

Evolve or Die – How Bitcoin Forces Society to Wise Up

One of the primary reasons mainstream society has not yet bought into Bitcoin is that it's not easy. As a decentralized resource, there's no 24 hour helpline to sort out your issue when things get sticky. There's no one company that offers the best solution, no fool proof way to keep your funds completely secure. And when your wallet seems to have magically emptied itself, there's no police station where you can go and report it. With cryptocurrency, you're out there on your own. The responsibility of your finances is yours and yours alone.

For the Bitcoin community, this sort of freedom and independence is priceless, though many have likely paid a hefty fee for their experience. For the general public on the other hand, it's a nightmare. Our society was built on solid systems, clear rules and visible authorities. Taking all of this out of the picture seems reckless. And aside from that, with the media on a constant FUD campaign, most outsiders are scared to even talk about the stuff.

But as the benefits become more tangible with numbers that make business sense, many are now tempted to see what all this digital money talk is about. For them to buy in though, Bitcoin needs to become safer, more stable and easier to use. Many won't dare buy in without their governments' stamp of approval and their banks' thumbs up. But banks and governments would only ever encourage the use of cryptocurrency if they could control it. This would of course rob Bitcoin of its essential value.

More important than government regulation, we need self-regulation

Just as parents cannot protect their kids from finding harmful content online, the government and other authorities for the most part, can't protect the public from Bitcoin's "bad actors", con artists and frauds.

It's becoming clear that a decentralized, unregulated model can only work when it's fuelled by an active, and attentive [community](#) that's outspoken and uncompromising when it comes to quality standards. Exchanges should never be able to get away with subpar systems and processes. If it's not open source and regularly audited by outside professionals, we should do more than just boycott it ourselves, we should actively warn others about it. Independence from the authorities means the onus is on us to protect newcomers.

But on that same note, the time is long overdue for people to learn how to think for themselves, do their own research into the things they're interested in and take responsibility for their online safety.

Empowerment through self-education

Baby boomers were always told that a tertiary education guarantees a job and success in any industry. The following generations learned the hard way that that was simply not true. These days the internet gives us unlimited access to all the information we need to become proficient in any skill. [MOOCs](#) take it a step further providing a complete set of lectures for most university degrees, all for free.

Our society has over a very short space of time moved into an age in which self-education is not only possible but has become a necessity in evolving fields such as programming. Perhaps that's why coders are so comfortable doing the required training on their own to understand the cryptocurrency

environment. For professionals in other industries, the crypto learning curve is less comfortable, riskier and more time consuming. But the benefits of this education are far greater than having access to an alternative form of exchange.

As a technology that requires more time, energy and faith than most other things in the regulated world, it challenges us on a deeper level. It requires that we go out on our own to explore an unfamiliar environment, to navigate our way around it one small mistake at a time. It teaches us caution, tests our patience and appetite for risk. But most important of all, it shows us how much we can learn online on our own. This understanding is vital in order to develop the digital competence that's required to survive in a world that's quickly integrating technology into every aspect of our lives.

As a society that's becoming more and more reliant on the connectivity provided by the internet, we need to learn how to take responsibility for our own online security. Cryptocurrency provides the ideal primer by exposing us to the dangers of the internet with the most valued resource - money.

How else could Bitcoin influence our digital evolution? Join the discussion here

<http://www.cryptocoinsnews.com/groups/general/>