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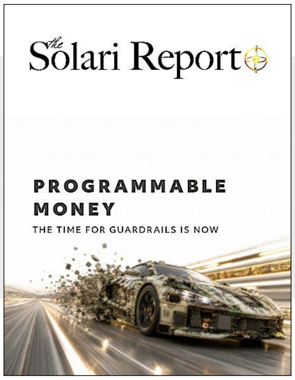

Programmable Money: The Time for Guardrails Is Now

What happens when a centralization-minded intermediary—let's call him Mr. Global—inserts himself between a buyer and a seller, and that intermediary has dynamic algorithms at his disposal that can impose conditions on the transaction, or even prevent it from taking place at all? You get programmable money.

This report provides the necessary context for you to understand that programmable money, far from being an abstract concept, is a fast-moving train that could have a significant impact on your freedom to transact. In her introduction to the report, Catherine Austin Fitts explains the critical distinction between the traditional "two-lock" system—involving a buyer and seller who both retain the ability to approve or reject a transaction—and the emerging, freedom-threatening "three-lock" system, which allows Mr. Global's algorithms to determine what transpires between buyer and seller.

As Fitts notes, U.S. Treasury-backed stablecoins (or the digital wallets in which they are held) represent a major—though not the only—prong of Mr. Global's push for programmable money. In his essay titled "Stablecoins: Where the Carrot Meets the Stick," investigative journalist Mark Goodwin breaks down some of the inducements and claims of "convenience" that will be used to entice people to hold and use stablecoins (the "carrot"), but he also describes how private stablecoin issuers can easily "blacklist users' wallets and freeze their balances at any time" (the "stick"). In addition, he suggests that by combining the data recorded on the blockchain ledger with "the massive amounts of data already controlled by the ruling class," Mr. Global will be able to further centralize the data economy:

"[T]he data caches needed to meaningfully analyze blockchains—banking information, social network activity, and the remaining digital footprint and identification gathered by Internet service providers—are unavailable to the average user.... [T]he computational power needed to do such analysis remains far out of reach for the majority of users but entirely within the reach of nation-state-level intelligence organizations."

When Goodwin wrote his essay, Congress was about to pass, and President Trump was about to sign, the GENIUS Act—the legislation that provides the legal and conceptual umbrella for the rollout of U.S. Treasury-backed stablecoins. After the federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking related to GENIUS Act implementation, Solari submitted comments to the OCC. Those comments, included in this report, provide an excellent overview of why payment systems need to be "safe, private, accessible, transparent and free from discriminatory or politically motivated controls on access to money and payment systems."

In addition, this report includes a segment titled "Programmable Money: Keep Your Eye on the Fast-Moving Ball," which provides an overview of resources available at Solari and other sites that can keep readers up to speed on programmable money developments. That section also makes reference to the (still forthcoming as of June 2026) CLARITY Act, which will govern asset tokenization. "Asset tokenization" is another abstract-sounding term, but essentially it is the equivalent of the programmable money concept for commodities and securities—another "three-party lock" system intended to fundamentally change not only how stocks and bonds are traded but who can interfere with those trades and plunder the underlying assets.

To push back against an agenda that Fitts acknowledges as "dark," Solari has been actively working with state leaders, encouraging them to pass a version of Solari's model legislation, the "Consumer Payment Rights and Transparency Act," which helps states limit and put guardrails on programmable money. Readers can find the model legislation in this report, and at the Financial Transaction Freedom website (ft2freedom.solari.com/model-legislation/). Hopefully, many will be inspired to work with their legislators to get guardrails in place across the U.S.

Fitts concludes her introduction by stating that "no one we know" wants programmable money or a digital control grid. Fortunately, many people now "realize that something is really wrong" and have decided to do something about it. We welcome you to join in these efforts.

The Solari Report is published by:
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