

John Oliver's HBO Show Digs Crypto & Blockchain, Laughs at Bitconnect, EOS in Bitcoin-Themed Episode

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From CCN, Mar 12, 2018: “Discussions of new technology tend to age badly,” John Oliver said as he opened Sunday night’s episode of *Last Week Tonight*, “so that said, tonight we are going to talk about cryptocurrencies,” a topic that combines “everything you don’t understand about money” with “everything you don’t understand about computers.” Oliver spent the next half hour providing his take on Bitcoin mania, and — though fans of individual projects may disagree — he largely struck a balanced tone on the ecosystem as a whole. For a mass media program, the segment gave a respectable high-level description of how blockchain technology works, as well as its ability to “possibly improve security, efficiency, and trust.” However, Oliver noted that the cryptocurrency ecosystem also has a seedy side, as evidenced by [pump-and-dump schemes](#), [initial coin offering \(ICO\) scams](#) — and yes, [Bitconnect](#). Oliver brought up these examples, not to denigrate the ecosystem or judge it by its worst actors but rather to remind his audience — whose demographics largely align with those of cryptocurrency investors — that nobody knows with certainty how this experiment will turn out. “Who knows? Maybe EOS is going to be the next Google. I don’t think it is, and I certainly don’t think it can be worth over a billion dollars at this point, but I could be wrong. I’m absolutely not, but I could be,” Oliver said in what was probably his least charitable remark of the segment. All things considered, mass media depictions of cryptocurrency have come a long way since a hitman (played by Jamie Fox) said he wanted to be paid in “[untraceable bit coins](#)” in the 2014 comedy *Horrible Bosses 2*. And, as many social media users have noted in their assessments of the *Last Week Tonight* episode, Oliver has a point. Unfortunately, many investors have invested large sums of money in cryptocurrency and blockchain-related projects without taking the time to research what exactly they are buying. […] [https://www.ccn.com/john-oliver-keegan ...n-bitcoin-themed-episode/](https://www.ccn.com/john-oliver-keegan...n-bitcoin-themed-episode/)