



Governments Begin Testing Cryptocurrencies As Cash Use Plummet

The globalist drive to remove cash from society is aided by the rise and acceptance of cryptocurrencies throughout the world. The ultimate touchstone for digital currency will be energy, which is the ultimate controller of economic activity. □ TN Editor

Riksbank, Sweden's central bank, is taking a serious look at Bitcoin. As cash use plummets and the amount of currency in circulation dwindles, central banks are looking to cryptocurrencies as government-backed money.

In Sweden, [the number of banknotes and coins in circulation has fallen to its lowest level in three decades](#). Riksbank estimates that cash transactions made up only 15 percent of all retail transactions last year. That number is down from 40 percent in 2010, thanks in large part to

massively popular mobile payment services. That leaves the bank wondering if a technology similar to that of Bitcoin's could be implemented in Sweden.

Riksbank isn't the only central bank taking a serious look at blockchain, the technology that makes Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies run. These systems, also called distributed ledgers, rely on networks of computers, rather than a central authority like a bank, to verify and record transactions on a shared, virtually incorruptible database. Government bankers across the world believe this has the potential to replace cash and make other payment systems more efficient. - [Technology Review](#)

Riksbank is investigating not only distributed-ledger technology (which it describes as unproven yet "progressing incredibly rapidly") but also traditional, centralized accounting methods for its "[e-krona](#)" (pdf) project. Many central banks are looking into this type of currency, but Sweden appears to be at the forefront of the movement.

According to [Rod Garratt, an economics professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara](#), a cryptocurrency that's available to all consumers "opens up a whole host of issues" and would pose new challenges for makers of monetary policy.

First, there's the question of who, exactly, should verify the transactions and maintain the distributed ledger. Even if that's solved, the new system would be, in a sense, too streamlined, making it easier for bank runs to occur in a moment of crisis or panic. In most current financial systems, large-scale withdrawals of funds are naturally slowed by the time it takes for a central bank to produce the paper money people are demanding. But if the currency is purely digital, no such brakes exist—a panicked citizenry could empty their accounts almost instantly, leaving an entire country's banking system all but penniless.

A new [journal article](#) (pdf) published by the Bank of International Settlements, a kind of central bank for central banks, suggests a more straightforward approach than trying to use cryptocurrency to

replace cash. In the article, Garratt and Morten Bech, a researcher at the BIS, draw an important distinction between a “retail” cryptocurrency like FedCoin and a “wholesale” one that would only be used by banks. -[Technology Review](#)

[China’s central bank has also begun](#) testing of a digital currency. Speeches and research papers from officials at [the People’s Bank of China](#) show that the bank’s strategy is to introduce the digital currency alongside China’s renminbi. But there is currently no timetable for this, and the bank seems to be proceeding cautiously.

But the main issue for governments is that they are losing their grip and control on currency. Sweden’s dwindling cash usage is increasing reliance on mobile payment systems risks marginalizing people who don’t use them or can’t access them. Those systems are also run by private companies, which means that commercial forces, rather than government policies, could end up determining how effectively the financial system serves people and the economy.

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UN Strategy To Keep Cities At The Center Of Sustainability Goals

Since most economic activity takes place in cities, Sustainable Development, aka Technocracy, will naturally focus on urban transformation. Rural populations will simply be assigned to urban centers, and treated accordingly. □ TN Editor

The 21st century presents us with two new and accelerating challenges: climate change and mass urbanization. The good news is they are connected in ways that solving for both can enhance our future and shape better lives for all. Livable cities lead to lower carbon emissions and dramatic improvements in social, economic and environmental impacts. Treating them and many of the other issues identified in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in isolation will never work; cities are the nexus of common solutions to our toughest challenges — poverty, economic development, social integration, environmental degradation, and yes, climate change.

While the UN is structured around worthy challenges — environment, water, women and poverty, to name a few — these agencies too often operate independently. The coalition created at Habitat III was a formative moment for the UN — it recognized, codified and elevated urban form to a profound, crosscutting role in the future of our global community.

The challenge is now to fulfill the vision of what's been dubbed the New Urban Agenda — to find a way to restructure UN-Habitat to become a focal organization in the effort to build better cities and ultimately better lives. The secretary general appointed me to an independent, high-level panel to evaluate the effectiveness of UN-Habitat in relation to its normative and operational work, governance structure, financial capacity and ability to work with various stakeholders across national, sub-national and local governments. At the heart of our approach were three fundamental strategies: elevate UN-Habitat, integrate its

operations across the UN, and refocus its activities.

1. Elevate UN-Habitat. To take on the seminal challenge of reshaping cities around the globe, UN-Habitat must be elevated. Its governance, activities, type of support and public identity has to expand beyond its historic practice. Instead of declining budgets and limited participation by member states, it needs interaction with and support from a much larger group; hence the recommendation to shift from a governing council of 58 to universal membership and governance by the UN General Assembly. And just like cities need support from many stakeholders, the panel saw the need for expanded participation from local governments, a broader range of stakeholder groups, and a growing array of institutions. In short, UN-Habitat's role and public profile must be transformed.

2. Help UN-Habitat work with other UN agencies. The second strategy is to make sure the UN has a proactive way of coordinating urban policies and operations across all of its agencies. One way to accomplish this is through a new "UN Urban" arm proposed last month. Much like UN Energy, UN Urban would operate as a small, efficient platform in New York to facilitate inter-agency initiatives. This entity is not meant to replace or duplicate the work of UN-Habitat, but to integrate and streamline its efforts.

3. Focus UN-Habitat efforts on systemic work. The final strategy is to shift UN-Habitat's work focus to "normative" activities that support and guide sustainable urbanism across the globe. This can take many forms: research, developing standards, identifying best practices, demonstration projects, data collection and more. Un-Habitat's current localized "operational" projects need to clearly reinforce the systemic, normative work.

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Former CIA Director Reveals Technocrat Obsession With Data

Rogue intel agencies are obsessed about collecting 'more data' because they are freaked-out about what they don't know, so says former CIA Director John Brennan. This is a purely Technocrat-mindset predicated on the "science of social engineering" that is a core tenet of Technocracy. □ TN Editor

For years, John Brennan was a walking vault for top-secret government information.

Brennan was the director of the CIA until early 2017, but he says keeping those secrets was hardly the most important part of [his job](#).

In an episode of Business Insider's podcast, "[Success! How I Did It](#)," Brennan spoke with Business Insider US editor-in-chief Alyson Shontell. Shontell asked Brennan how he dealt with the stress of knowing so much and not being able to share it with anyone.

Here's how Brennan responded:

"No, I don't know everything. Absolutely I don't know. To me, it's Socratic wisdom, which is you start to realize how much you don't know and for an intelligence officer, even for others, it's critically important to understand what it is that you know, the confidence that you attach to what you know.

*"But **most important for an intelligence officer is what you do not know**, and briefing President Obama, President Bush, and others. I'd talk to him about what it is we know, reporting our confidence in our assessments and analysis, but I always made a point of saying that we don't know this and we're unsure of this, and we may have the opportunity to learn about this, but we're not going to be able to find out about this before it happens." [emphasis added]*

Brennan said he suspects the ability to admit when you don't know something is more important today than ever before:

"One's wisdom is understanding exactly how limited one's knowledge is in this world, where there's just been an explosion in information, which is maybe more challenging now because of social media and fake news and all the stuff that's out there separating the wheat from the chaff."

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Debate Escalates As Power Of U.S. Tech Giants Grows

The tech giants (i.e., Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple) are following the same self-destructive path as the NFL, and they will pay a price for it. Governments are realizing the Technocrat threat posed to their existence and are rapidly starting to push back. □ TN Editor

With a handful of US technology giants growing more powerful and dominant, debate is intensifying on whether big tech's growth is healthy or not.

Over the past few years, Apple, Google parent Alphabet, Facebook and Amazon have become among the world's most valuable companies.

Along with stalwarts like Microsoft and rising stars like Netflix, the tech firms exercise enormous control over what people see and how they live.

Increasingly, policymakers and others have begun to consider breaking up or regulating the biggest technology companies, although imminent action appears unlikely.

While many consumers welcome innovation from the tech sector, critics have complained about the power of “gatekeepers” of information and other content.

Google holds around 90 percent of the internet search market in the United States and Europe. Facebook and Google scoop up some 60 percent of digital ad revenues and are eating up 90 percent of new ad growth in the United States.

Google’s Android and Apple’s iOS power the overwhelming majority of mobile devices. Amazon accounts for nearly half of US online sales and is expanding into new sectors.

Concentration of power

Barry Lynn, executive director of the Open Markets Institute, said three firms — Google, Facebook and Amazon — “have more power than any previous monopolies we’ve dealt with in the past century.”

“We have to be incredibly concerned about the power of Facebook, Google and Amazon,” said Lynn, who launched his research center last month after his team was ousted from the Google-funded New America Foundation.

“They have their hands on the flow of news, the flow of books and they are manipulating that flow in a conscious way to promote their interests.”

Even though the idea of taking on the tech giants appears extreme, the upheaval in US politics over the past year has brought together allies from across the spectrum worried about their concentration of economic power.

The recently formed “New Center” political alliance that includes leaders from the traditional right and left has placed “challenging big tech” on its agenda.

Bill Galston, a former White House advisor under Bill Clinton and co-founder of New Center, argued that tech monopolies are hurting wages,

entrepreneurship and could be distorting the political landscape.

“The big tech firms have almost unlimited funds they can throw into lobbying, and they have been ramping this up steeply,” Galston said. “Is that a good thing for democracy?”

Lou Kerner, partner at the investment firm Flight Ventures, said this monopoly power is more concentrated than any in recent history, and expressed concern it will “strangle innovation” and increase income inequality.

But Kerner said he opposes heavy-handed regulation or breakup of the tech giants.

“By their nature regulators move slowly and by the time they address the problems they are no longer problems,” Kerner said.

“Historically the market has been much better at addressing monopoly powers in technology.”

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Baltimore Ravens: Would You Take A DNA Test At An NFL Game?

Have the Ravens and/or the NFL gone over to the 'dark side of the force'? The company ORIG3N intends to sell your data world-wide. No, you just cannot make this kind of stuff up. Read this from their Terms and Service agreement [on their website](#):

"...you hereby waive and agree to waive (or if not waivable, agree not to assert) any rights of privacy or publicity, or any moral rights or other similar rights, with respect to Your Content. You understand and agree that you will not be paid or entitled to receive any compensation for Your Content, either now or in the future, including without limitation to the extent that Orig3n or other parties use Your Content, receive compensation from third parties for Your Content, or develop and sell products based on Your Content." □ TN Editor

Fans attending the Baltimore Ravens' home opener on Sunday will be

leaving more than empty cups, nacho tins, and possibly their team spirit when they exit M&T Bank Stadium: Guests can leave their DNA to be tested if they take part in the team's latest promotion.

In a new spin on game-day promotions, the Ravens will gift 55,000 attendees at Sunday's game against the Cleveland Browns with a free DNA test from Orig3n Inc.

While the [promotion](#), dubbed Ravens DNA Day, could give fans a brief look into their genetic makeup, it also poses several privacy questions and concerns about misleading results.

How Does The Promotion Work?

Fans entering M&T Bank Stadium will receive a Raven's-themed Orig3n DNA kit, complete with materials that exclaim "purple and black are in your genes — now find out what else is."

[The Baltimore Sun reports](#) that the kits will offer "insight into your mind, body and health." Specifically, they will test four genes, including those that determine if a person has enhanced performance in power and spirit activities, as well as a gene that can predict an increased risk of low levels of Vitamin D.



Those taking part in the test, simply swab the inside of their cheek with the provided materials, and drop the sample into bins located in the stadium.

Participants must register with the company online in order to receive their results.

"They're trying to enhance the fan experience at our home games. It's a tool for consumers to have better access to information about their bodies," Kevin Rochlitz, the Ravens' senior vice president of corporate

sales and business development, tells The Sun.

But Where's My Data?

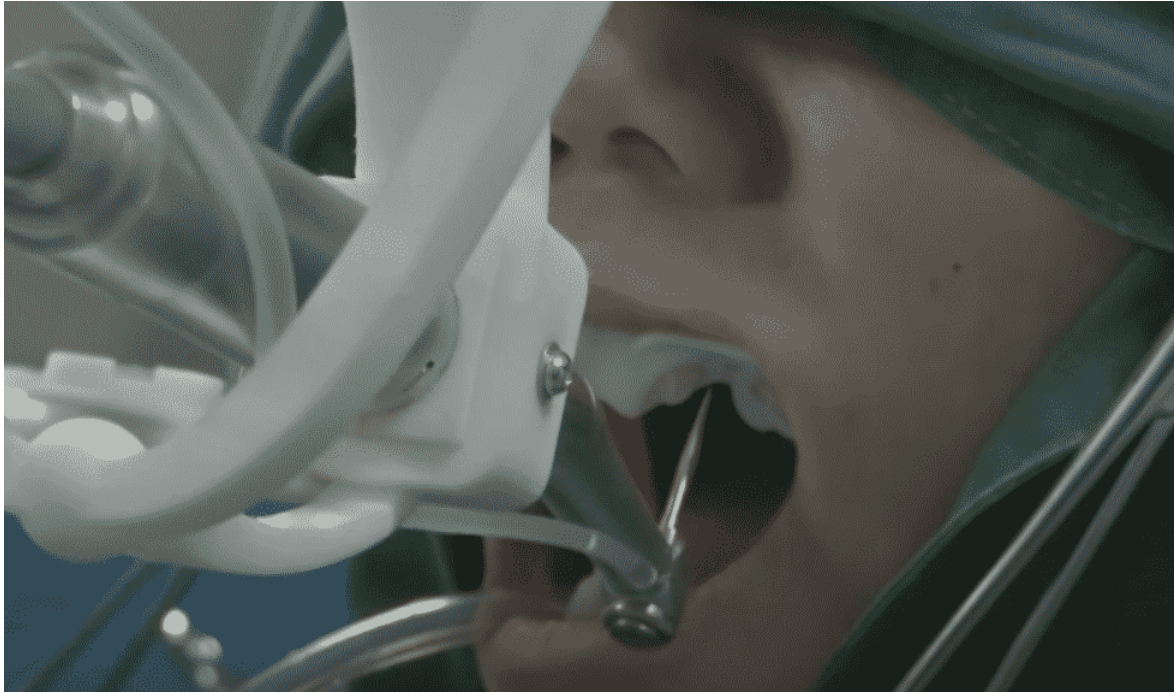
Dumping your DNA in a bin located in a very public place likely seems a bit disconcerting. Could someone take these vials? Is your personal information plastered all over the sample?

Orig3n claims to use “stringent security standards” to ensure all information is protected. [According to Orig3n](#), once the company receives a participant's DNA, scientists analysis the sample and then about four weeks later a report will be available on the company's LifeProfile app.

“All DNA test results are encrypted and sent via a smartphone app,” the company says on its website. DNA samples are attached to a barcode in the DNA Test Kit so that it is clear who the results belong to.

Orig3n [notes](#) that it collects users' names, addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, and credit card information. It may then use that information to improve customers service; respond to customer service requests; personalize user experience; and send periodic emails.

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Dental Surgery Robot Fits Implants Without Human Touch

Medical robots driven by data and AI are coming for doctors, surgeons and dentists. One day, such procedures will be totally automated and overseen only by lower-skilled technicians. Displaced doctors will not be pleased with the Universal Basic Income that they are likely to receive. □
TN Editor

A robot dentist has carried out the first successful autonomous implant surgery by fitting two new teeth into a woman's mouth, mainland media has reported.

Although there were human medical staff present during the operation, they did not play an active role while it was being carried out.

The one-hour procedure took place in Xian, Shaanxi, on Saturday, according to *Science and Technology Daily*.

The implants were fitted to within a margin of error of 0.2-0.3mm, reaching the required standard for this kind of operation, experts said.

The technology was designed to overcome mainland China's shortage of qualified dentists and frequent surgical errors.

It was developed jointly by the Fourth Military Medical University's affiliated Stomatological Hospital, based in Xian, and the robot institute at Beihang University in Beijing over the past four years.

According to Dr Zhao Yimin, the mainland's leading oral rehabilitation specialist who works at the hospital, the robot combines dentists' expertise and the benefits of technology.

It conducts the surgery by itself so it can avoid faults caused by human error.

The artificial teeth it implanted were created by 3D printing, he added.

An epidemiological survey has found there were about 400 million patients needing new teeth in China, but the number of qualified dentists was lagging behind demand.

Around one million implants are carried out across the country each year and the poor quality of the surgery that patients face can often cause further problems.

The report on the surgery pointed out that dental surgeons are working within a small space inside the mouth, including some areas that are hard to see, which often makes surgery difficult to carry out.

The use of robots could help get around that problem.

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UN Hails Establishment Of Technology Bank For World's Poorest Nations

Herein lies the great development fallacy: U.N. Technocrats believe that every global problem can be solved by applying new technology. This is utterly false. Successful economic development has always been directly related to the level of private property and ownership and access to markets. The U.N. is bent on implementing Sustainable Development, aka Technocracy. □ TN Editor

United Nations officials today hailed the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which will go a long way in addressing one of the major challenges facing the world's poorest nations.

The Bank, to be headquartered in Gebze, Turkey, also marks the achievement of the first target of the [2030 Agenda](#) for Sustainable Development, namely SDG 17.8.

“This achievement is not only highly symbolic but also of great strategic importance to the LDCs in the overall achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

There are currently 47 countries on the list of LDCs, comprising more than 880 million people (about 12 per cent of world population), but accounting for less than 2 per cent of global GDP and about 1 per cent of the global trade in goods.

“We must ensure that the LDCs are not yet again left behind,” Ms. ‘Utoikamanu told a press conference at UN Headquarters, stressing that access to technology, science and innovation are critical for this group of countries.

The establishment of the Technology Bank was a priority under the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted in 2011, which represented the vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs. Its importance was confirmed in the 2015 [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and then again in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Bank is expected to broaden the application of science, technology and innovation in the world’s poorest countries. It will improve technology-related policies, facilitate technology transfer and enhance the integration of the LDCs into the global knowledge-based economy.

It will also serve as a knowledge hub, connecting needs, resources and actors; facilitate the access of LDCs to existing technology-related projects; and foster joint initiatives with relevant organizations and the private sector.

“We strongly believe that this Bank will help fill the technology gap and it will also speed up the structural transformation in the LDCs,” said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu.

With the signing of the host country and contribution agreements, the

Turkish Government has committed to provide the Bank with \$2 million annually for five years, and also provide personnel and premises in Gebze, which is located outside of Istanbul. It is also planning to implement joint projects with the Bank.

Welcoming the signing of the agreements, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed [said](#): “We now have a collective responsibility to turn this tool into an effective mechanism for strengthening the science, technology and innovation capacities of LDCs.

“I appeal to Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations, to contribute generously to the financing of this Bank so it may reach its potential.”

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Scientists Edit DNA In Human Embryos To Study Early Development

Technocrat-minded Genetic scientists are literally playing with life itself, dooming viable human embryos to destruction in the process. This is wrong on so many levels, and is totally devoid of human ethics. □ TN Editor

British scientists have used a genome editing tool known as CRISPR/Cas9 to knock out a gene in embryos just a few days old, testing the technique's ability to decipher key gene functions in early human development.

The researchers said their experiments, using a technology that is the subject of fierce international debate because of fears that it could be used to create babies to order, will deepen understanding of the biology of early human development.

CRISPR/Cas9 can enable scientists to find and modify or replace genetic defects. Many describe it as game-changing.

"One way to find out what a gene does in the developing embryo is to see what happens when it isn't working," said Kathy Niakan, a stem cell scientist who led the research at Britain's Francis Crick Institute.

"Now we have demonstrated an efficient way of doing this, we hope that other scientists will use it to find out the roles of other genes."

She said her hope was for scientists to decipher the roles of all the key genes embryos need to develop successfully. This could then improve IVF treatments for infertile couples and also help doctors understand why so many pregnancies fail.

"It may take many years to achieve such an understanding, our study is just the first step," Niakan said.

Niakan's team decided to use it to stop a key gene from producing a protein called OCT4, which normally becomes active in the first few days of human embryo development.

They spent more than a year optimizing their various techniques using mouse embryos and human embryonic stem cells in lab dishes, before starting work on human embryos.

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Artificial Intelligence Pioneer Calls For Breakup Of Big Tech

Bengio understands the consequences of monopoly domination of Technocrat billionaires and their companies and issues a warning. He will likely be ostracized by his peers and others in the industry. □ TN Editor

Yoshua Bengio, the artificial intelligence pioneer, says the centralization of wealth, power and capability in Big Tech is “dangerous for democracy” and that the companies should be broken up.

Why it matters: Bengio is a professor at the University of Montreal and a member of the three-man [“Canadian Mafia”](#) that pioneered machine learning, the leading method used in AI. His remarks are notable because of his influence in the AI community and because he or his peers all either directly lead or consult for Big Tech’s AI programs. Says Bengio: “Concentration of wealth leads to concentration of power. That’s one reason why monopoly is dangerous. It’s dangerous for democracy.”

The AI pioneers: Bengio consults for IBM and his colleagues Geoffrey Hinton consults for Google and Yann LeCun for Facebook. Ruslan Salakhutdinov, a protege of Hinton’s, runs Apple’s AI research effort.

Bengio said the concentration of resources, talent and knowledge among giant tech companies is only increasing and governments must act. “We need to create a more level playing field for people and companies,” Bengio told Axios at an AI conference in Toronto last week.

In recent years, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft have amassed a towering lead in AI research. But now, they are subject to growing scrutiny because of their outsized influence on society, politics and the economy. I asked Bengio if the companies should be broken up. He harrumphed and responded that anti-trust laws should be enforced. “Governments have become so meek in front of companies,” he said.

“AI is a technology that naturally lends itself to a winner take all,” Bengio said. “The country and company that dominates the technology will gain more power with time. More data and a larger customer base gives you an advantage that is hard to dislodge. Scientists want to go to the best places. The company with the best research labs will attract the best talent. It becomes a concentration of wealth and power.”

When some of the young people gathered around him looked a bit dejected, Bengio responded, “Don’t despair — fight.”

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Technocrat Sam Altman Expands Trial For Universal Basic Income

The very same Technocrats inventing invasive technology to obsolete humans are calling for Universal Basic Income to keep the 'Unemployables' docile. In fact, however, UBI amounts to low-income slavery from which there is no escape. □ TN Editor

Start-up accelerator Y Combinator plans to roll out its initial cash handout trial to thousands of people across two U.S. states.

Its President Sam Altman has been one of many top Silicon Valley bosses to get behind the idea of basic income - the idea that all citizens should be paid a regular sum of money regardless of their employment status.

The incubator has [already piloted a study](#) of the effects of introducing a basic income. It gave cash handouts to residents of Oakland, California, to test how money would affect individuals' behavior.

Y Combinator's Basic Income Project will select 3,000 individuals from two U.S. states at random to compare how one group of people who

receive a basic income will behave as opposed to another sample who do not.

Out of those 3,000, 1,000 will receive \$1,000 per month for up to five years, while 2,000 will receive \$50 a month for comparison.

“A randomized trial is considered one of the best ways to evaluate the impact of a proposed social policy. By comparing a group of people who receive a basic income to an otherwise identical group of people who do not, we can isolate and quantify the effects of a basic income,” Elizabeth Rhodes, research director at YC’s Basic Income Project, said in a [blog post](#) Wednesday.

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