

"The criminals will still want to operate with cash, because they catch everybody who is trying to use Bitcoin."

In August 2018, an agent of the [United States](#) Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) [noted](#) that she prefers people to keep using cryptocurrencies, as the blockchain provides tool to identify criminals.

In the interview, Draper also said that he believes his money in the [bank](#) to be less secure than his money in Bitcoin. "My bank is constantly under a hack attack," Draper has stated, adding that to date, nobody has managed to [hack](#) Bitcoin's [blockchain](#).

Claiming that his Bitcoin is more secure than a [dollar](#) is, the Bitcoin billionaire has compared cashing out from Bitcoin with exchanging gold into shells, arguing that there is no sense to go back in time as the future is about Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

When asked how much crypto he holds, Draper provided a short response: "a lot."

Draper's recent statement has echoed the stance of young Bitcoin millionaire Jeremy Gardner, who [said](#) that the existing financial system is much more culpable for things like terrorism and crimes than blockchain technology perhaps will ever be.

In November last year, Tim Draper [reaffirmed](#) his April 2018 Bitcoin [prediction](#) that the biggest cryptocurrency will trade as high as \$250,000 per coin by 2022. Meanwhile, Bitcoin has seen significant growth recently, having jumped around 7.6 percent over the day and trading at \$3,907 at press time, according to [CoinMarketCap](#).

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By Helen Partz

14 MINUTES AGO

UAE's Largest Real Estate Firm Emaar Denies Reports That It Accepts Crypto: Bloomberg

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The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) largest [real estate](#) development firm, Emaar Properties, has officially denied [reports](#) that it enabled [crypto payments](#) for property, [Bloomberg](#) reported on Feb. 20.

Known for developing the world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa — located in Dubai — the firm told Bloomberg that it currently accepts only [fiat](#) currencies, such as UAE Dirhams (AED) or [United States dollars](#) as payment for property purchases. The publication cited an Emaar Properties spokesperson as providing the confirmation.

In the report, Bloomberg cited Australian crypto-focused website [Micky](#) as one of websites that initially reported that the real estate giant had started accepting crypto. According the original report on Feb. 19, Emaar Properties allegedly allowed clients to purchase property with major cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin ([BTC](#)) and Ethereum ([ETH](#)), through a broker in [Switzerland](#).

Subsequently, the news was posted by multiple real estate-related accounts on Twitter, including UAE-based [Premier Estates](#).
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allowing Bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to operate in the country, following a false report from Bloomberg.

Meanwhile, property development company New World Development recently [announced](#) a joint venture to launch a [blockchain](#) platform for digital authorization in real estate processes. The Bank of China has reportedly become the first bank to sign up to use the platform, aiming to reduce paperwork operations.

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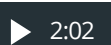
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Malta to Store Education Certificates On a Blockchain

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In [Malta](#), all [educational](#) certificates will be stored on a [blockchain](#), local English-language local media MaltaToday [reports](#) on Feb. 21.

The initiative is reportedly the scaling-up of a two-year-old pilot project to include all the nation's schools, including secondary school certificates issued by the state, church and independent schools. According to the report, the Maltese [government](#) signed a two-year contract with software company Learning Machine, to build on the aforementioned pilot project.

During the signing ceremony at Castille, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat reportedly claimed that Malta is the first country in the world to put all education certificates on a blockchain. He is also cited in the article saying:

"In 2017, we said Malta will become the blockchain island, and it has."

As Cointelegraph [reported](#) in January, the [University](#) of Bahrain also issues diplomas on the [blockchain](#). Trade Arabia reported that the university's blockchain initiative is part of an overall digitization strategy for mobile learners.

The [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\)](#) has also [issued](#) blockchain-based digital certificates to more than 100 graduates as part of a pilot program as of mid-October 2017. The certificates were reportedly issued through a special app, which allowed graduates to share a "tamper-proof" and "verifiable" digital version of their certificates

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In December 2016, [news broke](#) that the [Kenyan](#) government is utilizing [IBM's](#) enterprise-grade blockchain solution to develop an immutable and transparent education management system.

In July of last year, the Maltese government [passed](#) a group of bills that provided legal certainty for crypto- and blockchain-related businesses. Silvio Schembri, Junior Minister for Financial Services, Digital Economy and Innovation within the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta said of the new laws:

"The three Bills that will regulate distributed ledger technology (DLT) have been approved by Parliament and enacted into law. Malta , the first world jurisdiction to provide legal certainty to this space."

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