

TOP GAINER

NOBL

+166.66%

TOP LOSER

HALLO

-57.86% \$0.00029

Marketcap

Advertisement

1 Say Goodbye to iPhone

Say Goodbye to iPhone: This Could Be 40X Better

The Motley Fool

2 Blockchain Escrow Platform - A new wave in ICO fundraising

Need escrow mechanism for ICO's

bce-advisors.com

3 Do Not Buy Bitcoin

The smartest bitcoin investors are putting their money here instead.

crowdability.com

Sponsored



Sponsored

Breaking the Cha

Breaking the Chains of Colonialism – Atlantis Blue Digital Token BITCOIN CRIME MARCH 20, 2018 23:34

The NSA Has Been Tracking Bitcoin Users, Snowden Papers Reveals



N COIN
N SALE
USD \$320m raised
DON'T
MISS OUT

Join our community of 10 000 traders on Hacked.com for just \$39 per month.

Not to be mistaken for another Jason Bourne thriller, the Edward Snowden papers show a US government/bitcoin connection. The Intercept is reporting classified documents leaked by Snowden prove that the US National Security Agency (NSA) in fact was keeping tabs on bitcoin users globally, as evidenced by a report that's surfaced from March 2013. The timing is curious, with the ink barely dry on an executive order signed by President Trump to ban Americans from transacting with Venezuela's Petro coin.

In true spy agency style, the report is filled with code names and numbers as well as the cataloging and cross-referencing of data that ultimately helped them to "track down the senders and receivers of

ICO CALENDAR

Oryptoflix

NeuroChain (NCC)

ETHEREUM

6.5

ė Elementh

ETHEREUM

7

RightMesh

9 5

View all ICOs

Advertisement



Austin, TX: This Unbelievak Company Is Disrupting A \$ Industry

Trending



US Treasury Could Include Cryptocurrency Wallets, Addresses on Sanctions Hit List



Sponsored

Tipper to Usher Social Media Paradigm Shift Where Tipping Pays and Every User Earns



Sponsored

World's First Charitable Cryptocurrency Giftcoin Announce Public Token Sale Event



Sponsored

What to Consider When Investing in ICOs



Sponsored

Blockchain Marketplace for IoT Sensory Data Announce Token Presale bitcoins," top secret excerpts reveal. The NSA called its bitcoin spying project Oakstar, and the initial focus of the mission was counterterrorism-focused.

It doesn't appear that the NSA was randomly targeting people. They at least appear to have been monitoring groups that were using the level of anonymity allowed by bitcoin transactions for clandestine purposes, such as money laundering activities. If you've ever wondered what a top-secret NSA entry looks like, here's a glimpse:

"[NSA agent] is hoping to use the access for their mission of looking at organized crime and cyber targets that utilize online e-currency services to move and launder money. These illicit finance networks provide user access to international monetary systems while providing a high degree of anoymity."

Here's how it went down. The NSA was seemingly able to use the sophisticated tools available to the US spy agency to collect and analyze internet data, capabilities that were bolstered by let's call it a super software program that protected the identity of users.

Bitcoin was one of three areas of activity that were being watched, in addition to Liberty Reserve, which has since been shuttered amid money laundering with cryptocurrencies, and one other. Even though bitcoin isn't the most anonymous cryptocurrency out there, it was the "No. 1 priority" of the NSA.

Network Access

While the blockchain is a public ledger, the NSA didn't stop there. They apparently gained access to user computer systems, collecting information such as passwords, user sessions and a media access control address. They also seem to have captured personal info such as billing details and IP addresses. The agency was set on uncovering the connection between what they called "bitcoin targets" and the data they had.

As for the timing of the reveal, it could just be a coincidence. But regardless, the more that the government tries to get its grips on the blockchain movement, the more it seems to only embolden the cryptocurrency community to distance themselves further from the centralized financial system.

Featured image from Shutterstock.

Follow us on Telegram.

Advertisement



Bitcoin Price Breaks \$9,000 as Cryptocurrency Market Continues Climb



The EU Won't Wait for Global Agreement on Cryptocurrencies: Spain's Economy Minister



Surging Cardano Price Leads Mid-Week Market Rally



Switzerland Settles as the World's Leading ICO Hub

Advertisement



Sponsored

Nine Million Users Have Flocked to Global Trading and Investment Platform eToro. What Exactly Is So Appealing?



Sponsored

Enhancing the Freelancer Market with the Blockchain



Sponsored

VC-Funded Startup Brings Retail 2.0, Reimagined by Cypherpunks

XDCE Token Goes Live on Exchanges Like Bancor, KoinOK, Alphaex, Forkdelta & Etherflyer Opens 20% above the Token Contribution Price

17:34, Press Releases

Applicature Joins the Ethereum Enterprise Alliance

17:22, Press Releases

Deconomy 2018 in Seoul with 70+ Speakers

17:16, Press Releases



POSTED IN: BITCOIN CRIME, NEWS

TAGS: BITCOIN, EDWARD SNOWDEN, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, NSA

AUTHOR

Gerelyn Terzo

SHARE POST













*Participate at your own risk

Gerelyn is a fintech and cryptocurrency journalist who started her career writing about traditional finance/Wall Street. She has been reporting on financial services for the past 15-plus years. In full disclosure, she holds bitcoin (BTC).

Alibabacoin's Public ICO Brings an Explosive Reponse

14:51, Press Releases

Chimaera the Originators of Blockchain Gaming to Launch Token Sale to Launch 23 March 2018

14:27, Press Releases

CoinMetro Ahead of the Regulation Curve, Expanding Their Presence in Crypto-Friendly Spaces Ahead of Token Sale Close

14:24, Press Releases

Bytecoin's Latest Wallet Revolution – March 20th

18:31, Press Releases

Football Stars Become Official Supporters of Blockchain Platform Globatalent

17:44, Press Releases