The Bitcoin Matrix Podcast - Cedric Youngelman & Trace Mayer | September 8, 2025

Trace Mayer: …dollars of reserve currency. But it is evaporating away, and Bitcoin like just kind of rising because of institutional adoption.

And MicroStrategy just bought $450 million of it. Like it doesn't move the price at all. That's indicative of us. Just all these treasury companies and BlackRock and everything. Bit is just absolutely relentless.

Quite a few of these shady players have been decapitated. But the problem I've got with Bitcoin is that it's so attractive of an asset that there's nothing you really want to use it as collateral for.

Cedric Youngelman: I want to turn a little bit to the block size wars.

Narrator: What is real? How do you define it? You can't jump into cash.Cash is trash. What do you do? You get out.

Cedric Youngelman: It's not every day that we get a legend up in the fifth wheel trailer. Trace Mayer is definitely on the Mount Rushmore of orange pillars. Before there was Michael Saylor, we had Trace Mayer, a radiant torrent of face palm inducing truth, monetary sovereignty patriot, the Babe Ruth of Bitcoin shills, and the HODLer of last resort. Trace led the charge for proof of keys. The Mayer Multiple is named after him.

And he was the first to break down the seven network effects of Bitcoin. Boom. Five years in the making this show. Trace Mayor, welcome to the Bitcoin Matrix podcast. How are you?

Trace Mayer: I'm doing wonderful. Thanks so much for having me, Cedric. Thanks for all the good work you're doing carrying the torch.

Cedric Youngelman: Yeah, I'm pumped. I mean, honestly, I think you're the top three orange pills of all time for me. And, you know, one of the reasons I started the show was to get to talk to you. So this really is like five years in the making. You know, one of the reasons I started was selfishly to get to talk to some of the people I really wanted to, you know, get into it with.

Trace Mayer: Well, we'll have to have you come up to the office one of these days and maybe do a live in-person show. That'd be a lot of fun.

Cedric Youngelman: That would be epic. I got to meet you in Vegas just briefly and we got the usie. But I'd love to go back to maybe your rabbit hole story. You know, maybe what drew you to Bitcoin? What were you kind of, you know, you were an investor, maybe just a little bit of background on how you came to Bitcoin, found it and kind of, like, saw it as something worth pursuing.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, so I mean it starts way back, right? So mid 90s, I'm playing online games, text-based, you know, because we didn't have video back then. You know, you're dialing up with like 14, bod modem or whatever it is, screeching on the phone lines. So you've really dug up a fossil to come out today. And...

Yeah, so, you know, way back in the day, you know, playing these online games, so we're talking virtual currency, right? So there's silver coins that the monsters drop or whatever. And then, you know, how do we share our music around? And you had stuff like Napster, you know, that was centralized. And then you got LimeWire and Kazaa, and eventually it innovated into BitTorrent, a decentralized, censorship-resistant distributed network that was, you know, sharing the bits and packets around.

And then, you know, I also was interested in PGP encryption. I was like, oh my gosh, I can like encrypt my emails. You gotta be kidding me. Like, this is so cool. You know, cause in, kind of going into all of that, you know, I'm learning math and cryptography and all that stuff. Actually, when I played my game, as like a freshman in high school, I derived calculus to solve problems like in the game and stuff. So then when I got the calculus, I was like, oh, this is kind of easy.

So anyways, like in kind of the back corners of the internet, there were these things called digital gold currencies. One of them was called eGold, another was called Goldmoney, and they like vaulted physical gold and then tried to have it where you could send it around as currency. And that's, you know, the first innovation of kind of sound money in the information age, right? But I didn't really appreciate what they were doing. Even though I was familiar with what they were doing, I didn't fully appreciate the full ramification of it as kind of a teenager. And then I went to college and studied accounting. I learned about how we account for capital, double-entry bookkeeping and like T-accounts and everything.

I didn't...But I didn't even really know the history of accounting. I didn't understand that like, you know, it was the Medicis and the 13th century, like coming up with double-entry bookkeeping and how we used to have single-entry bookkeeping. And, you know, I didn't really appreciate or understand all that stuff.

Then I decided to go to law school. So this is, you know, 2003, full six years before Bitcoin. And I was taking an elective class in law school. It was a legal history class, American legal history. And it was from the Magna Carta to the Civil War. And for our grade we had to write basically a about a 60-page scholarly level research article, and we got to choose the topic. And since I'd always been interested in money, I was like, you know what? I'm gonna write a paper on the history of money in American law so, you know, I get to you know, I guess I like somehow I found this little rabbit hole and I was going to go down it, right? And it's not like there was a ton of stuff on the internet back then. Anyways, I'm going down, you know, I'm going through the law library and I'm trying to find the legal cases to start pulling on threads. And usually what you would do is you would find law review articles, or you would find like an academic journal, or you would find maybe even a treatise, like a legal treatise, and that would get you started, right?

And think about it, like freedom of speech, the Fourth Amendment, search and seizure. There are literally tens of millions of pages written about each of those topics. I mean, people have devoted their entire lifetime and academic career to studying tiny little branches of the Fourth Amendment. But I couldn't find anything on the money. Like, you know, I'm researching the money, and I can't find anything.

I mean, there's maybe a case here or a case there, but there's like…There are no law review articles or no academic journals. There's like, there's nothing tangential, you know, there's nothing in the economics journals, you know, because like you, might find legal related articles and other scientific disciplines, you know, that's kind of a common, because there are people that have PhDs and JDs, you know, they're, both kind of scholars, they're academic researchers and, and also kind of a legal background.

And so, you know, I'm looking in economics journals, I'm looking in monetary journals. Like I can't find anything about kind of monetary law, which I thought was very odd. You know, I mean, we have a little bit of stuff on the Federal Reserve, but like, I want to, I want to know about the money. Article one, section eight, clause five, article one, section 10, clause one of the U.S. Constitution. Like I want to know about, about the money. I don't want to know about the Federal Reserve. There's like no Federal Reserve mentioned in the Constitution.

And anyways, I'm halfway through the semester, and I go to meet with my professor who's also a PhD in history, and he's kind of like, well, how's your research coming along? And I'm like, well, it's not very good. Like apparently I'm pretty incompetent at my legal research because I can't find anything on this topic. Like it's really kind of disappointing, you know?

And he's like, well, like, okay, I'll do some research and try to see if I can at least get you some threads to pull on. And I come back next week and he's like, this is really odd. Like I spent a couple hours and I couldn't find like anything for you. You're just gonna, you're either going to need to find something like in the next week, or you're going to need to change your topic so that you have time to like do your research and write a paper and get your grade in the class. And I'm kind of like, you know, now I'm deer in the headlights cause it's like whoa, I feel like I really need to learn about this money stuff and I feel like I really need to write this paper. And I guess like any good law student, I was procrastinating. And somehow in this procrastination, I found a reference to Dr. Vieira's *Pieces of Eight*. And this is a legal treatise. He's got four degrees from Harvard, a PhD in chemistry, a law degree. He's admitted to the bar to practice before the US Supreme Court. Like he's a solid academic scholar and researcher. And so, you know, I find this reference to his *Pieces of Eight* legal treatise and I'm kind of like, you know, I run down to the law library because like that's where you'd find a legal treatise, right? And I can't find it in there. So I go up to the librarian and I'm like, look, I'm trying to find this legal treatise. Like, where is it? And they're like, like there's one in all of Southern California.

We've got 30 law schools. There's one like at this one law school and, I'm like, what are the like 30 law schools and only one's got a copy of the legal treatise? Like what? Seriously? So I mean, these law library, our law library was six stories tall.

Cedric Youngelman: Right.

Trace Mayer: Like there are a lot of books in there, you know? So it's like, what? So they're like, well, we can order and we'll have it down here tomorrow. And I'm like, great, you know, get it down here. I run in the next day and they hand me the two copies and I check it out and I'm going through and there's you know 5,500 legal citations. It's a whole body of law that's just like hidden basically like you know I'm reading through all these cases. You've got the Lincoln centralizing the banking system, and then you have Samuel Chase who was the Secretary of the Treasury and he issues these greenbacks.

And then the next year he gets put on the Supreme Court by Lincoln, and he rules the greenbacks unconstitutional. So the thing he did as a Treasury Secretary rules unconstitutional. I'm just like, this is wild. Like, what else is going on in here? Like you can only use gold as money. And then Roosevelt like decides to confiscate it all with Executive Order 6102. And I'm like, man, like why is gold so dangerous that you got to like confiscate it nationwide?

Is it a radioactive substance or something? You know, I'm, I, anyways, I write the paper, then I was so intrigued with this whole area after writing the paper, because I mean, I've taken economics classes in undergrad for accounting, and I loved them, you know, supply demand, like, I probably could have been, well, could have done a PhD in economics, I like this stuff so much.

But then I figured out from the paper, it's like, you know, these economics guys, they're not really scientists after truth. They're political dogmatists that are apologizing for basically an unconstitutional monetary system. They're not going to bite the hand that feeds them, right? And so because of that, I'm kind of like, well, I want to know what the real economists have to say, you know?

And because I had like, come across Viera and I'd learned some other stuff that I ran into the Austrian School of Economics. So now, you know, after law school, I spent probably a year just digesting Rothbard, Mises, and a bunch of that stuff with the same type of graduate intensity, if not like a greater intensity. You know, so this is like 2007, 2008, I'm just devouring like all the Mises and Rothbard stuff. You know, I mean, these are thick books and they're hard to read if you've read them like *Human Action*; *Man, Economy, and State*; *What Has Government Done To Our Money*? You know, just *The Great Depression*, like all types of books by these guys. And so, you can think of your mind like a house, right? Well, you're lucky if your mind's like a house. Most people are kind of scrolling on TikTok and their mind's more like a shack or maybe even like a dugout made out of dirt or something. But if you build these different wings of your house, an economics wing, a monetary science wing, like a computer science wing, an accounting wing, you can build your mind. Then, you get familiar with your mind. Just like your house, you're walking from wing to wing and you see how they interrelate with each other and everything. And so, you know, I'd put in all of this effort to build my mind, you know, doing all the reps, right? Like reading the books, thinking about them, like not getting some ChatGPT synopsis that you forget like two seconds after you got it. Like actually putting in the hard work, making the connections. This is all proof of work stuff, right?

So then when I ran into Bitcoin, you know, ooh, like all these dots just really connected super easily and super well. And I came to Bitcoin as a monetary sovereignty maximalist, you know, because I came out of gold. So January of 2008, after I'd been reading all the economics stuff, the Austrian School of Economics, that's when I launched my blog Run to Gold, because gold was the solution to this fiat disaster that had been foisted upon humanity that was engaging in confiscation through inflation, which was a form of taxation without representation or due process of law. And then like being co-opted into this federal reserve system that's now earning interest off of IOU nothings. And that's the way that they're like sucking in wealth and basically entire lifetimes from people in a totally non-constitutional, non-consentative way. And so, you know, I decided to write about it. I was like, you know, because I knew something about it. It's like I knew something about it. I was like, oh, I'm going to write about it. So, you know, I started writing about the gold and everything. By this time, you know, I'm thoroughly comfortable in my little rabbit hole. But then, you know, I ran into the GATA guys, the Gold Antitrust Action Committee, and they had been like talking all about this stuff since the mid-90s. And that's actually, know, Dr. Viera was like kind of tangential with the GATA guys. And I'd gotten a charge on my credit card from government services for like $3.47. And I had no idea where this thing came from. I was like, where did this charge come from?

So, you know, I call up Amex and I'm like, hey, like I don't recognize this charge. And they're like, okay. I was like, well, can you take it off? And they're like, no, you need to contact the merchant first. I was like, well, I have no idea who the merchant is. And when I, on your website, it doesn't tell me their contact information or who they are, give a URL or a phone number or anything. Like I can't contact them. And they're like, well, you have to contact the merchant for us to take it off. And I was like, well, I think it's fraudulent and I can't contact them. Can you take it off? And they're like, no. Click. And I was like, okay. And I see about this. It's just so weird. And then it's like, okay, that's the credit card I use to register my domain. They're trying to intimidate me into silence by, you want to write about monetary sovereignty? You're not going to get those ideas out. We control all the money. What do you think they're going to do? But that just made me a little more persistent, I think.

But I went to a conference in DC that GATA put on. And I actually got to have breakfast with Dr. Vieira at the GATA conference. And so it's like, you read Newton and you read Goethe and you read all these guys. But they're dead. Like, I'm going to talk to my intellectual mentor. And that was great.

And then he gave a presentation a little bit later in the day. After his presentation, somebody, not myself, but somebody asked the question, like, you painted this very bleak picture. Like, what can we possibly do with them having so much control over all the money? And he was like, well, like, and then the guy asked, and like, why are you even doing anything about this? And Dr. Viera responded, he's like, well, you know, I don't want to live in 1956 Czechoslovakia with a boot on my neck. And so what I'm going to do is I'm going to talk about it, because that's what I have, like, the capacity and ability to do. And that kind of gave me a little bit of encouragement that like, oh, okay, I guess I'll talk about it, too. If that guy's gonna do it, I guess I'll do it. And so that's, you know, that's mid-2008, talking about gold and monetary sovereignty, like before Bitcoin even exists and deciding like, yeah, you know, my grandpas, they stormed Normandy beach, Omaha Beach and Utah Beach. Like my dad was the battle of Dak To, like the bloodiest battle in Vietnam. Like, the least I can do is like talk about the money, right? So, you know, that's, that's where I decided I'd make the little rabbit hole my, my new home come whatever may, right? And, and so then when I, you know, I was writing about gold and everything and then, you know, Bitcoin kind of came on the scene and I started talking about that.

Probably it, I think it was about 25 cent Bitcoin. You know, this was like, early 2011, late 2010, the first kind of articles and YouTube videos from me started showing up. And some of my buddies, you know, like Max Keiser was, he and I were both involved with goldmoney.com. So, you know, Peter Schiff and I actually ran into each other on the Ron Paul campaign trail in 2008. And so, you know, it was a lot of like, it's been a lot of fun. The whole kind of battle for getting these ideas out about sound money, and the role that sound money plays in society, and the importance of it. Because like it has been a highly – I don't know if censored is the right word, but definitely forgotten – it's been a completely forgotten branch of knowledge, like monetary science has been, and I think there has been kind of this effort to not let those ideas spread around, at least in our higher education institutions.

So if people want to learn the truth about money, they really have to learn it on their own. And who's out there to kind of carry the banner of monetary sovereignty around and talk about it? There haven't been very many people, one, that have put in the work to understand it, and two, that are willing to actually, you know, get up on the pole and talk about it.

So that's kind of the story of how I found myself firmly ensconced in the rabbit hole.

Cedric Youngelman: I mean, there's lots fascinating there. What I find I want to dive into is just that inflection point where it sounds like you're new to gold in the sense that it wasn't like you were a 30 year, 40 year gold bug.

Trace Mayer: I wasn't even that old.

Cedric Youngelman: Right. So you were fairly new to gold. You're doing a gold newsletter. Some of the biggest minds in gold are reading the newsletter.

Trace Mayer: Yeah.

Cedric Youngelman: And you're flexible and nimble enough and humble enough to see something in addition to gold. And see a future in it that's more than just maybe a five-year trade.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, and this is where you will…One, yeah, definitely more than just a five-year trade, you know, because I'm laying out, I mean, just massive potential for it. And especially as we get into those network effects and how I kind of put all the network effects together and organized it and like began, because that really shaped my own investment thesis on it. But even among these gold bugs, you know, one of them, like James Turk, I helped kind of helped it click in his mind, because one of the big arguments from the gold bugs is like, Bitcoin's not tangible. It's not physical, right?

And I was thinking and researching on that, pondering on it, like the argument. And I actually think I made a little, small contribution to the field of monetary science, because I wrote an article on why Bitcoin is tangible. And what I did is I went into the etymology of the word tangible, which comes from tangent in mathematics, which means to kiss.

And really what the word has more to do with is not the corporeality of something, but the reality of it. And it's a mathematical term. And mathematics is not corporeal, but it's still real. It's not an illusion or a fantasy. And so I made the argument that Bitcoin is tangible, although it's not corporeal. And it's tangible because it's rooted in reality. It's rooted in proof of work. It's rooted in mathematics. It's rooted in thermodynamics, a bunch of these different fields.

And so just like we have precious atoms that make up gold, we have precious numbers that make up Bitcoin. And those numbers are real. There's a reality to those numbers that then creates the ability for us as humans to ascribe value to digital scarcity. So now we've got subjective value theory at play.

And then from that, you know, we have kind of this whole ability to build, you know, the not necessarily the regression theorem being applicable to the development of money, but the money itself kind of crawling out of this primordial ooze and then value getting ascribed to it because it's able to do something that wasn't previously doable before. And that is that you couldn't email a gold coin across the internet.

Right, as Satoshi said, you couldn't transfer value over a communications channel, which you can now do with Bitcoin, because it's an internet protocol, a decentralized distributed network like protocol that has that digital scarcity. And so, and that's all reality, right? That's all tangibility, just not corporeality. And that changed a bunch of the gold bugs minds. Like that's, you know, when you look at like the discussion, that was an inflection point of when the gold bugs began to tip over and really embrace Bitcoin as sound money.

Because before that, didn't. I know, because I specifically went to them. And I specifically went to them, and I specifically went to the Libertarians. And so the gold bugs rejected it because of this corporeality argument. And the Libertarians, they just didn't really get it. I mean, I've got emails with Lew Rockwell from like 2012, like, hey, you should accept donations in Bitcoin. And he's like, no, we don't want to do that. And now Bitcoin is kind of the cause du jour of the Libertarians, right?

Cedric Youngelman: Wow. That's fascinating stuff. I, speaking of gold, I learned a lot from you about gold and it helped me frame Bitcoin, you know, through my understanding. And one of things I just really that stuck out to me was sort of that tangible physical relationship with gold, how visceral it is and how you mentioned that in generations of families and say like Southeast Asia or India, which would have pet their gold. And you want the gold to grow. You never want to like, you you're sitting there if you're, if you're feeling it every day and you get familiar with the size and the physical attributes of it. And you want to see it grow and give it on to the next generation. was such a fascinating concept for me. And even as you know, say someone who might find themselves, you know, even labeled by others, not by choice as a Bitcoin max or something like I have some physical gold in my life. I find that such a fascinating thing. And I wanted to go, I went to Costco, I got a gold coin. You know, like, why not? Like, I want to have that relationship and see and feel that visceralness of it. It's very fascinating that way.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, humans are interesting creatures in that sense. You know, how we begin to ascribe value to everything. And then you've got kind of the whole potential like metaphysical properties of whether it's gold or crystals or all that type of stuff that humans like start valuing these rocks for. And really it gets to this article that Nick Szabo wrote about collectibles. And so like, why do we collect things as humans? And then how Bitcoin basically enables the establishment of trust to be done at a much lower cost. And because of that, we're able to cooperate more efficiently as a society. But yeah, I mean, there is definitely, you know, the like the Indians, they like their big dowries and necklaces and everything. And yeah, I think it's always a good thing to be growing one's share of the monetary sovereignty slice on the planet, whether that's gold or Bitcoin or, you know, whatever people find subjectively of value to themselves, because that's really what monetary sovereignty is about, right? It's like you want to have control over how you…the fruits of your labor from what you did in the past. That's the philosophy of liberty that unifies all of this.

Our life interests in the future, that's why killing is not a good thing, involuntary servitude, or illegal detention in the present, the great rid of habeas corpus, and then the monetary provisions of the US Constitution to protect our safe store of value or the fruits of our labor in the past. And so, that really is this unifying philosophy of liberty that is at the core of kind of the monetary sovereignty argument, you know, it has to do with the highest things with which we are entrusted at the civil layer, that Emanuel Swedenborg, he was Master of the Mines in Sweden in, you know, the mid-1700s. He wrote about, he liked Isaac Newton stuff. You know, Isaac Newton was Master of the Mint in England, he helped fix the banking crisis. Copernicus wrote treatises on interest. Goethe wrote, you know, in *Faust, Part II* about Mephistopheles giving the king the power to inflate the gold and how it led to martial law. You know, all the polymaths have been interested in this topic of monetary sovereignty, because of how it just weaves in, as Swedenborg says, into half of all the transactions in the kingdom. And that's why it has to do with the very highest things with which we are entrusted, you know, not having this kind of inflationary ability…So that that leads us naturally to what's the hardest money the highest stock-to-flow. And I think in in terms of the Bitcoin conversation, I may have been the first one to publicly mention it on Twitter – on my website I actually have a link to it to the Tweet – and I think 2015 where I mentioned stock-to-flow in in relation to Bitcoin, and kind of begin making that argument.

Cedric Youngelman: Yeah, that's a tremendous argument. It helped me also frame and understand Bitcoin and why it's valuable and the issuance rate and things of that nature.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, scarcity, right. And so when we're talking about that digital scarcity, you know, now we're... because I think another big contribution that I've made in the argument, and this kind of roots back to the sovereign individual. So we're now applying the sovereign individual to Bitcoin, the book, *The Sovereign Individual*, but it talks about asymmetric encryption and how that changes the economics of violence on the planet.

And so, you know, now that we're able to secure protection at a much lower cost because of this digital scarcity and the properties that it has that we can then use as a tool to acquire the protection at a lower cost, that begins to change the economics of violence on the planet. Right. And so, so now, you know, things like deception and violence and, you know, whether that's like large scale wars or whatever, they just become less profitable to do on these types of scales.

And so we start playing that out over, you know, years and then decades. And the planet becomes just a very different place, because the tectonic level change in the economics on the planet has taken place. Right. And so, you know, that's another aspect of this high stock-to-flow ratio that's protected by cryptography. So, it's not like they can just come over and take all the Incas' gold, you know, like you actually have to be able to solve the math problem to move those coins. You can't just burn down the civilization and take their gold.

Cedric Youngelman: Right. Well, yeah, kind of, think you framed it, it kind of changes, it's hierarchical-, violence-based society pre Bitcoin.

Trace Mayer: Well, the ROI was there and the holders of capital needed the projection of violence on a very large scale to protect their continental railroads or their coal plants or whatever. And now, so much of the value is not necessarily in the silicon, but in the software that's running on the silicon, right? That makes for humans becoming much more mobile, you know, the like, because they can take what's in their mind and like go somewhere else. And so if you know, is the, the, and so the sovereign individuals will find a way to kind of escape the more totalitarian geographies. And, they'll take their value with them, because their value is in their head, their values and their ability to think. And so, you know, now you're, you're dealing with Ayn Rand and you're dealing with you know, V for Vendetta and stuff like that.

Cedric Youngelman: And you know, you could run your own node and you can watch your stats grow on your watch wallet and have monetary sovereignty that way. But I want to ask you about the relationship between money and family.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, that's a great point that you made about the Indians, you know, and the Chinese, the Asians, and how they want to keep growing this pile of gold, right? Because this all gets back to time preference. You know, when you don't have an appreciation for time preference, when you want immediate gratification, and when the economics or the monetary system is encouraging that much shorter time horizon thinking, that's what, you know, I think Goethe is talking about in *Faust, Part II* that was written in 1830. The king is like, I want some gold. And Mephistopheles is like, well, I'll give you some gold and some more. And then the chancellor is like, well, it's not quite right, but I'll make it right.

You know, so by government dictate, we'll begin to go against these natural principles, these natural order that is brought to society, that has its primary genesis in the family, right? Because the family is raising the next generation. And the parents, they have a more vested interest in the future because their children exist. And they're making that investment into the children. You know, all the time, like changing all the diapers, like doing all the stuff, right? I mean, it's really a, it's kind of a fascinating thing that, you know, these parents can put 17 years of effort into raising a kid and that kid doesn't get a vote. But then like, you know, the election can happen and the next year he can get drafted and sent off to go die for something. Like, I mean, maybe we need to have children's suffrage, kind of like we had suffrage for women. And I think JD Vance floated this idea of children getting a vote and then it being entrusted to their parents. So their parents vote on their behalf until they become an age of majority. But this would begin to change the time preference that's being expressed by the society.

So when you have that safe store of value, and when you have that familial organization to everything, the accumulation of capital can happen at a much better rate. Like that's how civilization is built, right? Civilization is built like father to son, mother to daughter, like teaching each other their roles, and then perpetuating it to the next generation. Like that's how civilization is built.

And so, you know, when the soldier asks not from whence it proceeds, you know, in *Faust*, talking about martial law, it's talking about a complete disregard and overrun of the individual, and by extension the family. And you know, at the end of the day, like the most important work anybody's going to do is going to be within the walls of their own home. And it's not with a cat, you know.

And this is where the time preference just becomes so incredibly important and the money becomes like a tool to help bring that discipline and that time preference to the society. And so, you know, I think in a lot of ways the pendulum has swung very far in one direction with the fiat money and the erosion of the family and the erosion of this appreciation both at an individual all the way up to a societal level of time preference. But that pendulum's beginning to swing back the other way. You know, because Bitcoin's on the scene now. And the new hardest asset is on the planet. That's a tectonic level shift. And you know, a lot of people, just, really don't appreciate time preference even in kind of the mortal time frame.

You know, but when you're going through the Austrian School of Economics, you get to kind of the fundamental premise that humans act deliberately to bring about some ends. But really, that's just the tip of the iceberg. And the whole theory and everything that's underneath that, that everything under the surface of that iceberg, that's found in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, who was, you know, sure a polymath genius of his own right and monetary scientist. But it's really his writings on the actual nature of human reality and consciousness that can really begin to change time preference.

You know, because he, like, I mean, for 28 years, he's going into the afterlife and coming back and writing it all down with precision and scientific detail at, you know, this highest level of thinking of the polymaths as an eyewitness of the extension of consciousness after we die and what the nature of that reality looks like. And that's really where time preference needs to be focused on.

So I mean, yeah, we might have a little bit of a focus on like, 10 or 20 years of HODLing, right, or four-year cycles. And it's like, okay, and maybe we might even get a little bit longer term thinking of seven generations like the Chinese, but Swedenborg is lifting our sights to forever.

And that's a much longer time preference. In a much longer way of beginning to think. And Bitcoin brings us a tool that helps add this stability and this discipline to acting in a way that's more congruent with the design for the happiness of consciousness in that type of a time horizon. I hope that's too far into the philosophical weeds.

Cedric Youngelman: The show is a philosophical show about Bitcoin. So, if maybe thinking about maybe nation states then or just tribes or just society's ability to think long term, you know, maybe you could argue that the United States government not repricing gold is low time preference. Or, you could make, I think, you know, there's the argument that, you know, China and India moved to a gold standard too late and kind of, you know, threw their society off the rails a little bit there or delayed their progress. So why do you think gold hasn't been repriced by the United States government? What do you think about, you know, the rise in the price of gold today? And what does that say about the world and gold's place in the world?

Trace Mayer: Yeah, I mean, $3,500 gold or $3,600 gold, whatever we're at right now, like it's kind of crazy. Because look at the market cap of it. And it's up like 33 % year to date. I mean, when we're looking, it's like $550 million a daily emission of gold. Bitcoin's like $50 million. So it's literally like a whole order of magnitude larger than Bitcoin is. But yeah, I mean, the United States, they got the World Reserve currency. Supposedly they've got a lot of the physical gold supply. You know, Germany asked for theirs back and they didn't get it for a long time and it's because they're occupied by US troops. Right? I mean, the cold hard facts, right? Like, if it's your gold, you should ask for it and it should get delivered like the next day. You shouldn't have to wait over a year to get it.

But yeah, the individuals operate in terms of like days and months, know, governments operate in terms of years and decades. It's just a whole different time scale that they're operating on. And so, you know, as long as the US, when you ask the question of like, why has the US been so successful? I mean, 200 years, 250 years ago, it was this backwater swamp. And now it's like pretty much the sole superpower. It's because, more than any place on earth, freedom and the dignity of the individual has been available and assured here than anywhere else. And it's that US Constitution, it's those rights of freedom. You know, it's in a lot of ways, it was our monetary law with sound money that laid the foundation for the rise of this great country. So, yeah, it's been able to really take advantage of fiat currency and fractional reserve banking in a way that I don't think is going to be possible later because Bitcoin's now on the scene.

So India or China or Russia, they're not going to be able to acquire capital anywhere on the scale that the US acquired capital on over the last 100 years, over the next 100 years. And as long as the US has this profit and loss system for the allocation of resources, or at least is significantly better than the competitors, then it's going to be creating and generating wealth at a much more rapid rate, which, you know, if they have, if they have and are using sound money in the process, even if it's a transition to get there, you know, 20 to 40 more years of dollars or reserve currency, but it evaporating away and Bitcoin like just kind of rising because of institutional adoption and, and stack, you know, individual stacking and stuff like that, you know, that that's going to put the US kind of in this position where China and Russia will just never be able to catch it, like ever. Because this is where the wealth will be created and generated. Why? Because of things like freedom of speech and property rights. And then the wealth that is generated is going to be protected by a high stock-to-flow asset.

Cedric Youngelman: I want to turn a little bit to the Block Size Wars and maybe what your experience there was.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, we didn't have any idea how that was going to turn out. It was actually a peaceful secession, right? Like they did the hard fork with Bcash and took them six hours to find a block, and all the Bitcoin nodes were banning Bcash nodes and it was a peaceful way to separate and go our own ways and Bitcoin was stronger as a result of it.

And Bitcoin holders, they all got some Bcash. Some of them still have it, because maybe they don't want to breach privacy or whatever by claiming it and selling it. Bcash is like a $6 billion market cap or whatever it is, and still running along doing proof of work. And from what I understand, there's a little bit of monetary innovation that's taking place over there.

But yeah, it was a lot more drama at the time. We had no idea how this was going to play out. Is it fracturing the network effects? Is it distracting everybody? There are a lot of threats. There's a lot of mining fees that were getting generated. So in some ways, there's this economic incentive for the miners to have something else to mine with their machines. Is that going to open up a potential reorg? Like, you know, there was a lot of uncertainty kind of, cause we hadn't done something like that before. But then we did it and they're like, oh, that wasn't that bad. And then the miners were like, oh, well, if we can deal with one, we might as well make like a hundred of these things. So then they made Bitcoin gold and Bitcoin pizza and Bitcoin whatever. You know, we had the kind of all these forks and air drops and all types of stuff.

You know, which was all experimentation, right? We don't get to do that with gold. The closest we get is when we have like a mama cow have a baby cow. You know, we kind of have a fork that way. But, you know, we don't get to just kind of... Yeah, we it's been it's been a fun, fun 16 years in the Bitcoin space and not lacking for drama for sure. There's always something that someone wants to create a bunch of drama about. I think the Block Size War, it was a big unknown and we didn't have any idea how it was gonna turn out. And after we went through it, we realized it wasn't that big a deal. And if anything, it just helped us harden the peer-to-peer network anyways. You know, it just ended up making Bitcoin even stronger than it was before. And it began to show up in the price of Bitcoin after the fork happened, you know, the Bitcoin started going on a pretty big bull market run. So great, you know.

Cedric Youngelman: And it proves its anti-fragility. Who do you think are some of the top, like maybe top people we should give credit for for building Bitcoin?

Trace Mayer: I mean, of course there's Satoshi. I think Pieter Wuille and Greg Maxwell are, you know, phenomenal influences in it. Greg Maxwell has been, you know, always kind of a North Star of influence on Bitcoin, and I think has always had very clear thinking on purpose and reasons and like what needs to be done and why it needs to be done.

In that Block Size War issue, I'd gone up to a conference and Adam Back was there and Greg Maxwell was there and Gavin Andresen was there. And I actually went and had dinner with the four of them, and trying to figure out which side of the arguments, you know? And like Greg Maxwell's, for me, it lines up just like a hand in glove solution. And Gavin, I didn't really buy a lot of his arguments. I didn't like him very much. And so then we did a podcast interview with Dr. Back and Gavin and kind of laid it all out in a little bit more of a professional way than all of this like Twitter, flame war, Roger Ver stuff going on. And you know, and that was kind of the first time we actually had good discussion on the topic.

But it was, I think Greg Maxwell has just been a phenomenal influence for Bitcoin. He's set such a good, he's always so helpful, training all the new developers coming in, giving them his time, answering questions. There's so much, because yeah, we have building Bitcoin, there are a lot of different areas for doing that, right?

What I've done with helping build the ethos and the monetary philosophy of Bitcoin and embedding that into HODLers of last resort mentality. But then there's kind of the technological building of Bitcoin. There's the writing of the software code. So now we've got cypherpunks write code. Then there's training the next generation to be able to like steward it and take care of it like that. And so then we've got, you know, Chaincode Labs and Suhas and Alex over there. We've got, then we've got the entrepreneurs who were actually willing to put their neck on the line, you know, and the investors who were willing to fund them. You know, so Roger Ver, you know, he let me into the Bitpay round, and to build out merchant processing for Bitcoin. Well, if you own all or part of a money transmission business, it could be five years in jail. So if you own one share as a passive investor, so we locked arms and funded the entrepreneurs who were willing to build out the thing. But the investors and the entrepreneurs were both sticking their neck out. so Peter Thiel was in that round with Bitpay.

Around the same time I did the, I funded Kraken, you know, led the Series A with Hummingbird building, building out Kraken. Mt. Gox, you know, they did some work building Bitcoin for their season. I mean, they were the only exchange for a while, you know, before we could, before that, I mean, before that, I mean, I'm sending envelopes of cash around, you know, sending $20 hoping you get Bitcoins. Like, I mean, you didn't have any ability to speculate on it. And one of the reasons we couldn't speculate on it is because, like, you know, the initial wallet software, just generated 50 random, no, I think it generated a hundred random private keys. So, you know, I funded Armory, and with Armory we innovated hierarchical deterministic wallets, which later became seed phrases.

So that means that you could generate the seed and hierarchically determine private keys from that. Before it was just a random hundred keys. So your ability to back up a wallet wasn't even really possible the way it is today. Because if you're only generating 100 keys at a time, imagine you're an exchange and you're doing transactions in and out. You really have backups for everything, right?

That just didn't exist. You do a couple of transactions, like your backups need to be totally redone and like, and then, then what did we innovate? We innovated cold storage at Armory. So being able to have your keys offline. So this whole infrastructure of private keys that are hierarchically deterministic with seed phrases being managed and created offline, like that didn't exist until we innovated it at Armory, right? And after we innovated it at Armory, we now had infrastructure that could be used by the exchanges to safely create and store keys and operate exchanges. So it really is such a team effort that's gone on building all of this stuff.

And I mean, we're English speaking. One of our…BtcTurk was one of our Armory clients, you know that used it to manage their private keys. So in Turkey, BtcTurk is who has built Bitcoin at that very early stage right like had a huge impact on that. But it's very much a team effort that's gone into building all of this.

And so, you know probably Greg Maxwell then we've got…I mean for other people who talk about stuff with Andreas Antonopoulos was definitely out there a bunch. Roger Ver had played a big role in funding a lot of this initial infrastructure. Same with Barry Silbert.

Barry and I, I remember I first met Barry and Bitcoin's like $4 or $5, and we're having a discussion and he and I differed in viewpoints. He thought that the money was to be made in the picks and shovels of funding the startups. And I was like I think the money's he made like owning the underlying protocol. So we just had a totally different way of approaching investment in the space.

You know, and in those startups, they generated a lot of activity. I don't know that they turned it into a lot of money or profit. But you know, that's where entrepreneurs the ones who made the correct decisions, have profits and those that didn't have losses. And same with the investors. And so there's been a lot of ups and downs through the whole 16 years, you know, and building out what's needed and skating where the puck is, you think it's going as opposed to where it is.

Yeah, so those would be a few of the names that I'd come up with. We've got Rodolfo down in Argentina, like General Rodolfo, you know, our whole South American, Latin American contingent is like, he helped build and organize that whole kind of community, right? You know, like I went to the first Latin American Bitcoin conference and actually the first five of them to help build that as like a speaker to be the dog and pony show. But you know, he's the one on the ground, like actually, you know, doing the hard work of like the beat, the meetup groups and organizing people and like showing the interest and doing stuff. You know, so it's like Bitcoin's been such a team effort globally in different languages. Like, you know, it's been fun. It's been fun. But there I don't think there's any like two or three people that have done it all.

Cedric Youngelman: Sure. It's massive. We're all standing on the shoulders of giants. 16 years in, is Bitcoin a store of value?

Trace Mayer: yeah, definitely a store value now. I mean, it's down to 26 vol. You know, I've been kind of building out that sixth network effect of financialization and been very interested in the vol markets for Bitcoin. And five years ago, was, you know, what? 80, 100 vol asset. Now it's a 26, 30 vol asset. And that's indicative of its increased economic size and its store of value kind of performance, you know, just having that lower vol.

There's, though the liquidity is insane. You know, MicroStrategy just bought $450 million of it and like, it doesn't move the price at all. So, I mean, that's indicative of a store of value, right? Like gold doesn't move very much either.

Cedric Youngelman: Do you think we'll have more cycles? You know, we've had three so far, I guess.

Trace Mayer: Not in the, I think the cycles are going to just be a lot different than they were in the past. We're not, I don't really think we're seeing any indication of vol going up. And since vol is not going to go up, most likely, we're not, you know, this, this idea that like, you're going to have a 10 X and price like, probably not.

I mean, maybe if it grinds higher slowly, you if it goes up 1% a day, that would be a zero vol asset, but it's still double in 90, you know, about a hundred days. So, but the bid, the bid from just all these treasury companies and BlackRock and everything, the bid is just absolutely relentless. And then it's being met on the other side by kind of a hefty supply of selling. And I think those two combine to just strengthen it more and more as a store value asset.

Cedric Youngelman: I can see that.

Trace Mayer: Because we've got covered call selling, so there's negative deltas coming on the scene relentlessly from these treasury companies. You know, and then we've got put selling, you know, by the accumulators. And then, you know, we've got all the retail activity taking place in between these, and even the treasury company-like activity taking in between these two massive… Well, they aren't even really massive yet, like the derivative markets aren't that massive yet on Bitcoin. And yet they're starting to have more and more of an effect. And that's because of its store value nature. It's really moving more into that store value nature, which I think is wonderful. It makes it less exciting, but it does make it just more of a store value. And if anything, the problem I've got with Bitcoin is that it's so attractive of an asset that there's nothing you really want to use it as collateral for. So it's like, man, Bitcoin's just too good.

Cedric Youngelman: I agree. What about proof of keys? How'd you come up with the idea and is it still important?

Trace Mayer: Yeah, definitely so important. It's the way we flex our monetary sovereignty, right? And so it kind of had its genesis out of the Rothbard Anti-Banking League. He was like, we should have a day where we all make a run on the fractional reserve banks. And so I was like, that's a great idea. Like, why don't we do that? Why don't we do that with Bitcoin? And then it helps us go around and make sure that we haven't forgot about Bitcoins and some of these third parties. It helps us keep our skills sharp with actually using things on chain, and then helps us make sure that our private key management systems are all kind of operating and in place. So I think across the board, it helps build that human capital that we need in order to use Bitcoin to its real potential as a monetary sovereignty tool. Because if you're just holding, you buy and keep it in Coinbase, like, you're not really flexing those monetary sovereignty muscles as much as you could. And it's proof of work. It's good to be doing those reps. Do more pull-ups.

Cedric Youngelman: I think you've said return of capital versus return on capital. Very important.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, yeah, just having the return of it. I mean, quite a few of these shady players have been decapitated by proof of keys. You know, so Quadriga CX, a whole bunch of them. Proof of keys comes around and they stop processing withdrawals. So I think it's an important part of the culture of Bitcoin to kind of have this celebration on January 3rd of the Bitcoin network kind of getting started.

Like, you know, Satoshi started it, like we can continue it. You know, it's kind of like how we have July 4th, you know, we don't have July 4th because we're fighting the revolution. We have it more as like a celebration and a reminder that like, you know, this country was founded on being able to shoot fireworks. So I think it's just, I think it's kind of hilarious, like you look at LA during July 4th and it's like there's the spirit of America right there.

Cedric Youngelman: I hear you. Final two questions. Can you give a quick overview of the seven network effects of Bitcoin?

Trace Mayer: Yeah, so we can start with those. We've got the speculation network effect. Everybody wants to chase the rabbit. Within that, you have needing to secure the coins and trade the coins. So custody software or devices, exchanges, become whole kinds of industries. Then we've got, since people are holding the thing and speculating on it, a merchant might be willing to take it as payment.

So you've got merchants and consumers, because now the consumers, they'll go get the thing because the merchant accepts it. So that's kind of how we have the genesis of this thing crawling out of the primordial ooze. Someone's holding it as that store of value and then a merchant's like, hey, I'll take that in exchange for something else, whether it's, you know, dollars or baklava or whatever, whatever our friends are selling.

And then we, you know that gives us value to the block reward – because the block rewards are dominated in Bitcoin. But what's its kind of exchange rate to the rest of the economy and that gives it value. So now the miners come in and the miners start securing it. That's our fourth network effect. They start securing it because of these other three network effects that are taking root.

And then we get developers – and I kind of lump into these developers anybody working on different types of code. Software codes, the easy one, legal code. So like what Caitlin and the other people did in Wyoming, what we're doing at the federal level now, legal code could also include court cases around this area. You know, that's where CoinCenter I think has been very helpful with amicus briefs into different cases. We've got accountants, we've got, you know, attorneys that are writing clauses into contracts. And when I mean accountants, like we got the accounting standards and we saw the recent change to the accounting standards, like instead of carrying it at the lower cost or market, you're now able to mark-to-market the gain or loss on the stuff. And then strategy like comes out with just this massive mark-to-market gain on it, right? But that's like a form of accounting code that's kind of took developers, you know, took people tinkering and pushing stuff forward with FASB and IAS and stuff. And then we've got financialization. So in order to really get to financialization, you have to have the technical and the legal code solid.

You know, so now you're dealing with things like ISDA contracts, MLA's, CSA's, like credit support annexes, know, master lending agreements, international standards and derivative association contracts that then govern, you know, options and swap contracts and forwards and futures and like, you you get a whole bunch of this financialization network effect that can start to take root, because you have the solid legal and technical underpinnings to it.

And then that leads to our seventh network effect of world reserve settlement currency. That's where it becomes, anywhere from the individual to the sovereign state level, like a reserve asset, like gold, a final means of payment.

And so that's what we're building right now. We're churning through these sixth and seventh network effects. Strategic Bitcoin Reserve for the US, El Salvador's already got some. MicroStrategy is showing what you can do with financial engineering. So, you know, it's all kind of playing out in like, everything's growing commensurately. If anything, we seem to have a little bit of a slow uptake on our second and third network effects of merchants and consumers. And, you know, hopefully we'll get scaling solutions or, you know, retail solutions. We also need, you know, legal code to help with that – tax code, you know, would, would sure be nice to, to not have Bitcoin so trammeled by the tax code kind of like gold is also. But you know, we're a persistent bunch of cyber hornets. So maybe we'll get some good tax code updates in these bills going up at the federal level. And then internationally, it's definitely moving forward on all cylinders in different jurisdictions. I mean, some jurisdictions are catering to Bitcoin holders and 0% capital gains taxes. And look at Puerto Rico and some of it. So I mean, it is churning like, at a global way. It's churning as a global player. You it's no longer this like backyard, like bottom of the rabbit hole unknown thing. It's, these network effects are taking root at the global level all over the place, you know. So, which is incredibly exciting. Means it's less likely to not…it's probably not going to disappear or go away. I think Bitcoin is here to stay permanently on the planet. And so that's a very kind of encouraging thought, especially with our discussion on time preference and the impact on the family and civilization and all that stuff. It's just going to become more and more of a positive influence on society.

Cedric Youngelman: Yeah, sure. Trace this has been so incredible, definitely a feather in my cap. There's an expression, you know, you don't change Bitcoin, Bitcoin changes you. My final question for you is has Bitcoin changed you in any way?

Trace Mayer: I think it's hardened my resolve for monetary sovereignty. It's definitely helped change my time preference. I think it's been interesting growing with Bitcoin, because I look back on my past self and I look at trades I've made with my future self. I mean, in one case, I could have afforded a much nicer apartment and I intentionally just had very anemic living conditions, even when I could have afforded much more. And the differential in rent was something like five bitcoins a month for three years. I look at those trades I made with my future self, and I'm just like, man, I didn't like living in those living conditions, but I'm really glad that I did.

And so yeah, that – the time preference, the discipline, like growing with it, just, you know, as Bitcoin's become much more settled, I think like I've just matured and become much more settled also in how I make decisions and stuff like that. And I think Bitcoin has that positive impact on us because we, you know, I mean, one, hopefully we're naturally doing that as we get older. But also I think it just, man, it just gives us a stark reminder of the costs of poor decisions.

Fortunately, I've never had any type of attraction towards alcohol. So, you know, I've never like I never drank, never interested in drinking. But I look at some of my friends that did. And then you look at it and it's like, man, they'd like go out on the weekend and then spend $100 on alcohol. And you could have bought like five Bitcoins for that $100. And meanwhile, I'm scraping together every nickel I can and making sure that I'm not having to spend any Bitcoins. And now it's fun seeing that time preference be rewarded.

I just got an email today. There's a charity that I've helped out and, you know, they need to get some final funding done or whatever. And some people would promise to fund, like they've had reversals of fortune or whatever over the last year. And so they're coming and asking me for a little bit more. And at the end of the day, like, there was something I had envisioned that I wanted actualized into the world. And this charity helped actualize that into the world.

So the thing that was in my mind is now like a real thing that's gonna be there for the duration of the exhibit, which will probably be like forever. I mean, they're not gonna be able to turn the park place basically into like a, into a neighborhood or anything. And so the statue I commissioned and it had like built from scratch, that's now a permanent part of the exhibit for the duration of the exhibit, like I actualized that into the world. And part of the reason I was able to do that is because of the time preference that I'd made with the trades I'd made with my future self. And so now looking back at my past self, and it's like, man, that was pretty cool. This thing actually became a thing now because I did it.

And so much of that is a lot of people, they look around at the world and it's like, okay, there's a bunch of problems. Okay. We all agree there's a bunch of problems, but like where are the solutions? And are you going to make the solution? Because if you're not going to make the solution, like who's going to make the solution if you're not going to make the solution? And you know, a lot of people, they, they want a certain lifestyle or they want to be able to enjoy certain things or whatever.

There's a Chinese proverb that says, what is it? Strong men have wills, weak men have only wishes.

My grandma, she had a little saying, she said, you can want in one hand and you can spit in the other and see which one fills up first. And so like, you know, a lot of people wish that they could have a good influence on the world. They wish that they could live a certain lifestyle. They wish that they could have a happy family, that they're, you know, they have a spouse that loves them, that they enjoy spending time with, that there's trust and friendship there. They wish that they, you know, had posterity. You know, you really start to see it, know, if somebody's about 45, 55, not married, no kids, you start to really see they wish they had made a lot of different choices, because they're now living with the future self that is in a condition that they don't necessarily want it in.

And at the end of the day, like, you know, you can one one hand and you can spin the other and see which one fills up first. And as JD Vance says, if you're going to be the childless cat lady, like, you know, whatever. And this is, you know, this is one of reasons I think like the children's suffrage point would be a very helpful one because. You know, the next generation is really where, you know, a lot of these decisions and stuff are made.

And, and yet they're getting trammeled into future, their future is getting trammeled, whether it's like through government debt or cost of living increases that are gonna have to be paid or whatever, you know? And so like, if you actually wanna be a solution to some of those problems, like you have to have resources. You have to have the ability to act, you know, to influence something. And if you don't, you just have a wish.

And look, everybody can have a wish. And wishes are great. And we should wish for lots of things. But at the end of the day, I want to see points on the scoreboard. I want to see planes getting landed. You know, like I want to see the action. You know, because that love or that intention inside of us, it impels the action. But our wisdom that we bring is what gives the action its qualities.

And so, yes, we should be well-intentioned and we should wish for a lot of things, but we should also bring our wisdom to our actions so that we can actualize whatever we want. You know, we're the, like, we have this power of creation kind of granted to us. What are we creating with it? What's the world that we're creating? Are we creating a world where we, you know, where we have happy families and posterity and all this stuff, or are we creating a…like, we're gonna whine in our basement or in our parents' basement, you know, and not create something. So, you know, I think that's one aspect of like where, you know, because you're coming out of school, you kind of have these dreams of wanting to be a positive influence in the world. And you look at your role models and you're like, man, I wish I could be like my dad or I wish I could be like my grandpa and like, you know, have these positive influences on the world and you know, like the younger generations, in a lot of ways, the fiat systems have stolen some of the futures. But on the other hand, they have access to these tools where they can leverage their talents and abilities to such a degree, whether it's AI or Bitcoin as a safe store of value.

And so if they really put their mind to it and work hard and leverage the tools they have access to, like, it's never been a better time, I think, for young people to really be able to have a positive influence on the world. And so, you know, I kind of look at my own situation and it's like, wow, you know, like, you know, I'm glad I'm not sitting around wishing for a bunch of stuff. Like I'm actually doing a bunch of stuff. And that's pretty darn cool.

Cedric Youngelman: Yeah, there's a Jewish proverb that you know, some people go through life, maybe flying on first class, and everything's calm and peaceful and great. And there's people out the rest is outside the plane trying to hang on. And I think about that in terms of like, outside the plane is sort of life on a fiat standard. And inside a plane is life on a Bitcoin standard. And I don't mean in terms of like, you've done well, or you've had the capital gains. But that you know things are going to work out in the future if you stick at it and stay at it and do the proof of work, because you'll be able to carry your value to the future. It's going to make it there okay if you do. So it gives you that more confidence and calmness I feel. And I think back to the wish thing, I mean I think a lot of people wish they bought Bitcoin when it was the price of a cup of coffee or cappuccino or you know a vodka and tonic martini or you know, a nice steak dinner with your wife or husband or a nice vacation to Disney World or you know, when it was the price of an average American car and they're gonna wish in the future if they don't do it now that they would have bought it when it was the price of a condo or a house or a brownstone or McMansion or you know, a building in New York City. It’s just going to continue and you got…it's kind of like a moving train you kind of have to jump on board at some point.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, and you know back when it was the price of a coffee, like there was a lot of uncertainty on whether it would actually materialize into the thing. And we had to take a lot of risk, you know, not just financial risk, you know. Like we had to take all, like legal…

Cedric Youngelman: You took a lot of reputational risk.

Trace Mayer: Reputational risk, you know, legal risk, financial repression and the laws to prevent financial innovation from happening, you know, there's a whole bunch of risk that's been taken by the people who have trailblazed this new route of monetary sovereignty.

Cedric Youngelman: Social ossification by friends and family.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, like the crazy Bitcoiner, right? But now it's a thing. But it's…yeah, I mean, when we're looking at, you know, an entrepreneur, they need land, labor, capital, but they also need time and they need hope in the future. You know, and so hopefully we've got ourselves like a legal regime that we're going to be able to have this hope in the future because of property rights and because of sound money. And Bitcoin does give us that solidity in that potential future. Sure, it might not have the uncertainty that you had at $5 Bitcoin, right? Like there's a bunch of uncertainty on that future and whether you'd actually have a future that you could have this type of an environment.

Because think of the alternative timeline. Forced vaccinations, digital ID, vaccine passports, social credit scores, and CBECs, which totally erode all your monetary sovereignty. That's the, when you're looking at $5 coffee, like the other timeline that has a higher probability is that one. Right? And so, in some ways I've you know, I'm not I don't have a ton of sympathy for people that are like, you know, even if they're the young kids that are like 21 right now and it's like, yeah, but I just didn't have the the opportunity to buy it at $5. It's like I'm not sure you wanted to have that opportunity. I'm not sure you fully appreciate what it meant to have that opportunity and to go through that opportunity and just the degree of like the type of barbell that you're lifting with that life, right? It's like, man, I didn't want, like, I don't want to go storm Omaha beach like my grandpa, you know, like run into a machine gun nest and get shot at.

Cedric Youngelman: With no vote when you were 17.

Trace Mayer: Yeah, with no vote. His mom, his mom dies when he's 16, he gets drafted at 18. So he didn't have any vote. He gets plucked off the street, thrown on an amphibious ship, sent over…Actually, he, I mean, his draft orders were for the duration of the war plus six months. In 1941. So he was, he got bronze stars in Africa, he got, you know, he got, anyways, he was basically in like all the theaters except the Pacific. It's like, I'm not sure I would want to go through that. You know, he was at the Battle of the Bulge. Would anybody want to go through Battle of the Bulge? You know, freezing, I mean, massive frostbite everywhere, 80,000 deaths, US deaths, like, you want to be at the Battle of the Bulge?

You know, so, in some ways, it's nice to have this much more solidified future that you can build on. But you still gotta do the proof of work. Like, you wanna become a master at the art of living, well, you better get at it and start working at it. You know, because it's like, it's not, you can't just wish to have a wonderful life. Like you gotta, you gotta create it yourself. You know, so, and that, and that takes hard work, you know, hard work, discipline, time preference, sacrifice, all the things.

Cedric Youngelman: Well, thank you so much. It's been a real pleasure. I'll leave it to you for any parting words and let people know they can find you in your work.

Trace Mayer: Well, thank you, Cedric, and all the work you do with your podcasts and helping keep the ethos of sound money alive. Yeah, just bitcoin.kn is where the podcast is. probably start ramping that up when I get a little bit more help around the office here, and it'll be fun. But otherwise, thanks so much for everything you do.

Cedric Youngelman: Thank you. I'll be in touch. We’ll have to do another one, maybe in person.

Trace Mayer: You, too. See ya!

Cedric Youngelman: Thanks for tuning in to this episode of The Bitcoin Matrix. If you enjoyed the conversation, don’t forget to like, subscribe, and drop a comment below with any thoughts or questions you may have. We'd love to hear from you. You can support the show by checking out our sponsors and affiliate links in the description. It helps keep bringing you great content while connecting you with awesome products that I believe in. Share this episode with your friends, family, or anyone curious about Bitcoin. And let's keep growing this community together. Stay curious, keep stacking, and I'll catch you in the next one.