Thoughts on biticoin mining, transacting and blockchain services

Presenter: Nikola Tchouparov





Date: April 2014

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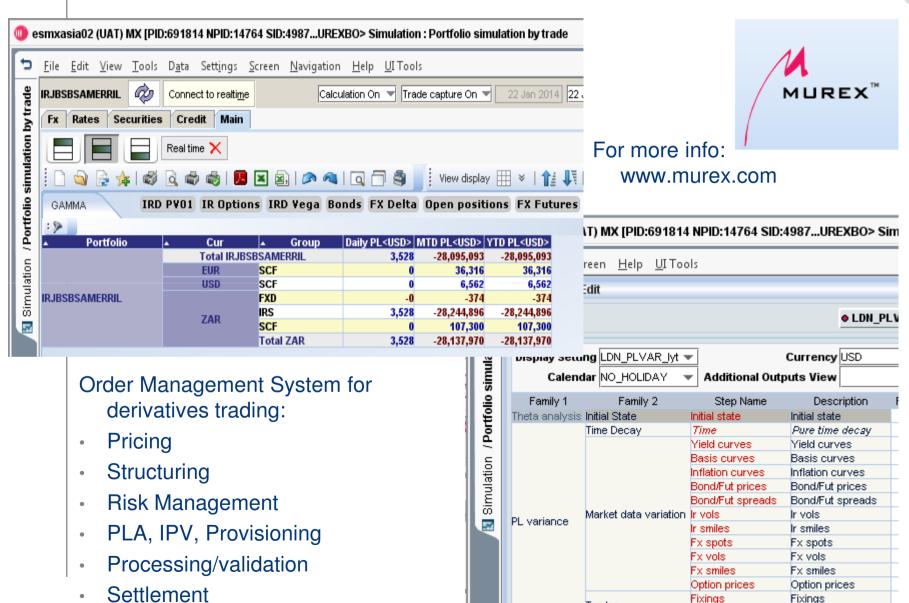
- Presenter introduction
- Mining
- Transacting
- Blockchain services
- Accounting concepts

Personal Introduction

- Nikola Tchouparov
 - from Bulgaria
- Independent IT Consultant
- Specialize on Front Office Trading Systems (Murex)
- Implementation projects (greenfield, upgrade, patching, customizing, support)
- 8+ years experience in 10 countries (Europe, Asia, Africa, North America) and a dozen organizations
- Validating pricing and valuation models, P&L reconciliation, developing risk reports, setting-up accounting engine, business analysis, etc.
- Currently working at SBSA on IRD book migration and CRD book migration

Blockchain enthusiast

- Transacting in bitcoin/crypto
- Trading bitcoin/crypto (lost funds in Mt. Gox fiasco)
- Mining crypto (bitcoin, litecoin, solarcoin, unobtanium, ehtereum testnet)
- Learning about bitcoin/crypto
- Want to build services using the blockchain technology



How to Mine bitcoin

- Open source mining software is freely available on the Internet
- CGMiner, BFGMiner, Ufasoft miner, etc.
- CPU mining unprofitable; interesting for learning
- GPU mining unprofitable for bitcoin; possibly profitable for other crypto;
 interesting for learning (setup Linux, install miner software, set GPU setting etc,)
- FPGA mining I never did this, so don't know
- ASIC mining profitable; mostly plug&play; ASIC's are difficult to obtain and expensive
- Solo mining vs pooled mining
 - Solo mining bitcoin huge upfront investment. Interesting for ASCI manufacturers, hedge funds
 - Pooled mining bitcoin pool collects a fee, but also smoothes earnings
 - For "stupid-coins" less investment required

Mining calculations

- 3600 biticons mined per day:
 - 25 BTC per block
 - x 10 mins expected time per block
 - x 6 periods/blocks per hour
 - x 24 hours per day
- Current bitcoin network mining power circa 28 peta-hash = 28,000 terra-hash
- Assuming pooled-mining, expected values:
 - 7.7 terra-hash to mine 1 bitcoin per day

OR

- 1 terra-hash to mine 1 bitcoin in 7.7 days
- Assuming solo-mining:
 - 194 terra-hash to get one block per day (25BTC + fees)
 - Estimated 2 million USD investment plus working capital and overheads
 - High risk due to advances in ASIC technology and bitcoin price volatility
- Calculation differs for other crypto

CPU mining

- Don't bother
- Might become feasible again in the future with new ASIC-resistant mining algorithms
 - e.g. Ethereum's Dagger and Slasher
 - Solarcoin's photovoltaic panels
 - Other new things (NXT?)





GPU mining



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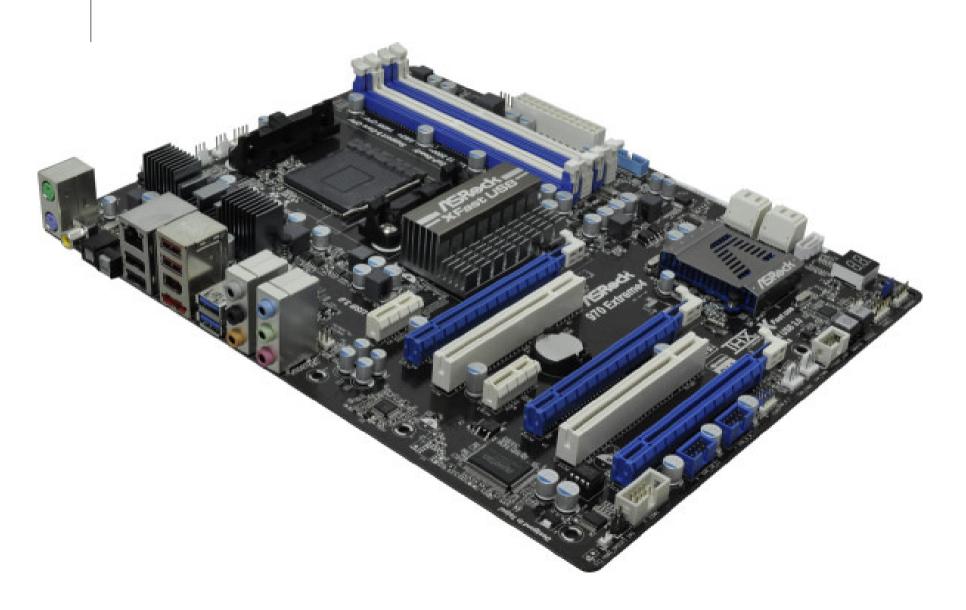
Technical specs

Your Order

Invoice E2044693

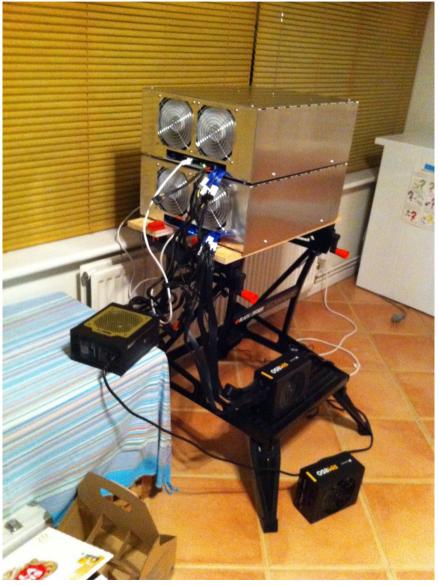
Date 01/05/2013 17:02

Product	Quantity	Price
500GB Western Digital WD5000BPVT 1250W Seasonic X-Series SS-1250XM ASRock 970 Extreme4, AMD 970, S AI 4GB Corsair DDR3 XMS3, PC3-10666 3GB Sapphire Radeon HD 7970 Dual-X	l, 1 M3 1 (1 1	£34.89 £182.12 £62.97 £22.40 £272.79
C	let Total Carriage Tota	£857.95 £9.99 £1,029.54



```
rig01@rig01: ~/Desktop/cgminer-3.1.0-x86_64-built/cgminer-x86_64-built
 cgminer version 3.1.0 - Started: [2014-03-09 13:57:13]
 (5s):1.157G (avg):1.095Gh/s | A:45 R:0 HW:0 U:1.8/m WU:14.1/m
 ST: 2 SS: 0 NB: 7 LW: 530 GF: 0 RF: 0
 Connected to minel.coinmine.pl diff 8 with stratum as user bubukhan.worker1
 Block: 068cfbd79380b9d4... Diff:654K Started: [14:16:36] Best share: 582
 [P]ool management [G]PU management [S]ettings [D]isplay options [Q]uit
 GPU 0: 75.0C 2922RPM | 554.1M/541.9Mh/s | A:28 R:0 HW:0 U:1.15/m I: 9
 GPU 1: 62.0C 2225RPM | 556.1M/556.7Mh/s | A:17 R:0 HW:0 U:0.70/m I:15
 [2014-03-09 14:16:11] Accepted 0a847568 Diff 24/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:16:12] Accepted 072746a1 Diff 35/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:16:36] Stratum from pool 0 detected new block
 [2014-03-09 14:16:49] Accepted 0070852e Diff 582/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:47] Accepted 15ff7d7f Diff 11/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:47] Accepted 1399d319 Diff 13/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:53] Accepted Oabb6179 Diff 23/8 GPU 1
 [2014-03-09 14:18:55] Accepted 1e740e32 Diff 8/8 GPU 0
 [2014-03-09 14:19:56] Accepted 02d53e20 Diff 90/8 GPU 1
 [2014-03-09 14:20:47] Accepted 154b6c97 Diff 12/8 GPU 1
 [2014-03-09 14:21:21] Accepted 1331365c Diff 13/8 GPU 0
```





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Login	Password	Found blocks	Current shares	Score	Last share at	Mhash/s*
.worker1		1	4645565	481752.5537	0 minutes	543133.432
.worker2		0	3875740	386921.8342	0 minutes	453129.806

^{*} The calculation is based on the number of shares so far, which may not be accurate for slow workers.

Found blocks

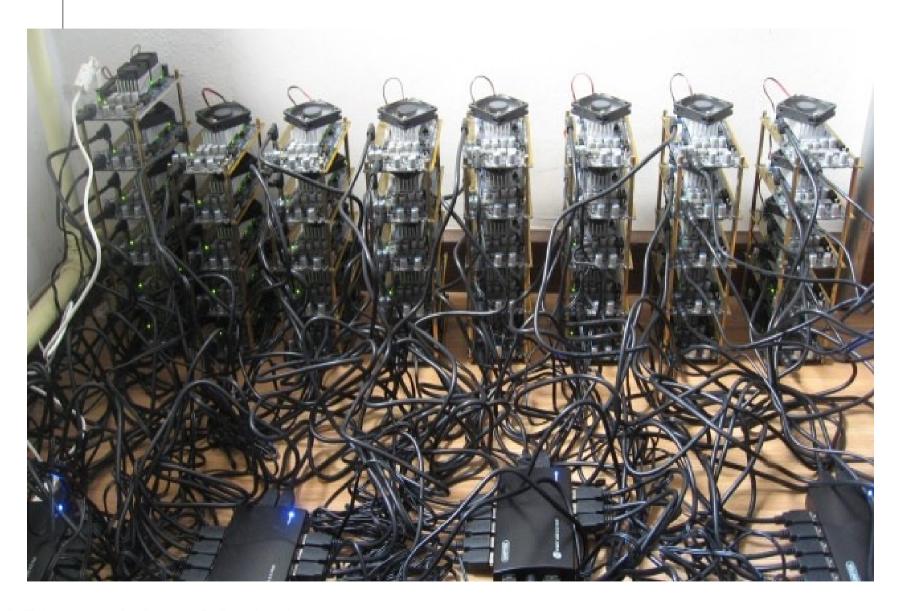
271079

```
192.168.0.11 - PuTTY
 cgminer version 3.4.0 - Started: [2014-02-27 07:17:00]
 (5s):531.3G (avg):555.3Gh/s | A:113494551 R:867337 HW:2137979 WU:7863.6/m
 ST: 2 SS: 3 NB: 1654 LW: 118933840 GF: 6 RF: 2
 Connected to stratum.bitcoin.cz diff 414 with stratum as user bubukhan.worker1
 Block: 00007df07cd6f8dd... Diff:3.81G Started: [13:56:27] Best share: 288M
 [P]ool management [S]ettings [D]isplay options [Q]uit
KnC 0:
                       | 580.8G/555.3Gh/s | A:113494965 R:867337 HW:2137984 WU:7
 [2014-03-09 14:17:12] Accepted 0062b9c7 Diff 663/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:20] Accepted 00172862 Diff 2.83K/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:23] Accepted 0039a869 Diff 1.14K/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:27] Accepted 0095f4a3 Diff 437/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:29] Accepted 00879915 Diff 483/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:37] Accepted 004c38ad Diff 859/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:39] Accepted 0008d2c2 Diff 7.43K/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:44] Accepted 0014115e Diff 3.27K/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:44] Accepted 0026b63c Diff 1.69K/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:53] Accepted 00874af6 Diff 484/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:54] Accepted 0088c843 Diff 479/414 KnC 0
 [2014-03-09 14:17:57] Accepted 00734e8b Diff 568/414 KnC 0
```





Bitcoin Mining



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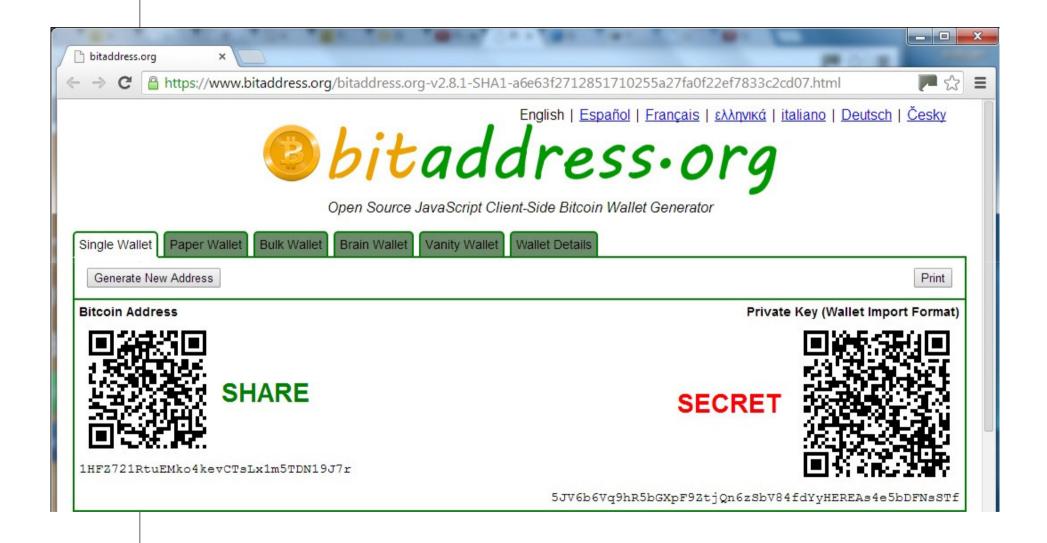


Transacting

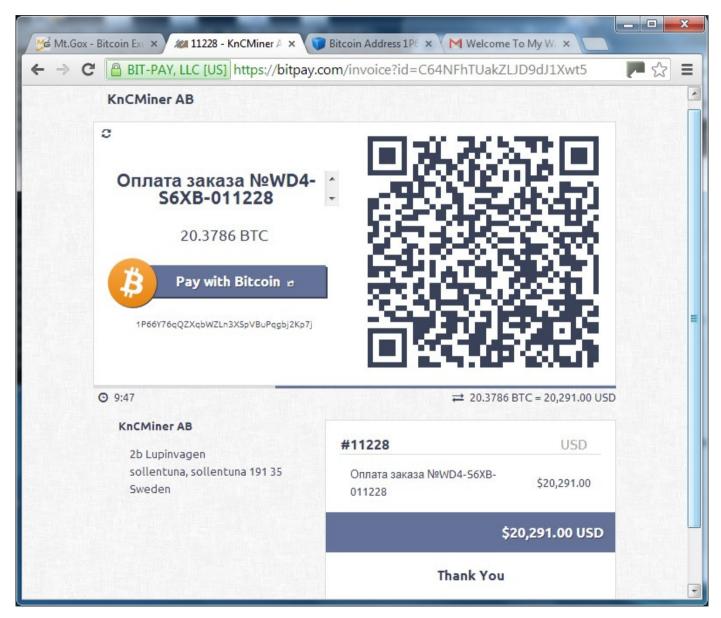
- Natively transact via bitcoin addresses (string of alphanumeric characters)
 - Requires keyboard typing or copy-paste
- Encode the bitcoin address into a QR code (or any other barcode)
 - Requires scanner or camera (smart-phones and laptops)
- With add-on services transact via SMS (Coinapult) or some other Alias (Twitter, e-mail) great technology for reaching the unbanked and P2P micropayments
 - Business idea: build an integration between WhatsApp (free international SMS-like service w/ 700 million users) and biticon
 - Tangent: Facebook bought WhatsApp in February 2014... curious
- Payment processors (BitPay, CoinBase, etc.)
- Chip&Pin card (like debit card) can be used to withdraw cash at ATM's
- Address and private keys can be stored on HDD, laptop, USB stick, smart-phone, paper/card or any other physical carrier (tattoo??)
 - and even mnemonic or brain wallet i.e. memorize a sentence or a string of random words that when hashed re-produce your public and private key

Types of transacting

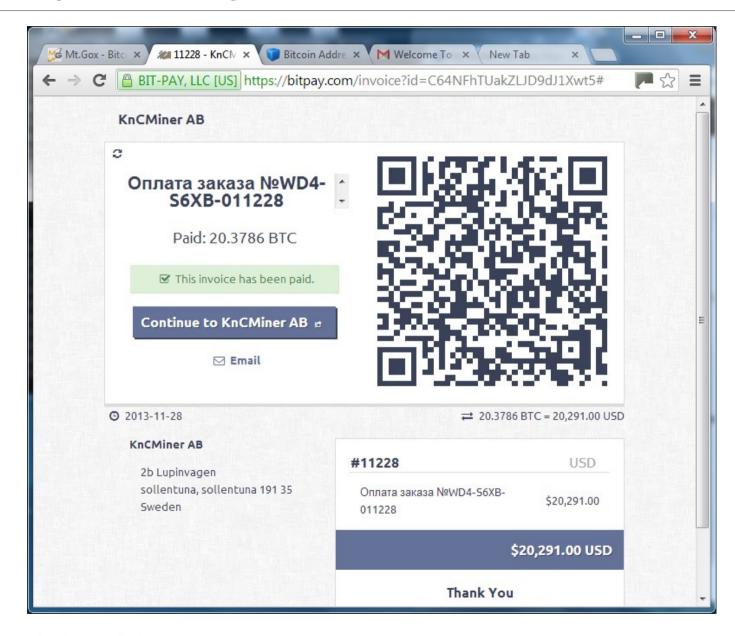
- Regular merchant transactions: in-store or on-line
 - For convenience, for anonymity and for security
 - No need to divulge credit card details, which can be intercepted and are then stored on someone's 'secure' database
 - No need for merchant to handle cash
- P2P transactions
 - Friends contributing to the next beer round
 - Tipping or donating to open-source developers, testers, helpers, the homeless
 - Sending money abroad without going through the banking system or sending cash by mail (HSBC charges me 17 GBP each time I send money to my sister in Bulgaria... Unicredit charges me 20 GBP to send money to UK. What if I want to send money outside the EU? What if I were in another country?)
- Donations to registered charities and churches
 - Alternative to paypal or cash
- Illicit transactions: in-person or on-line
 - Money laundering, drugs & weapons, tax-evasion, etc.
 - Already happening through fake or stolen identities, cash, gold, etc.
 - That's why we have the police and regulators to catch the baddies



Example: Transacting online



Example: Transacting online



The blockchain is a disruptive innovation

- **Question:** What is so innovative about it?
- Answer: It is a distributed ledger... and we never had such a thing before
 - No central ledger (like NHS or HMRC or Central Bank or corporate)
 - Hence no need to trust that the bookkeeper or middleman to put the correct data into the ledger
 - No need to trust that the bookkeeper is not fudging the data (like discarding statistical 'outliers' or inconvenient truths)
 - No need to trust that your data might disappear from the bookkeeper's records
 - Could displace property registries, could change accounting systems (i.e. Reduce Enron like fraudulent behaviour), could help with smart property
 - At the extreme this technology can reduce and remove the need for certain kinds of expertise (e.g. middle management, notary, accounting), because said expertise is captured by the algorithm
- Question: What is so disruptive about this innovation?
- Answer: Read on to the next slide.

Blockchain services – important distinctions

- The blockchain is a service (and a disruptive innovation)
 - Distributed ledeger/data-store
 - Distributed consensus
 - Solves the double-spending problem or Byzantine generals dilemma
- There are services around the blockchain
 - Bitcoin processing, bitcoin by SMS/e-mail/Twitter
 - Exchanges
 - ATM's
 - Off-chain messages (blockchain.info)
 - Outsourced bitcoin storage (hot wallets, deep-cold storage)
 - Wallets, block explorers, API's
 - Training courses (UCL, University of Nicosia)
- Services on the blockchain (the actual disruption)
 - Distributed Organizations (a.k.a. DAO, DAC)

Bitcoin chip and pin



https://coinkite.com/





BITCOIN DEBIT CARD

Withdraw Bitcoin in CASH in your local currency at most ATMs around the world. Also works for online purchases and point-of-sale at stores.





ANONYMOUS CASH

Withdraw money safely and anonymously in cash with your Bitcoin ATM card. You can use your Bitcoin Visa to shop online anonymously and securely.

https://bitplastic.com/

Services on the blockchain

- Transfer of unique value Hello bitcoin!
- Multisignature escrow or voting on the blockchain
- Blockchain advertisement (soon to be released on bitcoin)
- Financial derivatives and pass-through arrangements blockchain derivatives
- Insurance pay your premium to the blockchain
- Smart property your car, fridge and oven on the blockchain
- Bank on the blockchain (improved account auditability)
- Data services
 - Data feed sending data by blockchain
 - E-mail crypto@blockchain.block
 - Dropbox / file-sharing save on the blockchain
 - Law enforcement parking ticket, building permit on the blockchain
 - Wikileaks on blockchain
- Polling performance feedback by blockchain
- Gambling deal me 2 cards blockchain
- New challenges and business opportunities for privacy and law enforcement!

Challenges

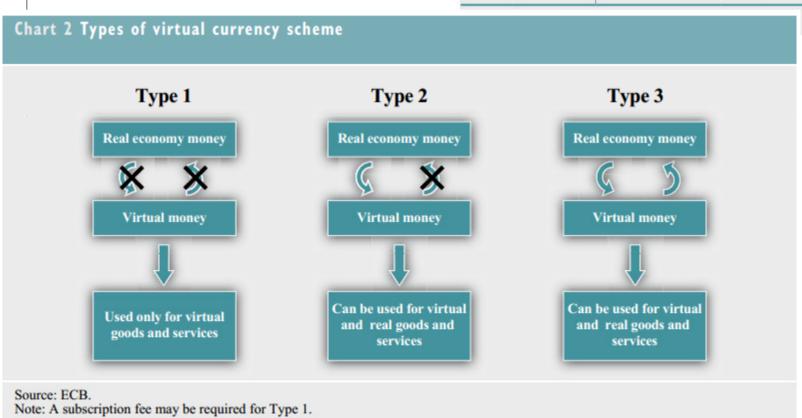
- Bitcoin is a proof of concept of the blockchain technology
- Pretty successful and pretty cool
- Only the very basic on-chain services can be developed and operated on the bitcoin blockchain
- Additional services possible off-chain with touch points to the blockchain, but then you lose the benefits of the blockchain
- Many shortcomings (SHA-256, elliptic curve not so elliptic... ask Nicolas for full list)
- Security and malleability weaknesses
- "Stupid coin" syndrome (dilution)
- Should I start my own blockchain (Unobtanium, Max-coin...)?
- Then someone invented Ethereum a blockchain on which to develop and run your applications
 - Turing complete i.e. can run any application (CLL and LLL development)
 - Seems better suited for building blockchain services
 - Scheduled to launch later this year

What does ECB say?

- ECB Report:
- VIRTUAL CURRRENCY SYSTEMS
- OCTOBER 2012

Table	l A mone	y matrix	
	Unregulated	- Certain types of local currencies	- Virtual currency
status Regulated	- Banknotes and coins	– E-money	
		- Commercial bank money (deposits)	
		Physical	Digital
		Money format	

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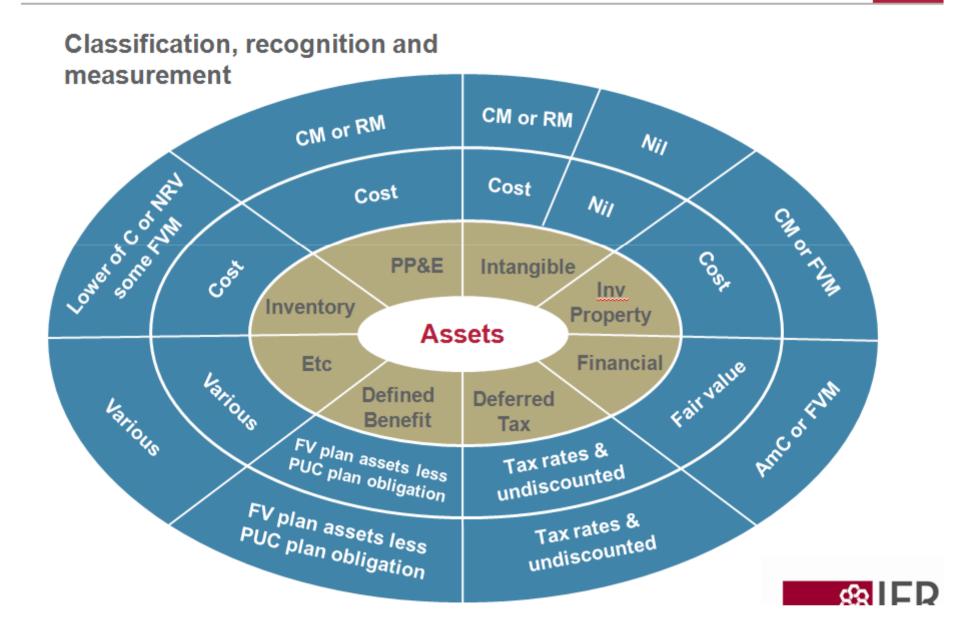
http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/virtualcurrencyschemes201210en.pdf Nikola Tchouparov, April 2014, Sofia & London

Under IFRS An asset is defined as:

- a resource controlled by the entity
- as a result of a past event
- from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity.

Source: http://www.ifrs.org/Use-around-the-world/Education/Documents/Framework-based%20teaching%20presentations/1.%20Classification%20of%20assets.pptx

Assets overview



A liability is defined as a:

- present obligation
- arising from a past event
- the settlement of which is expected to lead to an outflow of future economic benefits from the entity

Source: http://www.ifrs.org/Use-around-the-world/Education/Documents/Framework-based%20teaching%20presentations/1.%20Classification%20of%20liabilities.pptx

Liability

