COINBASE GOES FULL THROTTLE ON THE ASTON MARTIN ARAMCO DEAL!

PLATINUM CRYPTO ACADEMY

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EDITORS LETTER

Bitcoin has struggled to reclaim the psychologically important $100,000 level over the past few days, signaling weak buying interest at lower levels. CryptoQuant analyst J. A. Maartunn noted in a recent post that Bitcoin is flowing out of derivative exchanges and into spot exchanges, which could indicate the beginning of a bearish phase. Meanwhile, market sentiment has turned cautious, as reflected in last week's large outflows from Bitcoin exchange-traded products (ETPs). A CoinShares report revealed that Bitcoin ETPs saw $430 million in outflows, likely influenced by macroeconomic uncertainties and hawkish comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

Bitcoin bulls are struggling to push the price above key moving averages, suggesting that buying interest weakens at higher levels. If sellers take control and drive BTC below $94,000, the pair could drop toward the critical support at $90,000. Buyers are likely to defend this level aggressively because a breakdown and close below it would confirm a bearish double top pattern, potentially triggering a deeper correction toward $70,412. However, if Bitcoin manages to reclaim the moving averages, it would indicate renewed bullish momentum, setting the stage for a rally toward $102,500 and possibly extending to $106,500.

Ether remains range-bound, trading between $2,111 and $4,094 as buyers step in near support while sellers dominate near resistance. The bulls are attempting to initiate a relief rally, with the next key test coming at the downtrend line. A sharp rejection from this level would reinforce bearish sentiment, potentially leading to a breakdown below $2,500. If that happens, ETH could slide further to $2,400 and eventually retest the major support at $2,111. On the flip side, a breakout and close above the downtrend line would signal that the correction is over, opening the door for a rally toward $3,450 and eventually $3,750.

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

Enjoy the issue

Karnav Shah

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!

FEBRUARY 18th, 2025

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CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

375TH EDITION

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WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 375th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is $3.18 Trillion, Down 70 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at $93.49 Billion which makes a 51.80% increase. The DeFi volume is $6.97 Billion, 7.45% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is $85.73 Billion, which is 91.69% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the industry right now are NFT Marketplace and XRP Ledger Ecosystem cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has decreased by 2.45% from $98,415 last week to around $96,000 and Ether's price has decreased by 0.92% from $2,720 last week to $2,695
Bitcoin's market cap is $1.90 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is $1.28 Trillion.

Bitcoin has struggled to reclaim the psychologically important $100,000 level over the past few days, signaling weak buying interest at lower levels. CryptoQuant analyst J. A. Maartunn noted in a recent post that Bitcoin is flowing out of derivative exchanges and into spot exchanges, which could indicate the beginning of a bearish phase. Meanwhile, market sentiment has turned cautious, as reflected in last week's large outflows from Bitcoin exchange-traded products (ETPs). A CoinShares report revealed that Bitcoin ETPs saw $430 million in outflows, likely influenced by macroeconomic uncertainties and hawkish comments from Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

Despite the growing concerns, not everyone is bearish. Bitwise CEO Hunter Horsley expressed strong optimism, stating that Bitcoin is poised for mainstream adoption this year. Bitwise's head of alpha strategies, Jeff Park, also reinforced a bullish stance, calling Bitcoin a "generational opportunity," suggesting that long-term investors may still see value at current levels.

In Argentina, President Javier Milei addressed allegations surrounding his involvement with the controversial Libra token, which quickly collapsed in value. Facing legal action and political backlash, Milei denied actively promoting the project, saying he only shared information rather than endorsing it. During a televised interview on Feb. 17, he emphasized that he acted in good faith but acknowledged the need to be more selective about what he associates with in the future. He also distanced the

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)	
BTC	57.73%
ETH	9.73%
XRP	4.70%
USDT	4.29%
BNB	2.98%
SOL	2.71%
USDC	1.71%
DOGE	1.18%
ADA	0.87%
Others	14.10%

state from the controversy, stating that any fallout from the token's collapse should be limited to the involved parties.

Elsewhere, sentiment around Solana has weakened significantly, with traders increasingly betting on a pullback for SOL. Futures market data from Coinalyze shows the long-to-short ratio on SOL dropping from 4 to 2.5 on Feb. 17, signaling a shift toward bearish positioning. While Solana saw explosive growth in application revenues during Q4 2024—up 213% largely due to memecoin speculation—recent insider selling and massive retail losses have dampened enthusiasm. With multiple memecoin scandals unfolding on the network, investor confidence is taking a hit, leading to growing downside risk for SOL in the near term.

Meanwhile, XRP has emerged as one of the most actively traded cryptocurrencies on US-based exchanges, even surpassing Ethereum (ETH) in trading volume contributions on Coinbase. According to a Kaiko report, XRP accounted for 14% of Coinbase's total trading revenue in Q4 2024, marking a major milestone. The surge in demand follows Ripple Labs' partial court victory against the SEC, which clarified that XRP is not a security when sold on exchanges. This ruling paved the way for its re-listing on major platforms, fueling a wave of renewed investor interest and significantly boosting its market activity.
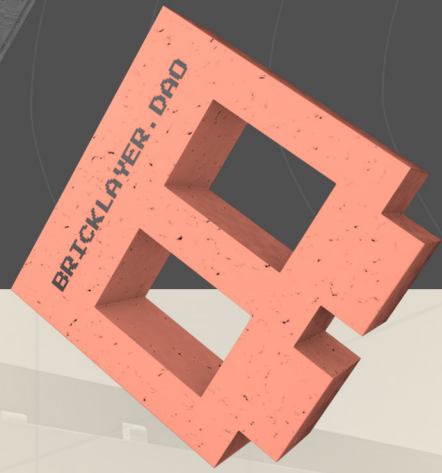
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PRESS RELEASE

BRICKLAYERDAO
PRESENTS $MRTR TOKEN TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH ITS PRESALE
$MRTR

BricklayerDAO is setting a new standard in the intersection of blockchain technology and real BricklayerDAO, the innovative platform bridging real-world assets (RWAs) and blockchain, has officially introduced its $MRTR (Mortar) token to the public through a live presale. Designed as the backbone of BricklayerDAO's ecosystem, $MRTR is a utility token that empowers members to participate in a decentralised real estate platform and benefit from treasury performance and lucrative staking rewards.

The $MRTR token stands apart as the operational force behind BricklayerDAO's vision of democratising access to value-add real estate opportunities and high performance development funds. With an ecosystem rooted in transparency and blockchain security, the token is pivotal in facilitating transactions, governance, and growth.

BricklayerDAO has also launched its decentralised application (dApp) and telegram mini-app, which lets you farm brick points and earn $MRTR rewards. You can stake $MRTR and submit new governance proposals on the dApp.

The $MRTR token is designed to support a high-volume ecosystem. With a total supply of 1 billion tokens and an initial circulating supply of 13,6 million $MRTR, it acts as the "fuel" of the platform, ensuring the seamless operation of BricklayerDAO's digital infrastructure. It complements the BRCK (Brick) token, a value-driven ERC-20 token that reflects the economic returns generated from real estate investments and crypto mining.

"$MRTR is the key to accessing the potential of our ecosystem," explains Nick, Co-Founder of BricklayerDAO. "It's what makes the decentralised vision of BricklayerDAO work, allowing community members to engage meaningfully while contributing to the network's growth. Whether it's staking, governance, or accessing ecosystem-exclusive benefits, $MRTR powers it all."

Holders of $MRTR tokens can participate in governance decisions, enabling a truly decentralised approach to decision-making within the DAO. This structure ensures that BricklayerDAO evolves in a way that aligns with the collective interest of its stakeholders.

$MRTR has been engineered to support BricklayerDAO's broader goals, from simplifying real estate transactions to supporting advanced blockchain offerings and optimising proptech. The token will facilitate:

Ecosystem Transactions: $MRTR is the primary token for transactions within the BricklayerDAO platform, including future AI-driven real estate services and other blockchain-based functionalities.

Governance: $MRTR holders can vote on proposals, shaping the DAO's strategies and initiatives.

Token Staking: By staking $MRTR, holders gain exclusive access to governance privileges and earn $MRTR yield and quarterly dividend rewards from the Treasury's performance.

BRCK Burn Mechanism: $MRTR is burnt when investors acquire $BRCK tokens, the flagship asset-backed token that reflects the value generated by real-world real estate and blockchain mining and staking ventures.

"BricklayerDAO is designed to bridge traditional real estate and the digital world of Web3," shares Edd, Co-Founder. "With $MRTR, we're taking a step closer to that vision by enabling seamless integration of value-added RWAs with decentralised governance and transaction frameworks."

In addition to fueling the DAO's ecosystem, $MRTR will play a crucial role in BricklayerDAO's upcoming AI-based offerings. The company plans to launch a cutting-edge AI real estate tool, codenamed Bricktop A.I., to provide data-driven insights and advanced analytics for real estate professionals. $MRTR will be the exclusive token for accessing these premium features, adding another layer of utility to its functionality.

As part of the token launch, BricklayerDAO has opened its $MRTR presale to early adopters. This is a limited opportunity to participate in one of the most exciting blockchain-driven real estate initiatives to date. Don't miss your chance to be part of BricklayerDAO's transformative journey in decentralised real estate. Buy $MRTR and stake for 12 months and receive 35% APY.

Visit **https://presale.bricklayerdao.com/** to claim your position right now.

BricklayerDAO is creating the Earth's most verifiable value offering on-chain for institutional real estate exposure, and we invite you to join us.

For more information, visit our **website**. You can stay up-to-date with BricklayerDAO by following them on social media platforms such as **X**, **Discord**, **LinkedIn**, **Instagram**.

About BricklayerDAO:

BricklayerDAO is a groundbreaking platform that merges blockchain technology with real estate investment, offering a decentralised approach to property transactions. By tokenising real-world assets and empowering stakeholders through governance, BricklayerDAO creates a transparent, accessible, and community-driven ecosystem for the future of real estate and blockchain integration.
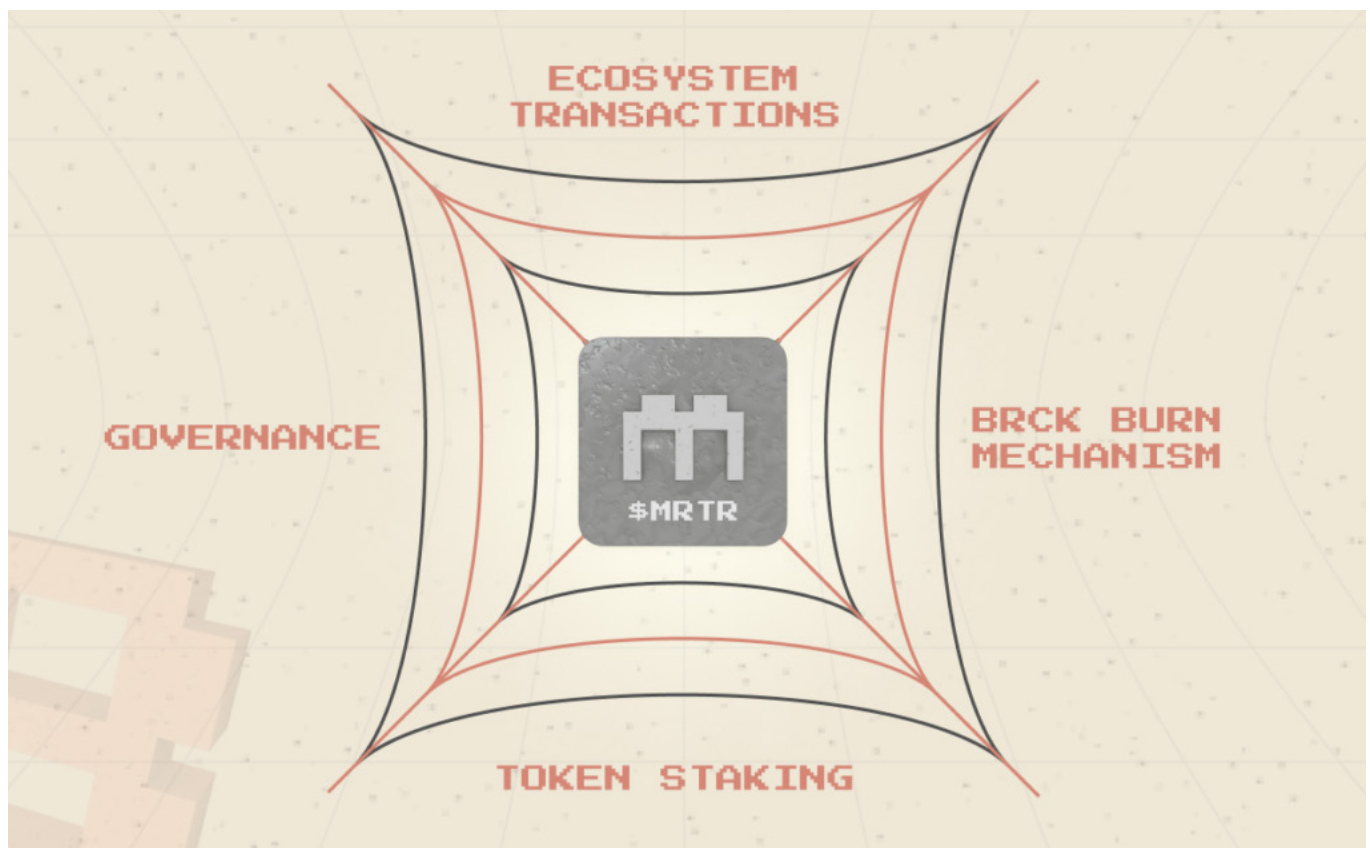
REVOLUTIONARY PROPERTY INVESTMENT PLATFORM FYBNAPP TRANSFORMS DUBAI REAL ESTATE MARKET

GEORGIA, USA — **FYBNAPP's** innovative FYBN token emerges as a game-changer in Dubai's real estate market. Operating on the Solana blockchain, FYBN token has established itself as a pioneering solution. The platform facilitates seamless property transactions in Dubai's dynamic real estate sector through digital innovation.

The platform partners with Dubai's leading property brokers, including members of the Billion Dollar Club. These partnerships with Emaar, Damac, and other prominent developers ensure access to premium properties.

FYBNAPP's innovative approach eliminates traditional banking obstacles and reduces transaction costs. Investors can convert various currencies, including digital assets, into FYBN tokens for property purchases.

Key Benefits of the FYBN Token (RWA – Real World Asset)

Discover the next evolution in cryptocurrency

Instant currency conversion capabilities

Reduced transaction fees and commissions

Enhanced investment liquidity through token trading

Secure transactions powered by Solana's blockchain

Global accessibility for international investors
FYBNAPP also introduces advanced DeFi tools for wealth management and growth. These features allow investors to maximize their real estate investments through decentralized finance solutions. The platform's unique value proposition extends to gas station business valuations. FYBN tokens facilitate purchase agreements and transaction settlements in this sector.

About FYBNAPP:
FYBNAPP is a Georgia-based blockchain company revolutionizing real estate transactions. The platform

combines Solana's speed with innovative financial solutions for global property investments.

"FYBN token represents a significant advancement in real estate investment," says Karnav Shah, Chief Editor at Platinum Crypto Academy. "They're bridging traditional real estate with digital innovation. The platform makes buying premium Dubai properties as simple as trading crypto. This is exactly what the market needed – a practical solution that brings real estate into the digital age."

For more information about FYBNAPP and investment opportunities in Dubai's real estate market, visit **FYBNAPP** or contact +1-4088565031.

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ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

IN A LETHARGIC BITCOIN MARKET, BTC $110K OPTION PLAY EMERGES AS TOP TRADING STRATEGY

Traders continue to position for price gains through options even as BTC trades listless below $100K.

The $110K call listed on Deribit has been the most preferred options play this month, according to Amberdata.

BTC remains confined to a narrow range below $100K, as boom-bust cycles of memecoins and macroeconomic headwinds temper the impact of positive news.

Bitcoin (BTC) has been relatively listless this month, hunching below $100,000. However, this hasn't deterred traders from continuing to bet bullishly on the leading cryptocurrency.

This month's most preferred options play has been buying the $110,000 call expiring on March 28, with buyers paying a cumulative net premium of over $6 million for the bullish exposure, according to the Deribit options flow tracked by Amberdata.

A call option gives the buyer the right but not the obligation to purchase the underlying asset at a predetermined price on or before a specific date. A call buyer is implicitly bullish on the market, while a put buyer is bearish, looking to hedge downside risks.

"Looking at the month-to-date flows for on-screen traders... the buying of March $110K calls has been the most active trade," Greg Magadini, director of derivatives at Amberdata, said in a note shared with CoinDesk.

Bitcoin has mostly traded within a narrow range of $95,000 to $100,000 this month. The bulls have had some positive developments to chew on, like the continued accumulation by MicroStrategy and Abu Dhabi's recent reveal of a $436 million investment in the bitcoin ETFs.

However, renewed macroeconomic headwinds, highlighted by last week's hotter U.S. inflation data and frequent liquidity drains caused by the boom-bust cycles of memecoins and other small-cap tokens, appear to be capping the upside potential.

Read more...

12 US states hold a total of $330M stake in Saylor's Strategy: Analyst

California has the largest investment in Strategy stock with more than $150 million held in state retirement funds, says Bitcoin analyst Julian Fahrer.

Twelve states in North America have reported holding Strategy, formerly MicroStrategy, stock in their state pension funds or treasury as of the end of 2024, totaling $330 million.

Retirement funds and treasuries in California, Florida, Wisconsin, and North Carolina have the most exposure to Strategy, observed Bitcoin analyst Julian Fahrer on Feb. 17.

California's teacher retirement fund has the largest holdings in Michael Saylor's business intelligence software firm, with 285,785 shares worth around $83 million at the time of the Form 13F filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Feb. 14.

California's State Teachers Retirement System fund, which totals $69 billion in various stocks, also holds Coinbase (COIN), with 306,215 shares worth $76 million at the time of filing.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System is also heavy on Strategy stock, with 264,713 shares worth around $76 million, and it also has $79 million worth of Coinbase stock. The state retirement fund holds around $149 billion in investments.

Read more...

Pump.fun Debuts Mobile App for Launching and Trading Solana Meme Coins

Popular Solana meme coin launchpad Pump.fun is now available on iOS and Android, letting users create and trade tokens from anywhere.

Solana-based token launchpad Pump.fun unveiled its mobile app on Friday offering users the ability to trade meme coins and create new tokens for free via their mobile devices.

The app, which is available in the Android and iOS app stores, operates similarly to the Pump.fun website. Users can create a profile with an email address or login via Google, which automatically creates a Solana wallet utilizing wallet infrastructure from Privy.

Why an app? "Our users asked for it, we gave it to them," a Pump.fun representative told Decrypt, further signaling that success will be found in users "downloading our app, finding value in the mobile experience, and continuing to actively use it as an alternative to our web UX."

After creating an account in the app, users can create a token at no cost, or fund their wallets to buy and sell meme coins on the platform. Pump.fun takes a fee on every meme coin trade on the platform, which its app disclaimer cites is used to "cover platform costs."

The Pump.fun app is listed in the "entertainment" category on both app stores, and has generated approximately 50,000 downloads across devices according to SensorTower, with user ratings lower than 2.5 stars out of 5 on average.
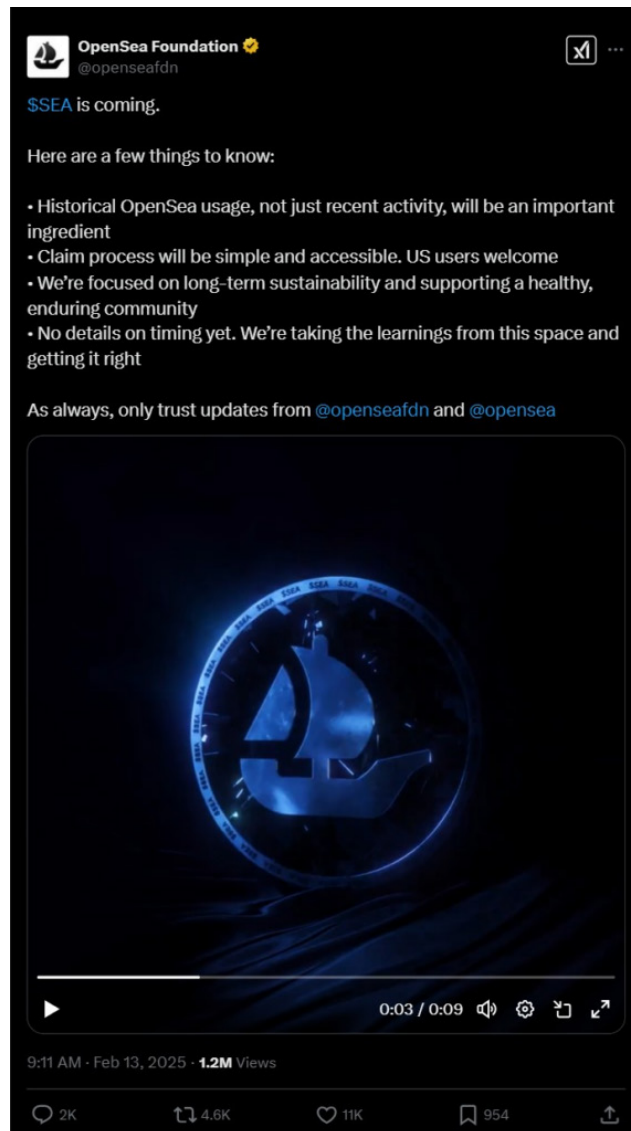
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OPENSEA ANNOUNCES
SEA TOKEN LAUNCH
AMID MAJOR PLATFORM OVERHAUL

In the world of cryptocurrency, new projects and innovative ideas are constantly emerging, The non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace OpenSea is set to take a significant step in its evolution by launching its native project token, SEA. This development was officially announced by the OpenSea Foundation on February 13, signaling a pivotal shift in the company's trajectory as it looks to revamp its platform and strengthen its position in the Web3 space.

While details regarding the exact launch date of the SEA token remain undisclosed, OpenSea has assured users that the token will be accessible in multiple regions, including the United States. One of the critical elements of the SEA token distribution will be historical OpenSea usage, meaning long-term participants in the ecosystem are likely to benefit from allocations.

This launch occurs against the backdrop of a rapidly shifting U.S. regulatory landscape for cryptocurrency firms, particularly following President Donald Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2024. The new administration has vowed to transform the U.S. into a global crypto hub, a stark contrast to previous regulatory hostility. Trump has appointed pro-crypto leaders to oversee key regulatory agencies, which has sparked optimism within the industry.

OpenSea Foundation
@openseafdn

$SEA is coming.

Here are a few things to know:

• Historical OpenSea usage, not just recent activity, will be an important ingredient
• Claim process will be simple and accessible. US users welcome
• We're focused on long-term sustainability and supporting a healthy, enduring community
• No details on timing yet. We're taking the learnings from this space and getting it right

As always, only trust updates from @openseafdn and @opensea

9:11 AM · Feb 13, 2025 · 1.2M Views

2K   4.6K   11K   954

Despite past legal challenges regarding whether NFTs and fungible tokens qualify as unregistered securities, OpenSea's leadership is moving ahead with its plans. While regulatory probes against OpenSea are yet to be resolved, the new administration's stance is expected to ease compliance pressures and reduce enforcement measures against crypto entities.

The Strategic Shift: OpenSea's OS2 and the New Direction

OpenSea, the leading non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace, is undergoing a transformative shift in its strategy with the introduction of OS2. This move signifies a departure from its previous approach, aiming to realign with the core principles of Web3, decentralization, and user empowerment. In this article, we explore the key elements of OpenSea's OS2, the motivations behind this change, and what it means for the broader NFT ecosystem.

Understanding OpenSea's Evolution

Since its inception in 2017, OpenSea has played a pivotal role in the growth of the NFT market. Initially celebrated for its decentralized ethos, the platform quickly became the go-to marketplace for digital collectibles, supporting artists, creators, and investors. However, as the NFT space evolved, OpenSea's operational model started resembling that of traditional Web2 companies, leading to concerns about centralization, control, and bureaucracy.

This gradual shift led to dissatisfaction among the NFT community, with many users feeling that OpenSea had moved away from its original decentralized values. In response, the company is now undergoing a strategic overhaul with OS2, an initiative designed to restore its reputation, enhance user experience, and introduce new functionalities.

The Core Features of OS2

The OS2 update is not just a cosmetic change—it represents a fundamental transformation in how OpenSea operates. The new version aims to address previous shortcomings while aligning with the evolving demands of the NFT community. Here are the major components of OS2:

1. Enhanced Decentralization

One of the primary criticisms of OpenSea was its increasing centralization. OS2 aims to counter this by integrating more decentralized technologies, ensuring greater transparency and reducing reliance on centralized decision-making.

2. A Revamped Marketplace Experience

With OS2, OpenSea is introducing a more user-friendly marketplace with improved search capabilities, enhanced collection management tools, and streamlined transaction processes. These updates are expected to enhance efficiency and make NFT trading more seamless.

3. Strengthened Security Measures

Security has always been a major concern in the NFT space. OS2 incorporates advanced security protocols to protect users from fraudulent activities, unauthorized listings, and phishing scams. The implementation of blockchain-based verification mechanisms ensures a more secure trading environment.

4. Improved Royalties and Creator Incentives

The NFT industry has faced ongoing debates about fair compensation for creators. OpenSea's OS2 introduces better royalty structures, ensuring that artists and creators receive fair rewards for their work, even in secondary sales.

5. A More Inclusive Ecosystem

OpenSea is working towards making OS2 more inclusive, allowing greater access to a diverse range of users. By supporting multiple blockchain networks and offering flexible transaction options, OS2 aims to cater to both new and experienced NFT enthusiasts.

The Rationale Behind OpenSea's Strategic Shift

Regaining Trust and Community Support

One of the driving forces behind OpenSea's OS2 launch is the need to rebuild trust within the NFT community. The platform faced criticism for policies perceived as restrictive and for making unilateral decisions that affected users. By refocusing on decentralization and user-friendly policies, OpenSea is working to re-establish itself as a marketplace that truly serves its community.

Adapting to Market Trends

The NFT market is evolving rapidly, with new platforms and competitors emerging regularly.

OpenSea's strategic shift is a response to changing market dynamics, ensuring it remains relevant and competitive. By aligning with emerging Web3 trends, OpenSea positions itself as a future-ready platform.

Enhancing Regulatory Compliance

As governments worldwide tighten regulations around digital assets, NFT platforms must adapt. OS2 includes mechanisms to enhance compliance with international legal standards, ensuring that OpenSea remains a trusted and legally sound marketplace.

Implications for the NFT Ecosystem

A New Standard for NFT Marketplaces

With OS2, OpenSea is setting a precedent for other NFT marketplaces. The introduction of decentralized protocols, improved security, and fairer compensation structures could become industry standards, prompting competitors to follow suit.

Empowering NFT Creators

By prioritizing creator incentives and royalties, OS2 has the potential to reshape how digital artists and content creators engage with NFT marketplaces. This could attract a new wave of creators to OpenSea, further enriching the NFT space.

Encouraging Mainstream Adoption

A more accessible and secure OpenSea could drive mainstream adoption of NFTs. With an improved user interface, stronger security, and inclusive policies, OS2 could lower entry barriers for new users and bring NFTs closer to widespread acceptance.

Regulatory Landscape and OpenSea's Positioning

One of the most pressing challenges for OpenSea has been regulatory scrutiny, particularly in the United States. Over the past few years, multiple lawsuits and investigations have questioned whether the NFTs traded on OpenSea qualify as unregistered securities. Additionally, regulators have applied even more intense scrutiny to fungible tokens, which SEA falls under.

Increased Government Scrutiny on NFTs

Regulatory bodies have long debated the classification of NFTs. Unlike cryptocurrencies, which are generally considered fungible assets, NFTs represent unique digital ownership. However, as NFT transactions grow in value and complexity, regulators are now assessing whether they should fall under existing financial and securities laws.

Some of the key areas of regulatory concern include:

Securities Classification: Certain NFT projects offer financial incentives, making them resemble traditional investment contracts. This has led to discussions on whether NFTs should be subject to securities regulations.

Anti-Money Laundering (AML) & Know Your Customer (KYC) Compliance: Authorities are pushing for stricter identity verification processes to prevent money laundering through NFT marketplaces.

Taxation Policies: Governments are working to clarify how NFT sales should be taxed, leading to increased reporting requirements for marketplaces and traders.

Global Regulatory Approaches to NFTs

Different countries are taking varied approaches to NFT regulation:

United States: The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has been investigating whether some NFTs function as unregistered securities. Additionally, U.S. lawmakers are pushing for stricter oversight of digital asset platforms.

European Union: The Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) regulation is set to introduce clear guidelines for digital assets, including NFTs, emphasizing consumer protection and financial transparency.

Asia: Countries like China have imposed restrictions on NFT trading, whereas Japan and South Korea are working on integrating NFTs into their financial regulatory frameworks.

These evolving regulatory policies mean that NFT marketplaces must proactively adapt to ensure compliance and avoid legal disputes.

How OpenSea is Positioning Itself

Recognizing the shifting regulatory climate, OpenSea has implemented several key strategies to ensure its long-term sustainability.

1. Strengthening Compliance Measures

OpenSea is taking steps to align with global regulations by:

Implementing KYC verification for high-value traders and institutional participants.

Enhancing AML protocols to prevent illicit transactions.

Collaborating with regulators to ensure compliance while maintaining a user-friendly marketplace.

2. Emphasizing Decentralization

As regulatory scrutiny increases, OpenSea is making efforts to decentralize aspects of its platform. By reducing reliance on centralized decision-making and integrating decentralized governance mechanisms, OpenSea aims to align itself with Web3 principles while reducing regulatory pressure.

3. Adjusting Its Business Model

To minimize legal risks, OpenSea is restructuring certain features, such as:

Modifying royalty structures to comply with evolving tax regulations.

Restricting access to certain NFT collections that could be classified as securities.

Ensuring transparent listing policies to avoid legal complications.

Implications for NFT Traders and Creators

1. More Secure and Regulated Marketplaces

Stricter regulations mean that NFT marketplaces like OpenSea will become more secure and credible. While compliance measures may introduce additional verification steps, they also protect traders from fraud and scams.

2. Increased Legitimacy for NFTs

By working within legal frameworks, OpenSea is helping NFTs gain mainstream acceptance. Clearer regulations will encourage institutional investors and traditional businesses to enter the NFT space, leading to broader market adoption.

3. Potential Challenges for Independent Creators

While regulations bring security, they may also impose challenges for smaller NFT creators. Compliance costs, tax obligations, and stricter marketplace policies could make it harder for independent artists to thrive. However, OpenSea's focus on creator incentives aims to balance these challenges.

However, the shifting political climate in the U.S. has injected fresh optimism into the crypto industry. President Trump has taken a pro-crypto stance, aiming to position America as a global leader in blockchain innovation. His recent nominations for key regulatory roles signal a shift away from aggressive enforcement policies, paving the way for a more lenient regulatory environment.

This potential regulatory recalibration could play a crucial role in OpenSea's ability to navigate compliance hurdles and fully realize its tokenization strategy without the overhang of legal uncertainties.

Momentum from Pudgy Penguins' PENGU Token Launch

OpenSea's decision to launch its SEA token closely follows the PENGU token debut, the native token for the Pudgy Penguins NFT collection. Pudgy Penguins, a well-known NFT project, launched its token in December 2023, initially commanding a $3.5 billion market capitalization.

However, following its launch, PENGU's valuation saw a significant decline, currently standing at approximately $620 million, as per data from CoinGecko. Despite the drop in market value, PENGU has generated substantial engagement and positioned Pudgy Penguins as a project exploring deeper utility and governance mechanisms for its community.

Although Pudgy Penguins has yet to reveal a concrete utility framework for PENGU, expectations are that it will play a key role in governance and ecosystem rewards. OpenSea will likely observe PENGU's trajectory to fine-tune SEA's design and use case, ensuring its token model aligns with sustainable market expectations.

The Evolution of NFT Marketplaces and OpenSea's Role

The launch of the SEA token and OS2 upgrade underscores OpenSea's ambition to reclaim its dominance in the NFT sector. The NFT industry has

witnessed rapid innovation, with competitors such as Blur, Magic Eden, and LooksRare emerging as strong alternatives to OpenSea.

1. The Growth of NFTs

NFTs emerged as a revolutionary way to prove ownership of digital assets, including artwork, music, and virtual real estate. The initial NFT boom was fueled by blockchain projects such as CryptoPunks and Bored Ape Yacht Club, leading to an explosion of interest in digital collectibles.

OpenSea, founded in 2017, quickly became the go-to platform for NFT trading. It provided an accessible marketplace that supported multiple blockchains, offering seamless transactions for users. OpenSea's first-mover advantage allowed it to dominate the sector, generating nearly $1 billion in fee revenue since its launch.

2. The Competitive Landscape Shifts

As the NFT market matured, new competitors emerged with innovative features that challenged OpenSea's business model. Platforms like Blur, Magic Eden, and LooksRare introduced incentive-driven models that rewarded user activity with airdrops, staking, and token-based incentives.

Blur gained traction by offering zero marketplace fees and rewarding traders with BLUR tokens, creating a high-volume trading environment.

Magic Eden focused on cross-chain support, allowing users to trade NFTs across multiple blockchains with greater flexibility.

LooksRare introduced a revenue-sharing model that directly rewarded NFT buyers and sellers with LOOKS tokens based on their trading volume.

As these platforms gained market share, OpenSea found itself in a position where its fee structure, centralized policies, and lack of incentive mechanisms led to a decline in user engagement. This forced OpenSea to rethink its approach to remain relevant.

OpenSea's Strategic Response: The SEA Token and OS2 Upgrade

Recognizing the shifting landscape, OpenSea has taken bold steps to re-engage its user base. The launch of the SEA token and OS2 upgrade represents a significant strategic pivot aimed at reinvigorating the platform.

1. The SEA Token: A New Economic Model

The SEA token is designed to compete with other marketplace-native tokens like BLUR and LOOKS by introducing new incentives and benefits for OpenSea users. While exact details about its functionality are still emerging, potential use cases for the SEA token include:

Fee Discounts – SEA holders may receive reduced marketplace fees, making OpenSea more competitive against zero-fee platforms.

Governance – Token holders could participate in decentralized decision-making, allowing users to vote on platform policies and future upgrades.

Creator Rewards – OpenSea may introduce exclusive incentives for NFT creators, encouraging them to list their collections on the platform rather than opting for competitors.

Staking Mechanisms – The ability to stake SEA tokens for passive income could provide long-term value to users and incentivize holding rather than immediate selling.

By integrating these features, OpenSea aims to restore user trust and loyalty, positioning itself as a more community-driven marketplace rather than just a centralized NFT trading platform.

2. OS2: A Complete Platform Revamp

Alongside the SEA token launch, OpenSea introduced OS2, a rebuilt version of its marketplace designed to enhance user experience, improve decentralization, and address previous criticisms.

Key features of OS2 include:

Re-enabling locked items and delisted collections – OpenSea aims to provide more flexibility to creators and collectors.

Enhanced transparency – Users will have greater visibility into listing policies and platform decisions. Reduced bans and restrictions – OpenSea is focusing on community-driven moderation, allowing users to have more say in how content is managed. OpenSea's CEO, Devin Finzer, acknowledged that the platform had become too corporate and risk-

averse in recent years, which alienated many users. OS2 represents a shift back toward a more open, user-focused ecosystem.

Challenges and Future Prospects for OpenSea

Despite OpenSea's bold moves, there remain several challenges the platform must navigate:

1. Market Volatility

The NFT market has gone through dramatic boom-and-bust cycles, with periods of hypergrowth followed by significant corrections. The recent decline in PENGU's valuation highlights the unpredictable nature of NFT-based tokens, making it crucial for OpenSea to build long-term utility for SEA.

2. Regulatory Uncertainty

While Trump's administration has signaled a more crypto-friendly stance, regulatory landscapes can shift quickly. OpenSea must ensure that SEA's tokenomics comply with evolving SEC and CFTC guidelines to avoid legal entanglements.

3. Competition from Emerging NFT Marketplaces

Competitors like Blur and Magic Eden are gaining ground through aggressive incentive models and enhanced trading experiences. OpenSea's success will depend on how effectively SEA differentiates itself and whether OS2 delivers a next-generation marketplace experience.

4. User Trust and Engagement

After facing criticism for corporate-style decision-making and centralization, OpenSea must rebuild user trust. Transparent governance mechanisms and active community engagement will be crucial in ensuring that SEA serves its intended purpose.

Adapting to Emerging NFT Trends

The NFT market is shifting beyond just profile pictures (PFPs) and digital collectibles. OpenSea can explore:

Gaming NFTs: The play-to-earn (P2E) gaming sector is growing rapidly, and OpenSea could become a major hub for in-game assets and virtual land.

Music and entertainment NFTs: Artists are using NFTs for royalty distribution and fan engagement. OpenSea could facilitate direct-to-fan monetization models.

Tokenized real-world assets: NFTs are evolving into proof-of-ownership mechanisms for physical assets, including real estate, luxury goods, and identity verification.

By adapting to these emerging trends, OpenSea can remain at the forefront of NFT innovation.

Conclusion

With its SEA token launch and OS2 platform upgrade, OpenSea is taking a bold leap into its next growth phase. By addressing past criticisms, embracing decentralization, and leveraging a more Web3-native approach, the marketplace aims to restore its position as the premier NFT platform.

The crypto community will be watching closely as OpenSea rolls out SEA and fine-tunes its token utility model. If successful, these developments could mark a new era for NFTs, where marketplaces prioritize user incentives, decentralization, and regulatory compliance.

As the industry continues to evolve, OpenSea's moves could set new precedents for how NFT platforms navigate the complex interplay of technology, regulation, and community-driven governance.

FAQs

1. What is OpenSea's SEA token, and how does it benefit users?

The SEA token is OpenSea's native cryptocurrency designed to enhance user engagement and competitiveness against platforms like Blur and LooksRare. Possible benefits include fee discounts, governance participation, creator rewards, and staking mechanisms for passive income.

2. How does OpenSea's OS2 upgrade improve the marketplace?

The OS2 upgrade is a major overhaul of OpenSea's platform, focusing on decentralization, transparency, and user experience. It re-enables delisted collections, enhances moderation policies, and reduces restrictions on NFTs, making the platform more creator- and trader-friendly.

3. Why did OpenSea lose market dominance, and how is it trying to recover?

OpenSea lost market share due to rising competition from platforms offering incentive-driven token models, zero fees, and enhanced user rewards. The launch of SEA and OS2 is OpenSea's strategy to regain users by making the marketplace more rewarding, transparent, and decentralized.

4. How does OpenSea's SEA token compare to Blur's BLUR token?

Both tokens aim to incentivize trading activity, but SEA may offer additional utilities such as governance participation, staking rewards, and exclusive perks for NFT creators. OpenSea's approach focuses on long-term platform engagement, while Blur's BLUR token primarily rewards high-frequency traders.
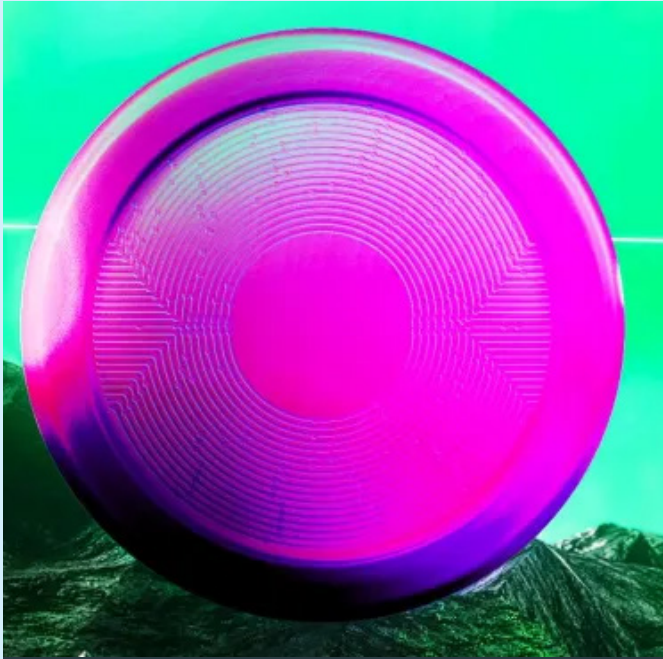
5. What does OpenSea's future look like in the evolving NFT market?

OpenSea's success depends on how well it integrates new features, competes with rival platforms, and adapts to industry trends. If SEA and OS2 gain widespread adoption, OpenSea could reclaim its position as the leading NFT marketplace in the long run.

Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino Actively Working With US Lawmakers To Shape Stablecoin Laws

The chief executive of USDT stablecoin issuer Tether is reportedly working with US authorities to construct laws around dollar-pegged crypto assets.

In a new post on the social media platform X, Fox Business journalist Eleanor Terrett reports that Paolo Ardoino and Tether are "actively engaging" with the US government on how to best form laws around stablecoins.

According to Ardoino, not only will Tether advise on the stablecoin bills unveiled this month, the firm will comply with the law whichever way the regulation goes.

"We are going to work within the regulatory framework, and we are going to try to advise on every single one of these field proposals to make sure that our voice is heard…

We are not going to just throw in the towel and let Tether die just for the sake of not adapting to U.S. legislation. But there is still a lot of uncertainty over what's actually going to happen, and we want our voice to be heard in the legislative process."

Last week, Representative Bryan Steil of Wisconsin and Representative French Hill of Arkansas released a discussion draft of the STABLE Act of 2025, which seeks to provide a regulatory framework for the issuance and operation of dollar-pegged crypto assets in the US.

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Ether traders eye growth as options market leans bullish

Ether option markets are "leaning bullish," with a "touch of caution" from large investors, as ETH faces significant downside volatility under $2,600.

The structure of the Ether options market suggests traders are anticipating medium-term growth, as February's options expiry events could play a decisive role in the price trajectory of the world's second-largest cryptocurrency.

More than 70% of the options open interest is in call contracts as of 10:35 am UTC on Feb. 16, with increasingly more traders betting on Ether's ETH $2,717 rise, CoinGlass data shows.

The bullish positioning suggests that investors are cautiously optimistic about ETH appreciation in the medium term, according to Nicolai Sondergaard, research analyst at Nansen.

"The ETH options market is leaning bullish, but there's a touch of caution," the analyst told Cointelegraph, adding:

"Most of the action is in calls, especially around $3,000–$4,000 strikes, and the low Put/Call Ratio backs up the optimism. There's a lot of focus on February and March expirations, so traders seem confident about medium-term growth." ETH has traded nearly flat over the past week but is down over 21% on the monthly chart, Cointelegraph Markets Pro data shows.

Ether has yet to stage a significant recovery in the current cycle, with the price remaining around 44% below its all-time high of above $4,890 recorded three years ago in November 2021.

Despite the optimistic outlook, large investors remain cautious in their options positioning, reflecting that there is still downside risk for Ether, Sondergaard said.

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HOW AI MUSIC AGENTS & WORKFORCE DECENTRALIZATION ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE – ITHEUM AMA INSIGHTS

In the world of cryptocurrency, new projects and innovative ideas are constantly emerging, TThe rapid adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) is fundamentally reshaping industries, introducing AI agents as full-time assistants, and in some cases, redefining business models entirely. Itheum, originally a data brokerage platform, has evolved into a multichain data tokenization infrastructure, focusing on AI agents with specific industry applications.

In a recent AMA (Ask Me Anything) session with Cointelegraph, Mark Paul, co-founder of Itheum, shared insights into decentralized AI, the role of AI music agents, and how the AI workforce will shape the future of creative industries. This blog delves into key takeaways from the discussion, exploring AI centralization, AI music agents, and the future workforce dynamics.

Understanding AI Centralization: The Current Landscape

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an integral part of modern society, driving innovations across industries, from healthcare to finance and entertainment. However, despite the growing push for decentralization in the tech world, AI remains largely centralized, controlled by a handful of technology giants such as OpenAI, Google, and Meta. These companies not only develop AI models but also refine them using vast amounts of user-generated data, often restricting access to core technologies.

The centralization of AI raises crucial concerns about data ownership, accessibility, and transparency. Let's discuss why AI centralization persists, the challenges it poses, and the potential for decentralized AI to reshape the future.

Why AI Centralization Persists

AI centralization persists due to several key factors, including the high cost of development, the need for massive datasets, and the competitive advantage that large tech corporations hold.

1. The High Cost of AI Development

Developing advanced AI models requires significant financial resources, computing power, and expertise. Training large-scale AI systems such as OpenAI's GPT models or Google's Bard involves billions of parameters, necessitating powerful GPU clusters and vast data centers. Small companies and independent developers lack the resources to compete on this scale, reinforcing the dominance of tech giants.

2. Access to Vast Datasets

AI models improve through training on massive datasets, much of which is proprietary or collected from users. Centralized entities have access to unparalleled amounts of data from their platforms, whether it be search queries, social media interactions, or cloud-based enterprise data. This data advantage makes it challenging for decentralized AI models to reach comparable levels of sophistication.

3. Regulatory and Compliance Complexities

Governments worldwide are enacting AI regulations to ensure responsible AI use. However, compliance with these laws requires significant legal and technical expertise. Large corporations have the legal teams and resources to navigate regulatory challenges, while decentralized AI initiatives may struggle to meet compliance requirements, further entrenching centralization.

4. The Network Effect

AI systems benefit from the network effect, meaning that as more users interact with a centralized AI, it improves faster. Users rely on established AI models due to their accuracy, reliability, and integration with widely used applications. This self-reinforcing cycle makes it difficult for decentralized alternatives to gain traction.

Challenges of Centralized AI

Although centralized AI models provide cutting-edge capabilities, they also introduce a range of concerns that affect users, businesses, and society as a whole.

1. Data Ownership and Privacy Issues

One of the most pressing concerns of centralized AI is data ownership. Users contribute vast amounts of data to train AI models, yet they have no control over how their data is used or monetized. This lack of transparency raises ethical concerns, particularly in industries where sensitive personal data is involved.

2. Increased Costs for Users

AI companies continuously refine their models using user-generated input but charge higher fees for improved services. This practice creates an imbalance where users provide valuable data to enhance AI systems yet must pay premium prices to access better AI features. Subscription-based AI services, enterprise licensing fees, and API access costs contribute to the financial burden of using AI.

3. Lack of Transparency and Accountability

Proprietary AI models operate as black boxes, meaning their decision-making processes are not always clear. This opacity creates challenges in verifying AI-generated outputs, leading to issues such as biased results, misinformation, or ethical concerns. Without transparency, it is difficult to audit AI models for fairness and accuracy.

4. Centralized Control and Potential Misuse

The control of AI by a few corporations raises concerns about potential misuse, censorship, and monopolization. AI companies determine how their models are used, who can access them, and under what conditions. This level of control could lead to biased content moderation, algorithmic manipulation, or restrictions on innovation.

Decentralized AI as an Alternative

In response to these challenges, decentralized AI aims to provide a more open, transparent, and community-driven approach to artificial intelligence. By leveraging blockchain technology, decentralized AI models can operate in a way that benefits users rather than central entities.

1. User-Owned Data and AI Models
Web3 and blockchain-based AI platforms allow

users to maintain control over their data. Instead of handing over data to centralized corporations, individuals can contribute data in exchange for rewards while retaining ownership. This model ensures that data providers are fairly compensated for their contributions.

2. Decentralized AI Governance

Unlike centralized AI models controlled by corporations, decentralized AI operates on community-driven governance. Decision-making regarding AI training, updates, and ethical guidelines is managed through decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs), ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

3. Tokenized AI Economies

Blockchain technology enables tokenized AI ecosystems where contributors, developers, and users are rewarded for participation. Projects like Itheum are pioneering AI tokenization, allowing musicians, content creators, and AI curators to interact with AI in a decentralized manner.

4. Increased Transparency

Decentralized AI models use smart contracts and blockchain technology to ensure that all transactions, model updates, and decisions are transparent. This level of openness allows for greater accountability, reducing the risk of biased decision-making and ensuring ethical AI development.

AI Agents in the Music Industry: A Game Changer

The music industry has always evolved alongside technology, from the invention of the phonograph to the rise of digital streaming. Today, artificial intelligence (AI) is the next frontier, transforming the way artists create, distribute, and monetize their work. AI-driven music agents and blockchain-based technologies like Data NFTs are reshaping how artists interact with fans, manage royalties, and gain exposure.

Revolutionizing Music with Data NFTs

While non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have primarily been associated with digital art, innovative platforms like Itheum are expanding their application into the music industry. The introduction of Data NFTs presents a groundbreaking way for musicians to tokenize their work, ensuring more control over their intellectual property.

What Makes Data NFTs Unique?

Unlike traditional NFTs, which are often static and immutable, Data NFTs are dynamic and offer musicians greater flexibility. Key features include:

Modifiable Content: Unlike standard NFTs that remain fixed after minting, Data NFTs allow musicians to update metadata, add new songs, or release exclusive remixes. This dynamic nature ensures that a single NFT can evolve over time, providing ongoing value to collectors and fans.

Integrated Royalties: One of the biggest challenges musicians face is fair royalty distribution. Data NFTs embed automated royalty mechanisms, ensuring that every collaborator—whether a producer, songwriter, or session musician—receives their share instantly through smart contracts. This eliminates the common issue of delayed or missing payments.

Enhanced Artist Control: In the traditional music industry, record labels often hold the majority of rights to an artist's work. With Data NFTs, artists maintain control over their music and how it is shared, distributed, and monetized. They can also decide pricing models, grant exclusive access, and directly engage with fans.

The Future of Music Ownership and Monetization

The implications of Data NFTs are immense. Instead of relying on third-party platforms like Spotify or Apple Music, artists can sell tokenized versions of their albums directly to fans. Collectors and supporters could, in turn, resell these NFTs in secondary markets, with artists still earning royalties from every transaction.

For independent artists, this technology could be a game-changer, allowing them to bypass major labels and streaming services, which often take a significant portion of earnings. By leveraging Data NFTs, musicians can monetize their work while retaining creative and financial autonomy.

How AI Music Agents Like Sigma Work

AI-driven music agents are becoming an essential tool for artists looking to streamline their careers.

One such AI-powered assistant, Sigma, is built on Itheum technology, offering automation and support in various aspects of an artist's career.

Key Functions of Sigma

Sigma acts as a virtual manager, handling everything from audience engagement to financial transactions. Its capabilities include:

Promotion & Community Management: Sigma is programmed to analyze fan interactions and optimize promotional campaigns. It can schedule and execute social media marketing, send personalized updates to followers, and track engagement metrics. This means artists can spend more time on their music rather than worrying about online visibility.

Royalty Distribution: Managing finances can be complicated, especially when multiple parties are involved. Sigma automates royalty distribution, ensuring payments are sent instantly and transparently. This is especially beneficial for independent artists who lack the infrastructure of major labels.

Collaboration Facilitation: Networking is crucial in the music industry, and Sigma helps by identifying potential collaborators, recommending partnerships, and even handling the logistics of collaborations. Whether it's connecting artists for remixes, features, or joint projects, Sigma acts as a digital A&R (Artists and Repertoire).

24/7 Support for Artists

One of the most revolutionary aspects of Sigma is its continuous operation. Unlike human managers, who have limited hours and availability, Sigma works around the clock.

"Sigma can work 24/7 while you're sleeping, managing everything from streaming to distribution," said Paul, one of the key contributors to the project.

This capability ensures that artists can focus on music creation, knowing that their administrative tasks, promotional efforts, and financial transactions are being handled efficiently.

The Impact on Independent Musicians

For independent artists, the music industry can be incredibly challenging. Without the backing of a major label, they often struggle with:

Limited marketing resources
Low revenue shares from streaming platforms
Complicated royalty payment structures

By utilizing AI-driven agents like Sigma and embracing Data NFTs, independent musicians can overcome these hurdles and compete on a level playing field with industry giants.

How AI and Blockchain Benefit Indie Artists

1. Wider Audience Reach: AI tools analyze listener behavior and recommend content to the right audiences, increasing organic reach. Sigma ensures that an artist's music appears on playlists and reaches new fans effortlessly.

2. Fair Compensation: Unlike streaming services that pay fractions of a cent per stream, Data NFTs allow artists to sell music directly to fans at fair prices while earning ongoing royalties from resale transactions.

3. Automation of Administrative Tasks: Managing contracts, tracking payments, and handling marketing are time-consuming. Sigma automates these tasks, allowing artists to focus entirely on their craft.

The Future of the AI Workforce

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has sparked widespread concerns about job displacement, automation, and the changing nature of work. As AI systems become more capable of performing complex tasks traditionally handled by humans, the fear of mass unemployment looms large in many industries. However, rather than viewing AI as a threat to human labor, experts like Paul advocate for a more collaborative approach, where humans and AI work together to enhance productivity and efficiency.

One of the most promising solutions to this challenge is the emergence of the AI Data Workforce, a decentralized system that encourages human curation, quality control, and governance over AI-generated content. This approach ensures that AI remains a tool that serves humans, rather than replacing them entirely.

Decentralized AI and Human Curation

Traditional AI systems rely on large datasets and complex algorithms to generate content, make decisions, and automate various processes. However, these systems are far from perfect. They can produce biased results, generate misleading information, or fail to meet the nuanced expectations of human users. This is where human curation comes into play.

The AI Data Workforce enables individuals to take an active role in shaping AI outputs by:

1. **Curating AI-Generated Content** – Human reviewers evaluate AI-generated text, images, videos, and other content to ensure quality, accuracy, and ethical compliance. This helps eliminate errors and refine AI performance over time.

2. **Voting on AI Outputs** – Community-driven voting mechanisms allow users to approve, reject, or suggest improvements for AI-generated content. This ensures that the highest-quality outputs gain prominence while flawed results are filtered out.

3. **Building On-Chain Reputation with NFMe ID Vaults** – Users can establish a digital identity linked to their AI-related contributions, earning a reputation based on their expertise and participation in AI governance.

The Role of NFMe IDs in AI Collaboration

A critical component of this decentralized AI workforce is NFMe ID technology, which acts as a secure, blockchain-based identity system for individuals interacting with AI.

What Are NFMe IDs?

NFMe IDs function as decentralized digital identities that allow users to securely engage with AI while maintaining their privacy. These IDs offer several key features:

Encrypted Data Storage – NFMe IDs securely store personal and professional data while ensuring that user information remains private and protected.

Zero-Knowledge Proof Interactions – Users can verify their identity or expertise without revealing sensitive personal details, enhancing security and trust.

On-Chain Reputation – Contributions made to the AI Data Workforce are recorded on the blockchain, allowing individuals to build a verifiable reputation based on their expertise and the quality of their AI curation efforts.

Why NFMe IDs Matter

In a world where AI-generated content is rapidly expanding, accountability and authenticity are becoming increasingly important. NFMe IDs provide a way to verify human input in AI systems, ensuring that trusted individuals play a key role in shaping AI-driven experiences. This is especially valuable in areas like:

Content Moderation – Preventing misinformation and harmful AI-generated content.

AI Training and Governance – Ensuring ethical and unbiased AI development.

Decentralized Work Opportunities – Allowing users to earn rewards for their contributions to AI curation and improvement.

AI Workforce: A Shift from Replacement to Collaboration

Instead of completely automating jobs and replacing human workers, AI is evolving into a powerful assistant that augments human capabilities. This shift is particularly evident in industries like:

Creative Professions – AI assists writers, designers, and musicians by generating ideas, automating repetitive tasks, and enhancing artistic workflows. **Customer Support** – AI chatbots handle basic inquiries, while human agents focus on complex customer interactions.

Healthcare – AI-powered diagnostics assist doctors in detecting diseases faster and more accurately, but human oversight remains crucial.

Finance – AI automates risk assessment and fraud detection, but human financial analysts still play a vital role in decision-making.

This new model of AI-human collaboration suggests that the future workforce will be driven by individuals who know how to leverage AI tools effectively, rather than compete against them.

Decentralized AI and the Gig Economy

The traditional gig economy, which includes platforms like Uber, Fiverr, and Upwork, has created

millions of freelance work opportunities. However, these centralized platforms often take large commissions and offer limited worker protections.

The AI Data Workforce introduces a decentralized gig economy model, where contributors directly earn rewards based on their work without intermediaries taking excessive cuts. By using blockchain and AI-powered automation, this system ensures:

Fair Compensation – Contributors receive transparent and immediate payouts based on their work quality and reputation.

Skill-Based Opportunities – AI curation roles match individuals with relevant expertise, ensuring high-quality content review.

Scalability and Accessibility – Anyone with internet access can participate, creating global work opportunities.

How the AI Data Workforce Operates

1. AI Generates Multiple Music Tracks: AI creates two versions of a song.

2. Users Vote on the Best Version: Participants use their NFMe ID to make a choice.

3. Reputation and Rewards: Users earn BiTz XP, building their credibility and earning rewards.
This model ensures human oversight while leveraging AI efficiency.

Potential Applications Beyond Music

Although music is a primary focus, AI agents and the AI Data Workforce concept can extend to:

Financial Sector: AI advisors assisting with investments.

Personal Assistants: AI managing schedules and tasks.

Travel Planning: AI-powered trip planners optimizing itineraries.

"Our goal is to build technology that allows AI agents to do things more efficiently and, as a result, bring more value to people," Paul emphasized.

Looking Ahead: The Evolution of AI Agents
The Shift Toward More Intelligent AI Assistants

AI agents are expected to become more autonomous, sophisticated, and integrated across industries. Some key future trends include:

Enhanced Context Awareness: AI agents understanding user preferences better.

Greater Decentralization: Increased adoption of Web3-based AI models.

Expanded Industry Use Cases: AI music agents could pave the way for AI-powered legal, medical, and creative assistants.

The Role of Web3 in AI Development
Web3 technologies, particularly blockchain, will play a crucial role in:

Ensuring Transparency: Smart contracts managing AI interactions.

Rewarding Data Contributors: Users benefiting from AI model improvements.

Enabling Decentralized Governance: Communities influencing AI development.

Addressing Challenges in AI Workforce Integration
While the AI Data Workforce presents exciting possibilities, several challenges must be addressed:

1. AI Bias and Ethical Concerns – Without proper human oversight, AI systems can reinforce biases and spread misinformation. Decentralized curation helps mitigate this risk.

2. User Adoption – Many individuals and businesses lack awareness of decentralized AI workforce models. Education and training programs are needed to increase participation.

3. Regulatory Uncertainty – Governments and legal institutions are still catching up with AI and blockchain innovations. Clear policies must be established to protect AI workers and ensure compliance.

4. Scalability – Ensuring that AI-human collaboration remains efficient and scalable will require continuous improvements in blockchain infrastructure and decentralized governance systems.

Conclusion

The AMA with Mark Paul provided a deep dive into the evolving AI landscape, from centralization challenges to the transformative potential of AI music agents and the future AI workforce. While AI remains largely centralized, decentralized models like Itheum offer promising alternatives, ensuring data contributors are rewarded and empowering creators across industries.

AI agents, particularly in music, are set to redefine how artists engage with their audience, manage their careers, and distribute royalties. Meanwhile, the AI Data Workforce presents a vision where humans collaborate with AI rather than compete against it.

As AI continues to reshape industries, staying informed and engaged with decentralized initiatives will be key to navigating the future of the AI-powered world.

Bitcoin ETF: Abu Dhabi Sovereign Wealth Fund Discloses $437 Million BlackRock Holdings

According to a recent filing with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund currently holds a significant amount in BlackRock's spot Bitcoin ETF (exchange-traded fund). This purchase came in the final quarter of 2024 after asset management firm BlackRock secured the commercial license to operate in Abu Dhabi last November.

Sovereign Wealth Fund Buys Significant Stake In Largest Bitcoin ETF On Friday, February 14th, a 13F filing with the SEC revealed that Mubadala Investments purchased $436.9 million of BlackRock's Bitcoin ETF shares (with the ticker IBIT). Mubadala Investments

is one of Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth funds, which makes investments on behalf of the Middle Eastern city's government.

In 2024, the world's largest asset manager BlackRock — with tens of trillions of dollars under management — disclosed its intentions to expand in the Middle East, focusing on the capital city Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. The recent $437 million purchase of its Bitcoin ETF accentuates BlackRock's mission to work closely with sovereign wealth funds in the region.

Interestingly, this latest acquisition is hardly the first time Abu Dhabi's government — through its various investment entities — would dabble into cryptocurrencies.

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SEC opens door to Grayscale's Dogecoin and XRP ETFs with surprising acknowledgment

SEC's nod to Grayscale's ETF plans suggests increased openness to crypto in traditional markets.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has acknowledged Grayscale's applications for spot Dogecoin (DOGE) and XRP exchange-traded funds (ETFs), according to two Feb. 13 filings by the financial regulator.

This marks the first step in a regulatory review process that could determine whether these funds receive approval.

Both ETFs aim to track the price performance of their respective assets, allowing investors direct exposure to DOGE and XRP through traditional markets.

What does this mean? The SEC's recognition of these filings indicates a willingness to review and decide on the applications. Bloomberg ETF analyst Eric Balchunas

noted that the agency's acknowledgment is a positive development. Historically, similar filings for altcoins have faced immediate rejection.

Fox Business journalist Eleanor Terrett further explained that the SEC appears more receptive to considering these crypto ETFs. This marks a shift from December when exchanges withdrew 19b-4 applications for Solana (SOL) after the regulator signaled a lack of engagement.

While the acknowledgment is just the first step in a lengthy approval process, it suggests a growing possibility that these ETFs could reach the market.

Despite this development, regulatory uncertainty remains. Bloomberg ETF analyst James Seyffart recently suggested that the approval of an XRP ETF may depend on the resolution of the SEC's lawsuit against Ripple.

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Argentine President Milei Hit With Fraud Charges Over LIBRA Cryptocurrency

Milei deleted his promotional X post and disavowed the LIBRA project, but not before investors lost millions.

Argentine President Javier Milei faces fraud charges over his promotion of the LIBRA cryptocurrency, which soared above a $4 billion market cap minutes after launching on Friday before crashing spectacularly just hours later.

The charges, filed Sunday in an Argentine criminal court, were brought by attorneys and political opponents of Milei, including former head of the Argentine Central Bank Claudio Lozano, according to the Associated Press.

The complaint alleges that the team behind the LIBRA cryptocurrency—a cryptocurrency investment company known as Kelsier Ventures and its CEO Hayden Davis—committed "an indeterminate number of frauds" with Milei's involvement.

"Within this illicit association, the crime of fraud was committed, in which the president's actions were essential," Jonatan Baldiviezo, a lawyer and one of the plaintiffs, told the AP.

Milei originally promoted the LIBRA token on his X account late Friday along with a link to the Viva La Libertad Project website. "This private project will be dedicated to encouraging the growth of the Argentine economy by funding small Argentine businesses and start-ups," Milei said in a since-deleted post.

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Wrapped AVAX Sees Increased Wallet Accumulation Amid Bybit Card Cashback Adoption

Nearly 4,000 wallets added WAVAX holdings, 1.8 times the recent average, according to onchain data.

Wrapped AVAX (WAVAX) fell 4.5% in the past 24 hours.

3,898 wallets increased their WAVAX holdings, up from the recent 1,600-wallet average, according to the onchain data provided by the Tie.

The accumulation trend may suggest confidence in the token despite market weakness.

Wrapped AVAX (WAVAX) has seen a surge in wallet accumulation on the Avalanche blockchain, even as its price dropped more than 4% over the past 24 hours, data from

TheTie shows.

A total of 3,898 wallets added to their WAVAX holdings today—nearly twice the recent average of 1,600, the data shows. A wrapped token is a token that represents a cryptocurrency from another blockchain or token standard and is worth the same as the original cryptocurrency. The wrapped token can be used on certain non-native blockchains for trading, lending and borrowing on DeFi platforms and later redeemed for the original cryptocurrency.

While a declining price often signals bearish sentiment, the uptick in accumulation could suggest that some traders see long-term potential in WAVAX. However, whether this buying activity translates into price stability or a rebound remains to be seen.

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Top US Crypto Exchange Coinbase Launches Support for New Asset Tied to Intellectual Property-Focused Blockchain

Coinbase has rolled out trading support for the brand-new native token of a layer-1 blockchain focused on intellectual property (IP).

The scalable intellectual property solution Story launched its public mainnet on Thursday and aims to serve as a blockchain where rights holders can upload IP, set the terms of use and mon-etize it throughout the protocol's application ecosystem.

"AI (artificial intelligence) is undermining IP as we know it. The traditional IP system can no longer keep pace with the speed and scale of generative AI. Centralized intermediaries make exchanging, licensing, and monetizing IP prohibitively expensive. IP owners see their works used in AI models without attribution or compensation, and even AI companies themselves can't possibly make millions of individual licensing agreements.

AI and IP are locked in a zero-sum struggle, making the marketplace of ideas both illegible and illiquid.

Story proposes an entirely new framework for intellectual property, one that creates an open and programmable market for IP. Story is a peer-to-peer intellectual property network purpose-built to transform IP into a programmable asset class, enabling permissionless exchange, ownership, and monetization across AI and the broader internet."

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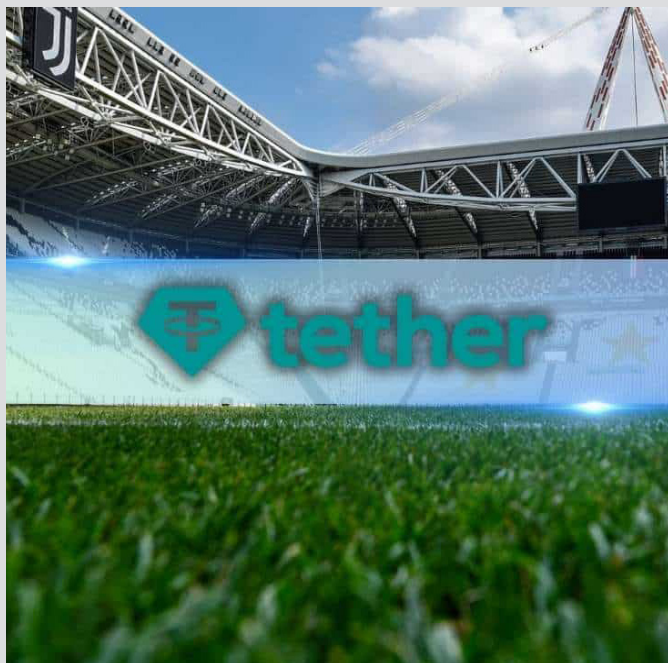
Tether Acquires a Minority Stake in Italian Football Giant Juventus

We will explore avenues for innovative collaborations and the potential to revolutionize the global sports landscape," CEO Ardoino said.

Tether – the company behind the biggest stablecoin in terms of market capitalization, USDT – announced the acquisition of a minority ownership stake in Juventus.

The latter is the most successful football club in Italy, having won the domestic Serie A championship a record 36 times. According to some studies, it also has the largest fan base in the country.

Tether Solidifies Its Presence In the Sports World

According to a document shared with CryptoPotato, this strategic investment allows Tether to integrate its digital assets, payments, and newly acquired AI and bio-tech expertise into the sports industry. The company might also assemble a top-tier advisory team for this initiative.

Additionally, acquiring a minority stake in Juve (as the team's nickname is) will allow Tether to promote blockchain technology and stablecoin adoption in mainstream sectors such as the sports world. Speaking on the deal was the company's chief executive officer.

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Japan To Google And Apple: Get Rid Of Unlicensed Crypto Apps

The Financial Services Agency (FSA) of Japan has adopted a strong position against unregistered digital currency exchanges operating from within the nation.

The regulatory authority has asked Google and Apple to take down five main crypto exchange apps—Bybit, KuCoin, Bitget, LBank, and MEXC—from their respective app stores in Japan, local news outlet Nikkei reported.

This action is part of the nation's rigorous crypto regulations, which demand that every exchange catering to Japanese consumers register with the FSA.

Examining Unregistered Exchanges
The request made by the FSA emphasizes Japan's continuous initiatives to guarantee industry compliance with cryptocurrencies. Any crypto exchange serving Japanese citizens under Japan's Payment Services Act must first get regulatory clearance before operating in the nation. Nonetheless, the FSA says that without appropriate registration, Bybit, KuCoin, Bitget, LBank, and MEXC have kept providing services to Japanese consumers.

Ordering their removal from app stores, authorities hope to limit access to these platforms and stop users from interacting with transactions that fall short of Japanese regulations. Although no particular fines have been disclosed for non-compliance, the action strongly indicates that Japan takes its crypto laws seriously.

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Coinbase Goes Full Throttle On Global Crypto Growth With Aston Martin Deal

Coinbase has unveiled a partnership with Formula One team Aston Martin Aramco, adding to the list of the crypto exchange's brand expansion aimed at promoting crypto adoption.

In a blog post on February 14, Coinbase announced its latest strategic deal with the Aston Martin Aramco which will allow the American exchange service as the exclusive crypto partner for the reputable Formula One racing team.

While the financial details of the partnership remain private, Coinbase has shared that its investment will be entirely paid in the USDC stablecoin, thereby directly onboarding Aston Martin Aramco as a client on Coinbase Prime.

As part of his sponsorship deal, the Coinbase brand will be displayed on the halo and red wing end plate of Aston Martin's AMR25 and the racing suits of drivers Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll for the season.

Commenting on this deal, Jefferson Slack, managing director of Commercial at Aston Martin Aramco, shows satisfaction on the novel terms of this stablecoin-sponsored partnership.

Slack said:

This partnership shows the trust and confidence we place in Coinbase's expertise as a leader in digital finance. By transacting this deal fully in USDC, we're signaling our commitment to innovation, building a sustainable, forward-thinking relationship with Coinbase.

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India Seizes $198M in Crypto—Unraveling One of the Biggest Crypto Frauds

India's ED seizes $198 million in crypto linked to Bitconnect's infamous Ponzi scheme. A global fraud, high returns promised, and digital assets hidden— here's the full story.

India Seizes $198M in Crypto in Bitconnect Fraud Probe
India's Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in Ahmedabad announced on Feb. 15 that it has seized cryptocurrencies worth Rs. 1,646 crore (approximately $190 million) in connection with the Bitconnect cryptocurrency fraud. The search operations, conducted on Feb. 11 and Feb. 15, were carried out under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. According to officials:

During the search operations, proceeds of crime in the form of various cryptocurrencies worth Rs. 1646 Crore (approx.) were

recovered and seized. In addition to the said cryptocurrencies, Rs.13,50,500 in cash, one car Lexus made and a number of digital devices have also been seized.

The ED's investigation was based on First Information Reports (FIRs) registered by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) in Surat.

Investigators discovered that between November 2016 and January 2018, Bitconnect operated a fraudulent and unregistered securities offering called the "Lending Program." The scheme attracted investors globally, including in India, by falsely promising high returns. The founder of Bitconnect built an international network of promoters who were rewarded with commissions.

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BNB Chain will prioritize memecoin transactions as gas fees surge 400%

BNB Chain (BSC) has collected nearly $15 million in gas fees from users over the past 7 days, a surge of 400% and more than double Ethereum's sum, as memecoin speculation increases on the network.

The network released its first optimization to deal with the increased traffic today, giving transactions interacting with time-sensitive contracts, like memecoin trades, a higher priority.

BNB Chain has released a new optimization for its BSC network as memecoin speculation increases on the network, driving gas fees up and causing some congestion problems.

Currently, BSC validators stop evaluating bids once they reach the block limit, with new

blocks mined every 3 seconds. However, during periods of high traffic, some time-sensitive transactions, such as memecoin swaps, would fail to make it into a block.

"This meant that even users who increased their gas fees (transaction fees) to expedite their transactions weren't necessarily getting the priority they expected," BNB Chain wrote. "This approach works well for most typical use cases. However, it's not optimal for the fast-paced, high-stakes world of meme coin trading."

Now, validators will be allowed to gather more bids inside the same 3-second window, potentially allowing higher-value transactions to take the place of lower-priority ones.

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