Cryptocurrency Podcast

(money money money) plays

**Valerie:** Hello listeners, and welcome to our very last podcast topic for money talks. Im sure you are all very upset that the season is coming to an end, however who knows…there could always be more in the future! Our topic for today is cryptocurrency, and our very last special guest joining us today is Debbie.

**Debbie:** Hey guys! I feel honored to be here today. To tell you a little about myself, I am a dog mom and have a masters in currency.

**Valerie:** Well I’m glad you said so, because our topic for today is….wait a second I almost forgot. We have a little game for our listeners today. I am going to give hints about what our topic is for today, and you guys have to see if you can figure out what it is.

**Debbie:** Oo that sounds like fun. Let’s see how we do.

**Valerie:** Alright first clue, this topic has a decentralized system based on blockchain technology.

**Debbie:** Hm, can you give another hint?

**Valerie:** Sure, maybe this one will make it clearer. According to inverstopedia.com, this topic is a digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.

**Debbie:** Oh I think I got it! Is it…cryptocurrency??

**Valerie:** Ding ding ding. Debbie, you and any listeners that guessed that answer are correct!

**Debbie:** Well this is an interesting topic, where do we begin?

**Valerie:** Excellent question. Well, to begin we must educate our listeners a little bit more on the workings of cryptocurrency.

**Debbie:** I can do that. Well to explain how it works, we must go back to your hint about blockchain technology. This is where digital information is stored in so called blocks, while the chain includes the public database that all the information is available.

**Valerie:** So you’re telling me that I can access anyone’s transaction data on that database?

**Debbie:** Yes, but don’t worry.No one has access to identifying features of the people making transactions so it’s completely safe.

**Valerie:** Oh, well that’s a relief. Going off of what you already explained, the blocks or in other words the digital information, is made up of three parts. It stores information about the transactions, such as time, date, and dollar amount. Secondly, it also stores information about who is making transactions. And last but not least, it stores information that distinguishes one block from another.

**Debbie:** You’re absolutely right Valerie. Each block actually has a specific code called a hash which can allow people to tell the differences between blocks.

**Valerie:** So it’s basically like how humans have names that distinguish them from other people.

**Debbie:** Exactly! There is a specific type of cryptocurrency known as bitcoin. Do you know anything about that Valerie?

**Valerie:** Of course I do! Although there are thousands of cryptocurrencies that exist, bitcoin is the first blockchain based cryptocurrency and to this day is the most popular and most valuable of them all.

**Debbie:** Wow. No wonder of the cryptocurrency value of over $120 billion dollars, bitcoin represents more than half of that total value.

**Valerie:** Exactly. One of the pros of cryptocurrency is the fact that it is difficult to counterfeit because of the cryptography security feature.

**Debbie:** That is true, however, there are also some drawbacks associated with this type of currency.

**Valerie:** Alright don’t be a downer, Debbie. But can you inform our listeners with some of these potential downfalls?

**Debbie:** Sure thing. First off, because cryptocurrencies are virtual, a digital cryptocurrency balance can be wiped out if a computer crashes and a backup copy of the holdings doesn’t exist.

**Valerie:** Alright but on the other hand, under the central authority system, user’s data and currency are technically on a whim. If the users bank collapses, then the value of their currency is at risk. By using other options such as bitcoin and cryptocurrency, they are able to operate without the need for central authority.

**Debbie:** Okay Okay, I see where you’re coming from. I know at least one of the upsides of using cryptocurrency is the fact that a number of different cryptocurrencies all have different ways of tackling inflation. For example, Bitcoin has anti-inflation properties built into their code of the blockchain.

**Valerie:** That’s definitely a good thing. Not to leave a bad taste in anybody’s mouth, but there is concern that currency units such as bitcoins are not backed by any material goods, meaning that digital assets have no real-life value.

**Debbie:** These all paint a pretty good picture of the overall appearance of cryptocurrency. People who approve of this method of currency like the idea because it is outside of the influence of central banks and government, it facilitates trade, and they hope it will preserve value.

**Valerie:** The main difference in the use of cryptocurrency and a country’s main currency is the fact that the use of printed currency is regulated and verified by a central authority which is usually a bank or government.

**Debbie**: Right, and as for cryptocurrency such as bitcoin on the other hand, its transactions are verified by a network of computers. A completed transaction is publicly recorded and stored as a block on the block chain.

**Valerie:** Alright listeners, I hope we gave you enough information to educate you on cryptocurrency. We hope that you are able to form your own opinion about which type of currency is best to use.

**Debbie:** Thank you for having me Valerie, I’m glad I got to discuss one of my favorite topics today.

**Valerie:** Of course Debbie, any time! And until the next season, remember folks…money talks!