

2023 WICPA BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SPRING CONFERENCE

YOUR SOURCE FOR KEY UPDATES & INSIGHTS ON TIMELY ISSUES

HIGHLIGHTED TOPICS:



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: MAKING SENSE OUT OF CONFLICTING SIGNALS

Find out how the U.S. and Wisconsin economies simultaneously demonstrate continuing strength and emerging weakness, along with the outlook for 2023 and 2024



ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS

Get insights on frequently overlooked ethical implications a forensic investigator must consider and be aware of



BLOCKCHAIN & CRYPTOASSET BUSINESS TRENDS

Learn about trends driving the blockchain and cryptoasset sectors beyond simply discussing the audit and tax implications of these tools

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 | BROOKFIELD CONFERENCE CENTER & WICPA CPE LIVESTREAM

2023 WICPA BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SPRING CONFERENCE

MATERIALS AT A GLANCE

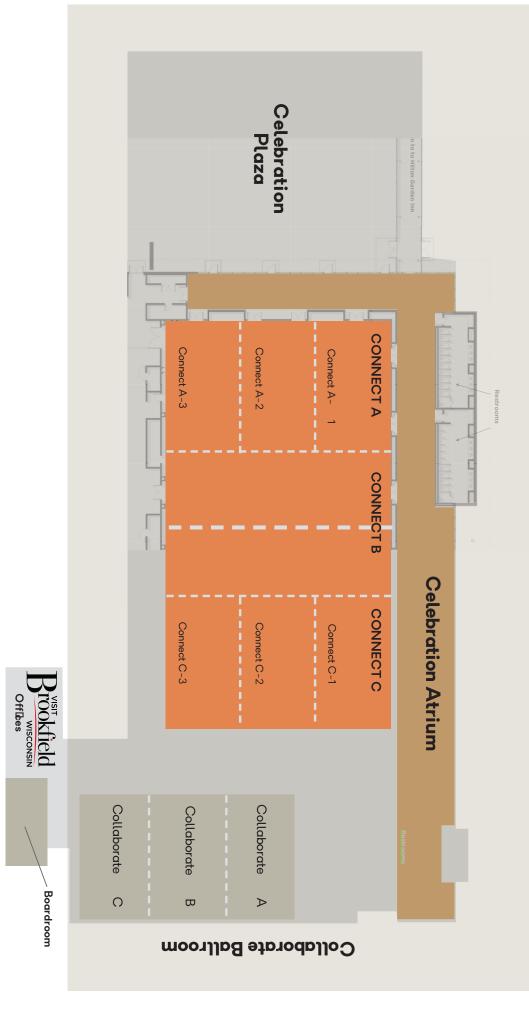
The following materials are from the afternoon sessions of the 2023 WICPA Business & Industry Spring Conference held on Tuesday, March 21, including:

- Blockchain & Cryptoasset Business Trends: What Practitioners Need to Know
- How to Get the Most Money From Your Social Security & Pension
- Ethical Implications of Forensic Investigations

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** Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Average Hourly and Weekly Earnings." 06 Jan. 2023.

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^{*} PwC. "2022 PwC Employee Financial Wellness Survey." May 2022.



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12:55 – 1:55 p.m.

Blockchain & Cryptoasset Business Trends: What Practitioners Need to Know

Dr. Sean Stein Smith, DBA, CPA, CMA, CFE, CGMA, Assistant Professor, City University of New York - Lehman College

Cryptocurrency in Business

Presented to the Wisconsin Institute of CPAs March 21st, 2023

About me

- Dr. Sean Stein Smith, CPA, CMA, CGMA, CFE
- Assistant Professor, Lehman College, City University of New York
- ► Forbes Contributor Crypto & Blockchain
- AICPA Outstanding CPA of the Year (2022)
- Accounting Today Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting
- E.C. Harwood Visiting Research Follow American Institute of Economic Research
- Board of Advisors Wall Street Blockchain Alliance (WSBA)
- Chair, Accounting Working Group, WSBA
- Advisory Board Member Gilded "Crypto Accounting Made Simple"
- Strategic Advisor Crescent City Capital
- 40 under 40 in Accounting (2017-2022)
- NJCPA Trustee (2022-2025 FY)

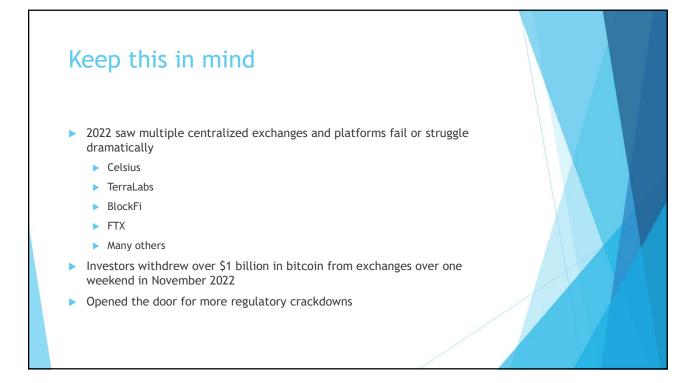
Agenda

- So what are we talking about here?
- Quick market/GAAP update
- > Discover practical applications for cryptocurrency and other digital assets
- Learn how to set up a cryptocurrency payment system
- Discuss common FAQs to ask clients

Off the top

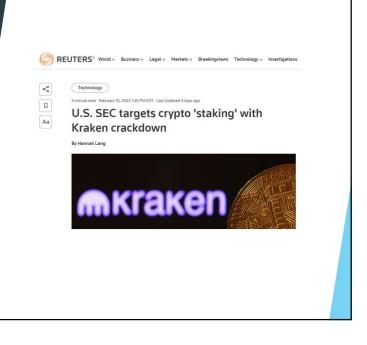
- Is crypto just a Ponzi scheme?
- Will crypto be outlawed?
- Are blockchains going extinct?
- What will happen to crypto investors?
- Will Sean have material to talk about in 2024?

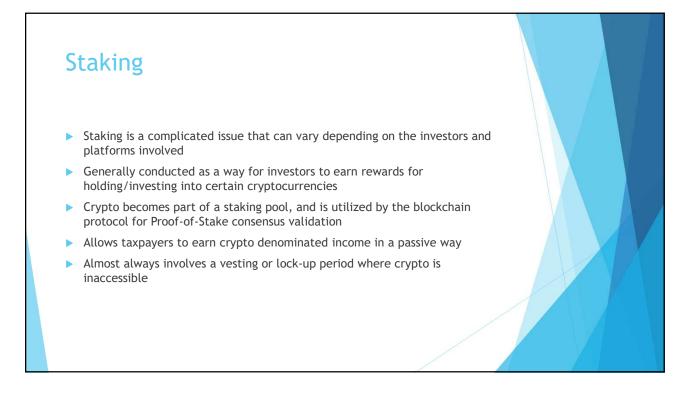




SEC Crackdown -Kraken

- In February 2023 the SEC reached a settlement with Kraken around the staking-asa-service offering for U.S. investors
- \$30 million fine
- Shuttering of all non-ETH staking services
- No new ETH staking allowed
- Not allowed to offer staking services to U.S. investors at this time
- https://www.reuters.com/technology/cryptoexchange-kraken-shut-down-staking-servicepay-30-mln-settlement-with-us-2023-02-09/#:-:text=Crypto%20exchange%20Kraken%2 0agreed%20to,for%20platforms%20with%20simi lar%20offerings.







TECH

SEC crackdown -Paxos

- In February 2023 the SEC issued a Wells Notice to Paxos
- Immediately after this, the New York Department of Financial Services (NYDFS) issued an order to Paxos to stop minting (creating) the BUSD stablecoin
- Paxos widely regarded as a good actor in the space
- Had worked with regulators for years
- Holds reserve assets in "bankruptcy remote" accounts
 - Even if Paxos goes bankrupt these funds are legally and operationally separate
- https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/13/pa xos-ordered-to-cease-minting-binancestablecoin-by-new-york-regulator.html

Crypto firm Paxos to face SEC charges, ordered to stop minting Binance stablecoin

Rohan Goswami share 🛉 🎽 in 🖼





- Blackrock and Coinbase have agreed to offer a jointly managed platform to allow institutions access to crypto trading and custodial services
- JP Morgan is expanding its enterprise blockchain, Onyx, and completed it's first ever decentralized finance transaction in Q4 2022
 - Polygon blockchain
- About 1 billion people used crypto in 2022
- About 320 daily users worldwide
- But there is more....

Positive blockchain/crypto headlines, cont.

- Blockchain SIM card is under development
- https://cointelegraph.com/news/conflux-partners-with-china-telecom-todevelop-blockchain-sim-card
- Siemens issued Euro bond on a blockchain
- https://www.coindesk.com/business/2023/02/14/siemens-issues-blockchainbased-euro-denominated-bond-on-polygon-blockchain/
- Avalanche blockchain had 1,500% increase in volume in 2022
- https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2023/02/14/avalanche-blockchain-saw-1500transactional-growth-in-2022-nansen/
- Blockchain for auto supply chains is on the rise
- https://cointelegraph.com/press-releases/blockchain-technology-revolutionizesautomotive-industry-with-armoring-products-leading-the-way



How is BTC different from fiat?

Bitcoin

- Fixed supply (21 million)
- Requires investment to create new units
- Not issued by a government or central oversight authority
- Borderless
- Cryptographically secured

USD

- Unlimited supply (printer go brrr)
- No investment required to increase supply
- Controlled entirely by central government or central bank
- Linked to specific nation-state
- No inherent security

Different cryptoassets (more than bitcoin)

Crypto-classes

- Decentralized cryptocurrencies
 - Bitcoin
- Semi-centralized cryptocurrencies
 - Stablecoins
- Centralized cryptocurrencies
 - Central bank digital currencies

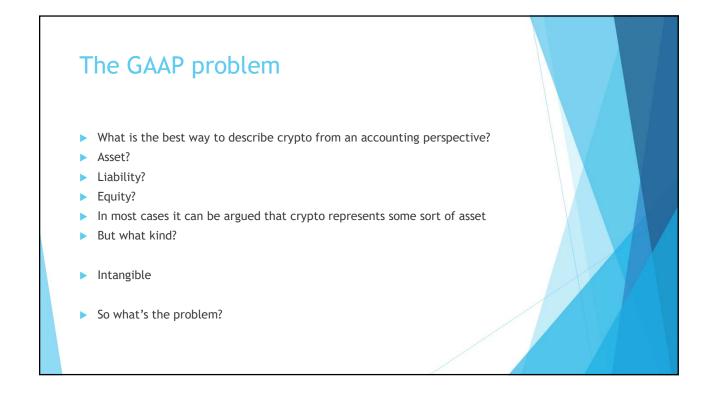
Applications

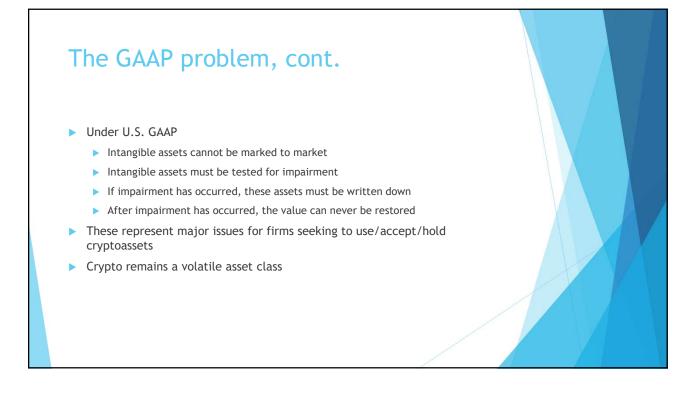
- Smart contracts
 - Enable blockchains to talk to other technology
- Decentralized autonomous organizations
 - Organization governed by smart contracts
- DeFi
 - Banking without the banks

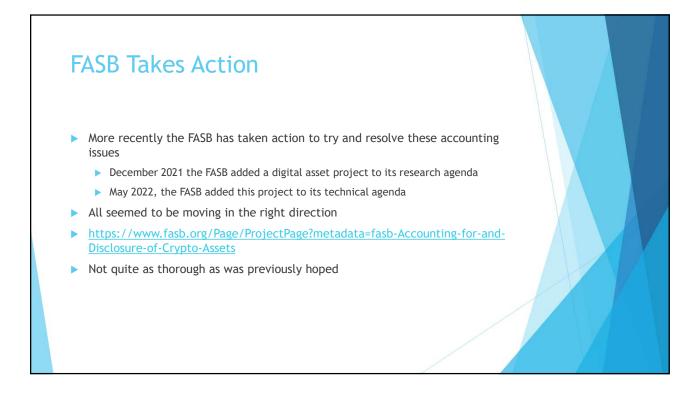


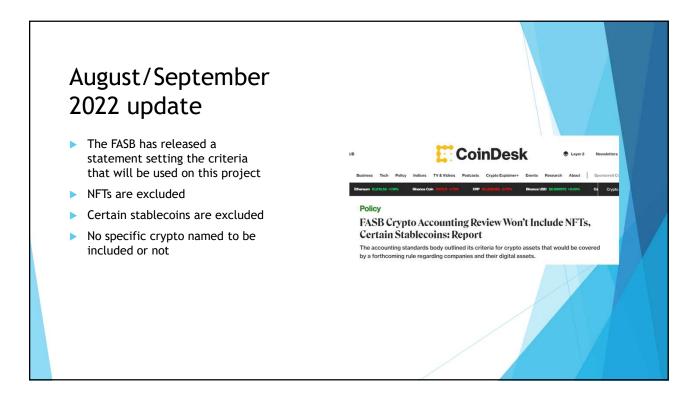
U.S. GAAP Primer

- U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles are the rules that U.S. publicly traded firms must follow
 - ▶ U.S. domiciled and foreign firms trading on U.S. markets
- Determines how assets, liabilities, and equity instruments are reported on financial statement and for external financial reporting purposes
- ► The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) is the group that writes, reviews, and codifies GAAP standards
- Up until 2021-2022, the FASB refused to consider crypto accounting rules at all









Good news! October 2022

- FASB announced that certain cryptoassets, including bitcoin and ether, can be accounted for a fairmarket-value
- Still has to proceed through the rulemaking process
- GREAT first step toward establishing crypto-specific accounting guidance
- https://www.coindesk.com/business/2 022/10/13/fasb-mulls-fair-valueaccounting-for-crypto-holdings-report/



More good news -February 2023

- On February 2023 the FASB announced a 75 day comment period before a vote on a proposal around crypto accounting on balance sheets
- First crypto-specific GAAP standard
- Comment period closed end by end of March
- Final standard aimed to be issued by end of 2023
- Aims to get more fair value accounting codified
- https://tax.thomsonreuters.com/news/fasbcrypto-proposal-coming-by-end-of-marchamid-small-sector-rebound-from-lows/

THOMSON REUTERS TAX & ACCOUNTING

Our solutions

FASB

FASB Crypto Proposal Coming by End of March amid Slight Sector Rebound from Lows

Denise Lugo Editor, Accounting and Compliance Alert

February 3, 2023

What are some use cases?

Besides investing and speculating

Forbes Blockchain 50 - 2023

- Great place to start looking at real world use cases of blockchain
- https://www.forbes.com/sites/n inabambysheva/2023/02/07/forb es-blockchain-50-2023/?sh=521387a6319d



Crypto's Magnificent 7

- Only seven (7) firms have made the Forbes 50 Blockchain list all years since its inception (2018)
- > Primarily financial services firms
- But what are some other use cases for blockchain/crypto?

Magnificent Seven

Only seven companies have made our list all four years.

COMPANY	HQ	INDUSTRY	PROJECT(S)
Ant Group	China	Finance - Payments	Trusple, 30 DLT apps
Coinbase	US	Finance - Exchange	Crypto exchange, Coinbase Cloud
J.P. Morgan	US	Finance - Banking	Onyx Digital Assets network
Samsung	Korea	Technology - Hardware	Small business loan platform
Signature Bank	US	Finance - Banking	Signet payment network
DTCC	US	Finance - Technology	Projects ION, DSM
Walmart	US	Retail	Food safety tracking
Source: Forbes			

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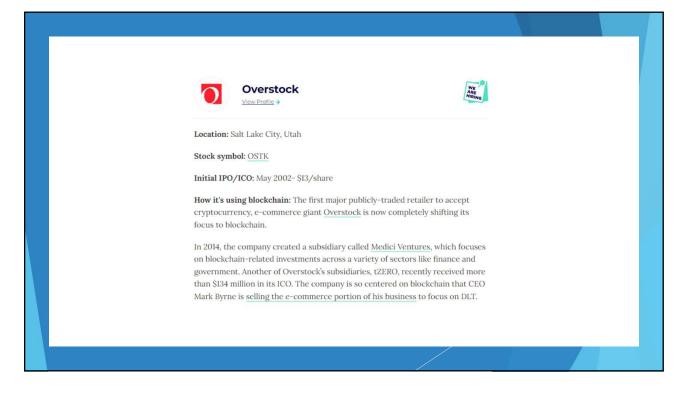


Location: Redmond, Washington

Stock symbol: MSFT

Initial IPO/ICO: March 1986- \$21/share

How it's using blockchain: Microsoft's Azure platform is helping to establish blockchain in companies across a variety of sectors. Microsoft worked with accounting firm EY and shipping giant Maersk to create the first blockchainbased marine insurance platform. The company also established DLT to solve hotel and flight booking disputes and has even used <u>Azure</u> in its own Xbox systems to efficiently pay royalties to game developers.





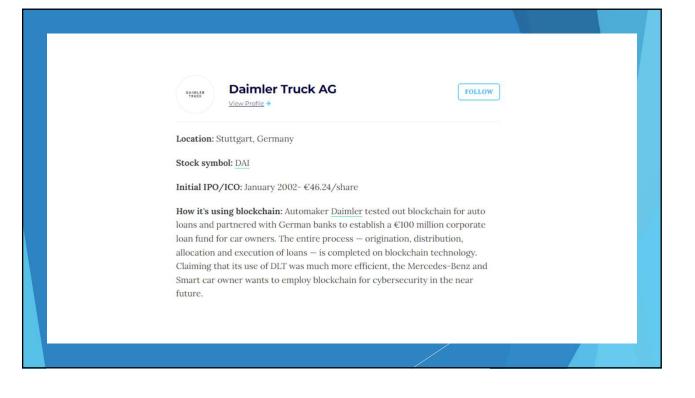


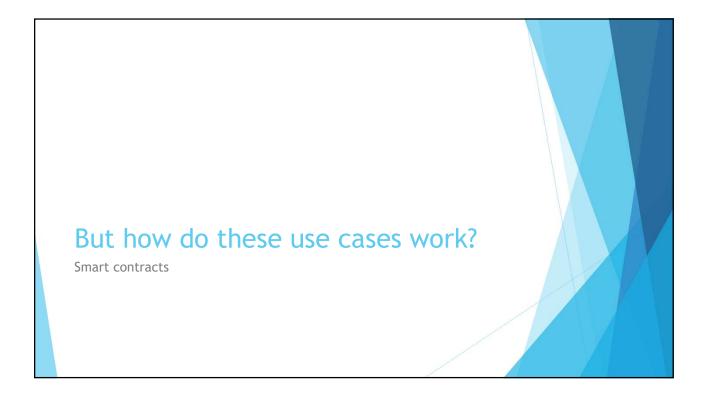
Location: Leuven, Belgium

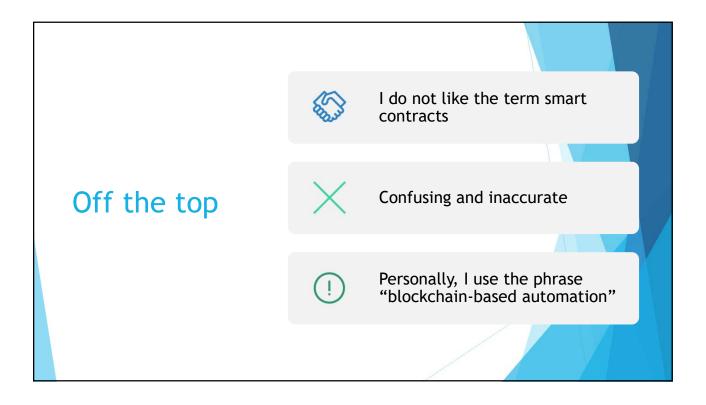
Stock symbol: BUD

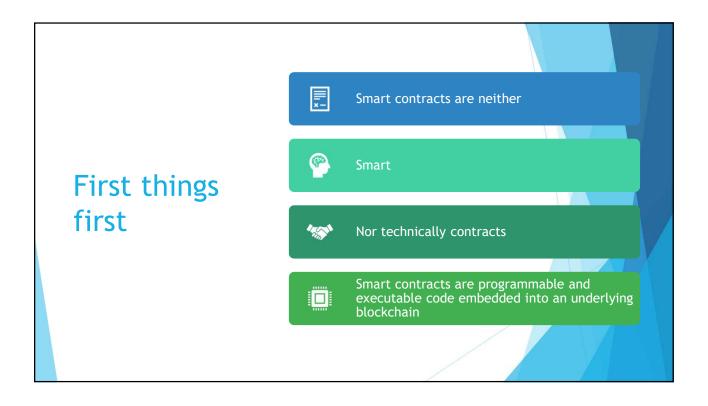
Initial IPO/ICO: July 2008 (Post-Merger)- \$38.30/share

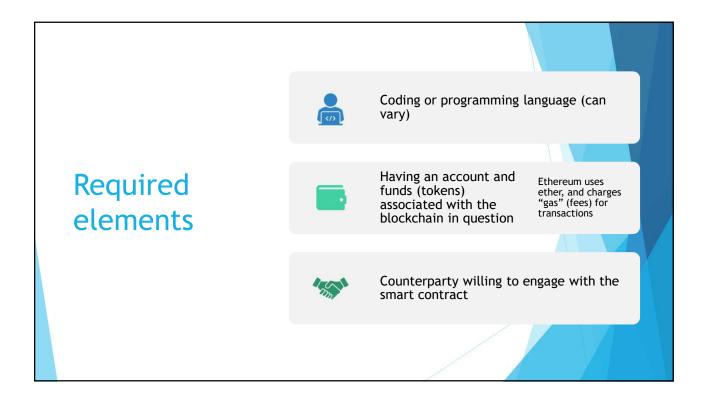
How it's using blockchain: Beer behemoth <u>AB InBev</u> is testing blockchain in its ads to see if the ledger technology culls more transparent data. The company teamed up with mobile advertising platform <u>Kiip</u> to gather real-time insights (customer impressions, engagement timestamps) on its summer ads that upload every hour into a secure database. In addition to its goal of increasing ad campaign efficiency, the beer behemoth has also been looking into the use of smart contracts for outsourcing marketing materials.

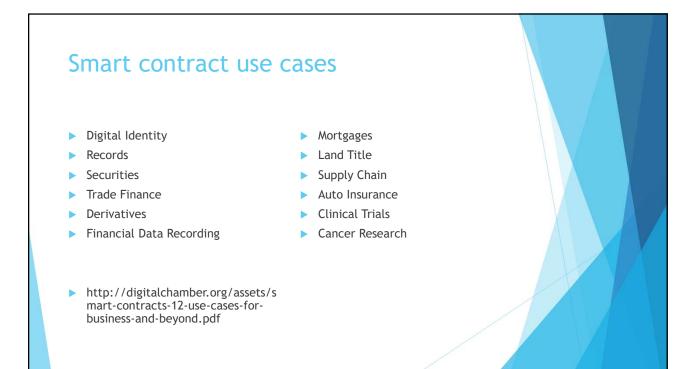


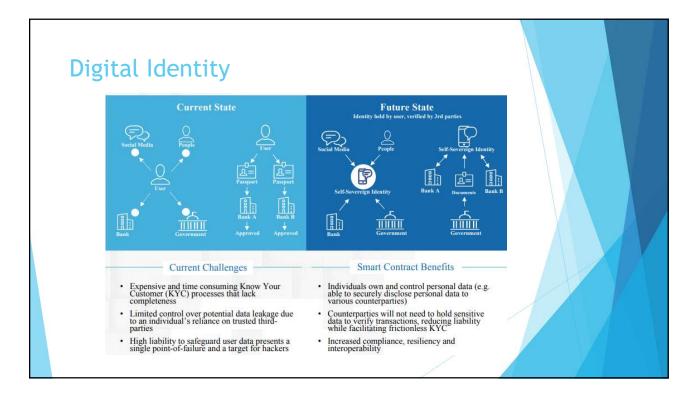


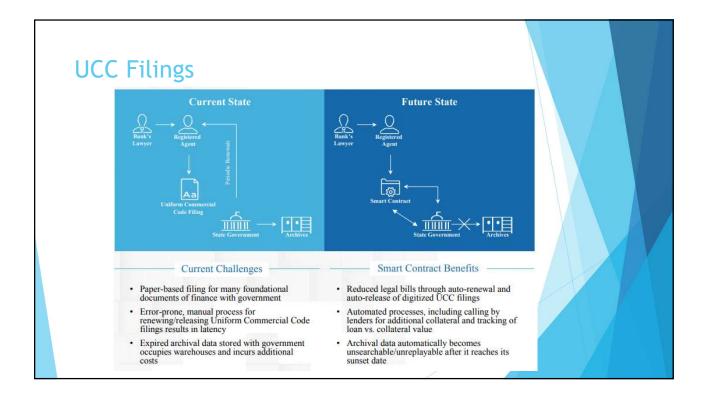


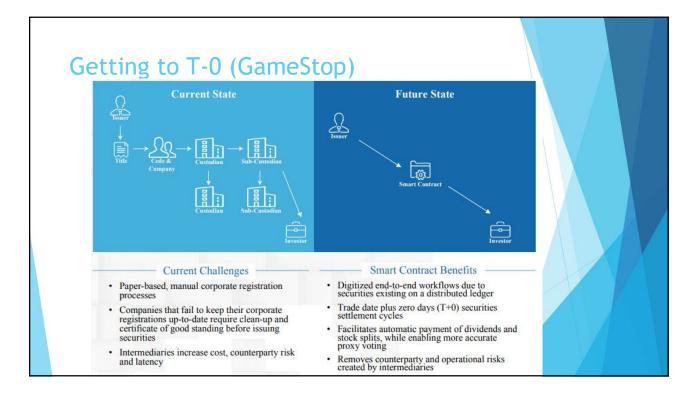


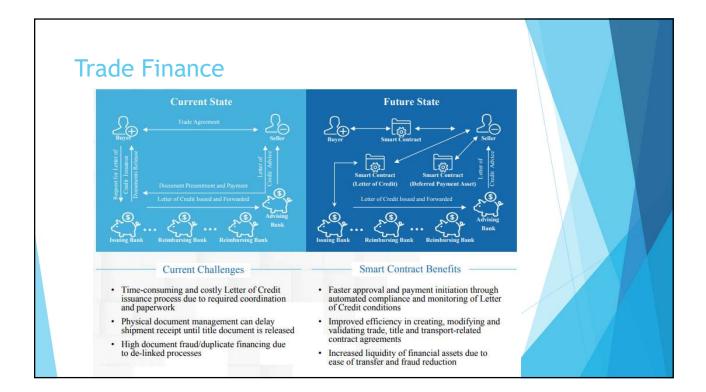


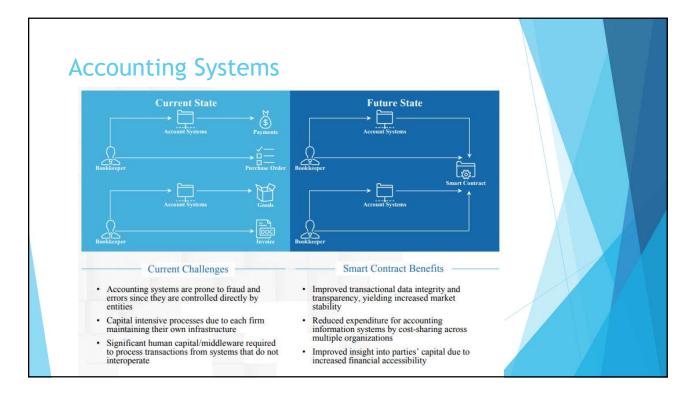


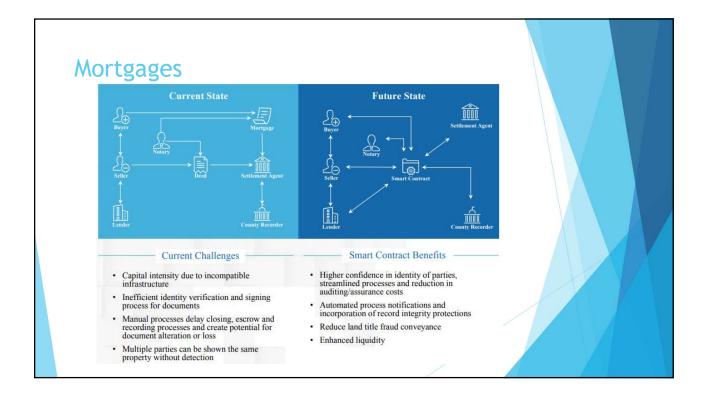




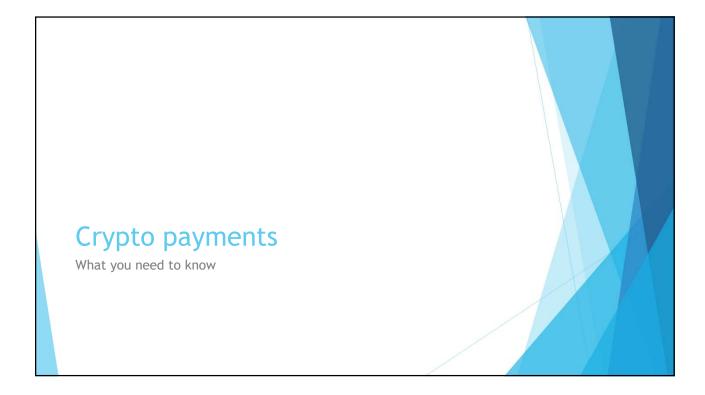




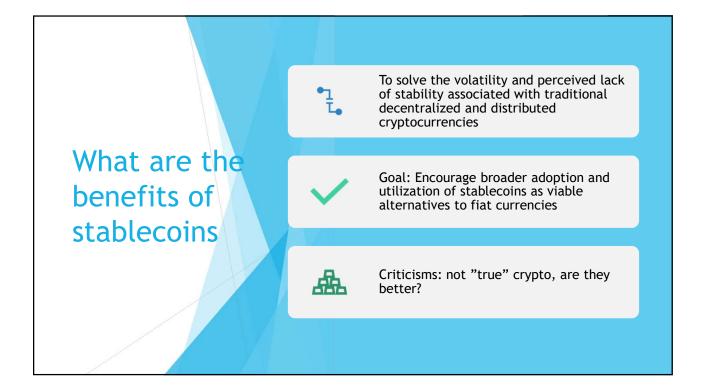








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What problems are solved

- Still early in the development of this asset class
- Several items that could be addressed include
- > 1) Reducing price volatility
- 2) Facilitating use of crypto for payment for goods/services
- 3) Increased clarity from financial reporting side
- 4) Lower tax uncertainty
- 5) Development of decentralized finance options



Benefits of using stablecoins for payments

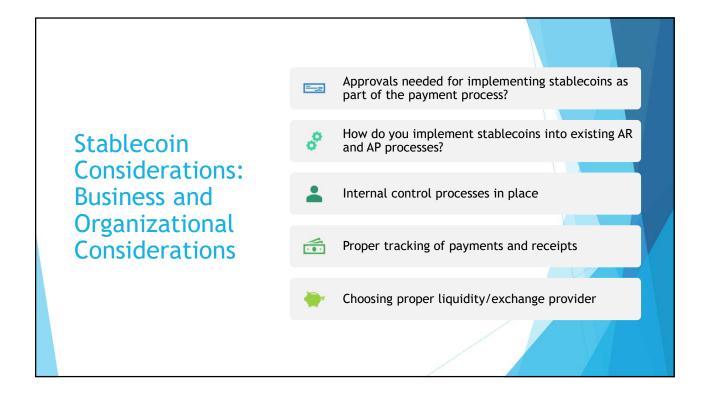
- Speed instantaneous transactions
 - Settles immediately for customer and institution on the back-end
- Cheaper fees and other transaction costs are lower than with fiat options
- Transparency and traceability
 - > 100% of transactions are recorded on an underlying blockchain



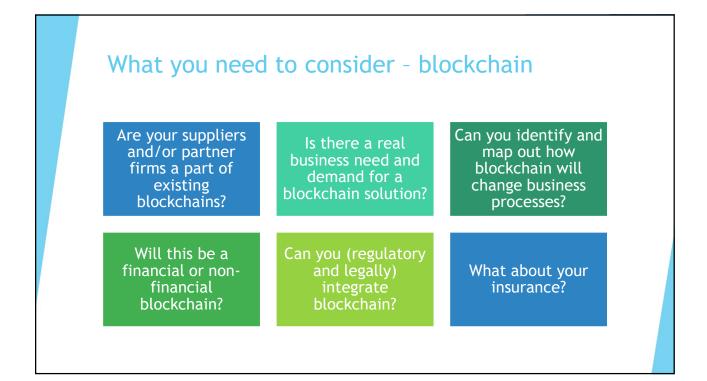
How to send a stablecoin payment

- Utilize a 3rd party wallet provider (Coinbase Metamask)
- Utilize stablecoin/crypto invoicing solution (Gilded)
- Track your stablecoin/crypto payments and sync them directly into your accounting system











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2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

How to Get the Most Money From Your Social Security & Pension

Jeremy Keil, CFP, CFA, CIMA, CLTC, ChFC, CLU, *Financial Advisor* & Owner, Keil Financial Partners



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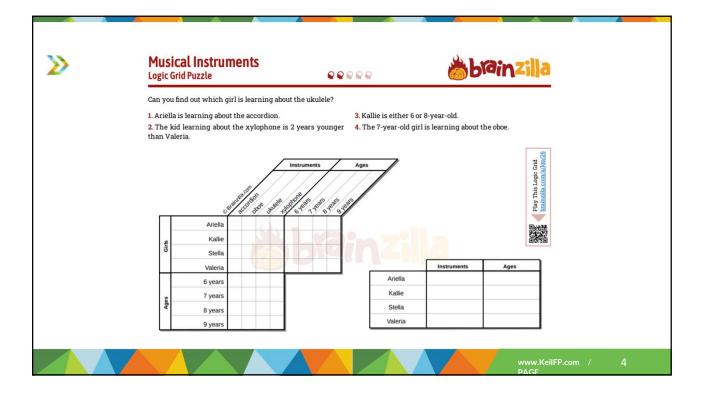
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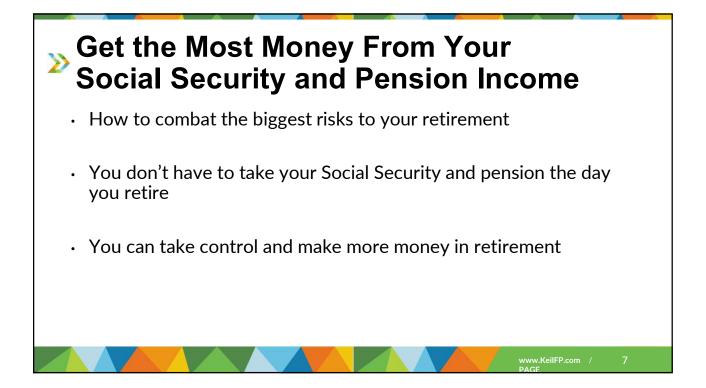
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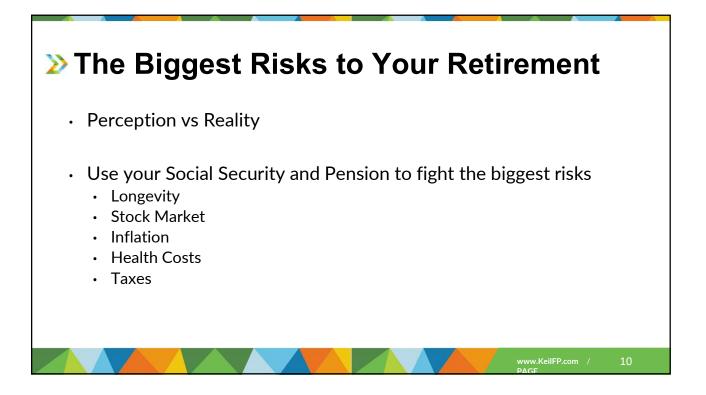


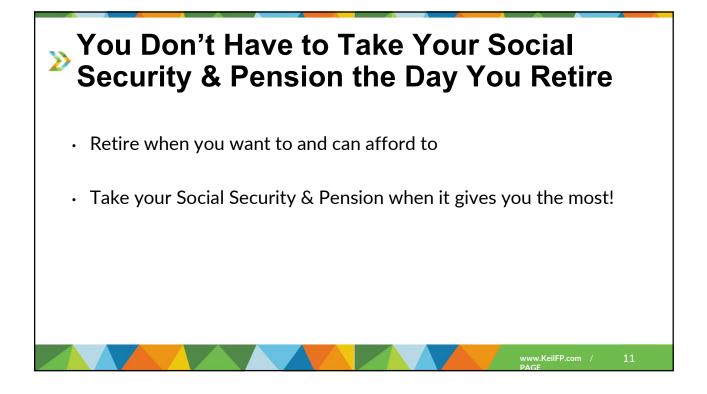


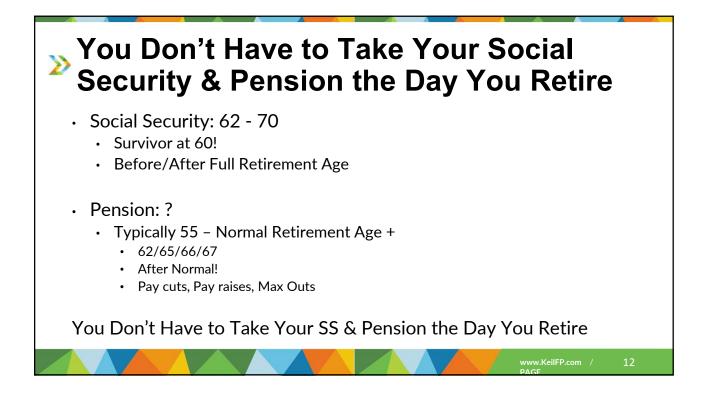




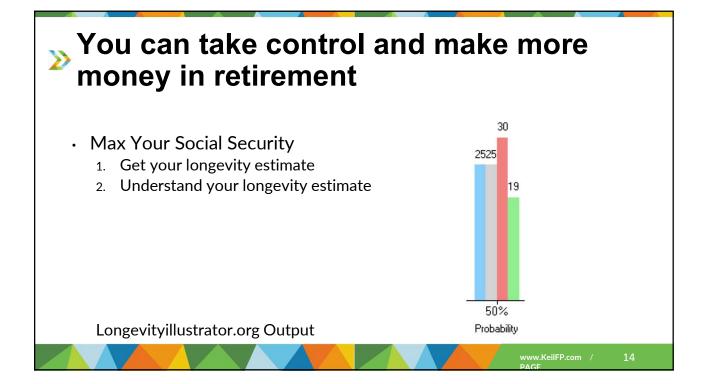


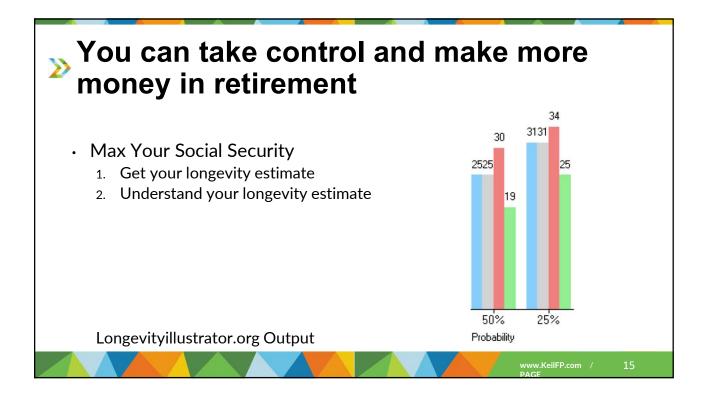


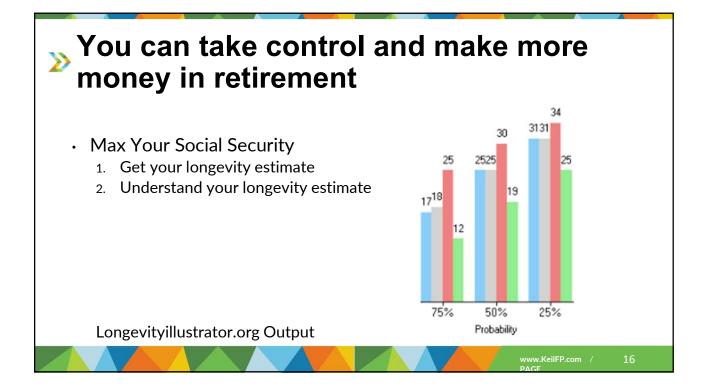


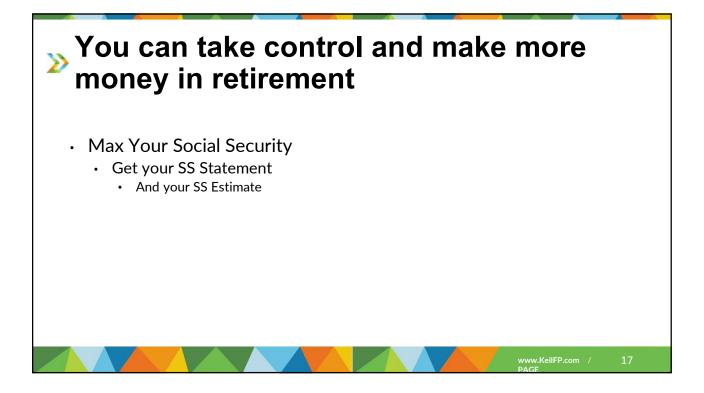


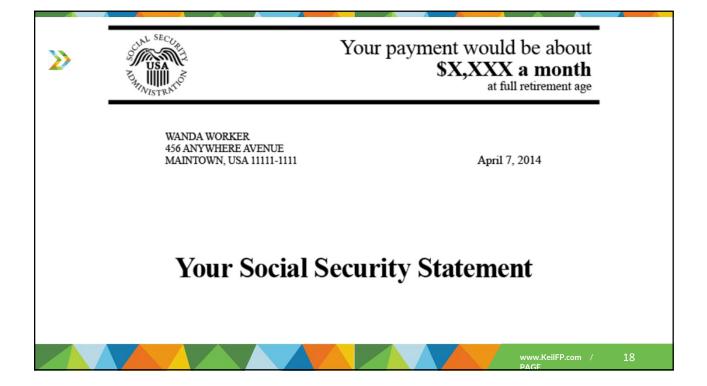


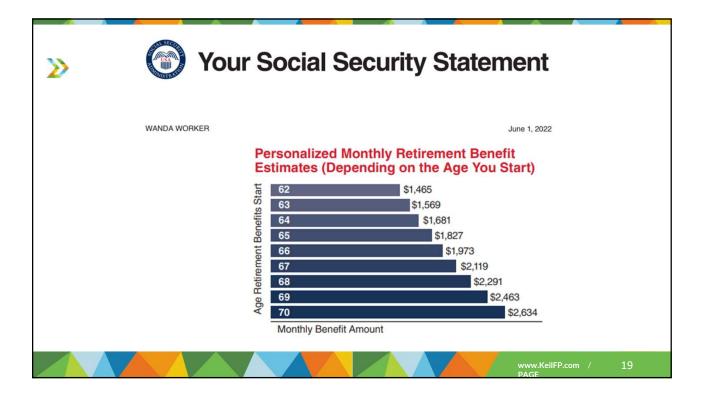








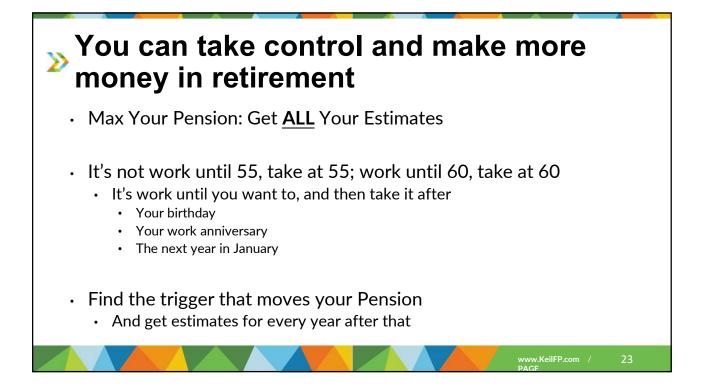


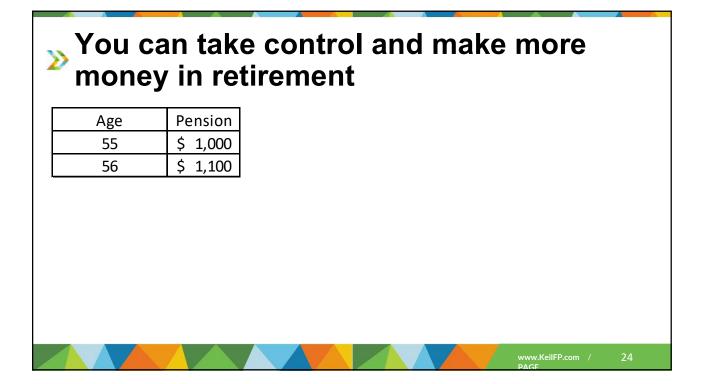


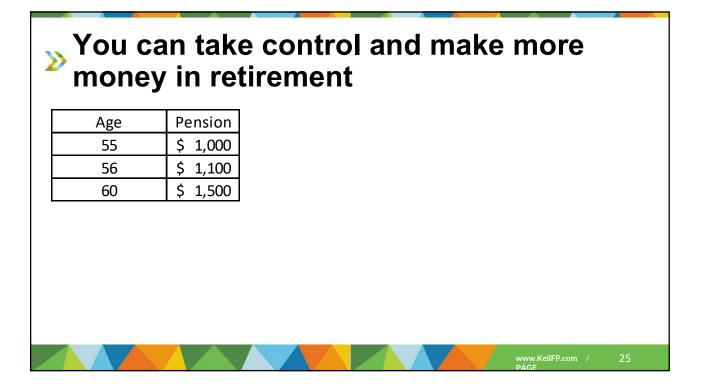












You can take control and make more money in retirement

Age	Pension	Age	Pension
55	\$ 1,000	63	\$ 1,800
56	\$ 1,100	64	\$ 1,900
57	\$ 1,200	65	\$ 2,000
58	\$ 1,300	66	\$ 2,300
59	\$ 1,400	67	\$ 2,650
60	\$ 1,500	68	\$ 3,000
61	\$ 1,600	69	\$ 3,400
62	\$ 1,700	70	\$ 3,800

You can take control and make more money in retirement

Age	Pension	Annual Growth	Age	Pension	Annual Growth
55	\$ 1,000		63	\$ 1,800	6%
56	\$ 1,100	10%	64	\$ 1,900	6%
57	\$ 1,200	9%	65	\$ 2,000	5%
58	\$ 1,300	8%	66	\$ 2,300	15%
59	\$ 1,400	8%	67	\$ 2,650	15%
60	\$ 1,500	7%	68	\$ 3,000	13%
61	\$ 1,600	7%	69	\$ 3,400	13%
62	\$ 1,700	6%	70	\$ 3,800	12%
				www.ł	KeilFP.com / 27

You can take control and make more money in retirement

- You deserve to get the most from your pension that you can
- Getting all your options will help you do that
- Next: put those options in a spreadsheet and find the pattern
- Discover when it's best to retire AND when to take your pension

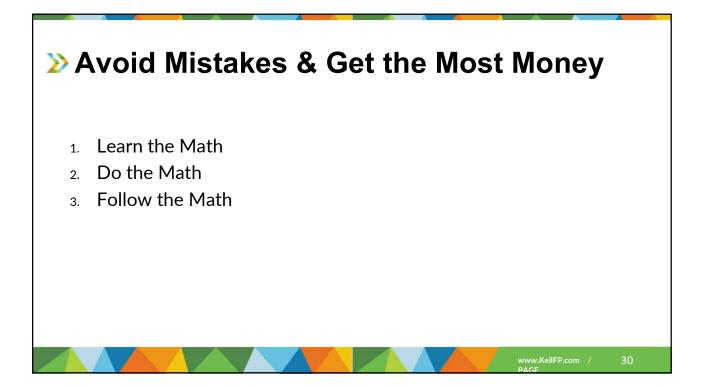
Free Retirement Plan Income Videos

- Email Talk@KeilFP.com
- Subject: WICPA Videos

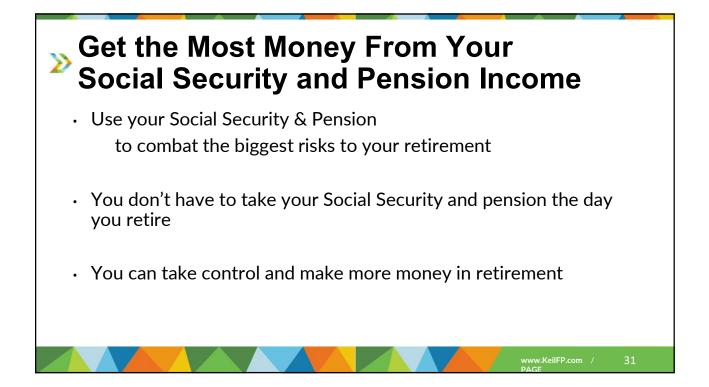
5-Step Retirement Plan Income Videos

Our 5 step retirement plan will help you if:

- ✓ If you're worried about retirement, you are far from alone!
- Sector 2 Sec
- You only retire once. We help people retire every day.



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<section-header> Free Retirement Plan Income Videos Email Talk@KeilFP.com Subject: WICPA Videos **5-Step Retirement plan videos biology of the second plan and th**

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Ethical Implications of Forensic Investigations

Marc Courey, CPA, CFF, J.D., LL.M., CFE, CCEP, CIA, Director, Forensic & Litigation Services, Wipfli LLP Discussion Question?

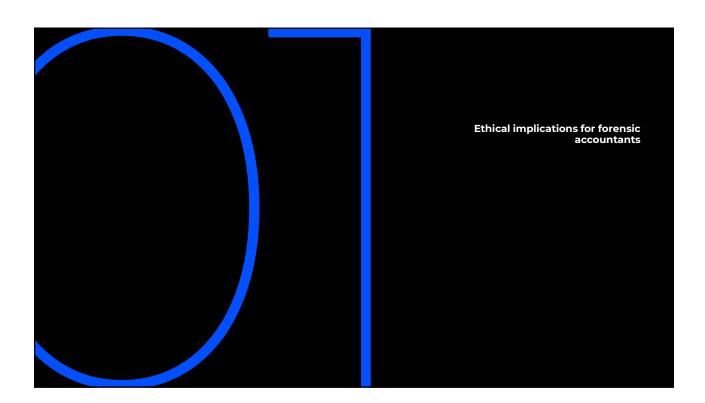
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You receive a call Tuesday afternoon from a potential client who received an anonymous tip that an employee is embezzling cash and inventory. She wants you to document the misdeeds it so they can fire the person by Friday ...

If there are, what are the ethical implications?



Agenda	Ethical implications in forensic investigations	
	Professional Standards	
	Resources	
	Ask Questions	
3		



Discussion Question

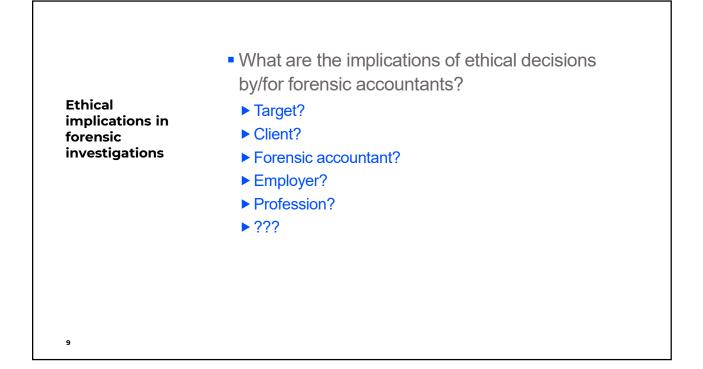
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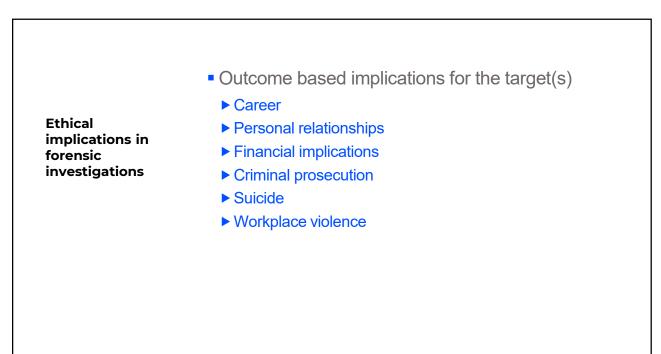
- In-house legal counsel for your firm's client (publicly held, experiencing financial issues) has requested that you complete a forensic investigation to document a \$750,000 inventory theft (precious metals).
- Internal Audit has already reported to the Board that a \$750,000 insurance recovery is expected.
- Ethical implications?

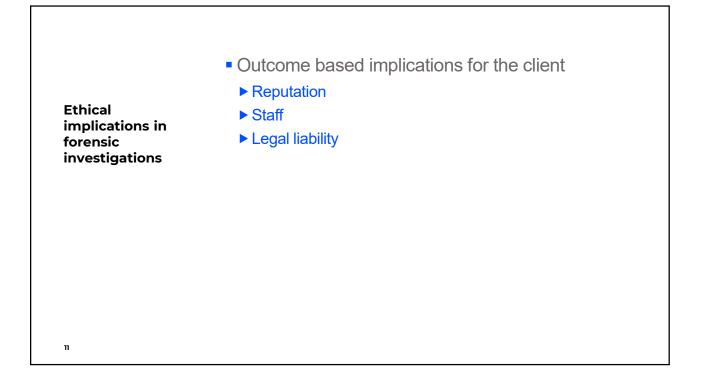
Discussion Question	 During the course of your investigation to quantify the theft, inventory and manufacturing staff cooperate fully. Your analysis of the inventory records, security, and interviews of all staff with access to the gold/silver, leave you unable to identify any indications of missing inventory.
	 You are stone-walled when working with internal audit and accounting to understand the analysis that led them to conclude there was a theft. Eventually a staff person reports the department was directed to not cooperate with your investigation. Ethical implications?
6	

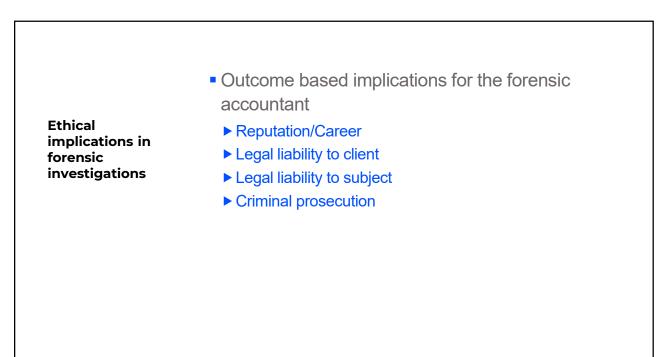
Discussion Question	 Your analysis of some of the information IA used to identify and quantify the theft – product bills of materials, job costing, etc. – identifies an apparent error understating the quantity of materials used to produce each part.
	 Your client tells you that doesn't matter and you just need to write a report using IA's conclusions.
	Ethical implications?
7	







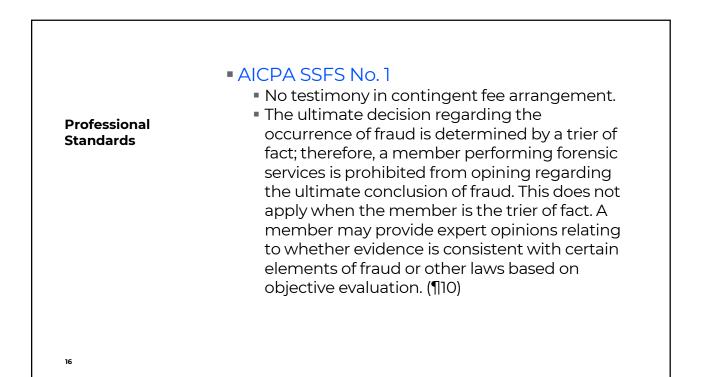




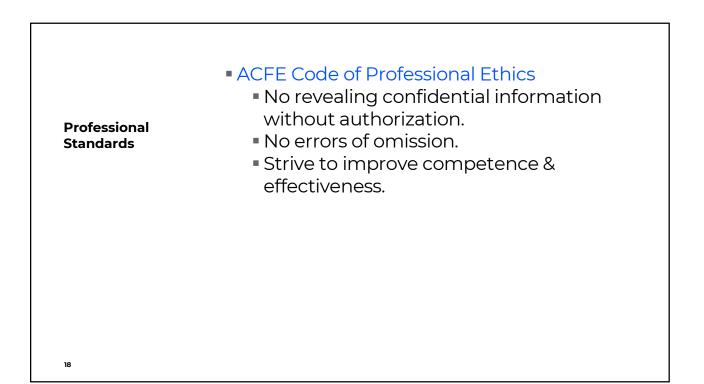
Discussion Questions	 Can you separate poor/no ethics from poor/no diligence? What if you encounter contraband?
	What if you don't review evidence?
	 What if you encounter – A threat to physically harm someone? A threat to kill someone? A death threat to a member of your team?
13	



Understanding and communication with client.
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Professional Standards	 ACFE Code of Professional Ethics Professionalism & diligence. No illegal or unethical conduct or undisclosed conflict of interest. Highest level of integrity & reasonable expectation of completing with professional competence. Comply with lawful court orders, testify truthfully without bias/prejudice. Obtain evidence to establish a reasonable basis for opinion. "No opinion shall be expressed regarding the guilt or innocence of person/party."
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Ethical
Foundations

 You're investigating an employee's actions at your client (the employer). Can you follow and surveil them at home, or on vacation, to find evidence of wrongdoing?

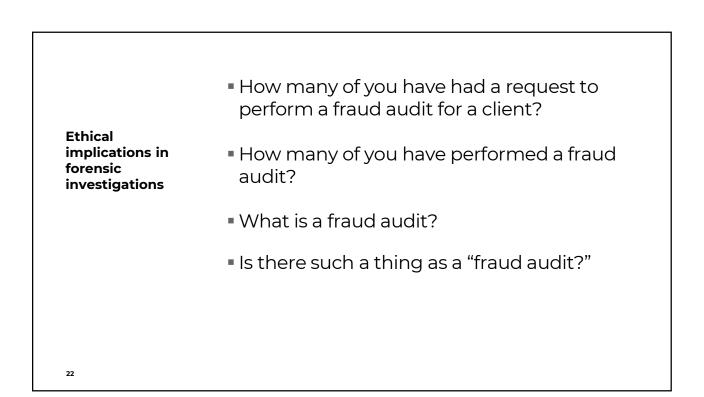
In some jurisdictions you may need a private detective/investigator license to perform this, or similar activities as part of your investigation.

WI Statute § 440.26 Private detectives, investigators and security personnel; licenses and permits

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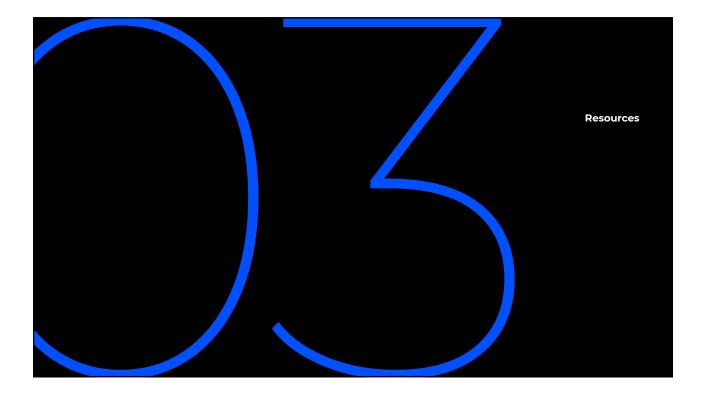
Professional Standards	2. A person engaged for compensation or other consideration on behalf of another, in investigating or otherwise obtaining or furnishing information relating to any of the following:
SPS 30.02 Private Detective and Agency Definitions 30.02(12)(a)2 "Private Detective"	 b. The identity, conduct, business, honesty, activity, movement, whereabouts, affiliations, associations, transactions, acts, reputation or character of any person, if such information is obtained in secret, without the knowledge of the person being observed. c. The location, disposition or recovery of lost or stolen property. d. The cause or responsibility for fires, libels, losses, accidents, damage, injury or death. e. Securing evidence to be used before any court, public board, officer, or investigating committee.

Real Life Example	 After an investigation, a clerk earning \$400 per check at a grocery store is fired and a police report is made regarding her theft of cash/gift cards. Criminal charges are filed, and she is prosecuted.
21	 At trial, the investigation is shot down in flames, not only is she acquitted, but she sues employer for "botched" investigation and awarded >\$400,000 in damages.



	 When attempting to withdraw funds from his bank account, the owner is informed there are insufficient funds due to a recent withdrawal at another branch.
Real Life Example	 You are engaged, promptly investigate, and you prepare a written report concluding that the earlier withdrawal was fraudulent.
	 Based on your report, law enforcement locates and arrests the individual who earlier withdrew the funds.
	 After being jailed for seven days, law enforcement concludes the individual jailed is the rightful owner of the account.
	 Had you simply looked at the surveillance video you would have discovered that the reported owner wasn't the same race as the owner of the account.
23	





Resources	Organization	Websites
	Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	www.acfe.com
	American Institute of Certified Public Accountants – Forensic and Valuation Services	www.fvs.aicpa.org
	The Institute of Internal Auditors	www.theiia.org
	Open Compliance and Ethics Group	www.oceg.org
	International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators	www.iafci.org
	Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics	www.corporatecompliance.org
	Transparency International (Corruption Perception Index)	www.transparency.org

Resources	Organization	Websites
	The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO)	www.coso.org
	Chartered Institute of Management Accountants	www.cimaglobal.com
	ASIS International	www.asisonline.org
	The Serious Fraud Office (UK)	www.sfo.gov.uk
	Information Systems Audit and Control Association	www.isaca.org
	U. S. Department of Justice	www.usdoj.gov
	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission	www.sec.gov

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Contact information

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