who are we?

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WAIT... BUT WHY Coins?
Coins come in a lot of shapes and sizes and are generally issued by governments to facilitate trade within their borders. They are filled with symbolism and often act as mediators of the authority, power or unity of the governments that issued them.

But with the rise of technology and globalization, the need for local and physical currencies are declining. While coins are ubiquitous and have been a common occurrence in people’s lives for over 1000 years, they face the risk of becoming obsolete in the future.

So what will happen to coins? How do we use them in our everyday lives? And how can they keep up with the times?
TRAÎTÉ DE PARIS.
PEACE TREATY OF PARIS.
What is the history of coins?

The first coins were struck around 625 BC in Asia Minor. They were commonly made of gold, silver, and electrum, and their value was equivalent to the value of their materials. Coins quickly became popular and spread around the world, replacing other economic systems, like fragile seashells and large limestones.

While the material value equation was favored a long time it sometimes led to inconvenience. For example, around 1644 there was a lack of silver in Sweden. But as Sweden had an abundance of copper, it also became the natural material for coins. The problem was that the copper coins had to weigh around 19.7 kilos for the material to be worth as much as their equivalence in silver.

Today, the value of coins are not based on their materials. The cost to produce smaller value coins are actually often higher than the coins are worth in their materials alone. This is one of the reasons why we have seen a decline in smaller value coins around the world in recent years. Another reason is that more and more countries around the world are moving towards a digital economy.
WHAT IS A MISUSE?
MISUSES HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO BE CONSIDERED STUPID. THEY CAN SOUND, SMELL, LOOK, TASTE SILLY. THEY CAN FEEL DUMB. BUT THEY ARE ANYTHING BUT.

TO MISUSE SOMETHING IS TO BE CREATIVE, INVENTIVE, INGENIOUS. SURE, SOMETIMES THE MISUSEFUL SOLUTION IS NOT THE BEST, BUT PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP TRYING TO FIND NEW USES. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: IF IT IS STUPID BUT WORKS, IT AIN’T STUPID.
CANDLES?

WHAT ABOUT INDOOR CANDLES?
WHAT IF THERE WAS AN APP FOR THAT?

Can coins become characters?

COINS CAN BE USED PROGRAMMED OLD SCHOOL STYLE.

Hey! We can use coins under pots while we wait the stove to cool down a little!

TIC-TAC-TOE

HEADS X TAILS

Can coins be toys?
CREATE YOUR COIN SKATES!

1. Find a piece of wood with a crack
2. Align them and hammer it down!
3. Tie it to an old boot
4. Make sure they are firm and straight.
A DAY AT THE KUNGGLIGA MYNTKABINETET

THIS SHELL IS AN ANCIENT COIN! OMG!
Are coins Lucky?

In superstition, coins often retain their function as a token for exchange or as an offering. But they can also be used purely for their symbolic value.

Wishing wells

In European folklore, water was often seen as sacred and as a source of life. As such, bodies of water became the natural home for many local deities and spirits. It is not uncommon to stumble upon the belief that wishes could be granted from the deities living in the water if a price was paid.

1. Utter a wish.
2. Drop coins into the well. If the coin lands heads up, the wish will be granted. If the coin lands tails up, the wish is ignored.
Make a Wish

Glue a coin here and make a wish. Let's see what your fortune holds.

Are Coins Tasty?

An old Irish tradition was to mix charms into dishes. The different charms represented different outcomes. For example: if you found a ring in your food, it meant you would get married. But if you found a coin, it meant wealth or good luck.
GRANNY'S OLD COLCANNON

INGREDIENTS:

7–8 LARGE POTATOES
1 HEAD OF GREEN CABBAGE
1 CUP (240 ML) MILK (OR CREAM)
1 STICK (120G) BUTTER, DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS
4–5 SCALLIONS (GREEN ONIONS), CHOPPED
SALT AND PEPPER
FRESH PARSLEY OR CHIVES
1 LUCKY COIN

1. Peel and put them in a pot to boil.

2. While the potatoes are cooking, remove the core from the cabbage, slice the leaves thinly, and put into a large saucepan. Cover with boiling water from the kettle and keep at a slow rolling boil until the cabbage is just wilted and has turned a darker green. This can take anything from 3-5 minutes, depending on the cabbage. Test it and don't let it overcook - if anything it should be slightly undercooked.

3. When the cabbage is cooked, drain it well, squeeze to get any excess moisture out, then return to the saucepan. Add one third of the butter and cover. Leave it covered and in a warm place, but not on a burner, with the butter melting gently into it while you continue.

4. When the potatoes are soft, drain the water and return the potatoes to the saucepan. With the drained potatoes in, set the burner to low, leaving the lid off so that any excess moisture can evaporate. When they are perfectly dry, add the milk to the saucepan, along with a third of the butter and the chopped scallions (if you are using them). Allow the milk to warm but not boil - it is about right when the butter has fully melted and the pot is starting to steam.

5. With a potato masher or a fork, mash the potatoes thoroughly into the butter/milk mixture. Do NOT pass through a ricer or, worse, beat in a mixer as it will make the potatoes gluey and disgusting.

6. Mix the cabbage thoroughly through the mashed potato.

7. Season with a little salt and sprinkle with fresh parsley or chives. Most importantly, make a well in the centre of the mound of potato and put the last third of the butter in there to melt.

8. Before serving, hide a coin on the dish, so the lucky one can find it.
Patient ID 23758
Gender: male
Age: 6
Case: after aspirated, coin stucked in the esophagus. Patient shows difficulties to breath and speak.

Are coins deadly?
Are coins a passage to the other side?

Charon’s Obol is a coin placed in or on a dead person’s mouth before the burial. Though the custom is also found in Roman burials, it is primarily associated with the ancient Greeks. The coin was used as a payment for the ferryman, Charon, who conveyed the souls of the living to the afterlife.
ARE COINS PROPAGANDA?

Coins are filled with symbolism and have since ancient times been used as symbols of power.

The round shape of the Chinese I-Ching coins, for example, represent heaven, and the square holes in them represent the earth. Around the square, the emperor’s name is stamped, symbolizing the mandate of heaven and the emperor’s right to rule.

In older days, it was not uncommon for newly appointed rulers to mint new coins carrying a symbol of his or her power. The new coins would often carry a portrait of the new ruler, reminding the populace of who was in charge. Coins could also be used to inform the populace of a successful campaign, by carrying a picture of a recently conquered city.

While this is still the custom in many countries today to display portraits of authority or symbols of power, coins can also use to display a sense of unity. In countries that use the Euro, each government is allowed to mint their own coins. Though they get to portray a nationalistic symbol on the obverse side, the reverse side of the coin needs to feature the 12 stars of the EU symbol. The 12 stars represent the unity within the EU.
ARE COINS TOOLS?

Coins have a lot of uses based on their properties. When you think about it: they are hard, durable, heat conductive, reflective, often round, quite small, stackable and make nice clinking sounds.
skřuvmejsel
ARE COINS A DRAWING TOOL?

A common technique when drawing living beings is to start with sketching out circles, to get a feel for both perspective and proportions. Since coins often are round, they can be used as a great tool for this purpose.

1. Place coins on paper.
2. Draw circles.
3. Make adjustments.
4. Done. Nice drawing!

Hey buddy! Do you wanna try? Put coins in the suggested place and draw my friends!
HEADS OR TAILS?

Flipping a coin is often used as a randomizer, where heads represents one outcome and tails represents another.

THE SLIGHTLY PSYCHIC RANDOM GAME:
1. Declare heads or tails.
2. Flip a coin.
3. If the result is what you declared, you score a point. If not, you are out.

HIGHSCORES
WHAT ABOUT THE
FUTURE OF COINS?
THE CONNECTED COIN?

Even though many countries are moving towards a digital economy, it is still unclear whether coins will disappear completely in the far future or not. But one thing that is certain is that today coins are keeping up with the times and are becoming more technologically advanced.

The most advanced coins up to this date entered circulation in the UK on 28th of March 2017. The new £1s have an Integrated Secure Identification System that allows them to be scanned, separating real coins from counterfeits. The new £1 is a springboard to the near future of coins, where the analog currency will be interlaced with even more advanced technology. We call this the connected coin.

Just like the new £1, the connected coins will be interlaced with RFID inspired technology. But apart from this, each coin will also have a unique ID.

With a way to identify each coin, the coins can easily be connected to databases. Because of this, the connected coin can hold any value, both from a social and an economical perspective.

If the identifiers of the coins were accessible to the market and the tech industry, the meaning of a coin would change completely.
Patent proposals for different technologies in coins.
What if there was a protocol?
A protocol is the set of rules or standards that define syntax and semantics for devices to communicate with one another. The internet (and the HTTP protocol it’s built upon) is probably the most ubiquitous and well-known example.

A protocol for the emerging connected coin would enable developers to build their own services for reading from and writing to coins without depending on the proprietary software, as so even the playing field. The protocol would also ensure security and user’s privacy when using these services.

An application for the connected coin would scan the coin and then query a government-controlled API to inquire the coin’s legitimacy before being allowed to access the information stored on the coin. Data storage capabilities would be finite but generous seeing as the price of flash storage is on a steady decrease. An application would only be able to access information that has been stored on the coin by that very same application, ensuring user’s data privacy.

Read on to see how we imagine some service will make use of the connected coin.
Connected coins can be used to carry tags. A connected coin could be fixed to a certain location and tell a story of that place, showing different perspectives. To the left we can see how #EiffelTower could show a whole universe of different points of view.
Whisper allows the user to both read and store messages on connected coins. As the connected coins are circling around, the story of each coin grows, generating an intangible value from its social patina.

1. Scan connected coin.
2. Read messages.
3. Leave Message.
4. Pass on connected coin.
What song will you discover next?

Scan your RFID enabled coin and see if you have a hidden playlist in your pocket.

The connected coins can be used as a modern jukebox. As each connected coin can be “charged” with a song from e.g. Soundcloud or Spotify, they can be used to add songs to playlists at clubs, bars or cafés.

For example, a Spotify application could link specific coins to playlists or songs. Artists could use this to release new songs or albums, even.
GOOD NEWS IS COMING

Wishy
the whising well 2.0

Since the connected coins can be charged with a message, they have a natural place in superstition and religion. A connected coin could easily be used as a vessel for carrying wishes and prayers. As such, they could come to replace the wooden plaques (Ema) in Shintoism or carry the wishes into the wishing wells.

1. Upload wish to connected coin.
2. Drop connected coin into the well: If the coin lands heads up, the wish will be granted. Lucky, you! If not, the wish is ignored. Too bad.

Wishes like this can also be used in art installations, where the wishes on the connected coins thrown into the wishing well are displayed on a screen.
The connected coins can be linked to special offers. Some could be charged with a one time free coffee at your favorite Coffee House. Another interesting special offer would take the rotation of coins in mind and could say something like “the eighth time this coin is used in this store, you get a discount”.

1. Open the coffee house proprietary app.

2. Scan your coins and see if you have a free voucher!
ONE IN A MILLION

Connected coins can also be used as lottery tickets. This misuse is interesting, since you would buy a small amount of money for a larger amount of money.

1. Purchase and pick a random coin.
2. Cross your fingers and hope for the best!
3. Scan the coin and check the result!
PROFILE COIN

Connected coins can be used as business cards or identifiers, linking the user to different pages when scanned. A connected coin could for example link the user to a specific website, a LinkedIn profile or a profile on a dating site.
A connected coin could easily replace the need the business card. And then your CV could spread around.

1. An app can be used to upload profiles and scan random coins.

2. The coin is linked to your profile, so everyone can get to know you. Good bye, old boring business card!
#DID YOU KNOW?
Being ubiquitous and expendable, coins can be associated with a variety of objects to create new interesting uses. A connected coin can bring novelty and be creatively associated with other objects.

**CONNECTED COIN + ICECREAM**
Ice Cream is better when shared (Mataruga and Gustafsson, 2017). And using a designed application, one could make such experience even better.

A) CHARGE COIN WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE ICE CREAM YOU ARE EATING.

B) USE THE COIN TO PAY SOMETHING.

C) SHARE THE JOY WITH A STRANGER (THE NEXT PERSON IN POSSESSION OF THE COIN).
CONNECTED COIN + CRYPTOGRAPHIC BOOK

With the Cryptographic Book app, a connected coin could easily be used as a carrier of a hidden message. A fun and intriguing way of sending and leaving secret messages for the young Sherlocks’ out there.

A) WRITE A MESSAGE WITH THE CRYPTOGRAPHIC BOOK APP.

B) CONNECT THE COIN TO THE CRYPTOGRAPHIC BOOK APP.

C) GIVE THE COIN TO A FRIEND.

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