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Value Touches Everything

Learning Objectives:

Incorporate an understanding of the various virtual currencies and how they affect financial investigations.

ELO 1	Define virtual currency and discuss the market
ELO 2	Describe the process flow of virtual assets.
ELO 3	Introduction to bitcoin transaction analysis

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Define Virtual Currency

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Convertible Virtual Currency

- A medium of exchange that operated like a currency in some environments
- Does not have legal tender status
- Convertible virtual currency (CVC) has an equivalent value in real currency or acts as a substitute for real currency

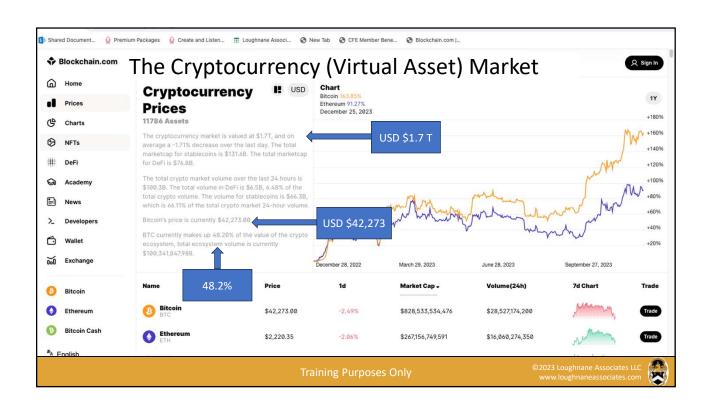
"New types of anonymity-enhanced CVCs have emerged that further reduce the transparency of transactions and identities as well as obscure the source of the CVC through the incorporation of anonymizing features, such as mixing and cryptographic enhancements"

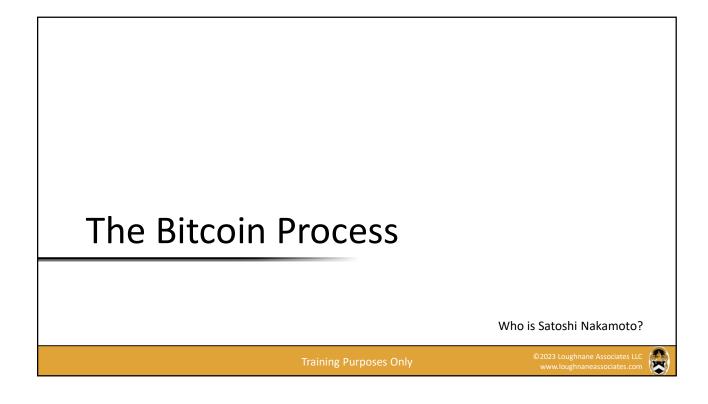
"Mixing or tumbling involves the use of mechanisms to break the connection between an address sending CVC and the addresses receiving CVC."

FinCEN. (2019, May). Advisory on Illicit Activity Involving Convertible Virtual Currency. https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/advisory/2019-05-10/FinCEN%20Advisory%20CVC%20FINAL%20508.pdf

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What is Bitcoin?

- An electronic payment system based on mathematical proof
- Decentralized
- Low transaction fees?
- Built on a "Blockchain" technology which ties to a PKI infrastructure
 - Public Key
 - Private Key
 - Proof of Work
- Owner is determined by the last transaction

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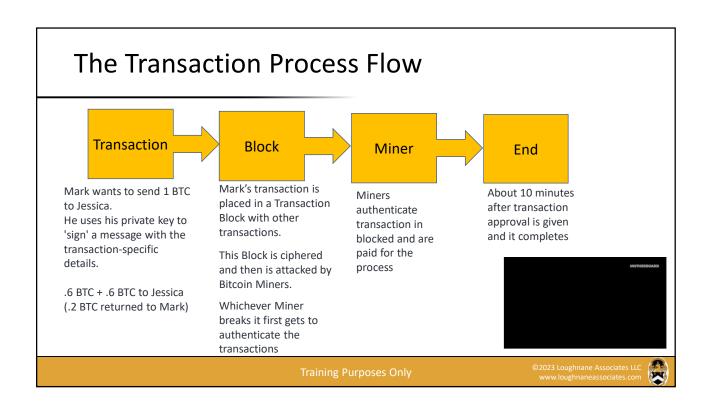
The Transaction Process

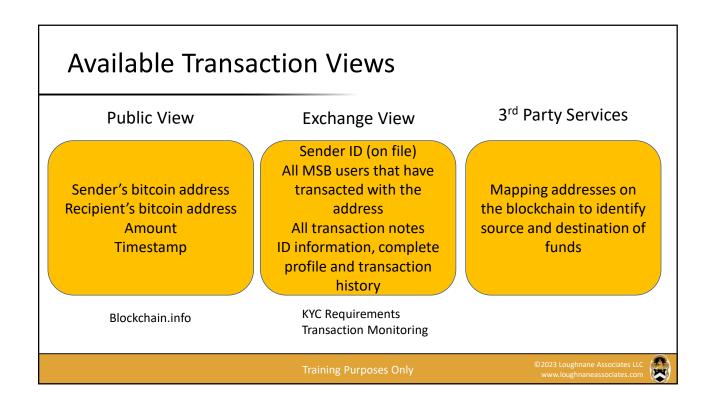
- Requires a Bitcoin wallet, a Bitcoin, and a wallet address
- Addresses are maintained in the wallets
- Transactions are placed in a Transaction Block for authentication using addresses
- Authenticated by "Bitcoin Miners" who get paid in Bitcoin attack the block and then authenticate each transaction within
- Transaction is verified and distributed to public ledgers

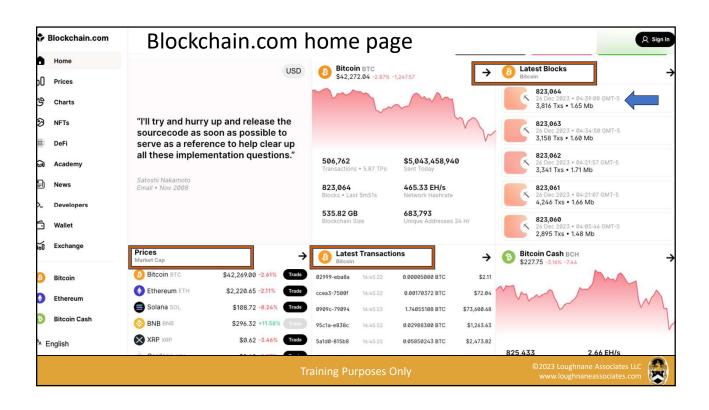
Who is Satoshi Nakamoto?

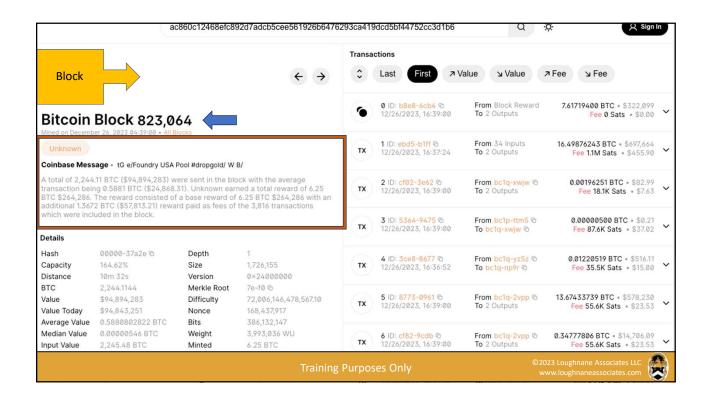
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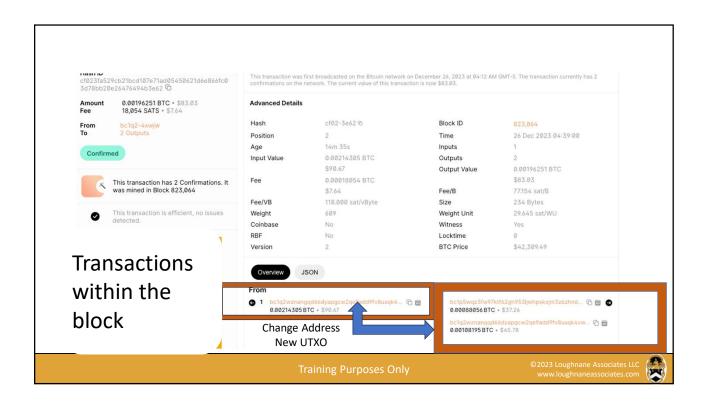






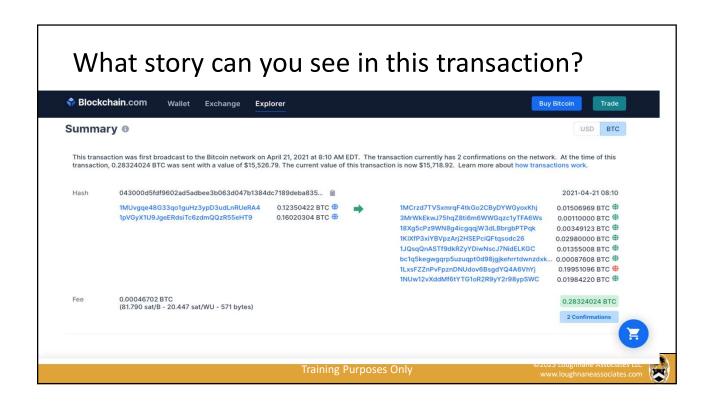


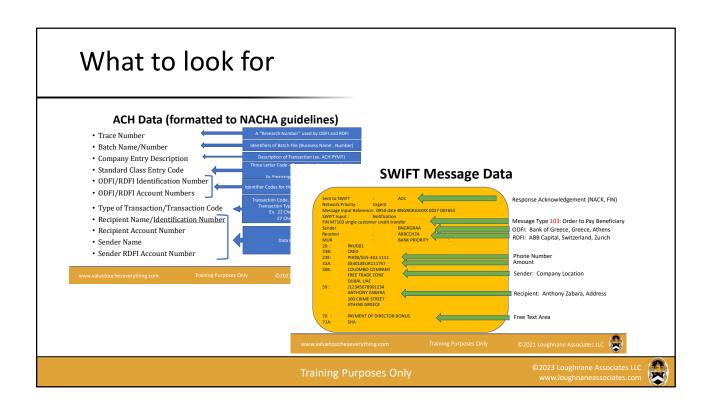


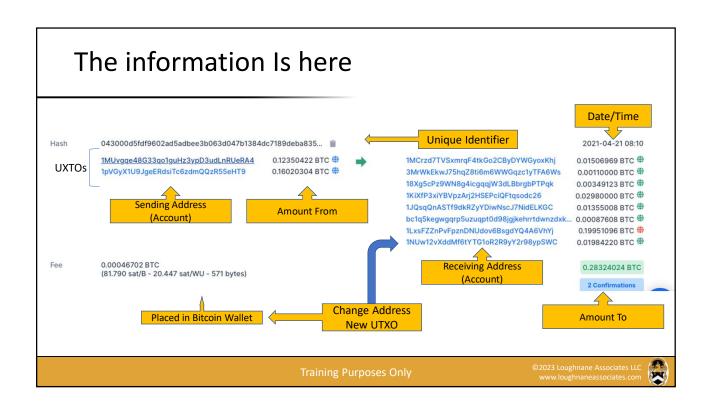


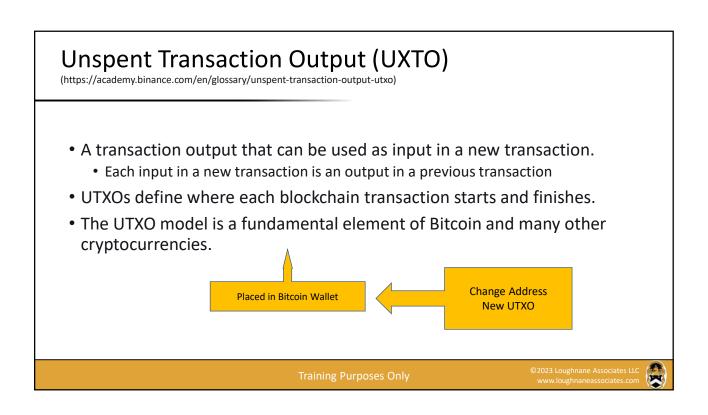
Tracing transactions in the blockchain

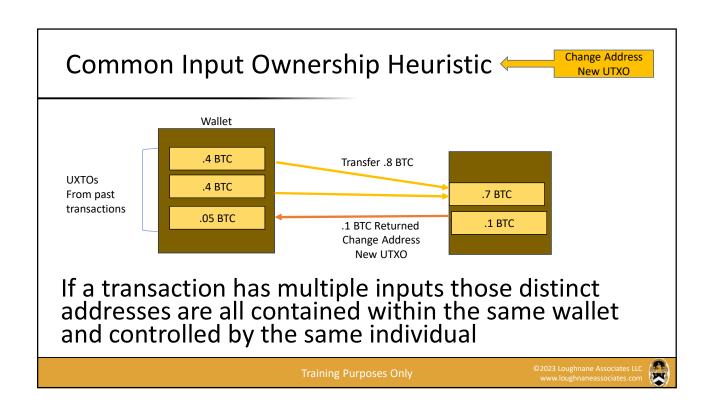
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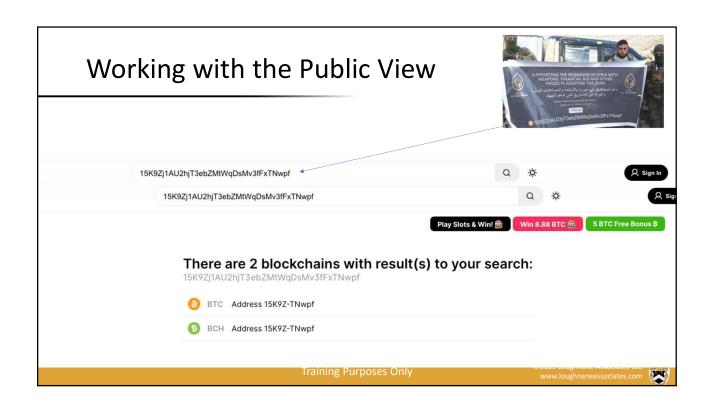


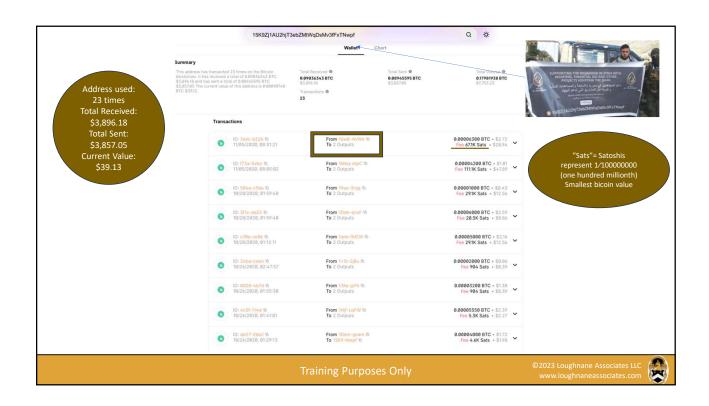


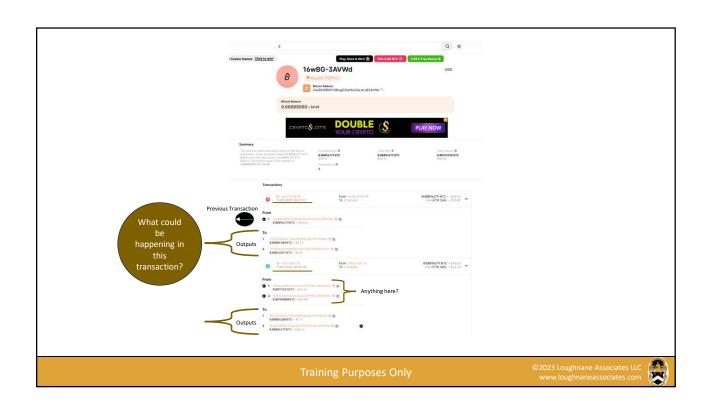


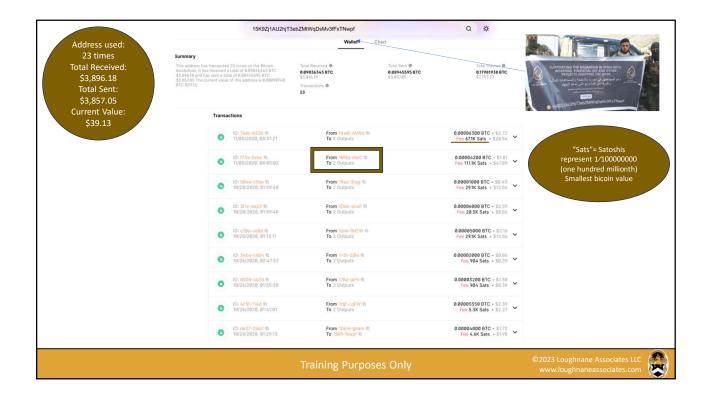


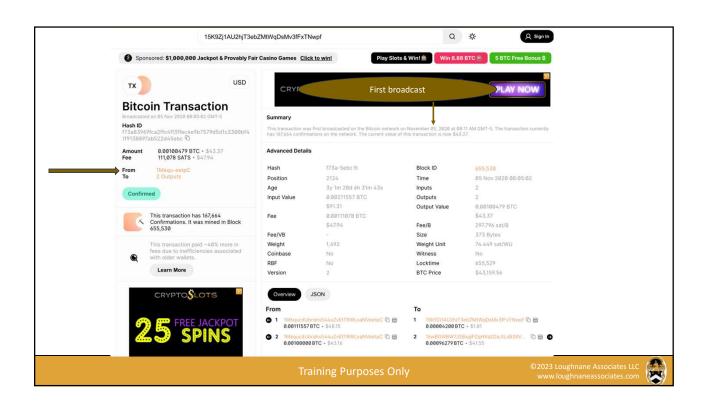


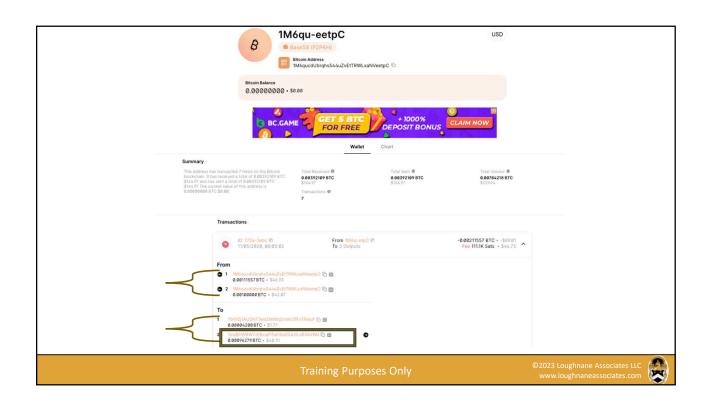


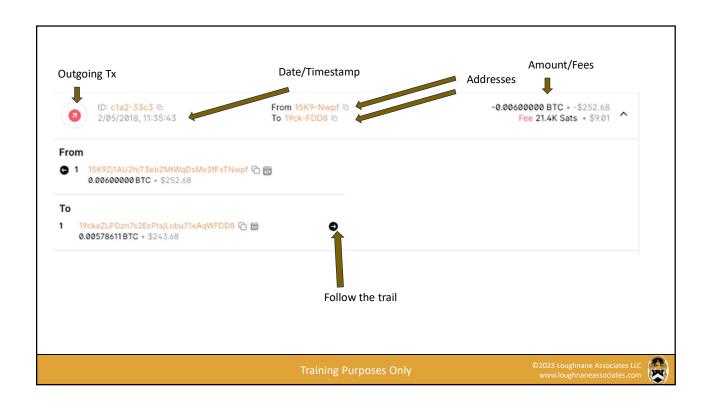


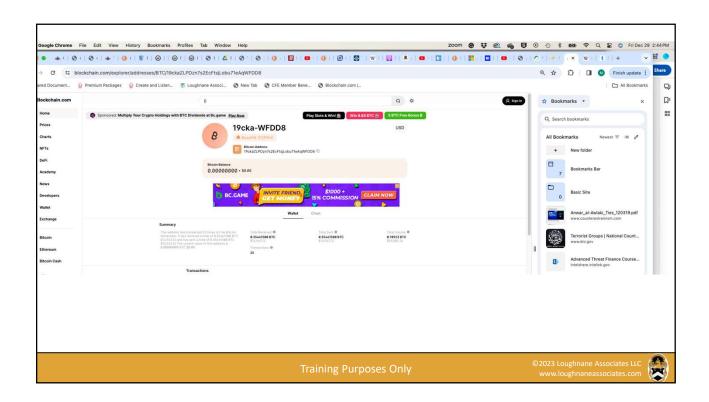


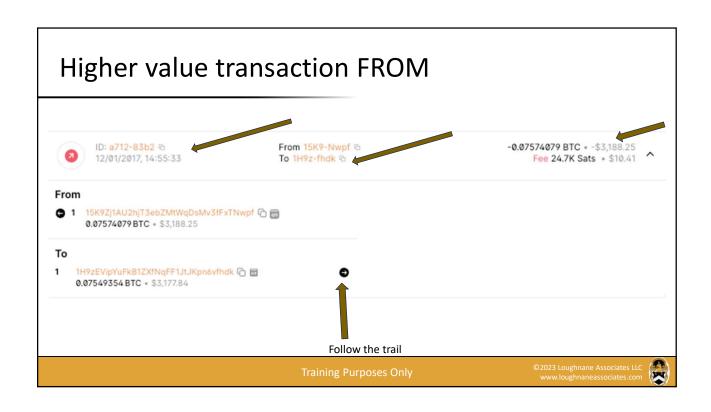


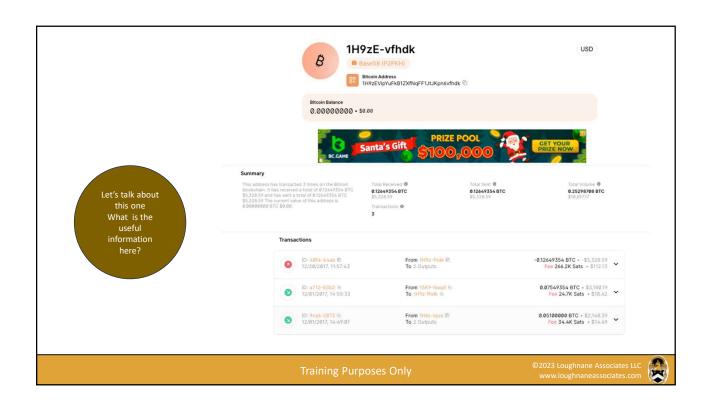


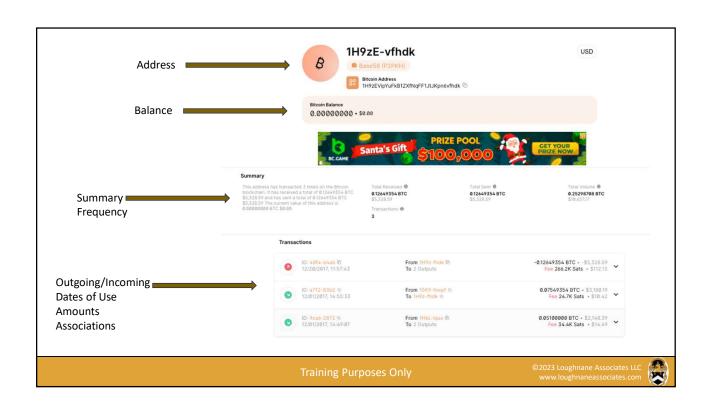


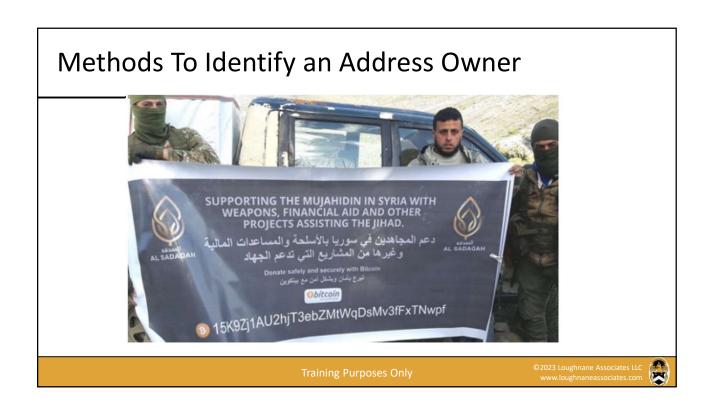












Methods To Identify an Address Owner

- Personal Information Posted: Collecting donations on a personal blog
- Posting an address on a website using their real name as owner of registered domain
- Use real identity in a forum with address
- · Use of address in social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)
- Tracking Outside Purchases (name and shipping information?)
- Searching for Thin Client or Hosted Wallet Usage
- · IP transactions traced by the Internet Service Provider
- · Identify the exchange holding the account who logs transactions
- Using Transaction Analysis software firms such as Elliptic or Chainalysis

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Don't Forget The "Old School" Financial Investigation Methods

- How does the suspect purchase equipment and material related to the crime?
- Shipments are paid? Cash? Credit Card? Debit Card? Prepaid Access?
- Track the credit card transactions
- Track the prepaid access cards
 - How is suspect loading them? At the counter at Walmart? What is suspect doing to load them?
- Is the Exchange account associated to a bank account?
 - Do the bank records show transfers/receipts from a VASP?
 - Where does the cryptocurrency convert to fiat? And what happens to the money?

Subpoenas, Warrants, Seizures, Interviews, Informants, Cellphone and Surveillance, and so much more

Pocket Litter!

Element peach process pyrrhic...

Keep it!

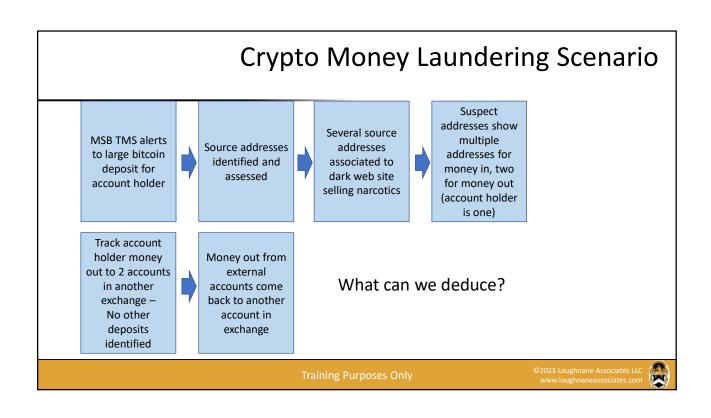
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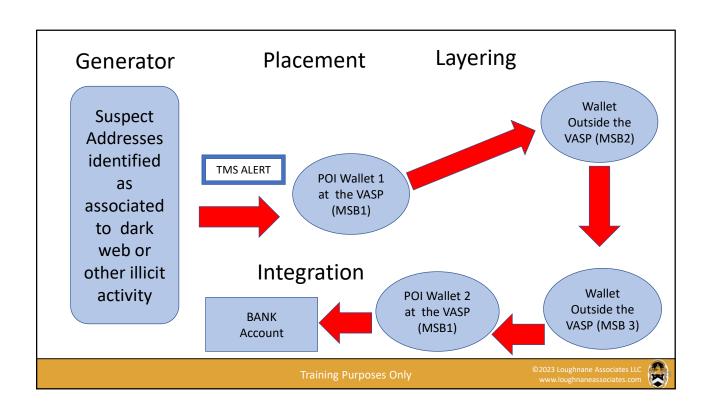
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Intangible Property And Non-Fungible Tokens

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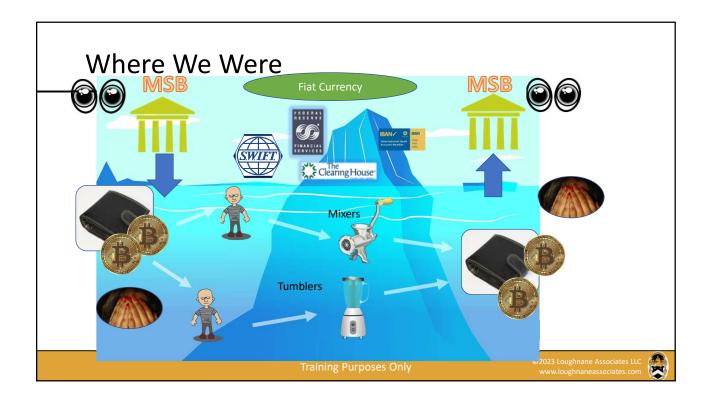


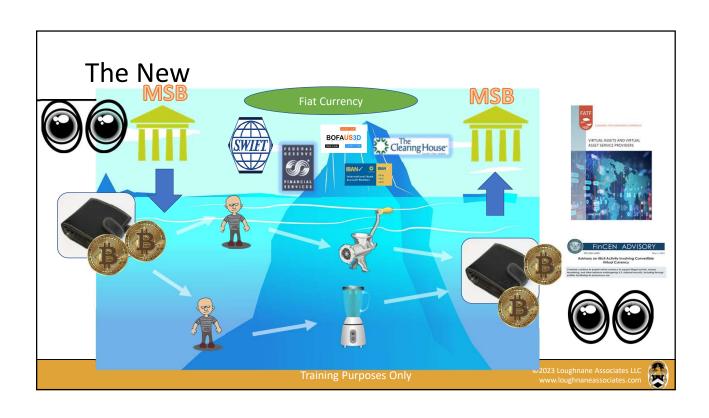
Virtual Asset Service Providers

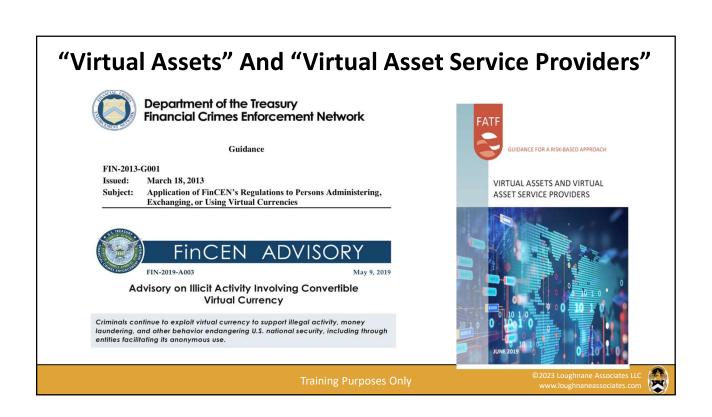
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"Operational agencies including Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs), law enforcement authorities (LEAs), and prosecutors may find this report a useful reference for analysing suspicious transaction reports (STRs) or improving detection, investigation, and confiscation of VAs involved in misuse. "

...Notwithstanding, criminals did make use of VAs to evade financial sanctions and to raise funds to support terrorism.

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Type of Offenses (FATF)



...Notwithstanding, criminals did make use of VAs to evade financial sanctions and to raise funds to support terrorism.

Sale of Controlled Substances (most reported) Proliferation

Fraud

Tax Evasion

Sactions and SDNs

Child Exploitation

Human Trafficking

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Common KYC Requirements



- Full name
- Date of birth
- Phone number and/or email address
- Physical address and/or country of residence
- Photo/scan of government-issued ID such as a driver's license or passport
- · Copy of utility bill
- Photo of yourself with your ID

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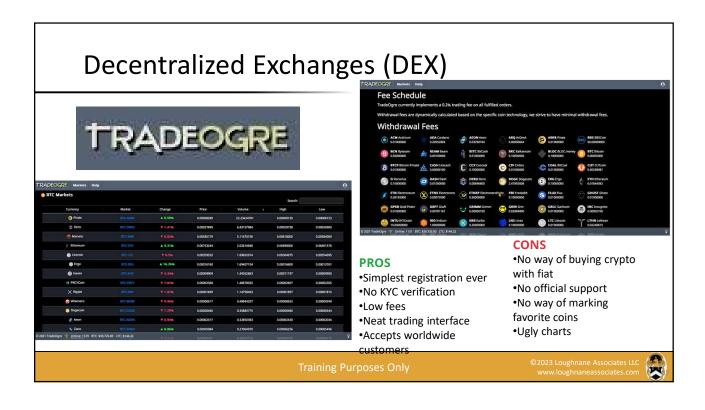
FATF: Virtual Asset Service Providers

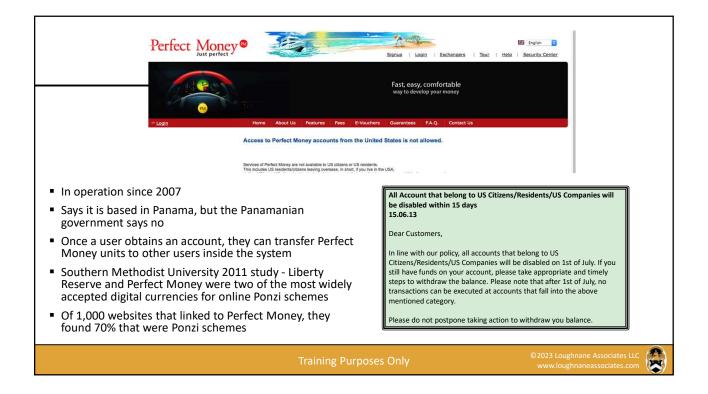
- Classified as Money Services Businesses
 - Remember the requirement for foreign registration
- FATF defines Virtual Asset Service Provider (VASP) as:
 - Any natural or legal person who is not covered elsewhere under the FATF Recommendations
 - As a business conducts one or more of the following activities or operations for or on behalf of another natural or legal person:
 - · exchange between virtual assets and fiat currencies;
 - exchange between one or more forms of virtual assets;
 - · transfer of virtual assets;
 - safekeeping and/or administration of virtual assets or instruments enabling control over virtual assets; and
 - participation in and provision of financial services related to an issuer's offer and/or sale of a virtual asset.



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Non Fungible Tokens and MMOs

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"Intangible Property" No physical substance



- Intellectual property
- Non-fungible tokens (NFTs)
- Copyrights
- Trademarks
- Patents
- Virtual World Assets

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Non-Fungible Tokens

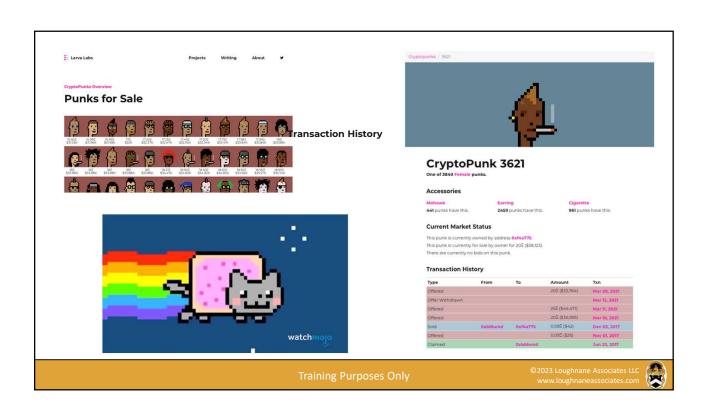
- NFTs are unique cryptographic tokens that exist on a blockchain and cannot be replicated.
- NFTs can be used to represent real-world items like artwork and real-estate.
- "Tokenizing" these real-world tangible assets allows them to be bought, sold, and traded more efficiently while reducing the probability of fraud.
- NFTs can also be used to represent peoples' identities, property rights, and more.



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Non-Fungible Token

- Cryptographic assets on blockchain with unique identification codes and metadata that distinguish them from each other
- Unlike cryptocurrencies, they cannot be traded or exchanged at equivalency. This differs
 from fungible tokens like cryptocurrencies, which are identical to each other and,
 therefore, can be used as a medium for commercial transactions. They can be traded or
 exchanged, one for another.
- For example, one Bitcoin is fungible because it is always equal in value to another Bitcoin
- Made unique and irreplaceable, thereby making it impossible for one non-fungible token to be equal to another

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Non-Fungible Token

- They are digital representations of assets and have been likened to digital passports because each token contains a unique, non-transferable identity to distinguish it from other tokens
- Just like Bitcoin, NFTs also contain ownership details for easy identification and transfer between token holders
- Owners can also add metadata or attributes pertaining to the asset in NFTs. For example, tokens representing coffee beans can be classified as fair trade. Or, artists can sign their digital artwork with their own signature in the metadata

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Massively multiplayer online game value transfers Account Training Purposes Only C2023 Loughnane Associates LIC

"Gold Farming"

- The practice of playing a massively multiplayer online game (MMO) to acquire in-game currency, later selling it for realworld money
- Player wishing to save many hours of playing time, are willing to pay substantial sums to gold farmers



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