

ORAL COMPREHENSION - *SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT A NEW TYPE OF MONEY* - SCRIPT

The world is **teeming** with **currencies**. But Bitcoin is like no other. It's virtual money, free from regulation, and it only exists online. Nobody knows who created the computer program that generates Bitcoin, but it's so sophisticated and **seemingly secure** that the currency is **taking off**. I met a Bitcoin millionaire in San Francisco. Jared Kenneth started America's first Bitcoin exchange. It's as easy as buying any **foreign** currency: transfer in cash and get Bitcoin **delivered** to your virtual wallet, on your laptop or phone. So the great value is that it's a technology that no one person controls. So the banks don't interfere with it, the government doesn't interfere with it. You control your money. You can send it where you want, to who you want. It's anonymous and untraceable, so criminals can **trade** drugs and guns online with Bitcoin. One of the Internet's most famous hackers couldn't hack it. He says the system is **pretty** secure. "We actually went inside the software to look at the quality of it. Bitcoin is **alien** technology. It is really written to a standard of quality that you just don't see in most software." People still trust the money in their pocket and Bitcoin is very volatile, but the potential for a currency independent of central banks or governments already has big investors interested. ?? BBC news, San Francisco.

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