# Why NOT Bitcoin?

Playing Devil's Advocate Against the World's Newest Kind of Money

Midwestern Bitcoin Conference Purdue University - November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Chris Wagner chris@spendabit.co



More than 2.5-million things you can buy with Bitcoin

#### What is Bitcoin?

#### Short answer:

"Bitcoin is a revolutionary new kind of money and a currency without borders."

#### Long answer:

- It's a new kind of money.
- It's a currency the world's first crypto-currency.
- It's a peer-to-peer network.
- It's a payment mechanism.
- Etc., etc., etc.

#### Sounds good – so why not?

Reasons you might prefer 'fiat' money (dollars, pounds, pesos, etc.) to Bitcoin.

- 1. Bitcoin is "virtual", so has **no cash** form.
- 2. **Uncertainty** about it's future/viability.
- 3. **Acceptance** is still relatively low.
- 4. Bitcoin's inflation rate.
- 5. **Volatility** (most popular!).

### The Cash Factor

Cash is "money in the form of notes/bills and coins."

Wiktionary.org. 30 Oct. 2014. <a href="https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/cash">https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/cash</a>.

#### Advantages:

- No "technology" computers, phones, cards, etc. necessary to transfer it in person.
- Less third-party risk than bank account money (similar to Bitcoin).
- Offers good privacy/anonymity.

## Uncertainty

- Bitcoin is a **brand new thing**, thus uncertainty exists about what it is, its viability, etc.
- People are used to the existing system, which most people have lived under their entire lives.

It's a bubble

It's property

It's a currency

### Acceptance

- Thousands of businesses accept Bitcoin around the world. But the number is small relative to the ones accepting others form of money.
- Most people have never passed a storefront touting Bitcoin acceptance.
- Coinmap lists a growing number of businesses, but still relatively small (less than 6,000).



### Inflation

- **Bitcoin's** "*inflation rate*" the annual rate at which bitcoins are created is still 10%.
- The U.S. "M2" *money supply* grew at a rate of 6.3% from Sept. 2013 to Sept. 2014.
- Most major world economies have "price inflation" of well under 10% (at least according to the 'governments' of said economies/countries.)

## Volatility

Let's go on a little tangent...

- How do we know Bitcoin price is volatile?
  - The price "fluctuates" widly from month to month (even day-to-day, sometimes hour-to-hour).
- But we measure the price in dollars. How do we know it's not the dollars that are "volatile"?
  - Because prices of most everything else in our world are relatively stable when measured in dollars. (Relatively!)

# Tangent Conclusion: The "ruler" we use to measure a bitcoin's price is important.

→ At some distant point in the future, if the "price" were to become less volatile, we may not be measuring it in dollars. I.e., the "dollar price" could become volatile.

## Taking the Long View

It might not replace "King Dollar" anytime soon, but taking a long-term perspective...

At least 4 of Bitcoin's problems will likely diminish in time:

#### The longer Bitcoin exists...

- The lower its inflation rate will be (as it was designed as such).
- Uncertainty tends to fade in time.

#### • The more Bitcoin is adopted...

- The easier is to find businesses that accept it and,
- The lower the volatility.

### Good things? 10 off the top of my head...

- 1. Possibility to send and receive any amount of money, to/from anyone, anywhere in the world, at any time, in seconds.
- 2. Lower barrier to entry.
- 3. Cheapest way to transfer money.
- 4. Bitcoin has **no central bank.**
- 5. Divorced from nation-states, borders, nationalities.
- 6. Limited money supply.
- 7. It's **open** (as in open source); anyone can peer at its "gears".
- 8. It's **programmable.**
- 9. Better privacy.
- 10. It might be complex, but it's **much easier to understand than the current system.**

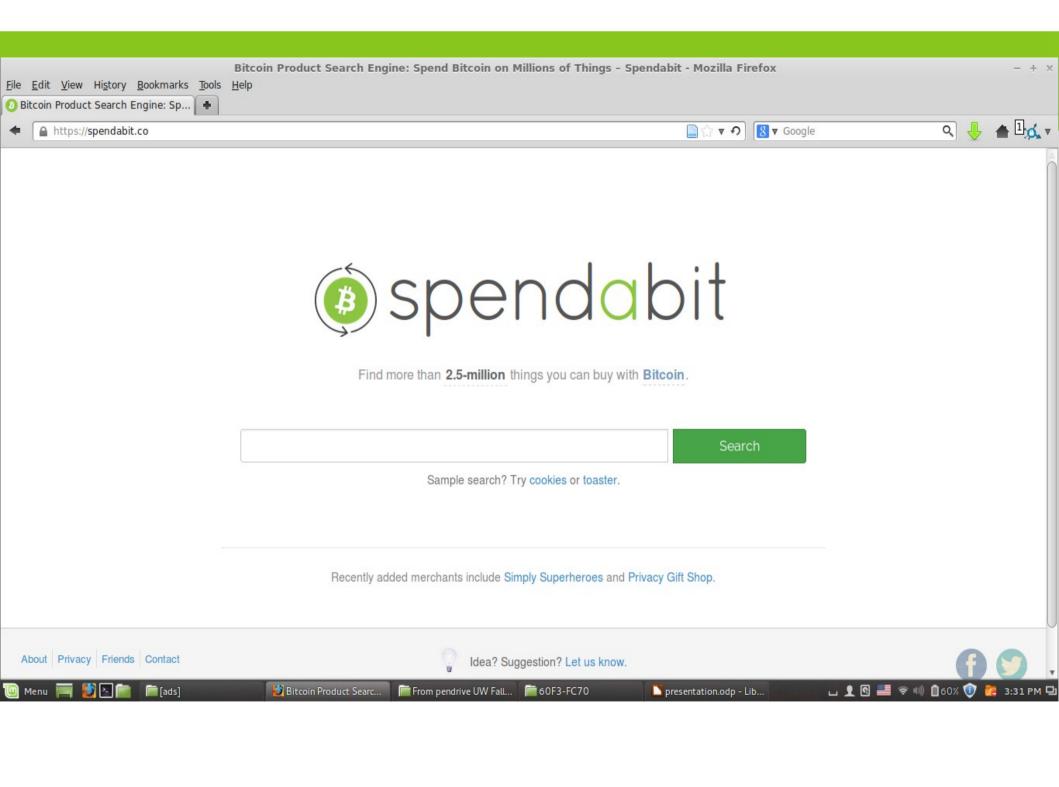
## So, why not?

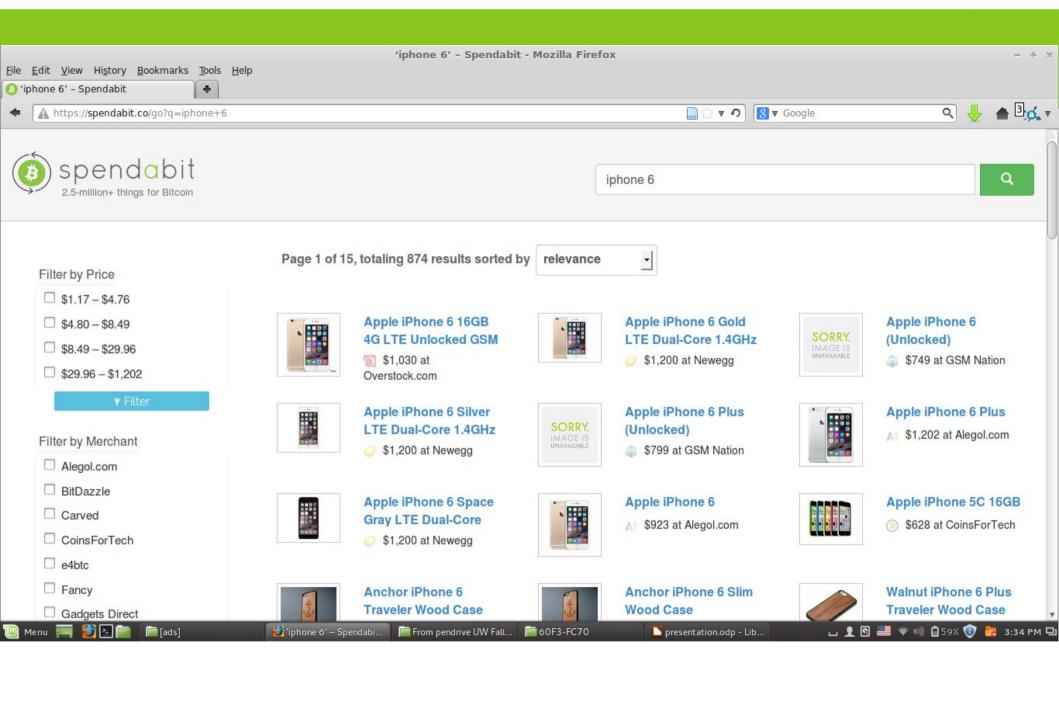
## Spendabit



More than 2.5-million things you can buy with Bitcoin

- Search engine for things you can buy with Bitcoin.
- Millions of products.
- Hundreds of merchants (and growing daily).
- We aim to...
  - Help 'bitcoiners' keep more transactions in the Bitcoin economy.
  - Increase adoption by giving people an answer to, "but what is it (Bitcoin) good for?"





# Thank you for your attention!



Chris Wagner chris@spendabit.co

Spendabit Team contact@spendabit.co