



# **Beyond Silk Road: Potential Risks, Threats, and Promises of Virtual Currencies**

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
Affairs United States Senate*



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Over the past almost a year, this Committee has engaged in an investigation in to the potential implications of virtual currencies. During the course of this inquiry, we've examined the problems and potential risks and threats that digital currencies pose, along with a few of the potential guarantees that some believe they can bring. At the same time, however, virtual currencies is definitely an effective tool for those seeking to launder money, for those looking to traffic illegal medicines, for all those seeking to exploit children around the world, and the list goes on. Others believe it might prove to be a next generation payment system for merchants both online and in real life. Some proponents believe that digital currencies can demonstrate important to those in developing countries without usage of stable monetary systems. It really is generated by computers, lives on the web, and can be used to get real and digital items across the world. Virtual currency can best be referred to as digital money. While virtual currencies have observed increased interest from regulators, law enforcement, investors, and entrepreneurs in recent months, there are still many unanswered queries and unresolved issues.



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