

April 2024, their founders were arrested and charged with conspiracy to money laundering and conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money service business. They were eventually prosecuted by the Southern District of New York, sending a chilling message to all software developers, particularly those who develop wallet software for cryptocurrency users. In the summer of 2025, the founders pled guilty to one charge of operating without a money-transmitter-license.³

The arrest of software developers and the creative application of “money transmitter” to equate them with a bank and subject them to money laundering laws was thought to be a death blow to the idea of privacy on the Bitcoin network. However, in 2025, another software team called Ashigaru has emerged to breathe life back to the Whirlpool and enable users to again bring privacy to their bitcoin. They just ran with the open source software left in Samourai’s GitHub, got a team of testers together, and released a working version of it in July of 2025, barely a year after the arrest, and while the US government continues to prosecute the Samourai founders.

Almost all of the software that bitcoin users use is open source. Open source code has tremendous advantages for supporting an open protocol. 1) The testing is crowdsourced, so when it works in a stable manner, it is extremely robust;

³Corva, F. (2025, July 30). *Samourai Wallet developers plead guilty to conspiring to operate an unlicensed money transmitting business*. Bitcoin Magazine. <https://bitcoinmagazine.com/news/samourai-wallet-developers-plead-guilty>