Oh man, finding a real-world (non-crime) use-case for anything cryptocurrency related might be this course’s most difficult assignment. The first 10-20 or so sources I glanced at were all basically just random lists from crypto-peddlers with only slight variations of “hypothetically they can do this” or “they may be able to do this” with no actual examples of anyone actually using them for anything consequential. Eventually I stumbled upon someone discussing how smart contracts can be loaded with malicious programs that would drain victim’s crypto wallets. So, while the use-case was still a form of crime, I thought it was an interesting variation of a cyberattack.

Another quick glance through some more sources show that smart contracts are used to swap one coin for another. So, I suppose that’s a second use-case worth mentioning, money laundering.

On a more serious note, as far as I’m aware, the overwhelming majority of people who know anything about programming or contract law see smart contracts as the worst idea in the history of ideas, and would never let them near anything of importance. In order for smart contracts to stop being terrible ideas, the coders writing them have to write perfect code (note: code is never perfect), and the contract has to be written perfectly with no ambiguities whatsoever (they never are). That’s the joy of having non-reversible contracts governed by poorly written code.