

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Who really moved 80,000 BTC on July 4th? Crypto's biggest mystery yet](#)

Tor - July 12, 2025, 12:29 pm

Did anyone else notice the massive Bitcoin move on July 4, 2025?

80,000 BTC suddenly moved from 8 legacy wallets, all inactive since 2010–2011. This wasn't your average whale transfer—it looked coordinated, legalistic, and cryptically intentional. Here's everything we know so far.

Also this is a entry for [7](#) Contest!
Happy early birthday, [7](#) !

What happened?

When: July 4, 2025

Amount: 80,000 BTC total

Wallets: 8 old P2PKH (starts with "1") addresses, each holding exactly 10,000 BTC

Last activity: Over 14 years ago

Medium article with breakdown: [Read it here](#)

The identical BTC amounts and perfectly timed transactions point to deliberate orchestration.

Strange OP_RETURN messages

Each transaction embedded odd legal-style notes using Bitcoin's OP_RETURN function:
“LEGAL NOTICE: We have taken possession of this wallet and its contents”

“Not abandoned? Prove it by an on-chain transaction using private key by Sept 30”

Reference to salomonbros.com/owner-notice

Three wallets included the numbers "4 8 15 16 23 42" (a reference to the TV show Lost)

Clearly, this was more than a technical maneuver—it had style, symbolism, and legal overtones.

Was it a hack or just the rightful owners?

Two theories dominate:

1. Private key compromise

Some believe the wallets were generated using weak random number generators in Bitcoin's early days. It's possible someone reverse-engineered those flaws to brute-force the private keys.

2. The original owners moving coins

Others argue this was a move by the original holders migrating funds from ancient addresses to modern wallets (like segwit/bech32). A French site, [Bitcoin.fr](https://bitcoin.fr), claims there's no evidence of a hack.

Legal stunt? Adverse possession?

The salomonbros.com page lays out what seems like a digital "squatter's rights" claim: Asserts the wallets were abandoned for 14+ years

Gives a 90-day on-chain deadline (ends October 5, 2025)

If no proof of ownership, the new "holders" claim legal right to keep the BTC

This could be crypto's first attempt to apply real-world legal doctrine (adverse possession) on-chain.

What the community is saying

From [Hacker News](#): "Weak keys and brainwallets have been exploited several times in the past. It's not an exploit in Bitcoin itself."

From [Reddit \(r/QRL\)](#): "No one, Ross Ulbricht was moving his BTC to a real hardware wallet from a paper wallet."

Opinions vary widely. Some say this was a warning shot about weak cryptography. Others think it's just dramatics from long-lost owners returning to clean house.

Why this matters:

Security warning – If early wallets can be cracked, this affects confidence in legacy addresses

Mass migration – Old BTC holders may begin scrambling to secure their funds

Legal implications – What happens if legal claims like this one go unchallenged?

Market impact – \$8.6 billion in BTC on the move gets attention

Conclusion:

Whether this was a private key exploit or a theatrical return of early holders, it shook the Bitcoin world. Coordinated, symbolic, and possibly precedent-setting, this event raises serious questions about the security of old wallets and the future of legal interpretation in crypto.

Further reading:

[Full Medium article by eloise88](#)

[Bitcoin.fr analysis \(in French\)](#)

[Hacker News thread](#)

[Reddit discussion](#)

What's your take on it? Hack? Hoax? Or a historical moment for blockchain law? Let's discuss.

Here are 5 users I'm tagging to check this out.

[Chornaya Magiya](#)

[skull](#)

[Chrome](#)

[Money-](#)

[JoseMar](#)

SUI-3183372 - July 12, 2025, 12:32 pm

RIP

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6302602>

Tor - July 12, 2025, 12:33 pm

(Jul 12, 2025 12:32 PM)SUI-3183372 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) RIP

<https://hackforums.net/showthread.php?tid=6302602>

Rip indeed haven't seen yours.

itcorp - July 12, 2025, 12:49 pm

Interesting reading my friend.