Money-over-IP

From Bitcoin to Smart Contracts and M2M Money

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Abstract: The Internet has sparked a number of innovations that have fundamentally changed many aspects of our lives. Among them, it has dis-intermediated markets, transforming them from physical to digital. Up to date though, the most common of the elements present in any commercial transaction has largely escaped Internet’s influence: money. Analysts have long predicted that this could not be forever and indeed it hasn’t. Over the past years, we have witnessed the rapid rise of co-called cryptocurrencies, fuelled by the blockchain innovation.

In this lecture, after briefly revisiting the nature of money (perhaps the less well understood of the most widely used technologies), I will address the emerging concept of smart money and its various potential uses. Starting from Bitcoin (the protocol), I will attempt to sketch out a road to money-over-IP, consisting of intermediate innovation stops at bitcoin (the currency), app-specific money, smart contracts, and M2M money. In the process, I will explain how these emerging innovations will fundamentally affect the nature of the Internet itself, as well as the future of commerce and our world.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

George is Vice Rector of Finance & Development and Professor of eBusiness at the Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece. He has previously worked with the University of the Aegean (Greece) and Brunel University (UK), while he has held visiting posts in universities in the UK, Australia, USA, Finland and Denmark.

In 2001, George founded the ISTLab Wireless Research Center, the first research center in Greece with a focus on mobile business, applications and services, while since 2009 he is the Director of Sociomine, a newly-founded research center with a focus on Social Network Analytics. He has also been elected as academic representative in the Coordinating Committee of the Hellenic Mobile Cluster.

George has published more than 150 articles in leading journals and international conferences and has authored ten books with Greek and international publishers. His scientific contribution has been acknowledged by the international academic community, as evidenced by the large number of citations (more than 3,000 citations) and the best paper and teaching awards he has received. He serves at the Editorial Board of seven international academic journals and has served at the organizing committees of more than 40 international conferences. From 2003 to 2008, he was Permanent Secretary of the International Conference on Mobile Business, which he organized in Athens in 2010.

His research and teaching interests focus on a) electronic business, emphasizing on the design, development and evaluation of innovative mobile, social networking and business applications, b) simulation modeling, business process modeling and system dynamics, c) social network analytics, focusing on data mining, user modeling and social learning behavior in online social networks and d) ubiquitous and pervasive information systems.