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The Origins of Bitcoin Pizza Day

In 2008, a person or group using the name Satoshi Nakamoto introduced Bitcoin, a new kind of digital money. But in the early days, almost no one was using it to buy real things. Bitcoin existed mostly as an experiment among programmers and computer hobbyists.

One of those early users was a programmer named Laszlo Hanyecz. He discovered Bitcoin in 2010, when one bitcoin was worth less than a penny. Laszlo did more than collect bitcoin. He helped improve the software so more people could use it, including people with Mac computers. He also used powerful computer parts to mine bitcoin, which means he helped run the Bitcoin network and earned new bitcoin as a reward.

At the time, Bitcoin needed something important: proof that it could be used as money. People could trade it, but no one had used it to buy ordinary goods or services. Laszlo wanted to change that.

On May 18, 2010, Laszlo posted a message on an online Bitcoin forum. He offered 10,000 bitcoins to anyone who would order him two pizzas. At that time, 10,000 bitcoins were worth only about \$41. For several days, no one accepted the offer. Laszlo posted to the forum, "So nobody wants to buy me pizza? Is the bitcoin amount I'm offering too low?"

Finally, on May 22, 2010, a 19-year-old student named Jeremy Sturdivant accepted the offer. Jeremy lived thousands of miles away, but he was able to place an online order for two Papa John's pizzas to be delivered to Laszlo and his family in Jacksonville, Florida. In return, Laszlo sent Jeremy 10,000 bitcoins.

That simple pizza order became a major moment in financial history. It is remembered as the first known time bitcoin was as money used to buy a real-world item. The purchase showed that bitcoin was not just computer code or an online experiment. It could be exchanged for something people actually wanted.

Years later, those 10,000 bitcoins became worth millions, hundreds of millions, and eventually over \$1 billion dollars. Because of that, people often call Laszlo's meal the most expensive pizza in history. But, Laszlo has said he does not regret it. At the time, his goal was not to become rich. His goal was to help Bitcoin grow into a working economy.

May 22 is known around the world as Bitcoin Pizza Day. People celebrate it as the day bitcoin took an important step toward becoming useful money. The story reminds us that new ideas often begin with small experiments, and sometimes, even with two pizzas.