APRIL 7th, 2026

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

421 ST EDITION

TRUMP-IRAN DEADLINE CHAOS SENDS CRYPTO HIGHER WHILE CEASEFIRE HOPES RISE

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CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY
CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

EDITORS LETTER

Bitcoin tried to reclaim strength this week, with buyers pushing price above the $70K level, but the breakout failed to hold. That kind of rejection at a key psychological level shows sellers are still active and defending the range. The inability to build acceptance above $70K suggests this move was more of a liquidity grab than a true trend reversal. Some analysts are now leaning toward a deeper move, with expectations that BTC could sweep below the $60K lows before forming a proper bottom. On-chain data is also not fully supportive of a bullish case yet. Glassnode's Long-Term Holder Realized Loss metric is still elevated, showing that investors who held for over six months are continuing to exit at a loss. Historically, this kind of selling pressure needs to cool off significantly before a base forms, and the current daily average around $200 million is still far from the sub-$25 million levels typically seen near market bottoms.

Bitcoin closed back above its moving averages on Monday, which is an early sign that buyers are trying to regain control after a period of weakness. However, the structure is still neutral overall, as the moving averages are flattening out and the RSI is sitting around the midpoint, showing no clear dominance from either side. If BTC can hold above these moving averages and build acceptance, the next logical move is a push toward the $72K resistance. A clean break above that level could open momentum toward the $74.5K to $76K supply zone, where sellers are likely waiting. On the flip side, if this breakout attempt fails and price slips back below the support trendline, the bullish setup gets invalidated quickly. That would likely trigger a move back into the $62.5K to $60K demand zone, where buyers will need to step in again.

Ethereum is showing a similar structure, with price reclaiming the moving averages and attempting to build a recovery. This move puts the $2,200 level in focus as the next key resistance. Sellers will likely defend this area, but if ETH manages to break and hold above it, momentum could carry price toward $2,400. For a proper trend reversal and sustained upside, bulls need to flip $2,400 into support, which would then open the path toward $2,800 and eventually $3,050. However, if ETH rejects from $2,200 and drops back below the moving averages, it signals continued consolidation rather than trend reversal. In that case, the range between $1,916 and $2,200 remains in play for the near term.

BNB is currently at a decision point after bouncing from the $570 level into the moving averages. This zone is acting as immediate resistance, and sellers are expected to defend it. A rejection here would increase the probability of a breakdown below $570, which could accelerate the move toward the $500 level and continue the broader downtrend. However, if buyers manage to push BNB above the moving averages, it suggests the market is not ready to trend lower just yet. Instead, price is likely to remain range-bound between $570 and $687. A confirmed breakout above $687 would be the first sign that bulls are regaining control and could shift momentum back to the upside.

XRP is showing some relative strength after bouncing from the key $1.27 support, which is clearly being defended by buyers. This level has now become a strong short-term floor. For upside continuation, XRP needs to reclaim and hold above the 50-day moving average around $1.39. If that happens, the next targets come in at $1.61 and then the descending trendline, which has been capping price for some time. However, if XRP fails to hold momentum and drops back below $1.27, it would signal that sellers are still in control. That would likely lead to a move toward $1.11 and potentially a retest of the psychological $1 level.

Traders Outlook:

Right now, the market is sitting at a critical inflection point where structure is neutral but pressure is building for the next big move. For Bitcoin, holding above the moving averages is key, and a breakout above $72K could trigger a strong continuation toward the mid-$70Ks. However, if that level fails again, traders should watch for a liquidity sweep toward the $60K zone before any meaningful bounce. Ethereum is slightly behind BTC but setting up similarly, with $2,200 acting as the trigger level for momentum. A clean break above that could bring in short-term upside, while rejection keeps it stuck in a range. BNB remains weaker compared to BTC and ETH, and unless it reclaims the moving averages, downside risk toward $500 is still on the table. XRP is showing early signs of strength, but it needs to confirm by breaking above $1.39 to build momentum. Across the board, the market is still reacting to levels rather than trending strongly. This means traders should stay flexible and focus on confirmations rather than anticipating moves. Volatility is likely to increase, especially around key resistance and support zones. Fakeouts and liquidity grabs will continue to be common in this environment. The best approach in the near term is to trade the range until a clear breakout with volume confirms the next trend.

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 industry's longest-running and most trusted sources for cryptocurrency news, market insights, and blockchain analysis. Created to support our Platinum Crypto Academy clients and global subscribers, the magazine delivers clear research, actionable technical analysis, and strong thought leadership across the digital asset space.

Each week, we provide readers with in-depth articles, project updates, and market commentary that cover the rapidly evolving world of blockchain and Web3. For traders, investors, developers, and entrepreneurs, navigating this fast-changing environment can be challenging. Our mission is to simplify that journey and help readers make informed, confident decisions.

Since our launch in 2017, we've covered every major cycle in crypto from Bitcoin's early rally past **$20,000 in 2017** to its sharp correction near **$3,200 in 2018**, marking one of the strongest bear markets in the sector's history. We followed Bitcoin's surge to **$69,000 in 2021** and its deep pullback to around **$16,000 in 2022** during a period of global uncertainty and high-profile exchange failures. Most recently, we've tracked Bitcoin's powerful 2025 resurgence as it broke into six-figure territory, hitting levels above **$123,000** and reaffirming long-term market confidence.

Our **Platinum Crypto Academy** community includes thousands of students and traders worldwide. Over time, **Cryptonaire Weekly** has grown to more than **250,000 active subscribers** and a **social reach of over 1.2 million followers across multiple platforms and community groups**. Through our research-driven insights and strategic relationships, we've also helped **350+ blockchain and crypto projects gain** meaningful traction and visibility in the global market.

For anyone looking to stay informed, identify opportunities, and understand the technologies shaping the future of finance, Cryptonaire Weekly remains a trusted and valuable resource.

Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- TBURN
- CryptoGames
- UK Financial Ltd

Also Get,

- Markets Analysis
- Market News Update
- Read Our Latest Blog:

KNOWYOURMARKET.AI'S FIRST REPORTING TEMPLATE IS HERE

For Latest update

WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 421st edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is $2.35 trillion, UP $20 billion since last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is $85.36 billion, which makes a 24.79% increase in the last 24 hours. The Fear & Greed index is 35% Fear and the Altcoin season index is 32% which makes a 16% decrease since last week.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 2.11% from $67,450 last week to around $68,870 and Ether's price has increased by 2.92% from $2,055 last week to $2,115 Bitcoin's market cap is $1.37 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is $980 Billion

Bitcoin tried to reclaim strength this week, with buyers pushing price above the $70K level, but the breakout failed to hold. That kind of rejection at a key psychological level shows sellers are still active and defending the range. The inability to build acceptance above $70K suggests this move was more of a liquidity grab than a true trend reversal. Some analysts are now leaning toward a deeper move, with expectations that BTC could sweep below the $60K lows before forming a proper bottom. On-chain data is also not fully supportive of a bullish case yet. Glassnode's Long-Term Holder Realized Loss metric is still elevated, showing that investors who held for over six months are continuing to exit at a loss. Historically, this kind of selling pressure needs to cool off significantly before a base forms, and the current daily average around $200 million is still far from the sub-$25 million levels typically seen near market bottoms.That said, sentiment is starting to flip in an interesting way. According to Santiment, bearish commentary is now outweighing bullish sentiment across social platforms, with roughly five bearish takes for every four bullish ones. From a trader's perspective, that kind of crowd positioning often acts as a contrarian signal. When the majority leans bearish, it usually means a lot of the downside may already be priced in, opening the door for a potential reversal sooner than expected.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	58.55%
ETH	10.84%
USDT	7.82%
BNB	3.47%
SOL	1.95%
Others	17.37%

Macro headlines continue to inject volatility into the market. Comments from US President Donald Trump around Iran and the Strait of Hormuz created mixed signals, but were enough to spark a short-term bounce across risk assets. Crypto followed through, with total market cap climbing roughly 2.5% to $2.44 trillion. Bitcoin briefly pushed toward $69.5K, triggering around $255 million in liquidations, with the majority being short positions. This indicates that the move higher was largely driven by short squeezes rather than strong spot demand, which again points to fragile upside momentum.

From a broader market structure perspective, traditional finance is starting to take blockchain competition more seriously. Jamie Dimon acknowledged that blockchain-based players, including stablecoins and tokenized assets, are emerging as real competitors to traditional banking systems. While JPMorgan continues to build internally, the tone has clearly shifted from dismissal to cautious recognition, which is a long-term positive for the space.

At the protocol level, discussions around Bitcoin's future security are heating up. Samson Mow pushed back against calls from Brian Armstrong and Philip Martin to accelerate quantum-resistant upgrades. His argument is straightforward — rushing upgrades to defend against future quantum threats could introduce vulnerabilities in the present system. It's a classic trade-off between future-proofing and current stability, and the market is watching closely as this debate evolves.

Meanwhile, the Solana Foundation is stepping up its focus on security with the launch of STRIDE, a new framework designed to strengthen protocol resilience and improve incident response. This comes right after a major exploit in the DeFi space, highlighting that security remains one of the biggest risks in crypto. Strengthening infrastructure at the protocol level is critical if the market wants to attract more institutional capital over time.

Market Outlook:

The market is still stuck in a choppy range, with Bitcoin struggling to hold above key resistance while downside risks remain in play. Price action suggests that sellers are still in control in the short term, especially with failed breakouts and weak follow-through. However, sentiment is turning overly bearish, which could set up a contrarian bounce if the market finds a catalyst. A sweep of the $60K region remains a realistic scenario before any strong base forms. Liquidation-driven moves are dominating the market, meaning volatility will likely stay high in both directions. Altcoins are still lagging, but could catch a bid if Bitcoin stabilizes. Macro headlines will continue to act as short-term triggers, especially around geopolitical developments. Institutional interest and infrastructure improvements remain strong long-term tailwinds. For now, traders should focus on key levels rather than narratives. Until Bitcoin reclaims and holds above major resistance with volume, expect more range-bound and reactive price action.

TBURN
UNIFIED PORTAL

TBURN
UNIFIED PORTAL

Access 34 platforms across the independent Layer 1 & Layer 2 blockchain ecosystem from a single portal.
EVM+ Compatible · 5-Phase BFT Consensus · Quantum-Resistant Cryptography · 141K Peak TPS

92.7K LIVE TPS	141K PEAK TPS	100ms BLOCK TIME	7 SHARDS
112 VALIDATORS	8 BRIDGE CHAINS	5800 L1 CHAIN ID	58001 L2 CHAIN ID

TBURN Chain Layer 1 Blockchain (Chain ID: 5800)

141K Peak TPS with real-time dynamic sharding

Quantum-resistant cryptography (NIST FIPS 203/204)

Sub-1 second deterministic finality

Production-grade BSC Bridge

Exchange listings planned for late April 2026

TBURN mainnet, an AI-powered blockchain built for scalability, intelligence, and security, has officially gone live. The TBURN Chain Foundation addresses three problems most Layer 1 networks continue to defer, which are speed, quantum security, and bridge risk. While many networks outline these capabilities in future roadmaps, TBURN operates a live network with these capabilities already running in production.

Why the Industry Needs This Now

Google's recent research suggests a sufficiently advanced quantum computer could break Bitcoin's elliptic-curve cryptography with fewer than 500,000 qubits, far lower than previous estimates. Another study flags five potential attack vectors within Ethereum, with close to $100 billion in assets exposed. Block finality on Ethereum averages 12.8 minutes.TBURN hits finality in 100 milliseconds, roughly 7,680 times quicker than Ethereum. Similarly, Solana achieves finality in around 400 milliseconds, roughly four times slower than TBURN.

What Makes TBURN Stand Out

100-millisecond block finality on live mainnet, with token transfers processing in 8 microseconds through a Rust-native execution path, which is 125 times faster than standard EVM chains.

Three-layer quantum-resistant cryptography runs simultaneously, with NIST FIPS 204 and FIPS 205 certified layers using independent mathematics, so breaking one layer reveals nothing about the others. AI-powered dynamic sharding adjusting between 7 and 128 shards in real time, predicting network load 60 seconds ahead, with throughput rising from 79,000 TPS to 420,000 TPS across three tiers with 141K Peak TPS.

A five-layer native bridge with zero-knowledge proof verification, threshold signatures, real-time AI threat detection, time-lock protection for large transfers, and an on-chain insurance pool as a final safety layer.

Eleven financial engineering models embedded directly in the protocol, covering gas prediction, fee volatility, bridge risk, validator trust scoring, and mempool fairness, with no equivalent in Ethereum, Solana, or Cosmos.

Nash Equilibrium enforcement in the block production layer, with the expected profit from fraud remaining mathematically lower than honest validation, by design and by construction.

On the security side, TBURN runs three independent cryptographic layers simultaneously. The first uses classical elliptic curve signatures. The second uses lattice-based ML-DSA-65, certified under NIST FIPS 204. The third uses hash-based SLH-DSA, certified under NIST FIPS 205. Each layer uses different mathematics, and one layer's exposure does not affect the others. NIST approved its first post-quantum signature standards in August 2024, effectively starting a compliance countdown for every blockchain network. TBURN aligns with all three certified standards on live mainnet, in line with the direction regulators and institutions continue to move toward.

Platinum Crypto Academy, a trusted name in crypto education and publishing, sees TBURN as a network that reflects where serious blockchain infrastructure is heading. It is uncommon to see sub-second finality, NIST-certified quantum resistance, and a native five-layer bridge all deployed on mainnet. Most networks treat these as future targets. TBURN positions them as present-day requirements, and the depth of this release suggests a foundation built for long-term reliability. They consider the network is one worth watching as exchange listings begin and broader access continues to open.

About TBURN Chain Foundation

TBURN Chain Foundation builds and operates a Layer 1 blockchain network designed to combine AI-driven performance with institutional-grade security. The network features dynamic sharding, quantum-resistant cryptography, a native cross-chain bridge, and eleven embedded financial models, all working to continuously optimize network performance.

ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

BITCOIN RECLAIMS $69,000 AS CEASEFIRE TALKS SURFACE AND CRYPTO SHORTS GET SQUEEZED

A report that the U.S. and Iran are discussing a 45-day ceasefire lifted risk assets across the board on Monday, with short liquidations outpacing longs nearly 3-to-1 in the past 12 hours.

Bitcoin jumped about 3 percent to roughly $69,000, its highest level in more than a week, as traders returned from the Easter break and covered heavily skewed short positions.

The rally, sparked by reports of talks over a potential 45-day Iran ceasefire and easing concerns about shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, lifted major tokens and pushed the total crypto market value back above $2.5 trillion.

Despite the sharp bounce and a squeeze of nearly $200 million in short positions, bitcoin remains confined to its recent $65,000 to $73,000 war range, with key resistance levels still overhead and the outlook hinging on whether a ceasefire deal materializes.

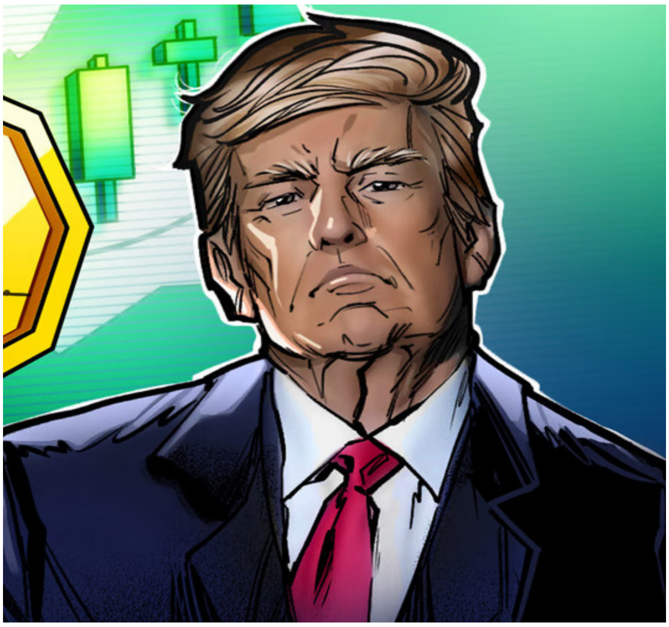
Bitcoin jumped 3% to $69,120 on Monday as traders returned from the Easter weekend to a burst of optimism around a potential Iran ceasefire, pushing the largest cryptocurrency to its highest level in over a week and squeezing $196 million in short positions over the past 24 hours.

Ether led a bump among major tokens with a 3.7% gain to $2,130, its strongest daily move in the past week. SOL rose 2% to $82, XRP added 2.2% to $1.34, and dogecoin climbed 1.7% to $0.093. The broad rally pushed the total crypto market cap back above $2.5 trillion.

The catalyst was an Axios report that the U.S., Iran, and a group of regional mediators are discussing terms for a potential 45-day ceasefire that could lead to a permanent end to the six-week-old conflict.

Reports that more ships had passed through the Strait of Hormuz added to the relief, even as Trump issued increasingly aggressive threats to destroy Iran's power plants starting Tuesday.

Read more...



Trump-Iran deadline chaos sends crypto higher while ceasefire hopes rise

US President Donald Trump threatened Iran could be "living in Hell" if it doesn't open the Strait of Hormuz, though he also told reporters that a deal with Iran is getting close.

Crypto markets bounced 2.5% as US President Donald Trump sent mixed signals over a potential deal with Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, including reports of a possible ceasefire that could permanently end the war.

In an expletive-laden post on the Truth Social platform on Sunday, Trump threatened that Iran would be "living in Hell" if the Strait of Hormuz is not reopened.

However, he also acknowledged in a Fox News interview that Iran is "negotiating now" and expressed optimism about a "good chance" of a deal within 24 hours.

Total market capitalization has climbed about $70 billion, or 2.5%, to an 11-day high of $2.44 trillion in early trading on Monday on the news. Bitcoin tapped $69,500 on Coinbase, according to TradingView.

The small jump has led to total liquidations of around $255 million over 24 hours, 73% of them being short positions, according to data from CoinGlass.

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As Wall Street moves on-chain, DeFi faces a $330 billion trust test it can't dodge

Tokenized trading is moving into regulated hands, leaving DeFi to prove open finance can survive institutional scrutiny.

Wall Street spent the first quarter of 2026 systematically narrowing DeFi's claim to the future of finance.

In January, ICE announced NYSE was building a tokenized securities platform with 24/7 operations, instant settlement, dollar-

based order sizing, and stablecoin funding, with BNY and Citi providing tokenized deposits for clearinghouse funding outside normal banking hours.

In February, WisdomTree launched 24/7 trading and instant settlement for tokenized money-market fund shares under SEC relief.

In March, the Fed, FDIC, and OCC jointly said that eligible tokenized securities should receive the same capital treatment as their non-tokenized counterparts, calling the framework technology-neutral. The SEC then approved Nasdaq's proposal to trade certain securities in tokenized form, with settlement through DTC.

NYSE and Securitize followed with a partnership to build digital transfer-agent infrastructure around institutional operating standards.

That sequence did something concrete to DeFi's competitive position. Regulated exchanges, broker-dealers, and bank-backed clearinghouses can now package 24/7 trading and on-chain settlement inside a supervised market structure, with the capital treatment to match.

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UK FINANCIAL LTD: VERIFIED SUPPLY ON COINMARKETCAP

Clarity and Transparency for SMPRA and SMCAT

ATTENTION! NO NEW ISSUANCE OR EXPANSION OF CURRENT FLOAT.
Verification standardizes the report.

SMPRA (MAYA PREFERRED)

- BACKED BY GOLD
- 8 YEARS OF HISTORY
- ASPIRATION TO TOP 10 BY VALUE

DATA STANDARDIZATION ACROSS PLATFORMS

SMCAT (MAYACAT)

- ERC-3643 SECURITY TOKEN
- VERIFIABLE ASSETS ON-CHAIN
- TRADED ON EXCHANGE

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY: UK FINANCIAL LTD (LONDON & DELAWARE) ASSURES REGULATED BLOCKCHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET TOKENIZATION FOR COMPLIANCE. [2]

Information for educational purposes. Not financial advice.

Robert Kiyosaki recommends Bitcoin, gold as 1974 shift comes full circle

The "Rich Dad Poor Dad" author continues to back Bitcoin, gold and silver as alternatives to traditional money.

"Rich Dad Poor Dad" author Robert Kiyosaki has argued that the economic shifts set in motion more than five decades ago are now unfolding, advocating for Bitcoin and gold while warning against rising debt, inflation and retirement risks.

In a Saturday post on X, Kiyosaki pointed to 1974 as a turning point that reshaped both money and retirement systems. He argued that the United States' move toward a petrodollar framework, alongside policy changes affecting pensions, laid the foundation for today's financial pressures.

"The future created in 1974 has arrived," Kiyosaki wrote, linking current inflation and geopolitical tensions around energy to the dollar's evolution after the end of the gold standard era. He also mentioned the passage of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which introduced new rules for pension plans and coincided with a broader shift toward market-based retirement savings.

According to Kiyosaki, that transition replaced guaranteed lifetime income for many workers with systems such as 401(k)s and similar accounts, placing more risk on individuals. "Millions of baby-boomers will soon find out they have no income once they stop working," he warned.

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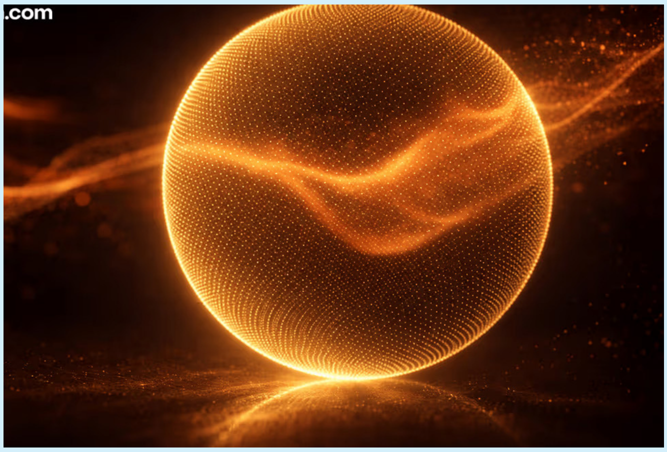
Metaplanet Buys 5,075 Bitcoin in Q1 2026, Total Holdings Hit 40,177 BTC

Metaplanet Inc., Japan's largest corporate bitcoin holder, purchased 5,075 bitcoin during the first quarter of 2026, bringing its total treasury to 40,177 BTC at a cumulative cost of approximately $3.92 billion.

Metaplanet Overtakes MARA Holdings in Bitcoin Race With Q1 2026 Purchase

The Tokyo-based company Metaplanet (TSE: 3350 / OTCQX: MTPLF) disclosed the Q1 acquisition on April 2, 2026, confirming the purchase was completed by



March 31. The company spent roughly $398 million on the quarter's buys, acquiring bitcoin at a weighted average price of approximately $78,000 to $79,898 per coin.

With bitcoin trading near $66,400 on announcement day, Metaplanet's holdings carried a market value of approximately $2.67 billion. On a mark-to-market basis, that represents an unrealized loss of roughly 32 percent against the company's average cost basis of around $97,593 per BTC.

The company does not treat that gap as a signal to slow buying. CEO Simon Gerovich has consistently framed bitcoin as a long-term reserve asset suited to Japan's inflation and yen-depreciation environment, and the company's acquisition pace has held steady across each quarter since its April 2024 strategy pivot.

Metaplanet funds purchases through equity raises, debt management, and bitcoin income-generation operations, primarily options trading against its existing holdings. In Q1 2026, that income business generated revenue of approximately 2.97 billion yen.

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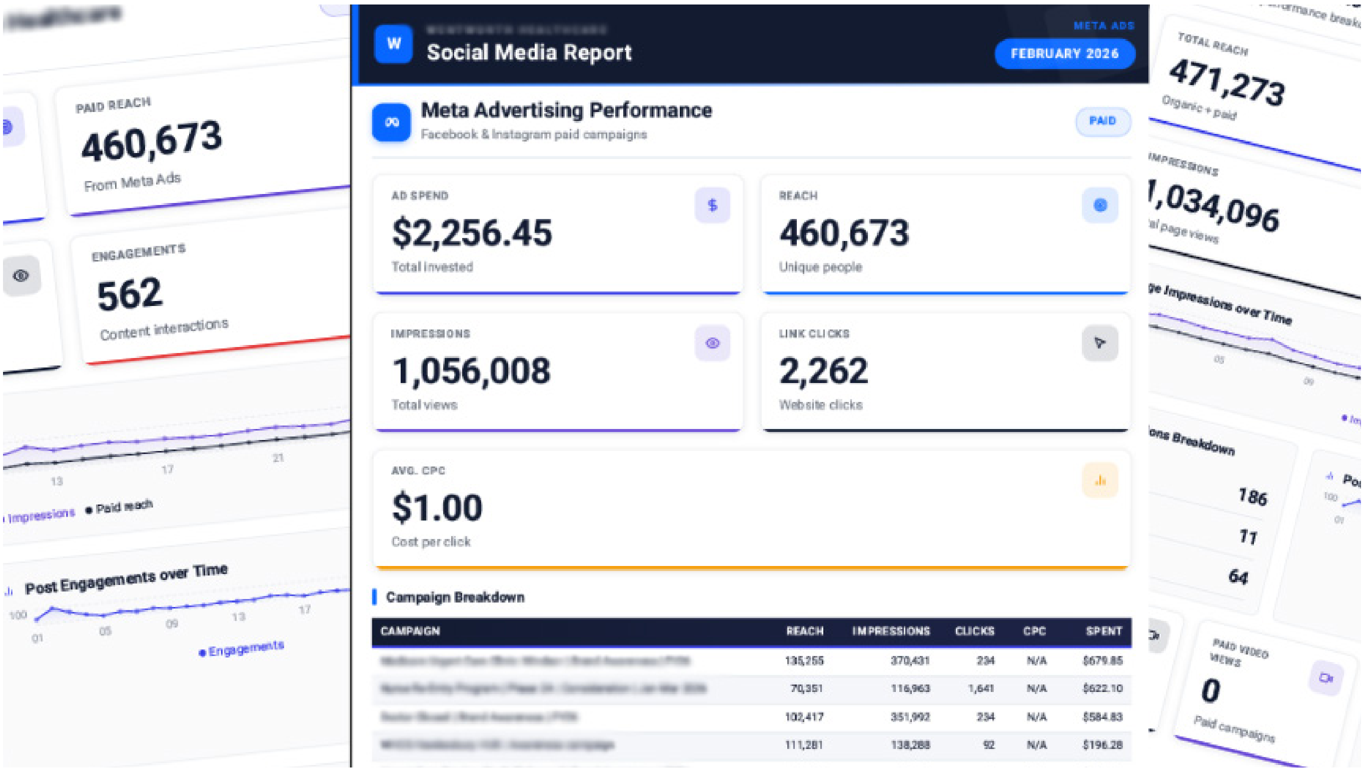


KnowYourMarket.ai has hit a major product milestone, with the platform's first reporting template now live.

This marks a significant step forward in bringing the KYMAi vision to life - transforming complex marketing data into clear, actionable strategic direction.

A step forward in meaningful analytics

The reporting template is designed to do what traditional dashboards fail to deliver: not just present data, but interpret it. By combining audience intelligence, performance signals and strategic frameworks, the output is a report that helps businesses understand exactly where to focus and why.

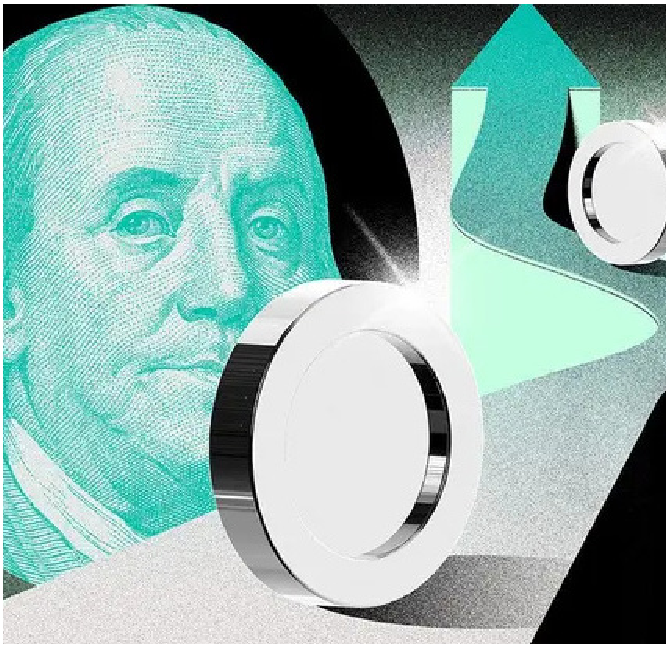
Clean and Structured

Early previews of the template highlight a clean, structured format that translates data into insight, removing ambiguity and reducing the time required to make confident marketing decisions.

The beginning of something meaningful

This first template is just the beginning. It lays the foundation for a broader suite of outputs that will continue to evolve as the platform scales.

As development progresses, KnowYourMarket.ai will begin rolling out access to early users, marking the transition from concept to real-world application.



Franklin Templeton Launches Crypto Unit Amid Market Slump

On-chain data shows Franklin Templeton builds dedicated crypto division acquiring 250 Digital to chase institutional investor demand actively

Bitcoin crashed 45% from $126K peak while broader crypto market lost roughly two trillion dollars

Part of acquisition paid with BENJI tokens making it an early tokenized corporate deal

Franklin Templeton is setting up a standalone cryptocurrency division by acquiring 250 Digital, a firm spun off from venture capital outfit CoinFund earlier this year.

The $1.7 trillion asset manager is making its boldest digital-asset move yet, targeting pension and sovereign wealth funds.

The unit will operate under the name Franklin Crypto. Christopher Perkins and Seth Ginns, both former CoinFund executives, will run day-to-day operations. Sandy Kaul, who leads innovation at Franklin, will oversee the group.

Franklin has been in crypto since 2018 and currently employs more than 50 digital asset specialists. The firm already offers a bitcoin ETF and runs a tokenized money-market fund on Binance. This acquisition shifts its strategy from passive products toward actively managed institutional offerings.

Timing matters here. Bitcoin has shed roughly 45% since crossing $126,000 last fall. About $2 trillion has evaporated from total crypto market capitalization.

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Stablecoin Crypto Supply Hits $315B in Q1 as USDC Gains, USDT Slips

Total stablecoin supply reached a record $315 billion in Q1 2026, rising roughly $8 billion quarter-over-quarter even as the broader crypto market contracted.

The headline figure masks a sharper story underneath: USDC is taking ground from USDT, and the gap is closing faster than most market participants expected.

USDC supply surged 220% since late 2023 to approximately $78 billion, driven by institutional B2B settlement, payroll infrastructure, and programmatic payment rails built by Visa and Stripe.

USDT, still the dominant issuer by raw supply, saw its share slip – a divergence CEX.IO flagged as one of the quarter's defining market dynamics.

Total stablecoin supply hit a record $315B in Q1 2026, up ~$8B QoQ – the slowest growth since Q4 2023, but still expansion during a market contraction.

Stablecoins accounted for 75% of total crypto trading volume in Q1 – the highest share on record.

Total stablecoin transaction volume topped $28 trillion, exceeding Visa and Mastercard combined.

USDC supply surged 220% since late 2023 to ~$78B; USDT's market share slipped amid the divergence.

Retail-sized transfers fell 16% – the steepest drop on record – while bots drove approximately 76% of all stablecoin transaction volume. Yield-bearing stablecoins now represent a $3.7 billion subsector, introducing new fragmentation and regulatory risk.

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Bitcoin Miner MARA Slashes 15% of Workforce After Selling $1.1 Billion in BTC

Publicly traded Bitcoin miner MARA cut 15% of its staff this week after selling $1.1 billion in Bitcoin to fuel an AI push.

Bitcoin miner MARA cut 15% of its workforce amid the firm's shifting focus to AI.

The layoffs, reportedly not due to financial constraints, follow its recent $1.1 billion Bitcoin sale. Shares in MARA finished Thursday up more than 8%, but are down 53% in the last six months. Publicly traded Bitcoin miner MARA has cut its workforce by 15% shortly after it sold $1.1 billion worth of the top crypto asset, the company confirmed to Decrypt following an initial report from Blockspace Media.

Citing sources close to the matter, the publication reported that the cuts impact full-time employees across departments, and may also impact contractors for the firm.

“MARA remains focused on executing our strategic evolution from a pure-play Bitcoin miner into an energy and digital infrastructure company,” a spokesperson from MARA told Decrypt.

“As our company evolves, so too must our operations and where we focus our resources. With this in mind, as part of our broader growth strategy, we made the difficult but necessary decision to reduce our team by approximately 15%,” they added.

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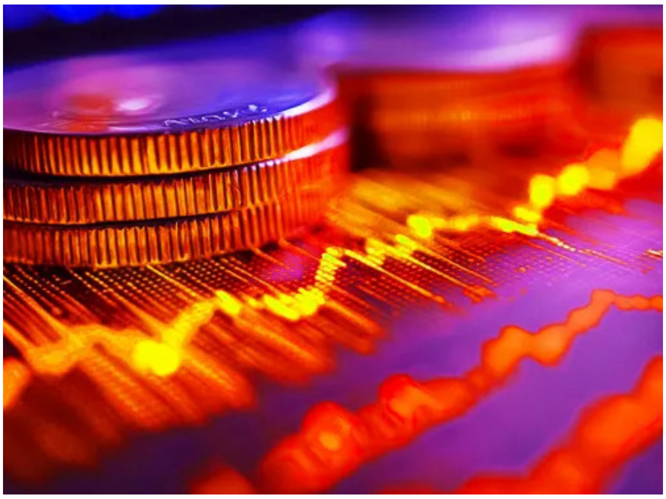
CTFC Hits KuCoin With $500,000 Penalty, Bans Exchange From Allowing US Users To Trade on Platform



The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has levied a $500,000 penalty and restrictions against crypto exchange KuCoin’s operator, barring it from allowing US users to trade on its platform without proper registration.

The CFTC says a federal court in the Southern District of New York entered a consent order against Peken Global Limited, the entity behind KuCoin.

The order finds the company allowed US participants to access its trading platform without registering as a foreign board of trade.

The court has imposed a $500,000 civil monetary penalty and permanently enjoined Peken Global from future violations.

The order also prohibits the firm from permitting US users to trade unless it complies with CFTC registration requirements.

Regulators noted that disgorgement was not imposed, citing the company’s cooperation in the investigation and related proceedings.

In a parallel criminal case, Peken Global pleaded guilty to operating an unlicensed money transmitting business.

The action resolves part of a broader case brought by the CFTC against KuCoin entities, which alleged multiple violations of the Commodity Exchange Act.

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Circle's USDC freeze powers face fresh scrutiny after blocked wallets and delayed theft response

Circle can freeze USDC fast, but critics say recent cases exposed uneven review standards and growing operational risk.

Circle can freeze USDC wallets when it decides the risk is high enough. The new criticism is that the same power appeared slow when stolen funds were moving and broad when business wallets were caught in a sealed civil matter.

Circle's biggest selling point may be becoming its biggest liability. On-chain investigator ZachXBT's "Circle Files" allege that the USDC issuer has inconsistently applied its freeze powers.

Circle was too slow in 15 cases involving more than $420 million in allegedly illicit funds since 2022, yet broad enough to sweep 16 operational business wallets in a sealed US civil matter. The wallets were tied to exchanges, casinos, and forex services that ZachXBT said did not appear connected.

Why this matters: USDC is a core dollar infrastructure for exchanges, payments, and DeFi, so the real question is whether businesses can predict when freeze power will be used, how fast it will be applied, and how quickly mistakes can be reversed.

The firm later unfroze at least one of those wallets, belonging to Goated.com, adding weight to the question of how precisely Circle reviews the addresses it blocklists.

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Drift says $270 million exploit was a six-month North Korean intelligence operation

Attackers posed as a trading firm, met Drift contributors in person across multiple countries, deposited $1 million of their own capital, and waited half a year before executing the drain CoinDesk detailed earlier this week.

A North Korean state-linked group spent roughly six months infiltrating Drift Protocol under the guise of a quantitative trading firm before executing a $270 million exploit on April 1.

The attackers built trust by meeting Drift contributors at conferences, depositing more than $1 million, and integrating an Ecosystem Vault, then compromised devices via a malicious TestFlight app and a VSCode/Cursor vulnerability to obtain multisig approvals.

Investigators attributed the attack to UNC4736, also known as AppleJeus or Citrine Sleet, and Drift warned that such long-con, identity-rich operations expose deep weaknesses in multisig-based security models across DeFi.

Asix-month intelligence operation preceded the $270 million exploit of Drift Protocol and was carried out by a North Korean state-affiliated group, according to a detailed incident update published by the team earlier on Sunday.

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Apple Removes Jack Dorsey's Bitchat From China App Store

Apple has pulled the decentralized messaging application Bitchat from its China App Store following a regulatory demand from Chinese authorities.

Apple removed Bitchat from the China App Store on February 28, 2026, citing local legal violations.

The Cyberspace Administration of China claims Bitchat violates Article 3 of its security assessment provisions.

Bitchat reached a 10,000-user limit on Testflight before its removal from the Chinese market in early 2026.

Chinese Crackdown on Peer-to-Peer Messaging
Apple Inc. notified Block Inc. CEO Jack Dorsey that his decentralized messaging application, Bitchat, has been removed from the China App Store. The removal, effective as of February 28, 2026, was triggered by a formal demand from the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) regarding the app's non-compliance with local security regulations.

The CAC determined that Bitchat violates Article 3 of the "Provisions on the Security Assessment of Internet-based Information Services with Attribute of Public Opinions or Capable of Social Mobilization." These regulations require any service capable of influencing public opinion to undergo a state-mandated security assessment.

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Taiwan To Introduce Strict Crypto Penalties To Crackdown On Unlicensed And Fraudulent Activity

Taiwanese authorities have approved a new draft of their crucial crypto legislation, introducing severe penalties for unlicensed or fraudulent activities related to stablecoins and other digital assets.

Taiwan Approves $6M Fines To Combat Crypto Fraud
On Friday, local news outlets reported that the Executive Yuan passed the draft of the Virtual Asset Service Act (VASA) on April 2, marking a major step to regulate crypto assets in Taiwan.

The VASA, introduced by the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) last year, supports the efforts by Taiwanese authorities to establish a comprehensive crypto framework for Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) and stablecoin issuers.

In 2024, the FSC overhauled its Anti-Money Laundering (AML) framework to include crypto businesses, adding stricter AML guidelines for VASPs and requiring all digital asset firms to complete the AML registration by September 2025.

Premier Cho Jung-tai explained that the new framework, which will be implemented in four gradual phases, includes industry self-regulation and an AML compliance registration system.
The measures aim to enhance the security of virtual asset transactions, pilot custody services, and support the growth of domestic financial innovation, he added.

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Brian Armstrong Pledges Personal Oversight to Future-Proof Bitcoin Against Quantum Threats

Brian Armstrong has put himself personally on the line for Bitcoin quantum resistance, pledging direct oversight of Coinbase's post-quantum cryptography research and implementation efforts at a moment when the threat has moved from theoretical to time-stamped.

The commitment signals that Coinbase is no longer treating quantum risk as a long-range problem for someone else's roadmap.

The urgency is not manufactured. Google Quantum AI and Caltech research published in late 2025 modeled a hypothetical advanced quantum computer cracking Bitcoin's encryption in under nine minutes – barely inside the network's 10-minute block confirmation window.

Armstrong's personal involvement is a direct institutional response to that narrowing margin.

Armstrong's Commitment: Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong has pledged personal oversight of the exchange's Bitcoin quantum resistance initiatives, including collaboration with Bitcoin Core developers through a newly formed Quantum Advisory Council.

The Threat Window: Google Quantum AI research models a cryptographically relevant quantum computer breaking Bitcoin's encryption.

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Bitget Expands Crypto Payments With Visa Card Launch Across APAC

Bitget has officially rolled out its crypto-powered Bitget Card across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, marking a significant push toward making digital assets usable in everyday life. Launched in March 2026 in partnership with Visa and DCS, the card allows users to spend cryptocurrency seamlessly at over 150 million merchants worldwide where Visa is accepted.

The rollout spans nine major APAC markets, including Australia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Taiwan. Users can access a virtual card instantly upon approval, while physical cards are also being introduced for in-store payments.

Instant crypto spending with global reach
The Bitget Card is designed to eliminate the traditional complexities of using crypto for payments. Transactions are processed instantly, converting digital assets into fiat at the point of sale, allowing users to pay just like they would with a standard bank card.

The card integrates with Apple Pay and Google Pay, enabling contactless payments across supported devices. Initially funded through USDC, Bitget plans to expand support to additional assets, including USDT, BTC, ETH, and BGB, broadening its utility for different types of crypto holders.

In terms of costs, the card keeps fees relatively competitive. There are no annual or inactivity charges, and virtual card issuance is free. A physical card costs 5 USDC, while transactions carry a 0.9% fee and a 1% foreign exchange fee for non-USD payments.

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