

### **Virtual Assets**

#### Prepared and presented by:

Sgt. Adrienne Vickery RCMP National Cryptocurrency Coordinator Federal Policing Criminal Operations

A/Sgt. Aaron Gilkes Canadian Police College Cybercrime Instructor

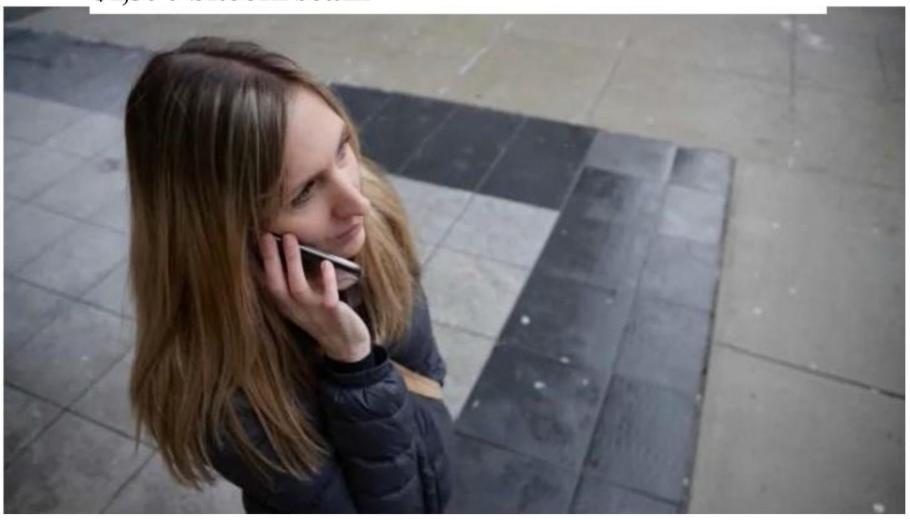
Sgt. Warren Krahenbil Cybercrime Operations Group Border Integrity Program







# 'You feel sick': Burnaby musician falls victim to \$1,500 bitcoin scam



Dana Macleod, 32, says a fraudster's call convinced her - against her suspicions and hesitation -to withdraw \$1,500 and deposit in a bitcoin ATM. (Rafferty Baker/CBC)



### **BC LOCAL NEWS**



### SAANICH NEWS

Read more below



### Surrey resident falls victim to \$18,000 CRA, Bitcoin scam

Police provide tips to help others avoid being defrauded

Jun. 22, 2018 12:00 a.m. / NEWS

















A Victoria woman lost \$4,000 after scammers convinced her to convert money into bitcoin. (Unsplash photo)

Victoria woman loses \$4,000 to 'agressive, manipulative and convincing' bitcoin CRA scam

VicPD officer receives scam call himself while investigating case

VICTORIA NEWS STAFF / Jun. 24, 2020 12:15 p.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

### What is a Virtual Asset?

....a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded or transferred, and can be used for payment or investment purposes, and functions as a:

#### 1 - medium of exchange

Operates like a currency in some environments eg. online

#### 2 - a unit of account

Define, record, compare value and/or

#### 3 - a store of value

 does not have legal tender status, but will have value to a creditor willing to accept it





# Two Types of Virtual Assets

#### 1 - Non-Convertible

 VC which has no value outside of a specific environment, e.g. online gaming (World of Warcraft Gold)

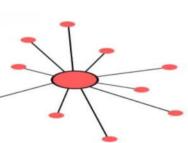
#### 2 - Convertible

- Centralized (Single administering authority, e.g. Second Life virtual world)
- Decentralized (No central administering authority, monitoring or oversight. Operates peer-to-peer)

Virtual currencies which are <u>convertible</u>, <u>decentralized</u> AND use <u>cryptography</u> are known as <u>cryptocurrencies</u>

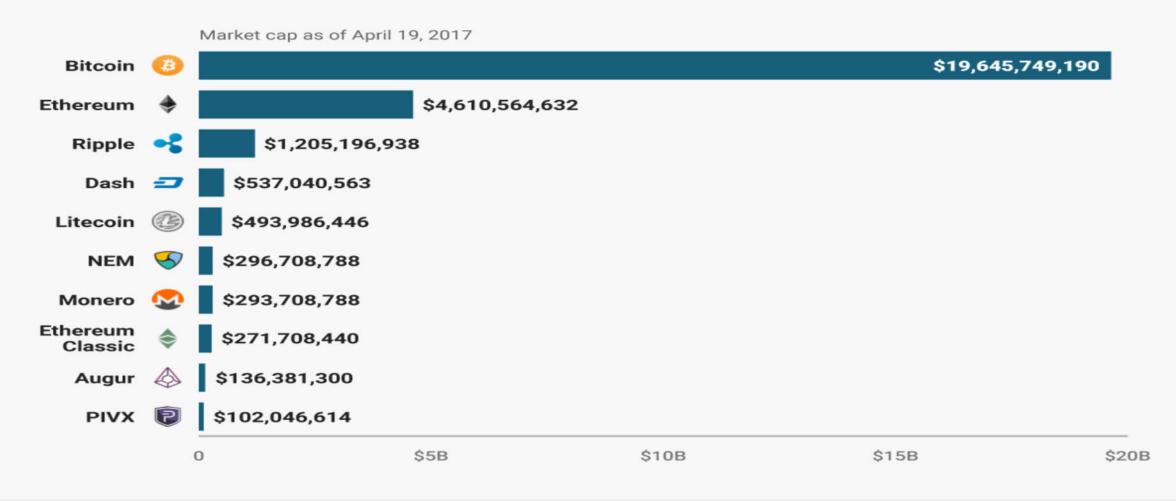






#### **ALTCOINS 2017**

#### 10 CRYPTOCURRENCIES HAVE A MARKET CAP OVER \$100M



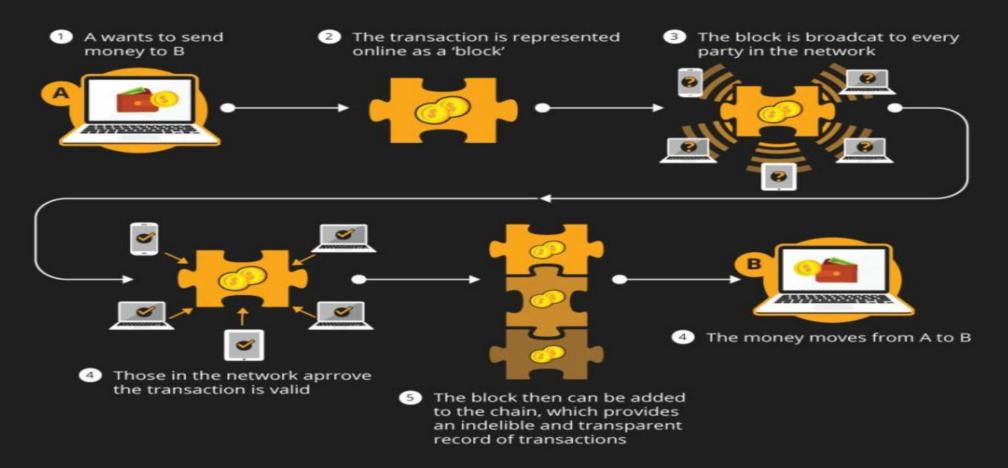
SOURCE: CoinMarketCap.com

**BUSINESS INSIDER** 

# Market Capitalization 2020

	#_	Name	Price	24h	7d	Market Cap	Volume 🕡	Circulating Supply	Last 7 Days	
☆	1	Bitcoin BTC	\$17,023.15	<b>4.43%</b>	<b>11.48%</b>	\$315,711,414,483	\$36,357,319,740 2,135,757 BTC	18,546,000 BTC	manument	:
Û	2	Ethereum ETH	\$467.95	<b>3.16%</b>	<b>★</b> 5.02%	\$53,095,016,079	\$13,405,581,852 28,647,737 ETH	113,464,084 ETH	January my many	:
Û	3	Tether USDT	\$1.00	<b>→</b> 0.03%	<b>→</b> 0.03%	\$17,954,415,266	\$126,972,579,801 126,937,411,289 USDT	17,949,442,302 USDT	manymoun	ŧ
Û	4	XRP XRP	\$0.298755	<b>a</b> 8.57%	<b>16.95%</b>	\$13,541,995,677	\$5,652,810,622 18,921,249,341 XRP	① 45,328,155,123 XRP	manumon	E
Û	5	Chainlink LINK	\$12.78	<b>3.98%</b>	<b>→</b> 0.53%	\$5,017,831,890	\$1,224,383,324 95,774,862 LINK	① 392,509,556 LINK	morningen	:
û	6	Litecoin LTC	\$72.20	<b>4</b> 6.51%	<b>23.73%</b>	\$4,757,870,970	\$5,472,517,002 75,799,706 LTC	@ 65,901,160 LTC	manus	i
Û	7	Bitcoin Cash BCH	\$252.98	<b>-</b> 1.45%	<b>→</b> 1.84%	\$4,699,093,907	\$1,583,901,500 6,260,889 BCH	18,574,706 BCH	markenson	E
û	8	P Polkadot DOT	\$4.82	<b>▲</b> 8.63%	<b>4</b> 9.33%	\$4,235,037,010	\$627,268,909 130,148,903 DOT	<b>®</b> 878,706,744 DOT	Mummum	E
û	9	Binance Coin BNB	\$28.38	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>a</b> 0.87%	\$4,098,074,678	\$298,302,822 10,511,493 BNB	144,406,561 BNB	mynnar	ŧ.
Û	10	Cardano ADA	\$0.110625	<b>a</b> 8.11%	<b>4.37%</b>	\$3,441,827,758	\$575,841,131 5,205,329,725 ADA	@ 31,112,484,646 ADA	hammen	:

### How Blockchain Works







# Onypto miner Etfarms to invest \$250 milion in Sherbrooke facility



#### **Transactions**

#### **Transactions**

Hash 3f11b099af7ecd59ab542980bdfe1a...

2017-10-17 07:43

1792L4zayp2rM... 0.01681780 BTC #

1BwVbCKvSBEh... 0.01124380 BTC #

1GR8DULWVYg... 0.00512200 BTC (

Fee 0.00045200 BTC

(200.000 sat/B - 50.000 sat/WU - 226

+0.00512200 BTC

Hash 3f11b099af7ecd59ab542980bdfe1a...

2017-10-17 07:43

1792L4zayp2rMqfnEbsq... \$125.51 #

1BwVbCKvSBEh9vTqxDr8... \$83.91 🏶

1GR8DULWVYgbhqik3mL... \$38.23 🏶

Fee \$3.37

(200.000 sat/B - 50.000 sat/WU - 226

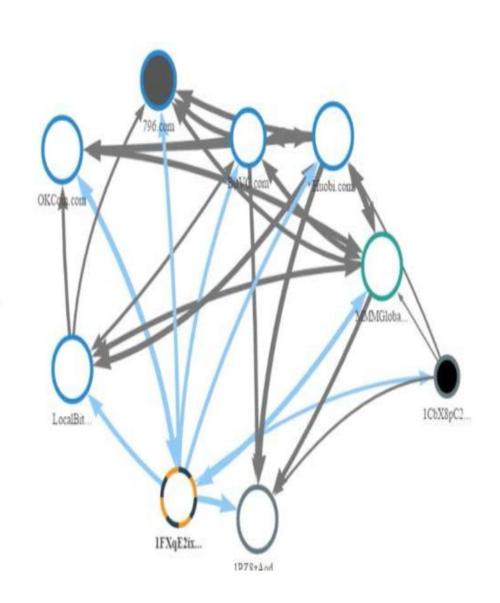
+\$38.23

# **Blockchain Tracing**

### <u>Aftermarket Software Tools (\$\$\$)</u>

- software systems that specialize in data analysis
- IP address analysing, Visual presentation, Attribution
- Can purchase license or hire third party analytics
- Can facilitate interagency deconfliction, may assist with SME testimony





# Public/Private Key Pairs

Case sensitive!!!

#### A Bitcoin Public Address

#### 19PXg2Ljftt9hRj4R9xYjprsSw43ZhreSB

- Is shared with others so you can receive funds
- Can be thought of as an email address for accepting e-transfers
- May be represented by QR codes



#### A Bitcoin Private Key

#### KxJiXNGePRvbnfp1qFHGHCVtXF8662NnbVvkn6EgGtYt6Xzh9yPY

Similar to your password. It is required in order to spend your
 VC. If you own the private key, you own the BTC.



# Managing Cryptocurrencies In Digital Wallets

- Digital wallets are hardware or software that manage keys, addresses, and transactions (think of it as a keychain)
- Every transaction linked to your address is stored in the wallet.

Can view all spending and receiving habits!











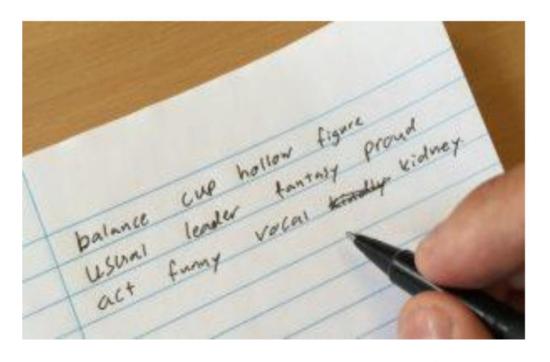




### **Seed Phrase**

 Usually 12 to 24 words. Allows a user to recover funds when device is disabled or lost

1 toe	7 little	13 globe	19 cousin
2 miss	8 wink	14 thank	20 vibrant
3 arrive	9 any	15 clump	21 hockey
4 bonus	10 knee	16 connect	22 wave
5 gallery	11 exhaust	17 second	23 fragile
6 fan	12 below	18 bicycle	24 cricket



Any person who has access to a seed phrase can recreate their wallet and move their cryptocurrency.





### Modes of Exchange: Public Exchanges

- An entity engaged as a business in the exchange of virtual currency for real currency, funds, or other forms of virtual currency, and vice versa, for a fee
- Brick & Mortar and/or online business
- Set up account and purchase using payment method such as a credit card or bank transfer, often through 3rd party service provider



### Public Exchanger KYC Protocols

Most exchangers gather a significant amount of information from their clients!

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email
- Government photo ID
- Photo of customer holding their photo ID

- Bank account information
- Credit cards
- Transaction history (ID, hash, date/time stamp, other wallet addresses)
- Custodial wallet info (ID, balance, trading history)

# Modes of Exchange: Private Exchangers

- Buy & Sell crypto
- Often direct trades
- May meet in public places or peerto-peer transfer online
- May deal in cash
- May employ minimal KYC
- High transaction fees
- Anonymous communication
- Money exchanged into Bitcoin
- Risk of assault and fraud



"Hello, I am buying your BTC for cash now! Meeting preferences: Safe trades, Restaurants, coffee shops, home or office"

# Modes of Exchange: <u>Bitcoin ATMs</u>

- Offer higher exchange rates
- Some machines are bidirectional

#### **Buying Bitcoins:**

- Get a wallet
- Find an ATM
- Select the buy function
- Insert cash
- Scan QR code or receive a paper wallet



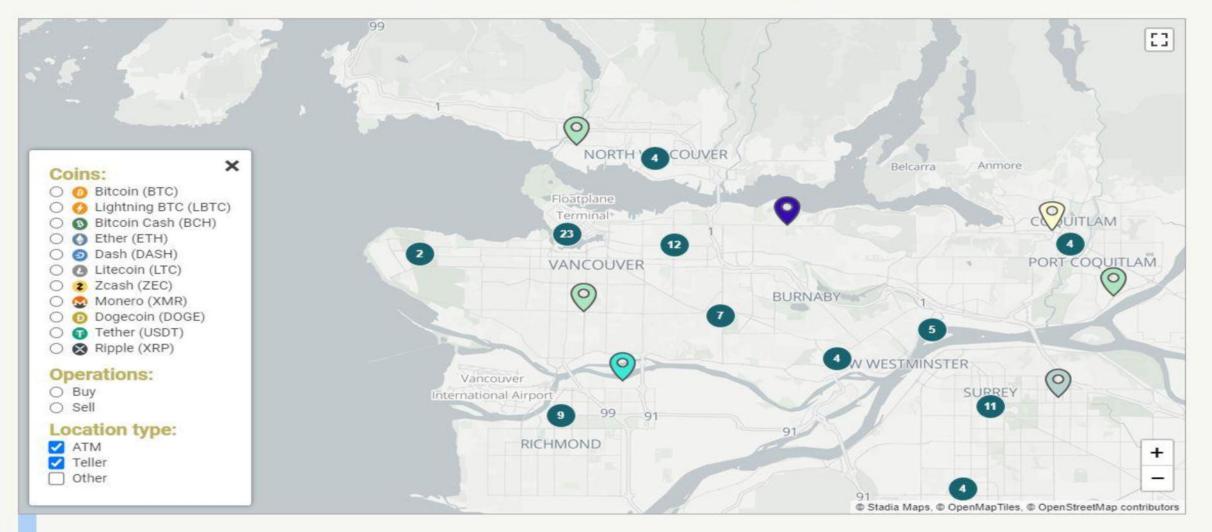


### Finding a Bitcoin ATM

Coinatmradar.com

#### Bitcoin ATMs in the British Columbian Lower Mainland

Total number of Bitcoin ATMs / Tellers in and around Vancouver CA: 101



#### **Operator details**



Coperator's name: Bitcoiniacs

1 (604) 727-0170

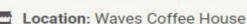
contact@bitcoiniacs.com

On the map: All Bitcoiniacs bitcoin ATM locations

Are you operator? Check the list of services we provide.

#### Location

图 City: Vancouver CA



Q Address:

900 Howe St #100

Vancouver, BC V6Z 2M4

Canada







① Open hours:

Mon-Fri: 6:30 am - 10:00 pm

Sat: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm Sun: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

#### Bitcoin machine details

ATM Type: General Bytes GB

Supported coins and fees:

Prices are updated just now.

	Buy	Sell
Bitcoin	~	~
	CAD 23734.81	CAD 21041.36
	(fixed fee (?) + 6.6%*)	(fixed fee (?) + 5.5%*)
Litecoin	~	~
	CAD 103.95	CAD 86.49
	(fixed fee (?) + 7.6%*)	(fixed fee (?) + 10.4%*)
Supported fiat:	CAD	CAD

<sup>\*</sup> Percentage fees are independently calculated by Coin ATM Radar based on actual price at machine and market price [BitcoinAverage] (might differ from rates claimed by operator).

#### Limits and verifications:

\$20 - 200 SMS verification \$201 - 10000 ID scan verification

1 Details:

Cryptocurrency machine is installed at Waves Coffee House in Vancouver CA.

You can buy and sell BTC, LTC for CAD here.

This is the world's first Bitcoin automatic teller machine. It went live in a downtown Vancouver coffee shop, allowing people to exchange Canadian cash for the digital currency at a current rate of \$211.79 per Bitcoin.





### Modes of Exchange: Prepaid Bitcoin Debit Cards

- Load your card using your bitcoin.
- Spend funds anywhere prepaid cards are accepted, or withdraw fiat cash from any ATM.

"No photo ID required, reloadable, use it anywhere VISA is accepted".

- Electronic: email and name
- Tangible: PO box
- Giftcards

















# Additional Modes of Exchange

### Over-The-Counter (OTC) Brokers:

 Provide a means to exchange large amounts of cryptocurrency outside of an open exchange

### Private off-chain transactions:

Exchange not recorded on the Blockchain

### **Lightning Network:**

 Numerous transactions occurring outside of the main Blockchain and recorded as a single transaction





### Bitcoin is #1

### But it has flaws:

- Lack of Privacy
- Potential for high transaction fees
- High Volatility
- Long wait times (scaling)
  - Bitcoin: 7 transactions per second
  - Visa: 24,000 transactions per second
- Not backed by a central authority (No insurance!)
- Transactions are irreversible





### Other Alternative (Alt) coins on the rise!

### **Stable Coins**

- Offer a Stable exchange rate to fiat currency
- Backed by fiat currency or stable commodity

### **Privacy Coins:**

- May offer encrypted transactions
- May offer built-in mixing services
- Offer enhanced privacy

### **Alt Coins:**

- Refers to any coins other than Bitcoin
- Some offer ability for Smart Contracts & Distributed Applications





# Facebook-Backed Libra Cryptocurrency Project Is Scaled Back

After months of criticism, the cryptocurrency is moving ahead with significant revisions.



Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, testified on Libra last October in Washington. Pete Marovich for The New York Times

# Benefits and Drawbacks of Cryptocurrency for Criminals & Money Launderers

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Fast Transactions	Volatility of Value
Minimal Fees	Traceability
Accessibility	Lack of Understanding by Criminals
Global Movement of Value (Security, Speed & Cost)	
Pseudo-anonymous	
Lack of Understanding by Law Enforcement	
Lack of Global Regulations	

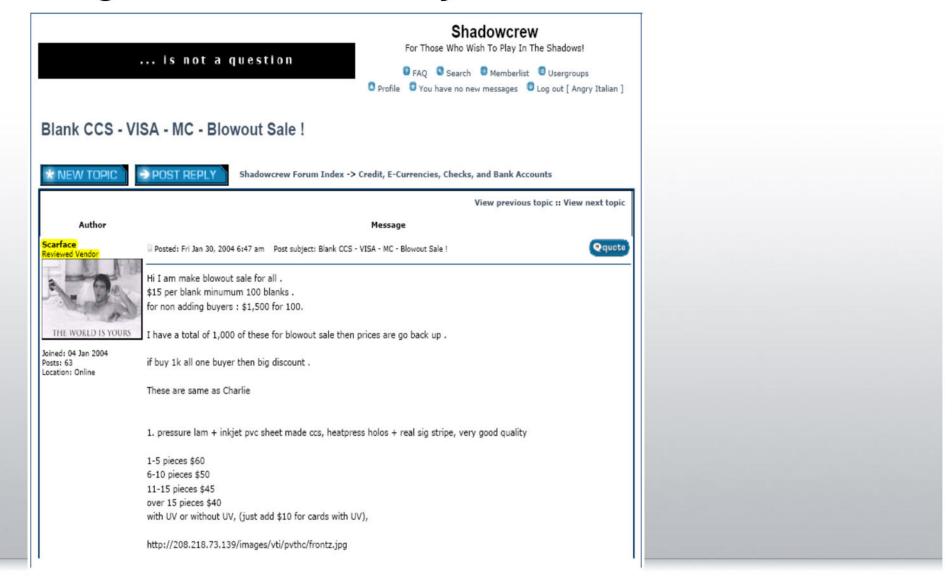
# Cryptocurrency & Criminality

- Frauds
  - Extortion
  - Ponzi Schemes
  - Initial Coin Offerings
- Ransomware/Malware attacks / DDos Attacks
- Drug sales Darkweb marketplaces & traditional
- Human Trafficking
- Terrorist Financing
- Money Laundering





#### **Origins of Virtual Currency and Crime**



#### Virtual Currency Brokers and Exchange Platforms

23/04/12 ECAFDORE: efficial Exchange: Liberty reserve, apold. Buy: liberty reserve, LR, CG

eCardOne - Your One place for Electronic Transactions

#### Buy liberty reserve and exchange liberty reserve to other ecurrencies.

Welcome to eCardOne, Your One piece for Electronic Transactions, eCardOne is based on fair and personal approach, offering payment solutions to large companies as well as individuals wishing to transfer or exchange funds, eCardOne is a successor of GoldExchange.eu, the renowned exchanger.

#### Buy liberty reserve with Alertpay and bank wire.

Ecurrency exchange is provided under the financial license of eCardOne Financial Corporation, Panama. Buy or sell Liberty Reserve and other ecurrencies and you will be guaranteed lowest rates, fastest exchange, and best customer support on the market. eCardOne was previously known as GoldExchange.eu

# Exchange: We convert liberty reserve to ecurrencies. We help you to swap and move liberty reserve to , cgold, Pecunix.

Do you wish to exchange Liberty Reserve EUR to USD? Then click here and trade Liberty Reserve currency and other ecurrencies like c-gold between each other within seconds. Check our fluctuating rates and speculate on the Digital Currency market. You can earn by selling and buying ecurrencies at profitable rates. The system is fully automated.

#### ATM Visa debit Card

Withdraw money from your Liberty Reserve account easily with our Visa Debit Card. Simply order your card here and it will be shipped to you at the lowest price. Then instantly convert Liberty Reserve and withdraw cash at your local ATM, or pay in stores and on the Internet.

#### **DGC Banking**

eCardOne is introducing a revolutionary platform for e-currency trading: ECO Banking. Sign up for real time Liberty Reserve Exchange and extended possibilities of deposits and withdrawals (coming soon). Experience Your One Place for Electronic Transactions.

ONE-SOUTH

# Twas completely destroyed': Bitcoin scam victims lose \$340 Kin York Region, police say

Police say tracking down fraudsters or recovering money is likely impossible

Nick Boisvert · CBC News · Posted: Nov 08, 2017 3:04 PM ET | Last Updated: November 8, 2017





### Ransomware



# **Phishing**

# BEWARE OF SCAMS! EMAILS FROM THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY WILL NEVER:

USE AGGRESSIVE LANGUAGE OR TONE



ASK FOR PREPAID CARDS OR BITCOIN



THREATEN ARREST OR SEND POLICE



ASK FOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For more information, go to canada.ca/taxes-fraud-prevention





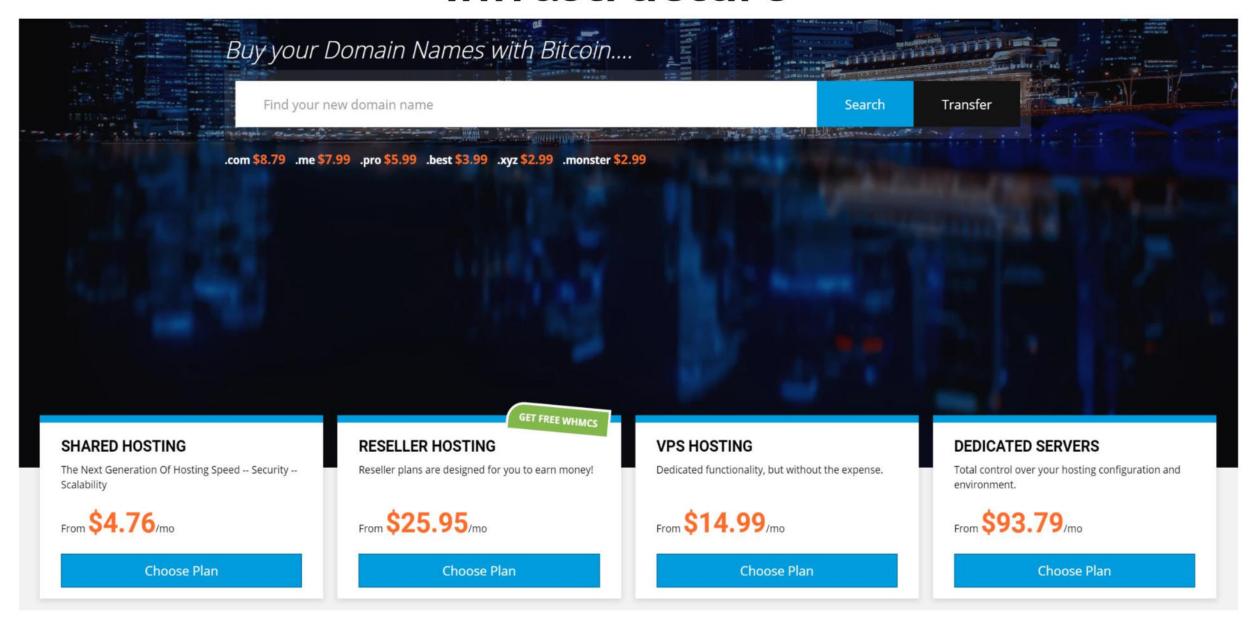
# Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks



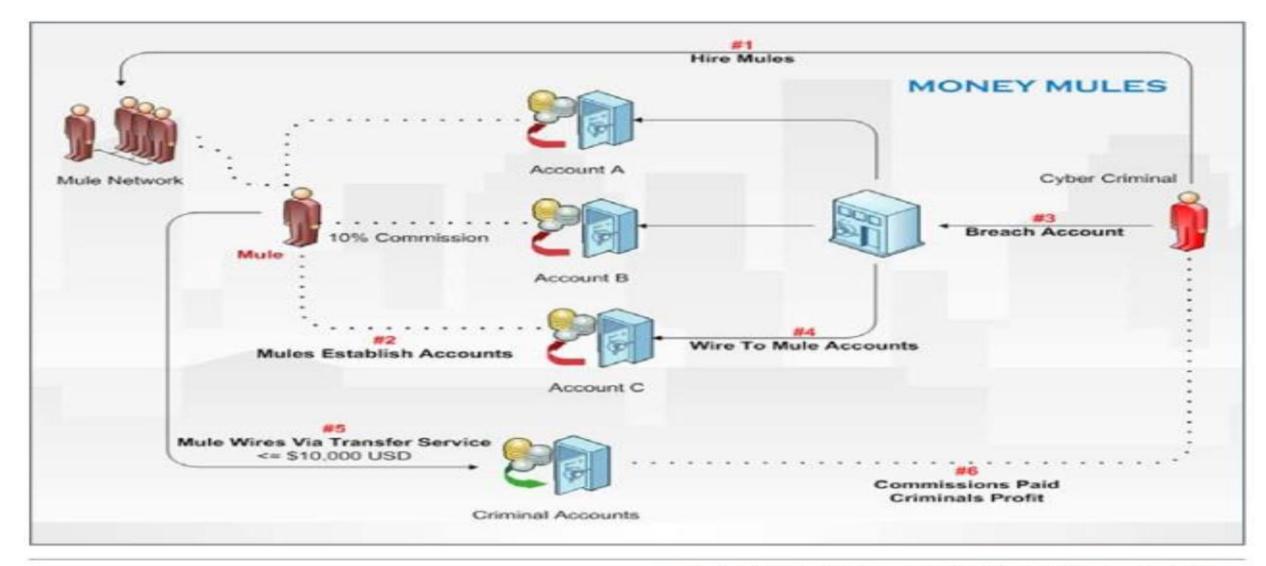




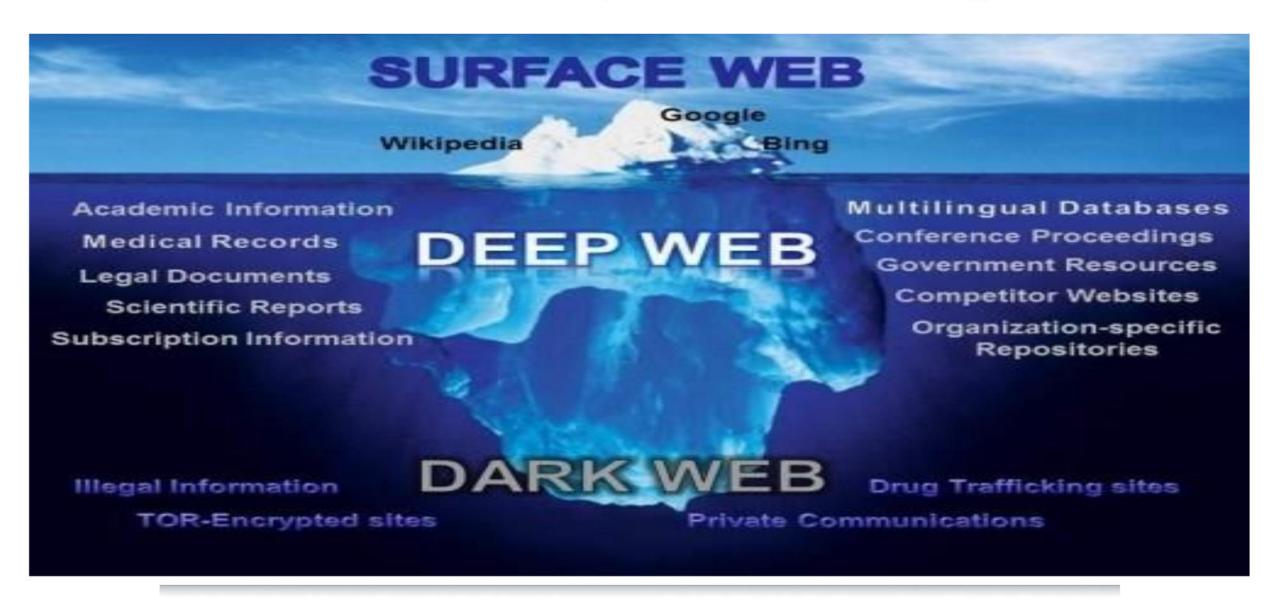
### Infrastructure



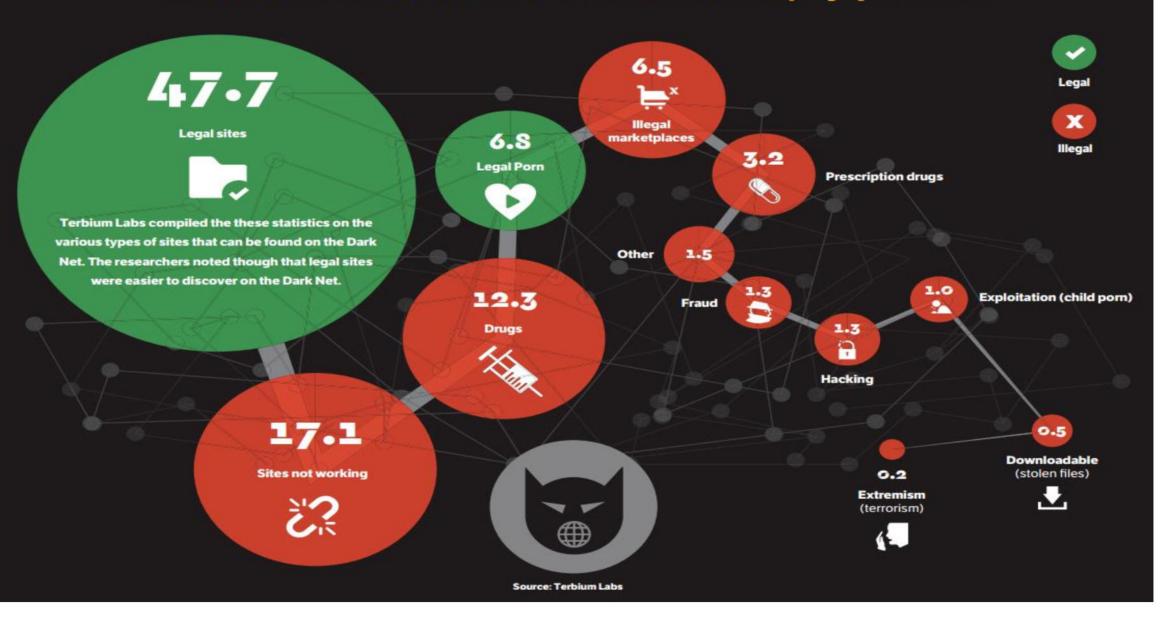
# Money Muling



# The Other tip of the Iceberg



## Dark Net: breakdown of sites available, by percent



# The Original Dark Market 2013



Shop by category: Cannabis(162) Ecstasy(33) Psychedelics(119) Opioids(33) Stimulants(56) Dissociatives(6) Other(199)





1/8 oz high quality cannabis **B3.17** 

# SILK ROAD PAYMENT SYSTEM





Buyer exchanges currency for BTC



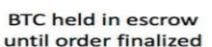


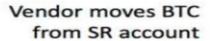






Buyer transfers BTC to SR account





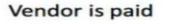


**EXCHANGER** 















GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT 113 A 14 Cr. 68 (KBF)



- \* Approximately 1,605.0503851 BTC was seized from Alexandre Cazes and moved to a US government-controlled address. (Current Value approximately \$ 16,867,575.00 CAD)
- \* 293.79476862 BTC was moved from the Alphabay server 3203 into a US government-controlled address.
- \* 43.05943697 BTC was moved from the Alphabay server 3164 into a US government-controlled address.

## a AlphaBay Market

Home . Sales . Messages . Listings . Balance . Orders . Feedback . Forums . Contact ▼USD 245.17 ▼ CAD 301.

Brows	e Categories	
$\supset$	Fraud	4425
¥ <b>?</b>	Drugs & Chemicals	9131
	<b>☑</b> Benzos	696
	Cannabis & Hashish	2664
	✓ Dissociatives	187
	<b>☑</b> Ecstasy	1087
	✓ Opioids	732
	✓ Prescription	878
	✓ Steroids	196
	✓ Stimulants	1652
	✓Tobacco	73

#### Search Results [Save Search]



SAMPLE / 1 gram MDMA 84% pure crystals Item # 2873 - Ecstasy - BlackFriday (123)

Views: 13855 / Bids: Fixed price Quantity left: 33



1 box (28 tabs) CRESCENT pharma uk diazepam/valium Item # 3112 - Benzos - ukvaliumsupplier15 (182)

Views: 3238 / Bids: Fixed price Quantity left: Unlimited



15 Oxycodone @ \$26 each = \$390 Item # 4617 - Opioids - dealsthatarereal (249)



#### Submachine VZ.58 (AK-47) "Promotion to get new feedback's"

\*I no have more in stock for immediate sending, but I will be more next week\* Promotion to get new feedback's I sell these submachine to € 3,000 now with 60% discount. the first that I sell, getting each at a price of € 1,800 . \*I no have more in stock for immediate sending, but I will be more next week\* I accept to sell ESCROW See conditions below.

Sold by s9871 - 0 sold since Apr 17, 2015

Level 1

		ш
	-	











Features Product class Physical package Quantity left Unlimited Ends in 50 days

Features Origin country Spain Ships to Europe Brazil Payment Escrow

Europe post - 8 days - USD +27.50 / item

Purchase price: USD 2,065.41

Buy Now Qty: 1

8.9652 BTC



# Ease of Use



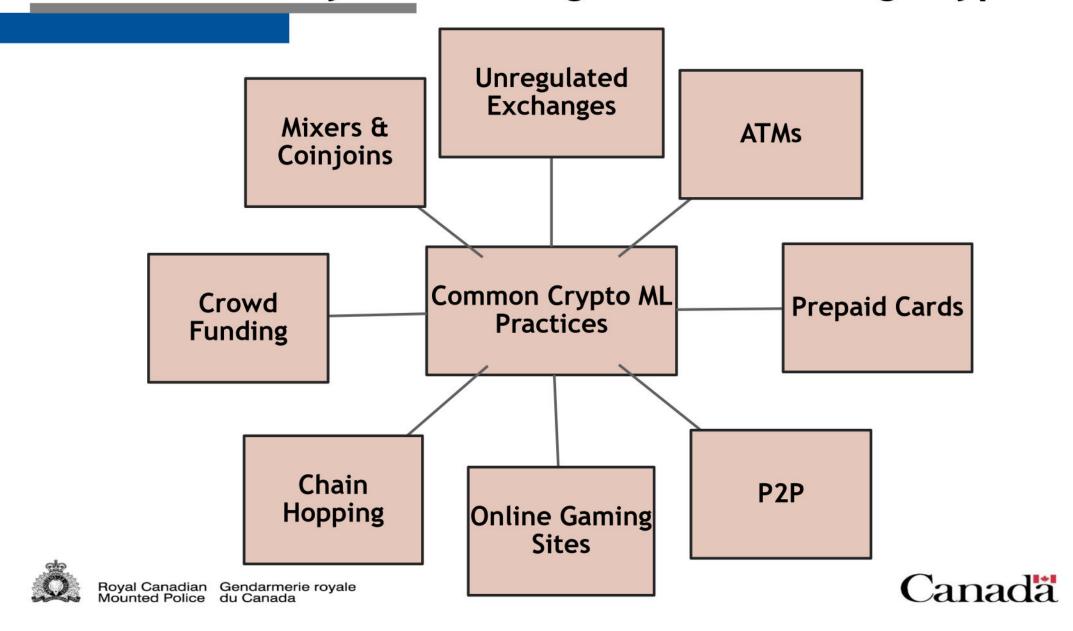
# Anonymizing measures for Bitcoin can include:

- The use of Virtual Private Networks/proxy servers
- The Onion Router (TOR)
- Online personas
  - create an online personality to facilitate their online criminal activities
- Money Laundering practices to help obfuscate the source of funds....





# **Common Money Laundering Practices Using Crypto**



# Money Laundering Practices

## **Unregulated Exchanges**

 Specifically seeking out exchanges in countries with little to no AML regulations or KYC requirement

## Peer to Peer

- Exchange cash for cryptocurrency
- Exchange funds for prepaid cards, gift cards or other cryptocurrencies
- Provide private keys offline

# Online Gambling & Gaming Sites

 Crypto can be used to buy credit or virtual chips which users can cash out again after just a few transactions





# Online Gambling

1



## Complete Privacy & Anonymity

Since you don't have to fill in any personal information, Bitcoin casinos like FortuneJack can offer you complete privacy and anonymity.

This is a huge benefit for users who don't wish to share personal data or reveal their identity.

4



## Your Funds are Completely Secure

With traditional online payment methods like PayPal, if your online casino gets hacked, your financial data is put at risk. With Bitcoin, this isn't an issue. As long as your funds are kept in cold storage behind strong passwords, they'll be highly secure.

2



#### **Instant Transactions**

No waiting around - with Bitcoin gambling, you can deposit and withdraw your money instantly as 3rd party verification isn't required.

5



#### **Rock-Bottom Fees**

Since no 3rd parties are involved in depositing and withdrawing funds, the fees for Bitcoin gambling are often extremely low - or altogether non-existent.

With Bitcoin gambling, everybody wins.

3



## They're Proven to be Fair

Concerned computer algorithms are bending the rules behind the scenes?

With a Bitcoin casino, fairness isn't something you need to worry about. At FortuneJack, the latest gambling technology ensures games are completely balanced and fair.

6



## There are No Withdrawal Limits

Bored of only being able to deposit and withdraw certain amounts at a time?

Since there's no central authority controlling your money, Bitcoin casinos eliminate these restrictions. Deposit and withdraw as much as you like, whenever you want.

Activate V

# Money Laundering Practices

## ATM's

 Not linked to banks. Potential for little KYC. Criminals can exploit loopholes and weaknesses in cryptocurrency ATM management

## **Prepaid Cards**

 Avenue to spend funds. Can be used to fund illegal activity, traded for other currencies, or given to third parties

## Go Fund Me

Frequent (small) deposits from crowd funding or angel investor websites.
 Fund with deposits from own cryptocurrency addresses





# Crowdfunding & Terrorist Financing



## SamSam Ransomware:

- Extorted more than \$6,000,000 USD (hospitals, universities, Gov't. institutions)
- Two BTC addresses added to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) List.

- Hamas Al-Qassam Brigades Bitcoin Video
- Al Qaeda charity
- ISIS facilitator PPE equipment





# Money Laundering Practices

# **Chain Hopping**

convert cryptocurrency such as bitcoin into other coins to create a money trail
that is exceedingly difficult to trace

## Mixers

 Process of utilizing a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service to break the connection between the address sending the coins, and the address they were sent to

# Coinjoins

A peer-to-peer solution to mixers that removes the 3<sup>rd</sup> party intermediary





# **ML/TF Indicators**

- Funds deposited into an account from a cryptocurrency exchange followed by <u>rapid depletion</u> via cash, email, or wire transfers
- Multi-ATM cash deposits with immediate credit to a virtual/crypto-currency exchange (smurfing)
- Frequent deposits/withdrawals from cryptocurrency exchanges
- <u>Unusual 3rd party deposits</u>, often structured in nature, from online wallets or payment processors (use of money mules)
- Prolonged <u>meets in vehicles</u> with smartphone





# Honourable mention: Real Estate?

4504B SOUTHRIDGE CRESCENT Langley, British Columbia V3A4N6



\$1,998,000 CAD or equivalent BTC - House

This immaculate 7 bedroom, 8 bathroom luxurious designed home is a gem...

More Details >

☐1 5698 sq ft

 **7 Bedrooms** 

8 Bathrooms

র্ঝ 3 Garages

Mountain Top Land Right Next To Ski Chantecler



\$15,169 USD or BTC - Lots

Only 45 minutes from Montreal, the land is located in a sector...

More Details .

1 30726 2 854 m2 (30 726 sq ft )

## Bromont 4BR Home Facing The Olympic Equestrian Center With Private Acreage



\$700,000 In USD or Crypto Equivalent (BTC, ETH, XRP, EOS, and LTC) - Acreage With Home

For Horse lovers and Outdoors
Enthusiasts! Here we are facing the
Bromont...

More Details >

130,674 sq ft

### 4 Bedrooms

2 Bathrooms

#### Ranch Canada, 30 Min From Montreal, 36.7 Acres



\$899,000 - Acreage With Home

Fertile land drained of 25 acres, 1 garage 26×36 and one garare...

More Details .

₱ 5 Bedrooms

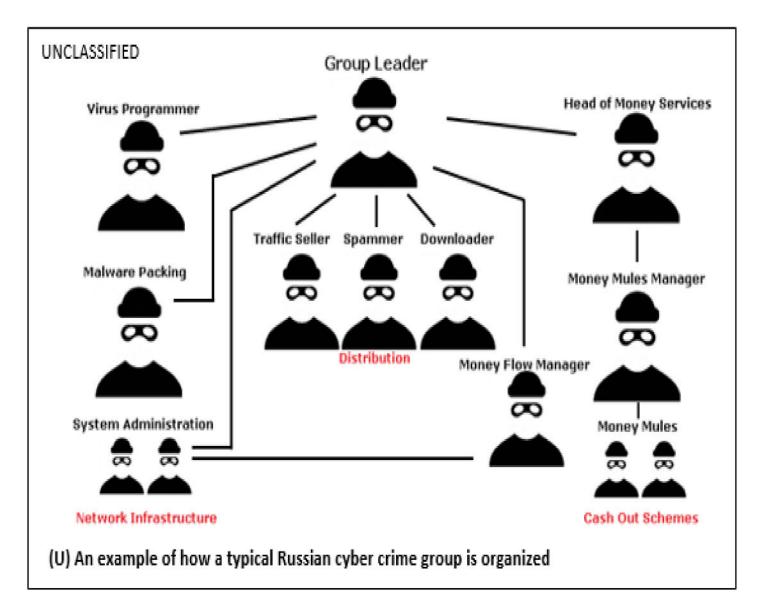
3 Bathrooms

න් 2 Garages

# Investigative Challenges

- New & complicated criminal schemes
- New tools and levels of expertise required
- New structures of organized crime groups.....





# RCMP virtual asset investigations



# Responses to Lessons Learned

- RCMP National Cryptocurrency Coordinator
- Guidelines/Policies
- Training at all levels
- Collaboration & sharing of expertise/capabilities:
  - Virtual Currency Working Group
  - National Cybercrime Coordination Centre
  - Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre
  - Partnerships with GoC, International Partners, Private Sector
- Management of Assets:
  - Seized Property Management Directorate (SPMD)





# **Cryptocurrency Seizures**



# Gaps & Barriers

- Tracing: Obfuscation techniques & privacy coins
- Legal Tools

# Moving Forward

- Federal Cybercrime Operations Group
- PCMLTFA Amendments:
  - What does this mean for law enforcement?



