

## THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL CURRENCY & BLOCKCHAIN

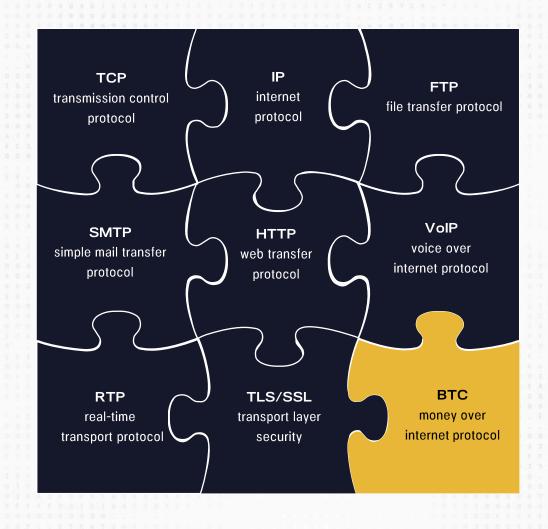
PRINCETON REUNION
MAY 2022

## **Final Piece**

Of the protocol puzzle

"The one thing that's missing, but that will soon be developed, is a reliable e-cash, a method whereby on the Internet you can transfer funds from A to B, without A knowing B or B knowing A."

- Milton Friedman, 1999



## **Pantera Thesis**

Cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies are the underpinnings of a new financial infrastructure, similar to how the internet was the underpinning of a new information infrastructure.

## MolP

#### **Money over Internet Protocol**

Blockchain technology is to payment monopolies/oligopolies what VoIP was to telephone monopolists, only more extreme

Blockchain technology enables a borderless, socially-connected world





#### VolP

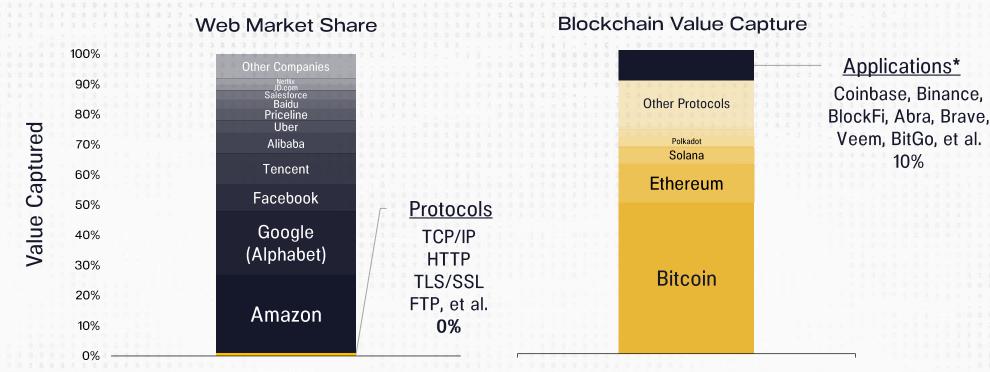
Routed around telephone monopolists Offered 99+% lower cost and operational improvements Removed gates to international communication

#### MolP

Routes around existing payment rails Offers cheaper and faster payments Low-friction, cross-border money movement

# Fat Protocols, Thin Apps

In the sharing economy, value is disproportionately distributed to the application layer. In blockchain, most value will accrue to the underlying protocols.



## **Protocol Evolution**

Blockchain protocols have evolved over the past decade.

Protocol	Enables	Breakthrough
<b>B</b> Bitcoin	Global transactions & store- of-value	Decentralized, trustless value transfer. Solved the double spend problem
<b>Ethereum</b>	Smart contracts, token issuance	Self-enforcing contracts that allow for programmatic control over financial transactions
Polkadot	Blockchain interoperability & enhanced scalability	Cross-blockchain transfers of any type of asset. Scalability enhancements

## Multi-Chain Ecosystem

Cross-chain infrastructure allows for a diverse ecosystem of blockchains with distinct characteristics.



#### Bitcoin

Launch Jan 2009

Focus

Store-of-value

Strengths First of its kind, very decentralized, most widely known

Weaknesses/ Energy intensive, low throughput



#### **Ethereum**

Jul 2015

**Smart contracts** 

First of its kind, decentralized, most developers

Low throughput, high transaction costs



#### Solana

Mar 2020

**Smart contracts** 

Fast transactions, low fees, strong community

Less decentralized, occasional network outages



#### **NEAR**

Apr 2020

**Smart contracts** 

High throughput via sharding, developer friendly tools

Strong competition, fewer applications developed



#### **Polkadot**

May 2020

Interoperability

Parachains, high throughput, strong founders

Early development, limited parachain availability



#### **Avalanche**

Sep 2020

**Smart contracts** 

Fast transaction speeds, high throughput

Late start relative to competitors, expensive to be a validator



## Decentralized Finance

Cryptocurrency and blockchain technologies will disrupt a myriad of industries, but we believe most value will be created in the decentralized finance or "DeFi" sector. This is how the basic financial primitives will look in this ecosystem.

#### **UNIT OF** ACCOUNT

Stable currencies can be used for trade and commerce.

#### **EXCHANGE**

Decentralized exchanges allow for trading of assets with no intermediary.

#### LENDING & **ISSUANCE**

Globally-accessible lending products enabled through programmable tokenized debt.

#### **MARGIN**

Borrow cryptocurrencies on margin using other cryptocurrencies as collateral.

#### **LEVERAGE**

Smart contracts can be structured to allow for leverage.

## Web3

Web3 is the next evolution of the internet where users control their own data and platforms are owned by the community. Decentralized applications offer the ability to remove rent-seeking incumbents that extract value from both merchants and consumers.



## **NFTs**

#### Non-Fungible Tokens

A unit of data on a blockchain, where each NFT can represent a unique digital item, and thus they are not interchangeable. Tokens can represent virtually anything, including assets like music, art, video, game items.

Marketplaces like MakersPlace and OpenSea allow users to buy, sell, and create NFTs.

## \$41 billion

Market<sup>1</sup>



Beeple: EVERYDAYS: THE FIRST 5000 DAYS

Sold for 39k ETH or \$69mm



CryptoPunks are 10,000 uniquely generated characters

CryptoPunk #7523 Sold for \$11.7mm

## Gaming and the Metaverse

The integration of NFTs with the metaverse and blockchain-based games enables players and creators to generate value in digital realms. The play-to-earn model turns the adage "video games are a waste of time" on its head.





A virtual world where people can buy plots of land in the form of NFTs. Users can build businesses, rent out land, and partake in live events within the community.



Genopets

A move-to-earn game built on Solana where players evolve their NFT pets through daily activity. Users can battle each other and sell pets they've raised for crypto.

# **Asymmetric Opportunity**

We're still in the early stages of adoption.

Cryptocurrency may serve as a global reserve currency or a viable alternative to fixed-supply assets like gold.

Smart contract platforms can be the underpinning of a new open financial system.

Global Bonds \$120 trillion

> Global M2 \$100 trillion

Gold \$11 trillion

Global Digital Payments \$6 trillion

Visa, Amex, MasterCard, PayPal, Square, Apple, Amazon, Google, Starbucks

Cryptocurrency Market Size \$1.5 trillion
Bitcoin, Ethereum, Polkadot, etc.

## Fed Bond Bubble

The Fed's manipulation of the U.S Treasury and mortgage bond market was so extreme that it was \$15 TRILLION overvalued (relative to the 50-year average real rate).

Real Rates – the interest rate one gets after inflation – are at a negative 5.46%, a 50-yr low. No economically-rational investor would buy something guaranteed to lose that much money every year.



# The Price of Paper Money

It seems like the price of everything is surging up. A better perspective is that the value of most things is relatively stable - it's just the value of paper money that is moving.

To help visualize what Quantitative Easing is doing to the price of the US dollar we've plotted the value of the US dollar as quoted in terms of things that cannot be quantitatively eased.



Confidential

## PANTERA

pan terra (Latin), 'spanning the earth' pantera (Italian and Spanish), 'panther' pan era, 'spanning eras'



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