

## Digital currency site removed from Web

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An Internet site that let users change real money for digital currency has been shut down by the USA's Department of Justice (DOJ). The site, called Liberty Reserve.com, was a place for criminals around the world to launder

money. Money laundering is when "dirty cash" from drugs, robberies, etc. is changed into "clean money" that the crime gangs can use. Criminals laundered (changed) more than \$6 billion using Liberty Reserve. Police are investigating locations in 17 countries and have taken away dozens of computers and hard disk drives. They hope these can help them find out more about how Liberty Reserve operated. The DOJ says this is the largest case of money laundering ever.

Liberty Reserve.com looked like a website for people to change dollars, euro and other currencies into digital money. Owners of other digital cash sites say this system makes it easier and cheaper to transfer money around the world. However, the DOJ says Liberty Reserve was started with the main purpose of laundering money. It says the website was designed, "to help criminals conduct illegal transactions and launder the proceeds of their crimes". It added the site was, "a financial hub of the cyber crime world" that allowed credit card theft, investment fraud, hacking, child pornography and drug trafficking. Many honest people who used Liberty Reserve are now worried they have lost their money.

Source: BBC

### Writing

Digital money and online shopping are both very dangerous. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

websites / money / currency / criminals / money laundering / investigating / disk drives / dollars / digital cash / transfer money / illegal / cyber crime / hacking / trafficking

### True / False

- A website allowed people to exchange real money for digital cash. T / F
- The website also arranged for people to do their laundry. T / F
- Over \$6 billion passed through the website. T / F
- The site was part of the second biggest money laundering case ever. T / F
- It is more expensive to transfer digital money than real money. T / F
- People first started the site to launder money. T / F
- Drug traffickers and child pornographers used the website. T / F
- Ordinary, honest people have not lost any money on the site. T / F

### Synonym Match

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. let       | a. places     |
| 2. shut down | b. manage     |
| 3. locations | c. allowed    |
| 4. operated  | d. in history |
| 5. ever      | e. reason     |
| 6. money     | f. worked     |
| 7. transfer  | g. centre     |
| 8. purpose   | h. closed     |
| 9. conduct   | i. move       |
| 10. hub      | j. cash       |

### Discussion – Student A

- Which currency is the best?
- What are the good and bad things about cash?
- What are the good and bad things about credit cards?
- What are the good and bad things about online banking?
- Do you think there are many sites like Liberty Reserve?
- Will police ever stop cyber-crime?
- Which is better – credit cards or cash?
- What three adjectives best describe this news story?

## Phrase Match

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. change real money         | a. investigating        |
| 2. crime                     | b. in 17 countries      |
| 3. police are                | c. purpose              |
| 4. locations                 | d. trafficking          |
| 5. the largest case of money | e. for digital currency |
| 6. dollars, euro and         | f. transactions         |
| 7. transfer                  | g. gangs                |
| 8. the main                  | h. money                |
| 9. illegal                   | i. laundering ever      |
| 10. drug                     | j. other currencies     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you think digital currencies are a good idea?
- Do you trust your money online?
- What do you know about money laundering?
- Have you ever lost any money?
- Do you like the idea of banking online?
- What will happen to the owners of the website?
- What is the safest way to keep your money?

## Spelling

- Department of ictueJs
- arnsilcmi around the world
- money ueidgnraln
- aonscotil in 17 countries
- oesnzd of computers
- how Liberty Reserve redotpae
- refrtsan money around the world
- agelli transactions
- a ciainafln hub
- credit card tefht
- drug kiigftncfra
- jordwer they have lost their money

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. c	2. h	3. a	4. f	5. d
6. j	7. i	8. e	9. b	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Credit card theft police

You think credit card theft is the most difficult crime to investigate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crime isn't so difficult to investigate. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hacking, child pornography or drug trafficking.

### Role B – Hacking police

You think BBBB is the most difficult crime to investigate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crime isn't so difficult to investigate. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): credit card theft, child pornography or drug trafficking.

### Role C – Child pornography police

You think child pornography is the most difficult crime to investigate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crime isn't so difficult to investigate. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hacking, credit card theft or drug trafficking.

### Role D – Drug trafficking police

You think drug trafficking is the most difficult crime to investigate. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their crime isn't so difficult to investigate. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hacking, child pornography or credit card theft.

## Speaking – Cyber-crime

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- viruses
- hacking
- phishing
- spam mail
- stalking
- cyber-bullying
- identity theft
- copyright theft

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.