



## TERRACOIN IN THE SPOTLIGHT: AN INTERVIEW WITH JOSH COOK

The bi-weekly EWMCI Coin News Brief focuses on highlighting our member projects, ranging from individual coins to participating exchanges. This service chronicles important current events, with emphasis on new and exciting developments. Our guest this week is Josh Cook from Terracoin Foundation, one of the original crypto projects, dating back to 2012.

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- **Josh Cook**

This time we go to Portland, Oregon, where we will be meeting Josh Cook from Terracoin. Without further ado, let us jump to our first order of business – a brief overview of Terracoin’s inception process.

“It actually started out as a lark,” said Mr. Cook. “Some of my friends started talking about Bitcoin and we all bought a little bit for trading altcoins. This was back in the day when BTC-e (editor comment – an early cryptocurrency trading platform) was king for altcoins and it only had like 6 or 8 trading pairs. After trading for a while for insignificant amounts I kind of lost interest.”

After about six months Josh needed some extra money. He logged into BTC-e to cash out his altcoins and his portfolio, mainly Terracoin and quadrupled in value. This was a nice surprise!

Josh cashed out half of that and kept the rest for trading, but more importantly he started wondering why people were putting in “real amounts of money” into crypto.

“From there,” said Mr. Cook, “I just started to research more and more about cryptos and the benefits of the blockchain technology in general. I also started to think of real-world ways to

help people through cryptocurrencies and how it could help bring people together.”

Eventually the original developer abandoned Terracoin. And since Terracoin was the coin that opened Josh’s eyes to cryptocurrencies, he and a group of friends took it over. The rest is history.

At this point, our discussion shifted gears and turned to various mining algorithms:

“As for algorithms, Terracoin was originally just a straight SHA256 coin but in 2016 when The Terracoin Foundation took over support of it, there were people manipulating the mining difficulty, so we wanted to fix that first. We added Dark Gravity Wave difficulty adjustment and merge-mining to take care of that.”

Then, as the community grew, Terracoin needed a way to have some sort of governance that ensures equitable handling of various requests by the community. This is when we decided to add decentralized governance and masternodes modeled after DASH.

“What is unique about your project?” I asked. “How does it compare to other projects?”

“I think one of the main things that makes us unique is our dedications to ethics and helping the world. We currently have 30 masternodes set aside for when TRC is at \$1 to donate to non-profits around the world. We also make sure all of the TRC Foundation spending is public and ethical.”

I then asked Mr. Cook why people should use Terracoin: “Please feel free to share what you think is most important and impactful about Terracoin.”

“Besides our dedication to helping the world and ethics, our cryptocurrency infrastructure is massive compared to other altcoins,” said Josh. “We have set all this infrastructure up so that developers and the common person can use that to build their own apps, and so forth.”

Another great reason to use TRC, I learned, is its decentralized governance and masternodes. Decentralized governance gives anyone with 10 TRC access to the “proposal system” where they can receive dedicated funding to spend on their TRC-related project, or to help their fellow man. This gives



everyone a chance to influence and guide the future of the money they are using.

I then asked Josh if his project was a pure "coin" or if he had other blockchain applications built on top of it:

“We don’t want to become a niche coin. We have long felt that using any coin just for one thing is a death sentence for that coin. The goal of the TRC Foundation is to continue providing improved code and infrastructure, so that the users appreciate and gravitate toward TRC as an alternative to fiat currencies.”

At present Terracoin is constantly working on improving infrastructure.

“We just added an Electrum Android wallet,” said Mr. Cook. “And we expanded the number of reliable exchanges Terracoin is listed on, making it easy for people to use and get TRC” – one of Mr. Cook’s main interests right now.

Interviewer: “With this in mind – what might the future entail for Terracoin and the Foundation?”

“One of the things the community is really asking for is to have a hardware wallet, so that is definitely a future goal,” said Mr. Cook. “We also want to explore an alternative to SHA256 because of its environmental impact and the increasing mining difficulty levels.”

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