

? 1. The Evolution of Money: Cryptocurrencies shift power from banks to users

If Bitcoin is simply a long jumble of numbers and letters, then why does it have any value? Because all types of money are essentially useful common myths. Bitcoin has advantages over traditional money, like being immune to inflation from central banks and high fees from private banks.

? 2. The Blockchain Breakthrough: A public, decentralized database makes Bitcoin possible

Digital money had been tried before, but it was not successful because users could possibly spend their money twice. Bitcoin solved this problem with a new idea called the blockchain, a public database of all transactions sustained by a network of computers run by the users themselves.

? 3. The Early Adopters: Bitcoin first appealed to programmers and libertarians

When Bitcoin was worth pennies, the early users were involved for non-financial reasons. Some were computer programmers fascinated by the technology, others were libertarians passionate about individual freedom, and many were both.

? 4. Re-centralization: The rise and fall of Mt. Gox and other early exchanges

Mt. Gox was the first major Bitcoin exchange where people went to buy or sell Bitcoin. The website suffered many hacking attacks, and in 2014 they lost all their user's Bitcoins. It was a cautionary tale of not trusting one company too much, as Bitcoin itself was designed to be highly decentralized.

?? 5. The Silk Road: Story of the notorious online marketplace for drugs

In 2010, Ross Ulbricht launched Silk Road, which was like Amazon.com for drugs. Over time, it grew to have over one million users and brought negative attention to Bitcoin from the authorities. In 2013, US agents finally arrested Ross because of old posts he'd made on the Bitcoin forums.

? 6. Crypto-Commercialization: Silicon Valley becomes a driving force in Bitcoin

After 3 years, more people were drawn by the practical benefits of the new technology, such as low fees and instant international transfers. Silicon Valley investors began funding many new companies which aimed to make Bitcoin easier to use for people and businesses, like BitInstant, BitPay and Coinbase.

This is just a sample!

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