JANUARY 23, 2024

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY
CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

320TH EDITION

# MERCEDES-BENZ INTRODUCES MBUX COLLECTIBLES IN-CAR NFT GALLERY

# CONTENTS

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY
CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL



# EDITORS LETTER

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*While most of the recently approved Bitcoin ETFs have been seeing strong inflows, Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) has seen more than $2.8 billion in net outflows. FTX's bankruptcy estate was the major seller, offloading shares valued at nearly $1 billion.*

*JPMorgan analyst Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou said in a recent post that "up to $3bn had been invested into GBTC in the secondary market during 2023 in order to take advantage of the discount to NAV." He expects the arbitrageurs to book profits, putting Bitcoin under pressure in the next few weeks.*

Bitcoin surged above the resistance line of the ascending channel pattern on January 11, but the bulls could not sustain the higher levels. That may have tempted profit-booking by the bulls, which pulled the price down to the support line on January 12. After a few days of consolidation, the selling resumed on January 18.

The moving averages have completed a bearish crossover, and the relative strength index (RSI) is in the negative territory, indicating that the bears are trying to take charge.

The $40,000 level is the crucial support to watch out for on the downside. If the price rebounds off the current level and rises above the moving averages, it will suggest that the corrective phase may be over.

On the other hand, if the price turns down from the moving averages once again, it will suggest that the sentiment has turned negative and traders are selling on rallies. That will increase the likelihood of a drop below $40,000.

If that happens, the BTC/USD pair could plummet to the next major support near $35,500.

Lastly please check out the advancement's happening in the cryptocurrency world.

Enjoy the issue


Karnav Shah

Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief

# CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

Cryptonaire Weekly is one of the oldest and trusted sources of Crypto News, Crypto Analysis and information on blockchain technology in the industry, created for the sole purpose to support and guide our Crypto Trading academy clients and subscribers on all the tops, research, analysis and through leadership in the space.

Cryptonaire weekly, endeavours to provide weekly articles, Crypto news and project analysis covering the entire marketplace of the blockchain space. All of us have challenges when facing the crypto market for the first time even blockchain-savvy developers, investors or entrepreneurs with the ever-changing technology its hard to keep up with all the changes, opportunities and areas to be cautious of.

With the steady adoption of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies around the world, we wanted not only to provide all levels of crypto investors and traders a place which has truly great information, a reliable source of technical analysis, crypto news and top emerging projects in the space.

Having been publishing our weekly crypto magazine 'Cryptonaire Weekly' for since early 2017 we have had our fingertips at the cusp of this exciting market breaking through highs of 20k for 1 Bitcoin to the lows of $3500 in early 2021. Our Platinum Crypto Academy clients (students and mentee's) are always looking for shortcuts to success to minimize expenses and possible loses. This is why we created our Crypto Magazine. Those who wish to invest their assets wisely, stay updated with the latest cryptocurrency news and are interested in blockchain technology will find our Weekly Crypto Magazine a valuable asset!


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# WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 320th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is $1.58 Trillion, down 110 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at 66.06 Billion which makes a 80.04% increase. The DeFi volume is $5.47Billion, 8.28% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is $60.69 Billion, which is 91.87% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the right now are Polkadot Ecosystem and Algorand Ecosystem cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has decreased by 6.44% from $42,775 last week to around $40,020 and Ether's price has decreased by 7.11% from $2,530 last week to $2,350 Bitcoin's market cap is $784 Billion and the altcoin market cap is $796 Billion.

Bitcoin continued its slide to reach a six-week low below $40,000 on January 20. The sell-off following the launch of Bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETF) on January 11 shows that cryptocurrency traders bought the rumor and sold the news.

While most of the recently approved Bitcoin ETFs have been seeing strong inflows, Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) has seen more than $2.8 billion in net outflows. FTX's bankruptcy estate was the major seller, offloading shares valued at nearly $1 billion.

JPMorgan analyst Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou said in a recent post that "up to $3bn had been invested into GBTC in the secondary market during 2023 in order to take advantage of the discount to NAV." He expects the arbitrageurs to book profits, putting Bitcoin under pressure in the next few weeks.

**Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Dominance)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bitcoin | 47.52% |
| Ethereum | 17.01% |
| Tether | 5.75% |
| BNB | 2.88% |
| Solana | 2.23% |
| XRP | 1.74% |
| Cardano | 1.03% |
| Dogecoin | 0.70% |
| Others | 21.14% |

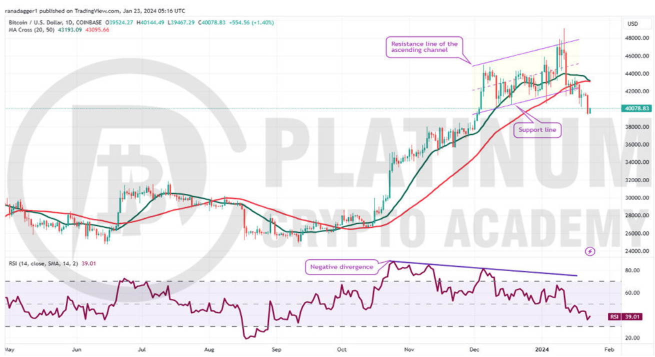
The institutional investors have also been scaling back their Bitcoin purchases. According to CoinShares' "Digital Asset Fund Flows Weekly" report published on Jan. 22, Bitcoin investment products witnessed minor outflows of about $25 million past week, while short Bitcoin products saw inflows of $12.7 million. BitMEX founder Arthur Hayes is bearish on Bitcoin in the short term. Hayes said in a X post on January 22 that he purchased $35,000 strike puts expiring on 29 March as he anticipates a "dump into the 31 January US Treasury quarterly refunding announcement."

However, it is not all gloom and doom in the Bitcoin ETF space. Bloomberg senior ETF analyst Eric Balchunas tweeted on January 20 that the nine Bitcoin ETFs, barring GBTC, have witnessed massive inflows, boosting their assets under management to $4 billion.

After the initial selling, Bitcoin is likely to stabilize as long-term investors are expected to view the dips as a buying opportunity.

# CRYPTO TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

## BITCOIN - BTC/USD




Bitcoin surged above the resistance line of the ascending channel pattern on January 11, but the bulls could not sustain the higher levels. That may have tempted profit-booking by the bulls, which pulled the price down to the support line on January 12. After a few days of consolidation, the selling resumed on January 18.

The moving averages have completed a bearish crossover, and the relative strength index (RSI) is in the negative territory, indicating that the bears are trying to take charge.

The $40,000 level is the crucial support to watch out for on the downside. If the price rebounds off the current level and rises above the moving averages, it will suggest that the corrective phase may be over.

On the other hand, if the price turns down from the moving averages once again, it will suggest that the sentiment has turned negative and traders are selling on rallies. That will increase the likelihood of a drop below $40,000.

If that happens, the BTC/USD pair could plummet to the next major support near $35,500.

Previous Analysis...

## ETHEREUM - ETH/USD

Ether skyrocketed above the $2,400 overhead resistance on January 10 and reached its target objective of $2,700 on January 12. This level saw aggressive profit booking by the bears, which started a pullback toward the breakout level.

Buyers tried to start a rebound off $2,400 on January 19, but the bears did not relent. They continued selling and pulled the price back below the moving averages on January 22.

Any pullback from the current level is likely to face selling at the 20-day exponential moving average (EMA). If the price turns down from the 20-day EMA and breaks below $2,400, the possibility of a fall to $2,100 increases. The bulls are likely to defend this level aggressively.

On the upside, a break and close above the 20-day EMA will be the first indication of comeback by the bulls. The ETH/USD pair may then again attempt to climb to $2,600 and later to $2,700.

Previous Analysis...

## BINANCE - BNB/USD


Binance Coin reversed direction from the downtrend line on January 21, indicating that the bears are fiercely defending the level. The 20-day EMA has flattened out, and the RSI is near the midpoint, indicating that the bulls are losing their steam.

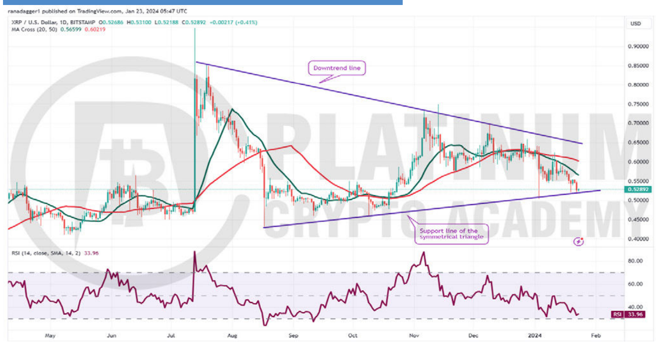
The price action of the past few days has formed a symmetrical triangle, which generally acts as a continuation pattern. Buyers will have to drive and sustain the price above the triangle to indicate the resumption of the uptrend. The pattern target of the setup is $372.

If the price remains below the 20-day EMA, the selling could pick up, and the price may dip to the support line of the triangle. This remains the key short-term level to watch out for because a break below it may accelerate selling.

If the bears yank the price below the triangle, the BNB/USD pair could plunge to $260 and thereafter to $238. Such a move will signal that the triangle has formed a reversal setup.

Previous Analysis...

## RIPPLE - XRP/USD




The bulls tried to push XRP above the 50-day simple moving average (SMA) on January 11, but the bears did not relent. That resumed selling, and the bears pulled the price to the support line of the symmetrical triangle on January 19.

The 20-day EMA is turning down, and the RSI is near the oversold territory, indicating that the bears are in command. The selling pressure is likely to increase if the support line gives way. That could start a downward move to the vital support near $0.40.

Contrarily, if the price rebounds off the support line and rises above the moving averages, it will suggest that the XRP/USD pair may spend some more time inside the triangle. The bulls will be back on track after the price jumps above the downtrend line.

Previous Analysis...

## CARDANO - ADA/USD

Cardano snapped back sharply from the breakout level of $0.46 on January 8, but the relief rally met with intense selling pressure at the 20-day EMA. This suggests that the bears are viewing the rallies as a selling opportunity.

The price has again reached the $0.46 support, an important level to keep an eye on. The downsloping 20-day EMA and the RSI below 40 suggest that the bears hold the edge.

If bears tug the price below $0.46, it will signal the start of a new downward move. The ADA/USD pair could dive to the strong support near $0.40.

Conversely, the bulls will attempt to drive the price above the 20-day EMA. If they do that, the pair could rise to the overhead resistance of $0.62, where the bears are again likely to mount a strong defense.

Previous Analysis...

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Join Rektbookie Today and Win Smarter!


Gascoin, the eco-friendly energy solution project from IBAX, has been launched on the LATOKEN Exchange. This listing is a big step towards making GCN tokens readily available for trading. Furthermore, traders will experience the perks of reduced transaction fees and rapid trading execution.

But that's not all! Gascoin is commencing a long and exciting journey. The project aims to broaden its global presence by listing on more exchanges soon. Listing Gascoin on multiple exchanges will increase the visibility of GCN tokens to a broader audience. Further, it will bring added layers of security, protecting the interests of Gascoin traders and investors.

Gascoin is redefining industry standards with sustainable development in the energy sector. By harnessing cutting-edge blockchain technology and focusing on eco-friendly solutions, Gascoin is setting new industry standards. The project taps into the eco-friendly CBM-derived LNG, effectively reducing our carbon footprint and enhancing air quality. Here's why coal bed methane-derived LNG is beneficial:

Lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

Increases energy security.

Boosts local economies.

Makes use of abundant coal reserves.

Versatile for various uses.

Provides a stable energy supply.

Safer storage and handling.

Choosing Gascoin means supporting a cleaner, more sustainable energy source.

Gascoin's focus on locally sourced LNG strengthens energy security. Backed by an immense reserve of 6 Trillion cubic feet of Natural Gas, worth around $24 billion, Gascoin diversifies the energy mix. It relies on stable, local natural resources, ensuring a consistent energy supply. This approach minimizes import dependence and guards against geopolitical risks, boosting national energy independence.

Ready to embark on this exciting journey towards a sustainable future? Start trading GCN tokens on LATOKEN today. Stay updated and engage with their vibrant community on social media, where we frequently host GCN token giveaways. Take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the sustainable energy revolution!

# ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

## BITCOIN SLIPS BELOW $41,000 AS SELL-OFF CONTINUES

The price of Bitcoin has continued to slide following the approval of multiple spot Bitcoin ETFs earlier in the month.

Bitcoin dropped below $41,000 Monday morning, as its price continues to slip following the approval of multiple spot Bitcoin ETFs in the U.S. earlier this month.

Bitcoin is currently trading at around $40,760, down 2.4% on the day and 4.5% in the past week, per data from CoinGecko.

The decline in the price of Bitcoin has been linked to investors cashing out their gains following the approval, and exiting their positions in the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) following its conversion to a spot Bitcoin ETF.

Before the fund was converted to a spot ETF, shares of GBTC were only available to accredited investors and subject to a 6-month lockup period after they were purchased.

With investors now able to redeem their GBTC shares for Bitcoin, more than $2.2 billion has left the fund in the last week, prompting Grayscale to move hundreds of millions of dollars in BTC to its custodian Coinbase in order to sell it. Those outflows have contributed to sell pressure on BTC, driving the price lower over the two weeks since U.S. spot Bitcoin ETFs were approved.

Analysts have also argued that the ETF approval was "priced in"—meaning BTC wasn't going to see dramatic or sustained gains after an approval—prompting crypto investors to "sell the news" in the aftermath of the ETF approvals.

The broader crypto market has slid in lockstep with Bitcoin, dropping by 2.7% over the past day, to $1.68 trillion, according to CoinGecko data. The global crypto market cap rose as high as $1.86 trillion the day after the SEC approved 11 spot Bitcoin ETFs to begin trading. Of the top 10 cryptocurrencies by market cap, Solana and Cardano have slipped by the most over the past day, dropping 5.5% and 4.9% respectively.

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# Crypto Bulls Lose $217M Amid Concern About Grayscale Outflows

Bloomberg's Eric Balchunas pointed out that GBTC shares flipped to a 0.9% discount versus net asset value amid "likely due to selling pressure." Terms of the deal were not disclosed in the announcement.

Futures traders betting on higher crypto prices saw some $217 million in liquidations in the past 24 hours as the approval of spot bitcoin (BTC) exchange-traded funds continues to be a “sell-the-news” event, a contrarian bet that shows no signs of slowing. Concern that crypto fund manager Grayscale is selling some of its bitcoin as owners of its Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC) remove money from the ETF contributed to a drop in prices. Verified wallets belonging to Grayscale, tracked and labeled by analysis firm Arkham, show that the fund moved over $400 million worth of bitcoin to custodian Coinbase Prime on Thursday – potentially a step toward an eventual sale.

Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Eric Balchunas also pointed out that GBTC shares flipped to a 0.9% discount versus their net asset value on Thursday “likely due to selling pressure.”

Even as GBTC sees net outflows, other newly approved bitcoin ETFs are seeing net inflows. BlackRock’s IBIT crossed $1 billion in assets under management (AUM) on Wednesday.

Read more...

# Funding wrap: Trading, market making, staking see funding after ETF approval

Plus, a car data monetization platform scores $11.5 million and liquid restaking sees dry powder

Centralized venues that facilitate trading and staking had a noteworthy funding week as crypto settles into a post-spot bitcoin ETF world.

The week began with HashKey, one of Hong Kong’s two licensed exchanges, announcing a $100 million Series A. The firm’s $1.2 billion valuation gave it unicorn status. HashKey did not disclose its investors, though Bloomberg reported OKX Ventures took part in the round.

The round may heat up an arms race for retail crypto trading in Hong Kong. The company behind OSL, the city’s other exchange, raised $91 million through a share subscription in November.

While announcing the round, HashKey said the funds would partly be used to drive “compliant and innovative development globally.”

Elsewhere in the APAC region, the Taipei-based WOO X exchange drew $9 million in a strategic raise from market makers including Wintermute.

As Blockworks reported earlier this week, market maker and OTC trading service provider Flowdesk raised a $50 million Series B. Notably, the firm was chosen as one of four liquidity providers for Grayscale’s spot bitcoin ETF, meaning it buys and sells bitcoin to make sure shares are fully funded.

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# Binance Bounces Back: Over $4 Billion Inflow Recorded Post-Settlement

Binance, the world's leading digital asset exchange, has exhibited resilience and growth following its recent settlement with the US regulatory bodies. The settlement, which addressed allegations of money laundering and sanctions evasion, marked a pivotal moment for Binance.

Since November 21, when the settlement was reached, Binance has experienced a surge in net inflows, amounting to roughly $4.6 billion. This data, revealed in a post by Satoshi Club on X, shows the platform's resilience amid these challenges.

Binance Inflow Resurgence Post-Settlement
January 2023 emerged as a particularly prosperous month for Binance, witnessing net inflows of $3.5 billion. This figure surpasses any full month's inflow since November 2022 and signifies a substantial rebound from the exchange's myriad challenges towards the end of last year.

These challenges were not insignificant; they included notable fines imposed by a US court on Binance and its CEO, Changpeng Zhao (CZ), for charges related to alleged money laundering operations initiated by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

To put into perspective how much Binance has recovered following a tumultuous period last year.

Read more...

# Value Locked in Defi Surpasses $57 Billion, Securing Over $20 Billion in 3 Months

Data from defillama.com reveals that over the past 93 days, the total value locked (TVL) in decentralized finance (defi) protocols escalated from $37.46 billion on Oct. 20, 2023, to the present $57.74 billion. Notably, 57.3% of the total value in defi is anchored in the Ethereum blockchain, while Lido's liquid staking protocol accounts for 40.21% of this aggregate.

TVL in Defi Jumps 54%
The value locked in decentralized finance (defi) protocols has significantly increased in 2024 compared to the previous year. Since Oct. 20, 2023, there has been a 54.13% surge, bringing the total value locked (TVL) to an impressive $57.74 billion. Lido stands out as the largest protocol in terms of TVL, which has climbed by 10.66% since last month, now standing at $23.22 billion.


Following Lido, Maker, the second-largest defi protocol, has experienced a slight dip of about 1.52% over 30 days, with its TVL at approximately $8.41 billion at the time of reporting. The top five defi protocols by TVL size also include Aave ($7.22B), Justlend ($6.09B), and Uniswap ($4.34B). Aave has seen a 10.34% increase in TVL over the past 30 days, while Justlend has seen a decrease of 9.43%.

Uniswap, however, has reported the most significant growth among the top five, with its TVL rising by 78.56% since last month. Among these defi applications, four are built on the Ethereum blockchain, with Justlend being the exception as a Tron-based protocol.

Read more...


Hello everyone, Ellis here from Platinum Crypto Academy. I'm thrilled to bring you some of the latest and most thought-provoking insights and strategies that are currently shaping the landscape. As we navigate these digital waters, it's crucial for our community of retail traders and investors to stay informed and ahead of the curve.

The realm of cryptocurrency is not just about understanding the market; it's about grasping the underlying currents that drive it. From the seismic shifts caused by major financial players to the ripple effects of whale activities, each aspect plays a critical role in moulding your investment journey. Today, I aim to dissect these elements and offer a clear, actionable perspective that can help you make more informed decisions in your trading and investment endeavours.

Whether you're a seasoned trader or just starting out, the insights I'm about to share are designed to broaden your understanding of the crypto market and enhance your ability to adapt to its changes. So, let's dive in and explore the fascinating world of cryptocurrency together, armed with knowledge and a keen eye for opportunity.

### BlackRock's Chess Move with Grayscale

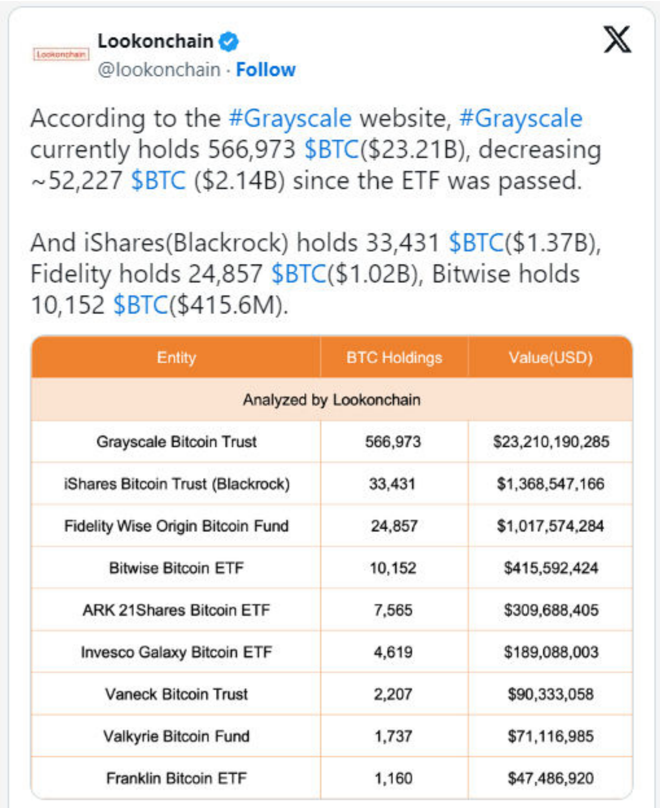
BlackRock's recent strategic interest in Grayscale is akin to a grandmaster's calculated move in a high-stakes chess game. As a trader at Platinum Crypto Academy, I find this development not just intriguing but also potentially game-changing for the market. Let's unpack this a bit more.

First, it's essential to understand who these players are. BlackRock is the world's largest asset manager, a behemoth in the financial world with over $7 trillion in assets under management. Their interest in any market segment is a signal of that segment's maturity and potential for growth. Grayscale, on the other hand, is a leading digital currency asset manager, known for its Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC), among other cryptocurrency investment products.

### The Strategic Implications

BlackRock's move towards Grayscale can be interpreted in several ways. It could signify a growing institutional acceptance of cryptocurrencies as a legitimate asset class. This is big news for the crypto world, which has long sought validation from traditional financial institutions.

However, there's more to it. BlackRock's involvement could lead to increased regulatory scrutiny in the crypto space. With big players comes big attention, and this could mean a shift towards more regulated and possibly more stable market conditions. For retail investors, this could be a double-edged sword – greater stability might reduce the wild price swings that offer quick profits, but it could also mean a safer, more predictable market in the long run.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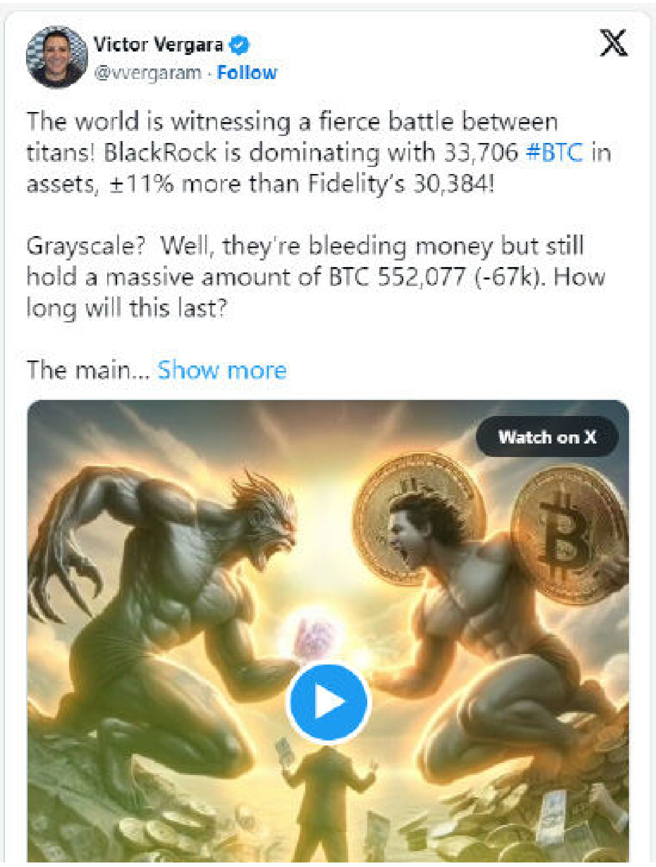
According to the #Grayscale website, #Grayscale currently holds 566,973 $BTC($23.21B), decreasing ~52,227 $BTC ($2.14B) since the ETF was passed.

And iShares(Blackrock) holds 33,431 $BTC($1.37B), Fidelity holds 24,857 $BTC($1.02B), Bitwise holds 10,152 $BTC($415.6M).

| Entity | BTC Holdings | Value(USD) |
|---|---|---|
| Analyzed by Lookonchain | | |
| Grayscale Bitcoin Trust | 566,973 | $23,210,190,285 |
| iShares Bitcoin Trust (Blackrock) | 33,431 | $1,368,547,166 |
| Fidelity Wise Origin Bitcoin Fund | 24,857 | $1,017,574,284 |
| Bitwise Bitcoin ETF | 10,152 | $415,592,424 |
| ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF | 7,565 | $309,688,405 |
| Invesco Galaxy Bitcoin ETF | 4,619 | $189,088,003 |
| Vaneck Bitcoin Trust | 2,207 | $90,333,058 |
| Valkyrie Bitcoin Fund | 1,737 | $71,116,985 |
| Franklin Bitcoin ETF | 1,160 | $47,486,920 |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The world is witnessing a fierce battle between titans! BlackRock is dominating with 33,706 #BTC in assets, ±11% more than Fidelity's 30,384!

Grayscale? Well, they're bleeding money but still hold a massive amount of BTC 552,077 (-67k). How long will this last?

The main... Show more

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## The Ripple Effect

The impact of this move extends beyond BlackRock and Grayscale. It could trigger a domino effect, prompting other institutional investors to take the crypto market more seriously. This increased institutional involvement could lead to more significant investments, providing a more substantial foundation for the cryptocurrency market's growth and stability.

## What Does This Mean for Retail Investors?

As retail investors and traders, this development calls for a strategic reassessment. It's crucial to monitor how this institutional involvement shapes market dynamics. Will we see a surge in certain cryptocurrencies? How will this affect the altcoin market? These are critical questions we need to ponder.

Moreover, with institutional players in the mix, the market might start behaving more like traditional financial markets. This could mean a shift in the strategies we've been using – for instance, focusing more on fundamental analysis and long-term value rather than short-term speculative gains.

## The Whale's Play: Riding Alongside or Against the Current?

'whales' – the term for large-scale investors capable of making waves in the market – play a crucial role. Their movements can be both an indicator and a driver of market trends. As a seasoned trader at Platinum Crypto Academy, I've observed these leviathans of the crypto world with keen interest. Let's dive deeper into understanding their impact and how it shapes our trading strategies.

## Deciphering the Whale's Moves

Whales hold substantial amounts of cryptocurrency, and their trades can significantly influence market prices. When a whale buys or sells a large quantity of a particular crypto, it can lead to sudden price fluctuations. For retail investors, understanding these movements is crucial. It's like knowing when the tide is coming in or going out – it helps you decide when to surf the waves or when to stay ashore.

## The Psychology Behind Whale Activity

Understanding the psychology behind whale activity is as important as tracking their transactions. Are they investing based on long-term value or short-term gains? Are they trying to manipulate the market for their benefit, or are they reacting to broader market trends? These questions are vital. Sometimes, following a whale's move can be profitable, but other times, it might lead to a trap, especially if their actions are designed to create misleading market signals.

## The Impact on Retail Investors

For us, retail investors, the actions of whales can be both an opportunity and a risk. On the one hand, aligning our trades with a whale's movement can lead to significant gains, especially if we enter and exit the market at the right times. On the other hand, going against the current, or trying to outmanoeuvre a whale, can be risky. It requires a high level of market knowledge, timing, and sometimes, just plain luck.

## Strategies for Navigating Whale Waters

**Market Analysis:** Keep a close eye on market trends and news. Sometimes, the actions of whales are reactive to global events or market sentiments.

**Volume and Price Fluctuations:** Monitor trading volumes and price changes. Sudden spikes can indicate whale activity.

**Diversification:** Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Diversifying your portfolio can help mitigate the risks associated with whale movements.

**Risk Management:** Set stop-loss orders and have a clear exit strategy. In a market influenced by whales, it's crucial to know when to cut your losses or take your profits.

**Long-term Perspective:** While it's tempting to ride the waves created by whales for quick profits, having a long-term investment perspective can often be more beneficial.

## Market Analysis: Predictions vs. Reality

Predictions are often as volatile as the market itself. While it's tempting to get swayed by bullish forecasts, remember the market's unpredictability. Our approach at Platinum Crypto Academy is to blend cautious optimism with a healthy dose of realism. Yes, there are opportunities for significant gains, but they come hand-in-hand with risks. Diversification and not putting all your eggs in one crypto basket can be a wise move.

## Investment Strategies: The Platinum Approach

At Platinum, we believe in empowering our traders and investors with knowledge and tools. Given the current market scenario, where giants like BlackRock are making moves and whales are active, it's crucial to have a strategy that's both flexible and robust. We focus on long-term value rather than short-term hype. It's about understanding the fundamentals of each cryptocurrency and its potential market impact.

## The Balancing Act: Risks and Opportunities

Finally, let's talk about balancing risks and opportunities. The crypto market is not for the faint-hearted. It requires a blend of courage, caution, and most importantly, knowledge. While the potential for high returns is real, so is the possibility of significant losses. Our philosophy is to educate our traders to understand both sides of the coin (pun intended).

In conclusion, the crypto market is at a fascinating juncture. With big players like BlackRock making moves and whale activity shaping market trends, it's an exciting time to be in crypto. However, excitement should not overshadow prudence. At Platinum Crypto Academy, we're here to guide you through these turbulent waters with informed strategies and expert insights.

Stay curious, stay cautious, and happy trading!

# X launches dedicated payments account, crypto community speculates

Crypto commentators are speculating about the potential for cryptocurrency payments on the platform following X launching a dedicated account for its upcoming payments feature later in 2024.

Elon Musk's "everything app" X (formerly Twitter) has created a dedicated account for its upcoming payments feature, fueling crypto community speculation about whether cryptocurrencies will be implemented.

There is anticipation that the X app will introduce in-app payment services by mid-2024. However, it's unconfirmed whether the feature will support payments beyond traditional fiat currencies.

While no posts have been made on the account yet, it holds the gold badge, indicating it is a verified organization. Additionally, it carries the X badge, suggesting it is associated with X.

In a post on X, crypto researcher Mason Versluis shared with his 169,000 followers his excitement about the possibility of seeing crypto that starts with "X" on the app, such as XRP tickers down $0.53 Stellar XLM $0.114 and XDC (XDC).

Meanwhile, Musk has incorporated Dogecoin DOGE $0.08 for payments on Tesla's merchandise store, along with occasionally mentioning it on social media. Many speculate that it's the most likely crypto to be included on X if any were to be featured.

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# Global crypto user base surpassed half a billion in 2023 — Crypto.com report

A research report from Crypto.com estimates the number of worldwide cryptocurrency users surged to 580 million people in 2023.

More than half a billion people had become cryptocurrency users or owners by the end of 2023, according to a market sizing report from cryptocurrency exchange Crypto.com.

The company estimates that the global number of cryptocurrency users increased by 34% in 2023, growing from 432 million to 580 million people.

Delving deeper into the statistics, Crypto.com reveals that Ether ETH $2,344 ownership had risen from 89 million users to 124 million, while Bitcoin BTC $40,030 ownership had increased from 222 million to 296 million people by the year's close.

Crypto.com's on-chain market sizing estimates use its unique methodology to combine on-chain data with a blend of parameters to count the number of global cryptocurrency owners.

"Crypto adoption in 2023 achieved new milestones, in spite of macro headwinds, namely the further monetary tightening by Western central banks to try to tame inflation, protracted kinetic conflict in Europe and a new one in the Middle East, and longer-term consequences of the pandemic," an excerpt from the report notes.

The document adds that Ethereum's Shanghai upgrade played a role in the increase in the network's activity and a subsequent rally in the value of ETH. Meanwhile, the influence of nonfungible token functionality coming to the Bitcoin blockchain in 2023 through the advent of BRC-20 tokens and Bitcoin Ordinals also drove strong demand for Bitcoin block space.

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Hello fellow traders and crypto enthusiasts, Jimmy here from Platinum Crypto Academy. Today, I want to delve into some compelling insights that are shaping our financial world and, more specifically, the realm of Bitcoin. The landscape is changing, and as traders, we need to be ahead of these shifts.

## Understanding the Liquidity-Driven Market

I've seen firsthand how liquidity, or the ease of converting assets into cash, shapes the dynamics of our investments. Let's dive deeper into this concept and its implications for traders and investors.

Liquidity refers to the availability of liquid assets to a market. In simpler terms, it's about how easy it is to buy or sell an asset without causing a significant price change. A market is considered highly liquid if you can quickly enter and exit positions. This liquidity is a vital aspect of healthy financial markets, as it ensures smoother transactions and more stable prices.


## How Liquidity Influences Crypto and Tech Stocks

In the realm of crypto and tech stocks, liquidity plays a pivotal role. These markets are particularly sensitive to changes in liquidity. For instance, when there's an influx of liquidity (more cash available for investment), we often see a surge in asset prices. Conversely, when liquidity dries up, it can lead to rapid declines. This sensitivity makes understanding liquidity trends an essential part of our trading strategy.

The role of central banks in influencing market liquidity cannot be overstated. Through their monetary policies, such as adjusting interest rates or quantitative easing, central banks can inject or withdraw liquidity from the market. For example, lower interest rates generally increase liquidity by making borrowing cheaper, encouraging spending and investment. As traders, keeping an eye on these policy changes can give us clues about market directions.

## The Impact of Global Liquidity

It's not just about the liquidity in one country or market; global liquidity also has a significant impact. The interconnectedness of today's financial systems means that liquidity changes in major economies can have a ripple effect across the world. For instance, policy changes by the Federal Reserve in the US can influence market conditions globally, affecting everything from stock prices to the value of Bitcoin.

High liquidity typically leads to lower volatility, as it's easier for large trades to occur without significant price changes. However, in a low liquidity environment, even small trades can lead to big price swings. This volatility can be both a risk and an opportunity for traders. It's crucial to adapt our trading strategies to the current liquidity conditions, whether that means taking advantage of volatile markets or protecting our investments during less stable times.

### Navigating a Liquidity-Driven Market

As traders, how do we navigate this liquidity-driven landscape? Firstly, it's about staying informed. Monitoring central bank policies, global economic trends, and market liquidity indicators can provide valuable insights. Secondly, it's about flexibility. Our strategies should be adaptable to different liquidity conditions. And finally, it's about risk management. In a market driven by liquidity, being prepared for sudden shifts is key to protecting our investments.

### The Dual Faces of Inflation

Inflation is a word that often sends shivers down the spine of any investor. However, it's not a one-dimensional monster. There are two types of inflation we need to consider: one that eats into our income and another that impacts our future wealth through our investments. Last year, we saw the cost of goods rise faster than incomes, which squeezed our spending power. But there's also the asset inflation – the kind that makes our future selves poorer by tying up capital in investments with uncertain returns. This dual nature of inflation requires a nuanced approach to our investment strategies.

The global economic landscape is like a vast chessboard, with each region facing its own set of challenges. China, for instance, is grappling with significant economic issues, followed by Europe and the US. These challenges will likely lead to monetary policy responses that could have ripple effects across global markets, including cryptocurrencies.

The Predictable Cycles of Finance

Financial cycles refer to the periodic fluctuations in economic activity characterized by phases of boom


and bust. These cycles are influenced by various factors, including interest rates, consumer behavior, government policies, and global events. Historically, these cycles have been somewhat unpredictable. However, recent trends suggest a shift towards more predictable patterns, primarily due to the consistent intervention of central banks since the 2008 financial crisis.

### The Role of Central Banks

Central banks play a pivotal role in shaping these financial cycles. By adjusting monetary policies, such as interest rates and quantitative easing, they can either stimulate or cool down the economy. Since 2008, central banks worldwide have adopted a more proactive approach to managing economic cycles, often intervening to prevent economic downturns or to stimulate growth. This intervention has led to more predictable financial cycles, as market participants anticipate and react to these policy changes.


### The Debt Jubilee Cycle

A fascinating aspect of these predictable cycles is what I like to call the 'Debt Jubilee' cycle. Post-2008, central banks slashed interest rates to manage debt payments effectively, resetting government debts and creating a cycle of low-interest rates and high liquidity. This cycle has a profound impact on asset prices, including cryptocurrencies and stocks, as investors seek higher returns in a low-interest-rate environment.

## Predictability in Cryptocurrency Markets

In the cryptocurrency market, these predictable financial cycles have a unique impact. Cryptocurrencies, particularly Bitcoin, have shown a tendency to follow a cyclical pattern, often aligned with the halving events. These events, which occur approximately every four years, reduce the reward for mining new blocks by half, effectively limiting the supply of new bitcoins. This scarcity mechanism has historically led to an increase in Bitcoin's price, demonstrating a predictable cycle within the crypto market.

## Navigating Predictable Cycles

As traders, understanding and navigating these predictable cycles can be advantageous. It involves:

**1. Monitoring Central Bank Policies:** Keeping an eye on central bank actions can provide insights into potential market movements.

**2. Adapting to Market Conditions:** Being flexible with our investment strategies to align with the current phase of the financial cycle.

**3. Risk Management:** While these cycles can be predictable, they are not guaranteed. Implementing robust risk management strategies is crucial.

**4. Long-Term Perspective:** Considering the broader financial cycle can help in making long-term investment decisions, especially in the volatile crypto market.

## Currency Debasement and Crypto

The debasement of currency by central banks is a reality we can't ignore. This strategy, used to manage debt payments, effectively reduces the value of money. But here's where it gets interesting for us in the crypto space. Assets like Bitcoin, which are scarce and have technological adoption, tend to thrive in such conditions. This debasement is one of the reasons why cryptocurrencies can be such powerful investment vehicles.

## The Long-term View: Property Ownership and Wealth Gaps

Looking at the long-term implications, these financial strategies are reshaping the landscape of property ownership and widening the wealth gap. The younger generation is finding it increasingly difficult to own property, as their future selves are becoming poorer due to these economic shifts. This isn't just a financial issue; it's a societal one.

## Why Owning Bitcoin Could Be Key

One of the most compelling reasons to own Bitcoin is its potential as a hedge against currency debasement. With central banks around the world engaging in practices that effectively reduce the value of fiat currencies, Bitcoin stands out due to its limited supply. Unlike fiat currencies, which can be printed in unlimited quantities, the total supply of Bitcoin is capped at 21 million coins. This scarcity is a fundamental feature that could potentially protect its value against inflation and currency debasement. Bitcoin's predictable supply cycle, particularly the halving events, adds to its appeal. These events, occurring approximately every four years, reduce the rate at which new bitcoins are created. This built-in scarcity mechanism has historically led to an increase in Bitcoin's price, as supply tightens while demand remains steady or increases. This predictable aspect of Bitcoin's supply contrasts sharply with the unpredictable nature of fiat currency issuance.

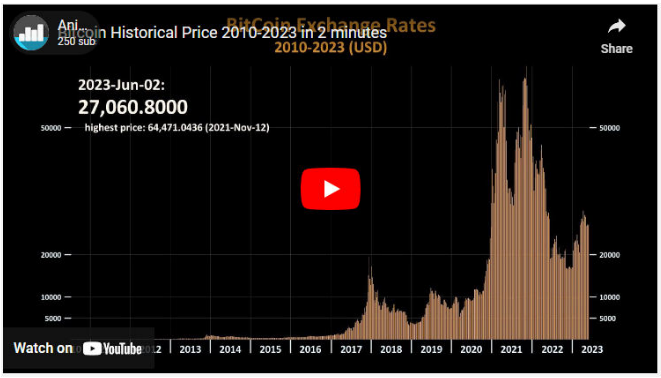
Bitcoin in the Context of Predictable Financial Cycles
In the realm of predictable financial cycles, Bitcoin offers a unique investment opportunity. As central banks continue to manage economic cycles through monetary policy, Bitcoin remains unaffected by such interventions. Its decentralized nature insulates it from policy changes and economic downturns that can impact traditional assets. This makes Bitcoin an attractive option for diversifying investment portfolios and reducing exposure to traditional financial market risks.

## Bitcoin's Technological Adoption and Growth

The continuous growth and adoption of blockchain technology further bolster Bitcoin's potential. As more individuals and institutions recognize the benefits of blockchain and cryptocurrencies, Bitcoin's position as the leading digital currency is likely to strengthen. This growing acceptance not only increases its utility but also enhances its value proposition as a digital store of wealth and a medium of exchange.

## The Long-Term Perspective

From a long-term investment perspective, owning Bitcoin could be key due to its potential for significant appreciation. While the crypto market is known for its volatility, Bitcoin has shown a general trend of




substantial growth over the years. For investors willing to weather short-term fluctuations, Bitcoin could offer impressive long-term returns.

## Final Thoughts

As we navigate these complex financial waters, it's crucial to stay informed and agile. The world of cryptocurrency offers unique opportunities, especially in the context of current global financial trends. At Platinum Crypto Academy, we're committed to providing you with the insights and tools you need to navigate this ever-evolving landscape successfully.

Stay curious, stay informed, and let's embrace the future of finance together.

# How Ubisoft, Xbox, and Blizzard Are Using AI to Make Next-Generation Games

UPDATED: Final Fantasy maker Square Enix says it used AI tools for its big new game, plus Ubisoft is tapping Nvidia's gaming tech for NPCs.

Some of the most prolific video game studios are using generative AI to automate the tedious elements of game design, like NPC dialogue and creating new levels of detail for in-game renderings—all in an effort to speed development and focus human talent on more important elements.

Generative AI is artificial intelligence that can create new content—such as text, images, or music—using prompts. It learns from a large amount of data and uses that data to generate new, complementary content ranging from simple sentences to videos and complex works of art.

Although a technology that's only recently captured the imagination (and concern) of the mainstream, here is how some game developers are already using AI. Blizzard Entertainment, the studio behind Diablo, Overwatch, and World of Warcraft, reportedly revealed in an internal memo in May 2023 that the company had begun experimenting with AI to create in-game character renderings.

According to the New York Times, Blizzard deployed its own internal AI tool, warning employees not to use third-party AI platforms to prevent the leak of confidential company data and IP.

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# Terraform Labs Declares Bankruptcy in Delaware

Terraform Labs recently lost a case when a U.S. judge ruled that LUNA and MIR are securities, and is currently facing a class action lawsuit in Singapore.

Terraform Labs recently lost a case when a U.S. judge ruled that LUNA and MIR are securities, and is currently facing a class action lawsuit in Singapore.

"The filing will allow TFL to execute on its business plan while navigating ongoing legal proceedings, including representative litigation pending in Singapore and U.S. litigation" Terraform Labs said in a statement.

Amongst the list of unsecured creditors are TQ Ventures, a U.S.-based digital assets investment fund, and Standard Crypto, a San Fransisco-based venture fund.

Terraform Labs and its founder, Do Kwon, may be hit with a class-action lawsuit in Singapore after the High Court dismissed an attempt to have it thrown out, Business Times reported on Thursday.

Terraform lawyers tried to shift the action to an arbitration process, citing the website's terms of use, according to the Business Times. The lawyers claimed users had foregone the right to trial and to join a class-action suit. The court ruled otherwise. Terraform Labs and its founder, Do Kwon, currently face the prospect of a class action suit in Singapore as well as a trial in the U.S. from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regarding the collapse of TerraUSD.

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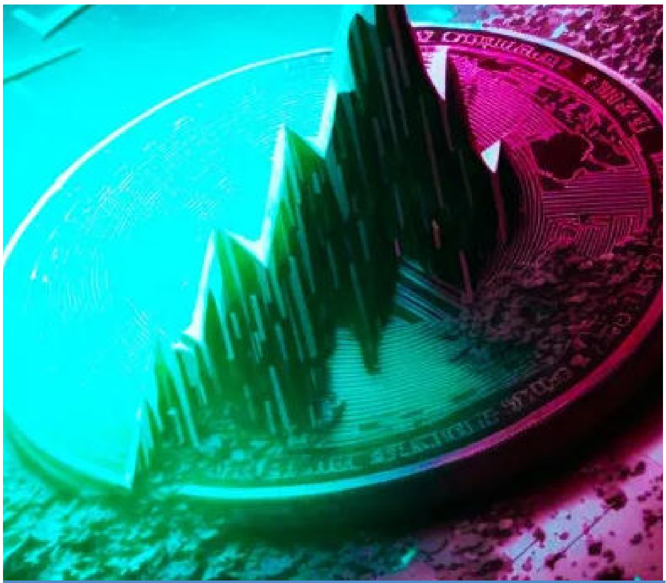

# Tron Founder Justin Sun Withdraws $60,000,000 Worth of Crypto From Binance in One Month: On-Chain Data

Billionaire and founder of Tron (TRX) Justin Sun has withdrawn tens of millions of dollars worth of digital assets from crypto exchange Binance in the last month, according to on-chain data.

Blockchain tracking firm Lookonchain says that between December 18th and January 21st, Sun has withdrawn several different altcoins from Binance, including $43 million worth of Ethereum (ETH), $6.7 million worth of Aave (Aave) and $6.3 million worth of Shiba Inu (SHIB).

Sun was spotted earlier this month by Lookonchain accumulating massive amounts of Ethereum from Binance, as well as other whales who were presumably putting more coins into cold storage.

Lookonchain also spotted a trader with an extremely profitable track record depositing over $730,000 worth of the oracle project UMA (UMA) to Binance after its recent rally.

"The price of UMA increased by 90% today!

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# JPM's Jamie Dimon believes Satoshi Nakamoto will either increase or "erase" Bitcoin supply

The JPMorgan CEO's unfounded theories on Bitcoin have attracted massive backlash.

Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JPMorgan, took aim at Bitcoin once again during an interview with CNBC at Davos 2024 on Jan. 17.

Dimon expressed an unusual theory in which he suggested that Bitcoin (BTC) could be eliminated once its maximum supply is issued. He said:

"I think there's a good chance that … when we get to that 21 million Bitcoins, [Satoshi Nakamato] is going to come on there, laugh hysterically, go quiet, and all Bitcoin is going to be erased."
Dimon also suggested that, contrary to this,

there is no guarantee that Bitcoin issuance will end once the circulating supply reaches 21 million BTC. He said:

"How the hell do you know that it's going to stop at 21 [million]? I've never met one person who told me that they know for a fact."

One of Dimon's co-panellists, CNBC Squawk Box host Joe Kernen, noted that the last Bitcoin will not be mined until about 2140 due to increasing mining difficulty. Kernen added that Bitcoin shares many economic properties with gold, to which Dimon replied, "You may be right … [but] I don't own gold either."

Dimon's latest statements have attracted massive backlash on social media.

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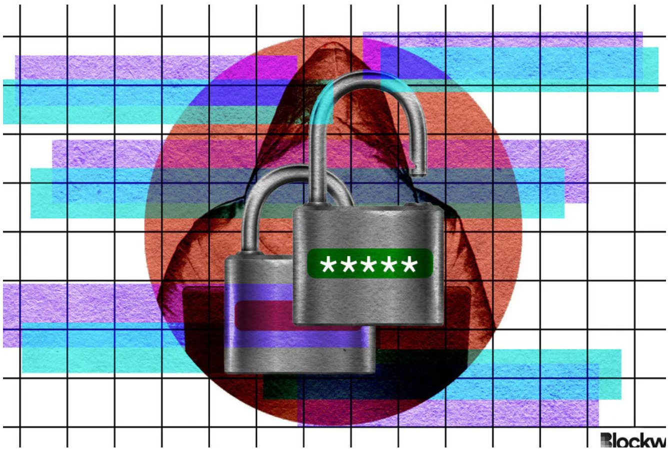
# Manta Network harmed by DDoS attack during token issuance




Its developer team is actively working on resolving congestion issues on Manta Network

Manta Network, a modular ecosystem for zero-knowledge (zk) applications, suffered a distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) attack during the issuance of the Manta (MANTA) token to its community.

DDoS attacks are malicious attempts to disrupt server traffic, often through overwhelming target infrastructure, leading to slower processing times.

“Yesterday, we saw network disruption caused by a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack that happened at 9:30 am UTC, the same time as our token generation event (TGE) where we saw over 135 [million] requests hit our remote procedure call (RPC) nodes,” Kenny Li, core contributor and co-founder of Manta, told Blockworks.

According to a post by Manta Network on X, this attack has led to longer transaction times and increased gas prices on the network. The team indicated that it is actively working on resolving this issue.

“Given that we were hit by over 135 [million] transactions in a short period of time on our RPC nodes, we have increased the security round of our DDoS integration. Due to the nature of this type of attack, the congested transactions will be resolved over a period of time,” Li said.

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# Trezor Users Under Alert Following Third-Party Security Breach

Trezor has notified 66,000 users about a potential phishing threat following a recent security breach.

The breach exposed contact details, including names, email addresses, and other sensitive information.

The hardware wallet provider emphasized that no user funds were lost and it is investigating the incident.

Trezor, a leading hardware wallet provider, has alerted its user base to a potential phishing threat after a security breach at a third-party support platform.

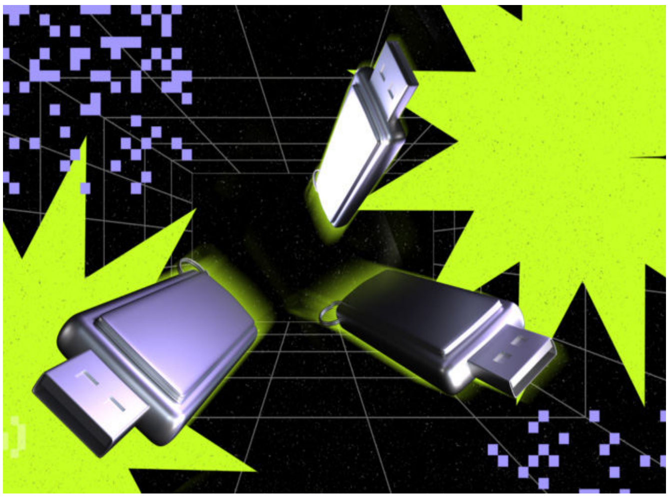
The hardware service provider disclosed that many customers face potential risks due to unauthorized system failure.

Trezor Details Security Breach

The contact details of 66,000 users who accessed Trezor Support since 2021 may have been compromised. The exposed data could include names, nicknames, and email addresses.

“This breach occurred at the level of that third-party service provider we are currently engaged with. We are amidst a thorough investigation into the scope of this incident, along with the third-party service provider, Trezor said.

In the aftermath of the breach, malevolent actors targeted 41 users via email, soliciting sensitive information regarding their recovery seeds.



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# Over 50% of Tokens Listed on CoinGecko Since 2014 Have 'Died'

2021 saw many cryptocurrencies fail, with memecoins and token ease of deployment causing project abandonment.

A recent study by CoinGecko reveals that over 50% of all cryptocurrencies listed on the platform since 2014 have met their demise.

Of the 24,000+ cryptocurrencies listed on CoinGecko since 2014, 14,039 have been deemed 'dead' or 'failed.'

Most Dead Coins Linked to 2020-2021 Bull Run
The study, which analyzed the fate of these digital assets, provides insights into the patterns of cryptocurrency failures over the years. Most of these dead ones originated from projects launched during the 2020-2021 bull run.

During this period, 7,530 cryptocurrencies died, accounting for 53.6% of all failed assets on CoinGecko. Over 11,000 cryptocurrencies were listed on CoinGecko during this bull run, with approximately 70% having shut down since.

In comparison, the previous bull run (2017-2018) witnessed a similar failure rate, with approximately 70% of the 3,000+ cryptocurrencies listed during that period having shut down. The year 2021 stands out as the worst for project launches, with 5,724 cryptocurrencies meeting their demise as of January 2024.

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# Metamask Launches Ethereum Validator Staking Services

Metamask, the Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM) wallet, has announced the launch of its validator staking services for Ethereum. The feature will allow users who want to stake their ether to do it simply from the Metamask portfolio interface, without managing hardware equipment, while maintaining custody of the cryptocurrency staked.

Metamask Introduces Validator Staking for Ethereum
Metamask, the Ethereum and Ethereum Virtual Machine (EVM) wallet, has introduced its validator staking services. The new feature allows users with 32 ETH to stake them directly from the interface of Metamask Portfolio.

The service backend is run by Consensys Staking, which manages over 4% of the total ETH staked, with over 33,000 validators having 99.99% uptime. Also, Metamask states that Consensys has not been slashed, a kind of penalty that Ethereum validators face when registering "dishonest behaviors" by the network.

Metamask stresses this addition simplifies the processes for users who want to stake ether. In an article presenting these services, Metamask remarked on the pros of staking ETH using this new functionality, explaining that it "removes the technical barriers needed to secure the network, democratizes participation in Ethereum staking for those unable or unwilling to solo stake, and offers you easy monitoring of your deposit and rewards."

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