Money Laundering Pssst!

Leonhard A. Weese
President, Bitcoin Association of Hong Kong
leo@bitcoin.org.hk

Money Laundering

- Processing proceeds of crime or corruption
- Concealing income of funds
 - → Concerned with source of funds

- Placement
- Layering
- Integration

Terrorism Financing

- Financial support of terrorist organizations
- Concealing source of funds
 - → Concerned with destination of funds

- Financial support
- Income generating activities
- Reverse money laundering?

Political Motivations

1930s: Prohibition

1980s: War on drugs

2000s: War on terrorism

2010s: Tax evasion

• 2020s: ???

Clean Money

- What makes money clean or dirty?
- What do you want to achieve?
- What is legitimate income?
- Are Bitcoins clean? Social construct!
- Taxed income, and a good back story!

Money Laundering Tools

- Structuring, smurfing
- Smuggling
- Cash businesses (high margins)
- Trade-based
- Shell companies
- Round-tripping
- Black salaries

Don't Launder a Billion Dollars!

- What can you buy with cash?
- Where can you deposit cash?
 - Used cars
 - Food and beverages
 - Jewelery
 - Gift cards
 - Bitcoins
 - Gold

Don't Launder a Million Credit Cards!

- What can you buy with credit cards?
 - Electronics
 - Songs and ebooks
 - Licenses
 - Gambling and cryptocurrency?

Don't Launder a Thousand Bitcoin!

- What can you buy with bitcoin?
 - Gift cards
 - Flights and hotels
 - Electronics
 - Altcoins and Cryptokitties

Don't Launder Anything Else

- Tide detergent
- Art and cars
- Patents
- Licenses

The Future of AML

- Financial trails often easier to follow than criminal activity
- Cryptocurrency does not need to enter or leave any system at all, no need to launder it
- Fungibility of cash and cryptocurrency
- Golden bullrun of crime and mayhem?

Leonhard A. Weese President, Bitcoin Association of Hong Kong leo@bitcoin.org.hk @LeoAW

https://www.bitcoin.org.hk
PGP: 9185 B1FD 625A 1AD0 CCFE F451 C073 56F5 BB4D D1B7

Thank you: Christine Duhaime, Josh, Christina