GNU Taler: Payments for the Common Good

Taxable Anonymous Libre

⟨Taler⟩

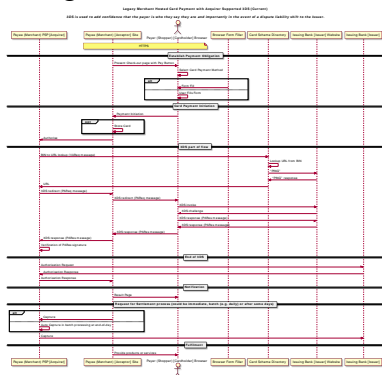Electronic Reserves
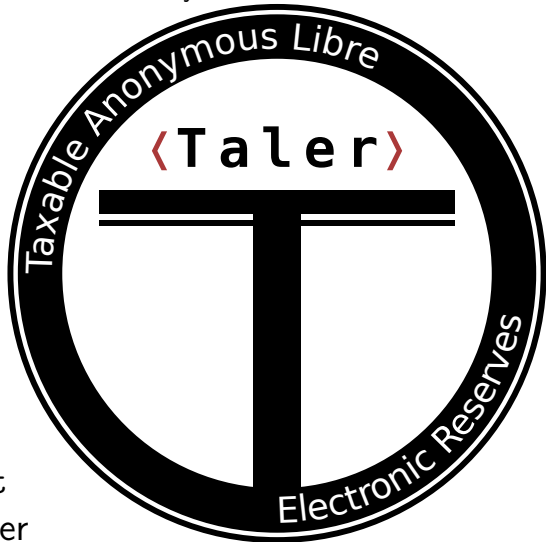
taler.net
twitter@taler
mail@taler.net

ASHOKA

The Problem

3D secure ("verified by visa") is a nightmare:

- Complicated process
- Shifts liability to consumer
- Significant latency
- Can refuse valid requests
- Legal vendors excluded
- No privacy for buyers

Online credit card payments will be replaced, but with what?

The Problem

- Global tech companies push oligopolies
- Privacy and federated finance are at risk
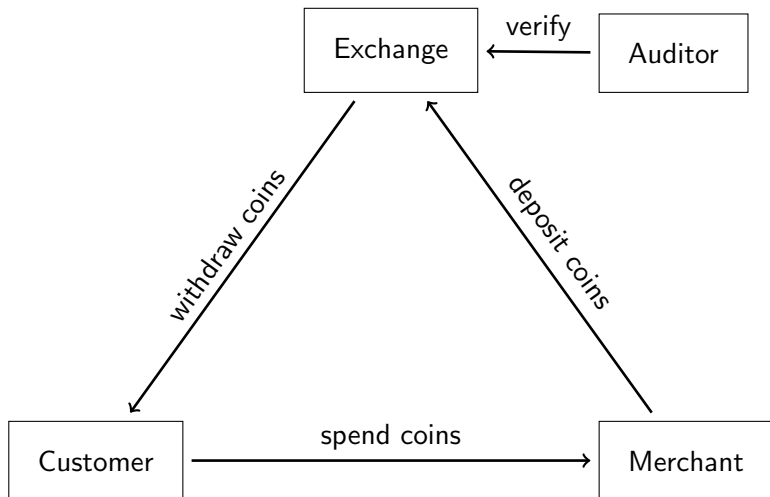- Economic sovereingity is in danger

What is GNU Taler?

GNU Taler is an electronic instant payment system.

- Uses electronic coins stored in **wallets** on customer's device
- Think electronic **cash**, with a few twists
- Pay in **existing currencies** (i.e. EUR, USD, BTC)

Taler is **not** a cryptocurrency.

GNU Taler Overview

Social Impact of Taler

for ordinary citizens

libre

anti-corruption

green / efficient

comfort

for the disadvantaged

anti-discrimination

financial education / self-responsibility

accessibility

for a better Internet

privacy

anti-DDoS

Internet security

anti-spam

regional markets

economic independence

alternative economies

economic integration (migrants)

improves competition

for new economies

for a better market economy

Possible outcomes (optimistic)

- Replace Mastercard/Visa/Paypal online
- ⇒ Cheaper transactions ≡ 3% reduction in VAT
- Replace cash and credit cards
- ⇒ Faster business transactions in stores
- Income via Taler is easily tracked by the government
- ⇒ Less corruption, less tax evasion
- Banks & Spy Agencies can no longer track how you spend your money
- ⇒ Privacy for citizens! Industrial espionage defense for business!

Why should *governments* be interested?

Why not do *online* what they do *offline*?[1]

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[1]Just better: you can anonymously receive cash, but not Taler coins.

⟨Taler⟩

Taxable Anonymous Libre Electronic Reserves
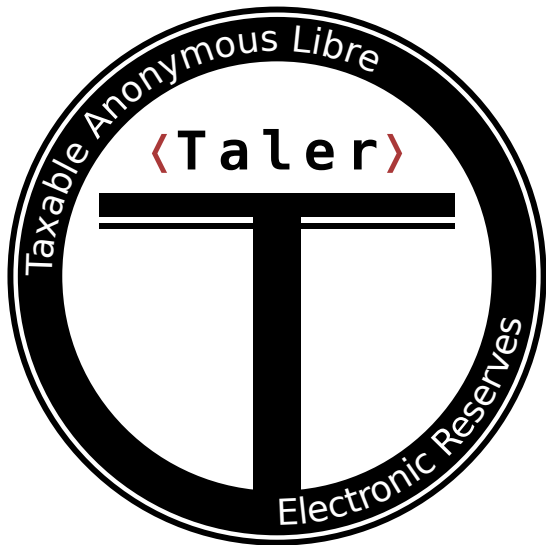
A GNU package

Comparison

	Cash	Bitcoin	ZCash	Creditcard	GNU Taler
Online	− − −	++	++	+	+++
Offline	+++	− −	− −	+	− −
Trans. cost	+	− − −	− − −	−	++
Speed	+	− − −	− − −	o	++
Taxation	−	− −	− − −	+++	+++
Payer-anon	++	o	++	− − −	+++
Payee-anon	++	o	++	− − −	− − − **(*)**
Security	−	o	o	− −	++
Conversion	+++	− − −	− − −	+++	+++
Libre	−	+++	+++	− − −	+++

(*) Not having payee-anonymity is a good thing as otherwise
money laundering becomes a real problem.