Cypherpunk Manifesto

Murat Osmanoglu

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  'Security without Identification : Transaction Systems to Make Big Brother Obsolete', 1985

- In late 1992, three people: Eric Hughes (mathematicians from Berkeley), Tim May (businissman retired from Intel), and John Gilmore (computer scientist) were gathering to discuss some cryptographic and programing issues

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From : tcmay@netcom.com (Timothy C. May)
Subject : The Crypto Anarchist Manifesto
Date : Sun, 22 Nov 92 12:11:24 PST
Cypherpunks of the World,
Several of you at the "physical Cypherpunks"
gathering yesterday in Silicon Valley requested that
more of the material passed out in meetings be
available electronically to the entire readership of the
Cypherpunks list, spooks, eavesdroppers, and all.
Here's the "Crypto Anarchist Manifesto" I read at the
September 1992 founding meeting. It dates back to mid-
1988 and was distributed to some like-minded techno-
anarchists at the "Crypto '88" conference and then
again at the "Hackers Conference" that year.
I later gave talks at Hackers on this in 1989 and 1990.
There are a few things I'd change, but for historical
reasons I'll just leave it as is. Some of the terms may
be unfamiliar to you...I hope the Crypto Glossary I just
distributed will help.
(This should explain all those cryptic terms in my
.signature !)
— Tim May

No Copyright © 1988,1989, 1990 et 1992
Timothy C. May

THE
CRYPTO-
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manifeste crypto-
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  "Computer technology is on the verge of providing the ability for individuals and groups to communicate and interact with each other in a totally anonymous manner. Two persons may exchange messages, conduct business, and negotiate electronic contracts without ever knowing the True Name, or legal identity, of the other."

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   "When I purchase a magazine at a store and hand cash to the clerk, there is no need to know who I am. When I ask my electronic mail provider to send and receive messages, my provider need not know to whom I am speaking or what I am saying or what others are saying to me; my provider only need know how to get the message there and how much I owe them in fees. Therefore, privacy in an open society requires anonymous transaction systems."

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- Julian Assange, founder of wikileaks, author of 'Cypherpunks : Freedom and the Future of the Internet'

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- In May 2011, in an article Nick Szabo stated that

    "Myself, Wei Dai, and Hal Finney were the only people I know of who liked the idea (or in Dai's case his related idea) enough to pursue it to any significant extent until Nakamoto (assuming Nakamoto is not really Finney or Dai)"

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- Wei Dai stated that

    "...my understanding is that the creator of Bitcoin, who goes by the name Satoshi Nakamoto, didn't even read my article before reinventing the idea himself. He learned about it afterward and credited me in his paper. So my connection with the project is quite limited"

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    I am fascinated by Tim May's crypto-anarchy. In a crypto-anarchy the government is not temporarily destroyed but permanently forbidden and permanently unnecessary. It's a community where the threat of violence is impotent because violence is impossible, and violence is impossible because its participants cannot be linked to their true names or physical locations.

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Until now it's not clear, even theoretically, how such a community could operate. A community is defined by the cooperation of its participants, and efficient cooperation requires a medium of exchange (money) and a way to enforce contracts. Traditionally these services have been provided by the government or government sponsored institutions and only to legal entities. In this article I describe a protocol by which these services can be provided to and by untraceable entities.

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- If Alice (owner of pseudonym K_A) wishes to transfer X units of money to Bob (owner of pseudonym K_B), she broadcasts the message "I give X units of money to K_B" signed by K_A. Upon the broadcast of this message, everyone debits K_A's account by X units and credits K_B's account by X units, unless this would create a negative balance in K_A's account in which case the message is ignored.

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Bitcoin

- **fungible**

- durable

- portable

- divisible

- **easy to produce**

- uniform

- limited in supply

- hard to make false

- practical