



A BASIC INTRODUCTION TO CRYPTOCURRENCY

The United States Department of Justice, working closely with the United States Embassy in Bratislava, with funding and support from the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), and the Slovak Republic, sponsors this introductory program on cryptocurrencies.

This program is designed as a basic introduction to cryptocurrency. As law enforcement professionals, we increasingly encounter cryptocurrencies as we investigate criminal cases. There are presently more than 1000 different digital currencies, with an aggregate value of more than \$2 trillion dollars. Bitcoin is the best known and the largest in monetary value of the digital currencies, currently representing approximately half the value of all digital currencies. Criminals like cryptocurrency because digital currencies are easier to launder than cash which often can be easily traced.

Using bitcoin as an example of a typical cryptocurrency, this program will explore the murky origins of cryptocurrencies, explain why cryptocurrencies are so popular with criminals (anonymity and ease of use) and discuss techniques and services (TOR and Tumblers) which criminals can use to further conceal their identities and activities. We will discuss how to convert bitcoins into Euros, public and private keys, how to store bitcoins and then discuss some techniques to investigate cryptocurrency transactions. We will open the floor periodically for questions and discussions.

AGENDA

November 18, 2021: Chicago, Illinois, Washington, D.C. and Bratislava, Slovakia

3:00PM **Introductory Remarks by United States Department of Justice**
Diane MacArthur, Senior Litigation Counsel,
Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois
US Department of Justice

3:15 PM Cryptocurrency Presentation
Vikas Didwania, Assistant United States Attorney
National Security and Cybercrime Unit
Office of the United States Attorney, Chicago, Illinois
U.S. Department of Justice

5:00PM Closing Remarks and Next Steps Discussion

American Participants:

**Vikas Didwania, Assistant United States Attorney, National Security and Cybercrime Unit
U.S. Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois**

Biography: Vikas K. Didwania is a federal prosecutor at the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. As a prosecutor, he has investigated and prosecuted a wide range of federal criminal cases concerning national security, including espionage and terrorism, complex fraud, violent crime, and narcotics trafficking. He is also a lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School where he teaches a course on modern police investigations.

**Diane MacArthur, Federal Prosecutor, Senior Litigation Counsel, United States
Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois**

**Tyler Murray, Chief, Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Unit, United States
Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, Chicago, Illinois**

**Terry Kinney, Federal Prosecutor, Public Corruption and Organized Crime Unit, Chicago,
Illinois; US Department of Justice**