MARCH 18th, 2025

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

379TH EDITION

SEGA'S 'CODE OF JOKER' LAUNCHING AS NFT CARD GAME ON SUI

PLATINUM CRYPTO ACADEMY

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EDITORS LETTER

Bitcoin has been holding above $80,000 since March 11, signaling that bulls are stepping in to buy dips rather than waiting for a deeper correction. However, the struggle to push past $86,000 suggests that bears are still selling into rallies. CoinShares' latest report shows that crypto ETPs saw $1.7 billion in outflows last week, bringing the five-week total to $6.4 billion. The current 17-day streak of outflows is the longest since CoinShares began tracking data in 2015. Despite this bearish trend, long-term investors remain hopeful. According to CryptoQuant contributor ShayanBTC, holders who bought Bitcoin three to six months ago are accumulating again, a pattern that has historically marked market bottoms and kickstarted new uptrends.

Bitcoin is attempting to establish a higher low, building momentum for a potential breakout above the 200-day SMA at $84,112. A positive divergence on the RSI suggests that selling pressure is easing. If buyers push the price above the 20-day EMA at $85,808, the BTC/USDT pair could climb toward the 50-day SMA at $92,621. However, if the price faces strong resistance at the 200-day SMA and reverses sharply, it will signal that bears are using this level as a sell zone. In that case, the pair may drop to $80,000 and potentially slide further to $76,606.

Ether remains range-bound between $1,963 and $1,821, indicating a lack of aggressive buying. If the price breaks below the key support zone of $1,821 to $1,754, it could trigger the next leg of the downtrend, with ETH/USDT potentially dropping to $1,550. On the flip side, if bulls step in and push the price above the 20-day EMA at $2,107, the pair could gain momentum and rise to the 50-day SMA at $2,514, a level where bears are expected to put up strong resistance. If bulls manage to clear this hurdle, the rally could extend to $2,857.

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

Enjoy the issue

Karnav Shah

Karnav Shah
Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief

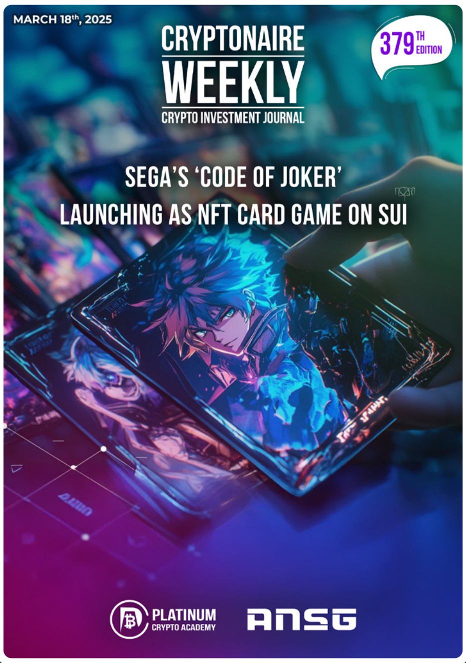
CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

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!



Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- BricklayerDAO

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WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 379th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is $2.70 Trillion, UP 90 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at $72.98 Billion which makes a 6.87% increase. The DeFi volume is $6.71 Billion, 9.20% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is $69.12 Billion, which is 94.71% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the industry right now are Polkadot Ecosystem and XRP Ledger Ecosystem cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 2.60% from $80,290 last week to around $82,375 and Ether's price has increased by 0.53% from $1,890 last week to $1,900
Bitcoin's market cap is $1.63 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is $1.07 Trillion.

Bitcoin has been holding above $80,000 since March 11, signaling that bulls are stepping in to buy dips rather than waiting for a deeper correction. However, the struggle to push past $86,000 suggests that bears are still selling into rallies. CoinShares' latest report shows that crypto ETPs saw $1.7 billion in outflows last week, bringing the five-week total to $6.4 billion. The current 17-day streak of outflows is the longest since CoinShares began tracking data in 2015. Despite this bearish trend, long-term investors remain hopeful. According to CryptoQuant contributor ShayanBTC, holders who bought Bitcoin three to six months ago are accumulating again, a pattern that has historically marked market bottoms and kickstarted new uptrends.

Robinhood is expanding beyond stock and crypto trading by launching a betting markets hub. The new feature will let users trade contracts on events like the Federal Reserve's interest rate decisions and the upcoming NCAA basketball tournaments, according to a March 17 announcement. Following the news, Robinhood's stock (HOOD) jumped 8% on Nasdaq. The brokerage is partnering with Kalshi, the first CFTC-regulated prediction platform, which already offers event contracts on everything from election results to Rotten Tomatoes scores. Prediction markets have gained traction in the U.S. since Kalshi won a lawsuit in September 2024, overturning a CFTC decision that blocked political event contracts. By November, trading volumes in the sector had reached nearly $4 billion, with U.S. election-related contracts leading the way.

Meanwhile, reports from TASS indicate that French authorities have temporarily suspended judicial control over Telegram founder Pavel Durov from March 15 to April 7. Durov, who had been in France for months due to ongoing legal matters, announced via Telegram that he has returned to Dubai. While the legal process is still ongoing, he expressed relief at being back home and thanked the judges for allowing his return.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	57.96%
ETH	8.04%
USDT	5.04%
XRP	4.77%
BNB	3.21%
SOL	2.30%
USDC	2.06%
ADA	0.90%
DOGE	0.90%
Others	14.82%

In the derivatives market, a massive Bitcoin short on Hyperliquid has caught traders' attention. Over the weekend, a whale placed a $450 million short position on BTC perpetual futures, initially worth $300 million, using 40x leverage. The trade's liquidation price was set at $85,290. Current data from Hypurscan shows the trader now holds a 5,022 BTC short worth about $420 million, with an unrealized profit of over $2 million. The liquidation price has now shifted above $86,000. Interestingly, beyond Bitcoin, the trader also holds a 5x leveraged long position on 571,714 MELANIA tokens linked to U.S. First Lady Melania Trump, valued at $384,203.

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ENHANCING LIQUIDITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO PREMIUM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, GET BRICK'D

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.

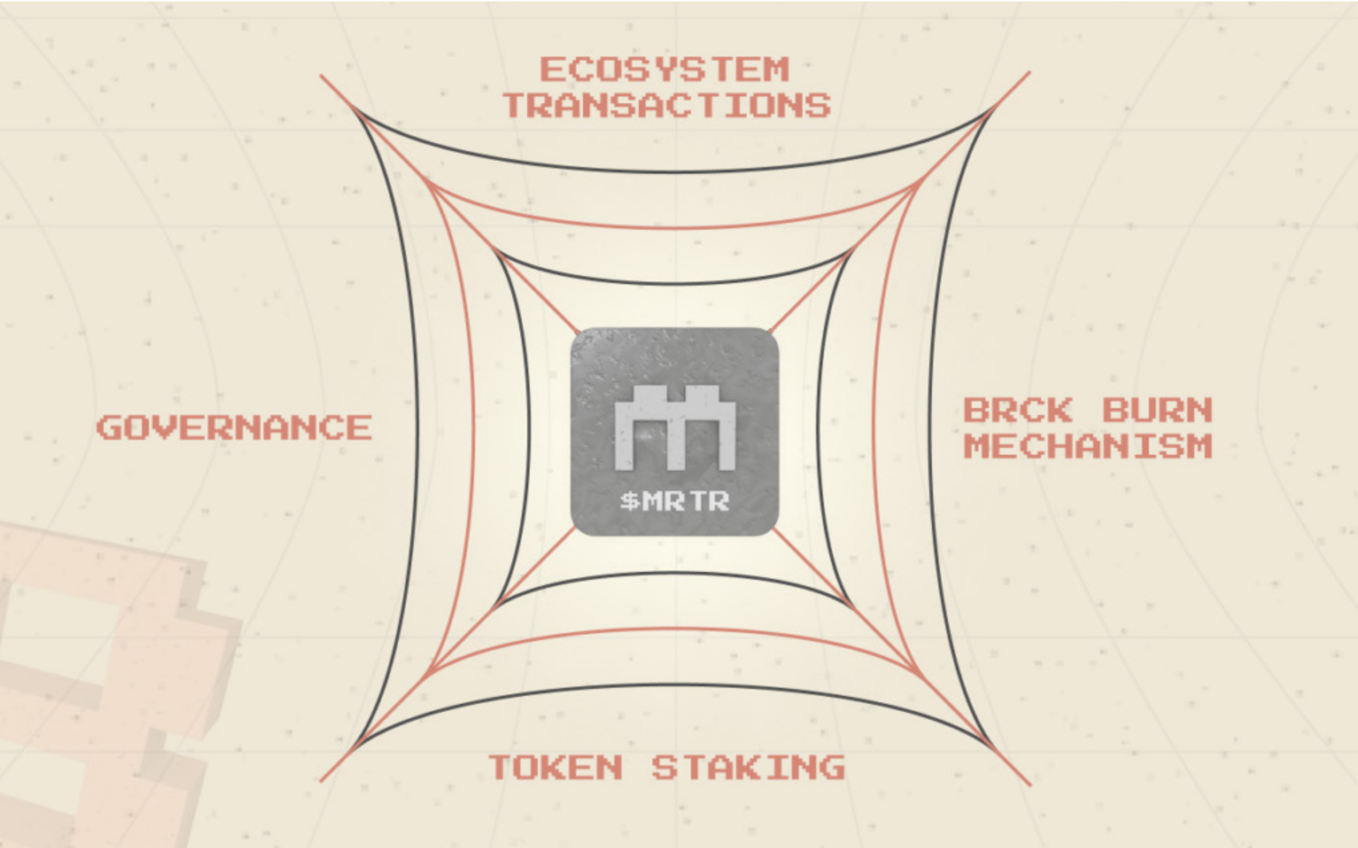
Visit **https://presale.bricklayerdao.com/** to claim your position right now.

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.



ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

SOL, XRP ZOOM 5% HIGHER AS BITCOIN GRAPPLES WITH $84K LEVEL

XRP rose 5% following a strong week for closely-related Ripple Labs, which bagged a payments license in the UAE and, per sources, is said to be on track for a close of its long-running court case against the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Solana's SOL and XRP saw a 5% increase, with SOL's rise following the conclusion of a contentious SIMD-0228 in favor of maintaining its current inflation schedule.

Ripple Labs, closely related to XRP, had a strong week, obtaining a payments license in the UAE and reportedly nearing the end of its court case against the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Memecoins such as PEPE, TOSHI, and DOGE experienced significant gains, reflecting a shift in trader behavior toward higher-risk assets as Bitcoin trades sideways.

Solana's SOL and xrp (XRP) edged up 5% in the past 24 hours to lead gains among majors Saturday as bitcoin (BTC) saw resistance at the $84,000 price level.

SOL surged 7% as a contentious SIMD-0228 drew to a close late Thursday in favor of those against it, keeping its current inflation schedule intact. The proposal drew the highest voting turnout in Solana's governance history, as reported, with those against saying a passage could disrupt parts of its flourishing DeFi ecosystem and dispel chances of further institutional interest.

XRP rose 5% following a strong week for closely-related Ripple Labs, which bagged a payments license in the UAE and, per sources, is said to be on track for a close of its long-running court case against the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Meanwhile, memecoins caught a bid on Friday as pepecoin (PEPE), toshi (TOSHI), dogecoin (DOGE) and other memes rose as much as 40%, providing volatility for traders amid a mostly flat market.

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US Spot Bitcoin ETFs Lost 55,348 BTC Worth $4.58B in Just 35 Days

According to the latest data, U.S. spot bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have trimmed their holdings by 4.76% since Feb. 6, 2025. From Jan. 1 to Feb. 6, these funds added roughly 56,802.86 BTC to their balance sheets, but the past 35 days have seen a 55,348.00 BTC pullback.

Spot Bitcoin ETFs Add Dramatic Twist: 2025's Gains Are Followed by Sharp Declines

Current data shows U.S. spot bitcoin (BTC) ETFs soaked up 56,802.86 BTC between Jan. 1 and Feb. 6, climbing from 1.120 million to a peak of 1.177 million BTC—hit 35 days back on Feb. 6. But since that high, roughly 55,348 BTC (worth $4.58 billion) have vanished from their vaults.

As of March 14, these funds hold steady at $93.25 billion worth of BTC, accounting for about 5.6% of the leading cryptocurrency's total market cap. Blackrock's IBIT has solidified its top-dog status with $39.24 billion in net inflows and a stash of 568,559.37 BTC.

Fidelity's FBTC trails closely in second, having snapped up $11.25 billion in total inflows and parking 194,269.83 BTC in its portfolio. Grayscale's GBTC, meanwhile, sits in third despite logging $22.5 billion in net outflows—it still clings to 193,870.05 BTC as of March 14.

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Gold ETFs Winning the Asset Race With Bitcoin Funds—For Now

The price of the traditional safe-haven asset has soared recently, but bitcoin is the real "hot sauce," says analyst Eric Balchunas.

Gold exchange-traded funds in the U.S. are leading in assets under management again after briefly being dethroned by the new American Bitcoin ETFs, a result of the traditional risk-off asset's surge to a record high and BTC's recent slump.

American ETFs giving investors exposure to gold's price are collectively managing close to $150 billion in assets, VettaFi data shows. The 11 Bitcoin ETFs—approved by the SEC last year—now have over $93 billion in managed assets.

In December, Bitcoin ETFs briefly overtook their gold counterparts, according to K33 Research, thanks to the cryptocurrency's price increase following the election of U.S. President Donald Trump, whose policies were widely expected to boost the digital asset industry.

Bitcoin spiked to an all-time high at nearly $109,000 in January the day of his inauguration. But it has steadily lost ground and was recently trading around $84,000, down about 25% from that record.

Friday's BTC price comes the precious metal hit a record of $3,014 per ounce as investors spooked by the new president's trade war look for less volatile investments.

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What happens when the worlds of high fashion, luxury watches, and blockchain technology collide? A legal dispute emerges, bringing to light the challenges and complexities of integrating digital assets into luxury products. This is precisely the situation as LVMH, one of the world's most prestigious luxury conglomerates, faces a lawsuit over alleged NFT patent infringement.

At the heart of the controversy is Watch Skins Corporation, a company specializing in smartwatch face designs tied to non-fungible tokens (NFTs). Watch Skins has accused LVMH of unlawfully using its patented technology that enables NFT artwork to be verified and displayed on smartwatch faces. This Texas federal court case is not just a legal dispute—it represents a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between high-end fashion, wearable technology, and blockchain-driven digital assets.

NFTs have disrupted multiple industries, from art and music to gaming and fashion, offering a new way for brands to create digital scarcity and authenticate ownership. Luxury watchmakers, in particular, have seen an opportunity to capitalize on NFT-based personalization. However, with innovation comes legal battles, and Watch Skins is now at odds with LVMH over what it claims is unauthorized use of its proprietary NFT integration system.

The Allegations Against LVMH

On March 10, Watch Skins Corporation officially filed a lawsuit against LVMH, asserting that the global luxury powerhouse had misappropriated its pioneering NFT display technology. The complaint specifically points to LVMH-owned watch brand TAG Heuer, alleging that its smartwatch products incorporated Watch Skins' patented innovations without authorization.

This lawsuit highlights the broader challenge of intellectual property rights in the digital age. As blockchain technology advances and NFTs become more deeply integrated into consumer products, companies are increasingly finding themselves in legal disputes over proprietary technologies. In this case, Watch Skins argues that its intellectual property, which enables NFT artwork verification and display, has been unlawfully used by LVMH.

Watch Skins asserts ownership of three key patents that form the foundation of its NFT-based smartwatch technology:

The Three Pillars of Watch Skins' Patent Claims

At the core of Watch Skins' lawsuit are three key patents that define its unique approach to integrating NFTs with smartwatch displays. These patents represent technological advancements that enable users to display NFT-based digital artworks securely, ensuring authenticity, exclusivity, and a seamless experience. Watch Skins argues that TAG Heuer's smartwatch models have unlawfully incorporated these features, violating its intellectual property.

1. Verification of NFT Ownership

One of the fundamental challenges in the digital asset space is proving ownership. Unlike physical objects, NFTs exist on decentralized networks, making it crucial for companies to implement secure verification methods. Watch Skins' patented system addresses this by ensuring that only the legitimate owner of an NFT can display it on their smartwatch face.

This verification system works by connecting the smartwatch to a blockchain network, which cross-checks ownership details before allowing the NFT to appear on the device. Without this mechanism, users could potentially display NFTs they do not own, diluting the exclusivity and value of digital assets. By preventing unauthorized use, this feature ensures that NFTs retain their scarcity and uniqueness—two of the biggest selling points of blockchain-based collectibles.

For luxury brands that thrive on exclusivity, this technology is invaluable. A rare NFT collection, for example, could be made available only to select customers, allowing them to display a one-of-a-kind digital artwork on their luxury smartwatch. By allegedly integrating this verification feature into TAG Heuer's smartwatches without permission, Watch Skins argues that LVMH has directly infringed upon its patent.

2. Blockchain-Integrated Authentication

Another key component of Watch Skins' technology is its blockchain-integrated authentication system. This mechanism requires users to verify NFT ownership through a blockchain wallet before the artwork can be displayed. Unlike traditional verification methods that rely on centralized databases, this approach leverages blockchain's decentralized and immutable nature to enhance security.

When a user attempts to display an NFT on their smartwatch, the device communicates with the blockchain to validate ownership. The system scans the wallet's contents and confirms whether the NFT is still in possession of the user. If the NFT has been transferred or sold, the system prevents it from being displayed, ensuring real-time ownership tracking.

This authentication layer is particularly important in preventing fraud and forgery. In the physical luxury market, counterfeits are a major concern, with fake designer watches and handbags often infiltrating the market. The digital world is no different, with NFT scams and stolen assets becoming increasingly common. Watch Skins' authentication technology helps prevent these issues by ensuring that only verified NFTs are displayed on smartwatches.

Watch Skins argues that TAG Heuer's implementation of a similar feature in its smartwatches constitutes an infringement of its patent. The lawsuit claims that LVMH has encouraged customers to use this functionality, effectively promoting the unauthorized use of patented technology. If Watch Skins' claim holds up in court, it could have major implications for how luxury brands adopt blockchain authentication in wearable technology.

3. Dynamic Retrieval and Display of NFT-Based Watch Faces

Beyond verification and authentication, Watch Skins' third patent focuses on the retrieval and display of customized smartwatch faces based on NFT ownership. This technology enables users to dynamically change their watch faces according to the NFTs they own, creating a highly personalized and interactive experience.

The system operates by linking the smartwatch to the user's blockchain wallet. Whenever an NFT watch face is purchased or transferred, the smartwatch updates in real time, allowing users to instantly access and showcase their new digital assets. This seamless integration between blockchain ownership and smartwatch display functionality is what sets Watch Skins' technology apart.

Customization and personalization are critical aspects of luxury branding. In a world where consumers seek exclusivity, the ability to showcase unique NFT watch faces aligns perfectly with the ethos of high-end fashion and accessories. Luxury watch brands have always offered customization options—whether through interchangeable straps, engravings, or exclusive dial designs. The integration of NFT-based watch faces is simply an extension of this tradition, blending digital ownership with physical luxury.

Watch Skins contends that LVMH has replicated this functionality in TAG Heuer's smartwatches without proper authorization. By providing instructions on how to upload and display NFT artworks, LVMH has allegedly facilitated the unauthorized use of Watch Skins' patented system. The lawsuit claims that customers are unknowingly infringing on Watch Skins' patents simply by following TAG Heuer's official guidance on NFT integration.

LVMH's Foray into NFT Technology

LVMH, a powerhouse in the luxury goods industry, owns an extensive portfolio of globally recognized brands, including Louis Vuitton, Givenchy, TAG Heuer, Tiffany & Co., Christian Dior, Hennessy, and Moët & Chandon. With its stronghold in high-end fashion, jewelry, watches, and spirits, LVMH has continually set the standard for innovation and exclusivity. As the world of digital assets grows, the conglomerate has been at the forefront of integrating blockchain-based authentication and NFT-driven personalization into its product lines.

For luxury brands, blockchain technology offers an attractive solution for combating counterfeits, securing authenticity, and enhancing exclusivity. LVMH has strategically positioned itself as a leader in luxury-tech innovation by embracing the digital revolution in fashion. The company has explored blockchain applications not only for digital collectibles but also for verifying the authenticity of high-value products like handbags, watches, and jewelry.

One of LVMH's most significant moves in this space was its collaboration with AURA Blockchain Consortium, a luxury blockchain initiative co-founded with Prada and Richemont. AURA aims to establish a secure and transparent system that allows customers to trace the entire lifecycle of their luxury purchases. This blockchain verification initiative enhances consumer confidence and further cements the importance of NFTs and digital assets in the luxury sector.

As part of its broader blockchain and NFT strategy, LVMH's watch brand TAG Heuer has aggressively explored NFT integration into smartwatches. TAG Heuer, renowned for its precision timepieces and high-performance watchmaking, introduced NFT-compatible smartwatch models that allow users to connect their crypto wallets and showcase authenticated NFT artworks directly on their watch faces. This feature aligns with the modern consumer's growing interest in digital art and blockchain ownership, giving luxury watch enthusiasts a unique way to display digital collectibles in real life.

TAG Heuer's NFT Display Features

TAG Heuer's move into the NFT space represents a significant evolution in smartwatch technology. The brand's NFT-enabled watches offer features such as:

Crypto Wallet Connectivity – Users can link their watches to wallets such as MetaMask and Ledger, allowing seamless integration of NFT ownership.

Real-Time Authentication – The watch verifies NFT ownership before displaying the digital asset, preventing unauthorized replication.

Multi-Format NFT Support – TAG Heuer's smartwatches support multiple NFT formats, including images and animations, expanding the scope of digital customization.

Exclusive NFT Collaborations – The brand has worked with NFT artists and collectors to offer curated digital artwork for smartwatch displays.

TAG Heuer's NFT smartwatch initiative aligns with the broader digital transformation in the luxury sector, where brands are moving toward more interactive, personalized, and blockchain-secured experiences for their customers. However, Watch Skins Corporation has argued that these features infringe upon its patented technology for NFT verification and display on smartwatches.

LVMH's Vision for NFTs and Digital Fashion

Beyond TAG Heuer, LVMH has continued to push boundaries in the NFT and metaverse space. Some of its most notable digital innovations include:

Louis Vuitton's NFT-Incorporated Fashion – Louis Vuitton has released blockchain-authenticated digital collectibles and luxury experiences. It introduced Louis The Game, an interactive app that allows players to collect NFTs while exploring the brand's heritage.

Tiffany & Co.'s NFT Customization – Tiffany launched NFTiff, a collection of custom jewelry pieces based on CryptoPunk NFTs, blending high-end craftsmanship with digital exclusivity.

Hennessy's NFT-Backed Cognac – The brand introduced limited-edition cognac bottles tied to NFTs, allowing buyers to verify authenticity and ownership via blockchain.

LVMH's foray into NFTs demonstrates its commitment to digital transformation, but this aggressive expansion has also brought legal challenges. The lawsuit from Watch Skins Corporation raises questions about whether LVMH has innovated within legal boundaries or crossed into intellectual property infringement.

The Evolution of NFTs in Luxury Goods

The case against LVMH underscores a broader trend—the increasing convergence of NFTs and high-end fashion. As the digital landscape evolves, luxury brands are embracing blockchain technology to enhance authentication, exclusivity, ownership verification, and customer engagement. Once considered an experimental niche, NFTs have rapidly become a transformative force in the luxury sector, blurring the lines between physical and digital ownership.

For luxury brands, the appeal of NFTs lies in their ability to offer exclusive, verifiable, and unique digital assets. Unlike traditional collectibles, NFTs are stored on the blockchain, making them tamper-proof, transparent, and easily transferable. This has revolutionized the way brands interact with their consumers, enabling a new level of personalization and rarity.

Luxury consumers seek status symbols and exclusive experiences, and NFTs cater to this demand by offering one-of-a-kind digital assets that can be displayed, traded, or even integrated into digital and physical fashion pieces. From NFT-backed handbags to digital fashion collaborations in the metaverse, the luxury industry is witnessing a profound shift toward a phygital (physical + digital) future.

Luxury Brands Leading the NFT Movement

Several high-end brands have already integrated NFTs into their business models, using blockchain to enhance their products and customer engagement strategies. Some of the most notable examples of NFT adoption in luxury include:

Louis Vuitton's NFT-Incorporated Fashion

As a leader in luxury innovation, Louis Vuitton has explored blockchain-based digital passports for product authentication. The brand launched Louis The Game, an interactive mobile experience that rewarded players with NFTs. The game, celebrating the brand's 200th anniversary, allowed users to explore Louis Vuitton's heritage while collecting digital artwork. Additionally, Louis Vuitton has experimented with blockchain verification for its high-end bags, ensuring that customers can trace the authenticity and ownership history of their products.

By integrating NFTs into its luxury items, Louis Vuitton is not only securing its products against counterfeits but also reinforcing the brand's digital presence among younger, tech-savvy consumers who are investing in the metaverse.

Gucci's Digital Collectibles and Virtual Fashion

Gucci has been one of the most active players in the NFT and metaverse space, blending luxury fashion with digital ownership. The brand introduced limited-edition NFT collections and partnered with gaming platforms like Roblox and The Sandbox to create virtual experiences.

One of Gucci's most notable ventures was the release of Gucci Aria, an NFT auctioned at Christie's, marking the brand's official entry into the NFT market. The brand also launched Gucci Vault, a dedicated digital space where consumers can buy

NFT-based luxury goods and vintage items.

Furthermore, Gucci's collaboration with 10KTF, a virtual fashion platform, allows NFT owners to dress their avatars in Gucci-designed digital wearables. These initiatives position Gucci as a forward-thinking brand that understands the significance of digital identity in the modern luxury landscape.

Burberry's NFT-Inspired Accessories and Gaming Collaborations

Burberry has embraced NFTs by releasing digital collectibles linked to in-game assets. The brand launched NFT characters and accessories in Blankos Block Party, a blockchain-based multiplayer game. These digital collectibles, including branded jetpacks, pool shoes, and armbands, allow players to customize their in-game avatars with exclusive Burberry designs.

In addition to gaming, Burberry has explored phygital fashion—a concept where physical items come with an NFT counterpart, ensuring traceability, authenticity, and added exclusivity. This strategy not only enhances brand engagement but also caters to the growing market of luxury digital fashion enthusiasts.

Watch Skins' Market Position and Innovation

Watch Skins is not just another tech startup; it has emerged as a trailblazer in the NFT-based smartwatch customization industry. The company has successfully combined blockchain technology with luxury digital assets, creating a niche market for NFT-powered smartwatch faces.

The company made headlines in 2020 at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas when it introduced the world's first blockchain NFT watch face marketplace. This platform allowed users to purchase and display authentic, licensed smartwatch faces from their favorite brands, marking a major milestone in the evolution of digital wearables. Unlike traditional watch customization options, which were limited to pre-installed digital displays, Watch Skins revolutionized the industry by offering blockchain-verified ownership of exclusive designs.

By securing multiple patents for NFT display technology, Watch Skins positioned itself as a dominant player in the space. Its technology ensures that NFT-based watch faces are not only authenticated but also protected from duplication or unauthorized usage, providing a new layer of exclusivity for smartwatch owners. This patented approach to NFT verification and display has set the foundation for the company's legal battle against LVMH.

Potential Outcomes and Industry Impact

As the lawsuit unfolds, the verdict could have far-reaching consequences, not just for Watch Skins and LVMH but for the entire luxury goods, fashion, and blockchain industries. Several potential outcomes could reshape the future of NFT-integrated luxury goods:

1. Settlement Agreement

One possible outcome is that LVMH and Watch Skins reach an out-of-court settlement. Given the high stakes and potential financial and reputational damage, both parties might prefer negotiating licensing fees or forming a strategic partnership rather than enduring a prolonged legal battle.

A settlement could involve LVMH paying Watch Skins licensing fees to continue using the disputed NFT technology in its smartwatch lineup.

There is also a possibility of collaboration, where Watch Skins could license its patented NFT verification system to LVMH in exchange for royalty payments on every TAG Heuer smartwatch sold with NFT display functionality.

An exclusive partnership between LVMH and Watch Skins could allow TAG Heuer to integrate Watch Skins' proprietary NFT technology while giving Watch Skins broader access to the luxury watch market.

A settlement would likely be the least disruptive resolution, allowing both companies to move forward without major operational or reputational damage.

2. Court Ruling in Favor of Watch Skins

If Watch Skins wins the lawsuit, it would be a major victory for smaller tech innovators, proving that intellectual property laws can effectively protect blockchain-based patents. A ruling in favor of Watch Skins could lead to:

Significant financial penalties for LVMH, including compensation for lost profits, legal costs, and royalties on past and future smartwatch sales.

A court-ordered injunction, which could prevent LVMH from using NFT verification technology without proper licensing, forcing the company to modify or remove NFT functionality from its smartwatch lineup.

Stronger patent enforcement in the luxury and tech industries, setting a precedent for how companies protect and license NFT-related innovations.

This ruling could empower other NFT-focused startups to take legal action against major corporations that attempt to integrate blockchain-based authentication without securing proper licensing agreements.

3. Court Ruling in Favor of LVMH

On the other hand, if LVMH successfully defends its position, the ruling could challenge the enforceability of NFT-related patents, raising questions about what constitutes a truly unique blockchain-based innovation.

LVMH may argue that NFT verification is a general concept rather than a proprietary technology, potentially invalidating Watch Skins' patents.

A ruling in favor of LVMH could weaken the legal standing of similar blockchain patents, making it harder for NFT startups to protect their intellectual property.

The court may decide that TAG Heuer's implementation of NFT watch faces is sufficiently distinct from Watch Skins' technology, dismissing the infringement claims.

A victory for LVMH would allow other luxury brands to adopt similar NFT authentication features without fear of legal consequences, leading to widespread adoption of blockchain-based wearables.

4. Industry-Wide Changes

Regardless of the verdict, this case is likely to influence how luxury brands approach blockchain innovation and intellectual property protection moving forward. Some broader implications include:

Increased scrutiny on NFT patents – More companies may seek to patent blockchain verification methods to prevent legal conflicts in the future.

Stronger regulatory frameworks – Governments and legal bodies may step in to clarify patent laws for digital assets, reducing ambiguity in future lawsuits.

Greater investment in NFT security – As luxury brands continue to integrate NFTs, there will be a stronger push for proprietary authentication methods that cannot be easily replicated.

Emergence of licensing markets – Companies specializing in NFT authentication could license their technology to major brands, creating new revenue streams in the blockchain luxury sector.

If Watch Skins' claims are upheld, the ruling could drive up licensing costs for brands looking to integrate blockchain authentication into their products. Conversely, if LVMH wins, luxury brands may become more aggressive in adopting NFT technology, leading to a more competitive digital ownership market.

Conclusion

The lawsuit between Watch Skins and LVMH is more than a legal battle—it represents a pivotal moment in the intersection of luxury fashion, technology, and intellectual property law. As NFTs continue to reshape the luxury sector, brands must navigate the delicate balance between innovation and respecting patent rights.

For now, the industry will be closely watching this case, as its outcome could redefine how digital assets are integrated into high-end products. Whether this results in stricter patent enforcement, increased collaboration, or new technological breakthroughs, one thing is clear—the fusion of NFTs and luxury is just beginning.

At Money Dila, our team can provide expert insights into emerging digital trends, helping businesses stay ahead in an ever-evolving marketplace.

SEC vs Ripple: How Lawsuit Over XRP Could Wrap up in Days

A legal expert has outlined how the SEC's lawsuit against Ripple over XRP could end within days, but a major hurdle—navigating the court's injunction—may complicate the resolution.

Ripple's Legal Battle With SEC Over XRP Could Be Over in Days—If This Condition Is Met Legal expert Jeremy Hogan has weighed in on speculation surrounding the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawsuit against Ripple, suggesting that a private settlement may be the quickest resolution. His comments came in response to Fox Business journalist Eleanor Terrett, who reported that sources indicated the case was "in the process of wrapping up and could be over soon."

Hogan outlined the conditions necessary for a swift resolution:

The only way the case could 'be over' soon is if Ripple and the SEC reach a private settlement agreement (which would vary from the judgment), dismiss the appeal, and then simply never take the terms of the settlement agreement back to the trial court to be ratified.

However, he noted a major challenge, specifically the court's injunction against Ripple. "Assuming the injunction is the sticking point, the SEC would have to agree not to enforce the court's injunction.

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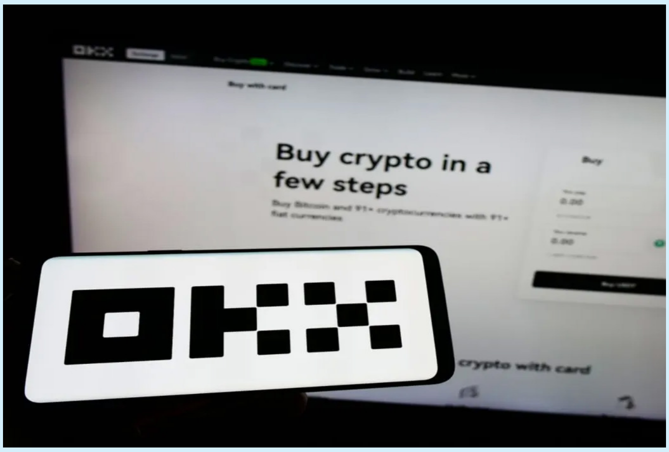
OKX Pauses DEX Aggregator to Address Security Concerns

In response to the security threats, OKX has implemented a hacker address detection system and a mechanism to block suspicious addresses.

Crypto exchange OKX has temporarily halted its decentralized exchange (DEX) aggregator in response to security concerns and recent "attacks" targeting its platform.

The exchange announced the pause on Sunday, citing the need to address incomplete blockchain tagging and implement new security features to prevent misuse by malicious actors.



Blockchain tagging refers to the process of labeling transactions on a blockchain to accurately identify and track them on explorers.

"We detected a coordinated effort by Lazarus group to misuse our defi services," the company said. "At the same time, we've noticed an increase in competitive attacks aiming to undermine our work."

The move comes amidst scrutiny of OKX's role in the alleged laundering of $100 million from the Bybit hack. OKX did not immediately respond to Decrypt's request for comment.

In January, Bybit, one of the largest crypto exchanges, suffered a devastating hack in which nearly $1.5 billion in Ethereum (ETH) and ETH-related tokens were stolen, making it the largest hack in crypto history.

The hack was attributed to the Lazarus Group, a notorious North Korean hacking collective believed to be responsible for a string of high-profile cybercrimes.

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March 13, 2025, marks one year since the rollout of Ethereum's Dencun upgrade, an essential milestone in Ethereum's evolution. The upgrade, which combined the Cancun upgrade on the execution layer and the Deneb upgrade on the consensus layer, brought about sweeping changes to Ethereum's scalability, transaction efficiency, and overall network structure. Among the most significant impacts has been the staggering 95% reduction in average gas fees, a development that has transformed Ethereum's usability, particularly for layer-2 networks.

Beyond just lowering transaction costs, the Dencun upgrade has fundamentally reshaped Ethereum's ecosystem by increasing accessibility, allowing more developers to build and deploy decentralized applications without prohibitive costs. The enhancement of rollup technologies has not only streamlined transactions but has also encouraged greater adoption of Ethereum's layer-2 solutions, reducing congestion on the main network and significantly improving processing speeds. Additionally, by making Ethereum more cost-effective, the upgrade has reinvigorated interest from institutional investors and enterprises looking to integrate blockchain technology into their operations.

As the Ethereum ecosystem continues to evolve, the benefits of the Dencun upgrade extend beyond just gas fees, laying the groundwork for a more scalable and efficient blockchain infrastructure. While challenges still remain, particularly in terms of network security and competition from alternative chains, the past year has demonstrated Ethereum's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

The Dencun Upgrade: A Recap

Understanding the Dencun Upgrade

The Ethereum Dencun upgrade introduced nine Ethereum Improvement Proposals (EIPs) aimed at making Ethereum more efficient, scalable, and cost-effective. This upgrade was one of the most anticipated in Ethereum's history, addressing long-standing concerns about network congestion and high gas fees.

Challenges Before the Upgrade

Prior to the upgrade, Ethereum users faced significant challenges due to high transaction fees, particularly during periods of peak activity. This made interactions with decentralized applications (dApps), decentralized finance (DeFi) protocols, and non-fungible token (NFT) marketplaces costly, discouraging retail users and limiting broader adoption. The Ethereum ecosystem, while being the most widely used smart contract platform, struggled with accessibility as transaction fees surged unpredictably.

Impact on Gas Fees and Network Performance

The Dencun upgrade sought to mitigate these issues by enhancing Ethereum's execution and consensus layers. Ethereum's average gas fees have plummeted from 72 gwei in March 2024 to just 2.7 gwei as of March 12, 2025, according to YCharts data. This massive reduction in transaction costs has significantly enhanced the user experience across the Ethereum ecosystem, making it easier for developers to create affordable dApps and for users to engage with blockchain technology without excessive fees.

Boosting Layer-2 Adoption

Additionally, the upgrade has catalyzed a surge in layer-2 adoption. Rollups such as Optimism and Arbitrum have benefited greatly from the improved efficiency, as they are now able to provide cheaper and faster transactions by leveraging Ethereum's enhanced infrastructure. This has led to an increase in the number of users and developers engaging with Ethereum's ecosystem, further solidifying its position as the backbone of the decentralized web.

Institutional and Developer Confidence

As Ethereum continues to refine its network architecture, the impact of the Dencun upgrade extends beyond cost reduction. It sets the stage for greater institutional adoption, facilitates increased scalability, and fosters a more inclusive blockchain environment for users of all levels. This upgrade was one of the most anticipated in Ethereum's history, addressing long-standing concerns about network congestion and high gas fees.

Key Statistics Before and After the Dencun Upgrade

Metric	March 2024	March 2025
Average Gas Fee	72 gwei	2.7 gwei
Swap Transaction Cost	$86	$0.39
NFT Sale Cost	$145	$0.65

Why Did Ethereum Gas Fees Drop?

The sharp decline in Ethereum's gas fees can be attributed to several factors, each playing a crucial role in making the network more efficient and cost-effective. The Dencun upgrade was not just a minor tweak; it was a transformative shift in how Ethereum processes transactions, handles data, and interacts with layer-2 solutions. Let's explore the key drivers behind this remarkable reduction in gas fees.

1. Improved Scalability for Layer-2 Networks

Ethereum's biggest bottleneck before the Dencun upgrade was network congestion. High traffic led to excessive transaction fees, particularly during peak trading hours. The Dencun upgrade significantly enhanced Ethereum's rollup technology, which allows multiple transactions to be bundled together before settling on the Ethereum mainnet. This batching process has alleviated congestion, reducing the need for users to compete for limited block space, thus bringing down gas costs dramatically.

Additionally, rollups like Optimism and Arbitrum have seen a surge in usage post-Dencun. By offloading transaction execution from Ethereum's mainnet, these layer-2 solutions have been able to provide faster, more affordable transactions for users, further contributing to the decrease in gas fees.

2. Optimized Data Storage and Execution

A crucial aspect of Ethereum's Dencun upgrade was the introduction of EIP-4844, also known as "proto-danksharding." This feature allows for more efficient data storage and retrieval by reducing the cost of posting data on-chain. Prior to this implementation, storing data on Ethereum was costly, limiting the efficiency of applications and smart contracts.

Proto-danksharding has changed the way data is managed, making it cheaper for rollups and dApps to operate on Ethereum. By lowering the cost of data availability, the upgrade has directly contributed to the sharp drop in gas fees, making it feasible for users to execute transactions at a fraction of the previous cost.

3. Reduced On-Chain Congestion

Before the Dencun upgrade, Ethereum's limited block space meant that transactions had to compete for inclusion, resulting in gas fee spikes during periods of high demand. By increasing network efficiency and reducing the number of transactions that require direct settlement on the Ethereum mainnet, the upgrade has alleviated congestion.

This reduction in competition for block space means that users no longer have to pay exorbitant fees to prioritize their transactions. As a result, average gas fees have plummeted, benefiting DeFi traders, NFT enthusiasts, and everyday users who rely on Ethereum's network for various applications.

4. Enhanced Gas Fee Calculation Mechanisms

With the Dencun upgrade, Ethereum introduced improvements in the way gas fees are calculated and optimized, making transactions more predictable and cost-effective. Previously, fluctuating gas fees made it difficult for users to estimate transaction costs, often leading to overpayment or delays. The new mechanisms provide more transparency and efficiency, ensuring users get the best possible rates for their transactions.

5. Increased Network Efficiency and Block Utilization

The upgrade also introduced optimizations in Ethereum's block structure, allowing for better utilization of block space. Instead of wasting block capacity due to inefficient transaction processing, Ethereum now maximizes block usage, allowing more transactions to be processed at lower costs. This has further contributed to the decline in gas fees and improved the overall efficiency of the network.

6. Growing Competition Encouraging Cost Reductions

Ethereum's leadership in the blockchain space has been challenged by alternative networks such as Solana, Binance Smart Chain, and Avalanche, which offer lower fees and faster transactions. To maintain its competitive edge, Ethereum has been actively working on reducing costs and increasing efficiency. The Dencun upgrade was a direct response to the need for a more affordable and scalable Ethereum, ensuring it remains a top choice for developers and users alike.

7. Greater Adoption of Layer-2 Scaling Solutions

With layer-2 solutions gaining traction, Ethereum has effectively offloaded a significant portion of its transaction load onto these secondary networks. This has drastically reduced the pressure on the Ethereum mainnet, allowing for lower gas fees while maintaining security and decentralization. The increasing adoption of rollups and sidechains continues to play a vital role in keeping transaction costs low.

8. Developer and Institutional Confidence in Ethereum's Roadmap

Ethereum's continued innovation and commitment to reducing fees have strengthened confidence among developers and institutional investors. With each successful upgrade, Ethereum proves its ability to adapt and improve, making it a reliable platform for long-term investment and development. The positive response from the community and businesses further reinforces Ethereum's position as the dominant smart contract platform.

9. The Impact on User Experience and Adoption

Lower gas fees have had a profound effect on Ethereum's usability. In previous years, high transaction costs discouraged new users and small-scale investors from engaging with the network. With fees now at record lows, Ethereum has become a more attractive option for users and developers alike.

Decentralized exchanges (DEXs), NFT marketplaces, and DeFi platforms have all benefited from the reduced cost of transactions, allowing them to onboard more users. This renewed affordability is likely to drive further adoption of Ethereum-based applications, potentially expanding the network's reach in the long run.

10. The Long-Term Outlook on Ethereum's Gas Fees

While the current gas fee reduction is a major win, future challenges remain. As Ethereum adoption grows, transaction demand could increase once again, putting pressure on fees. However, ongoing upgrades like the upcoming Pectra update aim to further enhance Ethereum's efficiency and keep transaction costs low.

Ethereum's roadmap includes further innovations such as full danksharding, which will further improve data availability and transaction efficiency. If these upgrades are successfully implemented, Ethereum could maintain its position as a leading blockchain while keeping gas fees affordable for all users.

The drop in Ethereum gas fees is not just a temporary phenomenon—it is a glimpse into the future of a more scalable, cost-effective blockchain ecosystem.?

The Price of Ether Post-Dencun: A Different Story

While transaction costs have seen a significant decline, Ethereum's price has taken a different trajectory. Since the Dencun upgrade, the price of ETH has dropped by approximately 53%, from over $4,070 in March 2024 to around $1,891 in March 2025, according to CoinGecko data. This decline has raised concerns among investors, particularly as the broader cryptocurrency market has experienced a mix of both bullish and bearish trends over the same period.

Factors Behind Ether's Price Drop

1. Market-Wide Crypto Trends and Economic Conditions

The broader cryptocurrency market has faced significant volatility due to macroeconomic factors such as interest rate hikes, inflation concerns, and shifting regulatory policies. Central banks worldwide have adjusted their monetary policies, leading to fluctuations in risk asset prices, including cryptocurrencies like Ethereum. Additionally, global political uncertainties and economic downturns have contributed to a general risk-off sentiment, causing investors to pull back from speculative assets.

2. Increased Competition from Alternative Blockchains

Ethereum, while still dominant in the smart contract space, is facing growing competition from other blockchains such as Solana, Avalanche, and Binance Smart Chain. These networks offer faster transaction speeds and lower costs, attracting developers and liquidity away from Ethereum. With gas fees no longer a major issue post-Dencun, Ethereum must now compete on other fronts, such as ecosystem development, security, and innovation.

Solana, in particular, has experienced a surge in adoption due to its high throughput and lower fees, making it an attractive choice for new projects. This has led to an exodus of developers and projects from Ethereum, impacting its overall valuation and network usage.

3. Decline in DeFi and NFT Activity

The decline in Ethereum's Total Value Locked (TVL) in decentralized finance (DeFi) protocols has signaled reduced confidence among investors and developers. Over the past year, DeFi activity has seen a slowdown due to market corrections, regulatory concerns, and the overall shift in investor focus. With fewer users engaging with DeFi platforms, demand for ETH has diminished, contributing to its price decline.

Similarly, the NFT market, which saw a boom in 2021 and 2022, has experienced a downturn. With fewer high-profile NFT sales and reduced trading volumes, the demand for ETH as a medium of exchange within NFT marketplaces has declined, further impacting its price.

4. Selling Pressure from Institutional and Retail Investors

Another significant factor affecting ETH's price is the selling pressure from both institutional and retail investors. Many early investors and Ethereum whales have opted to take profits or reallocate their holdings to other emerging assets. Additionally, the expiration of certain Ethereum staking lock-up periods has led to increased withdrawals, adding to the downward price pressure.

Long-Term Outlook for Ethereum's Price

Despite the current price decline, Ethereum remains a cornerstone of the blockchain and Web3 industry. Its long-term value proposition is supported by continuous technological upgrades, increasing adoption by enterprises, and the expansion of its layer-2 ecosystem. The upcoming Pectra upgrade and further improvements in scalability and security could provide the necessary catalyst for a price recovery.

Additionally, Ethereum's role in tokenization, decentralized identity, and institutional finance remains a strong value driver. As more enterprises and financial institutions explore Ethereum for tokenizing real-world assets and developing decentralized applications, the demand for ETH could see a resurgence.

While Ethereum's short-term price action has been disappointing, its long-term fundamentals remain strong. Investors and developers will be closely watching upcoming network improvements and market conditions to determine the future trajectory of ETH's price.

While transaction costs have seen a significant decline, Ethereum's price has taken a different trajectory. Since the Dencun upgrade, the price of ETH has dropped by approximately 53%, from over $4,070 in March 2024 to around $1,891 in March 2025, according to CoinGecko data.

The Road Ahead: Pectra Upgrade and Its Challenges

Ethereum's next significant upgrade, Pectra, has already been rolled out on its final testnet, Sepolia, as of March 5, 2025. However, it has encountered issues, including error messages and empty blocks being mined. While the development team has addressed many of these problems, it highlights the ongoing challenges Ethereum faces in maintaining its dominance.

What Pectra Aims to Achieve

The Pectra upgrade represents the next major step in Ethereum's ongoing development roadmap, following the success of the Dencun upgrade. With an emphasis on expanding Ethereum's data availability, lowering costs, and improving transaction efficiency, Pectra aims to address lingering challenges while preparing the network for future scalability enhancements.

1. Doubling Data Space for Layer-2s

Pectra is set to further optimize Ethereum's rollup infrastructure, significantly increasing the data space available for layer-2 solutions. By expanding Ethereum's capacity to process and store transactional data, Pectra will allow rollups to function more efficiently, reducing costs and improving the speed of transactions. This enhancement will help Ethereum accommodate a growing number of dApps and DeFi protocols without experiencing congestion or excessive fees.

2. Reducing Transaction Costs Further

One of the most anticipated benefits of Pectra is its impact on gas fees. While the Dencun upgrade already brought transaction fees down by 95%, Ethereum developers recognize that further optimizations are needed to maintain Ethereum's competitiveness against low-cost alternatives like Solana and Binance Smart Chain. Pectra introduces mechanisms to refine gas fee calculations, ensuring that Ethereum remains one of the most cost-effective blockchains for both individual users and enterprises.

3. Increasing Execution Capacity and Network Throughput

Pectra will introduce new enhancements to Ethereum's execution layer, enabling faster and more efficient processing of smart contracts and transactions. These improvements will alleviate bottlenecks in transaction execution, making it easier for high-frequency traders, DeFi protocols, and NFT marketplaces to operate without delays or network congestion. The increased execution capacity will also make Ethereum more appealing to enterprises looking to build on a high-performance blockchain.

4. Strengthening Security and Stability

Beyond scalability and cost reductions, Pectra also aims to enhance Ethereum's network security. The upgrade will introduce refinements to Ethereum's consensus mechanism, reducing the risk of exploits and network vulnerabilities. Developers have emphasized the importance of ensuring Ethereum remains resilient to attacks while maintaining decentralization.

5. Addressing Testnet Challenges Before Mainnet Deployment

The rollout of Pectra on Ethereum's final testnet, Sepolia, encountered initial issues, including error messages and empty blocks. While Ethereum developers have worked to resolve these issues, they highlight the complexities involved in large-scale blockchain upgrades. By carefully analyzing testnet performance, Ethereum's core team aims to ensure a smooth transition when Pectra is deployed on the mainnet.

6. The Long-Term Vision for Ethereum Post-Pectra

While Pectra is expected to provide significant improvements, industry experts argue that Ethereum still faces structural challenges in retaining its position as the go-to blockchain for developers. As new competitors emerge with alternative scaling solutions, Ethereum must continue to innovate beyond Pectra to remain relevant in the evolving Web3 landscape.

Despite these concerns, Pectra represents another major milestone in Ethereum's long-term strategy. If successfully implemented, it will solidify Ethereum's position as the backbone of the decentralized economy, further reducing costs, increasing efficiency, and ensuring long-term sustainability for developers and users alike.

Conclusion

The past year has been a paradox for Ethereum. While gas fees have become more affordable than ever, making the network more accessible to users and developers, the price of Ether has declined significantly. The upcoming Pectra upgrade aims to address some of Ethereum's lingering issues, but competition from alternative blockchains remains fierce.

Ethereum's future depends on its ability to continue innovating while maintaining security and decentralization. If it can successfully implement upcoming upgrades and regain developer confidence, it may solidify its position as the leading blockchain platform for years to come.

As Ethereum continues to evolve, its ability to adapt to an increasingly competitive and dynamic Web3 landscape will determine its long-term success.

Central Bank of Russia Issues Proposal Allowing Wealthy Investors To Trade Bitcoin and Crypto

The Central Bank of the Russian Federation has reportedly released a proposal that if approved, would allow qualified entities to trade crypto assets.

In a statement, the central bank proposes a three-year experiment where wealthy investors and certain firms have the greenlight to buy and sell crypto assets, reports Reuters.

The Central Bank of Russia says the experiment is designed to boost transparency in crypto trading but warns that participants can lose money dabbling into digital assets.

"This is a new status that … citizens will receive if their investments in securities and deposits exceed 100 million roubles ($1.15 million) or if their income over the past year was more than 50 million roubles ($575,000)."

In July of 2020, Russia enacted a law that banned the use of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin (BTC) to purchase goods and services in the country. But the European giant appears to be softening its stance on digital assets after the US and its allies imposed crippling sanctions against Russia for the war in Ukraine.

In September, the country passed a bill that enabled legal entities and registered entrepreneurs to mine digital assets. Reports also emerged last year that Russia will try to use the National Payment Card System (NSPK)

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SEC Commissioner Hester Peirce on the New Crypto Task Force

The longtime SEC commissioner explains how she wants to reshape the agency's approach to digital assets regulation.

SEC Commissioner Hester Peirce, the newly named head of the regulator's crypto task force, has long been a proponent of the crypto industry as one of the Republicans overseeing the federal securities regulator. She discussed her approach with CoinDesk in late February.

SEC Commissioner Hester Peirce spoke with CoinDesk on Feb. 28, 2025, hours before U.S. President Donald Trump announced his White House crypto summit.

Why it matters
The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is one of the key regulators overseeing the crypto sector in the country, and has been the source of much ire. Peirce, who has served as a commissioner since 2018, is now looking to change the regulator's approach to the entire industry. As part of this, the SEC is hosting an event on crypto policy on March 21.

Breaking it down
Just to get right into it, obviously, it's been, I think, an eventful five weeks now, give or take, since President Donald Trump took the oath of office and resumed his presidency. The big thing in your world is the new crypto task force that you're heading up, as far as the crypto industry is concerned. And just to begin with, I was hoping you could maybe walk through what you've seen and done and heard so far, and then where you expect this to go.

Yeah, let me start by giving you my standard disclaimer, which is that my views are my own views as a commissioner, not necessarily those of the SEC or my fellow commissioners.

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Thailand Regulator Adds USDC, USDT Stablecoins to Approved Cryptocurrencies

Previously, only bitcoin (BTC), ethereum (ETH), XRP, stellar (XLM) and certain tokens used in the Bank of Thailand's settlement system were approved.

Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is adding Tether's USDT and Circle's USDC to its list of approved cryptocurrencies for trading on digital asset exchanges.
The decision, effective from March 16, follows a public consultation in February where the majority supported the proposal.
The approval of USDT and USDC, with market capitalizations of $142 billion and $58 billion, respectively, aligns Thailand with global trends where stablecoins are increasingly significant in crypto trading and payments.

Thailand's financial regulator the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is expanding its list of approved cryptocurrencies with the two largest stablecoins, Tether's USDT and Circle's USDC as trading pairs on digital asset exchanges.

Previously, only bitcoin (BTC), ethereum (ETH), XRP, stellar (XLM), and certain tokens used in the Bank of Thailand's settlement system were approved by the regulator.

The move comes after a public consultation in February, during which most respondents backed the proposal. The new rules from the will take effect on March 16.

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France central bank governor says Trump is "sowing the seeds of future upheavals" by supporting crypto

Francois Villeroy de Galhau, the governor of Banque de France and the European Central Bank Governing Council's member, believes U.S. president Donald Trump is making a huge mistake by supporting cryptocurrencies.

In an interview with French weekly La Tribune Dimanche, Villeroy de Galhau said that the U.S. might be paving the way for the next financial crisis by embracing cryptocurrencies and non-bank finance. He said that, "The United States risks sinning through negligence," adding that:

"Financial crises often originate in the United States and spread to the rest of the world. By

encouraging crypto-assets and non-bank finance, the American administration is sowing the seeds of future upheavals."

Three of the five biggest financial crises emerged in the U.S. This includes The Great Depression, triggered by the Wall Street crash in 1929, the OPEC Oil Price Shock of 1973, when members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries halted oil exports to the U.S., and the Great Recession that was triggered by the collapse of the U.S. housing market bubble.

Villeroy de Galhau has been openly critical of Trump's policies Villeroy de Galhau was one of the first economists to voice his concerns about Trump and his policies, even before Trump's inauguration in January.

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Bitcoin Paychecks? Brazil Introduces Bill To Legalize BTC Salaries

Brazil is making strides toward the integration of Bitcoin into its economy. The National Congress has recently introduced a new measure that aims to enable employees to receive a portion of their salaries in cryptocurrency.

Luiz Philippe, a former federal deputy from Orleans-Braganza, has proposed a measure that could potentially establish Brazil as one of the few countries to acknowledge Bitcoin for payroll payments.

Proposal Allows Up To 50% Salary In Bitcoin According to the measure, staff members could get up to half of their pay in Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies. Still, this would be only possible if the employee and the company agree. The remaining sum must be paid with Brazilian real (R$), therefore ensuring that the national currency stays in circulation.

Excluded from the proposal are freelancers, expatriates, and self-employed people; it is meant for formal employment contracts. The proposal offers a legal framework for anyone who choose to offer Bitcoin payments even though it does not require businesses to do so. Proposal Allows Up To 50% Salary In Bitcoin According to the measure, staff members could get up to half of their pay in Bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies.

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Thailand seizes 63 illegal crypto mining rigs that stole over $327k in electricity

Following complaints about electricity thefts, authorities raided three abandoned houses and found remotely controlled mining operations.

Officials of Thailand's Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) seized 63 illegal crypto mining machines on Friday, according to a report by The Nation. The illegal crypto mining rigs, worth around 2 million baht ($60,000), were found in three abandoned houses in the Pathum Thani province.

Officials conducted a raid after locals of the region complained about unidentified individuals stealing electricity from the region's utility poles and transformers. The locals suspected that the stolen electricity was being used for cryptocurrency mining operations hidden in abandoned buildings.

Crypto mining requires massive amounts of electricity. Authorities estimate that the illicit mining rigs caused losses worth over 11 million baht (over $327 million) to the Metropolitan Electricity Authority.

The illegal mining rigs were controlled remotely

Police officials said that along with the mining rigs, they also confiscated three crypto mining controllers, three routers, three internet signal boosters, three modified electricity metres, a desktop computer, a laptop computer, and two bank passbooks.

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TON Society celebrates Pavel Durov leaving France as free speech win

The group reiterated its commitment to freedom of speech and promoting privacy-enhancing technologies that empower the individual.

The Open Network (TON) Society released a statement on March 15 celebrating the return of Pavel Durov's passport as a win for freedom of speech, online privacy, and innovation.

According to the AFP news agency, Durov left France and headed to Dubai on the morning of March 15 after gaining permission from French officials to depart the European country.

“We have stood behind Pavel since his arrest on August 24, 2024,” the TON Society wrote. The group added:

"Pavel’s unwavering commitment to freedom of speech and transparency, despite facing the most challenging of circumstances, is a powerful reminder of the importance of standing by your principles, even when it is politically and personally detrimental to do so."

The TON Society previously penned a letter condemning the French government for detaining Durov and urging the country to release the Telegram founder.

“The arrest of the Telegram founder, Pavel Durov, is a direct assault on a basic human right — the freedom of expression of everyone,” the TON Society’s Aug. 27 letter read.

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Trump-Backed Crypto Project WLFI Closes Token Sale After Raising $590 Million

WLFI’s crypto portfolio suffered a $124 million loss, primarily due to declining Ethereum prices and broader market turbulence.

World Liberty Financial Initiative (WLFI), the cryptocurrency project backed by US President Donald Trump, has concluded its token sale.

During the process, it amassed approximately $590 million. This places WLFI among the top 10 largest token raises in history, as per data from ICODrops.

WLFI Token Sale
Unlike traditional cryptocurrencies that can be freely traded, WLFI tokens were exclusively available to accredited investors, with restrictions preventing public trading or transfers. Additionally, no timeline has been announced for a potential exchange listing.

WLFI was launched in September 2024 in a bid to advance decentralized finance (DeFi) and promote US dollar-pegged stablecoins to strengthen the USD’s dominance in global markets. The project’s main offering is a DeFi lending platform.

The governance token, WLFI, was introduced for public sale on October 15 and initially targeted a $300 million raise. The sale offered 20 billion tokens at $0.015 each but faced weak demand and attracted just $11 million from 766 million tokens sold. In response, the fundraising goal was lowered to $30 million.

Interest in WLFI increased following the popularity of Trump-related meme coins, such as Official Trump (TRUMP) and Official Melania (MELANIA).

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21Shares To Liquidate Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETFs

Following a wave of outflows, 21Shares has confirmed plans to liquidate two of its Bitcoin and Ethereum ETFs.

21Shares has announced that it is bringing down the curtain on its Bitcoin and Ethereum futures exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The issuer is eyeing March 28 as a tentative date for the liquidation of both ETFs amid a wave of new filings in the US.

21Shares Set To Liquidate Bitcoin and Ethereum ETFs
According to an announcement, crypto ETF issuer 21Shares has disclosed plans to ditch its Bitcoin and Ethereum futures ETFs. Per the announcement, the affected ETFs are the ARK 21Shares Active Bitcoin Ethereum Strategy ETF and the ARK 21Shares Active On-Chain Bitcoin Strategy ETF.
While the press release did not give clear reasons for the liquidations, it hinged its decision on a periodic review of its offerings. The statement cited a need to align existing product lineups with market dynamics and clients' needs in a changing landscape.

However, pundits say the liquidations are a result of jarring ETF outflows in recent months.

Shareholders can sell their holdings up until March 27, a date touted as the last trading day for both ETFs. 21Shares plans to put the final nail in the coffin for both ETFs on March 28, liquidating all remaining assets.

"Shareholders who continue to hold shares of a Fund on the Fund's Liquidation Date will receive a liquidating distribution with a value equal to their proportionate ownership interest in the Fund," read the press release.

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SEGA's 'Code of Joker' launching as NFT card game on Sui

SEGA's Code of Joker game series is coming to the gaming-focused L1 blockchain Sui via a new game.

SEGA licensed the IP to the third-party firm Jokers, Inc., which is developing the upcoming title.

The new game based on the Japanese anime-style arcade IP is called Code of Joker: Evolutions. Players will be able to open card packs and collect cards onchain as Sui NFTs.

"We knew that we wanted to match the physical feeling of opening a new card pack," Takashi "Gin" Mizouka, cofounder of Jokers Inc., said in a statement.

While Sonic the Hedgehog, one of SEGA's most famous characters, appears in footage of Code of Joker gameplay, I think it's very unlikely the quick blue mammal will pop up in Code of Joker: Evolutions.

Mysten Labs didn't respond to my question about whether Sonic will be in the new game, but I do remember that roughly two years ago when I was covering blockchain gaming, SEGA co-COO Shuji Utsumi said SEGA won't license its biggest IPs for third-party blockchain games and won't develop its own in-house crypto games, either.

That said, SEGA is obviously still open to licensing some of its other game brands.

Two years ago, it licensed the Sangokushi Taisen brand for a third-party blockchain military card battle game on Oasys, developed by Double Jump Tokyo.

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