

## Cash-as-a-Token (CaaT) will pick up where virtual currency can't go; A. Lyle Elias

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May 23, 2019

Just a few of years ago virtual currency and all things blockchain were making headlines, but today only an occasional press release reminds us of why the underlying technology will revolutionize how payments will be processed in the not too distant future. Bitcoin has turned out to be more like a digital commodity than a currency. As cards and checks increasingly become unnecessary to transact in the world of near-real-time electronic payments, the adoption of digital currency is no longer farfetched. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India is already surpassing mobile wallet transactions. Many countries have implemented electronic “ACH Push” technology for transactions that are authorized, settled and cleared in seconds. Which begs the question: Why Virtual Currency?

The concept of Virtual Currency grew out of a movement to circumvent the banking system and enable individuals to transact one-on-one without the need for intermediaries. However, it has become apparent that it is easier said than done due to regulatory issues and the lack of universal acceptance, not to mention security problems associated with non-reversible and anonymous transactions. Anyone who is relatively competent in programming skills can easily spin-off a coin utilizing various blockchains. It is the underlying technology that most payments professionals have failed to understand which is based on technologies that have been around for a long time (e.g. Encryption and Tokenization), but the new twist is harnessing the power of distributed computing.

Cash-as-a-Token (CaaT) is a simple concept and ripe for mass adoption once the value proposition is understood. As long as the transacting parties are comfortable with the user interfaces and any security concerns, transactions can be instant and at a very low cost. iATM (<https://iATM.us>) has developed a blockchain based “Smart Contract” for virtual cash tokens that can be transferred electronically and readily converted to-and-from actual notes in exact denominations. iATM CaaT is not a replacement for cash, but rather a means of digitizing cash in a banking standardized format that is secure and complies with regulatory mandates for transparency through an immutable audit trail, while still protecting user privacy.

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