

On behalf of the Claimant  
Witness: Wilcox-O'Hearn  
Exhibits: Z-1 to Z-3  
July 2023

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS OF**  
**ENGLAND & WALES**  
**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LIST (ChD)**

**Claim No: IL-2021-000019**

B E T W E E N :

(1) CRYPTO OPEN PATENT ALLIANCE

**Claimant**

-and-

(1) DR CRAIG STEVEN WRIGHT

**Defendant**

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WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
ZOOKO WILCOX-O'HEARN

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I, Bryce Wilcox-O'Hearn, known as **Zooko Wilcox-O'Hearn**, of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will say as follows:

1. I am computer scientist and developer in the field of cryptography and cryptocurrency. I am the CEO of the Electric Coin Company, although I do not make this statement in that capacity. This written statement has been prepared by Bird & Bird to record my own evidence and answers given to Bird & Bird during an interview, though I am informed by Bird & Bird that our exchanges are privileged. The evidence given in this statement is written in my own words as far as practicable. The facts and matters set out in this statement are within my own knowledge unless otherwise stated. Where I refer to facts within my own knowledge, I believe them to be true. Where I refer to information from other sources, those facts and matters are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I have identified my sources. On points that I understand to be important in the case, I have stated honestly (a) how well I recall matters and (b) whether my memory has been refreshed by considering documents, and if so how and when.
2. I am happy to provide what evidence I can to bring out the truth in court. But, I lack a lot of context about the story of Craig Wright: I do remember several years ago someone approached me on Twitter to ask me if I wanted to have the honor of

meeting him, and that he was someone very important in the history of Bitcoin, though I don't remember any more detail about that. At the time I said 'no thanks', as I could smell it didn't feel right, and I was pretty sure I knew of everyone who fit that description and he wasn't part of it. Since then I have seen some videos and tweets about him and know he claims to be Satoshi Nakamoto. I don't have any inside information about Satoshi's identity.

3. I was involved in cryptography for many years before the development of Bitcoin, including working on DigiCash in the 1990s. I was good friends with others like Hal Finney, Nick Szabo, Adam Back and Greg Maxwell, and we used to hang out on IRC (Internet Relay Chat) channels and chat about open source projects, cryptography, and similar things. Later on, I also met others who were involved with Bitcoin after Satoshi such as Gavin Andresen and Peter Todd, and I was active with those folks for years.
4. I first became aware of Bitcoin when it was announced by Satoshi in 2008. I remember being interested in it at the time, and one day on IRC talking to Greg and saying he should stop working on his project at that time (an open source audio codec) and start working on Bitcoin, which was much more important!
5. I can't recall any occasion when I had any private discussions with Satoshi. I don't have records and may not remember perfectly but at most, it's possible that he might have notified me of the publication of the original Bitcoin white paper. I don't think he even did that.
6. On 26 January 2009, I wrote a post on my blog "Zooko's Hack Log" with the title "Decentralized Money" which mentioned Bitcoin and included a link to bitcoin.org. An archived version of that blog post is at the following URL and a PDF copy of it is at **Exhibit Z-1**:

{C00002537}

<http://web.archive.org/web/20090426214618/http://testgrid.allmydata.org:3567/uri/URI:DIR2-RO:j74uhg25nwdpjpac6rkat2yhm:kav7ijeft5h7r7rxdp5bgltt3viv32yabqajkrdykozia5544jqjqa/wiki.html#%5B%5BDecentralized%20Money%5D%5D>

I am aware that Satoshi then put a link to my blog on his page at Bitcoin.org. An archived version of that is at the following URL and a PDF copy of it is at **Exhibit Z-2**:

{C00002535}

<http://web.archive.org/web/20090303195936/http://bitcoin.org:80/>

7. My blog post has been called the first blog post about Bitcoin, but although I'm the author of that in January 2009, I never actually ran and used Bitcoin then. It wasn't until years later that I first used it and generated my first Bitcoin address. I remember about the same time I started using Bitcoin, I used a matchmaking service where people traded Bitcoins and posted a review about whether their counterparty was honest, so I expect there is a public record of me transacting somewhere, though I don't have the record myself and cannot remember the date or the service name. I do remember that one of my first transactions was with druidian. That is my first memory of transacting Bitcoin.
8. I have been asked whether Satoshi Nakamoto transferred Bitcoins to me in 2009-2011. He did not transfer any bitcoin to me at any time. As I have explained above, he could not have done because I didn't use Bitcoin until years later than it was launched.

### **Matchmaking service**

9. After I told the facts above to Bird & Bird, they later sent me a link to the following URL (a {C00002536} PDF copy of which is at **Exhibit Z-3**:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120720073415/http://bitcoin-otc.com/viewratingdetail.php?nick=zooko&sign=ANY&type=SENT>

I recognised this as the matchmaking service I referred to before at paragraph 8 above, specifically a record of reviews of transactions made via the #bitcoin-OTC IRC channel matchmaking service. The transaction with druidian ("I}ruid") was on July 2012 and the earliest transaction was May 2012, so I believe that May 2012 is around (shortly after) the time I first started using Bitcoin, as I also mentioned at paragraph 8 above.

I have not referred to or been referred to any documents for the purposes of giving my evidence other than the documents exhibited here.

### **Declaration**

I understand that the purpose of this witness statement is to set out matters of fact of which I have personal knowledge. I understand that it is not my function to argue the case, either generally or on particular points, or to take the court through the documents in the case. This witness statement sets out only my personal knowledge and recollection, in my own words.

On points that I understand to be important in the case, I have stated honestly (a) how well I recall matters and (b) whether my memory has been refreshed by considering documents, if so how and when.

I have not been asked or encouraged by anyone to include in this statement anything that is not my own account, to the best of my ability and recollection, of events I witnessed or matters of which I have personal knowledge. I believe the facts stated in this statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

DocuSigned by:  
*Ezeko Wilcox-O'Hearn*  
BA947A35C1D54E6...

**Signed:** .....

11/7/2023

**Date:** .....