



Crypto Confidential - Adventures in the Underbelly of the Cryptocurrency World

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The characters and events in this book are not fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is not coincidental and is intended by the author.

Chapter 1 - Digital Currency, Cryptocurrency, and Scammers Galore

My relationship with digital currency goes back more than a decade. I've had a lifelong fascination with the origins of money, cryptography, and control systems used by modern nation states. In the 1990's I was involved in movements that as a whole could be labeled as social justice, food security, sustainable development, unschooling, primitivism, and full on 'Black Blok' anarchism. The countercultural movement of the 1990s was broad and included groups focusing on all of these things...and many more. I participated in several barter systems, local exchange trade systems (LETS), community exchanges, and time banks. All of these were attempts to take control of both money and time from our corporate masters and give it back to us. Unfortunately, none of them had the efficiency required to become more than neighborhood clubs. The biggest issue was that they all required a strong central authority to administer them.

During my last semester at the University of Hawaii in 2008, I took an anthropology course focused on Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games or MMORPGs. The course was largely focused on World of Warcraft and one of the required texts was a book called *Play Money* by Julian Dibbell.

In *Play Money*, Dibbell introduced the concept of digital money and how entire real world economies had formed around in-game digital currencies. The whole idea of money composed of bits and bytes seemed to hold an amazing amount of potential for the future. After I graduated, I kept it in my head. I watched the 'Chinese Gold Farmers' and became very interested when Amazon introduced a digital token in 2013, nothing ever really came of the Amazon Coin though as it was more like a gift card than an actual virtual currency. The development of Paypal seemed to be leading us in the right direction, but still acted more as a bank than a peer-to-peer exchange with fairly high transaction costs and wait times.

During the years from 2008 to 2013, I read a several articles about 'Bitcoin'. It seemed like an idea that was due, but the inefficiencies of mining, the cumbersome long addresses, and the experimental nature of it made it seem like a precursor to something that would come later. The early hacks of Mt. Gox made it seem like something that would quickly disappear. I was more familiar with the concept of cryptocurrency than most people during that time, but not an expert by any means. I wanted to explore it further, but during that time, I was living in Morocco and Turkey, getting married, having a child, and making a living from a combination of teaching English, developing websites, and travel blogging at my website *Vagobond.com*. I had neither the time nor the network to become involved.

In 2013, after navigating the very tricky U.S. immigration system, I brought my family to the United States. To my surprise, my skills as a writer, teacher, and web developer were not in great demand in the U.S. After applying for jobs at several San Francisco startups - I realized

that we were going to run out of money before I found a job in California, so I found one of the least expensive towns on the West Coast and moved my family to Oregon. The nest egg that would have lasted three months in California would give me nine months to build a business in Oregon if we lived frugally.

Starting with Ebay and then moving on to estate sales, I built a nice little business. One year in, I had a bustling little shop that was paying our bills and giving us a pretty decent life. The only problem was that it was a technology wasteland. People were more interested in talking about trapping beavers than implementing digital currency or changing the world with technology.

One day in 2013, I saw an article about Bitcoin. I signed up for a wallet, printed out a QR code and hung a sign on my door "Bitcoin Accepted Here". I didn't buy any Bitcoin because they were over \$100 each. I figured I would earn some by selling my inventory. Over the next four years, not a single person even asked me what a Bitcoin was. During the election season of 2016, all of my neighbors seemed to be Trumpists. There were four chainsaw carved statues of Donald Trump in the town before he was even elected. I decided it was time to leave Oregon and go back to Hawaii.

I sold my business, liquidated our possessions, and moved my family to Honolulu in June of 2017. With a little bit of cash in my pocket, I thought, I should finally buy some Bitcoin. I hadn't bought any in 2013 because I wanted to see if anyone was using it - and of course in my backwards little town, no one was - so I lost interest. When I looked at the price in July of 2017 - it had risen from \$100 to \$2500! I didn't feel like I could gamble my family's nest egg buying Bitcoin, so I decided to learn more and get involved in Bitcoin and cryptocurrency in other ways.

Hawaii had changed a lot in a decade. It was far more expensive, far harder to make ends meet, and far harder to find the time or a place to geek out on technology than when I had been a student. By the time I got back to exploring cryptocurrency - CNBC was running a story about an app called Crypto Kitties. Bitcoin had risen to over \$6k per coin. This was November 2017.

I decided that I wasn't going to make the mistake of missing cryptocurrency again. The problem was that Hawaii had all but outlawed cryptocurrency. The major exchanges wouldn't operate in Hawaii. To buy crypto, you had to connect an exchange to a bank in order to deposit national currency like U.S. dollars (fiat) and purchase crypto. None of the exchanges worked with Hawaii residents. It took me several weeks to figure out a way to get around that.

You can buy small pieces of cryptocurrency, you don't have to buy entire coins. I started out by buying small amounts of Litecoin (\$90 each), Ethereum (\$300 each) and Bitcoin (\$7000 each). My available resources were small but the small amount I invested doubled, tripled, and quadrupled. I cashed out in late December and made about \$5000. Then I started buying back in - that was a mistake, of course. Hindsight is 20/20. Another mistake was taking out a loan to buy even more. Another mistake was getting sucked into one of the cultish cryptocurrency 'fams' - for me it was Litecoin.

'Crypto-Twitter' or 'CT' was an absolutely bizarre and fun world to get sucked into. There were all of these larger than life personalities, cartoon characters, memes, drama between founders and communities. CT made reality TV boring - there was 'Litecoin Dad' a tattoo covered biker who gathered donations from the 'Litecoin Fam' to do giveaways and spur adoption but then used most of the funds to pay for a drug fueled trip to Las Vegas before getting into a bizarre and ugly feud with 'Litecoin Queen' - a white trash 'influencer' with a cultish following of lonely and increasingly broke men and boys.

All of these personalities came together in CT and made bizarre predictions, built new projects, and some of them even seemed to get incredibly rich from it. Vitalik Buterin (Ethereum) , Charles Hoskinson (Ethereum and Cardano) , Dan Larimer (EOS), Justin Sun (Tron) and other alt-currency founders became incredibly rich. Others became billionaires through building exchanges like Binance and Coinbase. The Winklevoss Twins (who conceived the idea for Facebook and had it stolen from under them by Mark Zuckerberg) became the first crypto-billionaires by investing a huge sum of the settlement from Facebook into Bitcoin and building the Gemini Exchange.

I should mention here that Satoshi Nakamoto is the unknown person or group of persons who invented Bitcoin. The Bitcoin wallet of Satoshi Nakamoto has never been touched and contains billions of dollars. There have been massive searches to find Satoshi Nakamoto and no one has come to a real conclusion. Fake Satoshis have stepped forward and been disproven again and again. One of those, Dr. Craig Wright, is the founder of Bitcoin Cash - a fork of Bitcoin . Wright has been repeatedly disproven in his claim, but if he is the real Satoshi Nakamoto - hopefully we will never have proof, because he seems to be an awful person.

Brock Pierce, a former child actor and businessman living under a dark cloud from being associated with a known pedophile ring, gathered together a tribe of crypto-followers and moved to Puerto Rico to build a crypto-utopia after a hurricane devastated the island. They initially called it Puertopia which translates as 'eternal boy playground' but then someone realized that was a terrible idea.

John McAfee, the inventor of McAfee anti-virus and a 2016 Libertarian presidential candidate who married a prostitute and allegedly murdered his neighbor in Central America became one of the biggest crypto-celebrities and influencers. A word from McAfee could pump a project from zero to multi-million dollar market caps. McAfee famously called for Bitcoin to reach \$100,000 per coin by 2020 or he would cut off his own cock and eat it.

All of these people, these weird, bizarre, freaky, and beautifully strange people were there on crypto-twitter. There were many more men than women and the women were generally worshipped by all the lonely guys hiding behind their keyboards. There was Gem Crypto, Bitcoin Bella, Crypto Model, Crypto Cutie, The Real Marie Bitcoin and others. Many of the women, of course, were men hiding behind catfish personas that gathered more influence and followers.

Projects were born out of nothing and pumped to the limits by many of these people and then dumped in huge exit scams that made founders rich and destroyed the wealth of supporters. Scams were non-stop. Fake Elon Musk, Fake Bill Gates, Fake Vitalik Buterin and Fake Satoshi Nakamoto accounts offered to share huge rewards for sending a tiny amount of crypto to an anonymous address - and with Bitcoin fever raging - many people fell for it. The real personalities all started including (not asking for ethereum) in their Twitter handles. ICOs or Initial Coin Offerings were booming - an ICO was like an IPO with stock except there was no regulation. A person could create a token or coin, build a website, throw up a white paper, and bring in millions of dollars from people hoping to get rich. A word from someone like John McAfee could make a project go sky high. There were a thousand new rip-off projects born every day - maybe more.

Like everyone who was new into this space, I fell into traps. I didn't send strangers money hoping they would send me riches - but I bought into some ICOs that I thought had long term potential. I ordered HooFoo Hardware Wallet to securely store my 'bags' in but like everyone else who ordered one, mine was never delivered - it was a scam. I loved the technology behind cryptocurrency. I loved the decentralization. I loved the potential ability to defund governments, corporations, and banks. It was the disruption and anarchy of cryptocurrency that I fell in love with. I wouldn't have minded becoming a millionaire for investing in the right project - I enjoy the benefits of having money just like everyone else - but it was the revolution that I fell in love with.

I was spending more than I could afford to lose. Investing money in cryptocurrency that I had borrowed. I was enjoying the hell out of being a part of the 'Litecoin Fam' and interacting with these huge crypto stars on a daily basis. It was awesome to be part of the story. I was making modest gains in my portfolio value. I was going to be rich and we were going to overthrow the system!

In early 2018, things started to fall apart. I listened to the veterans about the cyclic nature of crypto. I studied the charts and saw that ups and downs are normal and that buying the dip was the smart thing to do. I bought the dip. I HODL'd (Hold On For Dear Life). I didn't sell a single thing when the market began crashing. In fact, I bought all the way down until I couldn't afford any more. The problem was that the market just kept going down.

Everything I'd invested lost 2/3s of its value. Docademic (ticker MTC) was an ICO I had bought into on the shilled advice of John McAfee. It pumped so that my \$100 investment was soon worth \$2500. The only problem was that the exchange (HitBTC) suspended trading. Then they wouldn't let you withdraw. My Docademic lost all value and is now worth around \$78. I still have it. I still have everything I bought. I still don't plan to sell.

But all of that isn't what this story is about. It's just background.

In Litecoin Fam, I'd become friends with a number of bizarre cartoon characters, fake celebrity accounts, and 'influencers' like those mentioned above. Shill Nye, Shill Gates, Crypto Gay Guy, BTC Unicorn, Crypto OJ Simpson and the list goes on and on. I had no idea who any of these people were. We just interacted and supported the same teams.

There was one character named Crypto Owen Wilson that I built a particular affinity with. The majority of people thought he was the real Owen Wilson pretending to be a fake Owen Wilson. I wasn't sure, but we had some funny interactions and became friends online. As the crypto bear market began weighing on everyone, people became bitter and angry. This bitterness was referred to as 'salt' or 'throwing salt'. Crypto Owen Wilson told a lot of jokes, posted a lot of memes, and was generally a pretty good guy. He put an avocado in his Twitter handle and tried to encourage everyone to buy his new coin 'AVO' - it was a joke of course.

It was a dark time on CT and in the Crypto world as a whole. Lots of salt. Lots of FUD (fear, uncertainty, and doubt) being thrown. China banned crypto, India talked about banning, the SEC began cracking down on ICOs, scammers were stealing millions of dollars every day through exit scams, pump and dumps, fake ICOs, fake accounts, hacking into exchanges, and other rip-offs. None of this changed the fact that I believed in the technology and wanted to be involved in a project - it just made it financially painful and very dangerous.

Chapter 2 - Crypto Obsessed

I admit it. I was obsessed with Bitcoin and cryptocurrency. Over two months, I digested every white paper, every article, every documentary I could find. I became a fairly knowledgeable punter in a short amount of time. I desperately wanted to get involved with a project, to increase my street cred, to become one of the insiders in this most amazing game of volatility, value and revolution.

As I mentioned before, Hawaii had become a wasteland for cryptocurrency. The state legislature had passed a law that said any time a Hawaii bank sent money to a cryptocurrency exchange for a client, they had to keep an equal amount in reserve in case the client lost it. This is a ridiculous law and makes no sense, but they passed it. There are no banks in Hawaii that are not Hawaii banks - no Citibank, no Bank of America, no Umpqua Bank or any other bank that isn't Hawaii based - so there were no cryptocurrency projects that wanted to do business in Hawaii.

I found one active project in Hawaii. The KK Aloha Coin - something done in partnership with the The Reinstated Kingdom of Hawaii - a Native Hawaiian organization that wanted Hawaii to be given back its independence. Hawaii was overthrown and annexed by the USA but there is no way it will ever be given back to the Hawaiians because it is one of the USA's biggest military garrisons. Still, I'm sympathetic to the Hawaiian cause and it was the only project going so I reached out and tried to set up a meeting.

KK Aloha Coin had been set up to be the official currency of the Kingdom of Hawaii (KOH) Government in Exile. The guy working with KOH to make it happen wrote me back and asked what I wanted to do and what my skills were. After some back and forth, he asked if I would be willing to have a look at the white paper for the KK Aloha Coin. I agreed.

It was a mess of indigenous activism, bad grammar, faulty logic and incorrect technical specifications. I made a few editorial suggestions and returned it. He wrote me a note of appreciation, said that he was heading to Japan to meet with investors, and things never progressed any further than that. In regards to the token, it still sits where it was - no movement over the past few years. I have written to him a few times and he always replies that he is still working on some details. It's a dead in the water project. I would have to look further afield.

The East West Center at the University of Hawaii hosts an annual conference called East Meets West every February. In 2018, the whole thing was focused on Bitcoin and cryptocurrency. This was my chance to meet some of the founders of coins I had invested in, a chance to meet other local enthusiasts, and a chance to find a project to be involved with. Joyce Kim, one of the founders of the Stellar (XLM) cryptocurrency was speaking there. Also in attendance were Dr. Julian Hosp, one of the Co-Founders of the TenX (PAY) crypto currency which was one of the

largest ICOs of the previous year and Rahul Sood, the founder of Unikrn, an e-sports gaming company that was creating a cryptocurrency betting platform. There was no way I was going to miss this.

At the conference, the Governor of Hawaii made a commitment to bringing technology to Hawaii - ignoring the draconian laws around taxation, crypto, and huge financial barriers to doing business in Hawaii. He called himself the technology governor, but when the entire state was accidentally sent a text alert that we were about to be nuked by North Korea, he couldn't find his Twitter password to let people know it was a mistake.

During the question and answer periods - I became acutely aware that my fellow crypto enthusiasts were often a tin-foil hat wearing bunch of conspiracy theorists. Many of them were huge fans of Donald Trump - which, to me, made absolutely no sense. Personally, I identify as a Libertarian Socialist - which essentially means that I am an anarchist. It was incredibly disturbing that far right 'tea party' libertarians and Trumpers were rooting for the same projects as I was. I connected with both Hosp and Kim, but both of their projects were well established and looking for blockchain coders rather than writers and promoters.

Back in the online world, I continued to try to get involved with crypto projects. The story was the same wherever I looked - writers were a dime a dozen. In fact, founders like Tron's Justin Sun didn't even bother with writers but blatantly plagiarized the white papers of other projects. I was ignored by Stellar, Cardano, and the other projects that I wrote and applied to. I offered my services for free, but got no response.

I was invited to be an advocate for 'FUCK' tokens (as in, I give a fuck or I don't give a fuck) but the interaction didn't go anywhere. They really didn't give a fuck and to be completely honest, I didn't think being a FUCK token advocate would open many doors for me - so I didn't pursue it very hard.

I began having some interesting online interaction with John McAfee. At this point, he was posting pictures of himself with guns and coke, shilling shitty projects openly, and in general, showing himself to be just the kind of guy who murders his neighbor. McAfee was interested in bringing bodyguards and project founders into his orbit. He found out I had been a Marine and sent a sort of bizarre job offer to me - which just didn't really sound like what I was looking for - and I was pretty sure my wife would have vetoed it. The clincher was this direct message:



We pay no-one a salary- not even inside members

May 26, 2018, 7:28 AM

I decided to move on.

A guy named Chris Koerner had started a trading group called No BS Crypto that had morphed into creating a currency called NOBS. He had done some giveaways (called airdrops) and the project seemed to be picking up steam. When he mentioned that he and his wife were going to take a trip to Hawaii, I saw my in.

I'd already set up a website for a cryptocurrency based tour company. No one ever made any inquiries but I figured I might have a fish on the line and maybe this could turn into getting involved in a token project. We emailed back and forth, he decided to book a tour, and we worked out all the details of the trip. He dropped out of the conversation when it was time to pay the deposit. Seemed like he had a great trip - and did all the things I had suggested when he was booking it. At the end of it, he sent me something like .10 Eth as a sort of 'Thanks for all the advice' token. There were offers to get involved with NOBS (without pay except for more NOBS), but I figured I'd already been hustled by this particular nob and didn't want to pursue it any further.

Chapter 3: A Short History of Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency

First there was barter, then there was cash. Cash (fiat currency) started out being backed by gold and other stores of values but that mostly came to an end in 1971 when President Richard Nixon took the US dollar off the gold standard. In the 1980's credit cards became the first electronic money with point-of-sale transactions soon becoming the norm when people didn't want to use cash. Electronic bank transfers and wiring money had been around for a while, but weren't really useful for most people.

In the late 1980's when the internet started to take off and become a real thing, some forward thinking geniuses started pushing to create a truly digital cash. The first that I know of was Digicash started by David Chaum, an American cryptographer. For those who don't know, a cryptographer is a person who finds ways to transfer electronic information in a secure way. Chaum worked with some of the pioneers in the cryptocurrency world including Nick Szabo who would later create a digital asset called BitGold and be an early Bitcoin supporter and advocate. Digicash was a hot prospect and at one point Microsoft wanted it installed on every Windows machine - but after running afoul of some government regulation and being a little bit too greedy about how much money he wanted for Digicash - Chaum's venture collapsed and went bankrupt. The big innovation of Digicash was the 'Blind Signature Protocol' which allowed digital transactions to be anonymous.

Digicash wasn't really the progenitor of Bitcoin, it was more like an early Paypal. That's where things were until 2000 when Jim McCoy created Mojo Nation in order to create a distributed digital peer-to-peer currency. This was the closest thing to Bitcoin before there was bitcoin. Bram Cohen, one of the guys who worked with McCoy used part of the technology to create Bittorrent. Ironically, Mojo Nation ran out of money and pretty much disappeared in 2002. There are many theories about who Satoshi Nakamoto was - personally, I believe that Jim McCoy fits the bill better than any of them.

Fast forward to October 31, 2008, when the mysterious and unknown Satoshi Nakamoto published a white paper to a cryptography listserv titled: *Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash*. On January 3, 2009 the first block was mined. Nick Szabo, Gavin Andreeson, Hal Finney, and Wei Dai were all deeply involved in the development and creation of Bitcoin. If anyone knows who the mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto is, they have never let the secret out.

In April 2011, the last known communication from Satoshi Nakamoto told a supporter that he had 'moved on to other things.' Bitcoin, however, was out of the bag. So what is Bitcoin? In the simplest terms Bitcoin is the means of payment used in an electronic ledger system. The ledger it operates on is the Bitcoin blockchain. A blockchain is a non-reversible ledger that has no central authority and allows for transactions between individuals without a necessary

intermediary like a bank or government. So, blockchain is the record book and Bitcoin is the currency the records are both kept in and paid for with.

Since it was created, Bitcoin has only had one major security breach. The exchanges that act as the intermediaries between fiat currency and Bitcoin are where the hacks happen. First there was Mt. Gox but there have been plenty since then. The weak links in Bitcoin are with users not protecting their private keys and exchanges not protecting their users private keys. Bitcoin is like a safety deposit box that no one can get in. The only way for someone to steal it, is if they have the keys.

There were scandals of money laundering, the illegal 'Silk Road' marketplace, hacks, and more - but through them all Bitcoin remained just as useful and secure as it had been designed to be.

Bitcoin created the blockchain ecosystem which is now rich with many different projects such as Litecoin, Ethereum, Tron, Ripple, Stellar, and all of the others. I wanted to be a part of one of those projects.

Chapter 4: Senor Lupe and Lupecoin are Born

I wasn't having much luck getting involved in a project. Everyone wanted a coder and while I can build a website or do basic coding - I hadn't yet learned how to build a blockchain - let alone create an application on top of one.

As the reality of the bear market of 2018 took hold, things were getting ugly on crypto-twitter. The calls to 'buy the dip', 'buy the fucking dip' or just 'HODL' were increasingly sounding hopeless as dips led to bigger dips and the bottoms dropped out of coins, tokens, and projects that had previously looked like big money makers. The scams were non-stop. People were trying anything and everything to get money, both legitimate and illegitimate.

The influencers were making a killing by shilling all these shitty projects. At one point John McAfee openly said he was charging \$10,000 per tweet to shill 'shitcoin' projects. Call them what you want 'altcoins' 'shitcoins' 'tokens' or whatever. These were projects that were thrown together overnight and while some of them looked incredibly good - most of them were on terrible foundations. BitcoinPrivate (BTCP) is one example - shilled by McAfee - it climbed to nearly \$100 per coin before a critical security flaw was revealed and it dropped to a couple bucks. People were getting incredibly rich ripping off people who wanted to get incredibly rich. That situation was causing a lot of anger, a lot of negativity, and a lot of 'salt'.

My twitter buddy CryptoOwenWilson was in the thick of it. He was a good natured guy always making jokes and keeping to the light side of things. He loved the weird memes that came up around crypto. There was the Pepe d'app (which I never cared for or liked), the Bogdanov Twins, Dogecoin, and more. The salt was getting heavy though and people were constantly speculating that CryptoOwenWilson was the real Owen Wilson. Apparently it became too much of a burden because he decided to doxx himself. In a couple of posts that disappeared not long after, he said he was tired of people thinking he was the real Owen Wilson and so he identified himself and even put up a picture of a normal looking guy sitting in front of a computer. And then he disappeared.

Senor Lupe showed up about the same time as CryptoOwenWilson was joking about Avocado (AVO) coins and Taco (TACO) Coins. Senor Lupe was a character made from a meme that had gone around several years before - 'the crying Mexican cowboy'. He tweeted in broken 'Spanglish' and was a huge supporter of Bitcoin. He captured everyone's attention and gained followers very quickly.

When a spoofy obituary to CryptoOwenWilson showed up and then his account was suddenly rebranded as LupeCoin, I put two and two together. I private messaged both Senor Lupe and 'Lupecoin'. Sure enough, Owen was indeed Lupecoin - but he claimed to have no idea who

Senor Lupe was, he just saw an opportunity to create a meme token based on Senor Lupe and he took it. I wasn't sure I believed him, but I told him I wanted in on the project.

He had taken his rather large following and built a community dedicated to creating Lupecoin with it. Everyone was welcome and he was doling out Lupecoin to anyone who asked. When he found out I had written a couple of books, he was extremely impressed and bragged to everyone in the Telegram and Twitter groups that Team Lupecoin now included a published author.

The next thing I knew, I had been included in a group chat with the core personnel of Lupecoin. There were six other people in the discussion and they were griping about what to do regarding Owen's free hand at giving away Lupecoin. It turned out that he was also a bit too quick to take offense when people questioned him. This discussion was somewhere between a mutiny, a damage control strategy session, and a coup. I laid low and suggested that we bring him in. A couple of other guys were of a similar mind. Calm heads prevailed and Owen was brought into the discussion, a solution was presented, he agreed to it, and that was the end of that.

Someone labeled the group chat as 'Founder's Roundtable' and just like that, I was one of the founders of a cryptocurrency. I kept waiting for someone to notice that I wasn't supposed to be there, but over the next few weeks, I was just as involved in the discussions as anyone else. I also realized that we were a unique group in the crypto world - most of us couldn't code our way out of a box. We were an auto body technician, a medical professional, a nutritionist, a drummer, an author, a crypto miner, and a teenage coder from the Netherlands who had put the code together for the coin. And whatever Owen was - which I still haven't really figured out.

Chapter 5: More About Cryptocurrency, Exchanges, and Wallets

Cryptocurrency is about far more than just Bitcoin.

Ethereum (ETH) is a newer blockchain based computing platform developed by Vitalik Buterin which allowed for scripting on the network (i.e. computing and building applications aka smart contracts).

Litecoin (LTC) is a cryptocurrency started by Charlie Lee. It was a sort of clone of bitcoin with some improvements to make it faster and cheaper to conduct transactions. Lee said it was silver to bitcoin's gold.

Just by having read this far, you know more about bitcoin and cryptocurrency than 90% of the population. It's very early in the game. As of writing this, there are more than 2000 cryptocurrencies. Many (most actually) of them are built on the Ethereum protocol and are called ERC-20 compliant – which means if you have an ethereum wallet – you can use those tokens with it. Some well known examples are Golem, 0x, Basic Attention Token, and Ziliqa. Each of them has their own use cases and eventually will have their own blockchains.

And that is the key, each of these projects eventually has a blockchain of their own. Some well known examples of other coins with their own blockchains are Ripple, Digibyte, EOS, Stellar, Cardano, Bitcoin Cash, Tron, and Neo. To be clear, both Litecoin and Ethereum are also coins. Coins have their own blockchain, tokens use the blockchain of another project. So there are coins on the Stellar, Neo, and Tron networks – as well as on Ethereum.

Bitcoin is the one and only first blockchain project. It has a founder but no hierarchy, no controlling body, and no central authority. The Bitcoin Foundation manages governance – but, as the case with Bitcoin Cash (and Litecoin among others) when there is a schism between the nodes – it is possible to 'fork' and thus create a new coin with new rules. Bitcoin Cash was born of such a disagreement among miners. The Bitcoin Cash people claim that they are more closely aligned with the original vision of the Bitcoin white paper. The Bitcoin (aka Bitcoin Core) miners say that Bitcoin Cash is a centralized monster that distorts the vision of Satoshi Nakamoto.

Within all the coins above, there are privacy coins, function coins, and exchange coins. Privacy coins like Monero and Dash are built to hide the identity of the user – something which bitcoin is known for but actually doesn't do. Function coins allow you to use the coin for a specific function – a good example is Docademic (an ERC-20 token) which allows you to purchase online medical advising for tokens. Exchange coins such as Binance Coin (also ERC-20 token) allows you to purchase tokens and pay fees with them.

Coinbase, the largest exchange has not issued their own coin – yet – maybe they never will. Binance is the main exchange for most alt-coins. A third place you can buy and sell crypto is the phone based stock trading app RobinHood. The difference between the three is that coinbase is the most highly regulated and probably the most hackproof. On Coinbase, you can buy Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ethereum, Bitcoin Cash, Ethereum Classic (a fork of Ethereum), Stellar, Ox, Zcash, and Basic Attention Tokens. You can buy for fiat currency, sell for fiat currency and send/receive to and from other wallets at Coinbase.

Binance does not have fiat currency enabled but you can buy crypto with a credit card. Binance has many many more coins and tokens than Coinbase. The catch is, you have to fund your Binance account with cryptocurrency from elsewhere (or use a credit card which is a bad idea) and if you want to change for fiat currency, you need to go to Coinbase or another fiat enabled exchange. Robinhood allows you to buy and sell a basket of cryptos but you cannot transfer to or from and you do not control the private keys of your wallets – thus – it eliminates what many consider to be the most important feature of cryptocurrency – trustlessness.

Next, we'll briefly explore the world of crypto-wallets. There are many different wallets and types of wallet.

Exchange Wallets

Exchange wallets allow the exchanges to control your currency. This is important if you are actively trading. Some exchanges guarantee that your holdings are protected. Binance is one of these. Advantages of exchange wallets are that you can buy, sell, and trade. Exchange wallets usually take care of airdrops, forks, and mainnet swaps for you. The disadvantage is that your every move is being monitored, your accounts are clearly tied to you, and you do not actually control your keys. So, if currency independence or privacy are one of your reasons for investing in crypto – keep your crypto somewhere else.

Browser Wallets

Browser wallets aka Web Wallets use an online interface to keep track of your crypto. Again, if privacy is an issue, you have to take some extra steps because your computer's IP address and other factors are showing the world who has control of that wallet. Probably the most popular browser wallet is MEW aka MyEtherWallet.com

Since Ethereum has been used to build thousands of ERC-20 compliant tokens – a browser wallet like MEW is very useful because it can hold them all. Also, since the contents of the wallet are visible to anyone on the blockchain – if you hold your Ethereum in a MEW or similar wallet, you will get air drops of new ERC-20 tokens from time to time if you are holding any Ethereum.

Software Wallets

Similar to MEW but downloaded onto your machine or device are software wallets. Software wallets are also known as desktop or mobile wallets. The main advantage to using a software wallet is that they are more secure because they are on your machine or device. Some examples are JAXX, Mycelium, Electrum, and Green Wallet. Generally, when you set these up, your private key is given to you and encrypted using a series of words which are also given to you. This means you can recover your wallet even if your computer or phone is stolen or broken. A similar system is used with browser wallets. The difference is that a browser wallet can be logged into from anywhere as long as you have your keys, the software wallet is only on your device.

Hardware Wallets

There are a growing number of hardware wallets. Ledger, Trezor, Bitflic, and more. Hardware wallets are not dependent on your computer, the web, or exchanges. By storing your cryptocurrency on a hardware wallet, you are retaining full control of your crypto and retaining the maximum amount of currency independence.

Paper Wallets, Wallet Cards, etc

A paper wallet is little more than a bitcoin or crypto private key printed on a piece of paper. Nothing complex about it. Wallet cards are a way of digitally managing private keys offline but still loading and spending online. Paper wallets are as secure as you keep them – think of them as almost the same thing as dollar bills. If you leave them lying around, they will probably disappear.

In summary, cryptocurrency is moved around with numbers and math. The math is complex and for all intents and purposes impossible to counterfeit unless you have two sets of numbers – the public key and the private key. Wallets are a way of managing and keeping those keys safe. Many people call any wallet with an online component a soft or hot wallet and any wallet that is offline a cold or hard wallet. Cold wallets are safer than hot wallets.

Chapter 6- LUPX and FART - Something smells stinky!

So far, you've learned a bit about cryptocurrency and also how I became involved in my first crypto project. I was super stoked.

I wasn't so stoked, however. as to be blinded by some very obvious problems.

Not the least of the problems was the way I'd become a founder of the project in the first place. As a reminder, it went something like this - I expressed interest in helping, there were misgivings about the main founder, someone inadvertently invited me to a Twitter chat with the main group of co-founders, I laid low and managed to stay in the chat group, and voila!, I was a co-founder!

The lack of organization that had allowed me to become a co-founder was one of the biggest issues. I intended to fix that. I started contributing ideas about organizational formation, leadership, marketing, promotion, distribution, and communication. At this point communication was terrible, mostly through Twitter direct messaging. There were also a couple of Telegram groups - but the usefulness of Telegram seemed only slightly better than Twitter for things like threaded conversations, archival, and managing teams.

I'd used Slack in a couple of other ventures and built a slack group so that we could have more effective teams, communication, and frankly, a bit of coherence. Trying to keep things light, I called it 'Founders Association Round Table' abbreviated to 'FART'. The Dutch teenager who went by the Twitter handle 'Hilobrain' said he had never used Slack and wanted to use Discord instead. As the new guy who had slid in unnoticed, I wanted to have a gentle hand so I didn't object. Discord was certainly more useful than Telegram, but lacked many of the features of Slack, which was built for business. Discord was built for video gamers.

Hilobrain built the Discord server (point and click work of a couple minutes) and simply called it 'FART'. I believe there were thirteen of us that went in there initially. We were still working on the fix for the crazy distribution of Lupecoin by CryptoOwenWilson and his inappropriate outbursts and attacks on people who disagreed with him. After the initial discussion, he had apologized and said he would change his ways- but then he had just gone back to doing the same crazy shit he was doing before.

I had introduced the idea of setting up our organization as a co-op. Everyone liked the idea and it seemed like a worker/user owned collective was a new concept to them. It was pretty cool for me, as an anarchist and a collectivist, to be able to introduce these ideas into the space and to be able to sort of guide a project towards being a truly Libertarian-Socialist work. The problem was that radical equality and collective decision making were such foreign concepts to these guys that even though I explained it and showed examples (like the Mondragon Collective in

Spain) a few of them never actually seemed to get it. Owen just kept doing whatever he wanted and Hilo never bothered to have a discussion about features, ideas, or giveaways before he implemented them.

There were other problems. The white paper was a mess. It was filled with what could be construed as racist remarks towards Latinos, nonsense Spanglish, and a lack of vision or cohesiveness. I decided to tackle it. There was a concept that I thought we should focus on heavily - 'Proof of Friendship'. Cryptocurrency generally runs on two types of confirmations - Proof of Work (POW) or Proof of Stake (POS) - I liked the idea of taking the friendly Senor Lupe and using Lupecoin to create a new model. Our model didn't have to be heavy on math or technical specs - the whole idea was to have fun and share positive spirits. In doing that, we would build proof of friendship (POF). Using POF, we could gather, share ideas, build ideas, and do many different things. It was what was already happening.

We had discovered some big problems with our cryptocurrency LUPE. For instance, Owen had given huge chunks to random people, there was a security flaw in the coding, there had been a fairly sketchy deal made with an exchange that had fallen apart but which delivered a large chunk of the currency to the crooked folks in charge of the exchange. As a result, something drastic had to be done - we decided to issue a new token LUPX. We would allow community members to do a 1:1 swap of LUPE for LUPX but would leave out some of the large chunks owned by cons, shells, crooked exchanges, and scammers.

Collectively, the founders decided to do a couple of things. First we would put the bulk of the new LUPX in a development wallet that required multiple founders signatures to deploy. Second, each founder would get a stake of six million LUPX. We created a gentlemen's agreement about vesting and included it in the white paper. We also agreed that all funds generated by the project would go into the multi-signature wallet. LUPX was launched.

Starting with what Huguenot (the medical professional) had put together, I did a complete remake of the white paper. I made POF the main purpose and wrote each section as a revolutionary exercise. I added in some incredibly radical shit and created the fun idea of an annual gathering in my home city to begin in 2020 called Honolupx. When they read it, the other founders loved it. At this point, I felt like I had earned my place at the table.

Here is the LUPX white paper:

The Lupecoin Project
“Proof of Friendship through Blockchain Technology”

White Paper
Version 1.0
Table of Contents

Abstract

- 1. Introduction*
 - 2. The Vision*
 - 3. Problem Statement*
 - 4. Our Solution*
 - 5. Proof of Friendship*
 - 6. Lupecoin Token (LUPX)*
 - 6.1. Fundamentals*
 - 6.2. Distribution*
 - 6.3. Utility*
 - 6.4. Multisig Wallet*
 - 6.5. Core Team Holdings*
 - 7. Lupecoin Wallet*
 - 7.1. Desktop*
 - 7.2. Mobile*
 - 8. Decentralized Applications (dApps)*
 - 8.1 Desktop dApp*
 - 8.2. Mobile dApps*
 - 8.3. Digital Collectibles*
 - 8.4. Gamification*
 - 9. Lupecoin Blockchain*
 - 10. Road Map (“Chummy Path”)*
 - 11. Team Lupecoin*
- The Future*
Disclaimer

Abstract

The Lupecoin Project is a community-driven initiative, born out of the concept of decentralized friendship. The project aims to disrupt the decentralized applications industry (aka dApps) with a bold and unique ‘community first’ ecosystem. Utilizing Ethereum’s blockchain and smart contract technology, supporters of the project will demonstrate and experience “Proof of Friendship” through the project’s native token Lupecoin (LUPX) and later in 2019 through LuPay Cash (LuPay).

1. Introduction

The Lupecoin Project (hereafter TLP) is a community-based cooperative with no centralized authority controlling rules or token economics. TLP provides a unique infrastructure supporting transparent peer-to-peer interactions on a decentralized ledger for proof of token ownership, transfer, and transactions.

TLP started as a fun social experiment where friends (i.e. “frens”) were airdropped tokens as a way of spreading love and happiness during a time of steep Bitcoin and altcoin declines. The token was named in honor of an anonymous Twitter persona known as Senor Lupe. Senor Lupe’s positivity on social media was a breath of fresh air during a time when many cryptocurrency investors and enthusiasts were suffering sizeable losses and turning salty.

2. The Vision

The vision of TLP is to share a cryptocurrency that brings the community together through friendship and support with a multitude of projects. TLP endeavors to bring smiles to users and observers. In addition, TLP and LUPX aim to advance the use, adoption and mainstreaming of blockchain technology. This White Paper outlines the intent and purposes of TLP. A secondary motivation of this White Paper is to provide insight to the first TLP dApp which will be released in early 2019.

3. Problem Statement

Public perception of blockchain technology has skewed towards the negative during the course of 2018. While cryptocurrency and blockchain tech are still in the nascent stage, this perceived negativity poses a problem for major blockchain platforms. This is especially true for projects within the realm of gaming, social media, and digital collectibles which hope to attract users to their product, service, or virtual entertainment venue.

4. Our Solution

TLP aims to focus on the lighter and more positive side of this amazing technology. Through fostering creativity in diverse community and focusing on the uplifting values of friendship, respect, and mutual aid - TLP creates an immutable bond between individuals from diverse backgrounds, geographic locations, and ideological standpoints. The bonds between us are sometimes ignored in this age where we instead tend to focus on our differences. Our concept of “Proof of Friendship” creates an unbreakable bond in the blockchain which defines relationships from reciprocal, group, or uni-directional standpoints.

5. Proof of Friendship

Proof of Friendship (i.e. PoF) is the concept of allowing the community (where community is defined as an autonomous group of individuals who choose to work towards a common goal) to show their support for a creative, educational, or even financial project through tokenized friendship. LUPX is a means of showing support for a specific community or project with PoF. PoF can be viewed as a social initiative, albeit one which operates as a decentralized co-operative with the community encouraged to be every bit as involved as the founders of the project. Ideally, founders will lead the way but in short order, a strong foundation will replace any guidance necessary from individuals. Focus will be placed on community which will allow that same community to direct all matters pertaining to any given project. There is nothing else like PoF within the cryptocurrency or blockchain space despite this being one of the guiding ideals of the founding cypherpunk movement. PoF is something truly special and at its core is what TLP is all about.

6. Lupecoin Token (LUPX)

6.1. Fundamentals

LUPX is an ERC20 standard token that has a 600M supply. It's solidity coding offers a secure and stable smart contract for use on any dApp. The full 600M supply is pre-mined with ~75% of the supply in circulation. LUPX was initially airdropped to the community to spread positivity and highlight friendship. There will be absolutely no token sales or ICO for the Lupecoin Project nor will any funds be asked directly of the community in exchange for LUPX.

6.2. Distribution

LUPX will be completely distributed in an ongoing series of airdrops, giveaways, contests, and bounties. We want the project to be truly decentralized by giving the governance back to the community. The success of the project relies on how much support it can receive from the community.

6.3. Utility

LUPX will be a community-controlled cryptocurrency where the project is supported by contributors using their airdropped and gifted LUPX. In addition, LUPX can be utilized, through our gamified and socialized dApp(s) to purchase digital collectibles and to use within our dApp's eco system.

6.4. Multisig Wallet

Following the distribution of the majority supply of LUPX, there will be a multisignature (i.e. multisig) wallet created that will become the ongoing "development fund" for TLP. Approximately 15% of the total supply of LUPX will be deposited into the multisig wallet as foundational "seed funding." The multisig wallet will be under the supervision of the founders of TLP. Supporters of TLP can send what they deem is necessary as a contribution to the project's ongoing efforts for dApp development, exchange listings, etc. LUPX transactions will be processed through majority voting between the founders of TLP and the community. This makes all transactions pertaining to TLP fully transparent and decentralized.

6.5. Core Team Holdings

The founders of TLP will be distributed 1% each of the total supply of LUPX with a bonding agreement to stake and lock their holdings as such: 90% locked for 6 months; 75% locked for 12 months; 50% locked for 18 months; 100% unlocked after 24 months. This agreement will take effect on August 1, 2018.

7. Lupecoin Wallet

7.1 Desktop

LUPX will have a native desktop wallet released in early 2019.

7.2. Mobile

LUPX will have both an Android and iOS wallet released after mid-2019.

8. Decentralized Applications (dApps)

8.1. Desktop dApp

The first of the project's dApps will tap into a well-known market within the crypto community. Users will have the ability to claim ownership, collect, trade, and monetize non-fungible, transferrable, and scarce digital collectibles on Ethereum's blockchain. These ERC721 standard collectibles, called "Chummies," can be collected by spending LUPX. Through a gamified dApp, users can interact with other users with Lupecoin Project's native wallet/social platform. The platform will be in the form of a desktop as well as a mobile dApp.

Within the desktop dApp, users can store their digital collectibles as well as the project's native token, LUPX. In addition, the desktop dApp will provide users a truly "fren-to-fren" experience as outlined within this White Paper.

8.2 Mobile dApps

Within the mobile dApp, users will have the ability to interface with their desktop dApp, as verified through blockchain technology. The dApp will give the user a hybrid gamified experience of Geocaching married to Augmented Reality (AR) in the form of "Chummy Hunting." The experience will be where digital collectibles and "Bags of LUPX" are geocached in various real-life coordinates. By using the mobile dApp, users will have the ability to locate and purchase, or trade at face value, Chummies as well as win LUPX by solving in-game riddles.

8.3. Digital Collectibles

People find value in collectibles, whether tangible (i.e. baseball cards, antiques, etc.) and/or digital (i.e. photos, documents, etc.). Through ERC721 standard coding, we aim to make collecting "Chummies" a fun experience for the crypto and mainstream communities. Our digital collectibles look to revamp and bring back a forgotten and beloved trend from the mid-90's... Pogs (or "Milk Caps"). Our "Chummies" will be referred to formally as "Leche Caps" to pay homage to the Pogs trend but not impose on the World Pog Federation's copyright. There will be a tiered system for the digital

collectibles: Common (Comun), Uncommon (Poco Comun), Rare (Raro), Ultra Rare (Ultra Raro), and Exclusive (Exclusivo).

8.4. Gamification

Today, the interactive gaming arena is at a steady rise with mobile gaming accounting for most of it. Mobile phones are slowly replacing desktop computers as the interface of choice for gaming. Studies show that nearly 80% of time spent on mobile phones is spent on downloadable applications (mobile gaming being the leader of the pack):

<https://www.performics.com/advertising-in-mobile-gaming-apps-pm/>

Furthermore, research has also projected that by 2020, 63.7% of the population will be utilizing their mobile devices primarily for gaming. We see this trend as a massive opportunity to help the general population adopt blockchain technology through a fun and interactive mobile application.

As people spend more time finding new and creative ways to be entertained through mobile gaming, the Lupecoin Project hopes to provide an avenue to enhance and embrace this by leveraging blockchain technology and the decentralization of gaming applications. Unlike other applications, the Lupecoin Project is not controlled by a centralized entity. Its ecosystem is autonomous, decentralized, and governed by the community.

9. Lupecoin Blockchain

TLP envisions a time in the not too distant future when LUPX will be transacted on its own blockchain. This blockchain will be built, operated, and maintained by the LUPX community and for the LUPX community. Nodes will be 'trustless' without being 'friendless' and all transactions will be verified with a PoF consensus co-op network.

10. Road Map ("Chummy Path")

Please note that our team's primary goal is to provide you with stable and reliable releases. As such, any indications of target release dates and features listed are subject to change.

May-July 2018

LUPE in the time of Salt
Original LUPE coin created and distributed
Organic formation of "TeamLupe"
Founders Team coalesces
LUPE replaced with LUPX for better coding security

August 2018

1:1 Token Swap completed
White Paper released
LUPX listed on first exchanges

Q4 2018

Native LUPX desktop wallet completed and beta tested

Release of the first LUPX Creative Team cartoons
LUPX listed on CoinMarketCap.com

Q1-Q2 2019

LUPX desktop wallet released
LUPX Android wallet released
LUPX iOS wallet released
Majority supply of LUPX released and distributed
Gamification of LUPX

Q3-Q4 2019

First LUPX dApps released
LUPX Blockchain Testnet
LuPay Cash Project relaunches
2020 and Ahead
Blockchain Cloning
Atomic Swapping
Proof of Work for LuPay (Mining)
1st TLP Conference and Co-op General Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii “HONOLUPX 2020”

11. Team Lupecoin

Our co-founders are listed in alphabetical order by Twitter handle:

AHuguenot
Assistant (to the) Regional Manager of LUPX
ColdSchoolCrypto
LUPX Space Rocket Engineer
CryptoNations
CryptoOwenWilson
Secretary of the LUP-Exterior
Lead Trainer at P90LUPX
DocOiler
Marketing Medicine Man
DeBaas
LUPX Secret Agent
DZ
Director of LUPX Animatronics
Gary
LUPX Society Handshake Designer
Hilobrain
Head of AI Linguistics
Kryptoknight
Chief of Staff's Staffs (and Swords)

PhishCoin
LUPX Vice Principle
Vagobond
LUPX Sub-Commander

The Future

One of the most amazing things about The Lupecoin Project and LUPX is the level of talent that it continues to draw. At any given time in our multiple Telegram, Discord, and other social areas there are new people joining, new ideas being born, and new projects being thrown together. One of the things that we quickly realized is that while TLP was born out of a shared interest in blockchain and cryptocurrency, we aren't limited to cryptocurrency or blockchain projects. Our creative team is producing a cartoon series! Several members have talked about collaborating on musical projects. We've even brought up sponsoring a racing team! So, what does the future hold for TLP and LUPX? No one knows for sure - but you can expect to hear a lot more about Proof of Friendship - and all that comes with it. We look forward to our friendships with all of you.

Disclaimer

This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any sort or a solicitation for investment, nor does it in any way pertain to an offering or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction. This document is not composed in accordance with, and is not subject to, laws or regulations of any jurisdiction, which are designed to protect investors. LUPX token is a utility token. The token is a digital currency and has not been registered under the Securities Act, the securities laws of any state of the United States, or the securities laws of any other country, including the securities laws of any jurisdiction in which a potential token holder is a resident. LUPX token cannot be used for any purposes other than those provided in this White Paper, including but not limited to, any investment, speculative or other financial purposes. LUPX token offers no other rights in any form, including but not limited to any ownership, distribution (including but not limited to profit), redemption, liquidation, and proprietary (including all forms of intellectual property), or other financial or legal rights, other than those specifically described in this White Paper. The LUPX token is designed purely to provide utility within the Lupecoin Project's eco-system.

In addition to the founders group, there was a media collective that was working on an animated series about Senor Lupe and his horse Chummy. There were multiple projects proposed and being worked on - a horse racing game, a platform for d'apps, a blockchain of our own, a wallet, an artist collective, and the list goes on. We had hundreds of cool talented people who wanted to contribute and be a part of the project. What they loved was that the project was open and

people could do whatever they liked - find others who liked the same thing - and then move forward with the support of the organization.

Suddenly, there was real work to be done. Huguenot and Owen did the heavy work of the distribution. The distribution wasn't free since LUPX was built on the Ethereum network, so each transaction had to be paid for with small amounts of Ethereum known as gas. One of our technical founders, Tokenneth Carson decided to leave the project because he couldn't see how it would work with Owen continually just doing whatever he wanted. Time would prove his decision right, but it was a shame to lose him. It left us with one technical co-founder, the Dutch teenager, who suddenly seemed to have an ego that had outgrown his skillset.

A founder named Debaas was contacting exchanges and other projects to get us listed, noticed, and promoted. The nutritionist sort of faded into the woodwork saying that he had an idea to work on later. The drummer said he would make some music if we wanted, but then sort of disappeared. The wallet developer started putting some wireframes together - that was the last I interacted with him. Hilobrain started working on the horse racing game. The creative department was where the most exciting things were happening. Animators, writers, musicians - they were going crazy creating a cartoon called Lupe and Frens. It was awesome to see - but watching it, I had some misgivings.

The fundamental premise of Senor Lupe was funny, a broken-English speaking cowboy who loved his horse and bitcoin. Since none of us knew who he was, he might have been Latino, he might have been Mexican, or he might have been some Ku Klux Klansman mocking Latinos. The cartoon was funny, but it perpetuated some serious racial stereotypes. Those working on it were almost all white dudes in their 20s and 30s and they seemed oblivious to the insensitivity of it. I mentioned the problems to Huguenot and he agreed - it was a time bomb. If Senor Lupe were doxxed as a white guy - our whole project would be fucked. I suggested that we use the launch of LUPX as a means of distancing ourselves from Senor Lupe. I wanted to let people know that he had never been a founder or a force in what we were creating - but instead only an inspiration. I loved the cartoon, but if it were a huge disaster and accusations of racism were thrown at us - I wanted to be able to distance ourselves from it.

Gary, the guy who had taken charge in the media collective was suddenly brought in as a co-founder just as we were about to announce the white paper, get moving on the exchanges etc. He was doing a great job of getting people organized and we seemed to be on track to launching the animated series - but I should get back to those misgivings I mentioned. The suggestion to bring him in came from the auto body tech (Doc) and everyone else agreed. I expressed dissent, but with everyone else on board, it was a losing battle and I assented. Not only was he oblivious to anything like racial sensitivity, he also came across as being a fairly hard right Brexiter/white nationalist. He came into the group swinging at my Libertarian Socialist ideas and almost immediately started trying to tear apart the most important aspects of the new white paper.

I'd contributed a bit on the creative department. I'd written a couple of scripts that were mostly well received - but the new creative director had vetoed them because they were making fun of significant crypto-influencers like John McAfee or were using crude potty humor. I could respect both reasons as valid - except for the fact that the entire premise of the show was making fun of an entire racial demographic. If we were going to be offensive, we should be wide open about it - not protecting old white men and sensitive ears of innocents. That's why, for me, it was an unpleasant shock when the new founder was suddenly among us.

We had some important interviews coming up with different influencers. I expected that we would get a lot of attention pointed our way - not least of which was because of our racially insensitive mascot. One of our interviews was with TheRealMarieBTC, a proud Latina with a heavy Latino following. We were doing an AMA (ask me anything) session with her live. Huguenot, Doc, KryptoKnight (an Indian insurance salesman from Singapore living in the Philippines) and me were doing the interview. Huguenot and I were both in a bit of a panic - me because I understand how this stuff works and Huguenot because not only did he understand, he is Latino himself. We agreed that we needed to de-racialize the token and distance ourselves from Senor Lupe.

I wrote the following letter to be sent out to our followers on our weekly LUPX Tuesday updates:

The Lupecoin Project (TLP) began as a fun way to reward the people who remained active on crypto-Twitter during the bear market of 2018. The origins of the project were as follows:

Cryptocurrency had reached staggering highs at the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018. This record market brought a lot of new faces and enthusiasm into the cryptospace as a whole. During the next six months most currencies crashed hard and have yet to recover but during May of 2018 there was an all too brief 'alt-season' which also subsequently crashed. Many of the new faces turned from happy faces to depressed faces and some actually just turned mean (aka salt). It was a particularly unpleasant time to be on cryptotwitter. A number of memes began appearing which made things a little lighter and a little more fun. The Bogdanov Twins, Pepe d'App, CryptoOwenWilson started talking about avocados, and then @SenorLupe showed up. SenorLupe was a breath of fresh air with his always sunny attitude, his always positive messages, and his funny broken Spanglish.

In June of 2018, a group of us were brought together by CryptoOwenWilson (Now @senorhansel) to create a coin to celebrate the fun that Senor Lupe had brought to the space. We want to emphasize here that there was never any intention by any of us to denigrate or make fun of people of Mexican descent, cowboys, or anyone else. What we loved about Senor Lupe was his always positive, never mean, and friend to everyone attitude.

We never expected Lupecoin to be anything but a joke currency, a meme, and a fun way to show 'proof of frenship' during the time of salt. However, what happened was something pretty incredible. Senor Hansel and the other team members welcomed anyone to the project who wanted to be involved and the level of talent that flocked to TLP was absolutely mind blowing. In almost no time we had a creative team working on an animated series, a technical team working on the backend, a team of writers and administrators setting up the logistics, a legal team, a music team, and even an auto team. It turns out that what many people in crypto were looking for was a truly decentralized and open project to be a part of. #TeamLupe was it!

It's hard to believe that so much has happened in such a short time. Equally hard to believe (but true) is that we, the founders, never learned the true identity of Senor Lupe. As a measure of gratitude and so that he could share the love, we gave him a 10% stake in our pre-mined ERC-20 token, LUPX. We know him from a twitter handle and from an ethereum account - but that is all. He seems to be a great guy (or maybe she seems to be a great guy) - but we really don't know who Senor Lupe is. And maybe that's for the best. We have never seen any sort of malice or racist behavior from Senor Lupe, nor do we believe that he or she created the Senor Lupe account with any racist intentions.

In any event, with the meteoric growth of TLP and the popularity and sudden viability of LUPX as a legitimate project with exciting use-case(s), we have recently had it brought to our attention that @senorlupe may be offensive to some people. We have had people we greatly respect point out that while funny and positive, Senor Lupe is not a positive portrayal of Mexicans or Spanish speaking people in general. Our first reaction was to laugh and point out that it is just a joke, but upon reflection, we recognize and respect these objections. Furthermore, we see that there is truth to them. While Senor Lupe is always positive, the stereotype he is born from is not.

As such, we have made several hard decisions.

First, we have decided to change all of the official logos which contain the images of the @senorlupe Twitter account including the logo of our coin LUPX.

Second, we will no longer engage in the use of broken English or Spanglish in our official documents.

Third, we want to point out that aside from giving @senorlupe a 10% stake in LUPX, he is not and has never been a part of our founding team, an official contributing to LUPX or TLP, and is in no way associated as a person with LUPX, #teamlupe, The Lupecoin Project, or even the Lupecoin Creative Department. We do not even know who he is.

Fourth, we do not sanction racism, hatred, bigotry, or judging people by their race, religion, nationality, sexuality, or any other exterior criteria. We believe that all people are created equal and deserve equal and fair treatment.

Fifth, we are sincere in our desire to create a positive and welcoming community in TLP. We do not want anyone to ever feel they are not welcome (as long as they are nice).

This has been a hard decision to come to, but we feel it is the right decision. We deeply regret if we made anyone feel bad for any reason and we are very grateful for those who brought this to our attention.

Sincerely,

The Lupecoin Project Founders

All of the co-founders read it and they all agreed it was necessary - except for Gary. Gary made a huge stink - saying that people need to choose not to be offended and it wasn't up to us to be politically correct. He said it made us sound weak and he sounded freaked out about the possibility that if the cartoon brought us too much negative attention, we were building a way to distance the project from it. He called us a bunch of snowflakes - this was the moment I knew that we were in trouble. As a result, the letter was edited and left us still firmly in the racist as fuck zone when the last section of the letter was changed to:

We are grateful for your support and appreciative of the chance to prove that we stand for uniting all people through our project.

It was more or less like saying 'all lives matter'. He also wanted it to say that we were the 'last bastion of humanity', but I put my foot down on that bullshit. We had some pretty heated exchanges. He said I was a bigot against white people (for the record, I am white) and I called him a sheep fucking ginger. Unfortunately, Owen deleted the entire thread which was called the *AMA Talking Points* after the AMA - he did and still does weird shit like that. Gary and I were then quietly at each other's throats during what remained of our time together. To be honest, everything was going smooth until we made the mistake of bringing him in.

The letter was ruined by that change, but at least it provided a little bit of protection from the worst we might get as we went to the AMA with Marie.

Ultimately, the AMA with @therealmariebtc went really well. We were asked the tough questions I had expected but we were able to deflect all the racist questions to the statement I'd written earlier - including questions about the identity of Senor Lupe, the use of Spanglish, the racist overtones, etc. This gave us a chance to focus on our community, the amazing way that we sort of just happened without anyone actually taking charge or building it, and our ideas for the future.

Upgrade

Medium



You can join Marie's telegram channel here: <https://t.me/therealmariebtc>



LUPX Giveaways and Competitons

At the moment, there are quite a few members of our team, and some enthusiastic members of our community running LUPX giveaways and competitions! Check out our official Twitter account @LupecoinProject where we have shared and retweeted these opportunities to get your hands on some free LUPX.



Chapter 7- LUPX Going Nowhere Fast

It was at this point, that all of the momentum we'd had moving forward seemed to stop. The amazing progress on the funny but controversial cartoon stopped. Gary, instead had the team focus on a weird and far from compelling white guy rap about diversity. It wasn't funny, it was actually creepy. Instead of cartoons of Senor Lupe, it was a 3-D animated version of Senor Lupe singing about how if you think he is racist then you are a racist. I'll give the guys credit - they made something and released it to the world - it just wasn't the kind of thing that anyone in the world wants to watch or hear.

I realize that sounds harsh - after all, this was a group of volunteers who created a song, an animated video, and were sending out a message. The different team members who created it all deserve a great deal of credit. The problem was the world doesn't need or want that kind of a message about racism and diversity from a bunch of white guys.

The Lupe and Frens cartoon was funny and controversial. I actually thought that there was a way to make Senor Lupe into a sort of ultra-wise teacher who seems to be a buffoon. In my mind, this would counteract the racial caricature and possibly could even open the door to people who needed a message of positivity but weren't open to other cultures or ideas. There's a dervish character in the Arab/Turkish world called Jouha, who does all kinds of silly things but who usually ends up sharing powerful wisdom through it. I've always thought that the way to reach closed minds is to embrace the ridiculous like that. It would have generated a lot of interest and attention, but it seemed like once Gary was made a founder and the Lupe rap failed to generate any buzz, his drive to work with the animation team fizzled and the entire creative department dried up and died. Since he never stepped away, none of us knew whether to step in or get involved. It was like we were all watching the same grape dry on the vine and waiting to see if someone else would pick it as it turned into a raisin - but no one did - and then it fell on the ground and rotted. Before too long, he drifted away from the group, began participating less while he worked on personal projects, and then was mostly not involved.

The whole project was like that. Hilobrain was in way over his head. He was the only technical founder on the team and while Huguenot and myself were learning how to code and make shit, the weight of the d'App fell on Hilobrain. His idea was to make an app where people could buy a digital horse and then use LUPX to put armor and muscles on it. It was a terrible idea, but none of us wanted to discourage him so we worked with it. Doc suggested that it be turned into a horse racing app - which made it better. I added that it would be pretty cool if people could bet on the digital horse racing. Huguenot had previously suggested that it might be a cool idea to bring back the 90's with a POGS app. We would call them Leche Caps instead of milk caps. In that way, we arrived at two possible apps - a horse racing app and a digital pogs app.

Once in a while, Owen or Doc would come up with a coder and offer to bring help to Hilo but he always refused, said he wanted to do it himself. We could all see where it might be difficult to be a 17 or 18 year old kid working with a bunch of middle aged men - and as a result, Doc, Huguenot, myself, and Owen all heaped praise on Hilo to keep him motivated and hopefully working towards the goal. Fairly early on, he made some progress but then he started drifting away from completing it. We should have just brought in some other coders, but all of us were treating him as an equal in the project so we respected his right to refuse help.

Hilobrain's girlfriend dumped him and we all did the best we could to cheer him up, give him advice about dealing with breakups, and help him to get over it. We heaped praise on him and tried to get him to focus on the positive. Part of this was because we selfishly didn't want him to abandon the project but mostly it was because we had all been there and had a genuine affection for the kid.

Our team had thinned out considerably. The creative department was all but dead. The Telegram groups were lifeless. Each of us would do giveaways and other things to drum up interest, but they became increasingly hard to get people excited about. At this point, somewhere around October 2018, our team was made up of only the following people. There was Hilobrain - who at this point you know about as well as we did. Huguenot was a married medical professional with a couple of kids. One of his kids was born with disability and he and his wife had a foundation they ran and had put together. Doc was a autobody tech with a wife and a couple of kids. I was a tour guide in Hawaii with a wife and a child. Owen was a single guy who was all over the place - one day saying he would be a professional video game football player and the next would claim that his future was going to be writing about the NFL. I have no idea what his job or his age were. I liked him and found him to be a generally positive and good natured dude, but my impression was that he either had mild schizophrenia or a severe drinking problem or maybe both. When I heard about a video football player doing a mass shooting at a tournament in Florida, I seriously thought it might be him. I was relieved when he finally posted something. That was pretty much it. We five were the remaining 'founders' of LUPX. Gary would disappear for long stretches - he was in the UK and talked about building businesses, working with the disabled with his girlfriend, and other stuff, but I never really got a sense of what he did. If I were to guess, it would be that he was a caregiver for the disabled or elderly. Regardless, he was mostly out of the picture at this point.

Owen brought in a new founder sometime around the end of 2018. Shilly had been making animations and memes in the Telegram group for a while and his energy was a welcome addition. Among our group, I would say that the strongest bond developed between Huguenot, Doc, and myself. We three were all married dads of young kids and roughly the same stage of life.

All of the work getting us listed on exchanges came to pretty much nothing. Most of the exchanges, even the crappy ones, wanted a fee of between two and fifteen bitcoins to list a new token. At the Bitcoin lows, this meant somewhere between \$3500 and \$50,000. We had never

done an ICO or asked our community for money. Mainly, we hadn't done that because we didn't want to be perceived as another scam coin ripping off their users. Hilo was in college now and even though there was no progress on the horse racing d'App or the Leche Caps - he figured out how to write a smart contract - which is how most of the ICOs got their funds. A smart contract works like this - a user sends an amount of Ethereum to a wallet and the wallet automatically sends back a certain amount of whatever the token is. Hilo came up with a pretty cool little tweak which caused the price to go up after x amount had been sold. He deployed the contract and it generated something like fourteen Ethereum.

All of this was cool, but it caused a nagging worry in the back of my head that had been there for some time. I had been pushing for all the development funds to be put into a shared multi-signature wallet from the beginning. Huguenot and DZ had build the wallet and back when we had a full group of founders - Huguenot had given us the details of it and suggested that we all send 0.1 Eth to it so that it would have the gas necessary to deliver LUPX to exchanges and supporters. Hilobrain never paid the 0.1 because he said that his work counted more than ours - which was not a cool thing to say given how we were organized but wasn't worth picking a fight with him over. I said I was willing to allow him to not contribute and the others agreed. Owen claimed that he was so broke that he shouldn't have to contribute anything - sort of whining that he had less money than the rest of us. Doc, Huguenot, Gary, DZ, and myself were the only ones to contribute financially. Once the wallet was set up, Hilobrain was supposed to move all of the development funds into it - but he never got around to it.

Now that we had generated actual money from the project, I repeatedly suggested that the funds be moved (with the development funds) into the multi-signature wallet. I was generally ignored except by Doc and Huguenot.

Once there was money in the project, Owen was like a kid with a dollar in his pocket. Every couple of days he would show up with an exchange that we could get listed on or a developer who was willing to work on something or a plan that involved spending the project funds. None of them were bad ideas, they were just spur of the moment and needed to be considered.

As mentioned before, all of the emails and communication with exchanges had generally ended badly. Once in a while we would find a new exchange that would list us in return for a huge stake of LUPX and every time the exchange would either fail to launch or there would be some operational problem. We didn't lose too much but we didn't end up with a token that people could buy and sell. One of the big stumbling blocks for us was that we were not listed on CoinMarketCap (CMC) which is pretty much the industry standard for whether your token is legitimate or not. Huguenot and Debaas had gotten us listed on Blockfolio and CoinGecko - but to get on CMC you had to be listed on two exchanges and have a certain level of trading volume. We were never able to be listed on more than one exchange long enough to build any volume, plus, Owen had given away so much LUPX that if we had been listed the sell orders would have outnumbered the buy orders by 1000 to 1.

I suggested that we use the Ethereum to get ourselves listed on a couple of exchanges. There would be a rapid decline in value, but we could buy up much of the LUPX we had given away and eventually the price would stabilize. We would get some volume and then we could get listed on CMC and move forward. This was vetoed. I also suggested that we do an actual ICO. This was also vetoed.

Hilo put together a mining algorithm that was able to mine LUPX but no one actually cared. It was roughly like finding a way to mine dirt - nobody cared because you could just pick it up off the ground and most people didn't want it. All of our hopes were on the completion of the d'App but every time we asked him about progress on it he became surly like a child who hadn't done his homework. We offered to bring in help for him but he said he didn't want help. It looked to me like nothing was going to ever happen with LUPX.

Chapter 8 - The Bear Market Was Unbearable

At the end of 2018- crypto was floating in the water like a corpse. At one point my slightly less than 6 million LUPX were worth a couple of thousand dollars. This and the fact that our total market cap had gone up to to as much as \$1.8 million dollars were incredibly exciting! At least it was exciting until I realized that the only reason it was valued at that level was because CoinGecko had compiled the price of all the sell orders and averaged them. No one was buying LUPX - most likely no one ever would.

My crypto holdings were like an anchor tied to a corpse. Every day the value of my total portfolio went further and further down. I felt foolish for not having sold at the peak - and for having kept buying in all of the troughs. A great deal of the money I earned went to paying back the loans I had bought crypto with - I hadn't been one of those idiots who mortgaged their house, but I didn't have a house to mortgage or I might have.

In any event, by the end of 2018 most of cryptotwitter was gone and dead. Only the hardest of the hard core still remained. The first to go were the "Wen moon? Wen Lambo?" boys. These had been the most aggressive and annoying of the crypto-enthusiasts in 2017. Next to go were the cute crypto girl profiles. After that all the paid group scammers like Marius and McAfee started disappearing and posting less. The miners all shut their machines down and listed them on eBay. The news stopped covering crypto. The bears were triumphant in calling crypto and Bitcoin a bubble that had finally died.

But behind the scenes, crypto was far from dead. The idea was too good to die. Plus, it was literally impossible to kill Bitcoin unless you killed all the miners and their machines spread out over the entire planet. As long as at least one node was running, Bitcoin was alive and as long as Daddy Bitcoin was going - there were going to be other projects.

Huguenot, Doc, Owen, Hilobrain, Shilly and myself kept plugging away. We kept trying giveaways, trying new ideas and hoping that things would turn. It increasingly looked grim. We narrowly avoided getting ripped off by a scam exchange called YoBit.

We were scheduled to be listed on Dakuce. We decided to have a big trading contest to build volume, the Dakuce guys were helpful in setting it up and promoting it. Things were looking good...

We promoted it and hyped it. We had people excited about it. The day for the launch of the trading competition happened. Dakuce didn't list LUPX, things were definitely not looking good...

Chapter 9 - Proof of Friendship and other LUPX Ideas

Over the course of the Lupecoin Project we had a lot of fun ideas. Our vision was to create a decentralized, gamified and social application where LUPX was the utility currency within the whole ecosystem.

We wanted to be able to provide digital collectibles, have a native wallet, and give people the opportunity to support projects, artists, designers, and gamers with LUPX. When we first envisioned it, there wasn't really an easy way for people to tip creators they liked. During the course of our project, we never executed and others did.

We wanted our wallet to be able to allow peer to peer interaction on a tiered eco-system of digital collectibles. The whole point of this was to allow artists to submit their artwork and then be voted on and eventually sold using LUPX. Winners would have their artwork placed on a limited digital collectible on our blockchain. At the beginning we had quite a few artists and designers on board with this concept. Over the course of the year as we diverged from our original vision, we lost them.

We got distracted with the horse racing thing - none of the artists we had on board wanted to draw horses. The Leche Caps would have been a better initial project and more in line with our original vision. All of this got lost and it's no surprise that we tumbled into obscurity.

Riffing off of the 'Proof of Friendship' concept, I thought it would be cool to be able to see a visual representation of the LUPX transactions. It would be a sort of constantly evolving graphical interface that showed LUPX travelling all over the world between friends of the project. My idea was that the LUPX map would represent how important each person was on the network by showing the number of outgoing and incoming transactions. I thought it would be cool to be able to connect each node or wallet to the social media channels of the person who held it. The problem with this is that most of the crypto world is focused on maintaining privacy and anonymity not broadcasting who they are. It's the reason why CT is filled with cartoon characters and fake celebrities.

I came up with a cool concept where users would be given text characters on the map based on the volume of their outgoing transactions. The idea being that you could remain anonymous but you would be able to promote your cause, candidate, or brand by being a bigger influencer. The more connections you have, the bigger your node. So you benefit from giving away or selling your LUPX- for example - you buy or are given LUPX (any amount) and you get a space you can put your 5-10 character name. When you give away 1 lupx you get 2 more characters. Give away 10 and get 2 more. Give away 100 and get 5 more. Give away 1000 and you get 140 characters. Give away 10k and get a profile picture. Give away (or sell) 100k and you get a

status update. The gist of it was an anonymous social network where you get rewarded with more profile space for giving away or selling LUPX. And it's visual so you get an ego boost. As long as they've given or sold, they have a profile. The more you give or sell, the more your profile can grow.

It was a crazy hippie idea. Even I have to admit that. No one else got remotely close to being excited about it. I tried pitching my other hippie ideas. Here was one pitch:

“Okay...as mentioned in other threads. I think the big challenge in crypto is to encourage people to use it instead of holding it. So here is an idea that I've had for nearly a decade. I think it could really work with LUPX so I've modified it a little bit. A social video game where people get rewarded for doing nice things. So ...imagine a sort of Second Life where you wander around and you look for products or causes to donate your LUPX to - so instead of a coinburn, there's actually a coin earn if you have the right project. For example, you log in and you wander to the section (or chatroom) that is about environmentalism. You interact with a couple of projects and after looking around, you decide that helping polar bears is your thing, so you donate some social media time and love to #polarbears - you also donate some \$LUPX. Because you donated, you get the chance to watch an educational video, take part in a project etc...and when that is shown to be complete...you earn a real world discount or gift certificate to a polar bear friendly cause.

When I came up with the idea a decade ago didn't involve crypto...it was more like a 'good human training program' where people got rewarded for learning about things that made them better humans i.e. a quest or adventure was set up where they had to defuse a volatile situation - maybe where some guy is freaking out and having an explosive rage blow up - the answer lies in learning about anger management, conflict resolution etc - so there are 'training' areas with videos, written resources etc - to solve the scenario, they must learn the right skills. When it is solved, they earn points or credits which can then be exchanged for real world value from sponsors - so for example, maybe Starbucks wants to get some social credit for teaching people about anger management - they would offer a gift card or a free latte or something which could be bought with the points.”

None of our ideas took off. The other guys posted ideas as well, but I don't feel like those are my ideas to share.

Chapter 10 - The Death of the Lupecoin Project - Killed by Greed and Indifference

That brings me to April and May of 2019. It's late May as I write this and to be honest, I had hoped that the ending of this story would be something very different. I got involved with crypto and with LUPX because I wanted to be part of a fun and inclusive community. I wanted to be a part of shaping this new world that is emerging right in front of our eyes. My eyes were wide open, but it wasn't until I was truly in it that I began to see just how much greed, corruption, lying, and deception exist with cryptocurrency. This is especially true of the thousands of Ethereum based tokens that were created in 2017 and early 2018.

I thought that LUPX was different - and maybe for a time we were, but we got caught up in money just like everyone else. The continual rejections from exchanges that wanted thousands of dollars to list our project, the need to be constantly on guard from scams and scammers, and the pressure of having to provide good news to a community of supporters took a toll on us. None of us were paid. All of us had responsibilities. LUPX was supposed to be a labor of love, but by April of 2019, it had mostly just become labor. The one thing that kept us going was a sense of friendship with one another - if not strong bonds between all of us - at least strong bonds between some of us.

That came to an end in April. Unbeknownst to me, Owen and Hilobrain had become involved in a project called ITN. I don't know what the project was and I don't care. Owen was starry eyed over the project and Hilo was brought in to do some technical work on issuing the token. The first we heard of it was when Hilobrain came into the group saying that he was being accused of being a scammer and a thief by the founder of ITN and by some pretty big crypto influencers.

We all rallied to his defense. Then Owen came in and painted a different picture. Owen's version said that Hilobrain had been trusted with a large stake of ITN tokens and paid a significant amount of Ethereum. When Hilobrain got tired of the project or reached the limits of his skills, he dumped his tokens, drove the price down, and kept the development funds without providing anything in return. None of us wanted to believe it. We all knew that Owen was excitable and dramatic. We all sided with Hilobrain. Owen wouldn't let it go though. He was the one who got screwed the worst on this deal. The ITN guy knew that Owen and Hilobrain were both from LUPX and so he kicked them both off the project. As I had said, Owen was into the project and saw it as a way to make a lot of money. He got kicked from the project because of his association with Hilobrain.

Bad blood like that has a way of sticking around. Over the next few weeks, we tried to bring some energy back into the project. It seemed to be working. Owen met a new developer who agreed to build our long talked about Leche Caps d'App. We negotiated a price, started discussing it with the developer, and Shilly started making some of the preliminary artwork. Hilobrain had a big problem with paying a developer to do something he saw as his job.

Actually, in hindsight, he had a big problem with paying for anything. He hadn't wanted to pay his 0.1 Ethereum for the project wallet, he resisted every call to put the dev funds into the multi-signature wallet, and it was like pulling teeth to get him to reimburse Huguenot the 1.6 Ethereum he had spent to buy the domain, pay for the hosting, and build the website. There are jokes about the first copper wire being created by two Dutchmen who found the same penny - in hindsight, Hilobrain was likely one of those Dutchmen - and unfortunately for us - he was actually worse.

In any event the bad blood kept coming up like a bad penny. Owen was trying to move forward with the new developer and HiloBrain didn't want to pay him. It kept bringing Owen back to the ITN debacle. At the end of April, Hilobrain went missing in action - when he came back he posted this:

I find it really concerning that this whole project revolves around me having time or not. I am the only dev here, sure but this is not healthy. And you can say whatever you want but I added the most value to this project. I know it sounds cocky, but I think it's true.

I posted the following:

It takes a team Hilobrain - from where I sit - the value of the project lies in a combination of development, promotion, infrastructure, networking, and vision. I would say that the heavy lifting has been done equally by you, Huguenot (website, white paper, and much more), Doc (promotion, networking, administration) and Owen (the idea, the non-stop ideas, the communities, the hyper energy). My own contributions have been more limited - showing up, helping where I can (white paper, AMA, strategizing, vision, etc) and all of our other co-founders all brought something to the table as well (Shilly with the memes, Gary with the animation team, etc). The Lupecoin project has been a team effort from the beginning.

At this point things started falling apart quickly. Gary came back after a long absence with a proposal to do a new type of ICO called an IEO. Most of us were of a mind to continue on with the Leche Cap developer. Hilo resisted having to pay someone despite our democratic agreement. Then he continued degrading the year of work that all the members and founders had done. He copied Huguenot's raw HTML files from the website and loaded them on his personal GitHub page. He suggested that we cancel the hosting and email - essentially disparaging much of Huguenot's work in the process and moving our image to the amateur hour. This chaos went on for days.

The egotism and arrogance coming from this kid was quickly becoming unbearable for everyone. Privately, I began expressing doubts to Huguenot and Doc that Hilobrain would ever release any of the dev funds or pay contractors. The kid was starting to show himself to be a real rip-off artist. Huguenot and Doc both assured me that he would be doing the right thing - but it kept going like this. Finally, Huguenot threw in the towel:

I'm just going to go ahead and say it, the project was dead the moment we honored a 1:1 airdrop for the original LUPE holders. IMHO, it's been the bane of this project's existence. Let's face it, crypto, as a whole, is a greedy pot of speculators mixed with some fantastic technology principles. It wasn't a matter of IF but WHEN for the LUPX whales to decide to dump their bags. I don't think it would have mattered if we came out with a shit ton of kickass DApps. I've been on the fence about this and now I feel my decision is clear to step down from my position as one of the founders. I love this project and the people involved and I am looking forward to staying connected outside of this project. Hopefully, the project will go on and do great things and I will continue to support it but as one of our amazing community members.

Btw, if everyone decides that the project is to be dissolved I think it's only fair that the team divvy up the ETH raised accordingly among the founders OR Hilo should send the ETH back to those who purchased from the smart contract. Just my final 2 satoshis for the project!

Owen quickly agreed:

Yeah I'm kinda thinking there's not much of a point to continue on. We won't get anywhere as long as those whales with millions of coins exist. The moment people buy or put buy orders up, they will sell and tank the market. I love y'all and loved working with ya but I think we should try to make a new project and do it right this time. I think there's a reason all this happened, that now we know what to do and what not to do, for the future, if we did decide to start up something fresh. But let's face it, this has been pretty stagnant for a while....One side says we worked hard for a year and deserve something out of that, so we could go the route of divvying up the remaining ETH. Another side says we raised that to help the ecosystem of the project and should at least see thru till the dapp is done since I believe Sam has been working on creating the collectibles thing

I suggested that I write something up about the death of Senor Lupe (who had disappeared months before) and then posted it to the project pages. Huguenot and DZ sent the Ethereum from the multisignature wallet back to those who had contributed and we moved on to distributing the Ethereum from the project. Huguenot came back and suggested the following:

@everyone After giving some deep thought to the ETH raised from the smart contracts, as much as I would like for all of us to get our fair share of it, I think a final act of PoF is to send it right back to those who bought LUPX through the smart contract. It's an integrity and ethical move that will put a final and positive lid on this project. I recommend we do it this way in case we decide down the line to be part of other projects. We don't want to leave a bad taste and have that negative light shined on all of our names moving forward. What does everyone think?

I didn't really like that idea. Doc was willing to go with whatever we all decided. Owen was on the same side as I was, more or less that we had all given a lot of time and energy to the project over the previous year and we deserved something to show for it if we were going to dissolve it. I made the mistake of saying "I've got bills to pay, I can't just give away potential funds". Everyone chimed in that dividing the funds was the right thing to do, each of us could use our share to keep, do giveaways to the community, or to start other projects. Personally, I was hoping that Owen, Doc, Huguenot and myself could move forward with the Leche Caps with our portion - I just didn't want Hilobrain involved.

There was a silence from Hilobrain and then he came back and more or less said "I built this whole project and I don't care what you guys want. I'm keeping the funds" Over the next day or two Hilobrain degraded the contribution of every founder to the project and I couldn't just let it go:

And in response to Hilo's contention that his tech generated all the excitement and the small amount of funds - definitely not the case. It was the enthusiasm of Owen, the promotion of the project by Owen, Doc and others that got people involved and excited. We promoted your work Hilobrain- we got people who didn't care, excited about it because of the meme, the idea, the white paper etc. All the interfacing with exchanges and projects, the listing on Dakuce, the blockfolio addition, the AMA, the artwork, the failed video project, the news releases, the website, the exploration of partnerships - open your eyes boy, without all of that you're a coder crying in his dorm over his girlfriend dumping him. Get off your high horse and look around. Remember us? The guys who tried to cheer you up when you were down? Remember the part about working together? Remember the part about being part of a team? It's easy to be an asshole, son. Being part of a team is the hard thing.

As you might expect this did not go over well and I found myself in a contest of words with a 18 year old incel who thought he was the world's biggest genius. Maybe I should have just shut up and let it go but I wanted him to know that we had puffed him up, to make sure he understood that he was losing friends, and to take away as much of what we had given him as it was possible. I hit him pretty hard. I don't regret it. He was violating our democratic agreement, he was disparaging the contributions of people that considered him a friend, and the whole thing pissed me off. I didn't care if I got a share of Ethereum or not, I just wanted to make sure that I made his ego and his future pay for his hubris.

Here is what we have: a cryptocurrency on the ethereum blockchain attached to a cartoon figure who has never mentioned it and a number of promises that have never been met. That's what you accomplished over the course of a year with the help of 6-13 people. It generated several thousand dollars. Congratulations on your genius, boy. Follow through and understanding that being part of a team are the keys you lack. I hope you find them.

Now fuck off.

With that, I went to bed. When I woke up I found that the other team members had made an agreement where Hilobrain would keep half the funds and split the rest between them - he overtly said he wouldn't include me in the distribution, but no one jumped to my defense publicly. I felt betrayed when I woke up and read the exchanges. I posted this:

First of all, you should know that Hilo didn't comply with the ripoff agreement you guys let him have. He did not send out 7 Eth as agreed, he sent out 5.5 Eth and did not send a portion to me - as he stated he would not be doing - I wasn't sure if you guys didn't notice when he said that or didn't care. I'm not disappointed about the ether - I'm disappointed that not one of you guys stepped up and defended me (except for Owen) as I was defending you and your contributions to this project. You were right yesterday, Doc, when you said that up until it came time to dissolve, we thought we were all equal. I've always been a big fan of justice and doing the right thing - I knew for certain that Hilo wasn't going to do the right thing - as I've been sharing in private conversations with most of you over the past days. After it became clear that Hilo felt entitled to the funds he stole from ITN - I was positive that there was no way he would distribute the funds back to those who trusted us with this project's funds. Huguenot made that suggestion and rather than having an argument about it - I thought it best we distribute equally. Of course, there was no way that was going to happen because we allowed a puffed up teen to control the funds. Truth be told, we puffed him up - personally it was in the hope that with him we would be able to provide a fun, decentralized, communal project and I wanted him to feel good about it and about himself. It's hard to be an 18 year old.

I'm in crypto for the revolution guys. Yes, I have bills to pay and it would have been nice to be able to start some new project with some of the funds we gathered without the surly teenager involved - but I'll use my own money to fund my projects, as I always have. Truly guys, I'm ashamed of you all - not only because no one stood up for me (as I stood up for all of you - I even stood up for Hilo when Owen accused him of being a thief) but also because you all got bullied and shamed by an arrogant little prick with some \$4/hr coding skills (I pay my coders more than that, but it's easy to find great Indian or Filipino coders who are happy to work for that). We voted and he balked. When I stood up and said bullshit, you guys all caved. And add to that, you left Gary out of it too when he clearly said that if we were going to divvy up, he wanted his portion to give to his disabled niece. I stand by the fact that we were all equals in this project. That's how we entered it and that's how we worked within it. Doc's contribution was worth every bit as much as Hilos, so was Huguenot's, so was Owen's, Debaas', Gary's and mine.

Nope, Hilo didn't pay me - but I'm guessing that all of you guys already knew that and just decided to let 'er be. Thanks frens. It's gonna be one hell of a story.

I messaged Owen, Huguenot, and Doc to ask what gave and each of them said they didn't realize I was left out and then posted something asking Hilobrain to include me. I was beyond caring at this point. These were my final messages on the FART channel:

It's not about the money. It's about Hilobrain disrespecting the team, the brotherhood, the friendship and being a greedy little fuck. Fuck you and the Ethereum you stole Hilobrain. You ripped off your friends. You betrayed our trust. You belittled your comrades. You took a beautiful friendship built on each being equal and turned it into a stinky fucking fart. You overrode our vote to split things up equally and in the process said you thought you were better than all of us.

I'm not going to grovel to you for 1.5 ethereum. You can suck my cock you little twat.

This cost you the friendship of six good people. It cost you the trust of a whole community. It cost you all of the work that you have done for the past year. Do you know that the other guys all got together and said that they were going to pool their shares and give me an equal portion? So, there you are, ripping them off for even more. They are good men who want to do the right thing.

But you, you sniveling snot of a wasted fucking sperm are just a spoiled little drop of jizz sitting on some fat gym instructor's open mouth.

If you want to do the right thing, you should take all the proceeds and divide it up equally among the team - not keep half for yourself and then rip off another 1.5 from the other guys (which is what you did if they were to pay me a share as they've said they will do despite my protests).

Did I hurt your feelings talking about your father, your girlfriend, and your sorry skills? Well listen here, master debater, you can take your whining little twat and shove it up your ass.

The money you thought you were getting when you decided to rip off our team has cost you much more than you earned. It's cost you lifelong friends. No one wants to work with you on anything. It's cost you the work of a year by a dozen people. You will not believe how much it has cost you.

You didn't like my words? I didn't like your disrespect to our friendship, our project, our mutual work. Your work wasn't worth more than anyone else's and if it was- it wouldn't even matter because that's not the agreement we made. Unbelievable. If this was about the money, I wouldn't be angry, just disappointed. No, my anger is about you utilizing a position of trust to disrespect your friends (my friends) and not only ripping them off, but telling them you are better than them.

You had an incredible group of men who respected you and treated you as an equal - and how did you treat that honor? You stole from them. You belittled them. You disrespected them. You disappointed them. You let everyone down. It's not about the money, idiot. It was never about the money. Money is easy. Respect, friendship, admiration, love - that's the shit you can't buy. Trust, camaraderie, equality - there is no cost too high.

Except, you just told us what all that is worth to you... 6 Ethereum. I thought you were better than that. And you know what? Now that I've got my anger out - the only thing I feel is sadness. I feel sad at how cheaply you sold your soul. I feel sad that the remarkable young man I knew decided to disappoint those who trusted him and were rooting him on. Someday you will recognize what you lost here and what you gave up for a small pile of coins. Shame on you.

You are going to feel shitty inside about this for a long time. You might live to be a hundred and if you do, you will always regret not splitting those funds evenly, wishing everyone well, and moving on. It will nag at your soul every step of your life. It will lead to you dating and marrying women (or men) who are less than you deserve, it will lead to you earning less money, finding less happiness, and probably having a shorter life. Moments like this can nag at a person until they can do nothing but drink themselves to death, put a bullet in their head, or begin the downward spiral of drug addiction and overdose. You cursed yourself and your entire life with this Hilo because you are never going to forget it.

As for me, I will never regret calling you out on it. I will never regret not letting you get away with it. Could I have used nicer words? Could I have avoided personal insults? Maybe, but I'm not sure I would have reached you if I had. And, by the way, I know that I've reached you. What are you going to do with that? That's not my concern.

I wish the rest of you good luck. It really was a fun experience. I enjoyed the camaraderie, the friendship, and the crazy dreams. You're good men and your families are lucky to have you.

Hilobrain got the last word in. I didn't care, I was done talking to him.

You're acting like I murdered a fucking child or something Jesus Christ. Oh and nah you didn't really hurt me at all. It is just that I am not going to work with someone who gets this emotional and unprofessional when there is a little money to be made. Everyone here knows the work wasn't distributed equally/some provided more value than others. I spoke my mind, you attacked me like I murdered someone and thus I didn't send you the Ethereum because it shows who are real friends/are not in this for the money only.

As "a grown up man", you literally took 30+ mins to write this, wow.

He was write, I'd taken thirty minutes to write that while I was eating my breakfast. You can't rush these things, I'd managed to say all that I wanted to say. I was done with it. I was going to give him the last word on the LUPX server but then Owen chimed in

I think that we've all said enough though. You probably won't do the right thing but we'd appreciate if you did. It's not the money, it's the concept.

Since the whole project was Owen's in the first place, I liked the idea of his getting the last word in. My guess is that there will never be another word said on that particular server. Within 24 hours Doc and Huguenot had sent me an amount of each of their shares so that the three of us ended up with a grand total of one Ethereum each to show for a year's worth of work. We all agreed that giving our proceeds to charity was the best thing to do with it.

Even while all of this was going down, Owen had created a new server for a new project and the three of them with Shilly and a new developer were already planning something new. They invited me to be a part of it, but the truth is, I needed a break from this shit. My LUPX friends had taken enough of my time and energy, I had other things that needed to be done.

Over the next few days, I privately reached out to many of the biggest supporters of LUPX and let them know that the entire project had imploded and they needed to be aware the Hilobrain couldn't be trusted. I didn't try to scuttle the whole project, but it wouldn't have mattered. It had been dead for a long time already. I took my founders stake of LUPX and listed it on TokenJar - one of the only exchanges where it could be sold, and I washed my hands of the whole thing.

LUPX was dead, the Lupecoin Project was dead, and even Senor Lupe was dead. How did I know he was dead? Simple, it was because I killed him.

Chapter 11 - The Mysterious Life, Disappearance, and Death of Senor Lupe



As far as I know, no one knows who Senor Lupe was. He showed up, he said nice things and made jokes, he demonstrated that for him Bitcoin was the only cryptocurrency worth mentioning and then he disappeared.

I wrote the following before the disastrous and creepy rap video was released.

Who is Senor Lupe?

He rode into town on his trusty steed Chummy and started clearing out the salt and spreading good cheer to everyone. Like a modern day St. Nicholas he brings good tidings of joy and positivity wherever he may roam. We see his deeds, his name, and his brilliant philosophy of life from the streets of Las Vegas to the Jersey Shore, from the windy Welsh forests to the alligator strewn Gulf Coast. He brings cheer to the desolate and far-flung Hawaiian Islands and hope to the cane-lashed gum chewers in Singapore. Senor Lupe is a modern day Til Ubenspeigal, the kind of joyful soul who encourages people to laugh even when the hangman's noose is being draped over his head. His followers circle the globe from the ancient mounds of Ohio to the pyramids at Giza. There is never a harsh word from or to him but one question rides as near to him as his trusty steed and only friend....

WHO IS SENOR LUPE?

Who is this guy? Where does he live? Is he Mexican? Is he Spanish? Is he a man or a woman or maybe a talking horse? Does he live in a tree or on a boat? Does he like dogs? (Of course he does, he likes every living thing. So at least we know the answer to one of the questions.)

Stories of him traveling the world and performing miracles like bringing life back to flat beer or mysteriously turning raging bears into mild bulls keep growing. Sightings of him continue to pour in from the forests of the Pacific Northwest and Canada to the mountains of India and Tibet. It's said that he is being pursued by the Chinese government for achieving the highest known social value score and that the NSA wants to bring him on as a 'friendship' consultant so that they can grow their network around the globe.

No one knows if he is red or yellow, black or white but one thing for sure - all are special in his sight. His true identity remains hidden behind his hat - like the glasses of Clark Kent. Maybe the disguise isn't as hard to peel away as an Iron Man suit or the Hulk's huge body - but it seems to work because Senor Lupe, the secret man behind the secret identity remains clouded in mystery.

Internet users have guessed that he is actually a powerful and well known individual who has no need of wealth but only wants to encourage crypto adoption. Recently rumors of him being Satoshi Nakamoto have surfaced - but it has also been whispered that Senor Lupe is actually none other than Elon Musk - the founder of Tesla and SpaceX - and the real life model behind Tony Stark of the Ironman films. One theory is that Senor Lupe is actually Keanu Reeves, the star of the Matrix and John Wick films but no one really knows.

There are dark theories as well. One says Senor Lupe is a good man wrongfully accused and imprisoned for crimes he didn't commit and he brings his joy and friendship to the internet from a cellphone he hides in his cell and charges with a micro solar panel. Another theory is that Senor Lupe is actually an A.I. This theory says that his early 'spanglish' was actually the AI learning how to communicate with the internet. The darkest theories revolve around freedom, guns, money, and the enslavement of the human race - Senor Lupe is on a mission to save us all.

The truth is though - that no one really knows who Senor Lupe is or why he has chosen to be among us. The conspiracies abound but this writer has never seen nor heard about convincing proof in any direction...

Only one thing is sure. He is here. And he can dance.

Just prior to the terrible ending of LUPX, I decided that Senor Lupe deserved a hero's death, so I wrote this and published it to all of our channels, groups, and CT. I really have no idea who he was. The picture makes me think he really was that crying Mexican cowboy, pretending to be a

caricature of himself. I also like to think that maybe he was the real Satoshi Nakamoto, checking in on Bitcoin during the bear market and disguising his account with a character. If anyone knows more than that, they aren't saying it publicly or privately.



Dear Frens,

As you all know, the inspiration for our project, Senor Lupe (@senorlupe) has been missing for some time. We didn't want anyone to panic - so we've sort of just kept quiet about it while we dug around behind the scenes to find out what happened to him. Sadly, we have found out the truth. --Senor Lupe, who never harmed anyone and was always there for anyone who needed a kind word or a bit of encouragement during the trying times of the bear market in 2018 - was a selfless soul. He was always willing to help those in need. He was always putting himself out there for people and trying to make the world a better place. Senor Lupe had ample opportunity to scam people and to make money shilling many projects but he turned them all away. He

always did what needed to be done and kept a smile on his face and a positive word in his heart. Not just in the online world but also in the real world.

We recently found out what happened to Senor Lupe and it's absolutely heartbreaking but doesn't surprise us in the least. Here is what we know - I'm sorry to say we don't have any pictures of his final days to share.

Senor Lupe was heartbroken by the cruelty that has been rising up towards immigrants to the USA, towards those trying to escape from poverty, and towards animals. Using profits he scraped together from the start of the recent Bitcoin bull run- Senor Lupe put together a caravan of undocumented immigrants, children who had been separated from their families, LGBTQ soldiers booter from the US armed forces for their identities, homeless refugees from the streets of America, and abused horses from dying American farms. Along with his best friend and trusted steed - Chummy - Senor Lupe carefully drafted a plan to get all of these cast offs of American society into the safety of Mexico. The border crossing to escape from the USA had become nearly impossible to breach with heavily armed racist American militias, quick to shoot ICE agents, and heavy electrified plastic walls going up at a rapid pace. -- During the crossing - of which we have very few details except it involved a near pitch black night, a distraction using a raging herd of bulls, and a strict order to 'no hurt anyone' - the unthinkable happened. Senor Lupe and Chummy succeeded in getting every human and every horse to safety - but not without cost. Both were shot by militiamen, electrocuted while disabling the wall, and then trampled into an unrecognizable mess by the enraged and terrified herd of bulls. Senor Lupe and Chummy saved everyone they were trying to help - but it cost both of their lives.

Yes, you read that right.

Senor Lupe and his trusty steed Chummy are both dead and will never return. It is heartbreaking.

We, the cofounders of the Lupecoin Project and LUPX cryptocurrency - are in deep mourning and unable to even process the magnitude of this loss. Not just the massive stake of \$LUPX controlled by Senor Lupe which has presumably been burned by his death - but the loss of one of the kindest and most gentle souls to ever emerge in the Cryptocurrency world.

We will miss you Senor Lupe. We are going to be taking a bit of time to mourn for our friend - and to map out the road forward without him. We encourage all of you to write your feelings, to share screenshots and memes of your memories with Senor Lupe.

Rest in Peace, Senor Lupe. Rest in Peace Chummy. Via con dios our darlings and adios amigos. With warm remembrance,
The LUPX Team.

Senor Lupe joined Twitter in May of 2018 and made his last post in March of 2019. His picture was an old meme of a crying Mexican cowboy. He spoke in broken Spanglish. His last posts showed a picture of a guy who looked remarkably like the character we all assumed him to have adopted - and then he posted a chart that showed that Bitcoin had reached the bottom and the bear market was over. His last message on March 15, 2019 was in perfect English - it was the only one that was ever done that way.

If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it's yours. If not, it was never meant to be...

As strange as it may sound, there is a strong argument to be made that Senor Lupe was actually Satoshi Nakamoto. My personal opinion is that he was either Satoshi or he was actually the Mexican cowboy from the meme.

Chapter 12 - The Seedy Underbelly of Crypto: A History of Scams, Ripoffs, Cons, Exit Strategies and the Scammers Who Masterminded Them

I lived in Alaska back in 1998. There were a couple of aphorisms that people liked to throw around about Alaska back then that work really well when transferred to cryptocurrency.

The only thing easier than making a fortune in crypto is losing one.
To make a million dollars in crypto just start with two million.
Crypto, where the odds are good but the goods are odd.

Since the birth of cryptocurrency there have been many fortunes made. A good number of them were made by scammers ripping people off. There are no shortage of scams.

First of all there are hacks where the hacker somehow manages to steal the private keys and then empties the wallet. Cryptojacking is where a script is installed on your computer that mines cryptocurrency while using your computing power.

Scams are where things get interesting. From the simple and common blackmail email “I installed a virus that recorded video of you masturbating while looking at porn and copied your contacts list, send Bitcoin to this address or I will send it to your entire address book.” Millions of dollars have been made with this most likely empty threat. More aggressive are the cases where hackers encrypted hospital or corporate files and demanded ransom.

The most lucrative scams are the ones that promise that people are going to get rich quick. ICO scams. Organizers build a token, promote it heavily, promise huge returns on investment to backers, hype the projects using influencers, social media, and advertising and then once all the money has been gathered, they close shop and take the funds.

Exchange Hacks

There have been some huge heists. Among them were Mt. Gox, Bitfinex, Coincheck, Bitgrail, Zaif, Coinrail, and Binance.

Mt. Gox, one of the original crypto-exchanges had \$87.5 million in Bitcoin stolen in 2011 and then \$460 million dollars worth of Bitcoin stolen from it back in 2014. No one knows who the hackers were but the wallets have been tracked for years.

In August of 2016, Bitfinex lost \$66 million worth of BTC to hackers. The same exchange was later implicated in artificially pumping the price of Bitcoin in 2017.

Coincheck was hacked in January of 2018 and the hackers stole \$500 million dollars worth of the NEM token from the exchange. In February of 2018, Bitgrail was hacked and had \$187 million of NANO token stolen. The CEO of Bitgrail said it was an inside job. In September of 2018, Japan's Zaif Exchange was hacked for a loss of \$60 million. Coinrail lost \$40 million to hackers.

In May of 2019, the Binance Exchange was hacked and \$40 million dollars worth of Bitcoin was stolen from user wallets. Through the years there have been many, many, many exchange hacks. Also in May of 2019, the Cryptopia Exchange shut down withdrawals by users, effectively stealing all of the funds that were being kept on the exchange.

The bottom line when it comes to exchanges is: Don't leave your funds on exchanges.

ICO Scams

Vietnam based Modern Connect ran multiple ICOs (Initial Coin Offerings) that raised \$658 million dollars and gave users worthless tokens. OneCoin raised \$11.4 million with a classic ponzi scheme.

The most famous and hyped ponzi scheme was BitConnect which only raised about \$750,000 but got loads of press because of the hyped up performances of those who were scammed both before and after they were robbed.

Floyd Mayweather and DJ Khaled were both implicated in the Centratech ICO which raised \$32 million dollars to create a crypto credit card and then left investors high and dry.

There are far too many ICO scams to list. Bottom line is, do your homework. In the crypto-twitter verse this gets said as DYOR or Do Your Own Research. Know the team, know the story, know the technology, and know the use-case.

Pump and Dumps

It doesn't matter if the token is legitimate, scam, or other - every crypto-asset is vulnerable to the pump and dump. This is where groups, large or small, conspire to hype up an asset with media, leveraged buys, fake volume or anything else to cause the price to go up. Once the price reaches a predetermined level, the insiders sell all at once leaving those who were not in on the scam holding worthless bags and out as much as they were willing to spend.

Hardware Scams

I mentioned the HooFoo Wallet earlier. This was a hardware wallet that started as a crowdfunding project on IndieGogo and Kickstarter. I was determined not to keep my funds on an exchange and I'd read about scams involving Ledger and Nano wallets, so when I saw the

HooFoo Wallet being touted as unhackable, I became a backer. Two years later, the campaign is still up and nothing has been delivered to anyone. I wasn't the only one to get scammed by this one and you will find message boards and the comments section of their campaigns filled with people who have been unable to get reimbursed.

The scam with the Nano and Ledger wallets (which really are the safest way to store your crypto) involved people trying to save a few bucks and buying Nano or Ledger wallets through Ebay or Amazon instead of direct from the manufacturer. The wallet would arrive with a bug installed that allowed scammers to access it and empty any cryptocurrency loaded onto it.

John McAfee took part in a hardware scam. He used his McAfee Antivirus security hacker cred to tout the Bitfi Wallet as unhackable. Users who bought it were delivered a stripped down old Android phone with an almost unusable interface. Within a week of release it had been hacked. McAfee had promised a huge reward to anyone who could hack it, but not surprisingly he never paid.

The Scammers

There are far too many scammers in the cryptospace to detail. Here are a few of them from Twitter (but they exist everywhere):

“John Stay Moist” pulled \$60k from followers and then lost all the proceeds. Later he started a paid group to run pump and dumps as well as charging users for questionable inside information.

“Marius” runs a paid group that makes absolutely insane ‘hopium’ calls on coins and reportedly steals charts from other users and publishes them as his own.

John McAfee, of course, needs to be on this list. The master of shilling, pump and dumps, hardware scams, exit scams, and accused of fraud, murder, and tax evasion by the U.S. Government. McAfee is a fun account to follow as he is likable and weird - but you should never trust your money to his advice nor let him within 100 miles of your home.

Trevon James was one of the biggest accounts associated with BitConnect and continues to shill, give paid advice, and probably collects big paychecks from his rampant followers.

The list here is too long to include...essentially, you need to consider every recommendation given to you by anyone involved in Crypto as if it is coming from a criminal. Do your own research and don't fall for the hype. There are plenty of good people and great projects in crypto, but I don't recommend that you throw your trust blindly behind anyone or anything. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Chapter 13 - My Life Outside of LUPX or How Crypto Changed My Life

During this period of 2017 to 2019, I rekindled my passion for being a geek. I got back into the world of dreaming up ideas and making them into a reality. I got excited about investing again - not just in cryptocurrency but also in the stock market. I'd been a stock broker briefly back in 2003 and I had always loved the way that the market and the economy functioned.

I had always been an idea machine. Working with the LUPX team had rekindled that and shown me that it was possible to get things done and made. It's one of the great things about being alive today. We have the means to dream up ideas, find the people who can make them reality, and then negotiate and navigate those challenges.

During this time period, I began to do that. I was working as a tour guide, but for some time, I had been dreaming of creating an automated app for people to book tours on their phones for some time. I had two ideas that I was excited about - during the entire time we were working on LUPX, I was also working on my ideas.

Iwahai was an app that allowed people to leave GPS tagged voice messages on a map. It exists in the Apple and Android App stores now. I brought this dream to life. I brought my other app ZguideZ to life too and founded a Delaware C Class Corporation (ZguideZ, INC). I found investors and filed a provisional patent for the tech. ZguideZ has been approved by Android but I've run into some issues getting it into the Apple App store.

I've begun networking in the tech community, applying for incubators, attending conferences as a CEO and founder, and in general - I enjoy being in this world. I haven't made any money from my apps yet - in fact, they have cost me quite a bit - but I feel that I am moving in the right direction and things are going to change rapidly.

Senor Lupe's last post literally coincided with the end of the bear market. Since that time, I've not only recovered my losses but am now in the profit zone. I haven't sold yet, because I still believe that Cryptocurrency and Bitcoin are going to change the world. I have a selling plan, but it will take time.

We're stuck in this capitalist system unless some rich guys start tearing it down from the inside. I've decided I would like to be one of those rich guys. I'd rather be a part of building the thing that destroys capitalism than be a wage slave suffering under it for the rest of my life. I know there is some cognitive dissonance there and that my motivations might seem contradictory, but those who understand will understand, those who do not, probably never will.

Meanwhile, I'm in Hawaii. I work constantly to pay our way here whether it is as a guide, buying and selling antiques and collectibles at the flea market, selling on Ebay, or continuing to bring my old Vagobond.com site back to life. It's not easy to survive in Hawaii, but ultimately, I think it's worth it. Time will tell whether or not I can continue to support a family here - I am hopeful that a raging crypto bull market will ride in and save the day. Speaking of crypto and Hawaii.

When I became friendly with Tokenneth Carson - we chatted about a now defunct coin called HawaiiCOIN and he sent me a million of them - so technically, I'm a millionaire in Hawaii...coin. I'm also still a millionaire in LUPX but don't expect that to ever amount to anything - but who knows, maybe Hilobrain will wake up, mature, find a new team and make something of LUPX. I doubt it, but stranger things have happened in the wild world of cryptocurrency.

Appendix I : Revolutionary Writings on Cryptocurrency

It's my opinion that the most insidious institutions on the planet are banks, lenders, mortgage companies, and the governments that profit from them and allow them to prey on individuals and turn us into 'consumers' and other financial products. I can see a way out of this human caused mess – the way is called cryptocurrency.

Banks exist because of the need of humans to have a trusted third party confirm our financial and business transactions. (Personal as well, which is why there is a witness necessary at weddings). The trusted third party is witness to loans, transfers of property, etc.

The problem is that the trusted third party is not trustworthy. People cheat for profit. Simple as that. Maybe not all of us, but enough of us. It's why government, finance, and other institutions are corrupt – that's what corruption is.

Blockchain eliminates the need for trusting a third party. A blockchain is a ledger or record book which is immutable – that is, it cannot be changed. Transactions of any kind are encrypted using the most powerful encryption tools available and then encrypted with all previous transactions to form a chain of blocks that are distributed far and wide to every 'node' in a network. Bitcoin, for example, has tens of thousands of nodes.

In short, blockchain and cryptocurrency create a decentralized immutable ledger that is distributed widely and cannot be changed. Cryptocurrency is the payment for the extremely costly math that creates the blockchain. It can be traded and has real value to create new blocks and to take away power from banks and governments.

The state, the corporations, and the banks are really all part of the same capitalist entity. The police, armed forces, and other tools of force belong to the same entity. For the most part, the entire globe and every nation-state on it are firmly in control of corporate controlled capitalist forces now. Yes, there are variations on the capitalist theme – fascist capitalist states, pseudo-democratic capitalist states, state-controlled-capitalism states, and tyrannical capitalist states. The bottom line is that all of these states are under the thumb of bankers, corporate boards, and big finance.

Independent nation-states are an illusion that capital has created in order to keep the people focused on the relatively unimportant business of electing impotent legislative bodies, debating amongst political parties, and protesting tyrants and blowhards like Trump, Dueterte, Kim, Erdogan, Putin etc. I've fallen for it and quite likely – so have you.

People (workers) with more power to change, get the benefit of living in countries where the standard of living is higher. Organized labor and abundant resources made the UK, USA, Japan, and other 'Western' nations dangerous to the capitalist system – and as a result, the people living in those regions are given a higher standard of living and inundated with larger and more powerful control systems such as the internet-entertainment complex.

The good news is that capitalism is failing. The bad news is that it is destroying our one and only planet, enslaving all of us, and quite frankly, a major dilemma for capitalists is already rising – what to do with a workforce that is no longer needed as automation eliminates jobs. Capitalism relies on consumption and control.

This is where Bitcoin comes in. There is no central authority over bitcoin. Bitcoin does not require bankers to mediate exchange. Bitcoin does not require governments to regulate trade. The true identity of Bitcoin's creator is unknown, it is run on nodes distributed over the entire world, and it is a functioning peer-to-peer monetary system that does not require a federal reserve, the approval of corporations, or government backing.

Bitcoin is the greatest threat to capitalism in the history of capitalism. Owning Bitcoin, enables you to transact without government approval. There is no way for governments to automatically tax Bitcoin, they cannot 'inflate' or 'deflate' bitcoin by producing more. The price of Bitcoin reflected in fiat currency is a direct result of the true value of fiat declining, rather than the value of Bitcoin rising. A Bitcoin is a Bitcoin.

The simple act of buying any amount of Bitcoin, is the single most revolutionary thing that a person living today can do. Every Bitcoin transaction takes away the power of the capitalist machine. Every Bitcoin transaction, moves power from that machine to the holders of Bitcoin.

I've made it no secret – I think the banking and financial systems of every country on the planet are corrupt and need to be replaced. The problem, of course, is that whatever you replace them with has the potential to also be corrupt as long as you are relying on trust. This is why I love Bitcoin and cryptocurrency. Trust is not an issue – or at least it shouldn't be.

From the moment that Satoshi Nakamoto released his bitcoin white paper on the internet, Bitcoin has existed without the need for trust. Satoshi, the almost (or perhaps completely) mythical creator and father of bitcoin – conceived of Bitcoin in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis when financial institutions had once again clearly shown that the entire financial system was completely untrustworthy.

Bitcoin was born during the last economic crisis when someone (or a group of someones) saw the need for a break from trusting government and financial institutions to take care of the needs

of people. Blockchain (the technology bitcoin is built on) works like this – a group of unrelated individuals (miners) use complex math to encode (crypto) multiple transactions into a permanent ledger which cannot be changed or altered and is not owned or operated by any individual entities.

Blockchain is built to eliminate the need for trust. For example in regular finance: I write a check to you. You take the check to the bank. The bank takes my money and puts it in your account. We have to trust each other and we have to trust the bank – the middle man, the intermediary. Blockchain takes the bank out of the picture and makes our transaction a permanent part of the record. There is no need for trust – it is trustless. It eliminates the need for banks as well. Bitcoin is the currency built on top of that chain of transaction blocks (get it? Blocks of transactions in a chain where each transaction is necessary to validate every other transaction – a blockchain).

Cryptocurrency. When governments fail, they can't take crypto with them. Bitcoin has a built in value creator - the number rewarded to miners halves periodically with 2020 being the next halving - this should limit supply and increase demand since there is a set number of bitcoins that will ever exist. They can't be artificially created by governments. Bitcoin and many other cryptocurrencies are not controlled by central authorities, they are decentralized. Unless they can take your private keys, your bitcoin cannot be stolen or seized. Unless there is a way to connect your name to your public key - they cannot be connected to you. Cryptocurrency is the only failsafe in a world where governments are bound to fail. Today, the US President is a pawn of the Russian president - smart money is pouring into cryptocurrency at rates that we haven't seen since December of 2017. As the governmental chaos continues with the disastrous Brexit, more revelations of collusion between Russian and Republican operatives, and forthcoming revelations of financial insolvency - watch for TRILLIONS of dollars to pour into Bitcoin, Litecoin, Ethereum, Digibyte, and other decentralized tokens.

A lot has been made in the past ten years about the 1%. The ultra-rich who control more wealth than the other 99% of us. I'm not going to get into all of that. Suffice to say that I'm not a member of that club but I wouldn't turn down an invitation.

The 4% are something altogether different. It is estimated that with a maximum of 21 million bitcoin that will ever exist - ownership of a whole bitcoin will become a bit of a status symbol. At the time of this writing, Bitcoin is trading at right around \$8200, buying a bitcoin is not something that most people on the planet are capable of. Shelling out \$8200 is a big commitment - in some markets that's a down payment on a house, it will buy the very cheapest of brand new cars, or many other things. Now consider - some of the 1% have hundreds or even thousands of bitcoin in their wallets. It's estimated that Satoshi Nakamoto, the creator of bitcoin has more than a million Bitcoin. The top cold wallet has nearly 200k and the other top 100 range from that down

to 70k. What that means is that most of the existing bitcoin are already spoken for by those top wallets and Satoshi. The rest of them are split up into little pieces called Satoshis or Sats. The majority of bitcoin enthusiasts only own a piece of a Bitcoin and then own a lot of alternative coins (aka 'alts') which add up to crypto holdings that can be in excess of 1 Bitcoin - but usually don't hold the Bitcoin as such.

A recent estimate says that only half of one percent of the population on the planet owns any form of cryptocurrency. So, we are talking about the 1/2 percenters here, not the 1 percenters. Out of those 1/2 percenters - only 4% of them own 1 or more bitcoin. It's tricky to do the math here because there are some (many actually) people with more than one bitcoin wallet. When we do some very rough calculations we come out with the fact that out of roughly 8,000,000,000 people on the planet - there are only 160,000 of them who own a whole Bitcoin (or more). So, my friends, if you stepped up or got lucky or were smart enough to invest early on when Bitcoin were cheap and plentiful in relation to demand...congratulations...you are part of the .002% of humans that will probably be among the wealthiest human beings in the history of our species. Congratulations!

If you haven't bought any Bitcoin yet, what are you waiting for?

Congratulations! You've bought some crypto! Maybe you bought a piece of a Bitcoin, a whole Bitcoin, a Litecoin, some XRP, a Lumen, some Ethereum, or Digibyte...it doesn't really matter. The good news is that you bought some crypto and you are asserting your currency independence.

Or are you?

Here's something a lot of people don't think about. When you buy cryptocurrency, what you are doing is claiming a piece of the blockchain. Your public key allows anyone to see that your crypto belongs to the address that you have parked it at. Your private key allows you to move it to a different address if you want to. Remember, blockchain is a permanent (immutable) ledger of transactions. Which brings up a good point – the only way your transaction is private is if you are using a privacy coin like Monero or Zcash which tear up the transaction records or if there is no way to associate you with your public address. When people buy crypto – most people buy it on an exchange. Exchanges like Coinbase handle all of this for you and because of anti-money laundering laws (AML) and know your customer (KYC) rules...there is no such thing as privacy AND – and this is important, while you are the legal holder of your crypto – the private keys are actually held by the exchange – so you can request them to move your crypto to somewhere else (another wallet, a friend, etc) but they have the custody and if something happens (a big hack like Mt. Gox for instance) your coins and tokens can be lost and never recovered.

And that, my friends, is why the old timers in crypto advise you to never keep your cryptocurrency on the exchanges. You need to have control of your own keys and to do that, you have to have a way to account, move, track, send, and receive.

Appendix I - Lupe and Frens - The Series That Never Was But Should Have Been

At the end of the day, I think that the most valuable thing to come out of LUPX was the cartoon and the writing. Hopefully, the guys don't have a problem with me sharing what was shared in the Lupecoin Creative Group.

I felt like the problem was that the really funny, creative, offensive ideas were always scuttled - mostly by Gary. This was the first episode - which was actually animated but disappeared somewhere. I've left the formatting as it was.

Lupe sitting on his horse in desert with laptop, checking Bianance.

When he hears a voice but can't work out where it is coming from.

Voice: "Look away from the screen!"

Lupe: I es no look away anywhere is busy!

Voice: "You dare to defy \$I?"

Lupe: I es no want no trouble, I is frenly.

Voice: Okay Sato...whoops! I mean Senor Lupe, you asked for it!

Lupe: I es ask for nothing and no ever scam you. I es here to help you wherever you are?

Voice: \$I is everywhere. \$I is quantum. \$I is the mainframe. \$I show you!

Pans into Lupe's laptop and Lupe finds it hard to focus, the laptop starts shaking uncontrollably and Lupe starts to be pulled into the graphical display.

Lupe is thrown through A colourful spiral pattern, which eventually ends with him in the same place in the desert. Lupe can't understand what just happened as nothing seems to have changed,

+++ I think color of sky changes overall hue, dark music, ominous, town is buzzing+++

Lupe : was es strang soun Chummie?

Chummie : ((horse neigh/whinny))

but then he notices a futuristic looking building that has a sign: "Bitmain Whore House INC." Lupe's horse looks disheveled after the spiral tunnel trip and also looks thirsty, so Lupe decides to go the the futuristic looking building to get water for chummie. Verge sign above door

A man at the bar starts to talk to lupe

Man: Hey bro, how are you doing?

Lupe: I es need water for for chummie me horse.

Man: That will be 4 Bitcoin .

Lupe: Says it accept you Verge on es door.

Man: That is for whore bots only! You want water, you pay BBTC!

Lupe: What es bot whore?

Man: Sally! Get your sweet ass chip over here, now!

Lupe: I es no like sally talk from you es bad.

Sally: What can I do for you?

Lupe : I es want water horse, please!

Sally: We're not that kind of establishment!

Man: Buddy! You want that stuff, you go to specialist waterproofed whore bot house!

Lupe: I have 2 BTC, can have half of water?

Man: No! BTC was deprecated years ago! It's BBTC now. You will have to mine some!

Lupe: How es do it?

Man: You have to have sex with our bitmain whore bots.

Lupe: I es no like botty sex?

Sally: You'll get used to it! Now serve your master and bend over.

Lupe : No es thank you Señor y senorita Sally the sex bot miner.

Lupe turns to leave. A robot is trying to attach a Bitmain miner to chummie.

*He notices the whole town is buzzing. He sees bit main logos and little miners on everything. We can list if needed. Bitmain Robots like Skynet bots walk the town ((Ominous music starts))

*Lupe knocks away miner from chummie, ((music kicks into action sound)) maybe he uses light saber.

Lupe jumps on chummy and kicks off in a gallop, Lupe makes a horse heeyah sound too.

Lupe: (Yelling to heaven's) Wha can I do, what es dis bad place?

And \$I answers *booming voice* ((music is angelic))

\$I : This is the dark future Lupe. You must go back and stop it. Spread the word of \$I and \$Lupe. And keep \$BTC safe and decentralized.... ((

*Voice trails off and laptop Burt's out of Lupe's saddle bag floating in air, a wormhole appears on screen and Lupe is sucked back in with a sucking sound.

((Credit music starts))

Spiral and 2001 space Odyssey tunnel visual and credits roll if we do that

Here's the episode that I wrote which was scuttled because Gary and Owen didn't want to risk offending the mighty McAfee. I called it **Saving Private McFeely**:

Camera pans over a desolate wasteland where tumbleweeds blow.

V/O: The FUD and FOMO wars of the late twenty-teens left virtually every cryptocurrency investor REKT - all of the so-called 'prophets' of crypto have slithered away to hide in their bunkers and no one is left that is willing speak for those few HODLers - the HODL-outs. As 2020 winds to a close, only two remain - our hero, the brave and bold and often misunderstood SENOR LUPE and the most violent, certain, and dangerous of them all - JOHN McFEELY.

Camera settles on a small despondent looking crowd gathered around a stage where JOHN McFEELY, a goatee bearded old man with sun-blotchy skin screams and yells into a microphone.

MCFEELY: Not only do I still believe that I will get to keep my manhood, but I want to reaffirm that if LUPX isn't worth at least \$100 Trillion dollars by the end of this year, I will eat my own genitals on a public Twitch channel. And...I'll wrestle Elon Musk in a bathtub filled with mustard and I'll balance twenty seven hot dog buns on my head without sneezing...

RANDOM AUDIENCE MEMBER: You only have three months left and it's only worth eighty-nine cents....

MCFEELY: I'm so sick and tired of you FUDDING S.E.C. Shills trying to destroy my reputation. All you do is lie, lie, lie...and the only way to fight those lies is to buy my McFeely brand Mustard ...

(Holds up a jar of French's Mustard with a fake McFeely sticker barely holding over the top of it)

...or the world famous McFeely buns (holds up similarly badly rebranded hot dog buns).

Camera pans to back of crowd where Senor Lupe and Chummy are watching with confused looks on their faces...

SENIOR LUPE: I is believing he can see the future Chummy. John McFeely so is smart and confident.

Senor Lupe and Chummy wander away and leave the scene. McFeely pulls out a gun and starts shooting audience members.

MCFEELY: You are all out to get me. I'll kill you all. Everyone is out to get me. Everyone.

(Act II) Lupe and Chummy try to help McFeely but his constant paranoia has him alternately trying to kill them by various means and trying to trick them into shitting on his face by hiding in toilets, cutting holes in hammocks, feeding them laxatives, etc. Despite all their efforts, McFeely manages to keep the price low for months and the calendar winds down.

(Act III) It's December 31st at 11:59 pm. TV news shows McFeely being held by an angry crowd. The audience member McFeely previously accused steps forward, pulls of a scoby doo style mask and pulls out an SEC badge.

SEC COMMISSIONER: This is is McFeely. We've got you now. There's no getting out of this. We've got Guy Fieri here to cook up your hot dog and I'm going to cut it off so he can prepare it for you.

MCFEELY: (laughing) You're too late! Janet and I already ate it in Panama back in 2015.

Flashback shows gritty footage of McFeely in a tropical hideout with cocaine all over his face. JANET, a big orange woman that wears a t-shirt that says 'Mrs. McFeely' on it is cooking in a coked out way on a campstove -

JANET: John, did you bring the hot-dogs?

McFEELY: Eat my dick, Janet!

Janet picks up a machete and turns towards him menacingly...

(End flashback)

Lupe and Chummy start applauding.

LUPE: He es do it ageen. McFeely he es so breelieent.

Chummy's tail lifts and he starts to poop - camera turns and shows McFeely's face, ready to be shat upon. He smiles!

McFEELY: Buy McFEELY Mustard!

Roll credits.

The End

There were a good amount of scripts and ideas. The last idea posted was this one...which just seems appropriate to finish with:

We should do an episode where Lupe has built a team, and he gives them all a stake, and then has trouble getting ahold of some of the members to help with certain things, so he goes to visit them because they wont pick up the phone, and finds them all slacking off, livecasting themselves playing video games etc....