, All Nippon Airways (ANA) for its Skip Service, and competitor Japan Airlines (JAL) for its Touch and Go service. It is also used in ID cards at more than 365 universities in the United States. In 2016, Nikkei Asian Review reported that the global shipments of Felica chips

were expected to top 1 billion that year. Continue reading -

<https://news.bitcoin.com/contactless-smart-card-system-japan-bitcoin-hardware-wallets/>

[2017-06-20] UK Regulator Warns Investors Bitcoin Trading is Risky

UK Regulator Warns Investors Bitcoin Trading is Risky A high ranking UK regulator recently warned people about the pitfalls and perils of bitcoin investing. Chris Woolard, The Financial Conduct Authority's executive director of strategy and competition, said there are many trades happening in the cryptocurrency and bitcoin space. He just wants investors to know there are risks with speculating in digital assets, that people could lose a lot of money.

<https://news.bitcoin.com/uk-regulator-warns-investors-bitcoin-trading-is-risky/>

[2016-10-24] DCEBrief - A New Push for Blockchain Voting from Delaware Judge

A New Push for Blockchain Voting from Delaware Judge One of the major challenges of the digital currency industry is to keep growing, pushing boundaries and raising awareness of cryptocurrencies in new arenas. The last year or so has been particularly successful in his regard, and continues to be so with a recent talk by Delaware Judge J Travis Laster. In a discussion about voting transparency for institutional investors, he noted that blockchain, the technology that powers Bitcoin and other digital currencies, also holds the key to increased transparency and efficiency within the proxy voting system currently used by corporate shareholders. Read the full story:

<http://dcebrie.com/a-new-push-for-blockchain-voting-from-delaware-judge/>

[2018-01-30] World's Largest Investment Company: 'Interesting' Bitcoin Is Under

World's Largest Investment Company: 'Interesting' Bitcoin Is Under 'Close Review' Isabelle Mateos Y Lago, chief multi-asset strategist at BlackRock, an investment management corporation with \$5.7 trln in assets under management, has said that the company is keeping cryptocurrency under "close review" as an "interesting development." Speaking to Bloomberg TV Monday, Jan. 29, the senior executive said that although cryptocurrency did not constitute "an investable asset" for the world's largest money manager at present, it was actively tracking progress as it is "clearly evolving very fast." The comments temper those of BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, who last week went on record at the World Economic Forum 2018 to describe the space as an "index of money laundering" and previously implied he had no plans to enter the future Bitcoin ETF arena. As the dust settles on Japanese exchange Coincheck's \$530mln hack, Mateos Y Lago nevertheless saw little reason to discard cryptocurrency investment entirely. "The fact that interest has persisted despite these repeated hacks," she continued, describing customer demand for Bitcoin at BlackRock, "despite regulators waking up and trying to catch up with this new development and gradually weeding out all the illegal uses suggests there really is something to it." Isabelle Mateos Y Lago, global chief multi-asset strategist at BlackRock Investment Institute, says Bitcoin isn't investable "at this stage" <https://t.co/1808eRwzNO> [pic.twitter.com/8jgKsUH9Jg](https://twitter.com/8jgKsUH9Jg) — Bloomberg TV (@BloombergTV) January 29, 2018 By adopting a 'not-now-but-later' perspective on interaction, BlackRock echoes sentiments from Deutsche Bank's Chief Investment Office leader Markus Mueller, who likewise told Bloomberg that while crypto is for "speculative" investors now, the next five to ten years should see regulatory progress allow its treatment as an "established asset class." "There are lots of ways to get in; the question is, are they safe?" Mateos Y Lago continued on Blockchain and ICO investment opportunities, saying it was "hard to put a fair value" on them for regular investors. Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/worlds-largest-investment-company-interesting-bitcoin-is-under-clos>

[2018-01-30] South Korea Starts Real-name Trading System for Cryptocurrencies

A real-name trading system for cryptocurrencies became operational in South Korea on Tuesday (Jan 30), with the use of anonymous bank accounts in transactions banned to prevent virtual coins from being used for money laundering and other illegal activities, Yonhap news agency reported. The trading system is also part of the South Korean government's latest measures to curb speculative investment into virtual coins amid growing fears that a cryptocurrency bubble may be set to burst. About 3 million people in South Korea are estimated to have invested in cryptocurrencies, and the nation's six banks have started verifying cryptocurrency investors' identities, Yonhap said. A ban on the opening of cryptocurrency accounts have been in place for weeks while banks work on installing the system, which ensures only real-name bank accounts and matching accounts at cryptocurrency exchanges for deposits and withdrawals. In South Korea, foreigners and underage investors are banned from opening cryptocurrency accounts. The new system also requires cryptocurrency exchanges to share users' transaction data with banks, a move that could potentially allow the government to impose taxes down the line. Some cryptocurrency traders and exchanges predicted that prices of virtual coins will rebound when banks allow opening of new cryptocurrency accounts, according to Yonhap. Others said prices will adjust further amid media reports that only four major exchanges - Bithumb, Upbit, Coinone and Korbit - are likely to attract new investors as banks are expected to reject transactions with small and mid-sized exchanges. Cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and ethereum have rapidly gained popularity among South Korean investors hoping to make quick money. Despite a boom in cryptocurrency transactions, the exchanges go largely unregulated in South Korea as they are not recognised as financial products, with the country having no rules for protecting virtual currency investors. Source:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/south-korea-starts-real-name-trading-system-for-cryptocurrencies>

[2018-05-26] 13-Year-Old Bitcoin Kidnapping Victim Found Safe

13-Year-Old Bitcoin Kidnapping Victim Found Safe A young 13-old-year boy who had been kidnapped last Sunday in South Africa has been found safe and sound. His kidnappers had demanded a Bitcoin ransom of roughly

\$120,000. <http://bitcoinist.com/13-year-old-bitcoin-kidnapping-victim-found-safe/>

[2016-7-14] Former Mt. Gox CEO Mark Karpeles has been released from prison

In an update from Japanese news stations News24 Japan, former Mt. Gox CEO Mark Karpeles has been released from prison following a one year sentence which he just completed serving. The Mt. Gox bitcoin exchange famously shut down in 2014 after losing 750,000 bitcoins. Read more: <http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/former-mt-gox-exchange-ceo-mark-karpeles-has-been-released-from-prison/>

[2016-05-06] Bitcoin Price Analysis: 5/06/2016

An upward trend continues to form on Bitcoin. Disruption of the structure of that trend could provoke a new fall. Read More

[2019-06-21] Bitcoin Price Hits New 2019 High Inching Closer to \$10,000 'FOMO'

Bitcoin (BTC) set a new 2019 high on June 21, hitting \$9,800 and firmly beating daily returns of almost all major cryptocurrencies. Data from Coin360 put BTC/USD trading at around \$9,675 at press time Friday after a minor correction from earlier highs. The performance further cements bitcoin's bullish progress over the past three months, surprising investors once more after retaking the \$9,000 mark this week. Monthly (30-day) gains for bitcoin investors now stand at 26.5%. Previously, commentators had begun forecasting a break to \$10,000 would spark considerable demand among prospective buyers, who would then push the bitcoin price higher. They included serial bitcoin bull Tom Lee, who in a note to clients of his Fundstrat Global Advisors said 2019 could see BTC/USD reach as high as \$40,000. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-price-hits-new-2019-high-inching-closer-to-10-000-fomo>

[2016-05-06] Zimbabwe Banks Lack Cash Reserves To Honor Customer Withdrawals

For the time being, the central bank is looking to print bond notes, which would be tied to the US Dollar value kept in the country's reserves. Moreover, withdrawals will be limited to US\$1,000 per day, and people are advised to use either Euros or South African rand. That latter is not a viable option either, though, considering the rand lost 20% of its value compared to the US Dollar in the past twelve months. <http://bitcoinist.net/zimbabwe-banks-lack-cash-reserves-to-honor-customer-withdrawals/>

[2016-07-13] news.bitcoin.com-4 Ways to Buy Weed with Bitcoin, Legally

4 Ways to Buy Weed with Bitcoin, Legally The original Silk Road, which was shut down in 2013 with its founder, Ross Ulbricht, jailed for life, was one of the most popular places to purchase cannabis for many online users. But today, unfazed due to incessant demand, an increasing number of darknet markets have sprung up to fill the void while learning from the mistakes of their predecessors. READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/4-ways-buy-weed-bitcoin-legally/>

[2017-06-19] Top Bitmex Representatives Discuss The People's Bank of China and Bitcoin's Future

Top Bitmex Representatives Discuss The People's Bank of China and Bitcoin's Future In a recent interview published on Technode with CEO Arthur Hayes and COO Ben Delo, Bitmex's co-founders discussed Bitmex's growth, changes within the Chinese cryptocurrency landscape, and the future of the bitcoin and cryptocurrency industries. Bitmex Has Shown an Invulnerability to Recent Chinese Regulatory Crackdowns Upon Bitcoin Exchanges Bitmex was co-founded in 2014 by CEO Arthur Hayes and COO Ben Delo, with CTO Samuel Reed having also been involved from the company's inception. Within 3 years the exchange has grown to handle approximately \$75 million USD worth of daily trade across the company's products. Top Bitmex Representatives Discuss The People's Bank of China and Bitcoin's Future Bitmex has shown an invulnerability to recent Chinese regulatory crackdowns upon bitcoin exchanges, which has sought to bring cryptocurrency exchanges in-line with mainstream financial institutional practices. CEO Arthur Hayes described the perversely positive outcomes enjoyed by Bitmex as a result of the regulatory actions. "We are bitcoin only so we

don't take government issue fiat currency, so if a banking system gets shutdown it doesn't really affect us because people can still move bitcoin in and out of the platform because it's purely a tech protocol. If anything, China shutting down the exchanges helped increase our volume because if you want leverage trading... you probably can't do it anymore in China"COO Ben Delo also weighed in on the recent interference into Chinese bitcoin exchanges' operations on the part of regulators. "I think the regulatory actions in China are not so much about bitcoin as they are about currency controls. They let you send RMB in and buy and sell bitcoin, you just can't withdraw that bitcoin, you can't take it out of China – it's wanting to avoid the appearance of capital leaving the country by that mechanism."COO Ben Delo Highlighted Concerns That Bitcoin Speculation May Be Undermining Bitcoin's Ability to Reach Its Full PotentialThe Bitmex representatives expressed strong skepticism with regards to the People's Bank of China considering issuing RMP via blockchain technology, articulating strong warning against the political ambitions that may be realized through such a project. "They want to get rid of cash." said Delo. "They want to control it. Already people are using Alipay and WeChat pay to handle day-to-day transactions. They want to take it a step further. By introducing electronic RMB it may have certain blockchain elements but ultimately it will all be controlled by the government. They want to track every movement of every bit of cash"Top Bitmex Representatives Discuss The People's Bank of China and Bitcoin's FutureWhen discussing what's in store for the next generation of bitcoin businesses, COO Ben Delo highlighted concerns that bitcoin speculation may be undermining bitcoin's ability to reach its full potential in terms of utility, and that future successful start-ups may seek to reconcile and circumvent said antagonism. "In some parts of Africa you've got some people using phone credit as a form of money. Tech like Bitcoin could provide the world with banking facilities without the need to actually setup infrastructure. At the moment you can't do that because Bitcoin is a volatile, speculative currency. But once people build the next generation of cryptocurrency wallets, they will start offering something like a bitcoin-backed US dollar, that is worth a US dollar, and be transacted on a blockchain. Once you've got that you can start offering banking to the unbanked just on an app." Only from this basis, Delo speculated, can products such as peer-to-peer finance, insurance, investments options, etc., be sustainably delivered via blockchain technology.<https://news.bitcoin.com/top-bitmex-representatives-discuss-the-peoples-bank-of-china-and-bitcoins-future/>

[2019-01-29] Hong Kong Plans TV Ad Campaign Against Crypto Investments

The Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) and the Investor Education Centre (IEC), which is a subsidiary of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) announced on January 29 the launch of a public education campaign to raise awareness of the potential risks of investing in ICOs and buying cryptocurrency.Source:

<https://hype.codes/hong-kong-plans-tv-ad-campaign-against-crypto-investments>

[2018-01-26] More Crackdown?China Warn Against Risks of Offshore ICOs And Virtua

January 26, 2018-Beijing, National Internet Finance Association of China (NIFA) this Friday issued a warning calling on investors to see clearly the risks of offshore ICO and "virtual currency" exchanges and firmly establish the risk-prevention awareness.The warning is in line with the Notice on ICO issued by seven ministries led by the People's Bank of China (PBoC) last September or better known for September Ban in China. It sharply points out that ICO activities are illegal and disruptive to economic and financial stability. All token fundraising shall stop immediately, all financial institutions and non-bank payment agencies shall not engage in business related to the issuance and fundraising of tokens. Many investors blamed this ban for the subsequent sharp decline in

cryptocurrency markets, which saw almost \$35 billion wiped off of the total capitalization in several days. Offshore OTC trading targeted At present, relevant clean-up of domestic ICO activities and cryptocurrency exchanges has been basically completed, while during which some investors turned to offshore-located activities...<http://news.8btc.com/china-regulatory-authority-warn-against-risks-of-offshore-icos-and-virtual-currency-transactions>

[2017-10-23] Will Japan continue to be a cryptocurrency giant?

Japan is currently a cryptocurrency giant, accounting for approximately 63% of Bitcoin's worldwide turnover. However, the bans imposed in other Asian countries are worrying to investors who fear that they will be introduced in Japan. As the ICO is a new radical form of crowd-funding, companies acquire funds in the form of cryptocurrencies, by selling tokens to investors in return. This has become a popular method because investors can profit more on new technologies than on traditional methods.<https://dowbit.com/will-japan-continue-to-be-a-cryptocurrency-giant/>

[2016-10-16] Bitcoin Price Weekly Analysis – BTC/USD Further Gains Likely

Bitcoin Price Weekly Analysis – BTC/USD Further Gains Likely In the last weekly analysis, I stated that Bitcoin is a good buy on the dips against the US Dollar in the short term. It looks like the idea did work as BTC price managed to climb higher and registered a close above the \$635 resistance. There was a nice upside move, which took Bitcoin price above a couple of important hurdles. There was a new weekly high posted at \$647, and currently the price is consolidating...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/10/16/bitcoin-price-weekly-analysis-btcusd-gains-likely/>

[2016-05-04] Brexit May Spell Doom for Fintech and Bitcoin. In the UK, That Is

What impact Britain's exit from the European Union will have on Bitcoin and Fintech? The British have always seen themselves as a bit distinct from their European cousins across the Channel. [Read More](#)

[2018-01-26] Bank of Japan: No Big Problems With Bitcoin So Far

Quote It's not the sexiest headline in the world, but so far things with bitcoin seem to be going relatively well in Japan, according to a Bank of Japan (BOJ) Director-General. With increasing calls from world leaders to unite and devise a global regulatory regime for cryptocurrencies, Japan has taken a strikingly different approach.<https://news.bitcoin.com/bank-of-japan-no-big-problems-with-bitcoin-so-far/>

[2016-05-05] Bitcoin will Survive without Ever Knowing Who Satoshi Nakamoto is

Bitcoin will Survive without Ever Knowing Who Satoshi Nakamoto is People need to keep in mind the cryptocurrency can easily survive without ever knowing who created it, as gaining that knowledge would change nothing at all in the long run.

[2019-06-01] Bitcoin as healthy as ever as the network hits all-time high mining

Bitcoin as healthy as ever as the network hits all-time high mining difficulty Bitcoin is having a very good week – both in terms of price and the stability of its blockchain. Shortly after surging past \$9,000 to hit its highest price for 2019, the cryptocurrency's mining difficulty increased by 11.26 percent to 7.46 trillion, setting an all-time high for the network. The previous record came in October, 2018, when the difficulty rose to 7.45 trillion. Source:

<https://thenextweb.com/hardfork/2019/05/31/bitcoin-cryptocurrency-blockchain-mining/amp/>

[2016-5-05] BitPay extends exchange services with VISA debit card

Founded in 2011, while Bitcoin was still in its infancy, BitPay was created with the intention of making it easy for businesses to accept bitcoin payments. NewEgg, Valve, and Microsoft, to name a few, use the service to extend the payment options displayed on their sites. BitPay accepts bitcoin on a retailer's behalf, and pays them the equivalent in fiat currency, typically U.S dollars. The company is currently the largest bitcoin payment processor in the world, serving more than 60,000 merchants on six

continents. <http://bravenewcoin.com/news/bitpay-extends-exchange-services-with-visa-debit-card>

[2015-12-30] VISA: 2015 turned blockchain into reality to live with

VISA: 2015 turned blockchain into reality to live with The overview of what 2015 has become for the world of finance published by Visa Europe suggests that the year has seen rise in payments, and that innovative technologies have closely merged with finance, making blockchain the reality "to live with." <http://www.coinfox.info/news/4248-visa-2015-has-turned-blockchain-into-smth-for-the-industry-to-live-with>

[2018-05-22] Bitcoin Pizza Day: How a Pizza Worth \$40M Shows the Cryptocurrency

On 17 May, 2010, a computer programmer from Florida set out to prove that bitcoin could be used as a real-world currency. At the time, one unit of the cryptocurrency was only worth \$0.008, so Laszlo Hanyecz proposed buying two pizzas for what would today be an extraordinary sum of bitcoins. "I'll pay 10,000 bitcoins for a couple of pizzas," Mr Hanyecz said on a bitcoin forum. "Maybe 2 large ones so I have some left over for the next day. I like having left over pizza to nibble on later." He signed off the post: "If you're interested please let me know and we can work out a deal." Most members of the forum were interested in the experiment but some saw it as a bid to get a free meal from a technology that was unknown beyond a small subset of free market libertarians and so-called cypher-punks. "Good luck on getting your free pizza," one user commented, to which Mr Hanyecz replied: "I just think it would be interesting if I could say that I paid for a pizza in bitcoins." Five days later Mr Hanyecz posted a picture of two pizzas to the same forum, alongside a comment saying he had successfully traded 10,000 bitcoins to acquire them. On 22 May, 2010, the first ever real-world bitcoin transaction took place. Laszlo Hanyecz bought two pizzas for 10,000 bitcoins – the equivalent of \$82 million at today's prices (Laszlo Hanyecz). Within a couple of months the price of bitcoin had risen 10-fold, forcing the computer programmer to rescind an open offer to exchange bitcoins for pizza. Continue reading >>

[2016-05-04] Coinsource Expands its Bitcoin ATM Network Across Los Angeles

Coinsource Expands its Bitcoin ATM Network Across Los Angeles The number of Bitcoin ATMs in the 'City of Angels' has gone up. Coinsource, the Bitcoin ATM network has announced that it has added seven new Bitcoin ATMs to its network in Los Angeles recently. At the same time, Las Vegas received 2 more of these machines. Even though the number of Bitcoin ATMs is gradually increasing, they are still a rare sight. This makes the installation of seven Bitcoin ATMs in Los Angeles area and two more in Las Vegas by Coinsource the largest single installation to date in the digital currency's history...read more

[2018-05-20] How Bitfinex's Tax Requirement May Have Contributed to the Bitcoin

On May 17, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency and bitcoin exchange Bitfinex officially asked its users to submit tax IDs and social security numbers that could be utilized by government agencies in the countries its users are based into tax gains recorded in the cryptocurrency market. "We request that you complete the appropriate self-certification form and upload it to your Bitfinex account by May 24, 2018, at the latest. If you are a US person or an entity with at least one 25 percent owner who is a US person, please complete the appropriate FATCA form. You are required to provide us with such information," said Bitfinex. Targeted Users Whalepool, a community of day traders focused mainly on bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies on Bitfinex, emphasized that they strongly disavow the decision of Bitfinex and have withdrawn their funds from the exchange. "Bitfinex is now requiring users to give their tax information so that it can send it to BVI which will exchange it with your country's tax authorities. We strongly disavow. If you also disagree with this decision, peacefully protest it by withdrawing your money from Bitfinex," the Whalepool team said. In response to the statement of Whalepool, the Bitfinex team noted that it has "deliberately targeted users" that it believes have an obligation to self-disclose and emphasized that only a portion of the Bitfinex user base was asked to disclose their tax identification and personal information. In some regions like the US and France, capital gains tax on cryptocurrency investment is quite substantial. Until this month, the gains tax imposed on cryptocurrency trading was 45 percent, which was decreased to 19 percent by France's Council of State because investors were not willing to disclose their earnings just to be taxed 45 percent. In consideration of the high capital gains tax imposed on cryptocurrency trading, it is understandable that investors in the global cryptocurrency market try to avoid disclosing their tax IDs and prevent from being forced to pay abnormally large taxes on trades. The abrupt decision of Bitfinex led the cryptocurrency market and investors that trade the bitcoin-to-USD, which is still the majority of investors in the market, to panic sell and withdraw their funds out of Bitfinex. According to CryptoCompare, a cryptocurrency market data provider, Bitfinex remains as the biggest bitcoin-to-USD exchange with more than 29 percent of the market share. Bitcoin Price Falls The period in which Bitfinex sent out its official statement to its clients coincided with the fall in the price of bitcoin on May 17, when the bitcoin price reached a two-month low at \$7,925. It is highly likely that the price drop of bitcoin was largely caused by Bitfinex and the sell-off of investors on the platform trading the bitcoin-to-USD pair. The cryptocurrency market still remains extremely volatile. Over the past 24 hours, the daily trading volume of the cryptocurrency market has dropped \$5 billion, from \$21 billion to \$16 billion. As such, it is possible that the bitcoin price falls further below from the current rate at \$8,320. But, given that the market has already started to recover from the May 17 dip, it is likely that the bitcoin price rebounds soon, along with other major cryptocurrencies and

tokens.<https://www.ccn.com/how-bitfinexs-tax-requirement-may-have-contributed-to-the-bitcoin-price-correction/>

[2018-05-20] More Millennials Use BTC Marketplaces Like Paxful to Invest in Crypt

An increasing number of millennials are utilizing bitcoin marketplaces and peer-to-peer exchanges like Paxful to invest in the cryptocurrency market as a store of value and an alternative payment system to banks. Millennials Better Suited to Lead Cryptocurrency Adoption Earlier this year, Columbia University Business School professor Chris Castiglione stated that millennials are better suited to lead the adoption of cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and Ethereum because they are capable of managing the risks associated in transacting with and investing in cryptocurrencies. "I think the crypto market is attractive to millennials because it's a space with both a lot of growth and risk. People who are 40+ years of age are likely settled down with a career and family, and less inclined to get into such a quick growth, volatile field. It's been the same way with startup founders over the past 2 decades. Millennials also seem to be much more digitally literate than Gen X or baby boomers," explained Castiglione. Cryptocurrency wallets and exchanges enable users to send, receive, store, and invest in cryptocurrencies with ease and eliminate the necessity of technical knowledge on blockchain technology and cryptographic systems. As such, by simply entering wallet addresses and maintaining back ups of private keys, it is possible for newcomers to send, receive, and store bitcoin relatively easily. Bitcoin provides complete financial independence and freedom, as it eliminates the involvement of third party service providers like banks. Even on exchanges and marketplaces like Paxful that are peer-to-peer, users can buy and sell bitcoin without depending on financial institutions. Consequently, because trusted third party service providers do not exist, careless mistakes such as sending funds to the wrong bitcoin address or account could result in permanent loss of funds and unrecoverable errors. Castiglione stated that to utilize cryptocurrencies, individuals must have some digital literacy and thus, millennials are better suited to adopt cryptocurrencies like bitcoin and Ethereum. "Many of the people starting cryptocurrencies and tokens do seem to be between the ages of around 22-40. But obviously anything is possible, and I could list many exceptions to the rule," Castiglione. Millennials Core of Crypto In consideration of the statement of Castiglione, it is not an understatement to claim that millennials are a core part of crypto. With studies suggesting that millennials have lost trust in banks and financial institutions over the past few years, the cryptocurrency sector is in ideal position to appeal to young users. Bitcoin service providers and peer-to-peer marketplaces such as Paxful have started to observe a rapid increase in the activity of millennials on their platforms and as millennials continue to utilize cryptocurrencies more extensively in the future, platforms like Paxful will be able to grow exponentially in terms of user base and user activity. "As masters of the side hustle and challengers of the traditional 9-5 working lives of previous generations, millennials are welcoming blockchain with open arms," Storm CEO Simon Yu noted, emphasizing that cryptocurrencies have also become an opportunity for millennials. <https://www.newsbtc.com/2018/05/20/millennials-use-bitcoin-marketplaces-like-paxful-invest-cryptocurrency-market/>

[2019-05-29] Bitcoin's 'Toxic' Twitter 'Culture War' Explained

https://www.coindesk.com/bitcoins-toxic-twitter-culture-war-explained?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=coindesk&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Organic%20 "What the heck! It's a food fight on here. [Bitcoin developer] Matt Corallo is mad at Blockstream. Ragnar and Giacomo Zucco clubbing people left and right. Wat is going on!?" This text from a bitcoin enthusiast friend aptly described the confusion on social media platform Twitter in recent days, when leading members of the bitcoin developer and startup ecosystem have been fighting over bitcoin's "culture" and whether it needs to be changed or improved. The root of the debate: Does bitcoin have a culture problem? Is

there too much “toxicity”? And yet, as Twitter is a free-for-all, there were all sorts of sub-parts to the debate, centering on other questions: Is bitcoin inclusive enough? Why is Twitter so harsh? And what, exactly is bitcoin culture? It’s hard to say exactly how the fiery battle started, but it appears to have stemmed from a tweet from Token Daily co-founder Soona Amhaz stating: “A few bright ethereum core developers have personally confided in me that they turned to ethereum after feeling [antagonized] by the bitcoin community. Play the long game or you will lose talent.” Amidst the discussion that followed came Neil Woodfine, Blockstream’s marketing director, who argued that bitcoin’s culture can seem unwelcoming partly because there are so many fraudsters in the industry trying to make a quick buck. And those in the ecosystem who have been around for more idealistic reasons, have grown to reject this mindset in a sometimes harsh manner. “Bitcoin industry culture is therefore *necessarily* one of extreme skepticism, cynicism, rigorous review, and forthright language,” Woodfine tweeted, adding: “If you’re unhappy with bitcoin culture, sorry, you’re the problem. Bitcoin is better off without you—you’re not cut out for the challenges ahead. You’re not good under pressure, you’re too sensitive, and you lack conviction.” Others on Woodfine’s “side” of the debate (though the debate was so raw and messy it’s hard to determine actual sides) argue that bitcoin’s community has been hardened by past debates over the years. The most well-known of which was bitcoin’s scaling debate, which abruptly ended when a minority of bitcoiners broke off to create bitcoin cash. In short, the argument goes that the reason the community can come off as unwelcoming is because they’ve had to dispel many bad ideas along the way. ‘Gaslighting bullshit’ But Woodfine’s thread, while popular, didn’t sit well with everyone. “This is gaslighting bullshit,” said Neha Narula, research director for MIT’s Digital Currency Initiative, calling Woodfine’s thread a “travesty.” This side of the debate suggests that there’s something wrong with bitcoin’s “culture,” that settling for the way things are is not enough, and that people should make more of an effort to include people in the community. “Always question, never settle, and know that there are lots of us who try to debate, criticize, learn, and improve without being jerks,” Narula went on to write. Others had similar reservations with the idea bitcoin’s culture is static, arguing that the culture isn’t set in stone. “Totally wrong. That some dudes on Twitter can declaim what bitcoin’s culture is and should forever be is ridiculous. We’re still building the culture, and we *can* make it better,” argued Chaincode developer John Newbery, leading into a conversation about how bitcoin developers aren’t a very diverse group and he wants people of various cultural backgrounds to feel more welcome. In what might have been the climax of the debate, bitcoin developer Matt Corallo blocked Blockstream CSO Samson Mow, going on to argue some individuals at the bitcoin tech startup Blockstream’s culture are “toxic.” Corallo helped to found the startup in 2014. Never again! It might seem this massive debate came out of nowhere. Tierion researcher Paul Sztorc’s take is that people in the community just didn’t have an outlet to talk about these concerns until this debate blew up. “Usually when people fight, it is because lots of unresolved stuff has been bubbling up over time. Then it is triggered by one little event — the straw that broke the camel’s back, as they say,” Sztorc argued. On that note, some participants see truth in both sides of the debate. “Some people say we should promote better culture that is more inclusive and respectful. Other people say [peer-to-peer] network protocols must remain neutral and not care about cultural issues. They are both right,” argued Ciphrex co-founder CEO Eric Lombrozo, though he later argued that Twitter culture — which he described as “mostly a bunch of dudes trying to win stupid prizes” — isn’t representative of bitcoin’s overall culture. BitTorrent creator and bitcoin developer Bram Cohen also blames the “toxicity” on the social media platform Twitter specifically. “Anyone who persists in being a jerk should eventually be made to feel unwelcome, but the default assumption should be that people simply haven’t learned the norms yet and explain it to them,” he said. Meanwhile, others drew alternative conclusions about the state of the bitcoin community from the debate. As Woodfine tweeted: “After this weekend, let no one ever again claim that bitcoin is an echo chamber.”

[2018-01-24] Bitcoin Trader Made Millions Trading on Margin, Then Lost It All

A bitcoin trader allegedly lost nearly 200 bitcoins during the recent cryptocurrency market correction, which forced the bitcoin price as low as \$9,231 after peaking at \$19,891 last month. The tragic story, which was posted on the Bitcoin Markets subreddit, is a stark reminder of how fleeting crypto wealth can be — and how bitcoin traders and investors can often mistake luck for supernatural skill. The trader, whose account has now been deleted, said that he or she took \$3,000 in poker winnings and turned it into nearly 200 BTC by betting successfully on last year's bull market. By trading on margin and correctly predicting that the bitcoin price would increase, the user was able to multiply the value of his or her position. Had the trader closed out the position at its most profitable, he or she would have walked away with 300 bitcoins, worth nearly \$5 million at the time. "I thought I was a trading genius, a god, whatever," the author said, at which time the story takes a tragic turn. The trader increased his or her position size and leverage in mid-December, as the bitcoin price hit \$16,000 following its first dip to \$11,000. This proved to be the first of several critical mistakes, as the trader's entire 50 BTC position was liquidated when the market dropped down to \$12,000. He or she was still holding 150 BTC, which would have been a significant — potentially life-altering — profit reaped from an initial investment of just \$3,000. A few bad trades later, however, and those holdings evaporated as well, leaving him or her with nothing to show for a year's worth of trading. "At this time I am still in shock," the trader wrote, "the last few months I've neglected relationships and school, and I've been daydreaming about living the high life rich as f—k with my millions." Many investors were captivated by the market's outsized gains in 2017, leading them to make similarly-unfortunate decisions. A recent survey, for instance, found that approximately 20 percent of investors who bought bitcoin using a credit card had not paid off the balance. Having weathered a myriad of bitcoin price swings, long-time industry observers like ShapeShift CEO Erik Voorhees and Union Square Ventures co-founder Fred Wilson have said that it is wise to take profits when a position becomes extremely profitable and use those funds to pay off consumer debt or perhaps diversify into other assets. Unfortunately, this trader did not heed that advice. "I never want to hear the word BTC again because I want to forget," the post concluded. <https://www.ccn.com/bitcoin-trader-made-millions-trading-on-margin-and-then-lost-it-all/>

[2015-12-29] Voxelus Virtual Reality Currency Presale Begins On Uphold Platform

The Voxelus virtual reality (VR) content creation platform is making its VOX currency available on the Uphold cloud money platform in a beta pre-sale. Uphold users can order VOX on Uphold before its general release on March 30, 2016, according to Anthony Watson, president and CEO of Uphold Inc. Voxelus allows users to create VR games and experiences without having to rewrite code. It offers a VR player app that plays content using the desktop content tool on Samsung VR or Oculus Rift and is developing even more features. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/voxelus-virtual-reality-currency-presale-begins-uphold-platform/>

[2016-07-11] news.bitcoin.com-OneCoin Claims Are 'False and Misleading' ...

OneCoin Claims Are 'False and Misleading,' Warns Belgium In a release Friday, the country's Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) stated that neither OneCoin nor its promoters "have been recognized or authorized" and that both parties' claims "are false and misleading." "The Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) warns the public that neither OneCoin nor the persons promoting OneCoin have been recognized or authorized by the FSMA," it states. [READ MORE >>> https://news.bitcoin.com/onecoin-false-misleading-warns-belgium/](https://news.bitcoin.com/onecoin-false-misleading-warns-belgium/)

[2019-05-23] AT&T Teams With BitPay to Accept Bill Payments in Crypto

[https://www.coindesk.com/att-teams-with-bitpay-to-accept-bill-payments-in-crypto?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=coindesk&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Organic%20AT&T's Death Star logo](https://www.coindesk.com/att-teams-with-bitpay-to-accept-bill-payments-in-crypto?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=coindesk&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Organic%20AT&T's+Death+Star+logo) may have really been a moon after all, with the telecom giant announcing Thursday that it will accept bill payments in the form of crypto by way of BitPay. As it stands, the crypto option isn't being extended to other AT&T services, such as buying phones or other devices, and as of yet BitPay won't work in AT&T's storefronts. That said, the company noted in a statement that its customers use cryptocurrency and that the new offering is intended to give them their preferable option. "We're always looking for ways to improve and expand our services," said Kevin McDorman, vice president at AT&T. "We have customers who use cryptocurrency, and we are happy we can offer them a way to pay their bills with the method they prefer." An AT&T spokesperson told us "BitPay provides payment processing services for merchants and is one of the largest bitcoin payment processors in the world. Our customers are on this platform and we are always looking for different ways to better serve our customers." It might be time for bitcoin whales break open those cold wallets and pay off their AT&T bills for the next twenty years. AT&T is my provider so maybe might be time to register with BitPay

[2016-02-17] Video: The Zen of Monetization: The Revolution of Crypto Currency

Video: The Zen of Monetization: The Revolution of Crypto

Currency <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN7cmfoH06w&feature=youtu.be>

[2015-12-29] Blythe Masters Startup Digital Asset Holdings Struggles For Funding

The year 2015 has been quite a significant one for Bitcoin regarding the amount of VC funding flowing into the world of digital currency. However, not every Bitcoin startup is seeing its fair share of success, despite initial excitement regarding what they want to bring to the table. Blythe Masters' Bitcoin startup – called Digital Asset Holdings – is struggling to secure additional funding, <http://bitcoinist.net/blythe-masters-startup-digital-asset-holdings-struggles-for-funding/>

[2018-05-17] China's Researchers Created Rating of Blockchain Projects

Bitcoin Ranked 13 in China's Blockchain Rating The CCID Research Institute of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology released on May 17 the first global blockchain technology evaluation index. The CCID is part of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, a state agency of China. The CCID bridges the government, business, and experts to provide research, evaluation certification, and other professional services. Read more:

<https://hype.codes/chinas-researchers-created-rating-blockchain-projects>

[2015-12-28] How China's Evolving Internet Will Impact Bitcoin Users

How China's Evolving Internet Will Impact Bitcoin Users One of the major topics of concern regarding the Bitcoin block size debate has been how the Internet infrastructure in China is evolving over time. With its current data caps and fairly slow speed – compared to the rest of the world – bigger Bitcoin blocks... <http://www.altcointoday.com/evolving-internet-in-china-impact-bitcoin/>

[2017-06-12] Bitcoin Mines in Chinese Province Sichuan Allegedly Forced to...

Reports have emerged detailing the alleged forceful cessation of large-scale bitcoin mines in China's southwest, with insiders quoting a lack of state-sanctioned regulatory policy regarding cryptocurrency mining as the official reasoning cited for such. The Closures Come at a Critical Moment for Mining Businesses, as Bitcoin's Price Has Tripled over the Course of 2017. The absence of government-backed regulation over the practice of bitcoin mining has apparently prompted the Chinese central government to forcefully influence the cessation of many commercial bitcoin mining operations in Sichuan. China's province of Sichuan has attracted great interest from bitcoin investors and entrepreneurs in recent years, as the province has abundant access to hydropower and offers huge savings in electricity costs for mining businesses that operate in Sichuan. The closures come at a critical moment for mining businesses, as Bitcoin's price has tripled over the course of 2017. "The price is so high at the moment," said a bitcoin mine manager in an interview with Yicai Global, "shutting down costs mine owners hundreds of thousands of yuan every day." The reports appear at odds with the Chinese government's recent decision to again allow deposits and withdrawals in fiat currencies to be processed by the country's major exchanges. The moves come ahead of announcements that The People's Bank of China will roll out regulatory measures for bitcoin trading designed to prevent money laundering in

June. <https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-mines-in-chinese-province-sichuan-allegedly-forced-to-shut-down/>

[2016-10-11] Falcon Bank Branch Shut Down Over Money Laundering Concerns

Falcon Private Bank Singapore Branch Shut Down Over Money Laundering Concerns. The financial relationship between Switzerland and Singapore has come under even more pressure than before. Singapore central bank officials forced Falcon Private Bank to shut down immediately. This is a direct result of the ongoing money-laundering operations in the country, and Falcon Private Bank is the second Swiss financial institution forced to close its

doors... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/10/11/falcon-private-bank-singapore-branch-shut-money-laundering-concerns/>

[2015-12-16] Genesis Mining Introduces Ethereum Cloud Mining Contracts

Genesis Mining recently announced a new type of cloud mining contract that will let users mining Ethereum. It was only a matter of time until one of the cloud mining providers started looking at Ethereum contracts sooner or later. These new Ether Cloud Mining contracts will run for one year, and offer some interesting alternatives when the digital currency switches to

Proof-of-stake. <http://bitcoinist.net/genesis-mining-introduces-ethereum-cloud-mining-contracts/>

[2016-05-03] Extraordinary Satoshi Claims

Extraordinary Satoshi Claims. It has become an annual exercise for the press to jump on a Satoshi sighting that it has almost become an ordinary event. What is extraordinary is when a previously attempted and debunked contender emerges with, yet again, unconvincing

"proof." <http://hackingdistributed.com/2016/05/02/extraordinary-satoshi-claims/>

[2018-05-16] South Korea Will Focus 'Positive Aspects' of Crypto, Soften Policy

South Korean regulators and officials are likely to relax their approach to regulating cryptocurrencies, starting with classifying them as 'financial assets'. There's a July deadline looming for G20 nations after policymakers called for recommendations for regulating cryptocurrencies, seen as 'financial assets' by the economic leaders from the world's twenty largest economies. South Korea's regulators, however, have previously classified cryptocurrencies as 'non-financial assets' due to their speculative nature. It is becoming increasingly apparent that Korea is likely to shift its stance with a friendlier policy as the country's financial watchdog promises to "improve things" on the regulatory front. As reported by the Korea Times, the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) – Korea's financial watchdog – acknowledged the G20's unified stance meant that Korea would have to change its policy, stating: "It's almost certain that cryptocurrencies will be classified as assets and the main issue will be centered on how to regulate them properly under the unified frame that will be agreed upon between G-20 nations. Given the current stance [in Korea], this isn't good, but we will step up efforts to improve things." The statement falls in line with recent remarks from Yoon Suk-heun, the new governor of the FSS, who said that an internal study on cryptocurrencies identified 'positive aspects' that could lead to relaxed regulations in the near future. "Regarding cryptocurrencies, there are some positive aspects..." FSS chief Yoon said during his ceremonial swear-in last week. Notably, the FSS was the same authority to carry out a ban order that completely curtailed initial coin offerings (ICOs) in the country in September 2017. These positive developments for the cryptocurrency space come at a time within weeks of a legislative effort by Korean lawmakers who are drafting a bill to legalize the launch of new cryptocurrencies and ICOs in the country. <https://www.ccn.com/south-korea-will-focus-positive-aspects-of-cryptocurrency-soften-policy/>

[2016-10-11] TechCrunch: Watch the first episode of our new series Trust...

TechCrunch launched their new series (6 episodes scheduled) dedicated to Bitcoin and Blockchain tech. Watch the first episode of our new series Trust Disrupted: Bitcoin and the Blockchain <https://techcrunch.com/2016/10/10/watch-the-first-episode-of-our-new-series-trust-disrupted-bitcoin-and-the-blockchain/> Quote We have a new series launching this week called Trust Disrupted: Bitcoin and the Blockchain. The six-episode series examines the rise of Bitcoin and the tech that allows it to operate. The first episode will answer all your questions about the Bitcoin platform and how it works. Why did futurists want to create a totally digital currency? How would it work? What will the effects of Bitcoin and the blockchain have on the future of our economy? Episode one seeks to explain the blockchain, the technology that allows bitcoins to be transferred between entities, as well as the motives behind its creators. The episode also examines the platform's future and how it will be received by governments and big banks, the very institutions its creators were trying to sidestep or even overturn....

[2016-07-10] Independent: Pound sterling becomes more unstable than Bitcoin...

That's a bit of exaggeration and sensationalism from The Independent, but still a nice press hit: Pound sterling becomes more unstable than Bitcoin following Brexit <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/brexit-pound-sterling-bitcoin-prices-unstable-volatile-exchange-referendum-a7129311.html> Quote The British pound has become more volatile than Bitcoin. Bitcoin has long been thought to be the world's most unstable currency – moving from

being worth \$2 to \$1,137 in the last five years. But that wildly volatile currency is now becoming a safe refuge when compared to the fluctuations in the pound. For a brief period this week, Bitcoin's 10-day historical volatility – a measure of how much its price has been changing – dropped below that of the British pound....

[2016-07-08] bitmex.com| Use Two-Factor Authentication and Don't Reuse Passwords

Use Two-Factor Authentication and Don't Reuse Passwords A botnet is attempting known email/password combinations from a large data leak on Bitcoin sites. Use Two-Factor Auth (2FA) and don't reuse passwords. BitMEX services have not been compromised. About four weeks ago, I was rudely awakened in the early morning by our uptime alarms clanging that the website was going up and down. ...<https://blog.bitmex.com/use-two-factor-authentication-and-dont-reuse-passwords/>

[2018-05-15] German Bank Uses Bitcoin's Blockchain for International Loans

German online bank Bitbond has announced it uses the Bitcoin's blockchain to facilitate international transfer of fiat loans. Loans are transferred to the borrower using Bitcoin only to be converted back to fiat currency once the international movement is processed. This allows customers to avoid fluctuating exchange rates of fiat currencies. Full article on NewsBTC

[2016-10-11] Bitcoin Price Technical Analysis– New Channel to Watch!

The 100 SMA is above the longer-term 200 SMA on this time frame, signaling that the path of least resistance is to the upside. Also, the gap between the moving averages is widening so bullish pressure is getting stronger. The 200 SMA is close to the bottom of the channel at \$612, which might be the line in the sand for any correction from this uptrend. Stochastic is already indicating overbought conditions so bulls could take a break from here and allow bitcoin price to retreat. A small pullback could last until the mid-channel area of interest around \$615 or the 100 SMA dynamic support. Stronger selling pressure could lead to a break of the channel bottom and a reversal for the bitcoin price uptrend. Bitcoin Price Technical Analysis for 10/11/2016 - New Channel to Watch! <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/10/11/bitcoin-price-technical-analysis-10112016-new-channel-watch/>

[2019-5-13] Bitcoin Futures & Custody: Bakkt's differentiated approach

User acceptance testing for bitcoin futures custody and trading planned for July In our recent post, Bakkt COO Adam White laid out our custody roadmap and how secure digital asset storage is central to our strategy. Today, we're pleased to update you on the launch of bitcoin futures contracts developed by Bakkt in collaboration with ICE Futures U.S. and ICE Clear US. We've worked closely with the CFTC to develop contracts that both meet our customers' needs for trading, transparency, and market certainty, and are also compliant with Federal regulations. Read more :

<https://medium.com/bakkt-blog/bitcoin-futures-custody-bakkt-differentiated-approach-59b88d6984b5>

[2017-10-16] Tokenization is Another Way to Use Blockchain in Business

As of October 12, 2017, the capitalization of the cryptocurrency market has reached \$162 billion. The capitalization of the asset market – the cryptographic tokens produced by ICO projects - amounts to \$7.8 billion. The appearance of a separate asset market indicates the growing role of ICO projects' tokens. These digital assets are not only designed to be a means of exchange speculation, but also to have functions significant for business: they provide access to services, allow voting, accumulate a passive income and are used for internal settlements in companies and ecosystems. Evolution of the blockchain from a distributed accounting system to ICOs. The blockchain technology is a distributed database that is supported by a number of nodes. There is no single regulatory body in the system. The history of operations and any changes become noticeable to all network members. It is advantageous for businesses to use blockchain for processes in which data transparency and authenticity is important. Read the full article:

<https://coinidol.com/tokenization-is-another-way-to-use-blockchain-in-business/>

[2016-07-07]btcmanager.com|How Bitcoin Stands to Gain from "Currency Wars" Among

How Bitcoin Stands to Gain from "Currency Wars" Among Central Banks Recent figures shows that the United Kingdom's economic growth fell to a slower pace in June, even before the European Union referendum, which will lead the Bank of England to cut interest rates as early as next week. This is known as 'easing' monetary policy. Following the market chaos of the E.U. referendum result, the Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney hinted that, "some monetary policy easing will likely be required over the summer". Monetary policy comprises of various tools to try to control the money supply and interest rates and thereby influence economic

activity....<https://btcmanager.com/news/finance/how-bitcoin-stands-to-gain-from-currency-wars-among-central-banks/>

[2016-05-02] Wright Claims He's Bitcoin Creator Satoshi -Experts Fear Epic Scam

Craig Wright Claims He's Bitcoin Creator Satoshi -- Experts Fear An Epic Scam Peter Todd, a core Bitcoin developer, said the "proof" was "like photocopying someone else's signature on a publicly available document and claiming it's proof you are them". "Because the proof provided is non-existent, and Craig has a history of scams, this could simply be part of a bigger scam." Emin Gün Sirer, associate professor at Cornell and cryptocurrency expert, agreed the information provided by Wright was far from conclusive, suspecting "a deliberate attempt to deceive". "I'm still waiting for cryptographic proof," he added. "Even with cryptographic proof, there's still the possibility that the real Satoshi's keys may have been compromised or reverse

engineered." <http://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2016/05/02/craig-wright-satoshi-nakamoto-doubt/#40a04c97708f>

[2016-02-12]XMLGold Offer Instant Banks Transfers and Cryptocurrency Withdraws

Well Established Trading Platform XMLGold Offer Instant Bank Transfers and the Option to Withdraw Cryptocurrencies Directly to Visa and MasterCard Launched in the year 2000, cryptocurrency trading platform XMLGold has been credited as a reliable and versatile cryptocurrency service provider. XMLGold enables their clients to buy and sell Bitcoin and other types of cryptocurrencies and to withdraw the funds directly to their bank card. XMLGold clients can also buy Bitcoin by depositing funds via instant bank transfers...read more

[2017-06-08] This bitcoin investment vehicle could be 'a disaster waiting to...

This bitcoin investment vehicle could be 'a disaster waiting to happen' The Bitcoin Investment Trust offers investors a chance to get in on the digital currency's surge without having to take possession of bitcoins. The trust often doesn't accurately track bitcoin's movement and trades at a more than 100 percent premium to the underlying asset. <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/06/08/this-bitcoin-investment-vehicle-could-be-a-disaster-waiting-to-happen.html>

[2016-07-08] reuters.com| Bitcoin 'miners' face fight for survival as new supply

Bitcoin 'miners' face fight for survival as new supply halves Marco Streng is a miner, though he does not carry a pick around his base in south-western Iceland. Instead, he keeps tens of thousands of computers running 24 hours a day in fierce competition with others across the globe to earn bitcoins.... <http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSKCN0ZO2CW>

[2016-07-09] BITCOIN HALVING_ only 93 blocks Left! [Real time countdown]

WHAT IS BITCOIN HALVING? In the Bitcoin network, user transactions are grouped in blocks and recorded to a digital public ledger called a blockchain. Miners are in charge of this task, and receive a mining reward in the form of bitcoins for each block recorded. The amount of bitcoins rewarded for each block decreases with time: it is halved every 4 years. This event, the moment when the mining reward is divided by 2, is commonly called "Bitcoin halving". Other denominations are used: "reward drop", "reward halving", or simply "the halving" or "the Halvening" which is a popular meme among bitcoiners. When Bitcoin was created in 2009, the initial reward was 50 bitcoins. In november 2012, it dropped to 25btc after the first <http://www.thehalvening.com/#3>

[2018-01-19] Visa CEO: We Won't Accept Bitcoin Directly

Visa will not directly accept bitcoin, according to company CEO Alfred Kelly in a recent CNBC interview during the National Retail Federation trade show in New York City. "We at Visa won't process transactions that are cryptocurrency-based," he said. "We will only process fiat currency-based transactions." Kelly pointed to the problem posed by a currency like bitcoin with rapidly fluctuating value. "People want a fair exchange of value when they're buying something, so if it costs \$100, I want to pay \$100," he said. If you are paying for something that is "bouncing around at the level bitcoin's bouncing around, and think about 'buy ahead' kinds of transactions" – such as an airline ticket or a car – "If you're using bitcoin, when is it valued?" he asked – when you buy it, when you use it? Kelly said he currently views bitcoin as a speculative commodity as opposed to a method of payment. A Commodity, Not A Payment System "I don't view it as payment system player," he said. "My take is that bitcoin is much more today a commodity that somebody could invest in; and honestly, somewhat of a speculative commodity that people can invest in." Depending on when a person invested in bitcoin in the last three months of the currency's intense volatility, someone could have earned a lot of money, he said. One CNBC anchor pointed out that Visa does have a bitcoin payment card through BitPay. Visa Terminates Bitcoin Credit Cards However, Visa, recently terminated its partnership with Wave Crest, a Gibraltar-based digital payment processing company, effectively disabling bitcoin and cryptocurrency debit cards. All of the bitcoin and cryptocurrency debit

card service providers including TenX, Xapo, Coins.ph, Bitwala, BitPay and CryptoPay have been affected by the crackdown of Visa on Wave Crest. Cryptocurrency debit card service providers have been relying on Wave Crest and its Visa partnership to process cryptocurrency payments. In 2016, BitPay introduced its bitcoin Visa debit card that enabled users to make payments at any Visa point-of-sale (POS) terminals and withdraw cash at Visa ATMs, anywhere across the United States. The CNBC anchors said that Kelly's input was one of the more direct answers they've gotten about bitcoin's role in the mainstream economy. <https://www.ccn.com/visa-ceo-we-wont-accept-bitcoin-directly/>

[2019-05-02] New Investor Campaign Calls to Prepare for Future, Replace Gold with

Grayscale argues that Bitcoin is far better than gold. "That's because Bitcoin possesses a superior composition of 'good money' qualities made for a digital global economy." <https://bitcoinist.com/grayscale-replace-gold-with-bitcoin/>

[2016-02-11] Bitcoin Mining Pools Reject Bitcoin Classic

Bitcoin Mining Pools Reject Bitcoin Classic Mining pools that represent at least 70% of the total hashing power of the bitcoin network have announced that they would not be supporting Bitcoin Classic or, for that matter – any "contentious hard-fork". These big Bitcoin mining pools reject bitcoin classic while they are joined by some... <http://www.altcointoday.com/bitcoin-mining-pools-reject-bitcoin-classic/>

[2015-12-26] Bitcoin Foundation: We're Trying to Recover from the Mess Peter ...

Bitcoin Foundation: We're Trying to Recover from the Mess Peter Vessenes Made Amid the controversy surrounding the dismissal of two recently elected members Jim Harper and Oliver Jansen, an old piece of evidence has surfaced in bitcoin forums regarding the legitimacy of the contribution of its founding members including former Bitcoin Foundation chairman Peter Vessenes. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2015/12/26/bitcoin-foundation-were-trying-to-recover-from-the-mess-peter-vessenes-made/>

[2017-10-13] Bitcoin, Dash Can Now Be Spent at 40 Million Stores Worldwide...

Bitcoin, Dash Can Now Be Spent at 40 Million Stores Worldwide, Thanks to Wirex Debit Card Digital currency could quite possibly be transformative, providing a paradigm shift in the world's interactions with money and finance. As Jihan Wu, CEO of Bitmain, recently blogged: "[Bitcoin] essentially rolls gold, cash, and our credit card system into one. It takes the strengths of each and leaves the weaknesses behind. It has the limited supply quality of gold, but can be used to purchase everyday items. It has the speed of a credit card, but respects and protects your privacy. Transactions are settled instantly like cash, but are recorded on a public ledger." Accessibility Bitcoin and other digital currencies are seriously lacking in one vital area: accessibility. It's prohibitively difficult for new users to obtain cryptocurrency. An individual who wants to obtain a small amount of Bitcoin would probably find even the easiest route to be rather challenging. Setting up a Coinbase account would be relatively simple in itself, but then the person must link either a credit card or bank account. Depending on several factors, the purchase may be instant or may require several days for an ACH

transaction to be processed. Our new user now owns some shiny new Bitcoin...and probably has no clue what to do next. Buying larger amounts of Bitcoin is even more difficult, requiring users to go through an extensive process to comply with "Know Your Customer" (KYC) and "Anti-Money Laundering" (AML) laws. This involves submitting numerous personal documents such as driver's licenses and utility bills, then filling out a long questionnaire and awaiting approval. Such users must then figure out what wallet they want to store their currency in, and wrestle with issues such as two-factor authentication and the like. Read more:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-dash-can-now-be-spent-at-40-million-stores-worldwide-thanks-to-wirex-debit-card>

[2016-10-6] The First End-To-End Bitcoin Micropayment Test on Lightning Network

Readers may remember our coverage of a Roger Ver interview from a few days ago where the veteran Bitcoiner and entrepreneur told Bitcoin Uncensored that Lightning Network was still untested and could take a long time to get off the ground. At the time, he was right. But this morning CCM can report that a successful test, using Bitcoin testnet coins, has been conducted by developers at Blockstream. In the test, the developers used an ASCII cat picture as a demo product. The developer below can be seen manipulating a combination of bitcoind and lightningd, the Bitcoin daemon and Lightning daemon respectively, to instantly purchase a cat picture that developer Rusty Russell has up for sale. Some of the information in the video may be hard to understand, so we'll do our best here to make it simpler. To begin with, Christian Decker has to fund his instance of Lightning with some testnet bitcoins. This requires an initial confirmation from the Bitcoin network itself. Presumably, the same coins can be used at multiple destinations on the Lightning Network. (The whole point of the Lightning Network is faster transactions by doing them off of the main chain.) Once his Lightning Network instance is funded, he is able to open a "channel" with the prospective recipient's wares and send the required funds. In the future, Lightning Network sellers will have the ability to utilize other stable nodes in order to relay payment and further decrease congestion. But as noted in the video, this test transaction requires "just one hop." The Lightning client itself provides confirmation that the transaction has succeeded. If a company like Newegg were using the software in sales, they would presumably send additional confirmations by e-mail. However, immediate applications would tend to more financial purposes, such as exchanges, who could use the network to both send and receive bitcoins for fundings and withdrawals. This could lead to increased arbitrage opportunities for Bitcoin traders. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/blockstream-developers-run-first-end-to-end-micropayment-test-on-lightning-network/>

[2016-05-01] Gold Struck on OpenLedger With Ethereum Based DigixDAO asset (DGD)

Gold Struck on OpenLedger With Ethereum Based DigixDAO asset (DGD) OpenLedger, the CCEDK owned transparent decentralized exchange now allows users to trade DigixDAO (DGD) assets on its platform. The DigixDAO cryptocurrency protocol is used for trading DigixGlobal's gold backed digital tokens (DGX) on the Ethereum platform. Recently mentioned in Forbes, the event is one of the most significant recent developments in the cryptocurrency industry. read more

[2018-05-12] This Crypto Vending Machine Can Tell If You're 21 And Sell You Beer

"We're definitely not in the beer-vending business." That might not be something you'd expect the

marketing manager for a crypto tech company to clarify, but it's perhaps now necessary when discussing Civic, the startup founded by entrepreneur and "Shark Tank South Africa" star Vinny Lingham in 2016. Announced Friday, the San Francisco-based startup will unveil the world's first "crypto beer vending machine" at CoinDesk's Consensus 2018 next week. No gimmick, Civic sees the prototype, built and branded in partnership with beverage giant Anheuser-Busch, as a way to demonstrate the utility of blockchain-based identity verification schemes. In short, any conference attendee will be able to walk up to the machine with their Civic app, where they can verify whether they are of legal age and make a purchase. Read more:

<https://www.coindesk.com/the-worlds-first-crypto-beer-vending-machine-has-arrived/>

[2018-01-19] Company Gets \$500K to Open Mining Hub in Virginia Beach

The Virginia Beach Development Authority announced on Thursday that it granted \$500,000 to Bcause LLC, a company that provides a digital mining facilities along with spot market, to create a data center. Bcause LLC will be also eligible to take advantage of the City's recently reduced business property tax rate for computers and peripherals used in data centers, which is now \$0.40 per \$100 of 40% of assessed value, the government stated. Source:

<https://hype.codes/company-gets-500k-open-mining-hub-virginia-beach> What is your opinion about the government grant?

[2015-12-25] Breaking: EU Plans Crackdown on Bitcoin in Bid to Tackle Terror

European Union (EU) countries plan a crackdown on virtual currencies and other anonymous payments in an effort to tackle the financing of terror, according to a draft document seen by Reuters. <http://www.financemagnates.com/cryptocurrency/news/breaking-eu-plans-crackdown-on-bitcoin-in-bid-to-tackle-terror/>

[2016-02-10] Will the Upcoming Mining Reward Halving Impact Bitcoin's Price?

The reward for mining Bitcoin is expected to see the second halving in its history later this year, potentially in June or July. Bitcoin, a deflationary store of value as opposed to reserve currencies and fiat-money, has had its total supply limited to 21 million bitcoins since the original code released by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008. Unlike fiat currencies that can be printed at will by central banks, the total supply of bitcoins is fixed by the consensus rules of the system. Because of its deflationary nature, the digital currency is often compared to precious metals such as gold, which also undergo a resource-intensive creation or mining

process. <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/will-the-upcoming-mining-reward-halving-impact-bitcoin-s-price-1455126224>

[2016-02-10] Blockchain is about to transform everything we know about banking

At the World Government Summit in Dubai being held Feb. 8 to 10, which wraps up today, world leaders and grey-haired bureaucrats from the United Nations, World Bank, and other agencies discussed how governments can help their countries' people adapt to relentless social and technological change. <http://business.financialpost.com/entrepreneur/fp-startups/are-we-ready-to-place-our-trust-in>

[2016-02-10] Coindesk :IBM Director Declares 'We're All in on Blockchain'

Global tech giant IBM took its latest step in leveraging its existing brand power to position itself as an enterprise blockchain solutions leader today, appearing at the The Block Chain Conference in San Francisco. There, IBM's Global Blockchain Offering Director John Wolpert gave a keynote speech, his half hour talk covering the deficiencies in the approaches being taken by today's blockchain developers and why he believes a more collaborative approach is needed to bring the tech to market. <http://www.coindesk.com/ibm-director-all-in-blockchain/>

[2018-01-18] Bitcoin Backing Firms Feel Crypto Crash Pinch

Bitcoin Backing Firms Feel Crypto Crash Pinch With Bitcoin shedding 50 percent of its value in little under a month, those firms who vocally rode the wave on the up are now feeling the terrify drop in terms of loss of their own market value. Companies such as Overstock, which has some of its fortunes locked up in the digital currency, as well as Square Payments, which announced plans to allow for some Bitcoin buying and selling, have been hit hard by this crash. Taking a beating While the numbers being tracked by these Bitcoin-backing firms are nothing compared to the actual losses being suffered by the cryptocurrencies, they are directly correlated. Square showed a loss of five percent or \$90 mln, this week as the company which is led by Twitter's CEO Jack Dorsey ended with a value of \$15.1 bln. Overstock, a longtime supporter of Bitcoin going back to 2014, fell 11 percent ending with a value of \$1.8 bln thanks to the roughly \$200 mln loss. This latest drop in the crypto market has been put down to the uncertainty emanating from Korea with their apparent bank of cryptocurrencies on the cards. This pressure from regulators also adds teeth to the fears in dealing with cryptocurrencies in major firms. Renaming regrets There are also instances where companies who have tried to jump on the Bitcoin and Blockchain bandwagon have found that the wagon is currently in the shop for repairs. A number of firms have changed their focus, tact or simply their name, to profit from the hype and mania around cryptocurrencies. However, the other, ugly, side to this ecosystem is the violent volatility that needs to be stomached. Kodak, perhaps better known for their cameras, fell eight percent. The company has announced plans to offer a cryptocurrency known as KodakCoin at the end of the month, initially sending shares up 60 percent on the day of the announcement. Shares of Riot Blockchain, once a biotech firm dubbed Bioptix, shed 17 percent Tuesday, even shares of Long Blockchain, once Long Island Iced Tea, shed two percent. Lessons up for grabs While the future, as it always is, is uncertain for the crypto ecosystem, there are lessons to be learned in this latest Bitcoin 'death.' Bitcoin has been dead and buried countless times as its volatile nature is too much for some to take, sending them fleeing. However, it has shown stronger and stronger resistance and ability to bounce back over the years and the crashes. Something that companies that are facing unprecedented dips will need to be aware of. Bitcoin believer Max Keiser explains these movements in a graph he tweeted: This pattern will repeat all the way to Bitcoin \$100,000 and beyond... pic.twitter.com/o9Wj4reBtv — Max Keiser (@maxkeiser) June 2, 2017 Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-backing-firms-feel-crypto-crash-pinch>

[2019-03-16] Andrew Yang is the Bitcoin-Friendly U.S. 2020 Presidential Candidat

Andrew Yang is the Bitcoin-Friendly U.S. 2020 Presidential Candidate With the exception of Wyoming and a handful of other states, blockchain regulation in the U.S. has been disappointing at best. Yet, there may be a ray of hope from Democrat Presidential candidate Andrew

[2016-04-30] CD: Europe's Regulatory Blockchain Shift on Display at Private Parl

Europe's Regulatory Blockchain Shift on Display at Private Parliament EventIn an unprecedented move, the EU Parliament hosted a non-commercial roundtable on cryptocurrencies and blockchain last week. The purpose was to educate members (MEPs) on the world of blockchain technology and set the stage for future regulatory agendas.<http://www.coindesk.com/the-eu-regulatory-blockchain-shift/>

[2016-02-10]Card frauds used bitcoins to trade money

Summary: "Bhardwaj has confessed to having sent Sheikh bitcoins equivalent to more than Rs 30 lakh in the past four-five months. The arrest of Nasir Ansari while withdrawing money from a Dadar ATM led to Mumbai Police recovering more than 20 cloned ATM cards. He confessed to having accepted money sent by Ansari and others on behalf of Sheikh. New Delhi: The busting of an international syndicate of debit card cloners on Tuesday has unearthed the use of bitcoins to avoid detection. During interrogation, Ansari disclosed that he sent the illegally withdrawn cash to Sheikh in Delhi through a hawala operator."<http://www.nyoooz.com/delhi/350470/card-frauds-used-bitcoins-to-trade-money>

[2016-07-07]Bitcoin Price Watch; Defining the Decline

Bitcoin Price Watch; Defining the DeclineIt is Thursday morning, and time to take a look at the bitcoin price. Specifically, let's have a look at our price played out overnight, and attempt to interpret this action and apply it to our intraday strategy in order to attempt to draw a profit from the market during today's morning European session. So, with that said, before we get going, take a quick look at the chart below...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/07/07/33551/>

[2017-06-04] Malaysians warm up to cryptocurrencies

PETALING JAYA: Investors in Malaysia are increasingly turning to digital currencies as an investment alternative.Unlike other freely tradable assets such as stocks and bonds, cryptocurrencies are said to offer an opportunity for investors to engage in less risky and more profitable investments.China, South Korea and Japan have adopted use of bitcoins with regulations, but the Malaysian authorities have so far remained silent on the subject of bitcoin and digital currency regulation.Bitcoin startup, Luno, has said it continues to stay in regular contact with Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). Mriganka Pattnaik, Countries Associate at Luno, said his company has delivered numerous training sessions and workshops on the subject."BNM has done a great job so far in taking the initiative to learn more about the [Bitcoin] industry and stop/prevent scams," Pattnaik was quoted by Bitcoin Magazine as saying."With regards to policy, (regulating bitcoin is) not a very easy thing to do. I can't comment on when or how BNM will regulate the industry, but they are always in touch with us about this and we are more than happy to provide them with input."As part of a trend that signals rising awareness and adoption of alternative cryptocurrencies, 47.4% of Malaysian cryptocurrency investors have bought bitcoins and other "altcoins," against 52.6% who have only bought bitcoins.Among the most popular altcoins, ether, the native cryptocurrency of the Ethereum network, is the top winner with 56.4% of altcoin investors having bought the asset. Litecoin (7.4%), Ripple (6.5%) and Dogecoin (6.5%) also rank among the most sought-after

coins."We've done this survey in a few other countries as well, so a lot of trends were similar across countries. Most of the results point to the fact that bitcoin adoption and usage is increasing everywhere," Pattnaik said. Luno, which offers storage, exchange and transaction services, operates across Southeast Asia, as well as in Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. Among the main reasons for buying bitcoins, Malaysian investors cited investment (44.7%) as the key motivation, followed by speed, affordability and convenience (16.3%), and trading/speculation (15.1%). In Malaysia, a major drawback to bitcoin adoption is the lack of regulation surrounding digital currencies. Nearly 90% of investors said they would buy more bitcoins if the government passed some sort of laws around it, indicating that "regulation, when it arrives, will be a major boost for bitcoin and ensure that bitcoin trading reaches a new high", said Pattnaik. The company said it has over 100,000 verified customers in Malaysia. <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/2017/06/04/malaysians-warm-cryptocurrencies>

[2016-07-07] North Carolina Governor Signs Bitcoin Bill Into Law

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed 16 bills into law today, one of which was House Bill 289, which expands the state's Money Transmitters Act to cover activities related to bitcoin and other blockchain-based digital currencies. Introduced in 2015, the passage of the law represents the fruition of more than a year of engagement between members of the US blockchain and digital currency industry and local regulators. Though the bill has not been without criticism, in interviews with CoinDesk, prominent advocacy groups largely voiced support for the measure as a step forward for the domestic industry. Perianne Boring, president of the Chamber of Digital Commerce (CDC), one of the strongest advocates for the bill, sought to position the law as one that had "made history" by providing an alternative, legislative-based model to industry-specific rule-making. Boring told CoinDesk: "The fact that this went through the legislative process is a big step forward, the bill also adds more clarity than any other state by a long shot." Boring said that the CDC's membership, comprising stakeholders including IBM, Microsoft, RRE Ventures and Ripple, among others, was largely supportive of the bill, which codifies proposals first published in December by the North Carolina Office of the Commissioner of Banks. "It is a business-friendly bill and gives better guidance to businesses," Boring continued. Other members of the industry offered a comparably more measured take. Jerry Brito, director of non-profit advocacy group Coin Center, for instance acknowledged that the bill provides clarity to industry businesses, while cautioning he does not believe it should serve as a model for other states to follow. "It was a good compromise, but it's by no means the best possible bill," Brito said. He added that he believes it could have been better crafted to provide an onramp for startups and to more clearly define when a company is deemed to be in control of consumer funds.

[2017-10-13] How Bitcoin Price is Controlled by Dark Markets

"I'll pay 10,000 bitcoins for a couple of pizzas.. like maybe 2 large ones" BitcoinTalk post in 2010 You hear stories like that all the time - someone bought, mined, or get payed in Bitcoins in 2011, dumped old computer, and then — bam! — the coins are worth 4 000 \$ each in 2017. There is no use crying over spilled crypto milk — very few saw that coming. But what caused such massive cash influx into Bitcoin? Why it makes USDs — the backbone of the fiat financing — seem like a worthless piece of paper? Is BTC just a bubble? There is an answer that no one talks about. Dark markets are Tor-powered, anonymous libertarian marketplaces, offering everything you can't buy in Walmart— stolen IDs, cards, drugs, guns, pirated content. In general dark markets are ultra secure and anonymous, because the payments in crypto are anonymous thanks to tumblers or mixers, that basically use coinjoin protocol to launder cash. But most of the time FBI manages to find a way to either DDoS or shed a light on one or two markets each year. The full article: <https://coinidol.com/how-bitcoin-price-is-controlled-by-dark-markets/>

[2016-07-07] Ripple scorns SWIFT and offers multisig

Ripple scorns SWIFT and offers multisigThe financial settlement provider Ripple criticises SWIFT network for allowing recent cyberattacks on cross-border transactions. In turn, it has introduced multisignature to confront hackers.<http://www.coinfox.info/news/5863-ripple-criticizes-swift-and-introduces-multi-signing>

[2016-04-29] Isle of Man Regulator Seeks Rule Change to Ease Bitcoin Gambling

Isle of Man Regulator Seeks Rule Change to Ease Bitcoin GamblingThe government of the Isle of Man is looking to plug a gap in its gambling regulations as they relate to bitcoin and other digital currencies. Officials are currently weighing regulatory changes that would allow gambling services to accept digital currencies “as if they were cash”.<http://www.coindesk.com/isle-of-man-bitcoin-gambling/>

[2016-02-09] Electrum bitcoin wallet for Android is coming to Google Play

Electrum which is currently the most popular bitcoin wallet according to community rating and reviews, sent out a tweet today announcing the first public beta release of the popular bitcoin wallet for Android which will soon be available in Google Play. Read more:
<http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/electrum-bitcoin-wallet-for-android-is-coming-to-google-play/>

[2017-10-13] Bank of Lithuania Discourages Financial Institutions From Dealing..

Bank of Lithuania Discourages Financial Institutions From Dealing With Virtual CurrenciesThe Bank of Lithuania has issued an official position regarding initial coin offerings (ICOs) and cryptocurrencies, in which the central bank encourages banks to withhold financial services from businesses operating with virtual currencies. Lithuania’s central bank also expressed its belief that ICOs should be regulated as securities. Lithuania’s Central Bank Has Discouraged Companies From Engaging in a Range of Activities Relating to CryptocurrenciesAccording to a press release published by the Bank of Lithuania, “financial market participants should not engage in the sale of virtual currencies, provide conditions for customers to pay in payment instruments issued by them (e.g. debit or credit cards, etc.), execute any operations in virtual currencies, and also engage in their exchange or similar activities.” The statement also states that businesses “should not link their services to virtual currencies and create an impression that such services are supervised and subject to the same security standards as those applicable to financial services are.” Marius Jurgilas, Member of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, states that “Virtual currency is an instrument involving high risk, while profiteering on it may lead to significant losses of funds. Therefore, in order to protect the customers of financial institutions, financial institutions legally operating in our country and supervised by the Bank of Lithuania must strictly dissociate themselves from this product type in their activities. An illusion that virtual currencies are supervised or safe can in no way be created.” The release states that “financial market participants that will provide financial services to customers who offer virtual currencies... will have to ensure strict compliance with the requirements for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.” The Bank of Lithuania Believes ICOs Should Be Regulated as SecuritiesThe release also articulates Lithuania’s central bank’s position with regards to initial coin offerings. Bank of Lithuania believes that when an ICO exhibits the features of securities, the crowdsale should be subject the juridical requirements of the Law on

Securities. The central bank asserts that the pertinent regulations may differ depending upon the particularities of each individual ICO, stating that "when deciding on the application and scope of specific legislation of the Republic of Lithuania for specific ICO, the conditions of the relevant ICO should be analysed and assessed." Marius Julius states that "in their essence, [ICOs] are the raising of funds from investors, often unprofessional, to finance some activity. Since the risk of losing investors' funds and other risks are particularly high, our position is that such offering, in certain cases, should be subject to investment related legislative requirements and restrictions." Lithuania's official position pertaining to cryptocurrencies has changed on several occasions in recent years. In 2014, Bank of Lithuania issued a statement that emphasized the potential risks to investors relating to bitcoin, asserted that bitcoin was not legal tender, and discouraging the nation's financial institutions from conducting cryptocurrency related operations. In 2016, Lithuania's Vice-Minister for Economy, revealed that the country's officials were exploring investing into blockchain and cryptocurrency technologies, stating "we think that technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, and bitcoin are among the latest and most exciting financial innovations. Lithuania... [has] serious intentions to invest into breakthrough in this area and to become a leader on the regional and global scale." The recent central bank position suggests that official Lithuanian sentiment regarding virtual currencies has again returned to one of discouragement. <https://news.bitcoin.com/bank-lithuania-encourages-financial-institutions-withhold-services-companies-operating-virtual-currencies/> "financial market participants that will provide financial services to customers who offer virtual currencies... will have to ensure strict compliance with the requirements for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing." FinCEN director Jennifer Shasky Calvey said: "There has been public reporting of connections of ISIL promoting the use of bitcoin and virtual currencies as a means of moving and raising funds, but I think we are also very focused on the traditional means of moving funds so I think we need to keep our focus on both areas." Bitcoin, Paris and Terrorism: What the Media Got Wrong Most authorities blame bitcoin when it comes to money laundering and terrorist financing, but they forget that these two cancers already existed before even bitcoin existed

[2015-12-23][BTCMANAGER.com] Bitcoin Foundation Ends Tumultuous 2015 with New...

Bitcoin Foundation Ends Tumultuous 2015 with New Mission, New Board Members The past year has been one of upheaval for the Bitcoin Foundation. In February, it held a contentious election, fraught with technical difficulties. Last week, the two new individual members who earned seats in that election, Jim Harper and Olivier Janssens, were compelled to give up those seats. On December 22, ... You may view the latest post at: <https://btcmanager.com/news/bitcoin-foundation-ends-tumultuous-2015-with-new-mission-new-board-members/>

[2016-04-29] Dash, the anonymous evolution of Bitcoin

The introduction of Bitcoin sparked a revolution of finance and economics. Bitcoin set money's value free from government constraint, value can now be determined solely by the market. Instead of depending on centralized third parties for every financial transaction, people can exchange value around the world cheaply, and in a completely decentralized manner. Bitcoin ushered in the age of truly digital cash. <http://bravenewcoin.com/news/dash-the-anonymous-evolution-of-bitcoin/>

[2016-10-03] Deutsche Bank is in Trouble; Bitcoin to the Rescue?

Deutsche Bank is in Trouble; Bitcoin to the Rescue? Deutsche Bank has fallen facedown, but this

time, no one's there to pick it up.[Read More](#)

<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/10/03/deutsche-bank-trouble-bitcoin-rescue/>

[2015-12-24] Lightning Network Skepticism

Lightning Network SkepticismI like the idea of the lightning network. I think the developers behind it are very smart and it's a very clever use of Bitcoin contracts. I'm sure that whatever comes from it will be useful to some parts of the Bitcoin ecosystem at a minimum. What I'm not for, however, is prematurely deprecating critical parts of bitcoin (zeroconf transactions and low transaction fees) when it's not yet clear that the lightning network will be a viable replacement for them. Yet that's what the core developers seems bent on

doing.<https://chrispacia.wordpress.com/2015/12/23/lightning-network-skepticism/>

[2016-10-02] Technical Maintenance By BTC-E Causes Unjustified Panic Among ...

Technical Maintenance By BTC-E Causes Unjustified Panic Among Bitcoin UsersThe BTC-E exchange has been down earlier today due to scheduled maintenance. As is usually the case when this happens, there is a lot of confusion and panic over what is going on. Many people assumed there was a security breach, but that does not appear to be the case. No funds are stolen, and everything should be working as normal once

again.<http://themerikle.com/technical-maintenance-by-btc-e-causes-unjustified-panic-among-bitcoin-users/>

[2017-05-31] 9 Years: LocalBitcoins Trader Sentenced

Are they really guilty? What difference does it make if they were selling baseball cards in a website that connects buyers and sellers? Is cases like these really weak if you have a good defense lawyer who is familiar with blockchains and cryptocurrencies? A bitcoin trader on exchange platform

LocalBitcoins and his father have been sentenced to prison terms after being convicted of running an unlicensed money transmission business.The Department of Justice announced late last week that Michael Lord and his father, Randall Lord, were sentenced to 106 months and 46 months, respectively.Both were charged with running an unlawful money business, while the younger Lord plead guilty to a narcotics distribution conspiracy charge. The two plead guilty last year.[Read in full http://www.coindesk.com/9-years-localbitcoins-trader-sentenced-latest-money-transmission-case/](http://www.coindesk.com/9-years-localbitcoins-trader-sentenced-latest-money-transmission-case/)

[2016-04-28] Blockchain Smart Contracts: A Hyper-Deflationary Force for Health Care

Blockchain and digital health services could be a perfect match for each other across a variety of applications. From distributed interoperable health records to proof of adherence for medication, the healthcare industry is ripe for digital innovation. More generally, technology is a hyper-deflationary force, and this could be particularly effective in delivering quality health care through more effective channels such as mobile apps.[Read more:](#)

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/blockchain-smart-contracts-a-hyper-deflationary-force-for-health-care-delivery-cm613264#ixzz478wNavKv>

[2017-05-30] Bitcoin is outperforming major assets but hedge funds are still

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Bitcoin is outperforming major assets but hedge funds are still staying away from the cryptocurrency. Bitcoin's price has rallied as much as 180 percent this year but hedge funds are still nervous about investing. One hedge fund veteran told CNBC that the industry doesn't "know enough about it". But there has been rising interest from investors in other bitcoin products on the market. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/30/bitcoin-price-hedge-funds-not-investing.html>

[2013-03-19] Crypto Exchange Bithumb to Reduce Staff By Up to 50%

Bithumb, the largest cryptocurrency exchange in South Korea, plans to cut its staffing levels by up to 50 percent, according to a CoinDesk Korea report issued Monday, a move that would reduce its number of employees from 310 at the start of March to around 150. When reached, an official at the company confirmed the 50 percent figure, adding that it expects those departing will mostly be employees who already want to leave the company. "Voluntary retirement is part of our support program for former employees and is intended to provide assistance and training for job placement," said the Bithumb official. "Apart from that, [Bithumb's] trading volume has decreased compared to the previous year, [so] we are trying to provide internal measures. We will continue to add necessary personnel for various new businesses." The move comes on the heels of similar decisions by other cryptocurrency companies that have been forced to respond to the ongoing decline in the value of the market in recent months. The company behind cryptocurrency project Dash said earlier this month that it's also reducing its staffing levels in a cost-cutting effort brought on by the "crypto winter." Similarly, since the start of the year, smart contract auditing firm Hosho has said it's laying off 80 percent of staff, and blockchain project Nebulas has cut numbers by 60 percent. Ethereum studio Consensus announced that projects under its umbrella would have to find financing or also face cut-backs late last year. Reference:

<https://www.coindesk.com/crypto-exchange-bithumb-slashing-staff-numbers-by-up-to-50>

[2018-01-15] Disguised ICO? China's Regulatory Authority Warn About the Risk of

On Jan. 12, National Internet Finance Association of China (NIFA) announced a risk warning on its website that IMOs (Initial Miner Offerings), represented by the token WankeCoin issued by Xunlei (NASDAQ: XNET), are ICOs in disguise and have been a potential risk that warrants vigilance. NIFA claims it a disguised ICO. The warning is in compliance with the Notice on ICO issued by seven ministries last September known as China's ICO ban, in which ICO activities are suspected of involving in illegal activities as illegal fundraising, illegal issuance of securities and illegal sale of notes and bonds. It warns that all institutions and individuals should immediately stop engaging in ICO activities. With the gradual progress of ICOs' phasing out nationwide, the newly-emerged Initial Miner Offerings (IMO), represented by Lianke (formerly WankeCoin) issued by Xunlei, have been a risk that warrants

vigilance. <http://news.8btc.com/disguised-ico-chinas-regulatory-authority-warn-about-the-risk-of-imo>

[2016-02-07] FT: Five UK fund houses explore blockchain technology

Five UK fund houses explore blockchain

technology <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3be95e82-cc19-11e5-a8ef-ea66e967dd44.html#axzz3zWB4Hjj>
NQuote Five of the UK's biggest fund houses have joined forces on a secret project to test if blockchain, the nascent technology underpinning bitcoin, the digital currency, can be used to save billions of pounds in trading costs. Schroders and Aberdeen Asset Management, the second and

third-largest listed fund houses in Europe by assets, are working on the project with Columbia Threadneedle Investments, the £320bn asset manager. Two people familiar with the project said Aviva Investors, which oversees assets of £246bn, and Henderson Global Investors have also had some involvement in the discussions....

[2019-03-16] Europe Starts War Against Illegal Activities Using Crypto

In Europe alone, cryptocurrencies are estimated to be facilitating by around 4 percent of all money laundering undertakings. In June last year, the European Union (EU) completed the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive (AML5) in an attempt to address the malevolent activities. The European Commission approved its new list of 23 countries with premeditated paucities in their anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) contexts. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/europe-starts-war/>

[2017-10-10] Bitcoin heading over \$10,000 in six to 10 months, former Fortress..

Bitcoin heading over \$10,000 in six to 10 months, former Fortress hedge fund manager says Michael Novogratz Although he says digital currencies like bitcoin show signs of forming a bubble, former hedge fund manager Michael Novogratz is going all-in. The former Fortress Investment Group manager says he's been investing in bitcoin and its underlying blockchain technology for a while and sees bitcoin's price rising to over \$10,000 in the next six to 10 months, largely because of heavy investor interest. Bitcoin was up 2.1 percent on Tuesday, to \$4874.15 as of 5 p.m. ET, according to CoinDesk, and has surged in value this year. "I can hear the herd coming," he said during an appearance after market hours Tuesday on CNBC's "Fast Money." He likened bitcoin to digital gold. Novogratz is starting a \$500 million fund to invest in cryptocurrencies, initial coin offerings and related companies. He put \$150 million of his own money into Galaxy Digital Assets Fund and plans to raise the rest from outside sources by January, mainly from wealthy individuals and families and fellow hedge fund managers. He told Bloomberg Television last month that digital currency like bitcoin is "going to be the largest bubble of our lifetimes." JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon last month called bitcoin a "fraud" and said he would fire anyone at his bank for trading it. But whether bitcoin lasts or eventually gets replaced by the next new thing, the underlying blockchain technology is probably here to stay, he said. "Blockchain will change the way we live," he said. "This is not going away." Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/10/bitcoin-heading-over-10000-in-six-to-10-months-former-fortress-hedge-fund-manager-says.html>

[2016-04-27] Motherboard: Someone Tried to Pay \$5 in Bitcoin, Sent \$137K Instead

Someone Tried to Pay \$5 in Bitcoin, Sent \$137K

Instead http://motherboard.vice.com/en_ca/read/someone-tried-to-pay-5-in-bitcoin-sent-137k-instead
Quote There are bad days, and then there are days when you accidentally send \$137,000 worth of bitcoin to somebody with no way to retrieve it. This is apparently what happened to some unlucky person on Tuesday. A Twitter user spotted that somebody sent a bitcoin transaction amounting to roughly \$5, but with a fee of 291.241 bitcoins, or \$137,081.31, attached. This massive fee didn't go to the intended recipient—they only got the fiver—but instead went to the person in the bitcoin network who processed the transaction. According to the Twitter user, whomever sent this transaction likely meant to send the \$137,000 to someone they knew, and just wanted to attach a \$5 fee as a thank-you to the payment processor, but got it mixed up. Instead, they sent their pal

enough change for a Starbucks coffee, and a bitcoin company enough cash to buy a new Maserati. ...Author could do a better research. No idea where did he get the '\$5' from. Recipient received BTC0.0001 which translates to less than 5 cents not \$5.<https://blockchain.info/tx/cc455ae816e6cdafdb58d54e35d4f46d860047458eacf1c7405dc634631c570d>

[2018-1-13] OFFICIAL:No Cryptocurrency Trading Ban in South Korea Government say

The Blue House, the executive office and official residence of the South Korean President, has announced that there will be no cryptocurrency trading ban in the short-term. In an official announcement, South Korean government reaffirms there will be NO TRADING BAN for #cryptocurrency market in the short term and NOTHING IS FINALIZED.<https://cointelegraph.com/news/official-no-cryptocurrency-trading-ban-in-south-korea-government-says>Original Source http://biz.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2017/12/08/2017120801540.html?main_hot1

[2017-10-10] Why Erik Voorhees Keeps All His Assets in Bitcoin

Why Erik Voorhees Keeps All His Assets in BitcoinIf you've not heard of Erik Voorhees, then, chances are, you must be new to the world of Bitcoin and cryptocurrency – because he's one of the most pre-eminent entrepreneurs in the industry. In fact, he featured heavily in Netflix's Banking on Bitcoin documentary last year. (Worth watching, by the way, if you need a crash course on how cryptocurrency started and where it's all going.) Erik famously keeps all his assets and finances in bitcoin.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2017/10/10/erik-voorhees-keeps-assets-bitcoin/>

[2018-1-12] Personality: Matthias Klees Ceo Federated Blockchains Europecoin

Ceo Federated Blockchains GiG FINANCECLOUD API info.federatedblockchains.eu.org / bitcoinsulting.eu / europecoin.eu.orgEuropean Investment Fund (EIF) Tech Knowledge Solutions Bonninterview <http://cryptocapitalnews.com/matthias-klees-the-europecoin-group-approved-and-listed-as-the-first-official-crypto-currency-advisor-group-in-brussels/>

[2017-10-09] How the Blockchain Can Open Up Foreign Property Investment

QuoteFor most individuals, investing in foreign property seems out of reach. The barriers, however, have far less to do with one's income and more to do with issues around information, namely quality and verifiability. It is not just the cost of property but also the expense in hiring local advisers that makes foreign real estate a rich man's game. Blockchain technology has the potential to significantly lower these barriers, making property investment a viable option for a larger swathe of the population. In short, distributed ledgers can provide greater transparency into the availability, detail and oversight of properties in more inaccessible areas. Tokenization makes real estate investments more liquid and divisible among a greater number of people — an attribute that greatly reduces transaction costs and increases economies of scale.<https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/op-ed-roadmap-how-blockchain-can-open-foreign-property-investment/>

[2016-02-06] 20 thousand Free State Project libertarians pledge.....

The Free State Project (FSP) is a thirteen-year-old attempt to get a large concentration of libertarians in one location, so that they can create a freer place to live, both socially and politically. The group can often found at freedom-oriented gatherings around the world, promoting their slogan "Liberty in our lifetime." In 2004, the Bitcoin-active group chose the Northeastern US state of New Hampshire to base their "revolutionary social movement." A Trigger the Move campaign was started in early 2014, asking 20,000 people sign up and join the community. The group recently announced that the target has been met. The signers have all sworn to move to New Hampshire, lovingly referred to as 'the shire,' within five years. There is even some financial and physical assistance to ensure that they do so. According to their website, nearly 2,000 have already moved.<http://bravenewcoin.com/news/20-thousand-free-state-project-libertarians-pledge-move-to-new-hampshire/>

[2016-04-26] Trade24 – Forex Trading Services for Noobs

Trade24 – Forex Trading Services for Noobs Forex is a very attractive way of investing and having some returns. Nowadays, the Forex Markets have been attracting many Bitcoin traders. Since the Forex Market has an enormous liquidity and it is practically non-stop, it enables traders to maintain their activity 24 hours per day...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/04/25/trade24-forex-services-noobs/>

[2017-05-19] Barry Silbert Hints At Growing Support For Imminent Bitcoin Scaling

Barry Silbert Hints At Growing Support For Imminent Bitcoin Scaling Solution Barry Silbert and Scaling Bitcoin Barry Silbert may be the one person to successfully make Bitcoin scale. That sounds very strange, but it seems things are heading in this direction right now. About a day ago, he posted the tweet below which has sparked interesting debates among community members. It is evident scaling Bitcoin should be a top priority right now. Activating Segregated Witness and a 2 MB block size increase in the next year sounds appealing.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2017/05/18/barry-silbert-hints-growing-support-imminent-bitcoin-scaling-solution/>

[2016-02-05] Audio: Roger Ver - Bitcoin Investor & Bitcoin Evangelist

Roger Ver - Bitcoin Investor & Bitcoin Evangelist <https://soundcloud.com/venture-studio/ep-19-roger-ver-bitcoin-investor-bitcoin-evangelist-2-of-2>

[2017-10-09] China Had Virtually No Effect on Bitcoin Price Surpasses \$4,600

On October 8, the bitcoin price surpassed \$4,500 for the first time since September, prior to the imposition of a nationwide ban on cryptocurrency exchanges by the Chinese government. Today, on October 9, the bitcoin price entered the \$4,600 region, demonstrating strong resilience towards the exit of the Chinese cryptocurrency exchange market. View image on Twitter View image on Twitter Follow Joseph Young @iamjosephyoung #bitcoin price surpasses \$4,500 for the first time

since September 8, 1 month ago. Incredible resilience. China had no impact in mid-term.9:40 PM - Oct 8, 2017 28 28 Replies 265 265 Retweets 503 503 likesTwitter Ads info and privacyThroughout 2017, before the government's ban on cryptocurrency exchanges, the Chinese bitcoin exchange market accounted for 10 to 13 percent of global bitcoin trades, remaining as the third largest bitcoin exchange market behind the US and Japan. Until the Chinese government's abrupt announcement to halt cryptocurrency trading in the region, the global cryptocurrency community were highly optimistic in regards to the long-term growth of the Chinese bitcoin market because the government had closely cooperated with local cryptocurrency trading platforms in establishing practical regulations. The official introduction of the ban on cryptocurrency exchanges by the Chinese government in September triggered a restructuring of the global cryptocurrency exchange market. Bitcoin trading volumes from the Chinese market moved to Japan and South Korea, while some local investors have started to utilize over-the-counter (OTC) markets to trade Bitcoin, including LocalBitcoins. In a relatively short period of time, Japan evolved into the largest Bitcoin exchange market in the world, overtaking the US by a significant margin. As it demonstrated an exponential increase in demand and growth, the Japanese government also imposed a nationwide licensing program for bitcoin exchanges, authorizing cryptocurrency trading platforms as legitimate financial services companies in the country. Yuzo Kano, the CEO at Bitflyer, Japan's largest cryptocurrency exchange with over 800,000 active users, stated: "Japan has been exploding with demand for both bitcoin trading as well as virtual currency services. The FSA's approval for bitFlyer to operate as a Registered Virtual Currency Exchange, and the agency's openness and forward thinking regulation could not come at a better time for the blockchain space," said Kano. Due to the overwhelming performance of the Japanese and South Korean Bitcoin exchange market, the Bitcoin price recovered beyond its previous peak prior to the cryptocurrency exchange ban by the Chinese government. More importantly, because of the structuring of the global cryptocurrency exchange market and the flow of trading volumes from China to more stable markets in Japan and South Korea, institutional investors and large-scale conglomerates have begun to demonstrate their optimism towards the cryptocurrency market. Recently, NSC, the holding company of Nexon, the \$10 billion gaming company in Japan, acquired Korbit, a major South Korean cryptocurrency exchange at a \$140 million valuation. As the Japanese and South Korean bitcoin and cryptocurrency markets continue to demonstrate rapid growth in terms of user base and trading volumes, the price of Bitcoin in the mid-term will only continue to rise, and the interim target of \$10,000 by prominent analysts including Max Keiser will become more realistic.<http://news.8btc.com/china-had-virtually-no-effect-on-bitcoin-in-mid-term-price-surpasses-4600>

[2017-10-07] Founder of GAW Miners Pleads Guilty To Fraud Charges

Josh Garza, Founder and CEO of the infamous GAW Miners has been ordered to pay almost \$10 million to the SEC. Josh Garza, CEO of GAW, GAW Miners, ZenMiner, and ZenCloud plead guilty to a \$9 million fraud scheme back in July of this year. Pleading guilty to one count of wire fraud related to his role in his companies' purported generation and sale of virtual currency, Garza has now been ordered to pay almost \$10 million, consisting of \$9.1 million, plus \$700,000 in interest. The civil complaint, which was first brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission in December 2015, alleged that Garza and his companies sold more than 10,000 "investment contracts representing shares in the profits they claimed would be generated from using their purported computing power to 'mine' for virtual currency." Garza has also admitted that he ran an illegal pyramid scheme. The full article <https://bitcoinist.com/founder-gaw-miners-pleads-guilty-fraud-charges/>

[2016-09-21] Brothers Face Jail Time for Allegedly Stealing Power to Mine Bitcoin

Two brothers in the Netherlands face months in prison after allegedly siphoning power to fuel a small bitcoin mining operation, Dutch authorities said this week. The case dates back to 2014, when the brothers, whose names weren't disclosed, were caught allegedly stealing electricity from a local utility provider to power bitcoin mining devices at a location in Rotterdam. Prosecutors said this week that, in total, the brothers mined roughly €200k (\$223k) worth of bitcoin prior to being caught. the full article link never steal electricity when you make money with it

[2018-01-10] South Korea's major cryptocurrency exchanges raided by police, tax au

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-southkorea-bitcoin/south-koreas-major-cryptocurrency-exchanges-raided-by-police-tax-authorities-idUSKBN1F002A> South Korea's major cryptocurrency exchanges raided by police, tax authorities Reuters Staff2 MIN READ SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korea's largest cryptocurrency exchanges were raided by police and tax agencies this week for alleged tax evasion, people familiar with the investigation said on Thursday. "A few officials from the National Tax Service raided our office this week," an official at Coinone, a major cryptocurrency exchange in South Korea, told Reuters. "Local police also have been investigating our company since last year, they think what we do is gambling," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said Coinone was cooperating with the investigation. Bithumb, the second largest virtual currency operator in South Korea, was also raided by the tax authorities on Wednesday. "We were asked by the tax officials to disclose paperwork and things yesterday," an official at Bithumb said, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. South Korean financial authorities had previously said they are inspecting six local banks that offer virtual currency accounts to institutions, amid concerns the increasing use of such assets could lead to a surge in crime. The crackdown on Seoul-based operators of some of the world's busiest virtual currency exchanges comes as the government attempts to calm frenzied demand for cryptocurrency trading in Asia's fourth largest economy. Bitcoin's 1,500 percent surge last year has stoked huge demand for cryptocurrency in South Korea, drawing college students to housewives and sparking concerns about a gambling addiction.

[2017-10-07] Major Global Air Transport Player Eyes Blockchain Technology for Ma

Air France KLM, a major global air transport player, is eyeing the disruptive Blockchain technology to track its maintenance and repair systems. The aim is to put a premium on the airline's ability to maintain its in-service airplanes in tip-top condition. At a 2017 webinar participated by the airline, together with technology firm Microsoft and software for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) systems provider Ramco Aviation, Air France KLM business unit director of innovation, James Kornberg, said that his team is studying a clear business case for Blockchain use to enhance maintenance processes and workflows. "The use case has to be realistic. The four features of Blockchain are resilience, traceability, integrity, and disintermediation, and are well suited to the aviation supply chain." Other possible airline industry applications of Blockchain Blockchain technology is claimed to have the ability to revolutionize the entire commercial airline transportation industry. An Accenture report claims that the technology can create new efficiencies and services models for airlines, and the broader travel industry. Among the possible use cases of Blockchain are the improvement of ticketing services through the use of smart contracts, loyalty point management, and enhanced security of passenger information and data. Kornberg, however, claimed that airline companies should completely digitize their data first, before they can fully exploit what the technology has to offer. "In the aviation industry, we still have a lot of our data that is not digitalized, still a lot of analog data, this is the first step that we're doing at the moment." So far, Blockchain technology is already being used in various industrial applications. Among them are in storing and securing medical data, managing aid distribution, and in maintaining power

grids.<https://cointelegraph.com/news/major-global-air-transport-player-eyes-blockchain-technology-for-maintenance-and-repair-system-monitoring>

[2016-02-04] CS- Wargaming Starts Accepting Bitcoin Following Bitpay Integration

BitPay has recently collaborated with Wargaming, Belarusian-based online multiplayer gaming giant, to enable its massively-multiplayer online (MMO) gaming platform to accept Bitcoin.<http://www.coinspeaker.com/2016/02/04/wargaming-starts-accepting-bitcoin-following-bitpay-integration/>

[2016-06-28]Bitcoin Price Technical Analysis – Ascending Triangle Formation

Bitcoin Price Technical Analysis for 06/28/2016 – Ascending Triangle FormationThe 100 SMA is below the 200 SMA so the path of least resistance is to the downside. However, the gap between the two moving averages is narrowing and an upward crossover seems imminent, possibly indicating that buyers are regaining control. Bitcoin price is finding resistance at the 200 SMA, which usually holds as a dynamic inflection point...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/06/28/bitcoin-price-technical-analysis-06282016-ascending-triangle-formation/>

[2016-02-04] Blockstream: This is a marathon, not a sprint started

Blockstream: This is a marathon, not a sprint started with 'marketecture'The race to upgrade the world's financial systems is a marathon rather than sprint that started in a breathless rush of "marketecture" – this was the sage-like comment from Blockstream, which has just secured \$55m in Series A funding. The company, which boasts a formidable technology team focused on building interoperable sidechains from the Bitcoin code base, also announced a partnership with PwC earlier this week.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/blockstream-this-marathon-not-sprint-started-marketecture-1541801>

[2018-4-23]Central Bank Of Iran Bans Banks From Crypto Dealings

The central bank of Iran has banned domestic banks and other financial institutions from dealing in cryptocurrencies, citing money-laundering concerns first raised in a circular from December 2017, Reuters reported Sunday, April 22.Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/central-bank-of-iran-bans-banks-from-crypto-dealings>

[2016-02-04]CTUK:Inside Bitcoin Marketing Team: An Interview with Jamie McCormic

Bitcoin Marketing Team is a specialist Bitcoin marketing, advertising and communications company based in Dublin, Ireland ran by Jamie McCormick who has brought his nearly decade of experience in the online video games industry with McCormick Advanced Marcomm into the digital currency arena.Since leaving the games publishing industry in 2014 it seemed like a logical idea for someone with his expertise in the games industry and marketing technology design to delve into the crypto-currency sphere which was starting to penetrate into the mainstream around this time.Having

managed and analysed over €10,000,000 worth of advertising over 7 years, they have extensive experience negotiating, integrating, managing and optimising advertising campaigns across major providers including Google, Facebook, Twitter, among other leading international advertising and affiliate networks. They work with bitcoin budgets of all sizes to generate traffic and leads to your website. All advertising campaigns are tracked with their proprietary Chrysalis marketing middleware platform, giving full transparency on every click, and advanced after conversion behavioural analysis. I have personally known Jamie for quite some time now and would say he is a great supporter of the Bitcoin landscape travelling all over Ireland, North and South to sponsor and attend meet-ups, trying out newly installed ATMs, checking out the latest businesses and products using and accepting the digital currency and writing impartial reviews on his website BitcoinsInIreland about these experiences. <http://cointelegraph.uk/news/inside-bitcoin-marketing-team-an-interview-with-jamie-mccormick>

[2017-10-06] Cryptocurrency experts discuss India's 'downward spiral'

Cryptocurrency experts discuss India's 'downward spiral' By Ian Allison India, once touted by experts as the world's next economic superpower spot, is facing decline and high unemployment. CNN just reported India's economic growth fell from 7% to 5.6% in the last six months and, alarmingly, Head of the Center for Policy Alternatives in Delhi and former official at India's finance ministry Mohan Guruswamy was quoted as saying: "We're on a downward spiral." Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Dash, already a preferred form of payment in many countries facing hyperinflation and political turmoil, have emerged as a viable alternative for everyday Indians. Cryptocurrencies resist the fluctuations of mainstream currencies like the Indian rupee because they are not controlled by a central bank or government. Commenting on the situation in India, CoinDesk Director of Research Nolan Bauerle said: "When India demonetised 86% of their currency, the government effectively said they had faith in only 14% of the supply of Rupees. Immediately, bitcoin traded at a 22% premium against the Rupee over any other currency. To be clear, the USD price for bitcoin and the USD price for the Rupee in India was relatively the same, but the Rupee's value against bitcoin plunged. The digital currency markets were quick to signal that the Rupees' loss of portability and liquidity as a result of actions by institutional authorities brought the core of its value into question. Money functions in markets and markets work to achieve price discovery, noted Bauerle. "When national currencies sag in foreign exchange markets as a result of monetary policy or political uncertainty, bitcoin often behaves as a safe haven because the price is totally based on market discovery." Unlike a replacement for fiat currency, bitcoin represents something different. It lies outside a system where policies from central authorities affect market prices. Some people find bitcoin useful because of this. Its popularity may continue to grow because the price comes from market discovery and is immune from unintended consequences of authorities and their bright ideas," he said. Dash Core CEO Ryan Taylor added: "Measures of economic freedom are strongly correlated with economic success throughout the world. In India, a great deal of friction was introduced with the immediate banning of the vast majority of the country's circulating currency. In contrast, digital currencies are freely transferred person-to-person anywhere in the world instantly." This can have a dramatic positive impact on an economy suffering from onerous financial restrictions like India. I doubt digital currency will overtake the rupee anytime soon, but the dysfunction certainly creates the right environment to motivate consumers and businesses to seek an alternative like digital currency to address their needs. Bharath Rao, CEO of decentralised exchange for cryptocurrency derivatives Leverj, said India faces unique challenges with respect to its monetary system. Counterfeiting, tax evasion, and corruption are rampant, and inflation threatens the affordability of food products and gasoline. "The constant and careful intervention needed to balance these forces puts the economy in a precarious position causing undue stress on the people. The cash ban has had disappointing results and unintended consequences. The adoption of cryptocurrency is a potential solution to many of these problems." A nation such as India can either

adopt a leading cryptocurrency or simply make its own. This would automatically eliminate counterfeiting. A steady inflation schedule will eliminate severe and unpredictable inflationary pressures. Tax can simply be automated on the blockchain or at the expense of higher inflation, simply be eliminated in favor of block rewards to the government."The blockchain can replace extensive paper pushing, and this alone should reduce the impact of corruption and may even uproot it entirely. Although cryptocurrency started as a way to limit government power, its embrace may ultimately limit government inefficiency." <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/cryptocurrency-experts-discuss-indias-downward-spiral-1642197>

[2019-2-6] People are Losing Interest in Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology

As the crypto market lives through a bloody bearish movement, which has been continuing for approximately 12 months, the number of fintech enthusiasts has significantly decreased. While the top cryptos, including Bitcoin, Ripple, and Ethereum are 80% down from all-time highs, leading blockchain experts noted that it might not be the prime time for the technology. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/cryptocurrency-blockchain-technology/>

[2019-2-8] New Zealand Authorities Make Progress Investigating Cryptopia Hack

New Zealand Police continue to excellently investigate the Cryptopia hack that took place on Monday, January 24, 2019. Via an official press release, the Police revealed on Feb 7, that the probe is progressing on well. Cryptopia is a cryptoasset exchange that is based in New Zealand. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/new-zealand-authorities/>

[2016-09-21] AMarkets launches trading in Bitcoin CFDs

AMarkets launches trading in Bitcoin CFDs Offshore forex broker AMarkets said on Tuesday it has launched trading in contracts for difference (CFDs) on Bitcoin. The instrument is available to all clients of the broker, five days a week and the size of each contract is always equal to one Bitcoin. Bitcoin CFDs are traded with AMarkets on the MetaTrader 4 (MT4) trading platform with a leverage of a maximum 10:1. Traders pay a commission of \$5 for each contract. <https://smnweekly.com/2016/09/21/amarkets-launches-trading-in-bitcoin-cfds/>

[2019-2-5] Crypto Price: Will We See Bitcoin Trading at \$1,800 Before a Bull Run?

For almost 60 days now, Bitcoin (BTC), the leading crypto by market cap, has astonishingly held its own, failing to break below the \$3,000 price level several times. This forced massive crypto traders to think that \$3,000 will be the point level at which Bitcoin lays low in the latest market cycle (accumulation, uptrend or markup, distribution and downtrend or markdown phases). The hypothesis has certainly taken hold, particularly among those anticipating that digital currencies will start to spike higher in the coming weeks, but some traders are suspicious that lower depressions are coming. For instance, Anthony Pompliano, the head of Morgan Creek Digital Assets, has commented on several podcasts, social media platforms, and publications that BTC could more

likely fall below the promising \$3,000 level. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/crypto-price-bitcoin/>

[2016-02-03] Rebit.ph Shows Bitcoin Remittance Is Alive And Kicking

As we reported a little while ago, Rebit.ph is undergoing some changes to their remittance plans in the Bitcoin world. However, this does not mean the team is giving up on this idea completely, as Rebit.ph will remain in operation. In fact, the service is growing in popularity, which can only be seen as a positive sign for Bitcoin remittance in the Philippines. <http://themerikle.com/uncategorized/rebit-ph-shows-bitcoin-remittance-is-alive-and-kicking/>

[2019-1-25] When Bitcoin ETF? Not Any Time Soon, But Maybe by 2020

When Bitcoin ETF? Not Any Time Soon, But Maybe by 2020 For the first time in more than a year, there are no active bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF) proposals pending before the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Money manager VanEck, financial services firm SolidX and Cboe BZX Exchange withdrew a highly-anticipated proposal Tuesday, citing an ongoing U.S. government shutdown as the reason. The proposal, first filed last June, faced a final deadline of February 27 for approval or rejection. Due to the shutdown, many legal experts anticipated that the SEC would reject the proposal outright rather than let it be approved by default. VanEck CEO Jan van Eck said the companies will "re-file and re-engage in the discussions" with the SEC when the shutdown ends, he did not provide a timeline for when this may happen. And indeed, it is unclear when the government will reopen – while the U.S. Senate was set to vote on two different bills that could potentially re-open the government, neither bill passed. <https://www.coindesk.com/heres-whats-next-for-bitcoin-etf-prospects> Apparently VanEck SolidX Trust is decided to withdraw their proposal and not to wait final deadline. Maybe a little strange decision, but obviously they realized chances for approval are actually 0 at this moment. Maybe it is good that this chapter is finally ended, at least there will be no false hopes that BTC ETF can make some changes this year.

[2017-10-05] CoinDesk | BlackRock Exec: No Point in Bitcoin ETF

An executive for the world's largest asset manager said this week that he doesn't see the case for a bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF). Speaking with Bloomberg on October 3, Mark Wiedman, who serves as Global Head of iShares and Index Investments for BlackRock, was asked about his views on the prospects of a cryptocurrency-tied ETF. A number of firms have attempted to launch such a product, but to date the SEC has been largely dismissive of the concept, issuing notable rejections in the public and, in other cases, prompting some bitcoin ETF backers to withdraw their efforts. Wiedman said in the interview that he doesn't see it happening, citing other ETF-related products that the firm would encourage clients to hold "in perpetuity." In the case of bitcoin, Wiedman said that he "would not encourage a client to hold bitcoin in perpetuity." On the question of an ETF specifically, Wiedman went on to say: "I don't quite get the point of a bitcoin ETF in any case, because we're talking about...trading products that are difficult to access. If bitcoin is ever successful – and again not my thing but – I wouldn't recommend it. But if it were [successful], why would you need an ETF to access it?" Wiedman isn't the only BlackRock executive to comment on cryptocurrencies this week. That same day, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink was quoted as saying that he is a "big believer" in the potential of cryptocurrencies. That said, he took aim at the speculation in the market and suggested that cryptocurrencies are being buoyed by money laundering. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/blackrock-investments-exec-dont-see-point-bitcoin-etf/>

[2017-05-11] Hong Kong Urged to Recognize Digital Currencies & Commit to Blockchain

Hong Kong Urged to Recognize Digital Currencies & Commit to Blockchain An advisory body has urged the Hong Kong government to recognize digital currencies and invest in blockchain or distributed ledger technology (DLT) amid a wider FinTech-forward remit as it plays catch up to the likes of Singapore in the region. Established in 2013, the Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) – an advisory body to the government – released a research report this week in a bid to push development of the FinTech sector in the country. “Hong Kong has a world-class financial sector, but only a nascent FinTech sector,” an excerpt from the report read. “The aim should be to develop Hong Kong’s FinTech on a par with its mainstream finance, to secure a better future for the financial sector and for Hong Kong as a whole.” The report highlights Mainland China as the model, “by far the world’s largest and most established FinTech market”, highlighting the use of FinTech payment methods among 40% of consumers. A separate blockchain-specific FSDC report outlines a four-pronged strategy for Hong Kong to take a leap in blockchain development. It calls the government to create a “DLT lead function” supported by an advisory group comprising of industry and academics. This blockchain lead would be tasked to coordinate ‘public sector efforts on blockchain, engage regulatory support, promote and build DLT capability within the public sector’. The advisory group also recommends the government install a DLT Hub as the focal point for the blockchain ecosystem to function as a center of knowledge, education and advocacy of the technology. Putting the spotlight on digital currencies, the report adds that Hong Kong should introduce “a more solid regulatory footing” for digital currency firms operating in Hong Kong. Presently, bitcoin and other digital currencies are treated as virtual commodities and remain unregulated. The advisory body notably recommends: It would be desirable to recognize digital currencies, define the rights and obligations attaching to digital assets and liabilities, and establish an appropriate oversight regime. The group specifically points out to toward the central bank digital currency endeavor taking shape in China. “Hong Kong needs in particular to capitalize on the possible issuance of digital RMB overseas by the Mainland Chinese authorities in the context of RMB internationalization.” Such a move would help Hong Kong find firm footing as the ‘digital RMB payments rail in and out of Mainland China,’ the FSDC added. Finally, the group is pushing the government to develop its own blockchain proof-of-concepts (PoC), “to provide effective demonstration of blockchain’s capabilities and benefits and to attract talent to the territory.” Getting hands-on in developing and testing blockchain tech should be prioritized and backed with funding, the group added. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/hong-kong-urged-recognize-digital-currencies-commit-blockchain/>

[2018-01-09] Steven Nerayoff says the cryptocurrency's value could triple in 2018

Ethereum co-creator Steven Nerayoff says increased projects built on the cryptocurrency could trigger a “flipping” in 2018, in which ethereum overtakes bitcoin. “What you’re seeing with ethereum is exponential increase in the number of projects — there are billions of dollars being poured into the ecosystem right now — maybe 10 times more projects this year than last year, which could easily lead to a doubling, probably a tripling in price by the end of the year,” Nerayoff said Monday on CNBC’s “Fast Money.” While bitcoin was designed to function as a peer to peer electronic payment system, ethereum was designed for smart contracts that execute when specific conditions are met. Nerayoff, who helped craft token sales for the ethereum project, said businesses in an increasingly wide variety of industries are starting to take note of what value Ethereum’s protocol could offer them. “You’re seeing a tremendous amount of growth across a wide variety of

industries. Fintech is actually the natural area, but now you're seeing it becoming increasingly more creative — you find projects in the oil and gas industry, you're finding government using it in their applications, you're seeing it in gaming, all kinds of different areas," Nerayoff said. Beyond project building, Nerayoff said usage is increasing because ethereum can process transactions more quickly and cheaply than its rival. "People are actually using it for currency, as well," he said. "Lower transactional costs are increasing usage of the entire network, and that's increasing the network effects of it. There are more users, more projects being built on there and more programmers," he said. Despite his confidence, Nerayoff isn't discounting bitcoin and the interest in cryptocurrency it inspired in 2017. "The entire space is increasing. There is huge interest by the public and there are more areas in which the public can invest, even in bitcoin, so you could just see an expansion in the entire space," he said. Either way, when it comes to 2018, Nerayoff thinks ethereum is going to have a good year. On the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange, bitcoin closed down 8.73 percent at \$14,766.86, with a market cap of \$248 billion. Ethereum had an estimated \$110 billion market cap at close. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/08/ethereums-co-creator-predicts-a-flippening-with-bitcoin-in-2018.html>

[2016-04-22] Gavin Andresen: "I haven't seen a really great use of Ethereum yet"

Gavin Andresen: "I haven't seen a really great use of Ethereum yet" Despite all of the focus on the Ethereum ecosystem right now, one of the questions waiting to be answered is when the first project making great use of this protocol will come to fruition. Gavin Andresen is waiting for that project as well, and he feels how Ethereum smart contracts could potentially cause issues...read more

[2016-02-02] Video: Sky News Business interview with Bitcoin Group CEO Sam Lee

Sky News Business interview with Bitcoin Group CEO Sam Lee
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYbgeWAd8Os&feature=youtu.be>

[2017-10-05] Federation Council of Russia; Digital money meeting

The Federation Council of Russia held a meeting on "digital economy" and "digital money": <https://bitcoingarden.org/federation-council-russia-held-meeting-digital-economy-digital-money/> On September 27 this year, in the Plenary Sessions small hall of the Federation Council, experts held a closed meeting of the Federation Council Committee on economic policy with agenda on modern trends in the digital transformation of financial systems, with emphasis on digital money for Russia's digital economy. The meeting moderator Alexey Mayorov, First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Economic Policy, drew the attention of the audience to the need for effective implementation of the Digital Economy program approved by the Russian Government's order No. 1632-r of July 28, 2017, and introduced key experts in this sphere; expert in blockchain technologies Alexander Borodich, crypto-currency mining expert Artur Kudelya, ICO expert Anatoly Radchenko, and blockchain education specialist Nadezhda Surova. Alexander Borodich, the founder of Universa blockchain, spoke about the great prospects of using blockchain in a number of business sectors. For example, blockchain allows to establish interaction within logistic chains and to monitor the entire supply chain in a convenient and transparent way. The technology guarantees the invariability of the input data, therefore it is perfect for holding various tenders, competitions and auctions, as well as for controlling the expenses of the state budget...

[2019-01-29] 4 Challenges Experienced by Merchants when Accepting Digital Assets

The use of Blockchain technology and Cryptocurrencies has been significantly increasing among different companies, institutions, people and businesses, due to the hype surrounding it in terms of its major benefits including more secure transactions, an increase in userbase, lower fees, averting chargebacks and quicker funds clearance. Putting the hoopla about digital currencies and the high growth rate of e-commerce aside, merchants are still experiencing four big challenges as far as adoption is concerned: Integration of digital currency payment; Speed of digital currency payment; Price volatility of digital currencies; Digital currency to fiat settlement. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/challenges-experienced-by-merchants-when-accepting-digital-assets/>

[2018-04-19] Russia: Telegram Ban Failure Shows Banning Bitcoin is Impossible

Russia: Telegram Ban Failure Shows Banning Bitcoin is Impossible The 'solution' to the seemingly impossible task of stopping Russian users accessing the encrypted messenger app underscores the crude reality of censoring global (and decentralized)

networks. <http://bitcoinist.com/ban-bitcoin-russia-proves-telegram-ban-calls-desperate-impossible-measures/>

[2019-01-28] The UK FCA Consults on Cryptoasset Regulations, Publishes New Crypto

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), an autonomous financial watchdog in the U.K, has started consulting on guidance related to virtual currencies, as per official release. The financial regulatory body plans to provide companies with significant clarity and understanding associated with crypto operations to guarantee that these entities abide by regulations and protect users. The consultation is a reaction to several requests originating from both the financial industry and HM Treasury's Crypto Taskforce seeking more guidance. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/uk-fca-consults-on-cryptoasset-regulations/>

[2017-10-05] Swiss Fin - Structurer Launches Bitcoin Tracker

https://structuredproducts-ch.leonteq.com/pages/bitcoin?language_id=3

[2017-10-4] Legends Room Continues Hands on Crypto Education

The Legends Room continues its development with a full calendar of events in October. The club is the only entertainment venue in the world that offers blockchain based memberships and accepts three digital currencies for club services. The Legends Room's own token (LGD on Bittrex) is the preferred method of payment. Bitcoin and ethereum are accepted as well. The Legends Room kicks off October with the viewing party for UFC 216 on October 7, 2017. UFC 216 is a special event for LGD because one of the main event participants, Kevin Lee, is well known to club management. Having trained at the fight gym owned by Legend's owner Nick Blomgren and having multiple appearances on Stephan Bonnar's weekly podcast, the Motown Phenom is a Legends Room favorite. UFC 216 takes place in Las Vegas. In addition to the viewing party hosted by UFC Hall of Famer, Stephan Bonnar, the Legends Room will have an afterparty featuring former Penthouse Pet

of the Year Kenna James and adult stars Kat Dior and Edyn Blair. You never know who might show up at the Legends Room from the UFC especially when the show is in town. The club hosts a number of current and former UFC athletes during fight weekends. Several new additions to the already impressive line up of Legends Girls will also be announced in October. The club is also hosting special evenings for attendees of two conventions that are taking place this month. The Global Gaming Convention runs from October 3 through October 5. The next convention bringing both members and guests to the Legends Room is Money 2020 which runs October 22-25.

[2018-01-08] Indian Lawyer Files Petition Demanding Cryptocurrency Regulations

Indian Lawyer Files Petition Demanding Cryptocurrency Regulations An Indian lawyer has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking to force action on the regulation of cryptocurrencies in the country. Bivas Chatterjee, a Kolkata-based advocate who also serves as the state government's nodal officer for cyber crime cases, filed the PIL at the city's high court Friday, demanding a legal framework for cryptocurrencies in India. In his petition, the lawyer said that rules are required since cryptocurrencies have been linked to money laundering, drug trafficking and other illegal activities on the dark web. According to the Times of India, the filing comes in the wake of the arrest of two youths in Kolkata last month by country's Narcotics Control Bureau for procuring and selling drugs through the dark web using bitcoin. Chatterjee pointed out that the economic impact of "decentralised, unregulated and unaccounted parallel economic system" is vast, alleging that cryptocurrencies are used to fund money laundering, terrorism activities and tax evasion. The petition states: "There is an urgent need to frame a joint panel or a group of committees with experts from various fields to ensure the legality and accountability of cryptocurrency." He added that the "absence of controlling authorities" has also led to the recent "upheaval" in the prices of cryptocurrencies. Chatterjee argued that the government should either ban bitcoin or form a regulatory body to control the market, the Indian Express reports. The high court is reportedly expected to hear the case on Feb. 2. In April 2017, a committee of government and central bank officials in the country came up with a plan to consider new regulations related to digital currencies. The committee prepared a report that put forward policies related to money laundering and consumer protection. Later, in November, the country's supreme court asked the government to respond to calls to regulate bitcoin. Recently, India's finance minister, Arun Jaitley, clarified that the government does not recognize bitcoin as legal tender. However, he noted that "recommendations are being worked at" to regulate the cryptocurrency. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/indian-lawyer-files-petition-demanding-cryptocurrency-regulations/>

[2018-04-19] NYT - Venture Capitalists Seek 'Safe Harbor' for Virtual Currencies

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/19/technology/virtual-currency-securities.html> Venture capitalists and entrepreneurs have been lobbying federal regulators to protect at least some virtual currencies from being categorized as securities, a designation that would carry significantly more oversight. <https://twitter.com/nathanielpopper/status/987102412082069504> i think the journalist above is something of an asshole fudster but he does uncover some good info. if ethereum is classed as a security then it'll be in a whole world of pain. i can't see it happening myself.

[2016-06-26] cryptocurrenciesnews-Survey: Finance Industry to Invest \$1 Billion in...

Survey: Finance Industry to Invest \$1 Billion in Blockchain Technology in 2016 A recent survey by

Greenwich Associates reports financial and technology markets will invest \$1 billion in blockchain technology this year. The interviewees cited the vested interest the financial industry has in legacy systems as the main obstacle to blockchain investment. The survey indicates trends from the past two years are continuing in 2016. Venture capital backed investment in bitcoin and blockchain companies jumped from \$3 million in 2011 to \$474 million in 2015, CCN reported in March. The number of deals rose from two in 2011 to 75 in 2014 and 74 in 2015. [READ MORE >>>](https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/financial-and-technology-sectors-to-invest-1-billion-in-blockchain-technology-in-2016/)
<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/financial-and-technology-sectors-to-invest-1-billion-in-blockchain-technology-in-2016/>

[2016-04-22] Bitcoin Price Watch; Here's What's on for the Weekend

Bitcoin Price Watch; Here's What's on for the Weekend Earlier on this morning, we published the first about twice daily bitcoin price watch pieces. In the article, we noted that the overnight highs that fell just short of 452 flat would likely serve as some pretty solid medium-term resistance, and that's during today's session, we might see a period of prolonged consolidation. As things turned out, this is exactly what we saw. Price corrected into lunchtime in Europe, and – having bounced from the level that we cited as in term support – pretty much just traded sideways the rest the afternoon...[read more](#)

[2018-04-18] Chilean Banks Close Cryptocurrency Exchange Accounts

Banks in Chile, South America's wealthiest country, have a huge impact on cryptocurrency exchanges by closing the accounts held by trading platforms. The Chilean trading platforms Orionx, CryptoMarket and Buda are trying everything possible to find ways of continuing their operation in the country after Bank of Nova Scotia, Itau Corpbanca and state-owned Banco del Estado de Chile closed their accounts in March without giving any explanation. Banco Estado disclosed that it had decided "not to operate with companies that are dedicated to the issuance or creation, brokerage, intermediation or serve as a platform for the so-called cryptocurrencies." [Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:](https://coinidol.com/chilean-banks-close-cryptocurrency-exchange-accounts/)
<https://coinidol.com/chilean-banks-close-cryptocurrency-exchange-accounts/>

[2016-09-19] Send Bitcoin Like an SMS on the New BTC.com Wallet App

Send Bitcoin Like an SMS on the New BTC.com Wallet App Bitcoin has been around for almost eight years now. In spite of it being hailed as one of the simplest ways to make fund transfer between two individuals, many people still find it complicated. Bitcoin transactions don't need any third-party intermediary like banks or payment processors and it can be sent virtually anywhere on planet earth as long as both parties have a working...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/19/btc-com-wallet-app-sms-bitcoin/>

[2018-04-19] Brazil's Largest Brokerage Reportedly Working on OTC Bitcoin...

Brazil's Largest Brokerage Reportedly Working on OTC Bitcoin Brokerage The OTC bitcoin trading market appears to be attracting big banks and brokers from all over the world who wish to secure a piece of this growing pie for themselves. And the latest company that might create a brokerage specifically for the field is from the largest economy of South America. XDEX OTC Brokerage Financial services firm XP Investimentos SA, operating the largest securities brokerage in Brazil, is reportedly working on a new venture in the cryptocurrency trading space. Back in October

2017 news.bitcoin.com reported that the company filed a patent for the brand XP Bitcoin, as its first entry into the cryptocurrency domain. Now the brokerage has been found to be behind a recently registered company, XDEX Intermediacao. The group has not commented on the development and it is therefore not yet known exactly what services the new brokerage will provide. However, a source who did not want to be identified, told Portal do Bitcoin that the activity of XDEX will be in the over-the-counter market, meaning focused on movements of large volume transactions dealing in fiat and bitcoin. Besides the significance of XP Investimentos entering the OTC bitcoin space, this can also mean that soon the biggest bank in Brazil will also be directly involved in the cryptocurrency market. Itaú Unibanco Holding SA has recently proposed to buy a 74.9% stake in the financial services firm and a 49.9% stake in XP's voting capital for about \$1.7 billion. Read more: <https://news.bitcoin.com/brazils-largest-brokerage-reportedly-working-on-otc-bitcoin-brokerage/>

[2018-01-06] Off the Leash? Bitcoin Looks North After Breaking \$16K

Off the Leash? Bitcoin Looks North After Breaking \$16K Bitcoin is gaining altitude today, amid a sharp drop in prices of some alternative currencies. Prices on CoinDesk's Bitcoin Price Index jumped 7 percent to an intraday high of \$16,181 in the last two hours. The cryptocurrency has appreciated by 10 percent in the last 24 hours, according to data source CoinMarketCap. Meanwhile, Ripple's XRP token has depreciated by 9 percent in the last 24 hours, having soared to new heights on Jan. 3. Other alternative currencies like NEM (XEM), Cardano (ADA) and Stellar (STR) are down at least 12 percent each. More importantly, the XRP/BTC (ripple-bitcoin) pair has taken a beating in the last couple of hours. XEM/BTC, ADA/BTC, ETH/BTC (ethereum-bitcoin) and LTC/BTC (litecoin-bitcoin) are also losing altitude. So, bitcoin (BTC) seems to have caught a bid wave at \$14,848.10 (07:29 UTC), tracking the weakness in the cross cryptocurrency pairs (ETH/BTC, LTC/BTC, XRP/BTC) – that is, money made from the altcoin rally is likely being channeled back into BTC. Price chart analysis also suggests BTC could extend the rally to \$18,000-\$18,600 in the short-run. 4-hour chart The above chart (prices as per Coinbase) shows:

- An inverse head and shoulder breakout. As of writing, BTC is trading well above the neckline hurdle of \$15,550, so the bullish breakout is pretty much a done deal. Prices could rise to \$18,600 (target as per the measured height method) over the weekend.
- Other factors – including a breach of the falling trendline, a bullish break of the falling wedge, higher lows as represented by the rising trendline – also favor further upside in BTC.
- The relative strength index (RSI) is above 50.00 (in the bullish territory) and rising, indicating scope for a rally in prices. View
- BTC could cut through resistance at \$16,490 and move towards \$18,000–18,600 mark over the weekend.
- Bearish scenario: A failure to hold above the neckline support (former resistance) of \$15,500 followed by a break below \$14,230 today would open the doors for a drop to sub-\$12,500 levels. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/off-the-leash-bitcoin-looks-north-after-breaking-16k/>

[2016-06-23] news.bitcoin.com-Mizuho Financial Group Partners with IBM in ...

Mizuho Financial Group Partners with IBM in Blockchain Venture Mizuho Financial Group wants to see if they can establish instantaneous swaps of virtual currency through this new partnership. IBM's role in this test comes in the form of their open source code contributed to the Hyperledger Project. Delivering more efficient customer services is something that is direly needed in the financial industry. Mizuho Financial Group is actively testing blockchain, Watson, and other undisclosed technologies to achieve that goal. Digitizing the banking system requires centralized systems these institutions can control at any given time. READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/mizuho-ibm-blockchain/>

[2018-01-04] Happy Birthday Bitcoin, and Don't Forget About Cypherpunks - Keiser

Happy Birthday Bitcoin, and Don't Forget About Cypherpunks - Keiser If 2017 has taught us anything, it's that the price of a commodity has a massive influence on how the world values it. As Bitcoin entered a phenomenal bull run in November, it was almost impossible not to get caught up in the hype of the ever-growing value of the cryptocurrency. The price continued to rise, breaking barrier after barrier with no consideration of naysayers or well-wishers. But as history will forever tell us, a \$20,000 high was the tipping point and Bitcoin and most of the cryptocurrency market endured a heavy price correction in the lead up to Christmas. Some people made a lot of money while others lost out in the eventual correction. However the financial success of Bitcoin has somewhat taken away from the 40-year journey towards its inception. Happy birthday Bitcoin Bitcoin celebrated its ninth birthday on Jan. 4 - marking another milestone since the original genesis block was mined in 2009. Bitcoin's birth is credited to its creator Satoshi Nakamoto, but the development of Bitcoin goes back as far as the 1970s. The cypherpunk movement deserves as much credit as Satoshi for laying down the foundational development of cryptography. Speaking on RT's Keiser Report, show host Max Keiser says people would be wise to research the history of cypherpunks before they invest in Bitcoin: "The Satoshi whitepaper describes Bitcoin as system for the transmission of digital cash, which sets most enquiries into this to a skewed path because they're looking at it in one use case - the payments-use case." "This leads us to ignore the entire history of the entire movement and ignore everything else Bitcoin can possibly do, including obvious references to gold as mentioned in the whitepaper. Store of value has always been key to this thing." Privacy birthed Bitcoin Cryptography was originally developed by governmental agencies and the military in the late 70s before data-encryption technology was released to the public. It wasn't until the early 1990s that the cypherpunk movement was officially founded by Eric Hughes, Tim May and John Gilmore. As Keiser points out, the publication of previously classified knowledge and developments in encryption technology had a big impact on the ability of cypherpunks to improve the technology: "Getting into how we got to the genesis block. The idea of having private messages sent electronically required advances in technology and at some point, the government's work in creating encryption released, set out into the wild." The term cypherpunk would only be immortalized in the Oxford Dictionary in 2006, but the movement was founded on the notion that cryptography and privacy technology would bring about societal change. Without those original developers, the encryption technology and protocols would not have been set in place. Satoshi even credited the work of Dr. Adam Back, creator of anti-spam technology HashCash, as well as b-money creator Wei Dai in the original Bitcoin whitepaper. Keiser said Bitcoin would not exist in its current form without all of this work: "Bitcoin was not born in a vacuum, it has 40 years of history to it. It's evolved through all these different technologies, it's a unique protocol and like gold, it's attracting a huge amount of capital." "Genesis is about privacy and the ability to protect that electronically, ending up where we are today. The cypherpunk movement is the genesis movement. No one should buy Bitcoin without studying the cypherpunks." Source: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/happy-birthday-bitcoin-and-dont-forget-about-cypherpunks-keiser>

[2016-01-31] JP Morgan Chase Blockchain Trial: Bitcoin Server Could Streamline Loans

JP Morgan Chase Blockchain Trial: Bitcoin Server Could Streamline Loans And Settlements, Executives Say JP Morgan Chase, the biggest U.S. bank by assets, is looking to blockchain, a digital currency platform, to streamline deals, the Financial Times reported Sunday. Blockchain is the technology behind online payment system bitcoin, and leaders from the bank said it would make many types of transactions quicker and more accurate. "Blockchain will be big in everything related to settlement, and not just loans. While it is still early days, the technology looks very good," Daniel Pinto, head of JP Morgan's investment bank, told the Financial

[2017-04-29] Markets Update: Bitcoin Price Rise Climbs to Uncharted Territory

The price of bitcoin has seen a spontaneous rise during the last week of April as the cryptocurrency's fiat value has climbed to new highs. Over the course of the afternoon and evening of April 27 bitcoin's price spiked to an all-time high of US\$1360 across global exchanges. Bitcoin Price Weekly View: April's All Time Highs Bitcoin markets are currently in an uncharted price territory as the digital asset once again surpassed its all-time high jumping in value 10 percent over the past 24 hours. The price has dipped a touch during the morning of April 28 as the global average on exchanges is roughly \$1330 per BTC at press time. Bitcoin's overall market capitalization is also higher than ever before as it currently captures a market share of \$21.3 billion. Trading volume is also substantial as over \$500 million worth of BTC has been traded daily over the past three days.....read

more:<https://news.bitcoin.com/markets-update-bitcoin-price-rise-unchartered-territory/>

[2018-04-15] Will Coinbase Report My Bitcoin Gains to the IRS?

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have seen huge gains over the past year, and that's left many first-adopting crypto-asset investors sitting on some big paper profits. Recently, the IRS has made it clear that it expects its tax revenue from sales of bitcoin and other high-flying digital currencies, and the tax service is working hard with other players in the cryptocurrency space to make sure that it can enforce investors' tax obligations. Read more

<https://www.fool.com/taxes/2018/04/15/will-coinbase-report-my-bitcoin-gains-to-the-irs.aspx>

[2018-01-04] U.S. derivatives regulator to review bitcoin futures risks

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. derivatives regulator will hold two meetings to discuss the procedure and operational controls for listing and trading digital currency futures, it said on Thursday, amid rising concerns over the risks bitcoin poses to the financial system. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said it would convene its technology and risk advisory committees this month to discuss its "self-certification" process for listing digital currency futures and how those products are risk-managed and policed. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASSA) have issued new warnings to investors over the risks of investing in bitcoin, cautioning regulators may not be able to protect them from fraudsters. CME Group Inc (CME.O) and CBOE Global Markets Inc (CBOE.O) launched bitcoin futures in December, sparking criticism from some industry participants who said the regulator should have consulted the market more widely before allowing the products. In December, the Futures Industry Association wrote to the CFTC expressing concern about the risks potentially posed by allowing futures in volatile virtual currencies to be traded alongside more traditional financial products. The price of bitcoin soared to record highs of more than \$19,000 in December, only to slump more than 28 percent - although it still ended the year up 1,300 percent. The CFTC has been increasing its jurisdiction over the cryptocurrency market, which has no overriding federal regulator, but is restricted by its limited legal power to actively block exchanges from launching futures products. CFTC regulations allow designated exchanges to list products for trading without prior CFTC approval by filing a written self-certification with the regulator. Under the self-certification process, which is a quirk of the futures market, the exchanges file a submission to the CFTC confirming the product complies with the Commodity Exchange Act and CFTC regulations -

including a key provision that requires that the contract is not susceptible to manipulation. The CFTC has the power to block the contract but can only do so under exceptional circumstances. The pair of advisory committee meetings are aimed at giving stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the issue. "The responsible regulatory response to virtual currencies is consumer education, asserting CFTC authority, surveilling trading in derivative and spot markets, prosecuting fraud, abuse, manipulation and false solicitation and active coordination with fellow regulators," CFTC Chair Christopher Giancarlo said in the statement, adding the CFTC was following this course of action. On Thursday, his counterpart at the SEC Jay Clayton along with Commissioners Kara Stein and Michael Piwowar, warned investors that many actors in the virtual currency market were violating state and federal laws. "The SEC and state securities regulators are pursuing violations, but we again caution you that, if you lose money, there is a substantial risk that our efforts will not result in a recovery of your investment," they said in the statement. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cftc-bitcoin/u-s-derivatives-regulator-to-review-bitcoin-futures-risks-idUSKBN1ET20R>

[2018-1-4]Down But Not Out: Bitcoin Holds Onto Bullish Territory

Quote from: <https://www.coindesk.com/not-bitcoin-holds-onto-bullish-territory/> Bitcoin has come under pressure today amid sharp gains in alternative currencies, but the charts are showing no signs of panic. Having clocked a high of \$15,394.99 at 02:14 UTC today, CoinDesk's Bitcoin Price Index fell to an intraday low of \$14,225.17 at 09:14 UTC. At press time, bitcoin was trading at \$14,500 levels. Quite clearly, the 2 percent depreciation in the value shown by data source CoinMarketCap is largely due to the decline seen between 02:14 UTC and 09:14 UTC. Meanwhile, cheaper alternative currencies are strongly bid. For instance, Ripple's XRP token has set a new all-time high of \$3, having appreciated by a hefty 31.63 percent in the last 24 hours. Furthermore, prices of cardano (ADA) and stellar have jumped at least 20 percent each, while NEM (XEM) has appreciated by 46 percent. An argument could be put forward that investors are using the BTC to accumulate alternative currencies, given the sharp gains in the XRP/BTC, ADA/BTC and XEM/BTC pairs. Amid what some are calling an "altcoin bubble," it remains to be seen whether money will pour back into BTC once the valuations of the alternative currencies start to look overstretched. Currently, the charts suggest BTC is down but not out and is holding onto bullish territory. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/not-bitcoin-holds-onto-bullish-territory/>

[2017-04-28]Bitfinex Price Spreads Bring Uncertainty to Bitcoin's Price Rally

One week has passed since bitcoin exchange Bitfinex announced issues with banking partners and halted fiat withdrawals for its customers. Since then the price of bitcoin has been rallying upwards reaching new highs across global exchanges. As the price surges, Bitfinex prices have been \$100 higher than at other exchanges, making traders worrisome a bubble is forming. Bitfinex Price Spread Causing Fear and Uncertainty Bitfinex Price Spreads Bring Uncertainty to Bitcoin's Price Rally Everybody loves a good bull run, but this particular bitcoin price spike is being seen as unusual. The reason being one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges has halted USD withdrawals and other fiat currencies until further notice. There was no adverse market reaction to the news, and Bitfinex prices began rising higher than every other exchange. At the time of writing the price per BTC on Bitfinex is \$1405 but the price on Bitstamp is only \$1306. This price spread has provoked fear and uncertainty among traders due to similar instances in the past. Traders don't feel confident in the market because of the 2013 Mt Gox scandal which shook the bitcoin community to the core. For instance in September of 2013 Forbes columnist Donald Marron wrote an article that is eerily similar the current price spike called "How Bitcoin Spreads Violate a Fundamental Economic Law." Marron notes that Mt Gox started having some price fluctuations when the exchange had

issues with Wells Fargo and Dwolla. Price spreads began to happen slightly then picked up when Mt Gox suspended USD withdrawals. "Spreads briefly normalized until Mt Gox announced that it was suspending U.S. dollar withdrawals," the author writes. Mt Gox had become a Roach Motel (or, if you prefer, a Hotel California) for U.S. dollars. Traders could check their dollars in, but they couldn't check them out. read

more: <https://news.bitcoin.com/uncertainty-surrounds-bitcoin-rally-bitfinex-price-spreads/>

[2017-09-01] Dubai Will Issue First Ever State Cryptocurrency

The local government in Dubai has officially launched its own cryptocurrency called emCash, according to announcements by local news media outlets. The cryptocurrency would be used for payment of governmental and nongovernmental services. According to Ali Ibrahim, Deputy Director General of Dubai Economy, the token will be considered legal tender "for various government and non-government services, from their daily coffee and children's school fee to utility charges and money transfers." Dubai embracing Blockchain technology The flexibility and convenience of cryptocurrencies makes the solution a win-win for Dubai. The government is strongly pro-Blockchain and sees it as the next major wave of paradigm changing technologies, and wants to be forward-thinking in adoption. According to Ibrahim: Quote "The fast-paced environment and incredible willingness to adopt innovative technology has made Dubai the perfect place for us to do business. This project is a great example of the ambition we have met here, together we are essentially creating a whole new economic ecosystem. It will harness Blockchain technology to make financial transactions cheaper, faster and more secure while demonstrating the huge advantages of embracing this technology for governments, business and customers alike." Blockchain technology, as a system for a number of various services, has been widely embraced in the country. Dubai is seeking to become a fintech hub for the eastern world and has even recently signed deals to allow for property sales entirely in Bitcoin. The new cryptocurrency will move the country's adoption paradigm

forward. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/dubai-will-issue-first-ever-state-cryptocurrency>

[2017-10-02] What, Jamie? Bitcoin Price Regains Pre-FUD \$4,400 Heights, NEO Jump

Bitcoin prices finally shrugged off the negative impact of Jamie Dimon and China Monday to pass \$4,400. As of this morning (Mon 2nd Oct), BTC was trading at around \$4,440, marking its highest level since Sep.

9. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/what-jamie-bitcoin-price-regains-pre-fud-4400-heights-neo-jumps-15>

[2016-1-30] Bitcoin 2.0: Fantasy Or Inevitability?

The blockchain – – after which Bitcoin is based – – has actually been the center of heated conversation in current months. The blockchain is a method of sending out digital messages between parties whose purported record can be trusted. Bitcoin 2.0 companies and also the "assurances" of the blockchain have ended up being a recurring theme in the Bitcoin room. Some [...]

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-2-0-fantasy-or-inevitability/>

[2018-01-03] Blockchain Redefines Emerging Markets: Capital, Assets and Security

Blockchain Redefines Emerging Markets: Capital, Assets and Securities

Less than 0.001 percent of global venture technology funding went to African startups in 2016. It is no secret that entrepreneurs in emerging markets have a harder time coming by capital funding than do their counterparts in developed markets. Among the many reasons for this are inefficient capital market systems that create obstacles for entrepreneurs in emerging markets, who face barriers to cautious investors. The 'leapfrogging' phenomenon

Thankfully, tokenized equity and initial coin offering (ICOs) strategies can redefine capital markets and how startups issue securities and create corporate structures in emerging markets. Entrepreneurs and governments can leapfrog inflexible capital market systems created by developed market economies and instead create entirely new tokenized, flexible and accessible capital markets. From virtually no access to a flexible capital markets system, entrepreneurs in emerging markets can benefit from a new generation of democratized and tokenized investments in private companies, and this could be made possible by the implementation of ICO strategies. Tokenized capital markets in emerging markets can accelerate a leapfrog effect for growing startup ecosystems by placing young entrepreneurs and their businesses at the center of their countries' growth. He notes that despite the potential, ICOs still have their training wheels on and need to find a meeting ground between existing conventional equity/debt systems and new and innovative tokenized ones. There are two major ways that ICOs can transform capital markets and leapfrog economic growth in emerging markets.

Digital incorporations

Digital Blockchain-enabled capital markets will bring a wave of necessary innovation around private company incorporation and management. It is expensive, slow and inefficient to incorporate and manage a corporate structure in most emerging markets. In Nigeria, it can take \$19,400 and two months to incorporate a private company. Whereas in Canada, it costs CAD\$200 and takes 24 hours. After incorporation, the company management, fees and reporting requirements are all paper-based and can balloon administrative costs, time and filing requirements. By creating digital corporate incorporation and management software that rely on Blockchain technology and smart contracts one can securely create, manage and track a startup activity. Digital corporate structures are a natural precursor to digitized tokenized securities and could significantly lower the barrier to entry for entrepreneurs in emerging markets. This could save resources and securely store intellectual property in corporate structures. Digital incorporations could transform the ease of doing business in emerging markets. As a real-life example, the Republic of Georgia recently made top 10 in the ease of doing business ranking thanks to its recent innovations, including a more efficient land titles system. Imagine if Nigeria created a similar corporate registry system, where companies could be incorporated in a few minutes, at the click of a button and for little cost? This is the leapfrog effect: a sudden opportunity to lower barriers to entry into the economic system.

Tokenized securities

According to Savills Global Research Report "Trends in Global Real Estate Market in 2016," the total market cap of global real estate is approximately worth \$217 tln. This roughly equals 2.7 times of global GDP, 36 times of global gold mining worth (six tln) and accounts for 60 percent of global main assets, hence rendering real estate the top saving and investment choice for countries, corporations and individuals. Smart contract and distributed accounting technology enable the connection of assets and financial institutions effectively. This technology allows a system where large assets can be split and distributed to multiple financial institutions through the smart contract, enabling users, through these financial institutions to invest in smaller fractions of real estate. This technology ensures the non-tampering of processes once they are initiated.

A more versatile system

Traditional transactions are a series of corporate steps, well-drafted contract templates and tons of paper. As such, they are rigid and create illiquid capital structures for investors and entrepreneurs. Tokenized securities represent an evolution to a flexible securities system, where share issuances can happen with the click of a button. Blockchain and tokens know no borders, and tokenized securities could form the backbone of a decentralized global stock market. This is an especially added benefit to emerging market entrepreneurs, where local angel and venture capital groups are more scarce. Tokens empower entrepreneurs with access to backers from around the world, democratizing access to finance for their products.

True financial inclusion

Financial inclusion is about more than bank accounts and stores of value. Capital markets and the ability to easily incorporate and manage a company can ease barriers to entry for entrepreneurs and make it easier for them to build their

businesses. Blockchain technology and tools like smart contracts, decentralized oracles and tokens create the possibility to create a new kind of capital markets system throughout emerging market countries. Source:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/blockchain-redefines-emerging-markets-capital-assets-and-securities>

[2016-06-22] DAO attacker ROCKS again!

Yes the attacker is on the move again right now. He donated some ether into the DAO and joined both whitehat splits. We drained the ETH he donated as fast as we could but he got what he wanted. An attacker is now part of split 78 and he can now do the split attack again in that white hat DAOs. This is why we need a soft fork. I will publish a blog post very soon with the steps forward from now on. But DO NOT panic. That means that any other move the attacker would try to do would come after 24 days. And that gives us more than enough time to have the soft fork implemented. https://np.reddit.com/r/ethereum/comments/4p9z93/it_seems_attacker_just_targeted_the_whitehatdaos/d4j7ldn

[2016-04-20] Money keeps pouring into blockchain startups

Money keeps pouring into blockchain startups. Fintech startups used to be focused on making traditional banks obsolete. Now, it seems like they just want to sell them services. Among the young companies going that route is itBit, a blockchain startup that has a regulatory license in New York state that allows it to deal in digital currencies such as bitcoin. It's developing a product called BankChain, which would apply blockchain technology to clearing and settlement processes for banks, and is in the middle of a \$50 million fundraising round, according to a pitch deck sent to investors and obtained by Quartz. The deck indicated itBit expects the round to close this quarter. <http://qz.com/662596/startups-are-raising-huge-rounds-to-feed-wall-streets-fascination-with-blockchain/>

[2017-04-24] Rectification Guidelines for Chinese Bitcoin Exchanges (Full Text)

Rectification Guidelines for Chinese Bitcoin Exchanges (Full Text) Note: It's the first time that the documents that gives rise to the regulatory storm on bitcoin exchanges was exposed to the public. The document was reposted by Fengjiling, 8btc forum moderator. The document confirms that the suspension of bitcoin withdrawal is direct order from the authority. Below is the full translation of the leaked

document. <http://news.8btc.com/rectification-guidelines-for-chinese-bitcoin-exchanges-full-text>

[2019-01-08] European Central Bank Policy Maker Calls Crypto 'a Fairy-Tale Story'

A member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB) has warned that "the [cryptocurrency] bubble has already started to collapse," Bloomberg reported Jan. 7. Speaking at a conference in Riga, Latvia, Ardo Hansson — also the governor of Estonia's central bank — stated that digital currencies will end up as a "complete load of nonsense." The official warned that "the bubble has already started to collapse and maybe we should just see how far this collapse goes, and what is left when we've reached a new kind of equilibrium." Hansson added: "I think we will come back a few years from now and say how could we ever have gotten into this situation where

we believed this kind of a fairy-tale story.”Read

more:<https://cointelegraph.com/news/european-central-bank-policy-maker-calls-crypto-a-fairy-tale-story>

[2016-09-15]How to Bypass Russia’s Ban on LocalBitcoins

How to Bypass Russia’s Ban on LocalBitcoinsThe country’s supervisory body for telecommunication, internet and mass media, Roskomnadzor has recently issued an order banning access to LocalBitcoins in Russia. The government body’s move came as a surprise to both LocalBitcoins and the country’s Bitcoin community, mainly due to the timing of the ban...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/14/bypass-russias-ban-on-localbitcoin/>

[2017-04-23]How Does Bitcoin Reach a Decision?

Some 70% of miners have now made a decision on whether to support segregated witnesses (segwit) or Bitcoin Unlimited, a proposal which simply increases the blocksize as set by nodes and miners. It’s not clear what the other 30% of miners are waiting for, but it will be interesting to see what they do decide once they get around to exercising their duty.If all go for segwit, it would give the proposal some 60%. Far off from a 95% threshold usually used, but that was always unrealistic in any, even slightly, contentious setting. It’s not too far from 75%, but conceptually, if segwit does reach 60%, it would be reasonable to say after lengthy debate a decision has been made and thus should be supported regardless of views.If all of the 30% instead support Bitcoin Unlimited, the client would gain some 70% of the hashrate. Not far from 75% and, again, regardless of views, after so much debate one has no choice, but to accept the decision of what would be an overwhelming majority.// Get exclusive analysis of bitcoin and learn from our tutorials. Join Hacked.com for just \$39 now. //In either case, both sides might dispute the end decision, but intellectually, they would have no standing nor any persuasive power for they would look no different than the “not my president” protestors who thought they can create their own fictitious reality.The 51%It’s unlikely all of the remaining 30% would decide in favor of just one proposal. If we split them in half, that would give segwit 47% while Bitcoin Unlimited would have around 53%. A very tight result, but, a potential outcome within predictable range as the matter is contentious.The question now rises whether the 47% should accept the decision of the 53% or whether they should split? If they do split, which one is to be called bitcoin? If, instead, they decide to not solve the problem at all, in effect rejecting both proposals, due to the fear of a split and its potential ensuing chaos, then what is the wider public to think of an expensive and slow bitcoin that can’t solve its problems?Rationally, the name bitcoin should go to the chain with 53% of the hashrate since bitcoin relies on the honesty of 51% of miners. If the matter is so contentious, then at least some of the 47% will probably split, which is their right. However, they need to differentiate themselves, but what if they don’t, what if they call themselves bitcoin?Bitcoin NormsHere, the persuasive power of conventions and norms usually assists. Just as the “not my president” protestors, they can call themselves bitcoin, but no one should take them seriously because, objectively, bitcoin is the chain with more than 51% of miners unless such miners are objectively acting maliciously which clearly is not the case in this scalability debate where a genuine disagreement of opinion exists.The “not my president” protestors can, of course, go to California and declare independence, but they obviously won’t be able to call California as USA. Likewise, the minority has the right to split without requiring any permission, but they can’t call themselves bitcoin. They can call themselves Bitcoin Core, or BCC; or Bitcoin Unlimited with ticker BTU, depending on which one is minority with the majority one remaining as bitcoin or BTC.Norms and conventions are not easily enforceable, but they have power because non-adherence leads to chaos. If the president, for example, does not uphold a judicial ruling, he risks revolution.Likewise, if some exchanges call a minority chain as bitcoin, then the entire currency is put into question, risking its complete downfall, not to mention the ensuing chaos.As such,

adhering to simple norms and conventions would be in the interest of everyone, including the minority chain, which can happily operate on its own network and fairly compete in the market, instead of risking its own downfall and that of bitcoin. The 30% of miners who have not decided, therefore, should get on with it. After now two years of endless arguing, and after some 70% have decided, there is no excuse for the other miners to keep sitting on the fence. Just signal for segwit or Bitcoin Unlimited and let's end this constant arguing, stagnation, transaction delays, increased fees, etc. Disclaimer: The views expressed in the article are solely that of the author and do not represent those of, nor should they be attributed to CCN. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-reach-decision/>

[2018-04-13] Zimbabwe's First Bitcoin ATM Becomes Country's Only Source of 'Real'

Zimbabwe's First Bitcoin ATM Becomes Country's Only Source of 'Real' Currency Zimbabwe now has a Bitcoin ATM that is providing people with another way to buy and sell Bitcoin and Litecoin. The first of its kind in the southern African country, the 2-way ATM was deployed and activated in the first week of April 2018 and follows the nation's growing interest in cryptocurrencies. The ATM was shipped into the country by the largest cryptocurrency exchange in Zimbabwe, Golix. It has been placed at Golix's customer support offices located in the business district of Zimbabwe's capital city, Harare. Currently, users can only access it during weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm but Golix has stated that it is set to move it to another location with 24-hour access. As far as continental strides go, Zimbabwe joins a very short list of African countries that have invested in such machines at one time or another. While a handful of countries like South Africa and Botswana reportedly deployed ATMs some years ago, at the present moment, Coin ATM Radar lists Zimbabwe's Bitcoin ATM as one of the only two that are active on the continent. The other one is in Djibouti. Read more: <http://bitcoinist.com/isnt-ironic-zimbabwes-first-ever-bitcoin-atm-also-countrys-source-real-currency/>

[2017-09-30] Japan Endorses 11 Different Crypto Exchanges!!

Japan Endorses 11 Different Crypto Exchanges, Turns Into Friendliest Asian Bitcoin Market Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) announced last Friday that they are endorsing 11 different cryptocurrency exchanges. This sets Japan on a path to becoming the headquarters for everything Bitcoin, especially since China recently crippled their crypto market by banning exchanges. This means Japan now represents one of the most cryptocurrency-friendly countries in Asia. Read more here: <https://news.bitcoin.com/japan-endorses-11-exchanges-transitions-to-largest-bitcoin-market/>

[2016-09-14] One of Bitcoin's Biggest Miners is Launching a Second Pool

As if running the third-largest bitcoin mining pool wasn't enough, China-based Bitmain announced the launch of its second mining pool yesterday. Unlike the other large mining pools, though, the new offering (launched through its subsidiary BTC.com) will be open sourced to its community of users. According to Bitmain, the pool is not meant as a replacement for its popular Antpool platform (which has roughly 13% of the network's market share) but rather to enhance the stability of the bitcoin network. In interview, Nishant Sharma, international marketing manager at Bitmain, explained that the goal is to use this software to "promote decentralization of the bitcoin mining network". <http://www.coindesk.com/bitmain-bitcoin-mining-launch-second-mining-pool/>

[2017-12-30] Payment Provider Bitrefill Runs Successful Lightning Transaction Te

Payment Provider Bitrefill Runs Successful Lightning Transaction Test Faster and cheaper bitcoin transactions may soon go alive. A recent transaction posted on Twitter from inside the offices of prepaid phone payment provider, Bitrefill, used the Lightning network to top up a mobile (for real) at near instant speed with zero fee, as the Tweet touted. While such transaction is not yet generally available to the public and may still be largely limited to command line interfaces, it nonetheless gives a peek into how the future may look like for regular bitcoin users. Lightning has been one of the most watched bitcoin-scaling solutions. It's a new layer of abstraction atop the bitcoin protocol that allows transactions to occur more quickly and cheaply, without sacrificing the security. According to data site Bitinfocharts, currently the average transaction fee of bitcoin is at \$36. Yet, people who saw Bosworth's tweet may have been confused because the use case isn't visible to Bitrefill customers. According to CEO Sergej Kotliar, the transaction shown occurred when Bosworth was testing out Bitrefill's implementation with one of the company's developers, by invitation. Bosworth needed to refill his phone at the time anyway, so he decided to test it with real money. It worked. Kotliar said: "Everything is ready to go on our end, but we're not launching it yet until a Lightning wallet is released for general use on mainnet." Wallets need to be updated in order to interact with the Lightning protocol layer, and this has not generally happened yet, Kotliar explained. Bitrefill announced it was implementing Lightning in August, on its blog. Interested users and developers are able to test it now, with fake bitcoin. Based in Stockholm, Bitrefill primarily focused on enabling people to pay for prepaid phones with cryptocurrency. "Our high-level company vision is to enable people all over the world to use bitcoin as money. Practically we enable people to use their coins to buy everything that is digital and money-like, so pay their bills, refill their phones, vouchers, etc," its CEO told CoinDesk in an email. Noting that production implementations of new innovations often surface tricky problems, the small team at Bitrefill decided one way it could contribute to bitcoin was to move quickly to adopt Lightning, but doing so also helped it to address frequent concerns voiced by its consumers around transaction costs and delays. "Recent mempool overloads have affected us hard, but over time a bigger concern for us has been confirmation times," Kotliar wrote. "Here the instant transactions of lightning lets us make a truly great customer experience. Lightning solves not only confirmation times but also many other UX problems of bitcoin." Kotliar urged peer companies not to wait to implement Lightning. He wrote: "Integration with Lightning has been surprisingly easy. It runs in a way similar to how bitcoin works, and fits neatly with how our and many company wallets work already." Source:

<https://www.coindesk.com/payment-provider-bitrefill-runs-successful-lightning-transaction-test/>

[2018-12-31] Bitcoin Halving in 2020: 3 Things you need to know

When Satoshi Nakamoto – whoever he or she is – set up bitcoin in 2009, he did so with the aim that the digital currency would be better in practically every way than the fiat currencies that came before it. Not only would the currency protect holders against theft by private citizens, but it was also hoped that it would eliminate the current monetary policy that slowly inflates the government money, decreasing its value in real terms. The way Nakamoto envisioned doing this was simple: over time the difficulty of mining new coins would go up, slowly converging on a level so high that no further coins could be minted. Nakamoto hard-coded the bitcoin system to limit the total number of bitcoin that could exist through a series of halving events, with the two most recent in 2012 and 2016. These halving events reduced block rewards every time a miner added a block to the bitcoin blockchain. Read more: <https://coinlu.com/bitcoin-halving-2020-3-things-you-need-to-know/>

[2016-06-21] Blockchain Trust Accelerator to attack corruption with blockchain

Blockchain Trust Accelerator to attack corruption with blockchain The National Democratic Institute,

New America think tank and BitFury are launching a joint project aimed at using blockchain against corruption in the social and political spheres.
<http://www.coinfox.info/news/5745-kompaniya-bitfury-primenit-blokchejn-protiv-korrupsii-2>

[2016-04-19] Investors Move To Purchase Bitcoin Rapidly

<http://bitcoinspies.com/2016/04/19/investors-move-purchase-bitcoin-rapidly/>

[2017-04-18]Op-ed: Portugal, Just Like Any Other Country, Needs Bitcoin

It's Easter and some relatives of yours want to come visit. They live in a remote area of the country and aren't exactly wealthy. On a Friday afternoon they asked you to wire them some money to help with travel expenses and, as expected, if you try to go with traditional financial institutions they will only receive the money after the weekend. The above scenario happened to me and if only more businesses accepted bitcoin in Portugal, the problem would've easily been solved in minutes. Bitcoin's decentralized, peer-to-peer nature empowers people, gives them control over their own money, and fits in all the fundamental properties of money better than gold or fiat. Yet, a prominent Portuguese newspaper, *Jornal de Negócios*, recently published a piece dubbed "Portugal is no country for bitcoin", in which the writer explains electricity costs aren't as cheap as they are in some other countries and, as such, there aren't any major bitcoin miners in the country. // Get exclusive analysis of bitcoin and learn from our tutorials. Join Hacked.com for just \$39 now. // Over here, one kWh costs roughly \$0.1105, according to the article, and that forces local miners to either make a substantial investment or lose money mining, as making a profit will be hard without the best hardware out there – just like in any other country in the world by now. Although I do agree making a profit mining bitcoin might be a challenge, it is wrong to claim Portugal is no country for bitcoin, at least without specifying mining operations, as there is a lot of information neglected in the article. Otherwise, those learning about bitcoin may get the wrong picture. I Never Printed Fiat Money The articles' claim that bitcoin's place isn't in Portugal because it isn't easy to mine it profitably would leave our fiat currency, the euro, in a much darker place, as no citizen can legally print them out. Yet, we transact in euros, a less secure, centralized currency whose value the people have absolutely no control of, on a daily basis. Moreover, there are dozens, if not hundreds, of different ways to acquire bitcoin, without mining one single satoshi: exchanges and *r/Jobs4Bitcoins* are great examples. Even Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates himself said bitcoin is better than fiat currency: As previously reported by CCN, the Bank of Portugal has issued a statement back in 2013 in which it states bitcoin has no central authority to control it, and that it has no legal tender in the country. Now more than ever bitcoin is needed in Portugal as our financial system is apparently letting us down. Back in 2015, over 500 people lost their lifetime savings because they were led to invest in dubious financial applications they weren't even told were risky in the first place. Their representative once told the media (translated statement): These are people that lost everything because of the banking system, and the lack of [proper] surveillance. Last month, our media reported another financial institution, Montepio, could be in trouble, as its major shareholder reportedly has a €107 million hole in the balance sheet. The reports forced consumer protection organization DECO to warn against certain financial products as these aren't properly supervised. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/portugal-needs-bitcoin/>

[2018-12-30] Paxos Hassling Traders Trying to Redeem Stablecoin PAX for Dollars

<https://www.ccn.com/paxos-standard-hassling-ethereum-traders-trying-to-redeem-stablecoin-pax-for-dollars/> An interesting but unsurprising tale. I dunno why anyone bothers with stablecoins. You may

as well stick with real money where you have to deal with professional penises rather than unprofessional ones, but on a seemingly far less regular basis.

[2017-12-28] 2017 Survey: 72.6% Of Chinese Bankers Suggest Blockchain Be Applied

On December 25, blockchain technology and bitcoin were reported on CCTV-2 (CCTV Finance). Though bitcoin bulls and bears bring huge risks to the market, as a newly emergent reality, the blockchain technology adopted by bitcoin is well-suited for the financial field because of its technical features. In addition, our country has been conducting research on our own digital currency based on the blockchain technology. Featured by decentralization, blockchain technology is a kind of Internet-based data storage technology, on which the fascinating digital currency as bitcoin is relied. Based on its traceability and automatic execution of smart contracts with other features, blockchain can greatly reduce the complexity of design and truly achieve penetrating supervision in the financial sector, especially in the bill business.<http://news.8btc.com/2017-survey-72-6-of-chinese-bankers-suggest-blockchain-be-applied-to-payment-settlement>

[2016-04-18] Bitcoin Trademark, Issued for the first time in Russia

Bitcoin Trademark, Issued for the first time in Russia Bitcoin and Russia have had some tough times so far. The government is not interested in having bitcoin around, but they definitely want to explore the use of blockchain technology in banking and financial sector. However, 'Bitcoin' did get its date with the legal and regulatory system in the country after the 'Bitcoin' trademark was approved by the concerned trademark registration office. The number of bitcoin users in the Russian Federation is increasingly on a regular basis. But, at the same time, the government is doing all it can to stop people from using it. Earlier this year, the Russian Ministry of Finance had passed a draft regulation that made converting bitcoin to ruble illegal, punishable by imprisonment and a penalty.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/04/18/bitcoin-trademark-issued-for-the-first-time-in-russia/>

[2017-04-14] Microsoft Office Software Gets a Bitcoin Blockchain Certification Up

Microsoft Office Software Gets a Bitcoin Blockchain Certification Upgrade Microsoft Office users can now create immutable documents with help from the Bitcoin blockchain. On April 10 a blockchain document certification and verification application called Stampery was added to the multinational tech giant's Microsoft Office program. Microsoft Office Add-on is a Bitcoin Blockchain Certification Feature Microsoft has shown support for Bitcoin-related applications for quite some time. Now a company engineer, Ville Rantala has announced the implementation of the Stampery blockchain add-in for it's Microsoft Office suite. Essentially users can certify and verify documents using either the Bitcoin or Ethereum blockchain. Microsoft's engineer believes enterprise organizations and individuals need to record and secure important documents every day. Immutable certification and verification are crucial to the integrity of legal documents and contracts that cannot be manipulated, Rantala details. "An alternative to relying on a single entity (commercial, public, government, etc.) to keep such proof of identity safe is to create a hash of the document and send that hash to the publicly accessible blockchain, such as Bitcoin," Microsoft's Senior Engineer Rantala explains. "Once the hash data is present on the public blockchain, the document can't be changed without invalidating the hash. This approach guarantees both the document's privacy and the data's availability for future validation purposes." read more [:https://news.bitcoin.com/microsoft-office-bitcoin-blockchain-upgrade/](https://news.bitcoin.com/microsoft-office-bitcoin-blockchain-upgrade/)

[2018-12-16]Blockchain Payments' Mass Adoption Is 3-5 Years Away, Says BitPay. .

Blockchain Payments' Mass Adoption Is 3-5 Years Away, Says BitPay CEO
The CEO of crypto merchant platform BitPay Stephen Pair stated that speculation on future adoption drives Bitcoin's (BTC) price more than "actual utility," in an interview on CNBC Dec. 13. Speaking on the reasons behind Bitcoin's current value, compared to its historic price highs, Pair told reporters: "A very big component of the [Bitcoin's] price is certainly speculation. It's investors that are speculating on the future usage and adoption of this technology. I'm sure a small component of that price is the actual utility." When asked about a Bitcoin ETF's potential to stimulate a price rally, Pair argued that "not just ETF adoption or ETF launches" could be catalysts for price movement, but that "adoption will push the prices higher," adding optimistically: "I do think we'll see those kinds of prices at some point in the future, if history is any guide." Answering a question about blockchain-based currencies' use in daily transactions, the BitPay CEO told CNBC that he expects such adoption to occur on a mass scale in under half a decade, stating that. [Read more:](https://cointelegraph.com/news/blockchain-payments-mass-adoption-is-3-5-years-away-says-bitpay-ceo)
<https://cointelegraph.com/news/blockchain-payments-mass-adoption-is-3-5-years-away-says-bitpay-ceo>

[2018-04-07] \$300 Million Bitcoin Scam Unearthed In India

The bitcoin fraudulence around the world don't seem to cease any time soon, and this time, it's struck India. Amit Bhardwaj, director and mastermind of a bitcoin mining company has been recently arrested for setting up an elaborate multi-level marketing scam to the tune of \$300 million. Under this 'scheme,' he urged investors to invest one bitcoin for a ten percent return. This 'contract' would be valid for a total of eighteen months. Bhardwaj also offered another option where he promised to facilitate bitcoin mining hardware to the investors, who may then mine their own bitcoins. However, he never gave the returns and instead fled the country, police said. This apparent bitcoin entrepreneur established his own bitcoin mining empire and hoaxed around 8,000 people who corresponded to an astonishing Rs. 2,000 crores (\$308 million) of bitcoin from across the country. But these 'earnings' put Bhardwaj into handcuffs. On April 5, he was arrested from the Delhi airport by the police. Before this, seven of his accomplices were arrested in Bangkok. "Gain Bitcoin": Shell Company Used To Scam
Bhardwaj was the pioneer of the first online retail marketplace accepting currency in the form of bitcoin in 2014. One of his popular bitcoin mining operations is 'Gain bitcoin' – it states that they have bitcoin mining operations in China, GB Miners, located in Hong Kong and the fairly new MCAP. He was reportedly arrested from the Delhi Airport on April 5, says police Commissioner, Rashmi Shukla. The fact that the police was alerted by local Bangkok agencies about the whereabouts of Bhardwaj's location in the country. He has allegedly duped investors from Mumbai, Pune, Nanded, Kolhapur and other cities in India. In an extremely thrifty move, Bhardwaj had set up his own mining servers, completely ruling out the transaction costs that are levied when bitcoins are outsourced from a different mining server. In this case, "Bhardwaj went a step further and set up his own mining operations outside the country and came up with his own servers," said Kislay Chaudhary, a Delhi-based cyber professional informed. Investors Ring Warning Bells
One of the first people to call out Bhardwaj's wrong-doings was Zakhil Suresh, a cryptocurrency analyst from Mumbai. He had enforced a petition to put Bhardwaj behind bars and also sent them to the Delhi and Mumbai police commissioner. Narrating his story, Suresh informed that he met Bhardwaj in Delhi in June 2015 and after learning about the terms and benefits of Bhardwaj's 'scheme,' invested a total of six bitcoin that amounted to Rs. One Lakh at the time. "Bhardwaj had promised to pay 0.01 to 0.02 bitcoin every month. He said that in his platform there is no transaction cost. We had no reason to suspect him because he was seen as a bitcoin revolutionary," Suresh said. But sadly, the returns of his investment never saw the light of day. "I kept sending emails to his

company, and they would not revert. My wallet status was pending for months, and later the status turned to closed,” Suresh said. This was when it struck him. He had been deceived. Even then, Suresh did not file a complaint against him. “I grew tired of it. I did not know about the provisions. He then started MCAP, his own bitcoin currency introducing his own exchange rates. There was complete manipulation of the exchange rates, and he offered his own cryptocurrency. We gave up by then,” Suresh said. <https://btcmanager.com/300-million-bitcoin-scam-unearthed-in-india/>

[2018-12-17] Top Five Things to Know About Digital Currency Before Making Investments

Top Five Things to Know About Digital Currency Before Making Investments Bitcoin investors face many questions when starting to deal with the crypto market. This article will expound some important facts that will help you to be better prepared for investing in virtual coins such as Ethereum, Ripple, and, of course, Bitcoin. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/top-five-things-to-know-about-digital-currency/>

[2016-06-18] cointelegraph.com | The Sky Isn't Falling: Steven Zeiler on Why Bitcoin's Future Is Strong

The Sky Isn't Falling: Steven Zeiler on Why Bitcoin's Future Is Strong Bitcoin Classic, a fork of Bitcoin with a doubled two-megabyte block size limit, appears to have failed. Now, many in the Bitcoin community have voiced fears that, with a continued one-megabyte limit, transaction confirmation times and fees will increase to the point where Bitcoin itself is untenable, potentially dooming the cryptocurrency.... <https://cointelegraph.com/news/the-sky-isnt-falling-steven-zeiler-on-why-bitcoins-future-is-strong>

[2016-04-18] 'Bitcoin' Becomes Trademark in Russia to Prevent 'Patent Trolls'

'Bitcoin' Becomes Trademark in Russia to Prevent 'Patent Trolls' Following three unsuccessful attempts by various firms to register the “Bitcoin” trademark in Russia, the Russian patent agency, Rospatent has granted the request to LLC “Bitcoin” to Russian Blockchain <https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-trademark-russia/>

[2016-01-11] San Diego's First 2-Way Bitcoin ATM Opens for Business

The San Diego County in South California is now home to its very first 2-way Bitcoin ATM machine. The newest of its kind— San Diego's first 2Way bitcoin ATM opens with the help of CoinStructive Inc., a Bitcoin marketplace consultant in partnership with CoinOutlet Inc., a U.S. based... <http://www.altcointoday.com/san-diegos-first-2way-bitcoin-atm-opens/>

[2018-12-16] Bitcoin Bomb Threats Sweep U.S & Canada, Prompting Evacuations

A large number of businesses and other major institutions operating in the U.S and Canada received threatening emails on the afternoon of December 13, 2018, initiating sweeps and evacuations of several buildings. It's still ambiguous whether the threats that were received in

Seattle, San Francisco, Washington DC, New York and Miami plus other places countrywide – are connected. These email threats also reached Toronto, Vancouver, Canada and Ottawa. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:
<https://coinidol.com/bitcoin-bomb-threats-sweep-us/>

[2016-1-27] First Global Credit Private Trading Group Goes Public

First Global Credit announces open auditions for talented traders to qualify for part-subsidized Private Trading Group accounts. First Global Credit, the first company that accepts bitcoins as market trading collateral has mounted a search for new talent to join their 'Elite' Private Trading Group. Membership in the group provides access to a professional grade stock and currency trading account on the First Global Credit platform. While there are no educational or prior trading requirements, traders do need to provide a strategy statement of no more than 750 words indicating how they intend to use the bitcoin collateral to make profits trading stocks, ETFs and/or currency on the platform. Read More:
<http://themerple.com/news/first-global-credit-private-trading-group-goes-public/>

[2016-09-09] New Survey Hints Bank's Acceptance of Bitcoin as Mainstream Currency

ABN AMRO Survey Hints Bank's Acceptance of Bitcoin as Mainstream Currency The survey was part of ABN AMRO Innovation Centre's initiative to understand whether the Bitcoin community in Netherlands prefers to use a Bitcoin wallet developed by the bank or not. The initiative doesn't come as a surprise as the bank's Innovation Centre is known to be working on Bitcoin and blockchain related technologies. With increasing Bitcoin adoption, the bank can gain more customers by offering them a way to store not just fiat currency but also digital currencies like Bitcoin...
<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/09/abn-amro-mainstream-bitcoin-acceptance/>

[2016-06-18] Decentral Introduces Adjustable Bitcoin Fee For Jaxx users

Now that Jaxx includes an adjustable Bitcoin fee, users of this wallet solution should no longer be affected by network congestion. Users can select between slow, average, and fast fees, depending on how quickly they need to move funds between addresses. Moreover, all of these types will scale depending on the level of current network activity.
<http://themerple.com/decentral-introduces-adjustable-bitcoin-fee-for-jaxx-users/>

[2018-12-14] Blockchain Development is LinkedIn's Biggest Growing Job Sector

According to LinkedIn's 2018 U.S. Emerging Jobs Report, job listings for engineers who can develop distributed ledgers with P2P technology have grown 33 times this year. In the second place, and by quite a massive distance, is the Machine Learning Engineer role, a position which has increased 12 times within the same period.
<https://www.ccn.com/blockchain-development-is-linkedins-biggest-growing-job-sector/>

[2017-12-17] SBI, Credit Card Giants Begin Testing Ripple Payments

Ripple made headlines last week as the cryptocurrency surged above \$1.00 for the first time in its

history. XRP started 2017 worth about one cent and is now at a dollar. Banks in Japan and South Korea are testing the use of Ripple's technology for fast transactions. On Tuesday, Japanese banking giant, SBI Holdings, and several large credit card companies announced plans to form an association where participants share transaction history and verify each other's payments — using the Ripple blockchain. Credit Card Giants JCB, Sumitomo Mitsui Card, Credit Saison among other major card companies will participate. Well-known for its close dealings with traditional financial institutions, Ripple, and its underlying technology may help drive down costs as well as curb fraudulent activity. More: <https://dowbit.com/sbi-ripple-payments-japan/>

[2016-01-27] DarkWallet development resumes on privacy focused bitcoin wallet

Just when everyone started to think that DarkWallet development had completely been abandoned, and that the bitcoin wallet was no longer being supported, the lead developer of the wallet Pablo Martin has returned and begun merging code into the GitHub wallet showing that development has resumed. Read more here:

<http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/darkwallet-development-resumes-on-privacy-focused-bitcoin-wallet-as-lead-developer-returns-from-hiatus/>

[2016-06-17] Sweden May Soon Have Blockchain Based Land Registry

Sweden May Soon Have Blockchain Based Land Registry With the number of people around, it is hard to keep track of all the things they had ever owned. However, it is not that hard when it comes to land ownership. For starters, it is not easy to hide a piece of land, as it has to be under the sun where everyone can easily see. However, over a period of time, as ownerships start changing it becomes hard to keep track of it unless there is some reliable form of record is maintained...read more

[2018-12-10] Bitmain Closes Israeli Blockchain Development Center Citing Crypto

Bitmain Closes Israeli Blockchain Development Center Citing Crypto Market Conditions Chinese crypto mining giant Bitmain is closing its development center in Israel and firing local employees, Israeli business news outlet Globes has learned Monday, Dec. 10. Bitmain tech Israel — founded in 2016 to explore the use of blockchain technology, work on the Connect BTC mining pool and develop the infrastructure behind Bitmain's artificial intelligence (AI) project Sophon — will close this week. All 23 employees will be fired, the Globes reports. Gadi Glikberg, head of the Israeli branch as well as Bitmain vice president of international sales and marketing, is also leaving. The Globes reports that Glikberg linked the closure to the recent crypto market collapse: "The crypto market has undergone a shake-up in the past few months, which has forced Bitmain to examine its various activities around the globe and to refocus its business in accordance with the current situation." Bitmain tech Israel has not responded to a request for comment by press time. Bitmain is also currently facing two lawsuits. The first one, a class action lawsuit of \$5 million focused on unauthorized mining, was filed in the North District Court of California against Bitmain's United States- and China-based entities. The second suit was purportedly filed against Bitmain, Bitcoin.com, Roger Ver and the Kraken Bitcoin Exchange. The case alleges that the defendants jointly used unfair methods and practices to manipulate the BCH network for their benefit. In early December, Israel has seen a crackdown on unreported crypto earnings. According to local business newspaper Calcalist, Israeli tax authorities opened tax accounts for hundreds of Israelis who allegedly concealed cryptocurrency related revenues. As cryptocurrencies are treated as a financial asset in

Israel, they are subject to a 25 percent tax for private investors.Reference:

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitmain-closes-israeli-blockchain-development-center-citing-crypto-market-conditions>

[2018-02-25]btcmagazine - Riot Blockchain Gets Hit by Another Shareholder Lawsuit

After changing its name to Riot Blockchain in October to include the word “blockchain,” the public company watched its stock skyrocket from \$8 a share to more than \$38 during a cryptocurrency rally at the beginning of the year. The first significant problem was the company did not have any real focus on blockchain technology. Before October, Riot was known as Biopix, a maker of diagnostic machinery for the biotech industry. The company also changed its ticker symbol to RIOT from BIOP. Another problem was that key shareholder Barry Honig got caught with his hand in the cookie jar, selling off a big stake of his shares at \$38 per share after the name change. On February 22, 2018, law firm Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP announced it was filing a class-action lawsuit against Riot. The complaint charges Riot, along with Honig and company CEO John O’Rourke and CFO Jeffrey McGonegal, with securities violations. Specifically, the charges claim that despite its lack of blockchain expertise, Riot changed its name to generate investor enthusiasm to further an insider scheme that would allow Riot’s controlling shareholders to dump their stocks at grossly inflated prices. At least two other lawsuits have been filed against Riot and its principals, charging them with securities violations and false and misleading statements. These lawsuits follow a scathing investigation into Riot by CNBC on February 16, 2018, that raised questions about the company’s business model and Honig. In the wake of that report, shares tumbled 33 percent to \$11.46. It is likely these class-action lawsuits may be the first of many to come against Riot. Shady Activities On October 4, 2017, Riot adopted its new name and headed off in a radical new business direction, announcing it was going to invest in and operate blockchain technologies with a focus on Bitcoin and Ethereum. The company had no previous business in blockchain technology, yet in press releases, Riot portrayed itself as a seasoned player in the space. “At Riot Blockchain, our team has the insight and network to effectively grow and develop blockchain assets,” said Riot’s then-CEO, Michael Beeghley, in a statement at the time. The company has a history of questionable activities. In December, Riot began purchasing cryptocurrency mining equipment. But rather than purchasing from the manufacturer or other suppliers, the company paid more than \$11 million for equipment worth only \$2 million by purchasing it through a newly formed shell entity. Honig is also charged with exercising outside influence over the company’s business operations. Beginning in April 2016, long before the company changed its name to Riot, Honig began purchasing shares in the company. By December 2016, he had become the company’s largest shareholder, owning more than 11 percent of the company. He used that influence to nominate several new directors to the board, including O’Rourke. In addition to insider selling after the name change, other worrying signs about the company included: Riot lost two auditing firms in just one year, and two annual stockholder meetings were postponed at the last minute. Also, some of Riot’s business deals involved investors who had worked on similar deals together in the past, raising questions about the company’s governance. “All Aboard” Riot is not the only company to have jumped onboard the rename-your-company “blockchain” bandwagon. Several other companies have also rewritten their names to cash in on the blockchain and cryptocurrency craze. In December, the Long Island Iced Tea Corporation, a New York-based company that makes iced tea, rebranded itself as “Long Blockchain.” Its company shares rose 300 percent as a result. In January, legacy photography company Kodak announced the launch of KODAKCoin, a “photo-centric” cryptocurrency for photographers, and its stock went up 80 percent within hours. Lawsuits like the ones now piling up against Riot stand as a reminder that a name change is not enough — a company needs real blockchain experience and technology and a solid business plan behind it before adding “blockchain” to its name. source link - <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/riot-blockchain-gets-hit-another-shareholder-lawsuit/>

[2017-09-21] Bitcoin isn't wild and wacky enough yet to make a good hedge

Let's say the bitcoin bubble has just burst. From its peak of \$4,921 earlier this month, the digital currency is already down 16 percent at \$4,076. Over the next two months, imagine it continues to slump to barely more than half its peak valuation. After a brief recovery, the price slides again, until by the start of 2020 it's dropped by another third, to below \$2,000. For 20 years it then languishes around that point, never to recover its September 2017 levels in inflation-adjusted terms. Does that vision of the future show that digital currencies have no place in an investment portfolio, or that they do? The answer is worth pondering, because that's the trajectory gold followed after its peak in January 1980. Full disclosure: I don't, and wouldn't, invest in either gold or bitcoin. Still, as someone once said, markets can remain irrational longer than you can remain solvent -- and trying to shake other investors out of their unreason is as pointless as fighting the tide. Rather than asking whether digital currencies make sense philosophically, we should be asking whether they stack up as investments. As Gadfly argued last week, with a conventional market in digital-currency-settled derivatives emerging, the best argument for owning those currencies is the same as the best one for owning gold: Their potential to have negative beta, to rise when stocks fall and vice versa. If a negative correlation to equities can offset periods of underperformance in shares, they can go a long way to improving returns. Suppose you bought a basket of digital currencies, and held them alongside gold as the negative-beta slice of an investment portfolio, valued at no more than (say) 3 percent of the total. Would that make sense? If all digital currencies are going to be worth zero in five years, clearly not. That's the argument made by those who say cryptocurrencies don't have any "fundamental value." Gold is genuinely useful in niche medical and electronic applications, and it's been coveted aesthetically since the dawn of civilization. Central bank bullion holdings are another 31,500 metric tons of proof that the yellow metal is more than just a fad. What's supporting a floor price for digital currencies, though? One answer to that question was given by JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon in his anti-bitcoin spray last week: If you were in Venezuela or Ecuador or North Korea or a bunch of parts like that, or if you were a drug dealer, a murderer, stuff like that, you are better off doing it in bitcoin than U.S. dollars ... So there may be a market for that, but it'd be a limited market. Not that limited, though. As demonstrated by the popularity of bitcoin in China, people living in countries with closed capital accounts show a great deal of interest in moving funds outside of official exchange controls. About 40 percent of the world's population and 20 percent of its gross domestic product are in such jurisdictions. Other gray segments of the global economy suggest further sources of demand for anonymous transactions, as Bloomberg View's Aaron Brown argued this week. More than \$12 trillion is stashed in tax havens, according to the Tax Justice Network, an advocacy group. The trade in illicit drugs may be worth \$320 billion, or close to 1 percent of global GDP. The 500-euro banknote, which most Europeans have never seen but is popular with criminals, still accounts for more than one-fifth of the value of euro notes in circulation, more than a year after the European Central Bank stopped printing it. Yes, digital currencies can be used to launder the proceeds of crime -- but so can JPMorgan. Possible value of illicit drugs trade \$320 billion While this may seem unsavory, it cuts against the argument that demand for digital currencies can just go back to where it was in 2007, absent coordinated government crackdowns of the sort we've never seen. The stronger argument against digital currencies is not that they're going to zero -- it's that they don't make a good hedge at all. Since 2010, gold and Treasury bonds have a negative correlation with the S&P 500; bitcoin, on the other hand, has a positive relationship, multiple regression analysis done by Gadfly shows. In addition, bitcoin moves so radically that you can't even construct a meaningful long-short strategy with your equity portfolio. If you believe the bluster of bitcoin bugs, they're putting their money in code because they think the fiat-money economy is on the verge of collapse. Their revealed preference, though, is to punt on bitcoin whenever rising stock markets lift their risk appetite, and vice versa. In principle, the biggest advantage of digital currencies is they have no connection to anything that's happening in the real

economy. In reality, the two are intimately connected through that most powerful of conductors, investor sentiment. Only if that changes will virtual money really be able to bite off part of gold's domain.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/bitcoin-isnt-wild-and-wacky-enough-yet-to-make-a-good-hedge/articleshow/60783142.cms>

[2017-04-06] Electronics Retailer Bic Camera Begins Accepting Bitcoin

Bitcoin payment processor bitFlyer is partnering with a Japanese electronics retailer to test a new point-of-sale system (POS) that will allow customers to purchase goods with bitcoin. The company, Bic Camera, sells consumer electronics such as cameras, computers and dishwashers at more than 40 stores domestically. As a result of the integration, customers can now choose to pay with bitcoin for purchases up to a limit of ¥100,000 (around \$900). As with other bitcoin payment processors, the POS system developed by bitFlyer will allow the store to accept the digital currency and will immediately convert funds to yen. The stores are then charged a 1% service fee on transactions. BitFlyer claims stores will receive their fiat funds the next day, which it contends is beneficial to smaller stores that need daily cash liquidity to finance operations. The announcement comes during a period of heavy activity for Japan's bitcoin market, which recently saw the recognition of bitcoin as a legal means of payment by the government. Fellow Japanese payment processor and exchange Coincheck also announced a deal yesterday that will put its bitcoin accepting point-of-sale system in up to 260,000 brick and mortar businesses nationwide, an announcement that showcases the new momentum for the local industry. <http://www.coindesk.com/electronics-retailer-bic-camera-begins-accepting-bitcoin/> This looks to be great news after the news of Japan treating bitcoin as a legal currency. This might get big, depending on how well other companies follow suit

[2018-12-05] OKEx Launches New Bitcoin Derivative: Cryptocurrency Perpetual Swap

Malta-based cryptocurrency exchange OKEx launched a cryptocurrency-focused Bitcoin Perpetual Swap product on December 3, 2018, during a press conference attended by CryptoSlate. The virtual derivative product is a peer-to-peer offering that aims to empower traders with the ability to speculate the price direction of digital assets like Bitcoin and Ether to ensure exposure to the risky, yet highly-rewarding crypto market. Trading for perpetual swaps will be officially available on the OKEx platform from December 11, 2018, at 1:00 local time (GMT+9). The product is considered a huge step towards completing the company's crypto-based financial product suite and will allow users to perform swaps, futures, and spot trading with high-leverage features. Comparable to futures contracts, swaps do not have an expiry date and settlements are executed daily. The pricing is based on the underlying value they represent, which allows traders to guess the direction the prices may take without risking their actual assets. Each swap contract will have a notional value of \$100 USD-worth of Bitcoin, which means to gain exposure equivalent to 1 BTC in the crypto-market requires the purchase of 39 perpetual contracts, at current prices. Users will be at liberty to choose from two strategic positions; they may take a long position that will enable them profit from the surge in a digital asset price, or a short position and profit from a drop in a digital asset price. Commenting on the product launch, OKEx Financial Markets director Lennix Lai stated: "The launch of perpetual swap demonstrates our continuous commitment to building a complete financial ecosystem on blockchain and crypto. With the new offering, investors and traders can select the products which best fit their trading and hedging strategies." The new product has many additional advantages that were mentioned during the conference, such as swaps with maximum leverage of up to 100x, and partial liquidation capabilities (protecting users from incurring large-scale losses). Users will also enjoy low transaction fees, daily settlements of closed positions, fast

withdrawals of earned profits, and a “tiered margin” system that allows traders to change their levels of leverage in relation to market movements and individual risk appetite. Reference:

<https://cryptoslate.com/okex-launches-new-bitcoin-derivative-cryptocurrency-perpetual-swaps/>

[2018-04-03] Kazakhstan to Ban Trading Bitcoin as Well as Other Cryptocurrencies

The National Bank of Kazakhstan has prepared amendments to the legislation aimed at tightening regulation of bitcoin and altcoins in the country. In particular, the institution intends to prohibit the purchase and sale of virtual coins for fiat currency on cryptocurrency exchanges, as well as any kind of mining. "The National Bank is very conservative about this issue, welcoming only rather rigid restrictions. That means, we want to prohibit the purchase and sale of cryptocurrency for the national currency, we want to prohibit the activity of exchanges on this segment and any kinds of mining," Daniyar Akishev, the head of the National Bank told Sputnik on Friday. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/kazakhstan-to-ban-trading-bitcoin/>

[2016-04-15] Airbnb Hires a Blockchain Team in Possible Identity Play

Airbnb Hires a Blockchain Team in Possible Identity Play Airbnb, the company that disrupted the hospitality industry as Uber did to taxis, is sidling up to the fintech space. The San Francisco company, which allows people to rent spare rooms in their homes to travelers, has "acqui-hired" a team of bitcoin and blockchain experts from the micropayments startup ChangeCoin. Airbnb, whose user base passed 17 million last summer, is bringing over the majority of ChangeCoin's staff to join its engineering team and work on building its

...<http://www.americanbanker.com/news/bank-technology/airbnb-hires-a-blockchain-team-in-possible-identity-play-1080440-1.html>

[2017-09-20] Bitcoin, Ether stabilize after September selloff

Bitcoin and Ether token prices climbed on Wednesday, as both digital currencies added to recoveries from a plunge this month. Bitcoin dropped more than 30% during the first two weeks of September in the wake of threats by Chinese authorities about closing cryptocurrency exchanges and a ban on so-called initial coin offerings, which have been deemed illegal in the region by Beijing regulators. Opinion: Here's a reason why China would want to shut down bitcoin The September selloff earlier was exacerbated by negative comments from J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. JPM, +0.70% CEO Jamie Dimon, who described the bitcoin as "a fraud" and a bubble. Bitcoin peaked at more than \$5,000 in early September, but tumbled to a low of \$2,951 last Friday. Bitcoin experienced a 34% plunge earlier this summer, when the cryptocurrency was expected to split into two different versions following a software update known as Segregation Witness or SegWit that would speed up its network. That split created a parallel blockchain currency Bitcoin Cash. Bitcoin is facing another split sometime in November, which would create a third version of the bitcoin that would increase its block size to 2 mega bytes from the current 1MB. Despite such extreme volatility, bitcoin prices are up more than 300% since the start of the year, compared with the Dow Jones Industrial Average DJIA, +0.19% and S&P 500 index SPX, +0.06% which are up 13% and 12%, respectively, over the same period. A single bitcoin BTCUSD, -1.88% was worth about \$3,987 on Wednesday with its market value rising to \$65.7 billion. Last week its value declined to as low as \$59.3 billion, according to research site Coinmarketcap.com. As digital currencies continue to recover, so do criticisms from Wall Street heavyweights and regulators. On Tuesday, Ray Dalio, the founder of the world's largest hedge fund, said bitcoin has all the makings of a bubble based on the firm's criteria for the market

phenomenon. "Bitcoin is a highly speculative market. Bitcoin is a bubble," Dalio said. Meanwhile regulators in the U.S. are growing concerned about consumers investing in so called ICOs, a form of fundraising in exchange for tokens that can be eventually used for purchasing products of the company or traded on secondary markets. The Securities and Exchange Commission recently issued a report warning investors about the perils of ICOs, comparing them to Ponzi schemes. Read: What is an ICO? Meanwhile, Ether tokens, trading on the Ethereum blockchain, were also attempting to recover from last week's decline. One Ether token was buying \$289 in recent trade. Ether's value was at \$27.4 billion, compared with a recent low at about \$21.6 billion last week. Across the broader digital-currency segment, the total market value of an array of cryptocurrencies was at \$137.8 billion, with bitcoin representing about 52% of that value, Coinmarketcap data show. <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bitcoin-ether-stabilize-after-september-selloff-2017-09-20>

[2016-09-07] Bitcoin Price Watch; Upside Scalps On Tonight

Bitcoin Price Watch; Upside Scalps On Tonight So the session is about to draw to a close out of Europe, and it's time to take the second of our twice daily looks at the bitcoin price in an attempt to see if we can draw a profit from the markets at some point during this evening's session. Things have been pretty dull over the last few weeks, but volume is finally starting to pick up, and we are starting to see some decent breakouts and – in turn – a number of opportunities to get in and out of the markets according to the rules of our intraday breakout scalp strategy... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/07/bitcoin-price-watch-upside-scalps-tonight/>

[2017-04-05] 1Hash Bitcoin Pool Comes out against Bitcoin Unlimited

While it briefly appeared that Bitcoin Unlimited might actually activate, the chances now seem slim as a relatively new bitcoin pool, which has suddenly shot to around 8% network share, appears to be very much against Bitcoin Unlimited. 1Hash publicly posted on China's version of twitter where they stated, according to a very rough translation, that "BU has violated the BTC consensus agreement." They further say: BU intends to divorce from the current situation, to create their own basic principles of Bitcoin, that is – a hard fork, Bitcoin will also be split. BU hopes to have larger blocks, which means that a large pool can get more benefits from it, so it is easy to lead to the centralization of Bitcoin mining, the fee will be higher. It's the usual talking point (except for "the fees will be higher" which is a fairly puzzling statement), but in support of their argument they use the ethereum example which last summer underwent a hardfork to prevent a theft of some \$200 million. According to a translation obtained by CCN, 1Hash says: "Ethereum, with its smart contract functions, has attracted wide attention. At its peak, price rose continuously and it became the runner up currency, next to only bitcoin. However, it was attacked by hackers and had no other choice but to adopt a fork. Therefore, its price crashed drastically, never returning to its peak value even today." That last sentence is factually incorrect in an objective way that cannot possibly be disputed. Ethereum has this spring nearly tripled from the highest price it had before the fork last summer, with its market cap before the fork standing around \$1 billion while now it stands above \$4 billion. I briefly spoke to 1Hash's owner who did not answer my question of whether they will signal for segregated witnesses (segwit) or Bitcoin Unlimited, but was willing to inform our readers that the pool has no hashpower of its own. They further say they support a capacity increase, but not a split. It's not clear how strongly 1Hash's views are held, but if it is on par with BTCC or Bittfury, the dynamics regarding bitcoin scalability may change. Bitcoin Unlimited may find it much more difficult to reach an overwhelming majority of hardware share, with the continuation of the stalemate much more likely, perhaps into 2018 or maybe even later. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/1hash-bitcoin-pool-comes-out-against-bitcoin-unlimited/>

[2016-09-05] MIT Report: Blockchain for Banks - New Era or Lipstick on Pig?

This is a must read! Could rapid innovation in the fintech space lead to the end of banks as we know them? A recent report from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) titled Digital Banking Manifesto: The End of Banks explores these possibilities. As Mark Mullen, the Chief Executive of Atom, said in 2015: "Banks are trying to be cool and hip and build super cool digital front ends. But it's like putting lipstick on a pig - ultimately it's still a pig and the new front end is still running into an awful digital back end." [Read more here](https://cointelegraph.com/news/mit-report-blockchain-for-banks-new-era-or-lipstick-on-pig)

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/mit-report-blockchain-for-banks-new-era-or-lipstick-on-pig>

[2017-04-04] Cryptocurrency Market Cap Soars to All-Time High Near \$28 Billion

Cryptocurrency Market Cap Soars to All-Time High Near \$28 Billion A bullish 2017 for bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has helped spur the overall cryptocurrency market cap through a series of highs this year, to nearly scale \$28 billion over the weekend. On Sunday, April 2, the collective market cap from Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies (alt coins) reached an all-time high of \$27.9 billion. In the lead-up to that figure, combined cryptocurrency trading volumes exceeded \$860 million in a 24-hour period. The swell has been helped by strong showing from a number of cryptocurrencies including Litecoin and Ripple, both of which have witnessed tremendous gains over the past week. Litecoin prices have doubled in a 5-day period, while Ripple prices soared to a 2 year high, scaling beyond \$800 million in total market capitalization. A record-setting March for Ethereum also helped the combined altcoin market to push beyond \$10 billion for the first time ever over the weekend. [Full Read Here:](https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/cryptocurrency-market-cap-soars-time-high-near-28-billion/)

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/cryptocurrency-market-cap-soars-time-high-near-28-billion/>

[2016-01-26] Growing Demand for Global And Real-Time Payments To Boost Bitcoin..

Growing Demand for Global And Real-Time Payments To Boost Bitcoin Adoption Making predictions in the world of finance and payments in 2016 will be quite a challenge as nothing has been set in stone yet. That being said, various emerging trends in the payment industry can't be ignored. Bitcoin is gaining more popularity all over the world, as traditional finance struggles to keep up with the growing customer demand.

<http://bitcoinist.net/growing-demand-global-real-time-payments-boost-bitcoin-adoption/>

[2016-09-07] Shadow Project's 'Umbra': Wallet, IM and Marketplace All-in-One

With the rise of privacy-centric cryptocurrencies such as DASH and monero, another cryptocurrency to keep an eye is ShadowCash (SDC). The project aims to not only be the best anonymous payment mechanism, but also to create an all-in-one software platform for a completely private, decentralized, and free economy. Today, as the 1 millionth block of the blockchain was forged, the Shadowcash Project announced Umbra, a privacy platform incorporating their wallet for SDC and Shadowchat, the decentralized, encrypted messaging network powered by SDC... [Read more here](https://btcmanager.com/news/tech/shadow-project-releases-umbra-wallet-im-and-marketplace-all-in-one/): <https://btcmanager.com/news/tech/shadow-project-releases-umbra-wallet-im-and-marketplace-all-in-one/> Follow BTCMANAGER for the Latest on Fintech, Blockchain and Bitcoin!

[2018-11-30]Bitcoin Sees Brightest Day Since April As Price Gains 11%

The Bitcoin (BTC) price rallied 11% on Thursday, November 29, to over \$4,250, setting it on course for its largest daily increase since mid-April 2018, as it forced itself out of the recent breakdown. The global's largest and popular crypto hit a daily high of \$4,296. Other major cryptos also surged. BTC has lost over 1/3 of its value in the past 15 days amidst high selling affliction. However, on Friday, November 30, as of press time, the price has fallen back to \$4 026. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/bitcoin-sees-brightest-day-since-april/>

[2017-03-29]Roger Ver was suggested to exchange BTC and BTU at one-to one ratio

Roger Ver accepts a challenge. A Reddit user suggested to exchange 100,000 Bitcoin Unlimited tokens for bitcoins at one-to-one rate. The community attention was attracted with the suggested price, which differs from the market price more than twice. Roger Ver, one of the most successful bitcoin investors, in one of his recent posts at BitcoinTalk expressed his interest in this deal and noted again that Bitcoin Unlimited tokens are underestimated and soon to be equal in price to bitcoin. You can read and watch more news here:

<https://coinidol.com/koles-coin-news-digest-mar-28/>

[2016-04-15] CT:MasterCard Boss: Cash Will Be Extinct in UK & Ireland Within 5 Y

The boss of MasterCard in the UK and Ireland believes cash will be practically extinct in the next five years across Britain and Ireland and will seem as antediluvian as carrying a pouch full of gold. Speaking to Business Insider during Money2020 Europe in Copenhagen last week, Mark Barnett CEO of MasterCard UK and Ireland claimed cash in 30 years will seem as old fashioned as the horse and cart. Barnett

says:<http://cointelegraph.com/news/mastercard-boss-cash-will-be-extinct-in-uk-ireland-within-5-years>

[2016-06-14] Japan will Release its Digital Currency in 2017

Japan will Release its Digital Currency in 2017It has been coming for quite some time now, but Japan is poised to be one of the first few countries issuing their own digital currency. With the Bitcoin value soaring as of late, the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi will launch the currency as soon as Q3 2017. For several weeks now, there have been rumors circulating about Japan planning to legitimize Bitcoin as a currency in the country. It comes as no surprise to find out the country's largest banks has initiated their plan to roll out a national digital currency next year. MUFG Coin, as this new currency will be called, may see the light of day as soon as Autumn

2017.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/06/14/japan-will-release-digital-currency-2017/>

[2017-03-15] Liberstad – Buy Land in Southern Norway with Bitcoin

Liberstad – Buy Land in Southern Norway with BitcoinThe world of bitcoin and cryptocurrency is home to many intriguing concepts. A new initiative going by the name of Liberstad allows bitcoin holders to purchase land in Norway. This is quite an intriguing concept, albeit there are a lot of questions regarding the legitimacy of such a project. Let's take a closer look at what the Liberstad

project has to offer and whether or not there is a reason for concern.<https://themerikle.com/liberstad-buy-land-in-southern-norway-with-bitcoin/>

[2016-06-15] IMF Economist Examines Bitcoin Blockchain's Role in Banking

IMF Economist Examines Bitcoin Blockchain's Role in BankingThe International Monetary Fund (IMF) has published an article in Finance and Development magazine that examines the case for bitcoin's blockchain technology and suggests that while the technology might have been built to "avoid banks" it could have benefits for the banking and trading sectors.<http://www.coindesk.com/imf-says-bitcoins-blockchain-tech-help-banks/>

[2016-6-15] Blockchain updates Payments API version to address edge cases

In a new update from Blockchain, who makes the popular bitcoin wallet and block explorer, they said have updated their Receive Payments API Version 2, which will address edge cases where some API users were encountering address gap issues.Read more:
<http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/blockchain-info-updates-receive-payments-api-version-to-address-edge-cases/>

[2017-03-31] DCEBrief - Zebpay Suggests News Reports Misrepresent Bitcoin's...

Zebpay Suggests News Reports Misrepresent Bitcoin's Legal Status<https://dcebrief.com/zebpay-suggests-news-reports-misrepresent-bitcoins-legal-status/>

[2016-04-14]Bitcoin Price Watch; Live Breakout Trade!

Bitcoin Price Watch; Live Breakout Trade!In this morning's bitcoin price watch article, we highlighted the range we were focusing on for the early European session. It was a pretty tight range, so we said we'd be looking at trading breakout only, as opposed to breakout and intrarange. This is because its difficult apply effective risk management parameters on intrarange trades when support and resistance are so narrow. As it turned out, we might have been better off giving it ago. Shortly before the European afternoon kicked off, price bounced from support and quickly ran up to resistance for...read more

[2016-04-14] Video: Touring Huge BitCoin Mine in Washington State, USA

Touring Huge BitCoin Mine in Washington State, USA
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KPZGNBBxsZoi> guess 3-5 cents, not bad.

[2016-06-14]Reuters.com |Jersey-based asset manager acquires Swedish issuer of

Jersey-based asset manager acquires Swedish issuer of bitcoin ETNAsset management firm Global Advisors (Jersey) Limited said on Tuesday it has acquired XBT Provider, a Swedish publicly-listed

company that launched the world's first bitcoin-backed exchange traded note..<http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSKCN0Z022T>

[2017-03-30] Over 100 'Blockchain Personalities' Take 21 Inc's Fork Survey

This past February Bitcoin.com reported on 21 Inc's new venture that pays email recipients for their time and offers surveys paying in bitcoin. This week the company revealed the results of a particular survey, which asked 21.co 'blockchain members' what they thought about the possibility of a Bitcoin fork. This past week the platform offered a survey to its 21.co blockchain members, which consists of Bitcoin proponents such as Adam Back, Barry Silbert, Jesse Powell, Charlie Lee, Roger Ver, Vinny Lingham, and many more. The survey was conducted to "find out what key influencers in the community think" about a Bitcoin fork. [Read More Here >>>](#)

<https://news.bitcoin.com/100-blockchain-personalities-21-inc-fork-survey/>

[2016-06-14] Two Australian Bitcoin Exchanges Add Ether Support

Two Australian Bitcoin Exchanges Add Ether Support Two major Australian bitcoin exchanges – CoinLoft and CoinTree, have announced that ether, the cryptocurrency token of the Ethereum network, will now be available for purchasing on the platforms. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/two-australian-bitcoin-exchanges-add-ether-support/>

[2017-09-18] Dubai Financial Regulator Issues ICO Warning

A financial markets regulator in Dubai has joined a growing list of authorities around the world to issue a warning on initial coin offerings (ICOs). The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), the financial regulator of a purpose-built international financial free zone in Dubai, has drawn attention to token sales by urging investors to be wary of 'unique risks' inherent in ICOs. "These offerings should be regarded as high-risk investments" the regulator stated. You can read further here: <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/dubai-financial-regulator-issues-ico-warning/amp/> Every government start afraiding of cryptocurrencies. And with sauce of helping people that proclaimed such things.

[2017-03-30] Bitcoin Hardware Wallet Startup Ledger Raises \$7 Million

Bitcoin Hardware Wallet Startup Ledger Raises \$7 Million Bitcoin hardware startup Ledger has raised \$7m in a new Series A funding round. The round was led by MAIF Avenir, an arm of French insurance giant MAIF. Others taking part in the Series A round include Xange, Wicklow Capital, GDTRE, Libertus Capital, Digital Currency Group, The Whittemore Collection, Kima Ventures, BHB Network, and investor Nicolas Pinto. Ledger, which makes hardware for users to store and maintain control over their cryptocurrency private keys, plans to use that funding to expand its reach into the enterprise market. Notably, the startup intends to open a new factory in China as part of its hardware push, with an eye on a launch sometime in the next few months. <http://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-hardware-wallet-ledger-7-million-series-a/>

[2016-09-04] Criminal Fails at Blackmail, Bitcoin Stereotypes Disproven

Criminal Fails at Blackmail, Bitcoin Stereotypes Disproven A chemist threatened to kill supermarket shoppers with cyanide he bought on the dark web with bitcoins in a £2 million blackmail attempt.

He's received a seven-year prison sentence after racking up a long list of minor offenses and admitting to blackmail.<https://news.bitcoin.com/criminal-bitcoin-blackmail/>

[2018-03-29] Major Cryptocurrency Exchange Bitfinex Weighs Move to Switzerland

Bitfinex, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, is reportedly planning to move out of its current base in Hong Kong over to Switzerland. German-language Swiss newsweekly Handelszeitung is reporting that Hong Kong-based Bitfinex is already in talks with Swiss authorities over a move to Europe. Switzerland is at the top of the list of potential destinations while London is also being considered as an alternative, the report added. The publication directly cites Bitfinex CEO Jean-Louis van der Velde in revealing the potential move, with 'several meetings' between Bitfinex officials and Switzerland's State Secretariat for International Financial Affairs (SIF) already having taken place. Bitfinex has also been in contact with Johann Schneider-Ammann, head of Switzerland's Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research. Speaking at a conference earlier this year, Schneider-Ammann has previously called on Switzerland to further its industry-friendly regulatory climate to become the world's 'crypto nation'. The Bitfinex chief pointed to "very constructive talks" with Swiss authorities, adding: 'We are looking for a new permanent home for Bitfinex and the parent company iFinex, where we want to merge the operations previously spread over several locations.' The world's fifth largest crypto exchange with nearly half a billion in trading over the past day, a successful move by Bitfinex could establish its parent company iFinex Switzerland as a new AG (Aktiengesellschaft), or German for a public limited company that sees its shares traded on a public stock exchange. iFinex is currently located in the British Virgin Islands. Further, the substantial move from Asia to Europe would also reportedly see iFinex's legal and finance departments operate from Switzerland, alongside Bitfinex's development and customer service bases that would also shift to Switzerland. Bitfinex has seen plenty of criticism for its connection to Tether, an iFinex subsidiary that issues tether (USDT), a dollar-pegged token that frequently trades on a number of global exchanges including Bitfinex. Tether's relation with an auditor – tasked to audit the company's balance sheets and nearly 2.3 billion USDT tokens in circulation – broke down in January this year, raising the crucial question of whether the token is backed by actual fiat US dollars. Both Bitfinex and Tether have also received subpoenas from the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), scrutiny which now sees Bitfinex looking to comply with all regulatory requirements in Switzerland. Bitfinex CEO van der Velde added: 'We want to be the most transparent of all exchanges and meet the requirements of the Swiss regulator.' Bitfinex is now the second major Hong Kong-based cryptocurrency exchange known to be looking to exit the jurisdiction in the space of week. As reported previously, Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, announced its foray into establishing a base in the European nation of Malta which is undergoing its own endeavor to become the world's 'blockchain island'. <https://www.ccn.com/major-cryptocurrency-exchange-bitfinex-weighs-move-to-switzerland/>

[2016-06-14] Bitcoin price: Russian mountains and Chinese trains

Bitcoin price: Russian mountains and Chinese trains Ukrainian cryptotrader and blockchain expert Kir Kelevra explained the reason of the dramatic upsurge of bitcoin. Today the cryptocurrency reached its maximum in two years, breaking through \$700 barrier. <http://www.coinfox.info/news/persons/5701-kurs-bitkoina-amerikanskie-gorki-i-kitajskie-poezd> a-2

[2016-04-13] RunCPA's ABitcoin Price Analysis

Bitcoin's market is currently deciding on the fate of the future medium-term trend. The choice will probably be made soon. Which direction will Bitcoin choose? The price is currently fortifying at the medium-term resistance, which indicates that the bulls are holding the advantage. If this continues, the price will be likely to reach \$445-50. Read more at cointelegraph

[2016-04-13] IBT UK: How Bitcoin will smash Donald Trump's Mexican remittance...

How Bitcoin will smash Donald Trump's Mexican remittance

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/how-bitcoin-will-smash-donald-trumps-mexican-remittance-wall-1554717>
QuoteLast week, presidential candidate Donald Trump revealed his plan for funding the wall that he wants to build on the border between Mexico and the southern United States. How would he generate the billions of dollars to construct it? He has a simple plan: block the flow of remittance funds from United States to Mexico. Cutting off that resource would compel the Mexican government into agreeing to pay for the the wall, which has a reported cost of \$10 – 12 billion dollars. Trump's plan is woefully ignorant of what remittance is, how it works, and why it is so important. Millions of Mexicans living in the United States work and save their money so they can send it to their families who still live in Mexico. This is called remittance and it is estimated that over \$24 billion dollars per year flows from the US to Mexico....tl;dr: want Bitcoin skyrocket? Vote Trump.

[2016-01-25]Bitcoin Group's battle of the bookbuild

This year's IPO market has gotten off to a shaky start, with Melbourne-based Bitcoin Group Ltd's bookbuild, which ended on Monday, raising just \$367,902.20. The tentative listing date has been pushed back to February 8. Executives, who hoped to raise around \$20 million by selling shares, maintained a brave face by stressing that the ASX bookbuild funds don't include application subscriptions directly sent to the Computershare register from cheque postal applications, and those processed by the company. "We are very happy with the broad spread of new investors and the funds brought to the Bitcoin Group IPO by the ASX bookbuild service," Chief Executive Sam Lee told Business Spectator. He was unable to disclose more about the total amount raised for now, saying the process had not been finalised. It was always going to be a tough task to persuade investors to jump aboard in the face of the sharp market downturn of 2016. And Bitcoin Group, which provides the algorithmic service of mining the cryptocurrency, had its own problems, having to reissue its prospectus three times due to what it said was all part of setting a precedent in a new industry. There have been other hardships on the local IPO front to be sure. India Fund Ltd abandoned a planned IPO in 2015, saying its pitch had fallen on deaf ears. Just weeks earlier, insurance distributor Greenstone scrapped its \$1.3 billion share sale. <http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2016/1/26/industries/bitcoin-groups-battle-bookbuild>

[2018-11-19] 10 common mistakes made by ICOs

Bitcoin Garden: 10 common mistakes made by

ICOs <https://bitcoingarden.org/10-common-mistakes-made-by-icos/> ICOs have completely democratized how companies raise funding. For the first time ever, people around the world have been given the opportunity to become their own venture capital firms, identifying blockchain businesses with great potential and investing in exchange for tokens, which accrue in value as their blockchain network grows. Despite the bear market we're currently experiencing, there is a long list of ICOs that are still hoping to make a mark by revolutionizing their respective industries through blockchain technology. If you're thinking of launching an ICO, here are 10 common mistakes to

avoid....

[2017-03-27] Bitcoin Truly Decentralized: Fork Of Dash Plans To Lead Community

https://cointelegraph.com/images/725_Ly9jb2ludGVsZWdyYXB0LmNvbS9zdG9yYWdlL3VwbG9hZHMvdmlldy81MDhlODYxMmNmYzYzMGIxMjJmZGJmMmE2OGEyOTFmYS5qcGc=.jpgThe divide within the Bitcoin community is becoming wider as the necessity for Bitcoin scaling becomes much more pronounced. A fork of Dash, Private Instant Verified Transaction, (PIVX) claims to have embarked on a process to change what it describes as the “centralized” nature of the voting process within the industry. Currently running a “Masternode” system which it inherited from Dash, Eric Stanek, Team Member at PIVX infers that Satoshi’s original intent was that millions of individuals will be mining away on their GPUs, therefore power within the community will be truly decentralized. Rather what is obtainable today is power being centralized to a few massive mining farms. Bitcoin divide With the introduction of both Segregated Witness and Bitcoin Unlimited and the consensus nature of Bitcoin governance, a lot of users may still be very unclear about the decision-making process within the community. Hence the shade of confusion hovering above the Bitcoin ecosystem. Michael Vogel, CEO of Netcoins, explains it this way: Quote “These are certainly unsettling times for Bitcoin, and we are witnessing history being written before our eyes. I think it's important to note that over the long term, this likely won't be the last divide within the Bitcoin community, and that isn't necessarily a bad thing - innovation is usually a byproduct of these types of situations.” Being a system that is based on proof of work, the decision-making process lies in the hands of miners within the decentralized Bitcoin ecosystem. It is the miners whose votes will determine the next turn for Bitcoin. The partial centralization of Bitcoin Vogel explains that the ability to vote for changes to Bitcoin is essentially proportional to the computing power that each miner contributes to the Bitcoin network. This explains the fact that Bitcoin is based on Proof of Work (PoW). Vogel also notes that there is no preset voting period, so miners can vote for changes to Bitcoin at any time. In theory, this is a very elegant and unique way of handling the evolution of Bitcoin, although it does mean that the interests of miners guide the direction of Bitcoin. This explains why statements credited to top miners within the industry regarding Bitcoin scaling usually have a significant impact on both Bitcoin price and its general behavior. The comparison between Bitcoin’s Proof of Work (PoW) and other services such as DASH’s Proof of Service (PoS) and PIVX Proof of Stake (PoS) also exists in some quarters. A common scenario in both cases, however, is the possibility of a partial centralization of the system by early adopters who may actually be a smaller fraction of the entire users of the given system. An example in Bitcoin is the situation where mining has become more difficult and less profitable than in the previous years, therefore new participants aren’t necessarily attracted to mining. A larger percentage of participants within the system, who will definitely be affected by the end result of the voting process will have no say in determining the future of the environment within which they are participating. Back to the future In its attempt to change the status quo and create a governance system where everyone has a voice, Eric Stanek says that PIVX is working on a proposal that will only require a YES or NO response from members of the community. This, according to him will influence the content of the PIVX manifesto and would be factored in early enough in order to avoid such a scenario as is presently experienced in Bitcoin and Dash where development has gone so far that changing the system has become almost impossible. Flexible For systems that operate by Proof of Service (PoS) like Dash, which is more flexible as for the purpose of decision making, only members of the community who own Masternodes can vote. This system also sidelines smaller investors, who actually make up the majority of the community. One may argue that the patterns employed by these communities are reasonably appropriate, owing to the fact that only major investors whether in “Work” or “Stake” will be more critical about issues that concern their respective communities, therefore would appear as delegates in these democratic settings. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-truly-decentralized-fork-of-dash-plans-to-lead-comm>

[2016-01-25] Bitcoin believers in New England have a new gathering place

Bitcoin believers in New England have a new gathering place Shire Free Church, a local group of libertarian activists, installed a new bitcoin ATM in Manchester, New Hampshire, doubling the number of functioning bitcoin ATMs in New England. <http://www.coinfox.info/news/4563-bitcoin-believers-in-new-england-have-a-new-gathering-place>

[2016-09-02] newsbtc.com| Bitcoin Payment App Circle To Enable Euro Support Soon

Bitcoin Payment App Circle To Enable Euro Support Soon Circle is one of the Bitcoin companies which makes headlines all over the world. Although they are not actively advertising their Bitcoin services these days, the company is still a very active competitor. Not too long ago, the company announced upcoming support for Euro users..... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/09/02/bitcoin-payment-app-circle-enables-euro-support-last/>

[2018-11-07] Analysis:US seized nearly 200000 bitcoins to date, 453,000 globally

<https://www.theblockcrypto.com/2018/11/07/analysis-the-u-s-has-seized-nearly-200000-bitcoins-to-date-global-confiscations-are-up-to-453000/> An interesting wee bit of research here, though I don't understand why they're including that 200,000 Bulgarian coins which appear to be completely unfounded so far. Give it a few more years and no doubt we'll all have some seized and paroled dust in our wallets. That's if we don't already.

[2016-04-13] Are Micropayments a Viable Business Model?

<http://cointelegraph.com/news/are-micropayments-a-viable-business-model> Thanks for reading!!!!

[2017-12-17] Bitcoin an Asset But Requires Education to Avoid Disaster

Shark Tank investor Kevin O'Leary has offered both encouragement and warning to Bitcoin investors in a recent interview on CNBC's Make It. He offered a stiff warning for those who don't understand Bitcoin, and an encouragement that the cryptocurrency is definitely an asset, if not a viable currency. O'Leary was quick to point out that those wanting to invest in Bitcoin but who don't understand it may create a 'cocktail for disaster.' He said: "I'm quite sure that 99 percent of the people that own Bitcoin do not understand how it works. That always is a cocktail for disaster. You should never invest in something you don't understand." Additionally, O'Leary made it clear that, at this stage, Bitcoin is not suitable as a currency for transactions. In his own experience, he was unable to complete a \$200,000 transaction because the other party was concerned over volatility. Nevertheless, the famous investor was not completely down on Bitcoin either. He views the cryptocurrency as one of the most successful assets in the world, based on global speculation. In the final analysis, he concluded, Bitcoin may go up or down, and so it's more of a gamble than an investment. He advises investors to only put in what they can afford to lose. Read more here... Right now, Bitcoin is kinda evolving and it certainly is facing big challenges most especially on concerns

like the scalability (resulting into clogging), ridiculously high transaction fees (turned off to many because Bitcoin is not made this way) and the high volatility rates (which we could not do anything because speculation is something so hard to control). However, we have to always remember that Bitcoin is just 9 years old...it has not yet celebrated its debut party! In other words, Bitcoin is still a child and there would be changes that it will have to undergo in the next few years. We have to give it an ample time to be fully matured. Yes, it is true that there is a need for many Bitcoin holders to get educated as to what they are getting into. Education is the only way we can partly control volatility and for investors not to get burned in case something wrong can happen with Bitcoin. The great speculative movement right now is based on impulse and FOMO -- the fear of missing out! We need to realize that Bitcoin is much bigger than our desire to double what we invested and that it represented a shift of paradigm. Everybody should be a big part of that journey to success and empowerment -- a great window of opportunity presented to us by Bitcoin!

[2017-11-02] Credit Suisse CEO: Bitcoin the 'Very Definition of a Bubble'

You can count Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam among those who think bitcoin is in a bubble. At a press conference today, the New York Times reports, the bank chief called bitcoin's anonymity a "challenge," before going on to say: "From what we can identify, the only reason today to buy or sell bitcoin is to make money, which is the very definition of speculation and the very definition of a bubble." Criminal use of bitcoin is also a factor that goes against the cryptocurrency, he went on, arguing that banks "have little or no appetite to get involved in a currency which has such anti-money laundering challenges." Thiam joins a growing list of financial industry names who have come out against the digital currency. Last week, billionaire investor Warren Buffett was the most recent to say bitcoin was in a bubble. He echoed Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio, who expressed the same sentiment to CNBC in September. At the time, Dalio noted that the speculation and volatility around bitcoin prevented it, in his eyes, from being an effective store of wealth. While all over the news currently with its meteoric price gains, Thiam added that he expects interest in bitcoin to subside. <https://www.coindesk.com/credit-suisse-ceo-bitcoin-definition-bubble/>

[2018-11-06] Price Analysis: BTC is Getting Relatively Stable but Is that Good?

Compared to previously seen price swings, the current trend could be called relatively stable, with some experts expressing optimism about the future. However, some of the community players think the absence of significant price fluctuations is actually not that good for the market. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/btc-is-getting-relatively-stable/>

[2016-04-12] bitcoin's Australian exchanges speed new guidelines

Bitcoin and other digital currencies promised to bring a new transparency to trading and do away with some of the risks which have plagued more traditional asset classes. However, the Australian digital currency industry is now in the rather 'old school' position of having to rush through tougher guidelines as customers of the Australian bitcoin exchange Igot seek refunds for money they say they are owed. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Monday night that Igot appeared to be on the verge of collapse, with dozens of clients and customers claiming to be owed hundreds of thousands of dollars. The company buys and sells bitcoins for its customers and stands accused of being unable to completely deliver on trades or refund money received. Its owner Rick Day has reportedly admitted that he was struggling to pay customers, but denied that their money was lost. <https://news.markets/bitcoin/bitcoins-australian-exchanges-speed-new-guidelines-14937/>

[2016-04-11] Five Ridiculous Cryptocurrencies You Should Know About

Altcoins are cryptocurrencies inspired by Bitcoin. Because they oft offer little in terms of innovation, most altcoins are of little interest to serious investors. One notable difference between Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is the way in which coins are mined. While Proof of Work SHA2 runs bitcoin, different altcoins use script or other solutions to solve this problem. Altcoins, although most often obscure, can make mainstream press headlines. When they do, they are oftentimes quickly forgotten. Below there are some examples of such coins, like Coinye and Dogecoin. On the other hand, as is the case of Litecoin's solution to bitcoin's block size, some altcoins enjoy success thanks to their innovation. <http://bitcoinist.net/five-ridiculous-cryptocurrencies/>

[2017-09-14] OKCoin CEO: Innovation Doesn't Evolve In a Straight Line

Tencent Technology reports that the authority decides to shut down all Bitcoin exchanges that register in mainland China. Star Xu, CEO of OKCoin, comforts the staff that the Company is actively seeking non-fiat business and application for license in Japan, Korea and USA is ongoing. Back in May 2017, CSRC plans to shut down exchanges of various businesses, including Bitcoin trading exchanges. The sheer number of capital and participants of ICO might just expedite the process. A leaked chatlog from the OKCoin staff (283 members) shows that Star Xu, CEO of OKCoin, assured the staff that company would continue operation. He said: <http://news.8btc.com/okcoin-ceo-innovation-doesnt-evolve-in-a-straight-line>

[2017-09-13] Bitcoin should be valued at half of what it's worth today

Bitcoin is 'disruptive technology' but pricing assumes massive adoption: Mohamed El-Erian Bitcoin is 'disruptive technology' but pricing assumes massive adoption: Mohamed El-Erian 1 Hour Ago | 01:19 Bitcoin, which has surged roughly 300 percent in 2017, is certainly a "disruptive" technology but won't see widespread use, economist Mohamed El-Erian said Wednesday. "The current pricing assume massive adoption, and I don't think governments will allow the amount of adoption that's currently priced in," Allianz's chief economic advisor said on CNBC's "Squawk Box." Asked what would be a reasonable price for bitcoin, El-Erian said: "I would say at least half of what it is, a third of what it is." El-Erian believes the cryptocurrency will exist as a peer-to-peer means of payment. "It exists in that world," he said, "but the current prices assume massive adoption, which is not going to happen." Bitcoin fell below \$4,000 on Wednesday on the threat of a regulatory crackdown in China and negative comments from major business leaders. On Tuesday, at the CNBC-Institutional Investor Delivering Alpha conference, JPMorgan chief Jamie Dimon called the digital currency a fraud and governments will step in. "Wait until someone gets hurt. Wait until it's used for illicit purposes, which it's somewhat used for illicit purposes. They close it down. That's my point," he said. At the same time, Dimon's own bank has reportedly started a trial project using blockchain, the technology behind bitcoin, to try to cut trading costs. At the conference, Social Capital founder and CEO Chamath Palihapitiya defended the currency, saying countries can control how bitcoin is traded but not the way it's used. "It's a fundamentally distributive system that exists peer to peer," the venture capitalist and ex-Facebook executive said. "To the extent that you can eliminate the will and actions of every person in the world, you can eliminate it. But in the absence of that, the genie [is] out of the bottle whether we like it or not." He added he's been "massively long" bitcoin for years. <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/13/mohamed-el-erian-warns-bitcoin-should-be-worth-about-half-current-values.html>

[2017-12-15] 9 Bitcoin Experts Share Predictions of Bitcoin Future (Buzzfeed)

Read the article here:

https://www.buzzfeed.com/rabbiyitziweiner/you-guessed-it-another-9-bitcoin-experts-share-th-37p3h?utm_term=.tpv9RxEBm6#.jpg67maPwb

[2016-08-29] Risk of Bitcoin Hacks and Losses Is Very Real

When hackers penetrated a secure authentication system at a bitcoin exchange called Bitfinex earlier this month, they stole about \$70 million worth of the virtual currency. The cyber theft—the second largest by an exchange since hackers took roughly \$350 million in bitcoins at Tokyo's MtGox exchange in early 2014—is hardly a rare occurrence in the emerging world of crypto-currencies. New data disclosed to Reuters shows a third of bitcoin trading platforms have been hacked, and nearly half have closed in the half dozen years since they burst on the scene. <http://fortune.com/2016/08/29/risk-of-bitcoin-hacking-is-real/>

[2018-10-29] French Business School Accepts Fees in Bitcoin for Blockchain Techn

France's Financia Business School, which offers post-graduate courses in financial and blockchain technology, now allows students to pay their fees in cryptocurrency. Since the institution introduced the measure, about half a dozen students have paid in BTC for the 2018 academic year. Full article on Bitcoin.com

[2017-03-23] Developers Discuss Wallet Safety Under Hard Fork Conditions

Developers affiliated with the Bitcoin Core project have begun to discuss possible negative side effects that could result if bitcoin is split into two competing blockchain networks with different block sizes. In a post to the bitcoin developer mailing list today, developer Luke Dashjr proposed a way that would allow consumer-friendly wallets continue to function securely, even if an attack on a smaller-block blockchain was launched in an effort to confuse their behavior. While built on many if-then assumptions, the idea has nonetheless drawn praise as a clever solution that could mitigate a potential drawback of such a scenario, one that seems increasingly of interest to bitcoin startups and businesses. As reported by CoinDesk, bitcoin miners and developers have been increasingly at odds on project direction, prompting talk that one party could go so far as to force a 'fork' or alter the rules and thereby create a new blockchain. Should this situation arise, the idea is that miners involved in securing the new blockchain could go so far as to attack the old chain, thereby compromising the ability of nodes to record transaction history and act as an authoritative record. At issue is that so-called SPV wallets (the kind that most average users have) do not download the full history of transactions, and therefore could be disrupted should miners seek to confuse them with data that's incorrect by their ruleset. In response, Dashjr has coded a draft for how light wallets would be able to detect that certain blocks were too large given the ruleset of the smaller block blockchain. In comments on reddit, Bitcoin Core developer Greg Maxwell lauded the proposal as a "moderately efficient proof" that doesn't require network rule changes. [link:http://www.coindesk.com/developers-discuss-wallet-safety-hard-fork-conditions/](http://www.coindesk.com/developers-discuss-wallet-safety-hard-fork-conditions/)

[2018-10-31] Bitcoin Trader Faces Five Years in US Jail for Unlicensed

Money Tra

Bitcoin trader Jacob Burrell-Campos pleaded guilty this week in a U.S. federal court to operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. The 21-year-old San Diego native is now awaiting sentencing and faces a maximum of five years in jail. Full article on Bitcoin.com

[2016-02-26] Why the Banks See Bitcoin as their Number One Enemy

Bitcoin has created waves in the world of finance. Look back to 2013 when Bitcoin first came onto the horizon. Its value rose by 6000% in a single year. This is an incredible rate and it brought up the idea that the virtual currency could really succeed. But Bitcoin is a currency that has gained a lot of enemies. Companies that want to operate using the virtual currency struggle to create bank accounts, as a result. I spoke to Michael Gastauer, Founder and CEO of WB21 to discuss this issue that companies

have. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/aj-agrawal/why-the-banks-see-bitcoin_b_9322022.html

[2016-01-23] Bitcoin Price Plumbing Previous Support

Bitcoin Price Plumbing Previous Support Bitcoin price made a full retracement of the week's advance and seems to be finding support at the base of the prior

advance. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-price-plumbing-previous-support/>

[2016-01-23] Goldman Sachs nails why banks are so excited about the technology

Goldman Sachs nails why banks are so excited about the technology behind bitcoin Banks are going gaga for blockchain technology, the protocol developed to underpin bitcoin. It uses complex cryptography and a wide network of records — known as a “distributed ledger” — to eliminate the need for a central bank or middle man to regulate transactions. Banks have been swarming around the technology, with 42 investment banks signing up to an industry-wide group looking at how to use it and Goldman Sachs declaring in a note that it has the potential to change “well, everything.” The conversation around this complex technology is pretty baffling, even to many of those involved. Everyone I speak to has a different way of describing it and the possibilities of what it could be used for are myriad. But Goldman has explained why banks are so excited, in its podcast on “The Digitization of Finance.” Don Duet, co-head of the Technology Division at Goldman Sachs, nails it by describing not how blockchain works, but what it can do. Here what Duet says, as per an emailed transcript: Quote You can see who had it, who owned it, the fact that they actually committed to each other electronically and signed it with cryptology to ensure that it was authorised. You could see all those things, and importantly, again, by having that all being done in a set of digital transactions, it enables it to happen in a much shorter time frame, so it also reduces a lot of what today are the delays which create other types of risk in the settlement cycles, which need to be compensated for in other forms. So one of the big benefits is pretty simple — transparency. At the moment, things like share registers are siloed in institutions so if you want to find out who owns what, you have to put a query to that institution. There are other problems too. Duet says: Quote In order to facilitate the growth of our industry, much of that has been formed around concepts of having multiple sources or, you know, multiple parties owning a definition of truth, so the Bank of New York will own a big part of the reconciling of the ledger of who owns what stocks in the US, and so would other institutions around the world. But you end up where... you have this situation where you have multiple versions of the truth, which means that everyone needs to reconcile with each other to ensure that they all have the right set of information — who actually owns that asset, when did it get

transferred — and it also creates a certain degree of just temporal delay. It's not possible to be done right away. Read more :

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/goldman-sachs-don-duet-explains-appeal-of-blockchain-2016-1>

[2016-06-09] BIP 151: The End-To-End Encryption Bitcoin Never Had – but Soon Will

Bitcoin right now is not really anonymous. While Bitcoin addresses aren't necessarily linked to real-world identities, they can be. Monitoring the unencrypted peer-to-peer network, analysis of the public blockchain, and Know Your Customer (KYC) policy or Anti-Money Laundering (AML) regulation can reveal a lot about who's using Bitcoin, and for what. This is not great from a privacy perspective. Bitcoin users might not necessarily want the world to know where they spend their money, what they earn or how much they own, while businesses may not want to leak transaction details to competitors – to name some examples. Additionally, bitcoins being traceable, possibly “tainted,” and potentially worth less than other bitcoins is at odds with fungibility. This could even challenge Bitcoin's value proposition as money. But there are potential solutions to increase privacy, and improve fungibility. One of these solutions is BIP 151, a Bitcoin Improvement Proposal designed to encrypt data among Bitcoin

nodes. <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/articles/bip-the-end-to-end-encryption-bitcoin-never-had-but-soon-will-1465401187>

[2017-09-09] 4 Key Misconceptions About Cryptocurrency

Despite its seeming inevitability, crypto remains mysterious to the average person. To many, the word “blockchain” is still gibberish. Lack of knowledge leads to misconceptions about the technology and lingering doubts about its value. During a recent discussion with Eric Lamison-White, Co-Founder of Pareto Network, we covered common misconceptions surrounding cryptocurrency. Pareto Network is a company that uses digital currency payments to incentivize objective financial information within its network.

4. I CAN'T SELL MY ASSETS BECAUSE THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PEOPLE BUYING CRYPTOCURRENCY “Bitcoin and cryptocurrency markets have a lot of liquidity, with surges in activity every day,” Lamison-White explains. “And while the market has its share of ups and downs, instantly buying or selling Bitcoin at the quoted price is actually a very straightforward procedure.” Typically, a digital asset exchange is involved with the exchange of cryptocurrency. One exchange that's been handling a large volume of transactions for several years now is Gemini. It promotes transparency by scheduling public auctions at certain times during the day where users can buy and sell millions of dollars worth of crypto. Gemini and other exchanges function like juiced-up stock markets. Not only can they function 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but they cater to users all over the world. These aren't cloak and dagger operations – all you need is a desire to buy and sell cryptocurrency.

3. BITCOIN IS TOO PRONE TO THEFT TO BE A VIABLE MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE As a former investigator of payment fraud for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Lamison-White knows a thing or two about security. “It's inaccurate to assume Bitcoin is any less secure than other payment methods,” he says. “There are \$500,000 thefts happening every single day in fiat currencies. Fraud in traditional payment networks amounts to hundreds of millions per year. And companies like Square Inc list massive, crippling fraudulent transactions in their annual reports.” Because crypto is still an exotic newcomer to the scene, it suffers from overexposure. Bitcoin thefts are international news every time they occur, while the opposite is true of traditional payment methods. There are best practices for crypto just as there are for checks, banks, debit cards and wire transfers.

2. BITCOIN LACKS STRONG REGULATION “Name another asset class so heavily regulated!” Lamison-White laughs. The IRS and FinCEN within the Treasury Department, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, in some cases the SEC, and numerous state institutions all regulate Bitcoin, and lest you worry that this is

too much governmental oversight, Lamison-White assures, "The regulations have little effect on either the consumer or trading experience."¹ CRYPTOCURRENCY AND BITCOIN REQUIRE ELECTRICITY AND THE INTERNET. GOLD AND CASH DON'T

Even if the forecast calls for light snowfall and a 30 percent chance of apocalypse, Bitcoin will remain a viable means of exchange. Many people use Bitcoin without the internet already. Storing crypto, completing transactions, checking their balances – all of these activities are possible offline. Says Lamison-White, "Understand that Bitcoin, the blockchain network, even the internet – these are all just concepts, and concepts are very hard to eliminate. Two or more computers are all that's needed to create the internet and by extension a blockchain network like Bitcoin." "Besides," he goes on to say, "it's very hard to imagine there being a permanent loss of the internet and power. Even if people lose individual access to the internet, it could still exist in centralized areas, in the same way that libraries provide internet access to the local community here in the US." Instead of trading bottle caps or seashells, humanity would be far better served by a transparent managed money supply, such as Bitcoin. The day is fast approaching when paying with Bitcoin will be as familiar as popping a quarter into the parking meter. ICOs have created millionaires in less than three years. It's time for even the most resistant among us to educate themselves.

<https://themerikle.com/4-key-misconceptions-about-cryptocurrency/>

[2017-03-20]Australia's securities Regulator Seeks Closer Ties To Blockchain Startup

Australia's top securities watchdog is looking to boost its engagement with companies working with blockchain by publishing new materials related to the tech. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) published an "information sheet" today that offers a way for businesses and startups to assess whether their uses of distributed ledgers would bring them under the agency's jurisdiction. Information Sheet 219's purpose, according to ASIC, is to spark additional dialogue between regulators and the private sector, in a bid to "fast track any discussions those entities choose to have with ASIC about their potential regulatory obligations". The agency said in an explainer released alongside the documentation: "Although DLT is still an emerging technology, we have given, and will continue to give, considerable thought to regulatory issues that may arise if you are contemplating using DLT for your business. This information sheet is designed to help you better understand the regulatory considerations we have identified." Additionally, ASIC detailed a 12-month exemption for eligible small businesses that serve up to 100 retail clients. These businesses will not be required to apply or hold any Australian Financial Services (AFS) license during those early stages of operation, the agency said. The release is perhaps unsurprising, as it comes more than a year after ASIC chief Greg Medcraft remarked that blockchain "will have profound implications for how we regulate". "As regulators and policy makers, we need to ensure what we do is about harnessing the opportunities and the broader economic benefits – not standing in the way of innovation and development," Medcraft said at the time.

<http://www.coindesk.com/australia-securities-regulator-closer-ties-blockchain/>

[2016-08-25]China Issues Harsh Regulations For Peer-to-peer Lending

China Issues Harsh Regulations For Peer-to-peer Lending

Peer-to-peer lending has always been a very popular trend in China. That is not entirely surprising, as the country is keen on innovation and embracing new trends. But there have been a fair amount of problems with P2P lending in China over the past few months. New rules have been announced, which will put a vice grip on this innovative business model.

<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/08/25/china-issues-harsh-regulations-peer-peer-lending/>

[2018-03-21] US National Security Agency Develops System To Identify BTC users

US National Security Agency Develops System To Identify Bitcoin Users, Say Leaked Docs
The US National Security Agency (NSA) is reportedly able to locate senders and receivers of Bitcoin around the world, as classified documents provided by Edward Snowden reveal, The Intercept reports March 20. The sources used for this article were disclosed to The Intercept, a publication dedicated to 'adversarial journalism' founded by Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras, and Jeremy Scahill following Edward Snowden's revelations of mass reconnaissance in 2013. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/us-national-security-agency-develops-system-to-identify-bitcoin-users-say-leaked-docs>
How this will impact users?

[2017-03-20] Lebedev And Gross Found Guilty In Coin.Mx Trial

After a week of deliberations, the most recent Coin.mx trial has come to a close, said Reuters. New Jersey pastor Trevon Gross and programmer Yuri Lebedev were convicted of conspiracy and bribery charges. Additionally, Lebedev was convicted of wire fraud and bank fraud. Lebedev and Gross faced conspiracy and bribery charges for playing parts in facilitating an illegal bitcoin exchange business, Coin.mx. Henry Klingeman, Gross's attorney, said in an email to Reuters that he would seek an order overturning the verdict, "and — if and when the time comes — a fair and lenient sentence." Gross allegedly accepted bribes, including a \$150,000 donation to his church, in exchange for enabling unlicensed bitcoin exchange Coin.mx to take over the Helping Other People Excel Federal Credit Union. Lebedev had been accused of working for Coin.mx through a front called "Collectables Club." Coin.mx reportedly exchanged millions of dollars into bitcoin, including for ransomware victims, without having the proper licensing in place. The trial followed an investigation into a data breach that JPMorgan Chase & Co. disclosed back in 2014. The breach exposed over 83 million accounts, leading to charges against nine individuals, including the operator of Coin.mx Anthony Murgio. Gross, Lebedev and Murgio were not handed hacking charges — prosecutors reportedly pinned Coin.mx owner Gery Shalon as being the one behind the breach. Murgio pled guilty in January on charges of conspiring to use the scheme to hack companies, including JPMorgan Chase. Murgio faced charges on three counts, including conspiracy to commit bank fraud and operate an illegal money transmitting business. Under the plea agreement, Murgio will not appeal any sentence in prison of twelve and a half years or less. He is scheduled to be sentenced in June. <http://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2017/lebedev-and-gross-found-guilty-in-coin-mx-trial-bitcoin/>

[2017-11-12] Wired - Why your friends can't shut up about BTC

<https://www.wired.co.uk/article/will-bitcoin-bubble-burst-or-crash-2017-psychology-cryptocurrency-economics>
One of the few articles to be talking about the psychology behind all of this, though not exactly in great depth. I'm surprised there haven't been many more articles on this angle because psychology is the overwhelming driver of it.

[2018-10-15] Blockchain isn't about democracy & decentralisation—it's about greed

Looks like Nouriel Thingy has been put on a new regime of amphetamines, Viagra and star jumps and is now reaping the rewards with a second wind of bile.
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/oct/15/blockchain-democracy-decentralisation-bitcoin-price-cryptocurrencies#comment-121501606>
Though it's bombastic, I think there's validity in his

views of centralisation and rampant greed. However what he's not acknowledging is that this is a phase in a wider and deeper phenomenon and most current odiousness will be long forgotten. One odd thing to take away from this article is that the tone of comments is still basically unchanged after many, many years. There's a few exceptions but it's the same old shit otherwise.

[2017-12-13] Super Bitcoin -- New Fork Promises to Make Bitcoin Great Again

Bitcoin is being forked every month now. Besides the more established ones like Bitcoin Cash and Bitcoin Gold, we witnessed the appearance of Bitcoin Silver, Bitcoin Diamond and Lightning Bitcoin. On December 12, another fork happened – Super Bitcoin. The fork's slogan is 'Make Bitcoin great again!'. TEAM & FEATURES Super Bitcoin was created by Chinese developers and includes features such as Lightning Network and 8MB block size. The fork happened on block 498,888. The team includes three developers, including a Chief Scientist. The developers explain that "this is just an experiment" based on ideas presented by the community: "We are merely implementing the proposals recommended by the Bitcoin community. Only when we put these talks into actions that we can make Bitcoin great again." Apparently Super Bitcoin will be mined using ASIC. The coin positions itself as anonymous, with zero-knowledge proofs. However, it lists smart contracts as a novel feature, but even Bitcoin now offers smart contracts. More:

<https://dowbit.com/super-bitcoin-new-fork-promises-to-make-bitcoin-great-again/>

[2016-04-07] Video: Save 15% on Amazon with Bitcoin, with Kent Liu from Purse.io

Save 15% on Amazon with Bitcoin, with Kent Liu from Purse.io

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzHLs9nbfaY>

[2017-12-13] Bitcoin Is "Speculative Mania", Says Australia's Central Bank Chief

The global fascination with bitcoin "feels like a speculative mania", the governor of Australia's central bank said. As bitcoin hit a record-setting new high on Tuesday to break through \$17,500, fueled by the debut of bitcoin futures trading on Chicago-based CBOE, the head of Australia's central bank raised questions on the cryptocurrency's function as a currency for payments. Reserve Bank of Australia (RAB) governor Philip Lowe was speaking today at this year's Australian Payment Summit in a speech titled "An eAUD?" when he touched on the subject of cryptocurrencies and, specifically, bitcoin. "In reality, these currencies are not being commonly used for everyday payments and, as things currently stand, it is hard to see that changing," Lowe said. Read more here... So is the real gold... I still have to see many people bringing gold to stores to buy things using the gold they have or many online stores accepting gold as mode of payment. So how come gold is very valuable? Bitcoin is pushing like a snail in the currency department that's a fact but we have to consider that Bitcoin is not as old as any other fiat currency. People have been forgetting that fact. Bitcoin is still evolving as a currency but as far as a store of value it has been there and that is what many of us Bitcoin holders have been concentrating on... that's a fact. Now, we have to admit it that there is a great speculation on Bitcoin right now and we could not blame people to buy and invest with Bitcoin as they are seeing it to have a better chance to appreciate in value sooner or later. And there is nothing we can do except to tell these people that in anything in life there is always risks involved. People are not anymore dumb with all the available information they can use using their smartphones. The fact is that all of these comments on Bitcoin as just speculations and lack of value are already getting boring. We have heard of these before and I think we can all continue hearing

the same comments for as long as there is cryptocurrency. And now we have people who think that they can be better than Satoshi Nakamoto by introducing their own state-sponsored and controlled cryptocurrency...assuming that the market would really be excited with such an idiotic idea.

[2017-09-08] Top Indian Bitcoin Exchange Integrates With Blockchain Wallet

Leading Indian bitcoin exchange Unocoin has partnered with Blockchain, the company behind popular bitcoin wallet, Blockchain.info. Unocoin's 400,000+ customers can now buy bitcoin inside their Blockchain wallets. Blockchain Integrates with Unocoin Leading Indian bitcoin exchange and merchant service provider Unocoin has partnered with Blockchain, the operator of the world's most popular bitcoin wallet, Blockchain.info. The Bangalore-based exchange expressed on Thursday that the partnership "will allow individuals in India to seamlessly and quickly fund their Blockchain wallets." Blockchain.info's wallet service currently has almost 16.7 million users in 140 countries globally. According to the announcement, half of Blockchain's customers in India have used bitcoin for remittances. Blockchain detailed: Quote "Beginning today, we've integrated Unocoin's exchange directly within the Blockchain wallet to give you greater purchasing power without having to compromise security or control... For the first time ever, your Blockchain wallet can be funded in just a few clicks by linking your bank account, which is subject to bank transfer speed." Previously, acquiring bitcoin in India has been "a multi-step process with high fees, long settlement delays, untrustworthy service providers, and opaque identity verification procedures," according to Unocoin. "This integration aims to eliminate that friction and make buying bitcoin more user-friendly and more accessible for customers across India." Currently, the Unocoin integration is only available to web users. However, "we plan on expanding to our Android and iOS wallet users in the near future," Blockchain noted. Read more:

<https://news.bitcoin.com/top-indian-bitcoin-exchange-integrates-with-blockchain-wallet/>

[2016-6-6] Bitcoin exchanges in the Philippines may soon face tougher regulations

According to an updated story from Reuters, the Philippine Central Bank is looking to regulate bitcoin operators to help combat money laundering; this list includes bitcoin exchanges, brokers, remittance companies, and money transmitters in the Philippines. Read more:

<http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/bitcoin-exchanges-in-the-philippines-may-soon-face-tougher-regulations/>

[2017-12-12] Analysts Blame Gold's Fall On Bitcoin's Rise

As bitcoin's price has surged, gold has suffered. Some market analysts see a correlation. Gold and bitcoin have both been viewed as safe havens for capital during periods of uncertainty for asset values. As bitcoin's price has soared, some analysts think investors are favoring bitcoin as an investment, causing gold to lose value. Gold Hits Low Point GDX, an exchange-traded fund for gold miners, has lost 15% of its value since September while gold prices have fallen to its July low point. Larry McDonald, who oversees U.S. macro strategy at ACG Analytics, said gold's declines have been accompanied by lower bond yields, a situation the strategist calls unusual. McDonald told CNBC that every time rates have declined in the last two years, gold has increased. There has been an 82% correlation between bonds and gold prices, he said, but this past week, that correlation dissolved. He pointed to bitcoin as the cause for this. The growth of bitcoin and cryptocurrencies could bring an even greater downside for gold, McDonald said. Bitcoin Eats Into Gold Cryptocurrencies currently have a market capitalization equal to 23% of liquid tradeable gold,

McDonald said. That figure has increased 2% or 3% over a year ago, so cryptocurrencies are definitely eating into the gold. While gold has declined more than 2% in the last month, bitcoin has more than doubled its value. Sunday's launch of the CBOE bitcoin futures took bitcoin to close to \$16,800 by Monday morning. Gold, meanwhile, has remained near its July lows. Phillip Streible, a senior market strategist at RJO Futures, said bitcoin futures contracts will hold a key indicator for gold's future. If bitcoin futures collapse, gold will gain, he said on CNBC's "Power Lunch." Gold will regain its attraction as a safe haven store of value. CME, another exchange, will launch its bitcoin futures on Dec. 18. Source:

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/analysts-blame-golds-fall-bitcoins-rise/>

[2017-12-11] Bitcoin Becomes 2nd Most Popular Wikipedia Page

Bitcoin reached the second most popular article on Wikipedia Friday and third Saturday, data reveals in a mark of just how 'mainstream' the cryptocurrency is becoming. FUTURES LAUNCH GETS WORLD SWATTING UP ON BITCOIN According to Wikimedia Foundation Labs, which lists the most popular page rankings on a daily basis for the nonprofit encyclopedia, 'Bitcoin' beat topics such as Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump to rise to the top three two days running. The interest coincided with the final runup to CBOE's Bitcoin futures trading release, which occurred Sunday and saw huge interest despite some technical problems. By Monday, interest had calmed slightly as the futures came and went, with Bitcoin currently occupying 14th place on Wikipedia's rankings. The cryptocurrency is nonetheless still ahead of both Trump and Robert Mugabe, and continues to beat the likes of Kim Kardashian and other popular media figures. Full article -

<http://bitcoinist.com/bitcoin-2nd-popular-wikipedia/>

[2017-09-05] 'Not an Investment': Internet Archive Defends Decision to Hold Bitc

'Not an Investment': Internet Archive Defends Decision to Hold Bitcoin The Internet Archive, the nonprofit digital library dedicated to providing "open access to all knowledge," has spoken out on why it accepts – and holds onto – the bitcoin donations it receives. In a recent blog post, the organisation spelled out that it includes the cryptocurrency on its balance sheets – alongside other means of donation, including zcash – "to be a living example of an organization that is trying this innovative internet

technology." <https://www.coindesk.com/not-an-investment-why-the-internet-archive-accepts-bitcoin-donations/>

[2017-03-16] Daily Cryptocurrency Volumes Surpass \$1 Billion

Over the past week, the exchange rate of one bitcoin has continued to hold above the US\$1,200 range, maintaining an average of \$1,215-1,235 per BTC. As bitcoin's price has consolidated, cryptocurrency markets in general have increased in volume significantly. Currently, 24-hour cryptocurrency trading volume now exceeds \$1 billion in trades per day reaching a new milestone. The price of a bitcoin has been quite stable over the seven-day period since the rejected ETF decision last Friday. Initially, bitcoin markets reacted with a price rise while waiting for the decision on March 10 and after the SEC's announcement market prices declined. Since then bitcoin's value has recovered from the downturn and increased in value to a high of \$1,260 on March 15. Bitcoin volume has been incredibly high, reaching an average of over \$500 million USD worth of volume daily. Read More Here:

<https://news.bitcoin.com/markets-update-cryptocurrency-daily-volumes-surpass-1-billion/>

[2018-10-08] A new concept of conferences

A new concept of conference was introduced earlier this year. 'Crypto - Rockstars' is a three day online conference on Blockchain and Crypto. Whereas the concept might not be exactly new, it sure is to the international Crypto - World. It aims at working people, an international audience as well as local interested persons. The concept grants flexibility while having all elements of a basic conference including interviews and presentations. "We are trying a new form of mass market education, instead of elite networking with overpriced tickets", explains Thorsten Huniscker, manager of the project. Introducing blockchain into the modern world, showing its potential and opportunities to as many people as possible is what motivates the team. The conference will be held in English with pre-recorded 30 minutes interviews with different Crypto- Experts taking place from November 26 to 28, 2018 in Cologne, Germany. It can be attended online as well as personal.

[2017-12-11] Two Firms File Bitcoin ETF Applications in Wake of CBOE Futures Lau

Two exchange-traded fund (ETF) providers have filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to create Bitcoin ETF products that trade in cryptocurrency derivatives. Two Firms File Bitcoin ETF Applications According to the SEC public filing system, the commission has received new applications for both REX Bitcoin Strategy ETF and REX Short Bitcoin Strategy ETF, as well as VanEck Vectors Bitcoin Strategy ETF. The Connecticut-based REX filed its application on December 8 — two days before the first bitcoin futures contracts launched on CBOE — while the New York-based VanEck filed on December 11. Neither firm intends to hold bitcoins directly; rather, the actively-managed funds will trade futures contracts and other derivatives products to enable investors to profit from the price movements of the flagship cryptocurrency. A myriad of fund providers have filed to create Bitcoin ETFs, but thus far, the SEC has either denied or refused to review the applications. In the former case, the SEC denied applications that sought to trade bitcoin directly, citing the unregulated nature of bitcoin exchanges. In the latter case, the SEC stated that the commission could not review an application for a fund that would invest in non-existent products, namely, bitcoin derivatives. However, now that CBOE has officially listed bitcoin futures and LedgerX has launched other derivatives products, many analysts expect that the SEC will begin approving ETFs that trade these products. Consequently, the futures launch is expected to trigger a flurry of new Bitcoin ETF filings. All Eyes Turn to SEC The creation of the first Bitcoin ETF would be a historic moment for mainstream cryptocurrency adoption, as it would make bitcoin-linked investment products more easily accessible to retail investors who desire to invest in bitcoin through their brokerage and retirement accounts. It would also likely add more fuel to the bitcoin price's record rampage as it heads into 2018. However, it is not clear to what extent — if any — the market has already priced an ETF into the general upswing surrounding the futures launch. Consequently, it is possible that an SEC rejection could move the markets into bearish territory. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/two-firms-file-bitcoin-etf-applications-wake-cboe-futures-launch/>

[2016-04-05] Delaware Partners With Symbiont On Blockchain Initiative

How will this initiative impact businesses in Delaware? Everywhere one looks, the blockchain seems to be the topic of conversation these days. Now that the state of Delaware is planning to push for future blockchain development, things are bound to get exciting. More transparency and a streamlined business process are of high value to local businesses, especially when considering how a lot of wealthy companies are located in the state. <http://fintechist.com/delaware-partners-symbiont-blockchain-initiative/>

[2016-01-21] CNBC: Reports of bitcoin's death have been greatly exaggerated

Some positivity from CNBC. Reports of bitcoin's death have been greatly exaggerated <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/01/21/bitcoin-isnt-dead-yet.html> Quote There's been a lot written about the death of bitcoin of late. The digital currency has either failed, or is on the verge of collapse, according to op-eds and quotes in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Week, The Guardian, Fortune and more. All of these articles hinged on the decision of an influential developer in the bitcoin community to leave the space behind — a move he announced with a blog post. Despite the technical-sounding nature of those pronouncements, the reasons why former Google programmer Mike Hearn decided bitcoin had "failed" are a complicated story of competing business interests and philosophical considerations that some contend have been blown out of proportion....

[2017-03-14] Lack of Regulations See Bitcoin Pyramid Schemes Rise in India

As bitcoin gains awareness and adopters in India, bitcoin-based MLM (multi-level marketing) and pyramid schemes have predictably followed suit, taking advantage of authorities' marked stance against regulating the cryptocurrency industry. The soaring gains of the cryptocurrency's value have further fueled the rise of multi-level marketing schemes, according to the Digital Assets and Blockchain Foundation of India (DABFI), a self-regulatory body established by four companies from India's young but growing cryptocurrency industry. As reported on regional publication LiveMint, typically faceless MLM schemes begin as code that will reward early users with a certain percentage of the returns upon bringing in new members to purchase bitcoin. As all MLM or pyramid schemes, the unsustainable business model eventually collapses, turning investors into victims. // Let us help you become financially independent. Read exclusive stories, bitcoin analysis and tutorials. Use the coupon code "CCN" and get \$10 off. Join Hacked.com now. // "People form companies that promise lucrative returns and indeed give them [these returns] for the first few months," said Saurabh Agarwal, co-founder, and CEO of app-based exchange Zebpay. "This is in exchange for bringing in more members under them who will buy bitcoins and bring in newer members. This goes on till it explodes and people lose all their money." India's Central Bank Ignores Bitcoin, for Now The Reserve Bank of India, the country's central bank and chief financial regulator recently stated that bitcoin and any companies related to the world's foremost cryptocurrency are not authorized or licensed to operate in India. In effect, the RBI is turning a blind eye toward regulating the cryptocurrency industry, at least for now. Speaking to CCN following the RBI notice, Sathvik Vishwanath, CEO of leading Indian exchange Unocoin confirmed that the RBI had not reached out to bitcoin companies toward exploring or discussing any regulatory framework for the industry. "India's bitcoin trading volumes are relatively small compared to other countries around the world. So, it may not be a priority, yet," said Vishwanath in interview to CCN. "First, the RBI will need to understand the bitcoin ecosystem before regulating it." Self-Regulation As a result, four of India's biggest cryptocurrency startups have since come together to form the DABFI in late February this year. Aside from standardizing know-your-customer (KYC) and anti-money laundering (AML) procedures across the industry, the group will also seek to flag suspicious transaction reports (STRS) in the industry. More pointedly, the regulatory body will also look to certify industry businesses as a means to identify bitcoin-based MLM scams. "We thought that in the absence of any formal guidelines from the government, we can form some of our own regulatory policies and ensure some basic standard in the way bitcoin firms operate," stated Vishwanath, speaking to LiveMint. "This way, investors can be aware that companies not certified by us are probably not worth investing in." Last week, a senior official from India's crime branch pointed to cases of bitcoin-related fraud becoming "more frequent",

stating that “scamsters are also running fraud set-ups [schemes].” Data from startup-information resource Tracxn reveals that Indian bitcoin startups have risen from four in 2013 to twenty at this time. It might take a while, but Indian regulators may soon have to take a cue from the likes of fellow Asian nation Philippines, a country where bitcoin is acknowledged as a form of currency after issuing regulatory guidelines for the industry earlier this year. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/lack-regulations-see-bitcoin-mlm-schemes-rise-india/>

[2018-10-02] What Does October Have in Store for BTC, ETH & XRP

The month of September has been a really cold period for digital currency. As each fresh month passes, speculation of the next bull run follows, though it appears that at this time, positivity is at an all-time low. September promised to create riches, with the US SEC Bitcoin ETF deadline approaching and other large projects coming forward, the majority hoped to see some significant progress this month. What will Oct Bring? Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/what-does-october-have-in-store-for-btc-eth-xrp/>

[2017-12-11] Bitcoin Price Surges 20% Overnight as Volume of CBOE Futures Skyroc

Bitcoin Price Surges 20% Overnight as Volume of CBOE Futures Skyrockets The bitcoin price has surged by more than 20 percent overnight, triggered by the launch of the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) bitcoin futures trading platform. According to cryptocurrency market data provider CryptoCompare, the bitcoin price increased from \$13,400 to \$16,315 within the past 24 hours. Major Factor: Bitcoin Futures Contrary to the claims of several analysts, the listing of bitcoin futures by CBOE, the global finance market's largest options exchange, has been a driving factor behind the recent bitcoin price surge. Many investors in the market expect the price of bitcoin to increase further in the upcoming months, as tens of billions of dollars in institutional money flow into the bitcoin market. In an interview with Business Insider, leading cryptocurrency exchange BitMEX business development head Greg Dwyer stated that the price of bitcoin could surpass \$50,000 by the end of 2018, as with billions in institutional money, the market valuation of bitcoin will likely reach a trillion dollars in the mid-term. “Now, looking at the current market cap of bitcoin as going to \$300 billion, with more institutional money coming in we could see market caps go up to \$500 billion, which could — or even \$1 trillion — which could increase the price of bitcoin from now \$15,000 up to \$20,000, \$25,000, or even \$50,000,” said Dwyer. Dwyer also emphasized that the listing of bitcoin futures by the world's largest and most liquid exchanges such as CBOE, CME, and Nasdaq by the first quarter of 2018 will further stabilize the bitcoin market, allowing it to evolve into a major asset class. In the long-term, if bitcoin can sustain its current growth rate, the cryptocurrency will compete against existing assets such as gold and penetrate into a multi-trillion dollar industry in offshore banking market, given the endorsement of bitcoin by the traditional finance industry and investors within it through bitcoin futures. Sharing a similar sentiment as JPMorgan global markets strategist Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou, Dwyer added: “This is a big endorsement for the digital currency trading space. We could see more flows come into it and also, not only that, but futures help dampen and reduce the volatility of the price. So, this could help stabilize bitcoin as an asset class. And basically increase the utility function of it as a source of economic — as a method of economic transactions.” What Happens Next? The entrance of large-scale institutional investors, retail traders, and hedge funds into the bitcoin market will trigger a domino effect across all major exchanges in leading bitcoin markets. The demand for bitcoin within markets such as the US, Japan, and South Korea will increase at a rapid rate, as institutions in the traditional finance sector rush to invest in bitcoin and provide services around the cryptocurrency. Already, CBOE has started to demonstrate struggles in facilitating the rapid increase in demand for bitcoin from the traditional finance industry. Earlier today, CBOE's website and its online trading platform were not accessible for several hours, merely

within three hours after its listing of bitcoin futures. In the short-term, the price of bitcoin will likely surge towards \$20,000, as noted by Dwyer and prominent investors like Max Keiser and Mike Novogratz. Source:

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-price-surges-by-20-overnight-as-volume-of-cboe-futures-skyrockets/>

[2016-06-04] Misfit Bitcoin Developer Allegedly Works With the Rojava Plan

Amir Taaki is considered a misfit when it comes to the Bitcoin community due to his strong beliefs in left-anarchism and his critical opinions against the growing industry. He is very well known for starting the project Dark Wallet with the help of Cody Wilson founder of Defense Distributed. Taaki was the original creator of Bitcoin BIP proposals, and the first one was a description of the GitHub plan which is a request to make changes to the code. Taaki also created the bitcoin protocol named libbitcoin, and worked on the bitcoin client Electrum among many other projects within the cryptocurrency community. In 2014 Taaki was one of the top 30 Forbes entrepreneurs named that year but soon after he left the Bitcoin community and seemed to want nothing to do with it. Taaki told Bitcoin Magazine journalist Aaron van Wirdum in October of 2014: "Well, a lot of people within the Bitcoin-community care about mass adoption way too much. They want to reach it at any and all cost. It doesn't matter to them how much compromise we need to make, because they think Bitcoin will hit some critical point where – BAM – everything is revolutionized. This kind of quick fix mentality is very easy for people to grasp, but is not based around real social change. It's an illusion." <http://www.livebitcoinnews.com/misfit-bitcoin-developer-allegedly-works-with-the-rojava-plan/>

[2018-09-30] Bitcoin Bullish or Bearish as Weekend Ends? Is a Bull Run Imminent?

Bitcoin is sealing a bullish week. The market capitalisation of digital currencies is back over \$220 billion at press time, and several Altcoins have also registered a bullish week. September 30, Bitcoin (BTC) has rediscovered on significant volume and is presently exchanging hands at \$6,632. Price and RSI have created consecutive higher lows, but the most nudiustertian trends seem to have priced in a lower high. After the nudiustertian bullish trends, the MACD is reaching a centerline crossover to upside serving as a sign of soaring buyer momentum. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/bitcoin-bullish-or-bearish-as-weekend-ends-is-bull-run-imminent/>

[2016-06-04] GBTC Trades 60% Over Current Bitcoin Price

GBTC Trades 60% Over Current Bitcoin Price GBTC, the Bitcoin linked traditional security is currently being traded at 60 percent over the actual bitcoin price on OTC Markets, showing the demand for digital currency linked shares. Read more...read more

[2018-03-17] Philippines Senator Calls for Applying a Get-Tough Approach to Crypt

Filipino senator Leila de Lima wants to impose stiffer fines on the criminals who conduct a scam or other illegal activity using cryptocurrency, especially Bitcoin. She has presented a draft bill aimed at releasing an update of the country's penal code. "With the emerging threats of its use in the

commission of crimes, our penal laws must adapt with the changing times and our criminal justice system must come prepared in the event that this is used in illegal activities,” - De Lima said in a press release. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/philippines-approach-to-cryptocurrency-crimes/>

[2018-09-26] Ex-UBS Bankers Raise Funding for a Swiss Cryptocurrency Bank

Bloomberg Seba raises \$104 million from private, institutional investors Company in talks with Swiss financial regulator since April Seba Crypto AG, a Swiss financial services company run by ex-UBS Group AG bankers, said it raised money as it seeks to become one of the world's first regulated banks and let consumers trade fiat money into cryptocurrency. The Zug-headquartered company said it secured 100 million Swiss francs (\$104 million) from private and institutional investors for the venture, which is dependent on being granted a banking license from Finma, the Swiss financial regulator.

[2017-08-31] Cryptocurrencies are barbarians at central bank gates

Bitcoin—the largest and best-known digital currency—and its peers pose a threat to the established money system by effectively circumventing it. Hong Kong/ Frankfurt/ Washington: The boom in crypto currencies and their underlying technology is becoming too big for central banks, long the guardian of official money, to ignore. Until recently, officials at major central banks were happy to watch as pioneers in the field progressed by trial and error, safe in the knowledge that it was dwarfed by roughly \$5 trillion circulating daily in conventional currency markets. But now as officials turn an eye toward the increasingly pervasive technology, the risk is that they're reacting too late to both the pitfalls and the opportunities presented by digital coinage. “Central banks cannot afford to treat cyber currencies as toys to play with in a sand box,” said Andrew Sheng, chief adviser to the China Banking Regulatory Commission and Distinguished Fellow of the Asia Global Institute, University of Hong Kong. “It is time to realize that they are the real barbarians at the gate.” Bitcoin—the largest and best-known digital currency—and its peers pose a threat to the established money system by effectively circumventing it. Money as we know it depends on the authority of the state for credibility, with central banks typically managing its price and/or quantity. Cryptocurrencies skirt all that and instead rely on their supposedly unhackable technology to guarantee value. If they don't get a handle on bitcoin and their ilk, and more people adopt them, central banks could see an erosion of their control over the money supply. The solution may be in the old adage, if you can't beat them, join them. The People's Bank of China (PBoC) has done trial runs of its prototype cryptocurrency, taking it a step closer to being the first major central bank to issue digital money. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) and the European Central Bank (ECB) have launched a joint research project which studies the possible use of distributed ledger -- the technology that underpins crypto currencies -- for market infrastructure. The Dutch central bank has created its own cryptocurrency—for internal circulation only—to better understand how it works. And Ben Bernanke, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve who has said digital currencies show “long term promise,” will be the keynote speaker at a blockchain and banking conference in October hosted by Ripple, the startup behind the fourth largest digital currency. Russia, too, has shown interest in ethereum, the second-largest digital currency, with the central bank deploying a blockchain pilot program. In the US, both banks and regulators are studying distributed ledger technology and Fed officials have made a couple of formal speeches on the topic in the past 12 months, but have voiced reservations about digital currencies themselves. Fed Governor Jerome Powell said in March there were “significant policy issues” concerning them that needed further study, including vulnerability to cyber-attack, privacy and counterfeiting. He also cautioned that a central bank digital currency could stifle innovations to improve the existing payments system. At the same time, central bankers are obviously wary of the

risks posed by alternative currencies -- including financial instability and fraud. One example: The Tokyo-based Mt. Gox exchange collapsed spectacularly in 2014 after disclosing that it lost hundreds of millions of dollars worth of bitcoin. But for all their theoretical tinkering, official-money guardians have largely stood by as digital currencies have taken off. The explosion in initial coin offerings, or ICOs, is evidence. Investors have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into the digital currency market this year alone. The dollar value of the 20 biggest cryptocurrencies is around \$150 billion, according to data from Coinmarketcap.com. Bitcoin itself has soared more than 380% this year and hit a record—but it's also prone to wild swings, like a 50% slump at the end of 2013. "At a global level, there is an urgent need for regulatory clarity given the growth of the market," said Daniel Heller, Visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and previously head of financial stability at the Swiss National Bank. Rather than trying to regulate the world of virtual currencies, central banks are mainly warning of risks and attempting to garner some advantage from distributed-ledger technology for their own purposes, like upgrading payments systems. Carl-Ludwig Thiele, a board member of Germany's Bundesbank, has described bitcoin as a "niche phenomenon" but blockchain as far more interesting, if it can be adapted for central-bank use. In July, Austria's Ewald Nowotny said he's open to new technologies but doesn't believe that will lead to a new currency, and that dealing in bitcoin is effectively "gambling." There could also be a monetary policy aspect to consider. ECB Governing Council member Jan Smets said in December that a central-bank digital currency could give policy makers more leeway when interest rates are negative. Policy makers have long been concerned that if they cut rates too low, people will simply hoard cash. The ECB's deposit rate is currently minus 0.4%. Other central banks see the uses of distributed ledger technology, but worry about the abuses virtual money can be put to outside the official system -- like criminal money laundering and the sale of illegal goods. That's not to mention the risk that virtual currencies could pose to the rest of the financial system if the bubble were to pop. Bank of England Governor Mark Carney—who has said blockchain shows "great promise"—also warned regulators this year to keep on top of developments in financial technology if they want to avoid a 2008-style crisis. While Mt. Gox cast a shadow over bitcoin in Japan, it now has many supporters in the world's third-biggest economy. Parliament passed a law in April this year making it a legal method of payment. Japan's largest banks have invested in bitcoin exchanges and small-cap stocks linked to the cryptocurrency or its underlying technology have rallied this year as it begins to win favour with some retailers. With the nation's Financial Services Agency responsible for bitcoin's regulation, the BOJ remains focused on studying its distributed ledger technology. "Central banks are not yet ready for regulating digital currencies," said Xiao Geng, a professor of finance and public policy at the University of Hong Kong. "But they have to in the future since unregulated digital currencies are prone to crime and Ponzi-type speculation." To be sure, the attraction of virtual currencies for many remains speculation, rather than for households or companies buying and selling goods. "It is a fad that will die down and it will be used by less than 1 percent of consumers and accepted by even fewer merchants," said Sumit Agarwal of Georgetown University, who was previously a senior financial economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. "Even if we can make the digital currency safe it has many hurdles."

BloombergSource <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/IrUupj2VPnf8do9dKjzChl/Cryptocurrencies-are-b-arbarians-at-central-bank-gates.html>

[2018-09-26] Google to Lift Cryptocurrency Ad Ban in October

Google is going to update its cryptocurrency-related advertising policy and lift its ban imposed back in March this year. However, ads will work only in the USA and Japan for now. It seems that economic reasons have prevailed after all as advertising brings a lot of profit to the giant, with a great share of it coming from ICOs, wallets and other crypto related projects. For instance, around 86% of Google parent, Alphabet, income is obtained from ads. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet:

<https://coinidol.com/google-to-lift-cryptocurrency-ad-ban-in-october/>

[2016-08-21]The Bank of Ireland Will Penalize Large Cash Deposits

The Bank of Ireland Will Penalize Large Cash DepositsHolding cash is becoming a less favourable option for many customers around the world. Charging fees on cash deposits is becoming the new norm in Germany, and more of them will follow in the coming months. So far, two more banks have taken this route, including the Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank It looks like the negative interest rates will be passed on to customers who make cash deposits. It was only a matter of time until the negative interest rates would be passed on to the customers... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/08/19/ukgc-declares-bitcoin-as-cash-equivalent/>

[2016-01-21] Decade-Long Financial Growth Wiped Out In One Month While Bitcoin G

For those investors who thought the Asian stock markets would start to recover, things are looking bleaker than ever before. Another shockwave of declining stocks is affecting other major trading markets all over the world, and there is no end in sight. All of the traditional financial sectors are losing ground at an accelerating pace while Bitcoin sees a healthy price increase as more money flows into the world's true global currency.<http://bitcoinist.net/decade-long-financial-growth-wiped-out-in-one-month-while-bitcoin-grows-stronger/>

[2017-08-31]Here is how Indian techies are minting a fortune in bitcoins

BENGALURU: When 32-year-old Harshad Gawde first invested in bitcoins in 2013, he couldn't have expected the returns from it to sponsor an all-India tour, beginning with a six-month trip through Roopkund hills in Uttarakhand. He will be living off \$15 daily payouts from that investment."I invested in bitcoin when one coin was worth Rs 28,000, one-tenth of what it is today," the Mumbai-based Gawde said. On August 30, one bitcoin was worth Rs 2,91,822—its value skyrocketing since Donald Trump's election as the US president in November and spawning an industry of auxiliary services for people rushing in to find gold in the virtual currency.Bitcoin is a decentralised, paperless cryptocurrency invented by Satoshi Nakamoto, an alias for an anonymous programmer in 2009.Unlike traditional currencies, crypto coins are not produced by a central authority like a bank or a consortium. It is a mathematical formula. These coins are produced by massively souped-up computers, called 'mining rigs', that solve complex math problems to obtain these virtual currencies. A ledger records all the transactions. A typical crypto currency mining rig runs round-the-clock, its performance depending on the high-end graphic cards and cooling systems used — not an inexpensive proposition at an average Rs 3 lakh a machine. Even so, several online vendors as well as individuals are investing in these machines to mine crypto currencies.A Chandigarh-based online vendor, who calls himself Letsmine, is one such 'miner.' He has built and sold 90 mining rigs through eBay at a base price of Rs 3,00,000 each. Letsmine has been selling rigs for the past one year, assuring customers that the investment can be recovered in 8-9 months.Not just building rigs, "we even host rig of others at a monthly cost. We will install your rig at our location in a temperature-controlled room and charge monthly," said a spokesperson for Delhi-based Gadgets Deal India, which also sells on eBay.Bitcoins saw explosive growth in India after Prime Minister Narendra Modi recalled high-denomination banknotes in November. Indian bitcoin exchanges have received a lot of traction in the past few months with more than 1 million active crypto-currency users."We recently crossed 100,000 active users on our platform, and are adding 10,000-20,000 users a month," said Hesham Rehman, chief executive of bitcoin exchange Bitxoxo.The rise in popularity of cryptocurrencies has enabled techies like Saket Nalegaonkar to

build services around it. The 28-year-old Internet-of-Things engineer spends his spare time travelling around the country helping enthusiasts set up rigs for mining. "I saw an opportunity in building rigs," he said. "So far, I have helped more than 10 people in India build rigs and charge them on a permonth basis for upgrade and maintenance." Kumar Badgujar, a management graduate, had other ideas for mining crypto-currencies. The 26-year-old rewired five computers in his college lab, making them work in tandem to mine ethereum (another crypto-currency that is on the rise). "Assimilate the computing powers of five personal computers helps me mine faster," said Badgujar, who has been clustered mining the past four months to produce both bitcoins and ethereum. CLOUD MINING Some companies — Hashflare, Genesis and Bitconnect among them — have even set up so-called farms to collectively mine crypto currencies for individuals unable to assemble their own machines, for a fee. "Cloud-mining is the in-thing now," said Gwade, who runs a bitcoin support website, [bitcoinsupport24x7](http://bitcoinsupport24x7.com), that receives about 10 email enquiries a day related to investments in bitcoin. Individuals can now spend as low as \$2 to start with for mining, and these companies assure fixed returns every month. "These give out fixed payouts... which is what I am going to spend during my trip," Gawde said. Given the massive surge in the value of crypto-currencies, real-estate developers, too, are seeking a piece of the action. Bengaluru-based Nalegaonkar, who helps set up rigs for mining, has been contracted by real estate developers to convert entire floors into mining farms. In the last two months, "I have gotten contracts from two real estate developers to create in-house mining farms in Indore and New Delhi," he said. The lack of regulations, though, has cast a shadow over the bitcoin universe. "Over the last six months, the (Reserve Bank of India) has issued several statements warning consumers about financial and regulatory risks associated with virtual currencies," said Kannan Sivasubramanian, co-chief of research and advisory firm Aranca. "Considering the rise in usage of such currencies across the world and in India, the government should look at putting a policy framework in place immediately." <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/here-is-how-indians-are-mining-a-fortune-in-bitcoins/articleshow/60299440.cms>

[2017-12-08] Manila to host Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Philippines

Bitcoin Garden: Manila to host Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Philippines on January 25, 2018 <https://bitcoingarden.org/manila-host-blockchain-bitcoin-conference-philippines-january-25-2018/> On January 25, Manila for the first time will host Blockchain & Bitcoin Conference Philippines, an event dedicated to cryptocurrency, blockchain and ICO. At the end of November 2017, the Philippines' Securities and Exchange Commission announced its intention to introduce cryptocurrencies in the legal field. This means that soon the state can become one of the pioneers in the field of regulating digital assets. Legislative security will positively affect the popularity of the Philippines in the crypto community. Crypto experts from all over the world will take part in the event: representatives of financial institutions, bankers, entrepreneurs, investors, lawyers, developers of blockchain solutions, startups and professional traders...

[2017-12-08] Goldman to Clear Bitcoin Futures for Select Clients

Goldman Sachs announced plans to clear Bitcoin futures trading for select clients, according to Bloomberg. Clearing may create smoother and more efficient markets in the volatile world of cryptocurrency. Bitcoin derivatives allow traders to bet on BTC's price without buying the actual asset. CBOE Futures Exchange will offer Bitcoin futures contracts starting December 10th. CME Group will offer its own version on December 18th. Commodities futures markets, such as oil or copper, aren't very useful without big banks and brokerage firms using the clearinghouses to trade. As digital currencies enter the futures market, clearinghouses will help to merge the world of cryptocurrency with more traditional commodities. As more investors speculate on the value of the currency, the exposure could lead to greater acceptance of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies like

it.more:<https://dowbit.com/goldman-clear-bitcoin-futures-select-clients/>

[2016-08-20] Bitcoin.com Bus Shunned by Las Vegas Bitcoiners Over Politics

NEWS BITCOIN - Bitcoin.com Bus Shunned by Las Vegas Bitcoiners Over Politics Catherine Bleish, co-organizer of the tour, penned a blog about the occurrence on Steemit. In it, she wrote that she was sad to report that they would not have an official Bitcoin.com bus meetup in Vegas due to the meetup group's hostility to the Dash altcoin. She also said she could not understand why they were having such a hard time reaching out to the organizers to confirm the time and date for the meetup. This was considering that the same people enthusiastically supported their previous Bitcoin-only tour — even helping plan the tour. [READ MORE >>>](https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-com-bus-shunned-lv/)
<https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-com-bus-shunned-lv/>

[2017-12-07] The world's biggest banks reportedly want to halt bitcoin futures

The world's biggest banks reportedly want to halt bitcoin futures launch - Bitcoin futures are set to be introduced by CBOE Global Markets and the CME - The Futures Industry Association says there has not been enough scrutiny of the product - Concern exists that clearing houses, funded by banks, may take on too much risk Wall Street banks have raised objections to the introduction of bitcoin futures trading, highlighting fears that the financial system can't cope with the cryptocurrency's volatile price swings. Bitcoin has rocketed higher Thursday, crossing the \$15,000 mark less than 48 hours after topping \$12,000. The U.K.'s Financial Times has reported that a letter from the Futures Industry Association, which counts the world's biggest banks among its members, is to be sent Thursday to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in the U.S. The letter reportedly criticizes the introduction of bitcoin futures and states that the Chicago exchanges, CME Group and CBOE Global Markets, should not be allowed to launch bitcoin futures under a self-certifying regime. The FT reported that a draft version seen by the newspaper said proposed rules for bitcoin futures trading do "not align with potential risks that underlie their trading." CBOE Global Markets is due to launch its bitcoin futures exchange on Sunday. The CME group is due to launch its version on December 17. Source:
<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/12/07/bitcoin-futures-push-back-by-wall-street-banks.html>

[2016-06-02] Blockchain Thunder Network Prototype Finally Launched

Blockchain Thunder Network Prototype Finally Launched The Thunder network adoption of Bitcoin Lightning network protocol has been officially launched by Blockchain. The alpha version is now available for developers to work on. [Read more](#)

[2018-03-15] German Automotive Innovation Could Drive Real-World Blockchain Usage

Blockchain is coming up to its 10th birthday, having been born conjoined to Bitcoin. The issue is that in these years of evolving technology Blockchain has not yet found its killer app or been picked up as a disruptive technology that has led to another technology becoming obsolete. Cryptocurrencies have grown and expanded, with a lot of attention being heaped on them, growing that sector of ecosystem well. Meanwhile, the base technology has been heralded and innovated with, but the execution of it has largely been a damp squib. There are a number of reasons to delve into why the

Blockchain revolution is still taking off, but one factor that could help speed it along is a new wave of non-tech, non-Blockchain companies picking up on the potential of Blockchain.<https://cointelegraph.com/news/german-automotive-innovation-could-drive-real-world-blockchain-usage>

[2017-12-07] Bitcoin hits \$15,000

Quote from: <https://www.theverge.com/2017/12/7/16745178/bitcoin-value-15000-milestone> Bitcoin's value crossed the \$15,000 threshold for the first time today, marking another milestone in its dizzying ascent. In recent months, the cryptocurrency has undergone a staggering increase in value; surging from roughly \$3,500 in mid-September to its current price. And at the start of the year, a single Bitcoin was worth less than \$800. What happens next is anyone's guess, and most analysts are united only in their uncertainty over the cryptocurrency's future. Bitcoin long ago stopped being useful for actually buying things (partly because of its rocketing value and partly because of achingly-slow transaction times), so the questions facing speculators are: is this a bubble? And if so, when will it burst? Source <https://www.theverge.com/2017/12/7/16745178/bitcoin-value-15000-milestone>

[2016-04-01] Kraken Parent Company Payward Inks Deal With Money Partners Group

How do you see this investment play out for Payward and Bitcoin? Major exchange platforms are always looking for new investors, as the ultimate goal is to offer a global platform rather than just targeting specific regions of the world. Kraken, one of the leading Bitcoin exchanges, has received an investment from Money Partners Group, a well-known Japanese forex brokerage. Exact details regarding the invested sum remain unknown for the time being. <http://themerple.com/kraken-parent-company-payward-inks-deal-with-money-partners-group/>

[2016-06-02] Blockchain Evangelists Plot Retreat to Richard Branson's Island

Blockchain Evangelists Plot Retreat to Richard Branson's Island Richard Branson's private island in the Caribbean is set to host yet another blockchain-focused gathering, drawing a range of guests from around the world including the former prime minister of Haiti and a member of the European Union Parliament. <http://www.coindesk.com/blockchain-richard-bransons-necker-island/>

[2018-09-10] Goldman Sachs Plans to Launch Bitcoin Derivative

Is Goldman Sachs' Martin Chavez correct in saying that there are no industrial grade custodial solution for bitcoin? The article also mentioned Xapo, Bitgo and Coinbase to be those solutions, but I reckon it might be more advisable if Goldman Sachs hire developers and build their own private solution. In any case, if they hire me, I will teach them how to use Electrum hehehe. Martin Chavez indicates that clients want a Bitcoin derivative, specifically saying "The next stage of the exploration is what we call non-deliverable forwards, these are over the counter derivatives, they're settled in U.S. dollars and the reference price is the bitcoin-U.S. dollar price established by a set of exchanges". Goldman Sachs is already settling Bitcoin futures contracts from the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) and Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) since May 2018. This new derivatives product Martin Chavez is talking about is like an in-house version of cash-settled Bitcoin futures. It would be much better for Bitcoin, and much more groundbreaking, if the product

Goldman Sachs plans to launch uses physical Bitcoins. However, Martin Chavez says “Physical bitcoin is something tremendously interesting, and tremendously challenging. From the perspective of custody, we don’t yet see an institutional-grade custodial solution for bitcoin, we’re interested in having that exist and it’s a long road”.Read in full
<https://bitcoinnews.com/goldman-sachs-not-abandoning-crypto-trading-desk-plans-bitcoin-derivative/>

[2017-12-07] Russian Presidential Candidate: ‘We Will Legalize Bitcoin and Other

A recently-announced Russian presidential candidate, Boris Titov, is a bitcoin advocate. He promises to legalize bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies if elected. Titov is friends with President Vladimir Putin and heads up his efforts to fight corruption. He has also repeatedly advocated for the legalization of bitcoin in Russia, suggesting the country should follow Japan’s lead. Bitcoin Advocate Running for President of Russia Presidential Commissioner for Entrepreneurs’ Rights and business ombudsman Boris Titov is running for Russian president in the 2018 election. The 56-year old is representing the business-oriented Party of Growth, the party announced this week. “Titov is part of the Kremlin establishment and friends with president Vladimir Putin,” the Moscow Times described, adding that “he is also an economic liberal and heads up the president’s efforts to fight corruption.” He told publication Mail.ru that “We will legalize bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies in Russia” and further elaborated: Popular cryptocurrencies, including bitcoin and ethereum, will be legalized. People will have the opportunity to store them in banks and crypto exchanges and use as a means of payment, however, only for external transactions. Titov explained, “in the domestic Russian market, say, for a sandwich, you cannot pay [with] cryptocurrency.” He added that “it is necessary to change the Russian economy. There is a need for change in society,” noting that “we are talking about the digital economy – development of the blockchain, cryptocurrencies, and IT-sphere.” <https://news.bitcoin.com/russian-presidential-candidate-legalize-bitcoin-cryptocurrencies-russia/>

[2016-03-31] Bitcoin and Blockchain: Better Together

Bitcoin and Blockchain: Better Together SETLcoin is a good example. Goldman’s patent states that SETLcoin will be purchasable via bitcoin, and thus should not be thought of as a direct competitor. Perhaps one day SETLcoin will serve as a “private cloud blockchain” for immediate clearance and settlement, and then will imprint these transactions on Bitcoin’s “public cloud blockchain” for long term record keeping. Alternatively, SETLcoin could treat bitcoin as it would any other currency used to purchase securities. <http://ark-invest.com/webx0/blockchain-and-bitcoin-better-together> didn’t know that.

[2018-09-13] Nasdaq Planning to Add Crypto Price Forecasting Tools, Uses NLP & Ma

Nasdaq Planning to Add Crypto Price Forecasting Tools, Uses NLP & Machine Learning Nasdaq, the globe’s second-biggest stock exchange, is purportedly considering adding tools to its Analytics Hub which will aid users in forecasting the price trends of Cryptos. Introduced in 2017, Nasdaq’s Analytics Hub applies Natural Language Processing (NLP) and machine learning to ascertain information on social media platforms. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/nasdaq-planning-to-add-crypto-price-forecasting-tools/>

[2017-03-03] What's the Big Deal About Bitcoin Above the Gold Price Anyway?

News Bitcoin _ What's the Big Deal About Bitcoin Above the Gold Price Anyway? As the Bitcoin price approached parity with the gold price, the significance of the price event elicited much debate in the Bitcoin Community. While many bitcoiners take bitcoin-gold price parity as evidence of the digital currency's continued success, some analysts suggest the event is meaningless. "What is even a troy ounce?" Josh Crumb, Bitgold (now Goldmoney) co-founder and CSO, tells Bitcoin.com. "Is it the same unit as a bitcoin? The value is not truly at parity, as gold is still a 322 times larger market than bitcoin," he reasons. "If some other company achieves the same share price as Apple, you don't say it's reached parity with Apple. You have to look at the market capitalization." READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/big-deal-bitcoin-above-gold-price/>

[2016-6-1] Kryptokit will be launching a new hardware wallet called Jaxx Ice Cube

Kryptokit, the makers of the Rushwallet and the Jaxx wallet, revealed their next innovation in the space which will be a hardware wallet to accompany their whole suite of wallet solutions (desktop, mobile, etc). Read more: <http://bitcoinx.io/news/articles/kryptokit-will-be-launching-a-new-hardware-wallet-called-jaxx-ice-cube/>

[2018-09-08] Crypto Uncertainties Won't Stop It From Sparking \$20,000 Record

The price of Bitcoin undulated marginally up to Wednesday, September 5, when it dropped 3% in just 15 minutes, caused by Goldman Sachs removing its planned cryptocurrency trading desk. Chief Executive of Digital Securities Exchange, Mike Romanov, believes this isn't a long-term problem. He hopes the crypto market will revive from this problem quickly and Goldman's exit will make effective regulation in order to attract bigger players to join with confidence and other financial institutions will go ahead to discover methods of offering strong custody answers for Cryptos. Read the details in the article of Coinidol dot com, the world blockchain news outlet: <https://coinidol.com/crypto-uncertainties-wont-stop-it-from-sparking-20-000-record/>

[2017-12-06] Hackers Hit North Carolina County Government And Demand Two Bitcoin

The county government of Mecklenburg, North Carolina, has been hacked, leaving their server files being held for a ransom of 2 bitcoins. One of the growing problems for businesses and governments today is having their electronic files hacked and held for ransom. Last month, computer hackers targeted the Sacramento Regional Transit system, resulting in 30 million files being deleted. The ransom price demanded by the hackers for that attack was a single bitcoin. Now that ransom price is being doubled as hackers have hit the Mecklenburg, North Carolina county government and are demanding 2 bitcoins. Don't open that attachment! County Manager Dena Diorio said that the hackers got into the county's system when an employee clicked on an email attachment they shouldn't have. (It's amazing in this day and age that people still click on strange email attachments.) Once the click took place, spyware and a worm were unleashed into the system, freezing all of the electronic files. Diorio told county commissioners in a meeting that the files were being held for ransom as the hackers were demanding 2 bitcoins, which is now worth almost \$25,000 (at the time of this article's writing). The deadline for paying the ransom is 1pm EST

today. Dena Diorio told reporters that the county was considering paying the ransom, but she did express some concerns over doing so, stating: "There's a risk you don't get the decryption key and don't get your files back. There's also the chance if they think you'll pay, they may try to get you to come back again." Is it cheaper to pay the ransom? Local governments and businesses do find themselves in a quandary when targeted by hackers. Is it actually cheaper to pay the hackers off to once again have access to critical files? A third-party group could restore said files, but using them could cost more than what the hackers were demanding. Of course, as Diorio mentioned above, paying off a hacker could embolden them to attack you again. This difficult decision is summed up by Diorio when she said: "We need to determine how much it would cost (to pay) versus fixing it on our own. There are a lot of places that pay because it's cheaper." The short deadline is obviously putting pressure on the county commissioners to capitulate to the hackers. As of now, the county is switching to paper records for their employees today. As for the hacking attack, County Manager Dena Diorio summed it up by saying: "I don't think we were targeted. I don't think we were at fault. There have been many, many institutions that have been breached. I think we do everything we can to keep our firewall secure." Do you think Mecklenburg, North Carolina should pay the ransom of 2 bitcoins or not? Let us know in the comments below. <http://bitcoinist.com/democratizing-finance-regtech-leader-coinfirm-beats-presale-goal-amlt-to-ken-announces-public-sale-date/>

[2019-09-09] Vitalik Buterin: Days of 1000x Crypto Growth is Gone!

According to Vitalik Buterin, the co-creator of Ethereum, the days of 1000x growth as seen in 2017 in the cryptocurrency sector is gone. Speaking to Bloomberg, Buterin emphasized that the awareness of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology has already achieved its high point in Dec. 2017, when the price of major cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple, and Bitcoin Cash demonstrated 10 to 300-fold returns. "The blockchain space is getting to the point where there's a ceiling in sight. If you talk to the average educated person at this point, they probably have heard of blockchain at least once. There isn't an opportunity for yet another 1,000-times growth in anything in the space anymore," he said. **Moving From Promotion to Real Adoption** The speculative bubble of last year has led the vast majority to take interest in cryptocurrencies as an emerging asset class. In the upcoming years, Buterin stated that the industry will focus on improving the usability and accessibility of decentralized systems rather than promotion and gathering interest. Buterin explained that the strategy of promoting blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies to the broader consumer base is hitting a dead end and that it is time to improve the infrastructure of decentralized systems, applications (dApps), and protocols to encourage consumers to commit to blockchain-based platforms. "Go from just people being interested to real applications of real economic activity," he stated, adding "that strategy [promoting the blockchain to the broader consumer base] is getting close to hitting a dead end." In the upcoming months and years, to reach true mainstream adoption, developers of dApps will have to ensure that the utilization of decentralized systems is as seamless and efficient as centralized platforms. For instance, apps like Peepeth, a decentralized alternative to Twitter, which was recently discussed on the Joe Rogan Podcast, require users to send Ether or gas every time a piece of information has to be broadcasted to the Ethereum mainnet. The simple shift from cash to cryptocurrencies can already be difficult and technically challenging for the majority of people. Then requiring users to utilize MetaMask to process gas on a dApp through the Ethereum mainnet could be highly complicated for most. As decentralized cryptocurrency exchange Kyber Network CEO Loi Luu previously said, in the near future, dApps will have to improve their user interface to refine and simplify the process of utilizing blockchain-based systems. "I think it's because the UI isn't good enough. The users aren't familiar with the Decentralized Exchanges; they're more familiar with Binance or Bittrex. So that's why we wanted to make it really easy for the user to use. So we don't focus on the decentralized aspect of it. We focus more on the usability aspect of it," Luu said, recognizing that the current UI of decentralized exchanges and dApps is not efficient enough. Improvements on Protocol and

dApps On the protocol side, the open-source developer community of Ethereum is working on the implementation of Sharding and Plasma, two solutions that are expected to massively increase the scalability of the Ethereum network. Other projects like Cardano and Zilliqa are working on proof-of-stake (PoS) and Sharding-related solutions as alternatives to Plasma and Ethereum-based solutions. Still, the front-end and UI side of dApps and decentralized systems in general need significant improvement, especially if dApps intend to target the consumer base of widely utilized centralized platforms. Source:

<https://www.ccn.com/why-ethereum-co-creator-believes-days-of-1000x-crypto-growth-is-gone/>

[2016-03-30] Video: Andreas Antonopoulos: On the Future of Money

Andreas Antonopoulos: On the Future of

Money <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0hxWC7sP2k&feature=youtu.be&t=2627>

[2017-02-28] Bitcoin and Sharia Compliance: How Halal is Bitcoin?

As global bitcoin adoption is rising and bitcoin usage is expanding into markets such as the Middle East, Indonesia, Malaysia and other predominantly Muslim regions, the question of whether the cryptocurrency is compliant with the pillars of Islamic finance becomes more and more topical...Read more

Here: <https://btcmanager.com/bitcoin-and-sharia-compliance-how-halal-is-bitcoin/Follow>
BTCManager for the Latest on Fintech, Blockchain, and Bitcoin!

[2018-03-07] Russian IT Company Mail.Ru Opens Up Crypto Payments For Advertising

Mail.Ru Group, a major Russian Internet company and original mail service provider, has expanded its reach to accept cryptocurrency for advertising payments. The hope is that this will aid in the ease of payment for those already using cryptocurrencies as it allows payments to be made in BTC and BCH. Users can choose to pay in cryptocurrency for advertising on Mail.Ru Group's properties, including VK, OK and Mail.Ru. Additionally, it will allow for cryptocurrency payments processing via its international brand My.com, Mail.Ru Group is partnering with BitPay, a well-regarded Bitcoin payment processor. BitPay will convert cryptocurrencies into cash and will take the exposure. "We want to provide the best service for our business partners. MyTarget will be the first step in creating a new ecosystem that will further develop and embrace other Mail.Ru Group's products, including games," commented Dmitry Sergeev, CEO of Mail.Ru Group. Source:

<https://cryptocomes.com/russian-internet-company-mailru-opens-crypto-payments-advertising>

[2016-08-16] Bank Insider: Cryptofinance Will Not Be the End of Wall Street

NEWS BITCOIN - Bank Insider: Cryptofinance Will Not Be the End of Wall Street Besides just being an interesting guy to have a drink with and chat philosophy, Jimmie's background and experiences give him the unique perspective of how senior leadership in banking and financial institutions view Bitcoin and blockchain technology. He has been at the forefront of some of the biggest innovations in finance over the last few decades, and is no stranger to thinking in deep ways on how to make fintech useful. READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/bank-insider-cryptofinance-wall-street/>

[2016-08-15] Ransomware Attacks: Bitcoin. System Lockdown. Data Held Hostage.

If company executives are discussing the terms listed above, then their company is likely to have experienced better days. However, if the executives are in the "C Suite" or are the Compliance Officer, Privacy Officer and/or other similar individual within a health care organization, then these terms are particularly bad and come with particularly high risk.<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/ransomware-attacks-bitcoin-system-lockdown-data-held-hostage-ransom-demand>

[2016-01-18] JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs Veterans Join Digital Asset Team

Digital Asset Holdings, the New York-based blockchain startup led by ex-JP Morgan executive Blythe Masters, has added new executives with experience that some of the world's largest financial institutions to its more than 20-person team.<http://www.coindesk.com/jp-morgan-goldman-sachs-veterans-digital-asset/>

[2017-11-30] Bitcoin is not mainstream

Many have stated that Bitcoin reaching an all-time high above \$10,000 is the sign of a new transitional period for the cryptocurrency market. Have cryptocurrencies become mainstream? Short answer: No. Half a percent of global population owns a cryptocurrency. Market capitalisation is peanuts. Experience is still unpleasant. Today's crypto is the 90s of internet. To summarise, a price tag should not define the level of market adoption. full article: <https://www.tropyc.co/news/cryptocurrency-is-not-mainstream>

[2016-03-29] Is China saving Bitcoin, or destroying it?

Is China saving Bitcoin, or destroying it? I recently talked with Bobby Lee, CEO of BTCC, China's first and biggest bitcoin exchange. It would be fair to call Bobby an optimist when it comes to Bitcoin in China and throughout the world. "The great part is that in China, Bitcoin is very popular. There's a lot of speculation, and a lot of mining activity, and a lot of traders," he says. "There's huge interest, demand, and activity in China." <https://www.techinasia.com/china-saving-destroying-bitcoin>

[2017-02-26] Record Number of Bitcoin ATMs Installed in February

As the exchange rate for bitcoin climbed to an all-time high of \$1220 in February, so has the number of BTMs (Bitcoin Teller Machines) across the globe. Data from CoinAtmRadar shows that 68 new BTMs were installed in various countries this month, bringing the total amount of operational BTMs to 1028: <http://www.razor-forex.com/2017/02/record-number-of-bitcoin-atms-installed.html>

[2016-08-16] Airbitz Introduces API To Integrate Bitcoin Into Every App

Airbitz, one of the leading Bitcoin wallet providers, has released their plugin API. In doing so, the company will see plugins being developed for their platform. The first Airbitz "plugin" is Bitrefill, which offers mobile minute top ups in exchange for cryptocurrency payments. This is positive news for the Bitcoin ecosystem as a whole, as it will create a lot of new use

[2016-05-30] Why Bitcoin is China's latest craze

Bitcoin's founders – who saw the digital currency as a refuge against the tyranny of central bankers – will be delighted by what's going on at present. Heavy Chinese buying has boosted the price of bitcoin about 20 per cent in the past four days. On Tuesday morning, the market price of bitcoin was trading above \$US535 (\$745) per bitcoin on Bitfinex, the largest US dollar bitcoin exchange. The four-day buying spree has lifted the value of all bitcoin in circulation by more than \$US1.2 billion. Despite Beijing's efforts to clamp down on trading in the digital currency, Chinese bitcoin exchanges are thriving. <http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/why-bitcoin-is-chinas-latest-craze-20160530-gp7qki>

[2016-05-30] Deconstructing the Bitcoin Market Cap

Deconstructing the Bitcoin Market Cap There is clearly a widely distributed misunderstanding of what a market capitalization actually is, and specifically as it refers to crypto currencies, and in particular, Bitcoin. I felt compelled to write this post as a result. This is by no means an exhaustive analysis, but it's a good start to help clear up some market confusion. Please recommend this post on Medium and distribute this post to financial writers/journalists covering Bitcoin to help clear up the confusion. <https://vinnylingham.com/deconstructing-the-bitcoin-market-cap-ce52b0d87035#.ujcf6bcp3>

[2017-12-03] All national currencies will be digitized-cryptocurrency expert

Russia among just a few other nations on the planet, has publicly announced plans for a national cryptocurrency: the CryptoRuble. China is working on a similar currency, as is Kyrgyzstan. At this moment, the U.S. Federal Reserve has no such plans — although, you'd have to think it would make quantitative easing much more simple. Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, and hundreds of others, typically are issued by private individuals, groups, or organizations, or mined via cryptographic protocols... <https://bitzamp.com/national-currencies-will-be-digitized-cryptocurrency-expert/>

[2017-12-01] CoinDesk: Bitcoin Is an Emerging Systemic Risk

Bitcoin Is an Emerging Systemic Risk Preston Byrne is an independent consultant and founder of Tomram LLC and the former chief operating officer of Monax Industries, an enterprise blockchain software vendor. Recent news stories make it pretty clear that the new people in bitcoin have no idea what they've gotten themselves into. Bitcoin is the Gom Jabbar of high finance. Cypherpunks who have populated the space to date hold the line because they do not care about money, and therefore do not fear. These new people are different. The only reason they are here is the money. They reek of fear. When we consider that money from fresh, naive amateurs is flowing into the sector at a rate of millions of people per month, we should also understand that these amateurs are more susceptible to the animal spirits than their stoic, abrasive, less-socially-adept, battle-hardened forebears. They will be prone to cut and run. As such, a shock to the system, such as an exchange being taken down in a necessary and overdue enforcement action, could lead to a loss in confidence in the entire cryptocurrency ecosystem as a whole and a stampede for the exits the likes of which bitcoin has not seen to date. In a recent post on my own blog, I pointed out that bitcoin, by setting itself up as a sort of decentralized bank, was also creating an unreasonable expectation

to its new "depositors" that they will always be able to redeem their assets at par, given a wild mismatch between its \$200 billion "market cap" and new investor money – which is clearly well shy of that number. This expectation is dangerous as it means, in the event of a liquidity crunch, people will behave not as people necessarily behave when there's a sharp sell-off in a stock, but more along the lines of when their bank's solvency is being called into question. Remember bank runs? As bitcoin qua decentralized bank is running a fractional reserve with a chronic shortage of dollars, a shock therefore has the potential to not just drive the price of bitcoin down a little bit, but also lead to a major liquidity crunch and abject panic. Credit comes to crypto. In my post, I wrote: "In the current environment, there are a number of ways such a shock could arise. To begin with, I seriously question the intermediaries' and traders' ability to top up their USD holdings quickly enough to catch up with their depositors' and counterparties' paper gains in bitcoin. There is also the possibility that, in the event of a correction or an enforcement action, a risk-averse bank to a major service provider withdraws either credit or banking services to that provider, compromising that service provider's ability to convert BTC into dollars, provide margin lending, or even to hold fiat deposits at all." I had a hunch people were lending into the sector. I just didn't know the degree of alacrity with which this lending was taking place. Fortunately, I was reading CoinDesk this afternoon and the reporting from the Consensus:Invest conference delivered: "Dan Matuszewski, the head of trading at Circle Internet Financial, said during a morning panel that there is a 'real strong need' for the ability to borrow in this market. It would not only facilitate short positions but also provide working capital for trading desks to make markets, he said. During his talk, [Max] Boonen of B2C2 acknowledged the irony of the situation given that bitcoin was born as a reaction to the 2008 credit crisis. 'Bitcoin enthusiasts really, really do not like credit,' he said. But, he added, 'for better or for worse, credit is an important part of a functioning and liquid financial market...' ...Even before the institutional money started flowing in, he noted, 'by necessity, credit did creep back into bitcoin and crypto markets in general,' with the major exchanges offering leverage to the early retail investors." So someone's lending directly into the market, we just don't know who, nor how much, nor where the liquidity for these lines of credit is ultimately coming from. Leverage sneaks into the ecosystem in other ways, too; for example, Coinbase accepts credit cards, which is basically margin trading for grandmas, without collateral and with 20%+ rates of annual interest. Given that rather a lot of people seem to be interested in buying bitcoin in this way, and that platform is racking up a few hundred thousand new users a week, there's undoubtedly systemic risk building up there. Then there's Bitfinex and Tether, which I do not intend to discuss save to share this passage from The New York Times: "One persistent online critic, going by the screen name Bitfinex'ed, has written several very detailed essays on Medium arguing that Bitfinex appears to be creating Tether coins out of thin air and then using them to buy Bitcoin and push the price up." Long story short, these neophyte masters of the universe, too young (or too busy working as a dev in California) to know what a financial crisis feels like, and too dilettantish to find out, are successfully (a) getting buyers to leverage to buy coins, in some cases probably up to the hilt, or (b) convincing institutions to lend into this titanic, one-way, unhedged, \$300 billion insanity trade, and trying to convince more of them to do so in greater amounts. This could become serious. There are two not necessarily mutually exclusive ways people are responding to the Great Bubble of 2017: anticipatory schadenfreude on the one hand, abject horror on the other. So far the response from mainstream finance has been the former, with The Wall Street Journal's treatment of the subject being more or less a long-form joke. But while there is something ineffably twee about a retiree trying to show how they're hip and "down with the kids" thanks to their position in "big coin," the fact that they are doing so raises very serious questions about bubble-driven risk (and attendant negative externalities to society) which merits closer attention. As of right now, the notional value of the cryptocurrency sector is roughly a third the size of Long-Term Capital Management at its peak. Cryptocurrency is, admittedly, much smaller than the subprime bubble that popped a decade ago, which was roughly two orders of magnitude larger than bitcoin today. But bitcoin has shown, on several occasions, a persistent ability to defy detractors like me to grow an order of magnitude in less than 12 months; if it does so again, it will be three times larger than LTCM. LTCM on its own very nearly ruined the world in 1998. If we aren't careful, this is the kind of market where a financial institution can get in serious trouble extremely quickly (imagine

the damage a character like Nick Leeson or Kwaku Adoboli could have done trading Bitcoin contracts – which are coming soon to both the CME and, reportedly, Nasdaq). We know that cryptocurrency marketing is writing checks the technology can't cash; most of these systems are unusable as backbones for global finance. It is a matter of time before the punter on the street becomes as disillusioned as I, an irascible blockchain software entrepreneur, have become. It's just that none of the newcomers know what they're doing, and most of the old-timers who have figured this out are keeping their mouths shut out of self-interest. Put another way, this is a disaster waiting to happen. Fortunately for us, 2008 is not ancient history, and the fact that Bitcoin is a classic, manic bubble is so transparently obvious that it should be impossible for thinking people to deal with it otherwise. There are no excuses for not doing right by the societies and taxpayers who had to bail out the financial services industry last time around. Just say no. So, banks, shadow banks, and anyone else of systemic importance, I implore you: for the good of everyone, by which I mean for the good of the human species, keep this garbage, and anything connected to it, the hell off of your balance sheets. For once, please have the good sense to not load up on frothy bubble-driven financial assets, which you have done hitherto with such predictable regularity that the European Central Bank can model it and write a 52-page paper on the subject which is actually fun to read. That way, when regulators finally bring this party to the bitter end it so richly deserves, the rest of the ship won't go down with it. Source: <https://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-emerging-systemic-risk/>

[2017-08-16] Chinese Lawyer Advise ICO Regulation From 6 Perspectives

Chen Yunfeng, Senior Partner of Zhong Lun Wende Law Firm, shares his view on ICO regulation. As Director of Internet Finance Professional Committee, Chen specializes in Internet Financial Law Business. He suggests that government, industry association, ICO issuer, investor, social media and judiciary authority should undertake responsibilities accordingly to form a healthy ecosystem. <http://news.8btc.com/chinese-lawyer-advise-ico-regulation-from-6-perspectives>

[2016-03-26] Verisign Patents New Technology Preventing Bitcoin Double Spending

Verisign Patents New Technology that Prevents Bitcoin Double Spending Verisign, a digital signing and security solutions provider has recently moved to patent a technology that prevents double spending. The technology in question can effectively detect and prevent digital assets like bitcoin and other cryptocurrency from being double spent, thus protecting the interests of the receiver...continue to read

[2017-08-19] Australia Aims to Regulate Bitcoin Exchanges

Australia Aims to Regulate Bitcoin Exchanges While the bitcoin rate is climbing new heights nearly every week, it becomes more and more obvious that a regulatory environment around the bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has to evolve as well. Until now there has been two Asian countries, China and Japan, that have announced its desire to regulate their local bitcoin exchanges. This week these countries were joined by Australia, another major market. Let's quickly analyse the pros and cons of such practices.

<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/australia-aims-to-regulate-bitcoin-exchanges/>

[2017-08-15] \$45 Million: Ukrainian Lawmakers Reveal Big Bitcoin Holdings

\$45 Million: Ukrainian Lawmakers Reveal Big Bitcoin Holdings Recent disclosures by members of Ukraine's national legislature revealed that three lawmakers have a combined wealth in bitcoin worth more than \$45 million. According to a report from RIA Novosti, Russia's international news service, the three lawmakers are all members of the "Petro Poroshenko Block", which constitutes the largest grouping of legislators within the Parliament. Of the three named by the report, Dmitry Golubov possesses the most bitcoin: 8,752 BTC, an amount worth roughly \$36 million at current prices. Alexander Urbansky possesses 2,494 BTC while Dmitry Belotserkovets owns 398 BTC, worth approximately \$10 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. <https://www.coindesk.com/45-million-ukrainian-lawmakers-reveal-big-bitcoin-holdings/>

[2016-05-28] cointelegraph.com | Bitcoin Price Passes \$500, Highest Price in

Bitcoin Price Passes \$500, Highest Price in Almost Two Years For the first time since 2014, the price of Bitcoin passed \$500 USD early Saturday morning... <http://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-price-passes-500-highest-price-in-almost-two-years>

[2017-02-20] Why Asia may lead in blockchain adoption sooner than expected

Asia is taking the lead in the race to adopt the distributed ledger technology – commonly known as blockchain – with financial hubs such as Hong Kong and Singapore, says the Managing Director Asia-Pacific for Ripple, Dilip Rao. This view is somewhat supported by a latest report that says Asia, especially China, is home to about a third of the 22 fintech unicorns – startups valued at more than a billion dollar – that are globally valued at \$74b in aggregate. <http://news.8btc.com/why-asia-may-lead-in-blockchain-adoption-sooner-than-expected>

[2017-12-01] Exchanges Struggle With Massive Influx of Users

A rollercoaster ride of a week for Bitcoin has seen exchanges suffer outages as current and new users clamored to trade the sought-after virtual currency. Popular exchange Coinbase and other exchanges saw a massive surge in the volume of traffic on their exchange - causing delays for users on their platforms. More: <https://cointelegraph.com/news/exchanges-struggle-with-massive-influx-of-users>

[2016-08-14] CT:Wanted: Alleged Silk Road Administrator! Irish High Court Orders

The Irish High Court has ordered the extradition to the United States of Gary Davis, a 27-year-old from Johnstown Court in Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow, who is alleged to have been an administrator of the Silk Road website that dealt with illegal drugs and hacking software. He is wanted by US authorities on charges of conspiracy to distribute narcotics, conspiracy to commit computer hacking and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Squeezed but pleased The judge, Mr Justice Paul McDermott, rejected all grounds of Mr Davis's opposition to the request including that his Constitutional rights and rights under the European Convention on Human Rights would be breached. Mr Davis, who claims he suffers from a form of autism known as Asperger's Syndrome and depression, had opposed the request claiming the extradition request was flawed, lacked clarity and the details of the charges against him were vague, as well as stating that if extradited he will be detained in an inhuman and degrading manner. During the hearing, the United Nations Special

Rapporteur on Torture, Professor Juan Mendez, expressed his concerns about conditions at the facility in New York City, the Metropolitan Correctional Centre (MCC), where Mr Davis is likely to be held if he is extradited to the US. Mr Davis's lawyers argued Prof. Mendez had raised issues about the negative effects on Mr Davis's mental health if he were to be held in isolation at a special housing unit within the MCC. The State rejected all points raised by Mr Davis. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/wanted-alleged-silk-road-administrator-irish-high-court-orders-extradition>

[2017-02-18] Bitcoin Price Perseveres Above 4-Digit Sweet Spot

The Bitcoin price is rising once again, passing US\$1,060 per BTC. Bitcoin's value has stayed above \$1,000 for 22 days and counting since 2013. The price of bitcoin seems to have consolidated in the \$1,000 range during most of February. Bitcoin's fiat value kicked into high gear again on February 16, reaching a high of \$1,040 over the course of the day. Technical indicators show that bulls have broke through resistance and have initiated an upward momentum. However, the 100-200 Simple Moving Average (SMA) and Stochastic indicators show bitcoin may be in overbought territory and bears could strike at any moment. Read More Here: <https://news.bitcoin.com/price-perseveres-4-digit-sweet-spot/>

[2016-01-17] Why Blockstream CEO, Austin Hill Believes The Scaling Debate...

ITD Bitcoin's scalability issues continue, coming to a head this week when Bitcoin developer and long-term evangelist, Mike Hearn brandished the technology a failure, announcing his exit from the space. We spoke to Blockstream CEO, Austin Hill to talk about the issues raised by Mike, and the proposals for scaling Bitcoin. Oliver Carding: The last time we spoke was at TechCrunch Disrupt London, days after Scaling Bitcoin and it looked like we were in the midsts of a resolution. What's changed? <http://coinjournal.net/scaling-bitcoin-austin-hill-blip/>

[2017-02-16] Commonwealth Bank Plans More Blockchain Investments in 2017

One of Australia's 'Big Four' banks has committed to further blockchain investments as it steps up its overall IT spend. ZDNet reports that Commonwealth Bank is looking to spend close to \$1bn – an increase over last year – on technology in 2017. While published investor documents contain no hard numbers, the bank has reportedly pledged to continue investing in blockchain over the coming year. The disclosure comes weeks after Commonwealth Bank said it was involved with a "cryptobond" blockchain project in collaboration with the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC), utilizing CBA's capital markets platform to streamline the underwriting and settlement process for debt instruments. Traders using the system have access to a transparent order book where they can see bids for the bonds in real time. Commonwealth Bank, one of the four largest institutions of its kind in Australia, has been working with the tech since mid-2015. It made headlines last October when the firm, in partnership with Wells Fargo, collaborated on a blockchain-focused trade finance project, specifically centered on the global cotton market. The development comes amid a broader push toward blockchain among Australia's finance space – as well as interest from regulators, who have expressed interest in the past in both bitcoin and blockchain-focused frameworks. Link: <http://www.coindesk.com/commonwealth-bank-blockchain-investments-2017/>

[2016-05-27] SITA to create blockchain travel identification system

SITA to create blockchain travel identification systemSITA, the leading IT and communication provider for the air transport industry, considers using the blockchain technology for global passenger identification database.<http://www.coinfox.info/news/5571-sita-to-examine-possibility-to-create-blockchain-based-air-passengers-world-database>

[2016-03-24] Video: Meet The Blockchain Companies

Meet The Blockchain Companies <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wl2Ff-f4Cs>

[2016-08-13] news.bitcoin.com-Blockchain-Based TCG 'Force of Will' Launches ...

Blockchain-Based TCG 'Force of Will' Launches This SeptemberThe new platform is set to be released this coming September with the popular Japanese card company. FoW manufactures cards for over 30 different countries and is ranked 4th in sales volume in North America in the collectible game category. The card manufacturer plans on taking advantage of blockchain technology with its upcoming online simulator, "Force of Will Battle Simulator."The game will have tokenized items similar to the SoG concept and FoW's 100,000 players will be able to utilize the specialized assets in gameplay. IndieSquare also says other feature services are coming as well stating:READ MORE >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/blockchain-tcg-force-will-september/>

[2016-08-12]Report: Russian Government to Abandon Penalties for Bitcoin Use

Russian authorities are reportedly planning to abandon efforts to institute criminal penalties for bitcoin users.The news comes from a report issued today by Russian news agency Interfax in which it asserts that representatives from the country's Ministry of Finance, central bank and other government bureaus are increasingly supportive of this action.According to the report, representatives from these groups are planning to submit a report to Russian President Vladimir Putin containing this recommendation sometime in 2016.<http://www.coindesk.com/russian-bitcoin-penalties-abandon-report/>

[2016-08-12] Mexico's Third-Largest Bitcoin Exchange Goes Dark

What we can tell is how all of the user funds seems tp be accounted for, and withdrawals will be enabled shortly. Deposits will be resumed as well once the platform relaunches, albeit no dedicated time frame was mentioned to the public. Since there were no prior issues affecting the MeXBT platform, this news is rather shocking, to say the least.<http://themerple.com/mexicos-third-largest-bitcoin-exchange-goes-dark/>

[2016-05-26] Bitcoin Due to Get a Watchdog, via the European Union

The European Parliament has voted in a non-binding resolution today which approved a proposal for a taskforce looking into virtual currencies like bitcoin and blockchain technology.A proposal from late February, which sought to form a bitcoin- and blockchain-centric taskforce overseen by the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union, was approved by the European

Parliament in a majority vote today. The call for a task force is to study the technology to understand the risks and opportunities of virtual currencies (VC) and distributed ledger, or blockchain technology (DLT). The vote to establish a task force comes soon after the final report put forth by the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), earlier this month. In it, the ECON recommends that the EU Commission consider revising EU payment laws, on the basis of its assessment of virtual currencies and blockchain technology. <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/bitcoin-due-to-get-a-watchdog-via-the-european-union/>

[2017-08-12] Bitcoin Price Eyes \$4,000 as Markets Soar Past \$130 Billion

QuoteBoth the bitcoin price and the total value of all cryptocurrencies reached record highs on Saturday amid fears that the war of words between the United States and North Korea will escalate into a full-scale military conflict. After rising to a new high of \$133.9 billion, the total value of all cryptocurrencies has settled down to \$132.5 billion. Since the beginning of August, the crypto market cap has added a staggering \$40 billion. For reference, the total crypto market cap did not reach \$40 billion until the beginning of May. Read more here. The trend for Bitcoin is going up, up and away! Now, Bitcoin is about to cross the \$3,800 mark and indeed there is a big possibility of it reaching and breaking the \$4,000 wall soon. There is no question that the King of the Cryptos has emerged as the most important investment vehicle for the past many years and this year alone it is jumping by leaps and bounds. Will there be some drastic correction soon? A lot of people seems to be not thinking about that, anyway, though it is quite possible based on its own history but after some corrections when it has already gathered the needed inertia it will jump even higher...that is Bitcoin for you and me. Viva La Bitcoin!

[2016-03-24] Bitcoin Uncertainty in Venezuela is Beneficial to SurBitcoin

Bitcoin usage and adoption seems to be on the rise in certain countries around the world, although that was only a matter of time according to some industry experts. Venezuela is an interesting country to keep an eye on from a Bitcoin perspective, as government officials seem to be cracking down on digital currency. However, even the arrests of several Bitcoin miners cannot sway the mind of consumers looking to venture into the Bitcoin world, and SurBitcoin is reaping the benefits from this mind shift. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/03/24/bitcoin-uncertainty-venezuela-beneficial-surbitcoin/>

[2017-11-30] China Blockchain Entrepreneur Questions Tether USDT

Note: Yu Xiaojian, author of this article, is a blockchain entrepreneur in China. He is the founder of coinfix and owner of several blockchain patents. While USDT has had some market impact over the past few days, it is not a truly stable coin as it does not meet the basic criteria for a stable digital currency. On November 21, the news of "the theft of USDT worth \$ 30.95 million" sparked a buzz in the industry and made USDT once again the center of social media following the "Bitfinex manipulates BTC price through USDT" scandal. At the same time, the two news also sparked heated discussions on the issue of stable coins on the levels of security, redemption and circulation. As a blockchain veteran, stable coin has been one of my top priorities. While USDT has gained some market impact over the past few days, it is not a truly stable coin as it does not meet the basic criteria for a stable digital currency. Stringent 1:1 pegging to Fiat Currency To figure out the nature of USDT, we want to return to the essence of things in the first place, namely, what "stable coin" is. Simply speaking, stable digital currency refers to the currency pegged 1:1 to a certain fiat currency. It is a new type of encrypted digital asset strictly abiding by the 1 to 1 exchange rate.

"issuance", "circulation", "redemption" and "destruction" constitute the complete life cycle of a stable coin, allowing it to be freely traded in a P2P, anonymous, secure and decentralized environment. In the meantime, maximum power should be kept in a cage in order to avoid the risk of human malice. During the entire lifecycle of the stable coin, it is necessary to introduce a decentralized audit mode to ensure its benign operation in an open and transparent environment. Five standards constitute the prerequisites for a stable coin. Based on the above definition, I think there are five major criteria for stable coin - "issuance standard", "circulation standard", "redemption standard", "destruction standard" and "audit standard".

First, the issuance standard - "decentralized." Decentralized issuance standard is the cornerstone to make sure that "power" is locked into the cage of the "system". Issuance of the stable coin has to be based on blockchain technology in accordance with a predetermined agreement or smart contract and in strict accordance with the provisions of on a 1:1 basis, in order to stabilize the basic value of the stable coin.

Second, circulation standard - "convenient and efficient." Free and easy circulation is the core value for the existence of a stable coin. Therefore, in the circulation process, instant transfer and low fee is the key to create an ultimate smooth user experience. Imagine each transfer fee exceeds the transfer amount itself and costs more than an hour, the liquidity of the stable coin would be greatly reduced.

Third, redemption standard - "rigid redemption". Rigid redemption is the cornerstone of ensuring the security of the value of stable coin assets. It means the issuer of stable coin must have a 100% guaranteed reserve to ensure a 1:1 rigid redemption with the pegged currency. Regardless of when and where the holder of a stable coin offers redemption needs, the issuer must complete the redemption of users in a short period of time in order to ensure the safety of user assets. Otherwise, the construction of the stable coin is illusory.

Fourth, destruction standard - "permanent destruction." Permanent destruction is the key to keeping a stable digital currency truly stable. It is also the most effective way to avoid the risk of "over-issuance." Therefore, the stable coin held by users is to be destroyed once recovered by the issuer on redemption and can not be restored once it is destroyed. Only in this way can we ensure that the price of a stable coin always strictly maintains a 1: 1 exchange rate with the price of a fiat currency, and it also makes it possible to avoid the risk of "over-issuance."

Fifth, audit standard - "open and transparent." Credit is the key to a stable coin with a focus on "power delegation". Therefore, in order to minimize the risk, it is necessary to introduce an open and transparent audit standard to release the power. This occurs mainly in two stages: issuance and redemption. In the issuance stage, a stable coin issuance agreement or smart contract is needed in which it stipulates the issuance of a stable coin requires a certain approval proportion from a certain number of institutions or individuals. On the redemption level, bank accounts prepared by the issuer shall be audited by a third party accounting firm to support real-time checking of account balances and joint supervision. Technically, the issuer is not allowed to issue a stable coin without the standards being met.

With reference to the five major standards, it is not difficult for us to find that USDT is not a stable digital currency in real sense, which is also the source of its current problem. Therefore, I would like to remind the blockchain enthusiasts to carefully choose the USDT for trading, because in essence it has a huge difference from the stable coin, and the risk behind it is undoubtedly huge. However, I have always believed that a true stable coin, with its convenience, efficiency and security features, will bring a whole new experience to the entire blockchain industry and even to all those in need.

<http://news.8btc.com/yu-xiaojian-is-usdt-a-stable-coin>

[2018-03-07] PBoC's Yao: Chinese Digital Currency Should Be Crypto-Inspired

A central bank-issued digital currency (CBDC) released by the People's Bank of China should incorporate elements of cryptocurrencies, according to Yao Qian, who spearheads the central bank's research in this area. In his latest opinion piece, published by China business media outlet Yicai on Tuesday, Yao - who is director of the central bank's Digital Currency Research Lab - further explained his vision regarding a technological approach towards the development of a CBDC. Such

features - including possible steps to boost privacy in transactions - would help give a future currency more of a competitive edge, he wrote, while acknowledging that the PBoC would likely centralize its issuance. Yao argued: "At the current phase, CBDC may mainly focus on digitalizing the fiat currency. But it's inevitable for CBDC to integrate more features in the future. An approach that just rigidly mimics and digitalizes the fiat currency may undermine the competitive edge of CBDC in the long term." The lab director's comments offer a new window into the thinking within China's central bank on this issue. His commentary follows a January op-ed by Fan Yifei, the vice governor of the PBoC, which specifically distinguished CBDC from decentralized cryptocurrencies. And yet Yao argues in his opinion that, in the long-run, a Chinese CBDC should nonetheless include some key features of cryptocurrency. For example, he outlines a scenario in which a cryptocurrency wallet would be introduced to customer accounts among existing commercial banks which would utilize a dual-key mechanism maintained by both customers and banks - similar to the concept of public and private keys used in most cryptocurrencies. In addition, Yao also said that a certain degree of anonymity can be adopted by a Chinese CBDC, arguing that the central bank should consider the advantage of a more private transaction environment for better user experience and privacy protection. "[An] anonymous front-end with [a] real name back-end," Yao wrote. That line of thinking is perhaps shared by Fan, who previously argued in his op-ed that while a CBDC can be anonymous from the perspective of consumer-to-consumer payments, transparency would be vital within the central bank's issuance system. <https://www.coindesk.com/pbocs-yao-qian-state-digital-currency-can-still-be-cryptocurrency/>

[2016-08-12] France Receives a New Bitcoin ATM

ATM Bitcoin Exchange begins its international expansion campaign by installing a bitcoin ATM in France. The selected location is Montpellier. France has four of such devices fully operational inside its borders. <http://themerple.com/france-receives-a-new-bitcoin-atm/>

[2018-04-08] Bitcoin Prediction Market Fairlay Sees Sizable Volumes

In the cryptocurrency ecosystem, the concept of prediction markets is a topical subject. There are a few projects in the works hoping to build decentralized prediction markets such as Augur and Hivemind. One particular project, although not fully 'trustless' at the moment, Fairlay, has been moving a staggering amount of volume over the past few months with over 100 to 150 BTC per day at times. Aggregating the Wisdom of the Majority This week news.Bitcoin.com spoke with the Fairlay CEO Gabriel Oliveira about the bitcoin prediction market and exchange he operates. The marketplace got its origin around three years ago. Oliveira tells us that Fairlay is basically a cryptocurrency infused prediction marketplace that allows sports betting in a digital asset environment. Users can create their own markets, bet on any event, and create insurance instruments and trade financial derivatives such as CFD and binary options, Oliveira emphasizes. "With our platform, we specialise in getting reliable information for everyone by crowdsourcing predictions on a totally open market," Oliveira explains to news.Bitcoin.com. "You can foresee the public confidence on various events such as crypto, economics, politics and general news — By using bitcoin we empower users to demonstrate where their confidence lies regarding a specific event by aggregating the wisdom of the majority." [read more](https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-prediction-market-fairlay-sees-sizable-volumes)
<https://news.bitcoin.com/bitcoin-prediction-market-fairlay-sees-sizable-volumes>

[2017/02/11] Legislators: "Bitcoin has Broad Benefits for Hawaii"

Democratic representatives Mark Nakashima and Chris Lee from Hawaii have sponsored a bill in hopes of creating a friendly environment for Bitcoin and blockchain technology in the island state.

The proposed legislation encourages using these technologies to benefit the local region's tourism. "Digital currencies such as Bitcoin have broad benefits for Hawaii," explains House Bill 1481. "A large portion of Hawaii's tourism market comes from Asia where the use of Bitcoin as a virtual currency is expanding. Hawaii has the unique opportunity to explore the use of blockchain technology to make it easier for visitors to consume local goods and services and to drive the tourism economy." Read More Here:

<https://news.bitcoin.com/legislators-bitcoin-has-broad-benefits-for-hawaii/>

[2016-05-25] Is Bitcoin the New Blockchain???

Is Bitcoin the New Blockchain??? I have a confession. I love both blockchain and bitcoin. No, that's not a contradiction, even though the term "blockchain" has come to mean "NOT bitcoin." Yes, it's politically incorrect in my Wall Street circles to admit that I love bitcoin, but I think you'll find that my reasons are quite mainstream. Let me share knowledge gleaned from a 22-year career in investment banking to explain why it's possible to love them both.

<http://www.caitlin-long.com/is-bitcoin-the-new-blockchain-.html>

[2016-01-15] Nearly 300 English research papers published on bitcoin in 2015

Nearly 300 English research papers published on bitcoin in 2015 A database of academic research on cryptocurrency compiled by Brett Scott in late 2014 included almost 300 items. The newly updated version shows that over the last year the number has doubled. <http://www.coinfox.info/news/4423-in-2015-almost-300-english-language-research-papers-were-dedicated-to-bitcoin>

[2016-05-25] Japan Enacts Regulation for Digital Currency Exchanges

The upper house of Japan's national legislature approved a bill on Wednesday to regulate domestic digital currency exchanges, a move that comes nearly two years after discussions about how to regulate the technology first began. According to a report by The Japan Times, the decision will now require digital currency exchange operators to register with the Financial Services Agency (FSA), the government agency that oversees finance activities in the country. The action also comes with a grace period for businesses affected, as it will not come into force until one year from its approval. <http://www.coindesk.com/japan-enacts-regulation-digital-currency-exchanges/>

[2016-05-25] techcrunch.com: ShoCard and SITA want to store your ID details on

ShoCard and SITA want to store your ID details on the blockchain to authenticate travelers ShoCard and SITA, the IT company for the air transport industry, have been working together on an interesting project. They've been looking at ways to store your ID details on the blockchain to manage traveler

identification.... <http://techcrunch.com/2016/05/25/shocard-and-sita-want-to-store-your-id-details-on-the-blockchain-to-authenticate-travelers/>

[2016-01-15] Bitcoin, other alt-currencies offer more choices for consumers

In just eight years, Bitcoin and the idea of “virtual currency” have gained acceptance and use both online and in the physical world. Spread by word of mouth and other “viral” means, decentralized virtual currencies have gone from a mere thought experiment to a tangible economic reality. Today, one can use Bitcoin or other currencies not backed by the U.S. government to buy physical goods and services and online services. Established companies, such as Dell, DISH Network, Microsoft, and Papa John's Pizza, all accept Bitcoin payments.<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-budget/265595-bitcoin-other-alt-currencies-offer-more-choices-for>

[2016-01-15] yahoo finance : Here's a sign that PayPal is embracing Bitcoin

PayPal was the hot new thing in payments when it launched in 1998, but in the era of digital currency, crowdfunding, micro-crowdfunding, and peer-to-peer lending, most people no longer see the company that way. So its newest board appointment is an effort to embrace the new landscape in digital payments. To that end, PayPal (PYPL) has named Wences Casares to its board of directors, the company announced on Wednesday. Casares is founder and CEO of Xapo, a wallet provider for the digital currency bitcoin, and before Xapo he founded Lemon, another digital wallet company. He is an unusual addition to a board that includes executives from AT&T (T), the American Red Cross, Enzon Pharmaceuticals (ENZN), and eBay (EBAY) cofounder Pierre Omidyar.<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/here-s-a-sign-that-paypal-is-embracing-bitcoin-220129913.html>

[2018-03-05] Icelandic Police Are Hunting for Hundreds of Bitcoin Miners

The theft of hundreds of cryptocurrency miners in Iceland has led to a series of arrests amid an ongoing investigation. The Associated Press reports that as many as 600 miners - which have yet to be recovered - were stolen during four separate incidents in December and January. Eleven people, including a security worker, have been arrested in connection with the investigation into what has been called the "Big Bitcoin Heist." Two of those arrested remain in custody after a Reykjanes District Court ruling, though it is unclear what role they allegedly played in the heists.<https://www.coindesk.com/icelandic-police-hunting-hundreds-bitcoin-miners/>

[2016-03-22] Deloitte: Blockchain to flourish, but only in hands of regulators

Deloitte: Blockchain to flourish, but only in hands of regulators In its recent report, Deloitte's Center for Financial Services predicts total transformation of banking within ten years. Blockchain is expected to revolutionise the payments ecosystem, but there is a catch.<http://www.coinfox.info/news/5142-deloitte-foresees-blockchain-disruptive-role-for-banks>

[2016-05-24] Forbes: Hackers Steal \$2 Million From Bitcoin Exchange In Hong Kong

Hackers Steal \$2 Million From Bitcoin Exchange In Hong Kong, Bounty Offered To Recover Funds <http://www.forbes.com/sites/robertolsen/2016/05/24/hackers-steal-2-million-from-bitcoin-exchange-in-hong-kong-bounty-offered-to-recover-funds/#7c04e6aa11c7>Quote For cryptocurrency enthusiasts seeking mainstream adoption, events like this are so unhelpful. Hackers appear to have made off with the equivalent of \$2 million in digital currencies from Gatecoin, according to a notice posted on the exchange's website. The Hong Kong-based firm admitted a security breach occurred

between May 9 and 12 that allowed unauthorized access to its “hot wallets” holding both Bitcoins and Ether (a Bitcoin rival). In total, the hackers were able to steal 250 Bitcoins and 185,000 Ethers, representing 15% of Gatecoin’s crypto-asset deposits....

[2016-01-14] Mobile Lottery Ticket App JackPocket Now Accepts Bitcoin

Lottery game ticket application Jackpocket has announced a brand-new repayment technique for individuals to acquire Powerball tickets with their smart devices, with bitcoin. Jackpocket made the news yesterday in the lead-up to its record-setting \$ 1.5 billion Powerball pot.<https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/mobile-lottery-ticket-app-jackpocket-now-accepts-bitcoin/>

[2018-08-07] Japan’s Licensed Crypto Exchanges Formally Apply for Self-Regulator

An association of sixteen licensed domestic cryptocurrency exchanges in Japan have formally applied for certification from the country’s financial regulator to form a self-regulatory body. The Japan Virtual Currency Exchange Association (JVCEA), a body comprised of all 16 licensed cryptocurrency exchanges, is looking to become a “certified fund settlement business association” after a formal application submitted with the Financial Services Agency (FSA), Japan’s primary financial regulator. The working group is also looking toward working with authorities to create guidelines and legislation to ultimately allow the domestic cryptocurrency exchange sector regulate itself, the Asia Times reported. According to the report, the FSA certification process will go through a rigorous two-month review wherein the authority will “carefully examine the affairs of the Association and investigate whether proper group management can be expected.” Read more: <https://www.ccn.com/japans-licensed-crypto-exchanges-formally-apply-for-self-regulatory-body/>

[2018-02-27] Las Vegas Strippers Accept Bitcoin via QR Tattoos

Las Vegas Strippers Accept Bitcoin via QR Tattoos While Las Vegas strippers are not the representation some hoped for, they are an example of how bitcoin can help working women control their financial affairs and avoid potential problems with prudish banks. <https://news.bitcoin.com/las-vegas-strippers-accept-bitcoin-via-qr-tattoos/>

[2017-11-25] Bitcoin Price: New All-Time High After Thanksgiving Day

In recent days we have seen surges up and down in the Bitcoin price, probably because investors are humans as well, and they were getting ready for Thanksgiving Day. Daniel Kim, Head of Growth at SFOX, an enterprise-grade trading platform with algorithmic trading tools for businesses and traders to buy and sell bitcoins, former Director of Institutional Sales at Gemini Exchange and assistant of Vice President at BNP Paribas, shared his opinion on general price forecasting with Coinidol: “On a basic level, valuing and forecasting bitcoin price is to understand it’s supply and demand. That said, there are a multitude of factors that affect the value of a cryptocurrency ranging from external factors such as the implementation of another blockchain and rumors to internal factors such as the demand for the currency from the network. A few factors to consider: government regulation, mainstream adoption, media influence, and technological advancements or development.” The full article: <https://coinidol.com/bitcoin-price-new-all-time-high-after-thanksgiving-day/>

[2016-08-10] DCEBrief - UK Gambling Authorities Confirm Bitcoin as Cash Equiv...

UK Gambling Authorities Confirm Bitcoin as Cash Equivalent With the recent changes to their licensee code of practice, the UK Gambling Commission, who oversee the gambling industry within the UK, has noted that it now considers digital currencies a cash equivalent payment system for gambling purposes. This move could be significant as it opens up a huge opportunity for the cryptocurrency industry, with UK gambling with around £4 Billion a year. Digital currencies themselves are ideal for such applications, and could begin to make inroads with a new user base when the advantages over existing fiat payment systems become clearer. Read the full story below. <http://dcebrief.com/uk-gambling-authorities-confirm-bitcoin-as-cash-equivalent/>

[2016-03-21] Video: Bitcoin vs Blockchain

Bitcoin vs Blockchain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUTTqiZ4bwY&feature=youtu.be>

[2017-08-07] Bitcoin soars to record high value

Bitcoin's value has jumped to a record high, following a month of turmoil. The virtual currency reached \$3,451.86 (£2,651) per coin in Monday trade, according to the Coindesk Bitcoin Price Index. It had never crossed the \$3,000 mark until the weekend. The market value of all bitcoins in existence has now surpassed \$56bn (£43bn). The surge followed the creation of a spin-off crypto-currency, Bitcoin Cash, last week. The new asset is trading well below the peak price of \$727.54 (£557) per coin it attained on 2 August. However, Bitcoin Cash's future does appear to be more assured after Coinbase, one of the leading exchange and wallet services, promised to support it after previously refusing to give such a commitment. "We are planning to have support for Bitcoin Cash by 1 January 2018, assuming no additional risks emerge during that time," it announced on its blog. Bitcoin fork The value of the original Bitcoin experienced big swings in July. First there was concern that there might be a "civil war" over rival plans to speed up transactions. That helped cause its value to dip to \$1,938.94 (£1,485) on 16 July before a compromise scheme called Segwit2x gained favour. Then a fresh plan to fork the currency emerged from a group of insiders unhappy with the Segwit2x initiative. On 1 August, they offered investors a Bitcoin Cash token to match every original Bitcoin token they owned. The move created an incompatible version of the blockchain ledger, which keeps track of past transactions. The initiative had the potential to undermine the original Bitcoin, particularly if many miners had jumped ship. Miners provide the computer processing power to authorise transactions, and Bitcoin Cash was designed to appeal to their interests. However, it currently remains more profitable to mine the original Bitcoin's blockchain than that of Bitcoin Cash, and support for the new crypto-currency remains limited. "What this has shown is that Bitcoin is much more resilient to forks than some people thought," commented Michael Parsons, a blockchain adviser. "And it appears that there is room for more than one type of Bitcoin to exist." Another market watcher suggested that the introduction of Bitcoin Cash had actually contributed to the surge in the original version's value. "We've seen a lot of people selling their Bitcoin Cash in order to buy more Bitcoin," said Matthew Newton, market analyst at the eToro trading platform. "On top of this, some investors sat on the sidelines last week, waiting to see what happened, these investors are now moving back into Bitcoin." The total market capitalisation for all crypto-currencies - including Ethereum and Litecoin - was close to \$118bn on Monday at 14:40 BST, according to CoinMarketCap. <http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-40848505>

[2016-08-09] news.bitcoin.com-Australia's Postal Service Reveals 3 Blockchain...

Australia's Postal Service Reveals 3 Blockchain Use-Cases
Announcing the news at the Technology in Government conference, Rick Wingfield, an Australia Post Accelerator partner, described three potential use cases that could help evolve the postal industry after disclosing earlier this year that it had been researching blockchain technology. The three use-cases include identity, e-voting, and registries. In addition, Wingfield acknowledged ongoing experimentation with distributed ledger protocol as part of the R&D effort. The Australia Post Accelerator partner believes this technology can improve government by implementing digital identity technologies. [READ MORE >>>](https://news.bitcoin.com/australia-postal-3-blockchain-use-cases/)
<https://news.bitcoin.com/australia-postal-3-blockchain-use-cases/>

[2016-05-24] Head of Sberbank: Bitcoin ban to provoke brain drain in Russia

Head of Sberbank: Bitcoin ban to provoke brain drain in Russia
Herman Gref, the former minister of Economic Development and the president of Russia's largest bank, predicts mass migration of IT specialists abroad if the "bitcoin ban bill" will be passed.
<http://www.coinfox.info/news/5539-head-of-biggest-russian-bank-bitcoin-ban-will-lead-to-outflow-of-specialists-from-russia>

[2016-01-14] Digital Currency Group purchases CoinDesk

Digital Currency Group purchases CoinDesk
The investment company DCG (Digital Currency Group) run by Barry Silbert has acquired the cryptocurrency media CoinDesk, as stated by the company in the announcement.
<http://www.coinfox.info/news/4411-digital-currency-group-purchases-coindesk>

[2016-01-13] Visa Checkout Will Never Match Bitcoin Shopping Discounts

It is no secret that Visa and Mastercard will do everything they can to keep a firm grip on the payments industry all over the world. Credit cards are one of the most often used payment methods, even though the medium is not all that secure. Visa's new project, called Visa Checkout, is getting a lot of attention from established brands who focus on online and mobile commerce.
<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/01/13/visa-checkout-will-never-match-bitcoin-shopping-discounts/>

[2017-11-24] Deutsche Bank Chief Strategist doesn't recommend to invest in BTC

Institutional investors are not trusting Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies, sometimes even telling this is not a real currency. While the latest person who speaks out on the theme, Ulrich Stephan from Deutsche Bank, does not call Bitcoin a fraud and does not question its right to be an investment opportunity, he also does not recommend investors to put their money into it. There is too much volatility on cryptocurrency market, stressed the Chief Strategist of the aforementioned bank. Interestingly enough, another member of the same financial establishment reportedly predicted the end of the fiat money era. As he...[Read more](#)

[2016-08-09] Stratis Blockchain Solutions to Officially Launch On August 9

Stratis Blockchain Solutions to Officially Launch On August 9The new Blockchain-as-a-service platform, Stratis, will launch tomorrow 14 days after of the Initial Coin Offering period. The project gathered 915 Bitcoin (around \$60k worth at the end of the ICO period) in exchange for 84 million STRAT tokens (85.7% of the 98 million total supply) making each token worth 1089 Satoshi or \$0.01...<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/08/08/stratis-blockchain-solutions-officially-launch-august-9/>

[2016-08-09] newsbtc.com-Bitcoin Price Watch; Scalp Trades For Today

Bitcoin Price Watch; Scalp Trades For TodayIt's Tuesday morning, and time to take the first of our twice daily looks at the bitcoin price. Yesterday we got chopped out on a false breakout, but overnight we managed to draw a small profit from the markets on a scalp trade on the short side. Today we are going to attempt to replicate our overnight success with a similar strategy. Specifically, outline a relatively tight range and look to get in on a short term scalp trade if price closes outside of the range, with a position in line with the direction of the break. Often we'll witter on a bit here about previous action, but today, let's get right down to it.<http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/08/09/bitcoin-price-watch-scalp-trades-today/>

[2016-08-09] USMS to auction off 2,700 bitcoins on August 22

The US Marshals Service (USMS) is inviting interested parties to register for an auction of 2,700 bitcoins (approximately \$1.6 million) to be held soon.According to the official announcement, the bitcoins were forfeited in various federal criminal, civil and administrative cases, including former federal agent Carl Force IV, Silk Road mastermind Ross Ulbricht, along with bitcoins confiscated by the Internal Revenue Service, the US Department of Homeland Security, the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco, and others.<http://www.econotimes.com/USMS-to-auction-off-2700-bitcoins-on-August-22-250023>

[2017-08-04] BTC-e fiat accounts arrested

Yesterday, on August 3, the BTC-e exchange published a new post on the BitcoinTalk forum. Representatives of the service notified about arrest of the fiat funds processed through the company Mayzus Financial Services Ltd:"We reaffirm that fundamental fiat flow enters the service via Mayzus Financial Services Ltd and at the moment they are arrested."Read more <https://bit.news/eng/btc-e-fiat-accounts-arrested/>

[2018-07-31] Bitcoin's Second-Ever Developer Is Back (With a Big Vision for...

Bitcoin's Second-Ever Developer Is Back (With a Big Vision for Crypto)There are early adopters, then there are early early adopters.Revealed exclusively to CoinDesk, the first coder to work alongside bitcoin's pseudonymous creator Satoshi Nakamoto, Martti 'Sirius' Malmi, is joining a team of developers launching a new cryptocurrency called AXE. The project, which is combining Malmi's Identifi online reputation system with decentralized database system GUN, is taking on the long-desired mission of decentralizing the Web.And Malmi's history in the cryptocurrency space should pique the interest of plenty of enthusiasts.An amateur college developer in 2009, Malmi played a crucial role in bitcoin's early days as the only active developer working alongside Satoshi – and even striking up a bit of a friendship. He earned Satoshi's trust enough to be given admin access to the website Bitcoin.org, and most of the changes in bitcoin's second code release are attributed to him.But a couple years in, Malmi followed Satoshi's lead and left the project, thinking

bitcoin didn't really need him anymore."I felt like bitcoin had already gone from zero to one, so to say. It was already up and running with a growing community and had lots of great developers working on it," he told CoinDesk. In 2014, then, he started Identifi, with a decentralized architecture that didn't include a cryptocurrency at first. But as he built – with his eyes on reducing the control web companies like Google and Facebook have – he decided something else was needed that hadn't been tried before and that a crypto token could incentivize its use. Malmi told CoinDesk: "Most of the giant online businesses, such as Google, Facebook, eBay or Airbnb are basically centralized indexes – searchable lists of stuff. If we want to disrupt them, we need decentralized indexing." And that's where GUN, which has been in the works since 2014 as well, comes in. Read More: <https://www.coindesk.com/bitcoins-second-developer-returning-crypto/>

[2017-08-04] Trader Loses \$430K at BTC-e: 'Nothing Illegal Tied to My Funds'

This week news.Bitcoin.com spoke with Jack Kingston, a cryptocurrency trader from Melbourne, Australia, who lost \$430,000 USD worth of bitcoins at the exchange BTC-e. Mr. Kingston was quite surprised when he tried to log in one day, and the exchange was "under maintenance." However, the Australian trader was even more astonished to find out the U.S. government painted all of the platform's users as criminals and took his money. "Yes a shitload of money, \$430K USD. I'm not in the position of where I am struggling and such, but that's neither here nor there." Read More Here >>> <https://news.bitcoin.com/australian-trader-loses-430k-at-btc-e-nothing-illegal-tied-to-my-funds/>

[2016-08-08] coindesk : Bitcoin 'Hacker Residency' to Launch in New York

A bitcoin development training program will launch in New York City this September to teach new developers the basics of the protocol. While bitcoin might not be the easiest software to master today, bitcoin R&D group Chaincode Labs believes it can help mitigate this issue by giving developers an option to learn in an environment that is more supportive and interactive than current online materials can offer. Set the firm's headquarters in New York, the four-week "hacker residency" program aims to give developers an opportunity to work on projects that pique their interest starting 12th September. Notably, bitcoin developer and Blockstream co-founder Matt Corallo will take a leave of absence from his startup as part of a bid to support the effort. <http://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-hacker-residency-new-york/>

[2018-07-28] Only 2% of US Investors Own Bitcoin, But 26% Are 'Intrigued'

New Gallup Poll Shows Only 2% of US Investors Own Bitcoin, But 26% Are 'Intrigued' The results of a Wells Fargo/Gallup poll published July 27 finds that only two percent of U.S. investors own Bitcoin, but 26 percent are intrigued by it. The online survey was conducted May 7-14, 2018 amongst U.S. investors with more than \$10,000 in stocks, bonds or mutual funds. The results show that the overwhelming majority of investors who have already heard of Bitcoin will not be investing in the leading cryptocurrency any time soon, with 72 percent saying they "have no interest in ever buying Bitcoin." According to the data from the poll, even though 96 percent of investors had heard of Bitcoin, "only about three in 10 investors (29%) say they know something about digital currencies," with 67 percent saying they have heard of them but don't know much about them. More here, <https://cointelegraph.com/news/new-gallup-poll-shows-only-2-of-us-investors-own-bitcoin-but-26-are-intrigued>

[2018-03-01] Kosher Factor, The most secure way to authenticate users

Kosher Factor is revolutionizing the way people log in to their different accounts on the internet. Kosher factor authentication (KFA) is the latest technology that is revolutionizing the way people log in to their various bank accounts, email accounts, social media accounts, online stores or other websites. This new way of authentication will eliminate the need to remember multiple user ID's and passwords for various online accounts and also ensure utmost security and privacy of the accounts. Once implemented fully, there will be no need for the users to worry about losing their phone and getting locked out of their accounts or no worries about being hacked. Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/3677125>

[2016-01-13] Smart Fabrics Can Take Bitcoin Payments To Mainstream Consumers

Determining the future of payments will not be an easy feat, even though various companies around the world are trying to come up with new and attractive payment options. Wearables have been considered to be the next logical step in the evolution of contactless payments for quite some time now. But what if smart fabrics are proving to be a better alternative? Integrating payments into smart fabrics could be a major challenge

though. <http://bitcoinist.net/smart-fabrics-can-take-bitcoin-payments-to-mainstream-consumers/>

[2017-08-02] Singapore's Central Bank Says ICOs May Be Regulated as Securities

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has announced that it would regulate the issuance of digital tokens or initial coin offerings (ICOs) and that they could fall under the Securities and Futures Act. The country's central bank's decision to clarify its position regarding ICOs comes at a time when Singapore is experiencing an increase in the number of token sales as a means of raising funds. It also follows closely behind the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) stance that ICOs must be regulated. In an announcement MAS said: "MAS' position of not regulating virtual currencies is similar to that of most jurisdictions. However, MAS has observed that the function of digital tokens has evolved beyond just being a virtual currency. For example, digital tokens may represent ownership or a security interest over an issuer's assets or property. Such tokens may therefore be considered an offer of shares or units in a collective investment scheme under the SFA. Digital tokens may also represent a debt owed by an issuer and be considered a debenture under the SFA." MAS further noted that should a digital token fall under the definition of securities with the SFA, the issuers of the tokens would first need to lodge and register a 'prospectus with MAS prior to the offer of such tokens, unless exempted.' Mr David Lee, Professor of Fintech and Blockchain at Singapore University of Social Sciences, said to Today Online: "It is a timely reminder for those dealing with digital tokens not to allow for the possibility of money laundering and terrorist financing." With global ICOs generating around \$1.3 billion in the first six months of 2017 they are helping to solve a lot of problems within the startup scene; however, as Lee states there are still scams taking place among them. "Unless the public understand the technology or complexity, they should not be involved with initial coin offerings, token sales or cryptocurrency." <https://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/singapores-central-bank-says-icos-may-be-regulated-as-securities/>

[2018-07-20] Samsung Stores in the Baltic States Now Accept Cryptocurrencies

On Friday, Samsung stores in the Baltic States have announced they will be accepting seven

different cryptocurrencies for merchandise. Through a partnership with the payment processing firm Coppel, customers shopping at the Samsung stores in Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, and Kaunas will be able to pay with BTC, ETH, DASH, NEM, STEEM, XRP, and LTC. Samsung Stores in Three Baltic States Accept Cryptocurrencies The platform Coppel is a European fintech firm that offers payment gateways for cryptocurrency paying customers throughout 31 merchant locations. Now the company has announced that Samsung is truly embracing its slogan to "Turn on Future" by accepting seven different cryptocurrencies. The digital currencies the Samsung stores will be accepting for payments include bitcoin core (BTC), dash (DASH), NEM (XEM), steem (STEEM), ripple (XRP), litecoin (LTC), and ethereum (ETH). "Customers in Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, and Kaunas can buy Samsung smartphones, tablets, laptops, TV-sets, and more with digital money," explains Coppel's announcement. There is a growing trend toward business digitalization and allowing customers to pay for goods and services in cryptocurrency, whether at global retailers or local restaurants.

Read more:

<https://news.bitcoin.com/samsung-stores-in-the-baltic-states-now-accept-cryptocurrencies/>

[2016-01-12] The Size of the Bitcoin Blockchain Data Files Has Reached 60GB

The Size of the Bitcoin Blockchain Data Files Has Reached 60GB The size of the Bitcoin Blockchain data reports continuously rise quickly attacking 60 GB currently, up with 10 Gigabytes for a little bit much less compared to three and a half months when it was nearly 50GB as well as up with about 20 GB for the last about 7 months and most likely increasing in size in the last 1 year.

<http://cryptomining-blog.com/6397-the-size-of-the-bitcoin-blockchain-data-files-has-reached-60gb/>

[2017-01-19] China company invest 300mil to build world's first blockchain farm

Zhongnan Construction (SZ:000961) announced that the company plans to contribute 297 million yuan (~43 million USD) to set up Zhongnan Construction Blockchain Agricultural Company in Shenzhen. Along with Beidahuang (SH:600598), the new branch company will set up a joint company to build a agricultural product trading platform and financial platform on the basis of the agricultural data, and establishes a supply and certification traceability system based on blockchain technology for agricultural products. The Zhongnan Company invest 299.99 million yuan, holding 80% stake in the joint company, while Beidahuang invest 1 yuan to hold 20%

shares. <http://news.8btc.com/china-company-to-build-worlds-first-blockchain-farm-with-iot-data>

[2016-01-12] Banks Would Prefer Blockchain over Apple Pay, Study Reveals

Banks Would Prefer Blockchain over Apple Pay, Study Reveals The increasing competition in the finance sector has pressured banks, financial institutions and existing payment networks to re-consider the threat of emerging innovative financial technologies such as Bitcoin and its underlying technology, the blockchain

technology. <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/01/12/banks-would-prefer-blockchain-over-apple-pay-study-reveals/>

[2017-11-21] Port of San Francisco and BITCOIN

Emerson is supposed to have said, "If you build a better mousetrap the world will beat a path to your

door." He didn't – the statement is actually the conflation of several things he wrote. Nevertheless, it's an axiom that's come to symbolize the power of innovation to change the lives of man and make people rich. This is especially true where the development and commercialization of the internet is concerned. The changes it has produced rival, in terms of magnitude and the speed with which they occurred, any mankind has previously experienced. One of the biggest has been the rise of digital currency as a medium of exchange. Up to now the greatest challenge to the full adoption of what are technically called cryptocurrencies has been their widespread adoption by terrorist groups, drug dealers, human traffickers, ransomware extortionists and others who operate in the underground economy. It's proven useful as a way to hide profits and illicit commercial activities from the prying eyes of governments around the world. That may all change, and soon. The Port of San Francisco, like many international ports and transportation hubs, is considering using digital currencies in its payment structures because it sees them as the wave of the future. Thanks to Marcus Andrade, who met with the port's leaders in early September, it may soon be able to. Andrade is the software entrepreneur behind AML Bitcoin. He and port officials are currently in discussions looking for ways the port could utilize digital currency as a means of payment free from the taint of abuse and criminality historically attached to the concept. In his system – where the AML stands for Anti-Money Laundering – the digital dollars comply with standards used by the American banking community as set forth in The Patriot Act to keep terrorists and other criminals from using the global financial system to fund their misdeeds. "Digital currency creates economic and social possibilities that were not even imaginable 15 years ago," Andrade tells me. "In the same way that the internet brings boundless opportunity to the remote corners of the earth, digital currency affords every person the chance to participate in the global economy, if they so choose. With AML Bitcoin, digital currency can now engage in mainstream commerce, taking its rightful place among traditional payment options." Bitcoin Has a Ransom Problem If bad actors keep demanding payment in bitcoin, its appeal could plummet. The other digital currencies, Bitcoin in particular, rely on their anonymity as a marketing feature. That's fine for the wild west days of digital currencies as they are now – and when the price of Bitcoin and other "alternative currencies" (alt-coins), such as Ethereum and Litecoin rise and fall wildly – but that doesn't allow for widespread legitimate use. For the concept to move in the mainstream, it will have to be transparent enough that it becomes a stable store of value in addition to being something criminals elements can no longer use to finance their operations. As the use of digital currency becomes common in both private sector commerce and by governments, which will accept it as a medium of exchange, the anonymous feature will be the downfall of any currently in use. AML Bitcoin, which launches publicly on Oct. 1, 2017, has attracted intense governmental interest precisely because it is unlike the others currently in use. "San Francisco is a very tech-forward thinking city and at the port we will certainly explore all opportunities to effectively use cutting-edge technologies. We anticipate evaluating new cryptocurrencies that are AML compliant as presenting potential opportunities that would benefit the Port and its customers," said Leslie Katz, a prominent San Francisco attorney who is also the port's commissioner. Katz and other port commissioners need to be vigilant about security and concerned with preventing criminal activity. The anonymous nature of digital currencies – particularly their lack of banking security compliance – has generally left them hesitant to move towards adopting them. Andrade's anti-money laundering technology may be the bridge that overcomes the gap. If Port of San Francisco adopts AML Bitcoin as a payment method it would be a big step toward legitimizing digital currency. San Francisco is, along with Los Angeles/Long Beach, San Diego, Oakland and Seattle-Tacoma, on the front line in protecting the western United States from terrorism. As international ports that can be serviced by ships from any part of the globe, they have to be constantly on the watch. Big Data Needs Bigger Security The Equifax breach shows why data companies must be held accountable. Andrade, who has been in contact with the heads of other ports on the west coast, believes they all will become enthusiastic adopters of AML Bitcoin. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security would likely have an interest in it as well, given the innovations it brings to digital currency technology. The issue is moving faster than Andrade or anyone else may suspect. Several members of Congress are looking at the possibility of drafting legislation to allow a wider use of digital currencies in day to day corporate transactions if they meet existing banking

standards as AML Bitcoin does. Japheth Dillman, a tech-industry insider and investor who's advising Andrade, believes the change in technology, which should have been predictable, will revolutionize the digital currency world."In the tech industry parlance: Bitcoin is Napster, AML Bitcoin is Spotify," Dillman said. "Just as Spotify and similar sites now provide the vast majority of music lovers who don't want to operate outside of the law with a legal way to access music, AML Bitcoin will at least offer the tens of millions of people around the globe with a chance to utilize digital currency without running afoul of the banking laws."Bringing digital currency in line with anti-money laundering and know your customer laws and other banking regulations will likely be the bridge across the gap separating what we think of as "money" with the bits and bytes that change hands – really change servers – over the internet. If AML Bitcoin and other currencies like it yet to be developed produce greater acceptance of the concept, the blockchain technology underlying their innovative algorithms could, some experts think, transform industries more rapidly and thoroughly than anything since the advent of the

computer.<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/thomas-jefferson-street/articles/2017-09-12/the-future-of-cryptocurrency-may-be-now-thanks-to-more-mainstream-bitcoin>www.amlbitcoin.comwww.amltoken.com

[2016-08-06] Should You Put Your Bitcoin in...a Bank?

As Bitfinex, the digital-currency exchange that suffered a hack this past week, struggles to reopen, a wider question is again being asked about bitcoin: Is it really a better mousetrap?On Tuesday, cyberthieves stole about 200,000 bitcoins, valued at roughly \$65 million, from Hong Kong-based Bitfinex's digital vaults. It was one of the largest hacks in the currency's history.<http://www.wsj.com/articles/should-you-put-your-bitcoin-in-a-bank-1470422031>

[2017-11-20] Bitcoin to Litecoin Atomic Swap to Address Centralisation Issues?

The creator of Litecoin, Charlie Lee, had this to say about the exciting collaboration: "Think of it as being two highways. Today, Bitcoin is packed full of cars and Litecoin is empty. Even with Bitcoin packed, the cars are not coming to use the Litecoin highway today because it's not connected and it's inconvenient (centralised exchanges and slow on-chain transfers) to go across. LN will build bridges over the highways."Full Article:

<https://coinblip.com/blog/bitcoin-litecoin-atomic-swap-address-centralisation-issues/>

[2016-01-12] Netflix to Embrace Bitcoin?

In yet another potentially positive development for the cryptocurrency Bitcoin, Netflix CFO David Wells announced that streaming giant has at least considered Bitcoin integration as a possibility in the future.Speaking on the various issues faced by Netflix as it widens its global reach and makes inroads into Latin America and Europe, Wells stated that he believes Bitcoin could be a solution to some of those problems.<http://www.streetwisejournal.com/netflix-to-embrace-bitcoin/>

[2018-07-19] Eastern Europe: Regulation Postponed, Tax Abandoned, Banks Enlichte

Eastern European nations have been following closely regulatory developments in the West to better understand where the wind is blowing before addressing the challenges presented by cryptocurrencies. This strategy has proved fruitless, however, as developed western countries, and

international organizations, have not been able to come up with a unified approach towards regulating the crypto space. The weightlessness goes on. Russia Postpones Crypto Regulation The adoption of the legislation meant to regulate the crypto industry in Russia has been delayed, despite President Putin's July deadline for the legal framework. In the past weeks, Russian outlets have quoted officials expressing concerns that the draft laws introduced in the State Duma in March won't be approved during the spring session. The three bills adopted on first reading in May were expected to pass a second vote before the parliament's summer break. According to Elina Sidorenko, head of the interdepartmental group assessing the risks associated with cryptocurrencies, the laws will be finalized after the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) develops its standards in the field, as news.Bitcoin.com reported. The news that the legislation will be postponed until the fall was confirmed by the chairman of the parliamentary Financial Market Committee, Anatoly Aksakov, who was quoted by RIA Novosti saying: "We don't have time during the spring session [...]. The technology is rather complicated, it is largely transboundary. So, taking into account its characteristics, we wouldn't like to write down norms that wouldn't work. The documents will be ready by early fall. We expect the second and third reading in September." "All this is just new for us and requires deep immersion into the features of this new technology and these new tools. Accordingly, time is needed to produce competent legal documents," the Russian lawmaker added. As a result, the legal status of cryptocurrencies, mining, and crowdfunding in Russia remains undetermined. Bulgaria's Financial Regulator to Monitor the Crypto Sector Bulgaria, one of those EU member-states that await a pan-European decision on cryptocurrencies, has not made any significant progress towards regulating the crypto space, if we don't count a clarification notice on crypto taxation issued by the National Revenue Service some time ago. However, the recent activity in Brussels, including the adoption of the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive which entered into force last week, has provided enough stimulus for authorities in Sofia to do something. The Bulgarian Financial Supervision Commission (FSC) adopted a "Strategy to Monitor Financial Technologies (Fintech) in the Non-Banking Financial Sector" (2018 – 2020). The document provides basic definitions of terms like crypto-assets, virtual currency, smart contract, blockchain technology, initial coin offering, and other. The paper also calls for defining the requirements for a licensing or registration regime for companies offering "financially innovative products, services, and technologies," and analyzes the need for regulations governing the outsourcing activities in the industry. The strategy speaks about setting up innovation hubs and sandboxes, as well as introducing mechanisms to manage the risks arising from innovations in the nonbanking sector. See more - <https://news.bitcoin.com/eastern-europe-regulation-postponed-tax-abandoned-banks-enlightened/>

[2018-07-20] Ethereum's Most Heated Tech Debate Is Proving It's Far From Over

Ethereum's most polarizing debate is back – and, arguably, as complex as ever. Largely undiscussed since April, the question of whether the world's second-largest blockchain would consider a system-wide software upgrade as a way to return \$239 million lost due to a mishap at a major startup resurfaced with a new round of infighting among stakeholders this week. Sparked in the days prior to a meeting in Berlin meant to address decision-making challenges on the decentralized network, the issue revolves around a code proposal called ethereum improvement proposal (EIP) 999 and the specific way in which it has been reviewed. At issue is not just how ethereum developers will handle this contentious code change, but those that may arise in the future as the platform grows and expands. Still, this week's events began on a smaller scale, with the planned meeting of the Council of Ethereum Magicians, a developer group launched in early 2018 as a forum for discussion on how ethereum should handle technical updates and code disputes. Following the discussion Saturday, Afri Schoedon, communications manager at Parity Technologies, the startup whose code snafu caused the widely publicized fund freeze, suggested a change to EIP 999 – a proposal that seeks to reactivate the 584 wallets in which much of the lost

funds remain. A relatively minor suggestion, Schoedon asked to advance EIP 999 within the parameters of ethereum's process for code review. Due to what he perceived as a lack of technical objections to the proposal, he inferred it should be set to "accepted" status. But the move had wider repercussions, with sometimes vitriolic debate surfacing on Twitter, Github and Reddit. The reaction was swift, with those against the code even proposing a rival pull request to move the proposal to the "rejected" state. "I wish people would stop using the EIPs repository for political grandstanding," core developer Nick Johnson tweeted. The move has sparked a heated reaction from those who don't want to see the funds restored out of fear these requests will become too commonplace. As the rationale goes, if ethereum users and developers are able to act like market managers, how are they different from today's central monetary authorities? "The Parity bailout EIP was just stealth 'accepted' by the Ethereum Foundation despite community rejection. Apparently the community found out and now the pull request has been closed," one observer tweeted: "Ethereum is completely centralized." Backtracking the code But if the implications of the move have been lasting, the inciting incident was arguably brief. Schoedon has since asked for the pull request to be closed, stating that his actions stemmed from a misunderstanding of how others believe the EIP process should be conducted (the subtleties of which are still being debated). Complicating matters was that Schoedon, who initiated the pull request to move the proposal to "accepted," is also the author of EIP 999. More broadly, however, the issue appears to have exacerbated the very problems that many ethereum developers have acknowledged for some time – despite attempts to coordinate in person, digital communications hold the potential to vastly polarize users. On top of this, there are concerns that, on the internet, competing projects could deliberately add fire to the controversy, swarming social media with fake accounts to create the illusion of outrage. In an effort to ease the impact this could have on core developers tasked with accepting code changes, the controversy has forced developers to consider how to clarify the EIP process, the formal way by which code changes are organized in the ethereum repository. One user summarized: "EIP 999 is a great example of stalled governance and it just won't go away, and it is consuming every discussion to the point of exhaustion." See more:

<https://www.coindesk.com/ethereums-most-heated-tech-debate-is-proving-its-far-from-over/>

[2018-02-28] Taiwan's New Central Bank Chief Talks Blockchain for Payments

Taiwan's incoming central bank chief has revealed the bank will explore blockchain applications in its operations including payments. Speaking this week during a ceremonial swear-in, Taiwan's new central bank governor Yang Chin-long said the authority will embrace new technologies while proactively researching and adopting innovations in artificial intelligence (AI), big data and blockchain technology. Yang, 64, who previously served as an economic researcher at the central bank in the 90s, pointed to the lack of impact by financial technologies on Taiwan's policies despite their rapid advent globally in recent years. Future developments, however, could restructure the entire financial industry and the country's currency policy. The central bank will adopt "an open mind to accept new ideas", the new central bank chief added, specifically pointing to three technologies in big data, AI and artificial intelligence. The first two would enable the bank to analyze and effectively determine patterns in Taiwan's economic and financial conditions, he said. In roughly translated statements on blockchain technology, he notably added: "The Bank will also try to explore the feasibility of enhancing the security and efficiency of payments systems using decentralized blockchain technology." The remarks represent the first known instance of Taiwan's central bank foraying into exploring blockchain technology. Like other endeavors by global counterparts elsewhere, it's significant that the decentralized tech is particularly earmarked for supporting a core banking process in payments. Furthermore, Taiwan will look to embrace cryptocurrencies and ICOs in a move to foster and aid their development in the country, according to Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission chairman Wellington Koo. In a session addressing Taiwan's parliament in October, the financial regulator called on the government to emulate the likes of Japan, where

cryptocurrency exchanges operate with licenses, rather than China and South Korea where crypto exchanges and ICOs are effectively banned, respectively. More recently, Taiwan's vice premier urged the government to introduce a framework for the cryptocurrency sector, stating their impact should not be under-estimated. <https://www.ccn.com/taiwans-new-central-bank-chief-talks-blockchain-payments/>

[2018-02-27] Steve Wozniak 'Loses 7 BTC' In Unlikely Credit Card Fraud

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak allegedly lost seven bitcoins to fraudsters using a stolen credit card, the India Economic Times reported Monday, Feb. 26. The tech veteran was speaking at the Global Business Summit 2018 in New Delhi when India Economic Times reported him admitting to the audience he had lost the funds - seven bitcoins to be exact - now worth about \$75,000. "I had seven bitcoins stolen from me through fraud. Somebody bought them from me online through a credit card and they cancelled the credit card payment. It was that easy!" the publication quotes him as saying. "And it was from a stolen credit card number so you can never get it back." Despite multiple publications subsequently picking up on the story, Wozniak has yet to confirm more information about the theft, and the unusual circumstances surrounding the loss. The trade appeared to have closed with Wozniak sending the bitcoins before receiving the fiat funds - something p2p cryptocurrency trading platforms such as Localbitcoins firmly warn users against doing. It remains unclear whether Localbitcoins or other major platform was used for the trade, and whether an escrow feature - that would have prevented the possibility of credit card fraud - was available. Nonetheless, the weak link allowing the fraud to be successful appears to lie either in the susceptibility of credit card data to fraud or human error in sending bitcoins without confirmation of funds receipt. Consumer complaints surrounding cryptocurrency "scams" have increased markedly over the past year, even involving Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin, Cointelegraph reported this month, yet a lack of diligence on the consumers' part remains palpable. <https://cointelegraph.com/news/steve-wozniak-loses-7-btc-in-unlikely-credit-card-fraud>

[2017-01-12] Why China's central bank fears bitcoin

It seems like Yahoo Finance is out of topics to cover. "It was only one week ago that the price of the digital currency bitcoin hit a new all-time high of \$1,130. Now the price has fallen precipitously, and was hovering around \$800 on Thursday afternoon. The reason is China. The People's Bank of China (PBOC) said on Wednesday that it plans regular on-site inspections of the leading Chinese bitcoin exchanges, including BTCChina, Huobi, and OKCoin." Read more here <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/why-chinas-central-bank-fears-bitcoin-192321568.html>

[2017-01-12] China's Central Bank to Conduct Ongoing Bitcoin Exchange Visits

The People's Bank of China (PBoC) is moving to more closely monitor (or otherwise engage) with domestic bitcoin exchange businesses. Just days after it was revealed the PBoC's Beijing and Shanghai offices had visited the country's three largest exchanges by volume, the central bank said today that it is pledging to better engage with BTCC, Huobi and OKCoin through continued on-site inspections or meetings. Discussed at new meetings, according to releases by its Beijing and Shanghai offices, were topics including compliance (anti-money laundering and foreign exchange management). "The checks focused on whether the firm was operating out of its business scope, whether it was launching unauthorized financing, payment, forex business or other related businesses, whether it was involved in market manipulation, anti-money laundering or (carried) fund security risks," a translation provided by Reuters states. BTCC CEO Bobby Lee confirmed the

meeting to CoinDesk, stating that the PBoC requested data on its operations as well as recommendations on how the government might move to regulate bitcoin exchange operations. However, Lee stressed that the on-site visitations are "very common" for businesses in China and continued to express an optimism about the engagement, which he framed as a long-delayed request from local businesses. "We're now working closely with the government about what makes a healthy market," he said, adding: "We've been trying to get their attention years." Assessing the impact Yet, the exchange also moved formally to stem the reaction to the news. BTCC sought to discourage the speculation that has sometimes followed the PBoC's engagement with bitcoin businesses. "We urge our customers to take a rational and cautious view to news articles which speculate on the visit and discussions," the exchange said. Elsewhere, it seems the meetings continue to be limited to bitcoin exchange businesses, as companies using the protocol (Circle China) and over-the-counter trading facilities (Richfund) indicated they have not engaged with the PBoC. Representatives from OKCoin and Huobi could not be reached at press time.

[2016-08-04] Bitcoin Price Regains Ground as Traders Brace for Bitfinex News

coindesk-bpi-chart (39) Following a 20% decline in the price of bitcoin this week, uncertainty continues to cast a shadow on broader market activity. Bitcoin prices fell to a low of \$480 on Tuesday amidst news Hong Kong exchange Bitfinex had lost nearly 120,000 BTC in a high-profile hack. But while the price has recovered to \$580 at press time, the \$68m loss and the subsequent shutdown of the exchange has sent shockwaves throughout the industry. Days after Bitfinex first halted trading, much about the path forward for the company remains unknown, including whether it will be able to reimburse investors who lost funds in the incident. All of this is creating a difficult market for traders, according to Petar Zivkovski, director of operations for bitcoin trading platform Whaleclub. <http://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-price-regains-market-will-bitfinex-close/>

[2016-05-20] Deep Web LSD Purchases With Bitcoin Get ESU Student Arrested

Drug dealers are getting more prolific in ensuring their shipments are not held by customers or postal facilities. Fun Stuff LLC out of Hawaii sent the LSD to Mancini in the form of collector cards, which have a perforated paper in the midst where the substance is stored. All of the shipments were made to Mancini's dorm room on the ESU premises. <http://bitcoinist.net/deep-web-lsd-purchases-with-bitcoin-get-esu-student-arrested/>

[2018-07-18] DBitcoin Mining Firms Make Chinese Unicorns List for First Time

Three bitcoin mining companies have joined a list of "unicorns" – private companies valued at over \$1 billion – for the first time. The Shanghai-based Hurun Research Institute published its Q2 Unicorn Index for the Greater China region on Wednesday, which notably included the names of several major bitcoin mining firms: Bitmain, Canaan Creative and Ebang. The third Hurun list of 130 Chinese unicorns has never before featured a fully cryptocurrency-focused firm. Ranking highest of the three, Bitmain appears at 13th on the list with a valuation of around 70 billion yuan, or about \$10.4 billion, close to other notable companies such as JD Logistics. The ranking follows recent news indicating that Bitmain has completed a Series B round funding that could value the firm around \$10 billion ahead of a potential initial public offering (IPO). Meanwhile, Hurun values Canaan and Ebang at around \$3 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively – figures that saw the firms placed at 32nd and

53rd on the list, also respectively. Recent reports have indicated that Canaan and Ebang too have both filed applications to go public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. However, since the IPO applications were in initial draft form, it is unclear how much the two were seeking to raise or what their valuations might be. According to a previous report from Reuters, in mid-2017, Canaan was estimated to be worth around \$500 million. While the three are the first fully devoted bitcoin firms to appear on the Greater China Unicorn Index, some of the companies already on the list have already made major moves in the blockchain industry. For instance, Ant Financial – a payment affiliate of Alibaba that tops the list with a valuation of \$149 billion – announced late last month that it has launched a blockchain-powered payment corridor between Hong Kong and the Philippines. Further, OneConnect – a fintech development arm of Chinese insurance giant PingAn and valued at \$7.4 billion – has helped the Hong Kong Monetary Authority engineer a blockchain trade finance platform that is set to go live by September. via:

<https://www.coindesk.com/bitcoin-mining-firms-make-chinese-unicorns-list-for-first-time/>

[2017-11-1] BitCoin is sent to space with your photo ;)

Company "Life 2 Relax Project" After 3 months BitCoin will be sent to space with your photo. Wonderfully came up with: <http://l2rx.com>

[2016-08-04] BitSpark Officially Partners With Asian Ecommerce MLM Vitaxel Group

BitSpark Officially Partners With Asian Ecommerce MLM Vitaxel Group Fintech and Bitcoin startup BitSpark, based in Hong Kong, has partnered with Vitaxel Group. As part of this new agreement, the Bitcoin company will start offering its remittance services in Malaysia over the coming weeks. This news comes on the heels of the Malaysian government deciding to take a less strict stance on Fintechs and Bitcoin startups in the region... <http://www.newsbtc.com/2016/08/04/bitspark-officially-partners-with-asian-ecommerce-mlm-vitaxel-group/>

[2017-07-26] Bitcoin Cash, A True Scaling Solution for Bitcoin ?

<https://btc.ng/altcoin/1649/The Bitcoin fork nears as August 1 approaches, and while we have discussed the consolidation of BIP91, the scenario of a hard fork remains a possibility and the developers/backers of Bitcoin Cash have released a solution to allow serve as a successor to Bitcoin.>

[2016-5-19] popsci.com | HOW GOOGLE'S NEW A.I. MICROCHIPS TAKE A PAGE FROM BITCOIN

HOW GOOGLE'S NEW A.I. MICROCHIPS TAKE A PAGE FROM BITCOIN MINERS! LOW POWER SPECIALIZATION, BUT LOTS OF QUESTIONS REMAIN... <http://www.popsci.com/how-googles-new-chips-take-page-from-bitcoin-miners>

[2017-01-03] DCE Brief - Dutch Prosecutors Focusing on Bitcoin Money Laundering

Dutch Prosecutors Focusing on Bitcoin Money

[2017-11-17] American Investors to “HODL” Bitcoin Until Price Hits \$196,000

QuoteLendEdu commissioned a survey in November 2017 of 564 Americans who had invested in Bitcoin. This survey focused on American Bitcoin investors and their sentiments. In 2015, 65% of Americans surveyed didn't know what Bitcoin was. The questions asked in the survey ranged from their reasons for investing in Bitcoin to when they would sell all their Bitcoins. The average price at which the survey respondents said that they will sell all their Bitcoins is \$196,166 per Bitcoin. This represents 30x the value of Bitcoin prevailing at the time of the survey. It is to be noted that this is the price at which the respondents will sell all their Bitcoins. Almost a third (32.62%) have sold some of their Bitcoins since they started investing. Most of the respondents plan to hold their Bitcoins at least one year, with only 16.49% planning to sell sooner than that. According to the survey, 21% of Bitcoin investors plan to hold on to their coins for at least seven years, and 11.7% say they will hold the currency for 10 years or longer. More here...It is actually safe to say that this is the same sentiment on this forum and elsewhere and this is the reason why Bitcoin has become like the speculative tool more than being a currency. And since we all have the right on what to do with something we own, then let it be. Speculation can further push the value of Bitcoin higher and higher...I can sense that as we are about to end the year, Bitcoin will move further into the \$10K threshold and by next year it can surge so high to an unprecedented level as the demand for Bitcoin would astronomically polevault. What about you...how much is the price where you think you would love to let go of your Bitcoin?

[2017-07-25] BIP 91 Activation Awaits: BTCMANAGER's WiR July 24

The much anticipated SegWit implementation could be one step closer to reality by the second week of August now that BIP 91 has been signaled by over the 80 percent of hash power needed to lock it in, which means that the Bitcoin blockchain will soon be optimized by 75 percent. Transactions will become cheaper as their size will decrease with SegWit-enabled bitcoin blocks. In light of the greater perceived likelihood of SegWit activation on the Bitcoin blockchain, the price of bitcoin experienced a substantial rally. On July 17, the price of the cryptocurrency surpassed the \$2,000 mark again after bottoming out at around \$1,830 in the week prior. In the seven days to follow, BTC-USD rallied to inch closer to the \$2,900 mark, only \$100 off the digital currency's all-time high of \$2,993.73; the market has settled around \$2,760 on July 24. Key buy levels stand at \$2,570.27 and \$2,265.51 on the Bitstamp exchange. However, it is important to highlight the fact that signaling is not the same as implementation; the miners signaling SegWit will need to stick to their “promise” and actually need to mine SegWit blocks for the implementation to be complete. The deadline for BIP 91 activation is July 29, where 80 percent of the blocks mined must signal SegWit for two days. Despite the anticipated activation, bitcoin holders are still encouraged to move their coins off exchanges and take control of their private keys before August 1...Read more

Here:<https://btcmanager.com/bip-91-activation-awaits-parity-hackers-bag-32m-ether-btcmanagers-wir-jul-24/>