ALDERLUX

THE INSIDER · IN FOCUS · #0029

Nothing Will Tell You

3 NOVEMBER 2026

Get your finances wrong and something tells you. Bitcoin withholds both halves — a mistake here cannot be undone, and nothing announces that it has been made. A person can be comprehensively wrong and feel entirely fine for a decade.

> Get your finances wrong and something tells you. Bitcoin withholds both halves — a mistake here cannot be undone, and nothing announces that it has been made. A person can be comprehensively wrong and feel entirely fine for a decade.

Alderlux advises families on Bitcoin custody and succession, so we have a commercial interest in this problem being taken seriously.

Get your finances wrong and you find out. A direct debit fails. A letter arrives from HMRC. The card declines in a shop and everybody looks at you.

That feedback is unglamorous and it is how anybody learns anything alone. Make an error, have something tell you, correct it. The lesson is cheap because it arrives early, and it arrives whether or not you were paying attention.

Bitcoin does not work this way, and the reason is structural rather than a matter of degree.

There is nobody to call

A bank reverses a payment. A registrar reissues a lost share certificate. A solicitor rebuilds a will from a copy. Nearly every asset a person owns sits inside a system with an administrator, and the administrator exists so that an ordinary mistake stays an ordinary mistake.

Bitcoin has none. A confirmed transaction cannot be reversed — not by Alderlux, not by an exchange, not by the people who write the software. A lost key cannot be reissued, because nobody holds a copy. There is no chargeback, no password reset and no helpline.

That much is reasonably well known, and it is the half people brace for.

The half nobody mentions

There is also no feedback.

A recovery phrase copied down with one word wrong looks exactly like one copied down correctly. A setup that only one living person can reach looks exactly like a secure one. A misunderstanding about what is actually owned produces no symptom whatsoever.

Everything continues to work. Transactions send. Balances display. The app opens. It behaves perfectly, for years, and then it is needed.

So the two properties compound. The mistake cannot be undone, and nothing announces that it has been made. Confidence here is not evidence of anything. A person can be comprehensively wrong and feel entirely fine for a decade, and nothing in their experience will contradict them.

Which is why the worry people arrive with is the wrong one

People tell us they are not technical enough. It is said apologetically, as a confession, and it is misplaced.

Holding Bitcoin safely for thirty years is not an engineering problem. It is a small number of things understood properly and in the right order, and none of them requires writing code or understanding cryptography.

The difficulty is not that it is hard. It is that it is easy to do badly and very difficult to detect from the inside. Nobody can mark their own work in a system that never returns a mark.

For the first couple of years everything I held was secured so that only I could open it, and I thought that was the point. There were no instructions, no second pair of hands, nothing written anywhere Anna could have found it. It took a conversation about something entirely unrelated to make me see I had built a single point of failure and called it security.

The View From The Edge

What this firm is for is not explanations. They are free, there are thousands of them, and some are excellent.

What cannot be obtained free is knowledge pointed at your arrangements — somebody who has seen what wrong looks like, applying it to what you have actually built. That is the one angle nobody has on their own setup, and it is what the explanations cannot do for you however good they are.

There are two things Alderlux will not do, and they matter as much as what it will. It will not say whether to buy Bitcoin, when, or how much to own. It will not say what the price is going to do. Neither is education, and Alderlux does not do either.

Everything else can be taught, in order, and checked by somebody who is not you — what is owned, how it is held, how it is not lost, and how it reaches the people it is meant for.

Related reading: Losing Capacity, Not Life, What Splitting the Keys Changes and Alderlux Succession.

Basis and limits

This piece is an argument about why errors in Bitcoin holdings go undetected, not a guide to any particular custody arrangement. It describes no product, recommends no device, software or provider, and covers no tax or legal position.

It cites no external sources, because it makes no factual claim that rests on one. The description of Bitcoin's irreversibility and of the absence of an administrator is the ordinary account of how the network operates; the account of what people say when they come to us is our own experience and is not a survey.

The commercial interest is stated at the top. Everything described here can be acted on without Alderlux: a second person who can reach what you hold, instructions written for somebody who is not you, and a recovery actually performed rather than assumed, are all things a household can arrange for itself.

Alderlux provides education and information only. We do not provide regulated financial advice, investment recommendations, legal or tax advice. Alderlux is not authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority.