

My bitcoin journey

Riccardo Casatta

2024

Giacomo called me...

After Adam...



Figure 1: Two people talking over the phone

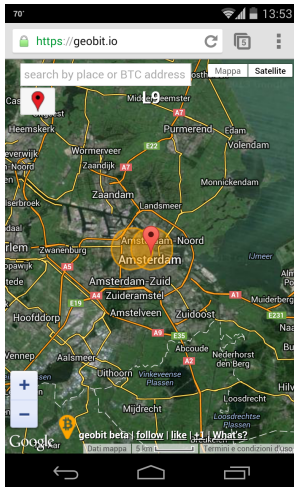
Anno domini - 5-0 BS

- Computer Science Engineer
- Uninterested in finance
- No preferred party
- Various job, consultancy in DW for insurance company

Anno domini - 2-5 AS

- Break up
- Quit smoking
- Start looking for stocks & co.
- Discover bitcoin
- Quit a job and startup (sigh)

Geobit - 5 AS



- Fatal flaw
- Jippy^a

^a<https://bitcoinmagazine.com/culture/jippi-is-pok%C3%A9mon-go-for-bitcoin->

Figure 2: Geobit



Figure 3: Italian team

Amsterdam - 5 AS

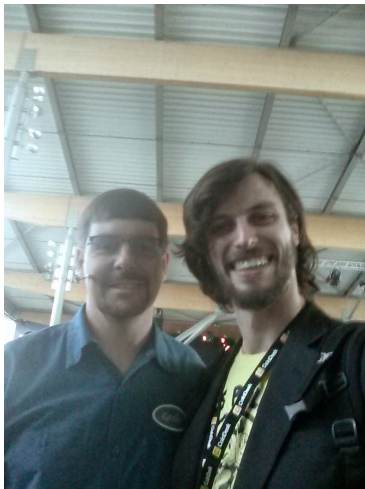


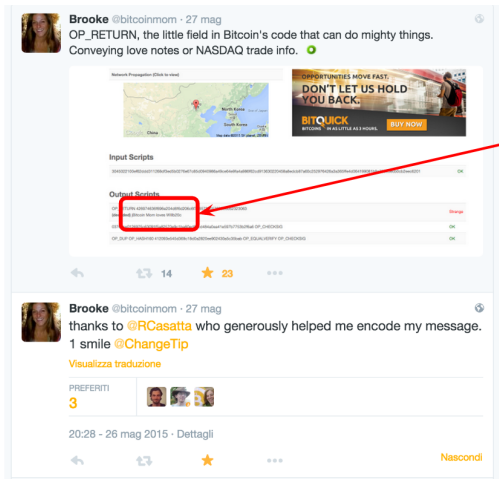
Figure 4: Was my idol at the time

Next Startup



Figure 5: Tweet bitcoin mom

Next Startup



Bitcoin Mom loves Willb20c

Figure 6: Helping bitcoin mom

Eternity Wall - 6 AS

The screenshot shows the Eternity Wall homepage. At the top is the logo, which consists of a blue infinity symbol followed by the text "Eternity Wall". Below the logo is the tagline "Messages lasting forever" with a small upward arrow. A paragraph explains that messages are embedded in the blockchain and are permanent. Below this are three categories: "For love" (with a heart icon), "In memory" (with a book icon), and "For fun" (with a speech bubble icon). Each category has a brief description. A blue "Write" button is on the left, and a search bar is on the right. In the bottom right corner, there are icons for a list, a cloud, and a "Wordcloud" button. The main content area shows a message queue with three entries, each in a white box with a gray border. The first message is dated December 9, 2015, at 6:40 AM GMT and says "http://eternitywall.it is the way!". The second message is dated December 9, 2015, at 4:37 AM GMT and says "Miami is 'power city' – junseth said it first.". The third message is dated December 8, 2015, at 10:31 PM GMT and says "bitcoin sopra 500\$ per fine gennaio".

Eternity Wall
Messages lasting forever ▲

Messages written on the wall are embedded in the blockchain, the public registry underneath [bitcoin](#).
There are over 5 thousands copies of this ledger all around the world and soon it will also be in space.
Even if this site goes down or disappears, your message is guaranteed to persist for generations to come.

♥ For love
Publicly declare your love for someone

📖 In memory
Memorialize an event or a person

💬 For fun
Just say hello to the entire world

[Write](#)

Search

⌵ ☁ Wordcloud

one message in queue ..

December 9, 2015 6:40 AM GMT
<http://eternitywall.it> is the way!

December 9, 2015 4:37 AM GMT
Miami is 'power city' – junseth said it first.

December 8, 2015 10:31 PM GMT
bitcoin sopra 500\$ per fine gennaio

Figure 7: Eternity Wall Homepage

Eternity Wall

CoinDesk TRENDING Quiz: Do You Know the Basics of Bitcoin? BITCOIN PRICE INDEX (24H) \$232 \$228 \$224

NEWS ▾ PRICE & DATA ▾ GUIDES ▾ EVENTS ▾ JOBS RESEARCH PRESS RELEASES

Why Bitcoin Should Embrace Stupidity

Pete Rizzo (@peta_rizzo_) Published on July 21, 2015 at 22:06 BST **OPINION**

500 146 11 14 14

July 21, 2015 7:15 AM
go home blockchain, you're drunk

July 21, 2015 6:49 AM
Non importa il tempo, la distanza, se è destino, succederà

July 21, 2015 6:41 AM
For ever ever?

There's even one guy slamming the service for generating "blockchain spam" by using small transactions to tie the messages to bitcoin's distributed ledger. The message is implicit: this stupidity is getting in the way of the serious stuff.

Figure 8: In the news

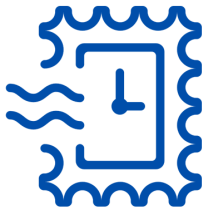
Eternity Wall problems

- Where is the Business Model?
 - pay to write
 - pay to like
 - pay to answer
- Is this spam?

Timestamping

- Timestamping is more interesting than messages
- Timestamping is incredibly scalable
- Eternity Wall introduced timestamping

OpenTimestamps¹ - 7 AS



- Scalable
- Trust minimized
- Reliable
- Free

Figure 9: OpenTimestamps Logo

¹<https://opentimestamps.org>

OpenTimestamps - Scalable

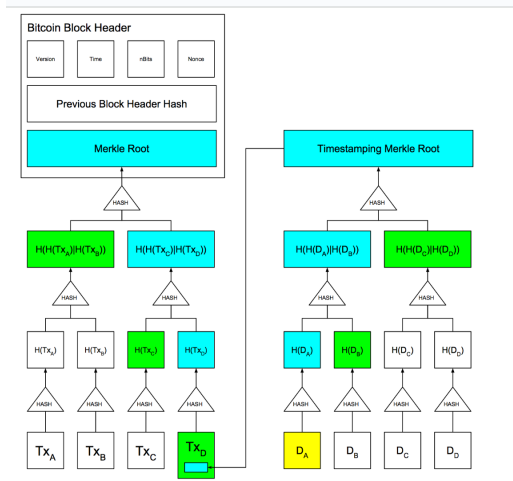


Figure 10: OTS proof path

OpenTimestamps - Trust minimized

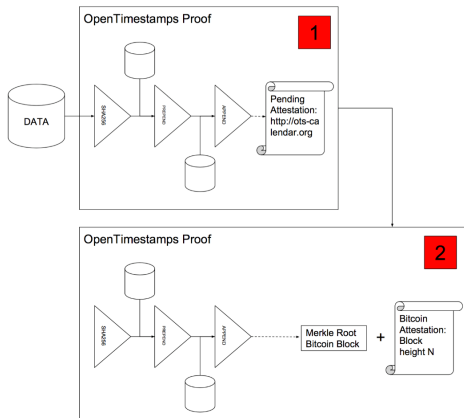


Figure 11: OTS proof update

OpenTimestamps - Trust minimized and reliable

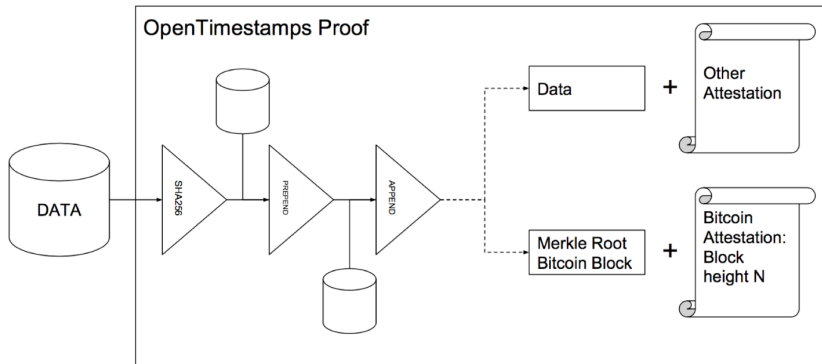


Figure 12: OTS proof branch

OpenTimestamps - Successes

- Timestamped the internet^{2*}
- Used in Guatemala elections³
- Millions of stamps

²<https://petertodd.org/2017/carbon-dating-the-internet-archive-with-opentimestamps>

³<https://bitcoinmagazine.com/culture/documentary-bitcoin-guatemalas-presidential-elections>

Scaling Bitcoin⁴ - 7 AS



Figure 13: Scaling Bitcoin Milano 2016

⁴<https://milan2016.scalingbitcoin.org/presentations>

Rich?



Figure 14: Rich

... Not really

EternityWall was making consultancy

Business making money:

- Exchanges
- Stablecoin issuers
- Mining
- Hardware wallet
- Owning bitcoins + finance product (Microstrategy)
- Payment processors?
- Scam (altcoins, nfts. . .)
- Be smarter than me

Employee:

- Today more choice (github presence)

Blockstream - 9 AS

- EW Team (4) joined BS
- Work on the Green Wallet
- Some tech disagreement. . .

Square/Spiral - 11 AS

- BDK - Bitcoin Development Kit
- Fee estimation⁵ with machine learning

⁵<https://bitcoinddevkit.org/blog/2021/01/fee-estimation-for-light-clients-part-1/>

Back in Blockstream

- Thank you sabbatical, I kept my options
- better situation on different project like LWK⁶
- Almost no speech, family

⁶<https://github.com/blockstream/lwk>

Active side projects

- General purpose offline signer⁷
- Fast Bitcoin Block Explorer⁸
- OpenTimestamps calendar finney⁹
- pay2email¹⁰
- Waterfalls¹¹
- Bitcoin rust libraries
 - rust-bitcoin maintainer
 - Blocks iterator (opreturn.org, eternitywall.it)
 - bitcoin slices
 - rust crate bitcoind/electrsd/elements series

⁷<https://github.com/RCasatta/firma2>

⁸<https://fbbe.info>

⁹<https://finney.calendar.eternitywall.com/>

¹⁰<https://github.com/RCasatta/pay2email>

¹¹<https://github.com/RCasatta/waterfalls>

My bitcoin journey



Figure 15: My bitcoin journey, for now...