

《数字时代的浪潮：比特币价格首次超过黄金》

导读:比特币是一种近几年新兴的虚拟货币，它作为一种从产生到流通全程虚拟化的货币，具有匿名保值等等特点，出现至今引起了广泛的讨论。如今这种虚拟货币的价格超过了黄金，是否标志着实体经济受到冲击，数字时代的浪潮真正向我们袭来了呢？



For the first time, a unit of the digital cryptocurrency Bitcoin has exceeded the value of an ounce of gold.

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It peaked at \$1,265 on Tuesday while a troy ounce of gold stood at \$1,233.

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The current high is attributed to surging demand in China where authorities warn it is used to channel money out of the country.

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The past months' surge is a major reversal for Bitcoin, which plummeted in value in 2014 after the largest exchange collapsed.

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The value of Bitcoin has been volatile since it was first launched in 2009, and many experts have questioned whether the crypto-currency will last.

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Earlier this year, Chinese authorities cracked down on Bitcoin trading in an attempt to stop money flowing out of the country illegally.

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But the closer scrutiny from Beijing only briefly sent the currency lower. After it had soared to record highs in January, it has since picked its steady rise in value.

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How Bitcoin works

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Bitcoin is often referred to as a new kind of currency. Yet like all currencies its value is determined by how much people are willing to exchange it for.

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To process Bitcoin transactions, a procedure called "mining" must take place, which involves a computer solving a difficult mathematical problem with a 64-digit solution.

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For each problem solved, one block of Bitcoins is processed. In addition the miner is rewarded with new Bitcoins.

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To compensate for the growing power of computer chips, the difficulty of the puzzles is adjusted to ensure a steady stream of new Bitcoins are produced each day.

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There are currently about 15 million Bitcoins in existence.

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To receive a Bitcoin, a user must have a Bitcoin address - a string of 27-34 letters and numbers - which acts as a kind of virtual post-box to and from which the Bitcoins are sent.

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Since there is no register of these addresses, people can use them to protect their anonymity when making a transaction.

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These addresses are in turn stored in Bitcoin wallets, which are used to manage savings.

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