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CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

416TH EDITION

VENUS GOES LIVE ON CATEX EXCHANGE



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PROTECTOR



PLATINUM
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EDITORS

Bitcoin showed relative strength as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East failed to push price below the key \$63,000 support. That level held firm, and buyers quickly stepped in, attempting to keep BTC above \$69,000. Even so, traders should not expect a straight-line recovery. Historically, deep corrections tend to unfold slowly, and sharp V-shaped reversals are rare in macro-driven environments. Long-term data still favors patience, as holding Bitcoin for three or more years has historically reduced the probability of loss to extremely low levels. Despite trading roughly 50% below its all-time high, the multi-year realized price shows that longer-term holders remain well in profit. The bigger macro question now is whether prolonged geopolitical conflict could trigger monetary easing, as previous US military engagements have often been followed by expansionary policy.

LETTER

Bitcoin is compressing inside a symmetrical triangle, showing a temporary balance between buyers and sellers. Price is coiling, and traders know this type of structure usually leads to a strong move once it breaks. Bulls are trying to push BTC above the triangle resistance to trigger upside momentum. If that breakout holds, the next key level to watch is \$74,508, which previously acted as a breakdown point. A daily close above \$74,508 would be an important shift in structure and could signal that the \$60,000 zone has formed a medium-term bottom. On the flip side, if price rejects near \$74,508 and slips back below the 20-day EMA, it would confirm that sellers are still active on rallies. In that case, Bitcoin may continue ranging between \$60,000 and \$74,508 while the market waits for stronger conviction.

Ether continues to move sideways between \$1,750 and \$2,111, reflecting indecision. Buyers need a strong close above \$2,111 to gain control and open the door toward the 50-day SMA near \$2,427, with \$3,045 as the next upside magnet if momentum builds. However, repeated rejection at \$2,111 would signal ongoing distribution and extend the range. If ETH breaks below \$1,750, downside pressure could accelerate toward \$1,537, which becomes the next major support level.

BNB has been quietly building a base between \$570 and \$670. The flattening 20-day EMA and gradually improving momentum suggest that selling pressure is easing. A breakout above \$670 would likely attract fresh buyers and could push BNB toward the 50-day SMA around \$742. However, if \$670 continues to cap price and BNB loses \$570, the market may quickly revisit the psychological \$500 level.

XRP is attempting to reclaim strength but continues to struggle around the 20-day EMA near \$1.42. Bulls are showing persistence, but they need a clean break above this level to shift short-term momentum. If that happens, XRP could climb toward the 50-day SMA at \$1.63 and possibly test the downtrend line. A confirmed breakout above that trendline would mark a meaningful change in structure. If rejected again and price breaks below channel support, \$1.11 becomes the key downside level, with \$1 acting as psychological support below that.

Trader's Outlook:

The market is currently in compression mode, with several major assets forming range or triangle structures. Bitcoin remains the leader, and its triangle breakout will likely dictate direction for the broader market. A sustained move above \$74,508 would improve sentiment quickly and could trigger short covering. However, failure near resistance keeps the range intact and favors cautious trading. Ether needs to prove strength above \$2,111 before traders can trust any rally attempt. Until then, it remains a range trade between defined support and resistance. BNB looks slightly stronger structurally but still needs a breakout above \$670 for confirmation. XRP remains reactive and will likely follow Bitcoin's direction once a decisive move begins. Volatility compression across charts suggests a larger move is building. Traders should prepare for expansion rather than assume the range will last forever. Risk management is critical because false breakouts are common in low-liquidity environments. For now, short-term tactical trades inside ranges remain safer than aggressive trend positioning. Once Bitcoin confirms direction, altcoins are likely to follow with amplified moves.

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:

- CryptoGames
- UK Financial Ltd
- LabGemTraders
- ClickOptions

Also Get,

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

HOW CRYPTOGAMES PREVENTS THE ESCALATION OF CHASING LOSSES IN GAMBLING?

TOP 10 CRYPTO EXCHANGES

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THE #1 CRYPTO TRADING MAGAZINE | WEEKLY TOP TRADES, ICOs AND MARKET UPDATES

WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 416th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$2.34 trillion, Up \$350 billion since last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is \$125.89 billion, which makes a 31.16% increase in the last 24 hours. The Fear & Greed index is 20% Fear and the Altcoin season index is 36% which makes a 4% increase since last week.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 8.82% from \$62,925 last week to around \$68,475 and Ether's price has increased by 10.41% from \$1,825 last week to \$2,015 Bitcoin's market cap is \$1.36 trillion and the altcoin market cap is \$980 Billion

Bitcoin showed relative strength as geopolitical tensions in the Middle East failed to push price below the key \$63,000 support. That level held firm, and buyers quickly stepped in, attempting to keep BTC above \$69,000. Even so, traders should not expect a straight-line recovery. Historically, deep corrections tend to unfold slowly, and sharp V-shaped reversals are rare in macro-driven environments. Long-term data still favors patience, as holding Bitcoin for three or more years has historically reduced the probability of loss to extremely low levels. Despite trading roughly 50% below its all-time high, the multi-year realized price shows that longer-term holders remain well in profit. The bigger macro question now is whether prolonged geopolitical conflict could trigger monetary easing, as previous US military engagements have often been followed by expansionary policy. If that pattern repeats, liquidity conditions could eventually turn supportive for risk assets, including crypto.

On the regulatory front, progress on a comprehensive US digital asset framework appears stalled. Political gridlock, shutdown disruptions and midterm election positioning are

slowing momentum on market structure legislation. While parts of the bill focused on commodities regulation have moved forward, broader securities clarity remains delayed, leaving institutional participants in wait-and-see mode. Meanwhile in Europe, a consortium of major banks is advancing plans for a regulated euro-backed stablecoin targeted for launch in 2026. The move reflects growing institutional confidence in digital assets and a push to create alternatives to US dollar-denominated stablecoins for cross-border settlement.

Security trends provided a modest positive signal. Crypto-related losses from hacks and exploits dropped significantly last month, with no major "mega-hack" events shaking the market. Analysts attribute the decline to tighter security controls and reduced speculative activity during volatility. At the same time, geopolitical developments triggered sharp but short-lived crypto outflows from Iran's largest exchange following regional airstrikes. Initial spikes suggested possible capital flight, but subsequent internet shutdowns sharply reduced activity, showing how quickly external forces can influence blockchain flows in certain regions.

Market Outlook:

The market remains heavily influenced by macro and geopolitical developments rather than purely technical factors. Bitcoin holding above \$63,000 is a constructive sign, but upside momentum needs stronger volume to sustain a recovery. Liquidity remains cautious, and traders are not yet aggressively deploying capital. Political uncertainty in the US continues to delay regulatory clarity, which limits institutional acceleration. However, long-term adoption trends remain intact, especially with European banks moving toward regulated stablecoin issuance. The sharp reduction in hack-related losses adds a layer of structural improvement to the ecosystem. Volatility is likely to remain elevated as global tensions persist. If geopolitical stress leads to monetary easing, crypto could benefit from renewed liquidity conditions. For now, markets appear to be stabilizing rather than trending strongly in either direction. The next major move will likely depend on macro policy shifts and capital flows rather than short-term headlines. Patience and disciplined positioning remain essential in the current environment.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	58.45%
ETH	10.38%
USDT	7.84%
BNB	3.70%
SOL	2.09%
Others	17.54%



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 Blackjack	 DiceV2
 Keno	 Plinko
 Minesweeper	 Lottery

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Become a Premium VIP Member for a month and enjoy the benefits that will enrich your gambling adventures.

Fast withdrawals



Get your winnings paid out to your wallet on your own terms. Simply select the withdrawal speed and confirm.

Low house edge



You're here to win often and a lot. Our games have extremely low house edge, starting at only 1%.

Provably fair



We utilize the industry standard for provably fair gaming. Verify drawings with our or 3rd party verification tools.

Progressive jackpots



With every bet on dice and roulette you have the chance to win our ever growing jackpot.

Secure and private



We don't collect sensitive private information such as bank accounts, which makes your stay with us safe and private.





Platinum Crypto Academy has officially announced the launch of the **ClickOptions Championship**, a \$150,000 demo trading competition hosted on the ClickOptions crypto options platform.

The contest began on 23 February 2026 and will run until **20 April 2026**, inviting traders worldwide to test their crypto options strategies in a competitive, risk-free environment.

At a time when much of crypto trading is driven by short-term speculation, the Championship is structured to highlight disciplined options trading, structured risk management, and performance consistency over time.

Participants receive \$10,000 in virtual demo funds, and no deposit is required to enter.

The published prize pool totals \$150,000, including:

\$50,000 for 1st place

\$30,000 for 2nd place

\$20,000 for 3rd place

Additional prize allocations and full rules are detailed on the official contest page.

Built to Reward Process, Not Luck

To qualify for prizes, participants must meet defined performance and participation criteria:

Minimum **20 trades**

Minimum **10 active trading days**

Maximum **35% daily drawdown**

Maximum **70% total drawdown**

Full rules here: <https://app.clickoptions.ai/rules>

The format prevents participants from “one-trade” leaderboard spikes and instead rewards steady execution and disciplined risk control. The goal is to keep rankings meaningful — reflecting the trading process rather than short-term volatility.

To ensure fairness and transparency, **KYC verification is required to participate and to receive prizes**. Traders who do not complete KYC may still explore the demo product but will not be eligible to appear on the official leaderboard or receive rewards. Participation is subject to regional eligibility restrictions.

“Great traders don’t chase luck — they execute a process. The Championship makes that process visible: trade actively, manage risk, and let the leaderboard do the talking.”

Full details and registration are available at:

<https://app.clickoptions.ai/contest>

About ClickOptions

ClickOptions is a crypto options trading venue focused on competitive pricing, deeper liquidity, and transparent market structure. The platform

is designed to make options trading clearer, more accessible, and more structured for modern digital asset traders.



ClickOptions Championship

\$150K and a **live trading seat** can be yours.

PRESS RELEASE



UK FINANCIAL LTD'S VENUS THE PREMIUM MEME COIN – NOW AVAILABLE TO EARLY HOLDERS VIA MAYAPRO WALLET



The meme token category has grown rapidly, but structural accountability has rarely kept pace. Most projects in this space launch without corporate oversight, fixed supply controls, or verifiable on-chain transparency. UK Financial Ltd approaches this differently. Through its Maya Meme's division, the company has issued VENUS, a premium digital asset built on a corporate treasury model with a defined scarcity framework from the point of genesis.

VENUS is an ERC-20 token with a fixed total supply of 500,000,000. All tokens were minted at genesis directly to UK Financial Ltd's corporate asset wallet. No additional issuance is possible. The contract address, is publicly verifiable on Ethereum, alongside the Genesis NFT and the corporate treasury wallet.

Early participation is currently available through the MayaPro Wallet platform. The process is straightforward and accessible to both new and experienced digital asset holders.

Create your secure wallet by registering at [MayaPro.pro](https://maya.pro)

Fund your wallet with USDT using the Ethereum (ERC-20) blockchain.

Purchase VENUS tokens at an exclusive early price

directly within the MayaPro platform.

Please note that a small amount of ETH should be maintained in your wallet to cover standard Ethereum network transaction fees.

MayaPro Wallet operates on a privacy-first, non-custodial model. Users retain full private key ownership at all times. The platform collects no personal data, tracks no IP addresses, and stores no wallet information on external servers. All data is encrypted locally, the codebase is open source and fully auditable, and licensed banking infrastructure supports its private exchange services. Transaction fees are a fraction of those charged by traditional payment processors. This infrastructure demonstrates a practical commitment to user protection and financial autonomy as core design principles.

The VENUS ecosystem is structured for phased expansion. Its official roadmap outlines planned stages including a liquidity provisioning event, public trading on decentralized exchanges, NFT marketplace activation for a fixed 500-piece NFT collection, and future character and asset releases within the Maya Meme's brand. This structured progression reflects VENUS's unique design as a corporate-issued, asset-aligned digital token with long-term ecosystem goals.

Early holders can begin participation now at mayapro.pro. Full tokenomics and asset details are available at mayamemes.meme.

About UK Financial Ltd

UK Financial Ltd issues asset-aligned digital infrastructure through its Maya Meme's division. Its broader operations include gold-tokenization and private banking-adjacent financial services.

UK FINANCIAL LTD

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DFS DIGITAL FANTASY SPORTS

**"BACKED BY GOLD NOT PROMISES.
WHAT BACKS YOUR TOKEN?"**



introducing
FAIRCARATS

FAIRCARATS TOKEN INTRODUCTION

Bridging Lab-Grown Gemstones and Decentralized Finance

In the evolving landscape of digital assets, LabGemTraders OÜ is proud to introduce the restructured FairCarats (FCAR) token. More than just a digital asset, FCAR is a utility-driven bridge between the timeless elegance of premium lab-grown gemstones and the efficiency of the Polygon blockchain.

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FAIRCARATS (FCAR) – PRIVATE SALE

FairCarats (FCAR) is a digital utility voucher that can be redeemed for FairStones™ certified lab-grown gemstones and services.

FCAR gives early participants access and enhanced purchasing power inside the FairStones ecosystem.

The the private Sale will start 27th of January 2026. But you can whitelist your wallet address already at our 🗑️ **“Private Sale Whitelist Application”**.

[official whitepaper](#)

[Private Sale Offering](#)



The LabGemTraders company is the sole supplier of gemstones to FairStones:

<https://fairstones.eu/>





ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

BITCOIN TRADERS EYE IRAN REACTIONS AS OIL SPIKE RAISES US 5% INFLATION RISK

Bitcoin avoided a fresh breakdown around major geopolitical events in the Middle East, with BTC price targets now including \$74,000 next.

Bitcoin BTC \$68,379 ignored geopolitical volatility on Sunday as traders waited for markets' Iran reaction.

Key points:

Bitcoin coils around \$67,000 as the dust settles on a wild weekend in the Middle East.

TradFi market reactions are in focus, with BTC price action avoiding major volatility.

Oil price concerns compound as Iran seeks to close the Strait of Hormuz.

Trader sees \$74,000 BTC price rally
Data from TradingView showed BTC price action focusing on \$67,000 in the aftermath of the latest round of conflict in the Middle East.

The weekend prevented TradFi markets from adjusting to events in real time, with US stock market futures down 0.65% at the time of writing.

Crypto also saw volatility, but soon cooled, and BTC/USD avoided a major breakout from its local trading range.

Commenting, crypto trader, analyst and entrepreneur Michaël van de Poppe described the initial response as "positive."

"Now, markets are correcting back down, as there's uncertainty on how US markets will open tomorrow (and there's still an outstanding gap of the CME)," he wrote in a post on X.

"On the other hand, the 21-Day MA needs to break in order to have a relief rally. I think we'll see it in March/April, question of how we're opening the markets tomorrow and whether it finds a higher low."

Van de Poppe referred to Bitcoin's 21-day simple moving average at \$67,627. The weekend's "gap" in CME Group's Bitcoin futures market lay to the downside at \$65,880.

[Read more...](#)



Bitcoin price rebound threatened after UN Security Council alarm and Hormuz oil scare from Iran escalation

Bitcoin rebounded from a \$63,068 weekend low, but the U.S. reopen hinges on oil driven inflation fears and fresh spot ETF demand.

Bitcoin is holding near \$66,000 after a weekend geopolitical shock tied to U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran, setting up Monday's U.S. reopen as the first

Over \$9 billion flees bitcoin and ether ETFs in four months

Record outflows indicate that institutional appetite for digital assets has collapsed.

streak since the funds launched in January 2024, according to data source SoSoValue data.

Bitcoin ETFs have seen \$6.39 billion in redemptions over four consecutive months, while ether ETFs have lost \$2.76 billion in the same period. Bitcoin and ether prices have plunged from their 2025 peaks.

Ether ETFs have also fallen out of favor, bleeding \$2.76 billion over the past 4 months.

The U.S.-listed spot bitcoin and ether exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have seen record outflows over the past four months, confirming that a full-blown crypto market is underway.

These huge outflows indicate that institutional appetite for digital assets has collapsed, which explains the price losses in the two tokens. Bitcoin, the leading cryptocurrency by market value, peaked at over \$126,000 in early October and has since almost halved to \$67,000. Ether has had a much steeper fall, down over 60% from highs above \$4,950 in August last year.

Investors have pulled \$6.39 billion from bitcoin ETFs over four straight months of outflows, the longest monthly losing

[Read more...](#)



major liquidity and spot ETF flow test of the rebound.

Feb. 28 low of \$63,068 and closing at \$66,999, BTC opened Sunday at \$66,990.

The diplomatic alarm bell rang alongside the price rebound. At an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting, the Secretary-General warned that the escalation risked widening into a broader conflict, while the U.S., Israel, and Iran traded legal and moral accusations, a public signal that the crisis is not contained and that headline risk can stay elevated into the reopen.

The weekend also changed the macro backdrop that will greet U.S. markets. Reporting on Sunday described continued exchanges and escalation risk, while market attention shifted from the initial risk-off impulse to the energy and shipping transmission line.

Bitcoin's trading range stayed wide in thin conditions. After printing a

There are now heightened risks around the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on vessels near the region,

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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)

TOTAL SUPPLY:
23,000,000



Clarity of Supply

MAX CIRCULATING:
1,000,000



BACKED BY GOLD



8 YEARS OF HISTORY



ASPIRATION TO TOP 10 BY VALUE



DATA STANDARDIZATION ACROSS PLATFORMS

SMCAT (MAYACAT)

ISSUER CONTROL OVER THE REST



10%
PUBLIC FLOAT:
5,000,000



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.



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Banking Giant Barclays Mulls Crypto Payments Push: Bloomberg

Publicly traded banking giant Barclays is considering making a push into crypto payments and deposits, according to a report from Bloomberg.

Barclays has requested information from technology providers regarding a potential push into blockchain, according to Bloomberg.

The banking giant is said to be considering tokenized deposits and stablecoin payments. Earlier this year, the firm made an investment in stablecoin settlement firm, Ubyx.

Publicly traded banking institution Barclays (BCS) is reportedly gathering information for a potential push into blockchain, according to a Friday report from Bloomberg.

Sources familiar with the matter said the firm has requested information from “technology suppliers” while it considers a path forward. Its utilization of blockchain may include tokenized deposits and stablecoins, the report said.

The U.K.-based banking institution appears to be warming to crypto, investing in stablecoin settlement startup Ubyx after being named as one of a number of leading international banks exploring the joint issuance of a stablecoin last fall.

“Specialist technology will play a pivotal role in delivering connectivity and infrastructure to enable regulated financial institutions to interact seamlessly,” Barclays Head of Digital Assets Ryan Hayward said at the time of the Ubyx investment.

[Read more...](#)

Polymarket attracts record trading 'world' volumes as U.S.-Iran bets top \$529 million

A prediction market about military strikes on a sovereign nation now sits alongside presidential election bets as one of the most-traded contracts the platform has ever hosted.

Polymarket has rapidly become a hub for betting on the U.S.-Iran conflict, with traders wagering on ceasefire dates, regime change and potential U.S. ground involvement. A contract on Ayatollah



Ali Khamenei leaving power by March 31 drew \$45 million in volume, while a long-running market on whether the U.S. would strike Iran has amassed \$529 million, making it one of Polymarket's largest ever.

Onchain analysts have flagged six wallets that made about \$1.2 million by correctly betting on a Feb. 28 U.S. strike on Iran, intensifying scrutiny of potential insider trading as Polymarket promotes its markets as a source of real-time geopolitical insight.

It took Polymarket less than 24 hours to turn a Middle Eastern war into

an active trading floor. Since the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran Saturday, the prediction market has seen a flood of new contracts covering everything from ceasefire timelines to whether the Iranian regime will collapse by June.

The speed and specificity of the markets is striking. Bettors aren't just wagering on whether the conflict escalates, but pricing the week it ends, who replaces Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and whether U.S. ground forces enter Iran by March 7.

[Read more...](#)



Gambling can be an exciting and rewarding experience for many people. But for some, a losing streak can quickly turn into a serious problem. Losing money never feels final to a gambler. It feels like an injustice waiting to be corrected. That mindset is where the real danger begins. Many players believe one more bet will fix everything. But research consistently shows that chasing losses leads to deeper financial and emotional damage.

CryptoGames, a well-known provably fair crypto casino, takes this issue seriously. The platform has built specific tools and policies to help players stay in control.

What Chasing Losses Really Means for Gambling Decisions?

Chasing losses happens when a gambler continues betting to recover money already lost. It feels logical at the moment, almost like simple math. If you lost a certain amount, winning it back seems like the natural solution. This thinking is driven by the desire to break even, which many players treat as an emotional finish line. But every new bet is an independent event with its own odds. Past losses have no influence on future outcomes whatsoever.

This is where the gambler's fallacy takes hold. Many players genuinely believe that a losing streak must eventually reverse itself. That belief creates a

dangerous illusion of control over random results. In reality, no amount of strategy or timing changes the house edge. Chasing losses does not restore balance. It only increases risk while the odds remain exactly the same.

The Escalation Cycle

Step 1: Small Loss

Every escalation cycle begins with a small, seemingly harmless loss. A player loses a modest amount and feels a mild sting of disappointment. At this stage, the loss does not feel alarming or serious. It feels like a normal part of gambling that any session might bring. According to research, this early moment is where the psychological trap quietly begins. The brain records the loss but holds onto the belief that a win is still possible.

Step 2: Emotional Justification

After the first loss, the mind immediately starts building a case to keep playing. The player begins to rationalize the decision with familiar phrases like "I was so close" or "it will turn around soon." This emotional justification bypasses logical thinking and replaces it with hope-driven reasoning. Clinicians report that this is the point where players convince themselves they are "almost there," even when the odds offer no such guarantee. Emotion, not strategy, now drives every decision.

Step 3: Increased Bet

With justification firmly in place, the next natural move is to bet more. The player believes a larger wager will recover the previous loss faster. This logic feels compelling because the math seems simple from the outside. But research consistently confirms that larger bets do not improve the odds of winning. Studies tracking real online gambling behavior show that players bet more and played longer sessions after immediate losses, which only deepens the financial exposure at each stage.

Step 4: Temporary Relief or Bigger Loss

This is the most unpredictable stage in the entire cycle. The player either wins small and feels a rush of relief, or loses again and feels a sharp surge of frustration. A temporary win is actually more dangerous here than another loss. It validates the chasing behavior and encourages the player to keep going. Research shows that the highs and lows of gambling create emotional swings that can further entrench a player in the cycle, making it harder to walk away even when a win occurs.

Step 5: Deeper Chase

By this stage, the player is no longer gambling for entertainment. They are gambling to escape the emotional weight of accumulated losses. Bets grow larger, session lengths increase, and rational decision-making fades completely. Gambling addiction data shows that over 85% of gamblers end up losing money in the long term, yet the chase continues because stopping now feels like admitting defeat. This is the stage where recreational gambling crosses into genuinely harmful territory.

Why Many Gambling Platforms Fail to Control Escalation?

Profit-First Design

Most gambling platforms are built to maximize engagement, not to protect players. The same features that make platforms exciting, such as fast-paced games and instant payouts, also make it easier to keep chasing losses. Industry analysts note that platforms deliberately use variable reward schedules, bright visuals, near-miss outcomes, and sound cues to signal excitement even during losing streaks. These design choices are not accidental. They are calculated to extend session time and

increase overall spending, often at the player's expense.

Weak Limit Tools

Many platforms do offer deposit or spending limits, but they are often buried deep in account settings. Players who are actively chasing losses rarely stop to find and activate these tools. Industry reports from 2026 note that responsible gambling messaging is losing impact because it remains generic and disconnected from actual product design. A limit buried inside a settings menu does very little when a player is caught in an emotional spiral and simply wants to place the next bet.

Bonus Structures That Backfire

Promotional bonuses are a standard feature across most gambling platforms. Free spins, reload bonuses, and cashback offers all sound helpful on the surface. But for a player who is already chasing losses, these incentives actively encourage more play rather than responsible behavior. A cashback offer, for instance, gives the player a reason to keep going after a big loss. Legal cases filed against major platforms in 2025 highlighted that promotional practices were specifically used in ways that targeted vulnerable players already struggling with losses.

How CryptoGames Mitigates the Risks of Chasing Losses?

Responsible Gaming Guidance

CryptoGames takes a clear and practical approach to keeping gambling healthy. The platform actively encourages players to set a firm spending limit before every session. It also reminds users to treat gambling as entertainment, not as a way to earn money. Most importantly, it directly advises players not to chase losses. These are not vague suggestions buried in fine print. They are core guidelines promoted throughout the platform to help players make better decisions before emotions take over.

The platform also highlights specific warning signs that players should watch for in themselves. These include increasing deposits to feel the same excitement, hiding spending from family, or gambling to escape stress. From a practical standpoint, this kind of honest self-awareness guidance is rare among crypto gambling platforms. CryptoGames makes this information easy to find and genuinely

useful, which helps players recognize problems early before the escalation cycle fully takes hold.

Time-Out Mechanism

CryptoGames offers a built-in Time-Out feature that gives players an immediate way to pause. Players can suspend their account for any period between one and thirty days. Once activated, the account is completely locked from all gameplay during that time. Importantly, the Time-Out cannot be reversed before the chosen period ends. This removes the temptation to undo the decision in a moment of emotional impulse, which is exactly when most players are most vulnerable to chasing further losses.

Activating the Time-Out is simple and takes only a few steps inside account settings. There is no waiting period and no approval needed from the platform. According to CryptoGames' updated Responsible Gaming Policy, Customer Support can also apply a time-out directly if they identify signs of risky behavior. This means protection does not rely entirely on the player to act. The platform can step in proactively, which adds a meaningful layer of safety that many other platforms simply do not offer.

Self-Exclusion System

CryptoGames introduced an updated Self-Exclusion Policy in January 2026, which strengthens player protections significantly. Players can choose to block their accounts for six months, one year, three years, or five years. Once activated, self-exclusion cannot be reversed for any reason during the chosen period. Players lose access to all gameplay, deposits, and bonuses immediately. This firm, no-reversal structure is important because it protects players from themselves during moments of poor judgment.

The system also includes strong anti-workaround measures to prevent players from bypassing their own exclusion. CryptoGames monitors identifiers such as device details, blockchain wallet addresses, and IP patterns to detect re-registration attempts. For exclusions of twelve months or more, players must withdraw available funds before the block takes effect. This January 2026 update reflects a serious commitment to harm prevention, going well beyond the basic tools that most crypto gambling platforms currently provide.

Transparency Tools

CryptoGames gives players direct access to their full gambling history at any time. Players can review their deposit and withdrawal history, total wagers, wins and losses, and session frequency in one place. This kind of financial transparency is a powerful tool against loss chasing because it replaces emotional guesswork with actual data. Seeing real numbers often provides the clarity that feelings alone cannot. Many players underestimate how much they have spent until they see the figures laid out clearly in front of them.

CryptoGames also ensures that bonus and wagering requirements are fully visible and easy to understand. This matters because confusing bonus structures are a common way players end up chasing losses without realizing it. Interestingly, CryptoGames' policy formally encourages players to review these figures regularly as a habit, not just when something goes wrong. That proactive approach to transparency puts players in a stronger position to make informed and rational decisions throughout every session.

Takeaway

Chasing losses is not a willpower problem. It is a predictable psychological pattern that any gambler can fall into without the right safeguards in place. Clearly, no platform can eliminate the risks of gambling entirely. But CryptoGames shows that responsible design and transparent policies can make a real difference. Responsible gambling starts with the right environment, and **CryptoGames** works hard to provide exactly that.





XRP Faces \$650 Million Selling Pressure as Geopolitical Tensions Escalate

XRP (XRP) holders appear to be adopting a defensive stance amid intensifying geopolitical tensions between the United States, Israel, and Iran.

On-chain data shows more than \$650 million worth of XRP flowing into Binance over the past week. The sharp rise in exchange inflows suggests investors may be positioning for increased volatility, raising the risk of short-term downside if market uncertainty persists.

BeInCrypto reported that a joint strike by Israel and the United States on Iran on Saturday triggered a sharp sell-off across crypto markets.

“The first strikes were launched shortly after the close of traditional

financial markets. This timing amplified uncertainty across risk assets, with crypto reacting almost immediately to the geopolitical shock,” analyst Darkfost stated.

Tensions escalated further over the weekend following reports that Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had been killed. Iran has intensified retaliatory attacks targeting Israel and several Gulf Arab countries, deepening fears of broader regional instability. The rising geopolitical risk has weighed heavily on investor sentiment.

Crypto markets have declined alongside other risk assets. Meanwhile, gold surged as capital rotated toward traditional safe havens. XRP has not been immune.

[Read more...](#)

Hyperliquid Whale Sees \$42M Bitcoin Long Position Partially Liquidated After BTC Pullback

This weekend, market watchers are fixated on a sizable whale on Hyperliquid who opened a \$42 million long position on bitcoin using 40x leverage. It’s a high-wire act with no safety net, as a slip below \$65,400 would trigger a full liquidation of the bet.

Leveraged Bitcoin Bet Under Pressure
To kick off March, a derivatives trader on the decentralized perps exchange Hyperliquid planted an outsized bet that bitcoin will climb from here.

“A massive whale just entered a \$42M BTC long using 40x leverage,” one X account wrote on Sunday. “High risk. High conviction. The market is about to get interesting.” These takes were splashed across X feeds all morning.

Interestingly, when social media lit up about

the whale, BTC was hovering near \$67,000 per coin. Since then, bitcoin slipped under \$66,000, triggering a partial liquidation of this individual’s position. Many figured the trader was wagering on a swift rebound after reports of the assassination of Iran’s Supreme Leader. The bitcoin price rebound, however, never arrived fast enough to save the trade.

Once the liquidation “dust” cleared on Sunday afternoon, the position had been slashed to roughly \$16.9 million in total value. The account’s equity (net value) now sits near \$463,729, a sign that most of the capital behind those multi-million-dollar trades has evaporated. In plain terms, this high roller’s BTC long has been a painful lesson in leverage.



[Read more...](#)



Did you know that choosing the wrong crypto exchange can cost you thousands in hidden fees alone?

At Platinum Crypto Academy, we analyze platforms so our community can make smarter, more informed decisions. Not every exchange deserves your trust or your capital. They differ in regulation, fees, liquidity, and the tools they offer. We evaluated each platform based on security records, regulatory standing, fee structures, and trading features that matter to real traders.

Top 10 Crypto Exchanges in 2026

1. Binance



First on the list is Binance, and for good reason. Launched in June 2017, Binance rapidly grew into the largest cryptocurrency exchange in the world. Today, it serves a massive global audience and stands as the clear leader in trading volume.

Whether you are a casual buyer or a serious trader, Binance has tools built for every level.

Binance serves over 300 million users globally and offers access to 350+ cryptocurrencies and more than 1,500 trading pairs. Beyond basic trading, the platform has grown into a full ecosystem. It includes Binance Earn, Binance Pay, copy trading, and its own blockchain, BNB Chain. Clearly, Binance is more than just an exchange.

Key Features:

Spot trading fees start at 0.1%, with futures maker fees as low as 0.02%. Fees drop further when you pay with BNB or reach higher VIP tiers.

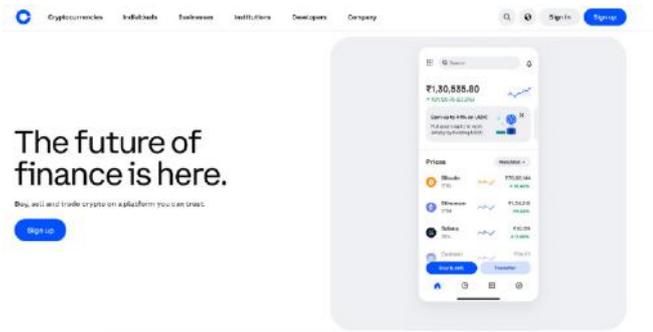
Over 300 perpetual and quarterly contract pairs offer leverage up to 125x on BTC and ETH.

Binance holds a \$1 billion SAFU insurance fund, which was fully converted to Bitcoin in early 2026, to cover losses from security breaches.

In December 2025, Binance secured three licenses under the Abu Dhabi Global Market framework and officially transitioned its global operations to this regulated structure on January 5, 2026.

Binance Square, a social platform, connects over 35 million monthly active users with market news and insights.

2. Coinbase



Now let's move to the second exchange on our list. Coinbase is one of the most trusted names in crypto, especially for users in the United States. Founded in 2012 by Brian Armstrong, Coinbase has built a strong reputation as one of the most compliant and regulation-oriented crypto platforms. Its public listing on NASDAQ makes it one of the few exchanges held to strict financial reporting standards.

The platform serves over 110 million verified users and has safeguarded \$516 billion in assets. Coinbase is not the cheapest exchange, but it earns its place through transparency and reliability. In June 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the SEC's appeal of a lower court ruling in favor of Coinbase, effectively ending the agency's primary lawsuit and providing significant clarity for the platform's business model. That legal resolution was a major milestone for both Coinbase and the broader industry.

Key Features:

Maker and taker fees start at 0.35% and 0.55% respectively on Coinbase Advanced, with futures maker fees at 0%.

Coinbase One subscription offers zero trading fees on up to \$10,000 in trades per month for Preferred members.

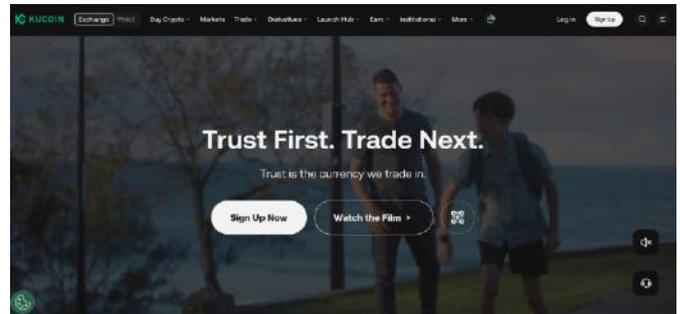
About 98% of customer crypto is held in offline cold storage, with audited financials available publicly.

The Base Layer 2 network, launched in 2023, consistently ranks among the top Ethereum L2 solutions by total value locked.

Coinbase Advanced supports 550+ spot pairs and 150+ perpetual and futures contracts with TradingView charting.

Coinbase recorded \$295 billion in institutional trading volume in Q3 2025, leading the industry in that category.

3. KuCoin



Moving on to the third exchange, KuCoin has earned a strong reputation as a go-to platform for altcoin traders worldwide. Founded in 2017, KuCoin has grown to become one of the leading crypto exchanges by trading volume, offering more than 1,000 tradable cryptocurrencies. Many traders love it for its early access to newer tokens before they appear on other major platforms.

KuCoin serves over 40 million users in more than 200 countries, and holds SOC 2 Type II, ISO 27001:2022, and ISO 27701 certifications for information security and privacy. The platform is feature-rich, offering built-in trading bots, copy trading, and a multi-chain Web3 wallet. However, it is worth noting that KuCoin pleaded guilty in January 2025 and agreed to exit the U.S. market for at least two years, leaving U.S. users with withdrawal-only access. Traders outside the U.S. still enjoy full platform access.

Key Features:

Trading fees range between 0.10% and 0.30% for most tiers, with additional discounts available through the native KCS token.

Supports over 1,000 cryptocurrencies, including many early-stage altcoins not yet listed on larger exchanges.

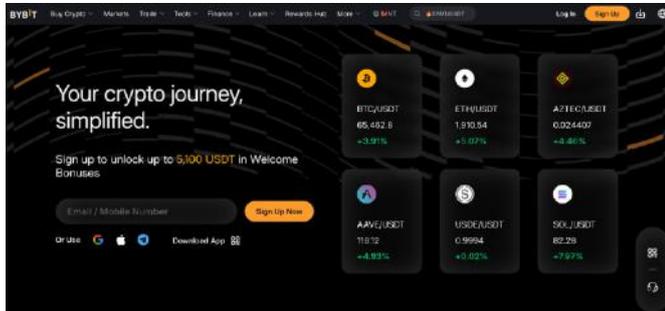
KCS token holders receive daily dividends, as KuCoin distributes 50% of daily trading fee revenue proportionally to holders.

Proof of Reserves is verified monthly using Merkle tree technology, giving users independent confirmation of available funds. Daily spot trading volume remains significant, often

exceeding \$1.4 billion, reflecting strong global liquidity.

Built-in DCA and trading bots allow users to automate strategies without relying on third-party tools.

4. Bybit



Now let's move to number four on our list. Bybit launched in 2018 and is a centralized, custodial exchange known for derivatives and now offers a full stack across spot, margin, perpetuals, and options. It quickly became the go-to platform for serious derivatives traders worldwide. Interestingly, Bybit now ranks as the second-largest exchange by trading volume, sitting just behind Binance.

With a user base exceeding 80 million traders worldwide, Bybit has built a strong reputation for its high-speed trading engine, deep liquidity, and robust security infrastructure. The platform handles roughly \$3.5 billion in daily spot volume. Within Europe, Bybit EU GmbH references MiCAR permissions via the Austrian authority, supporting regulated crypto-asset activities across the wider EEA. However, U.S. and Indian users cannot access the platform due to regulatory restrictions.

Key Features:

Base spot trading fees start at 0.10% for makers and 0.10% for takers, below the industry average of 0.15% for makers and 0.194% for takers.

Offers up to 100x leverage on BTC and ETH perpetual contracts, with a high-speed engine capable of processing 100,000 transactions per second.

Copy trading feature connects users with over 800,000 master traders, allowing beginners to mirror proven strategies automatically.

Maintains a multi-layered security policy with the majority of user funds held in offline cold storage to

reduce the risk of hacks.

Transparent Proof of Reserves system ensures all user funds are backed 1:1 and independently verifiable at any time.

Paying fees with the native Mantle (MNT) token unlocks an additional discount of up to 25% on top of VIP rate reductions.

5. Kraken



Moving along to number five, Kraken is one of the oldest and most trusted exchanges in the industry. Founded in 2011 by Jesse Powell, the exchange was built from the ground up with one clear goal: security. From a practical standpoint, very few exchanges can match Kraken's track record. Since its founding, Kraken-managed custodial wallets have never been breached, an impressive feat given its size and longevity.

By 2026, Kraken serves around 15 million users globally, offering more than 500 digital assets across spot, margin, futures, OTC, and staking services. The platform also made history by becoming the first crypto company to receive a Special Purpose Depository Institution banking charter in Wyoming. Research suggests that for traders who value compliance and transparency above all else, Kraken remains one of the strongest choices available.

Key Features:

Kraken Pro spot fees start at 0.25% maker and 0.40% taker, scaling down as trading volume increases across monthly tiers.

Over 95% of customer funds are stored in air-gapped cold wallets, with SOC 2 Type II and ISO/IEC 27001 certifications confirming security standards.

Holds regulatory licenses across multiple jurisdictions, including EU MiCA registration, FinCEN in the U.S., and VASP registration in several EEA

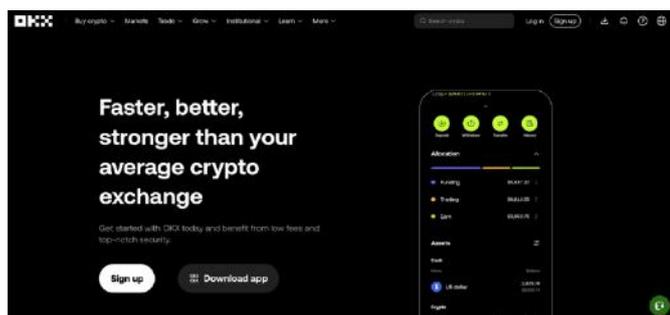
countries, among others.

Futures trading is available for over 350 crypto assets, with base fees starting at 0.02% for makers and 0.05% for takers.

Semi-annual Proof of Reserves audits cover major assets including BTC, ETH, SOL, USDC, USDT, and XRP, with client-verifiable Merkle tree paths.

Eligible U.S. users can access commission-free stocks and ETFs directly within the same Kraken app, making it a unique hybrid platform.

6. OKX



Next up is OKX, a platform that has quietly become one of the most powerful exchanges in the world. Founded in 2017 by Star Xu, OKX operates as a leading crypto exchange renowned for its low fees, high-end security features, and diverse trading options. The platform rebranded from OKEx to OKX in 2022 and has not looked back since. As of January 2026, OKX records over \$21.8 billion in daily transaction volume, ranking it as the second-largest exchange globally by derivatives volume.

What truly sets OKX apart is its evolution beyond a standard exchange. OKX has secured MiCA pre-authorization, allowing it to operate within the European Economic Area. Its integrated Web3 wallet lets users interact with DeFi protocols, NFT marketplaces, and decentralized apps across more than 100 blockchains without leaving the platform. The exchange has seen over 60 million registered users since launch and publishes monthly Proof of Reserves releases to maintain full transparency.

Key Features:

Spot trading fees start at 0.08% for makers and 0.10% for takers, with derivatives fees coming in even lower at 0.02% for makers and 0.05% for takers.

Holding OKB, the platform’s native token, can cut

fees by as much as 40% compared to base rates for eligible traders.

OKX handles around \$1.5 billion in daily spot volume and holds a liquidity score of 780 on CoinMarketCap, ranking among the top global exchanges.

Features 12 pre-built intelligent trading bots that automate strategies around the clock using pre-defined parameters.

About 95% of client assets are stored in cold wallets, which are limited to a maximum of 1,000 BTC per address to prevent single points of failure. OKX Pay, launched in Brazil in 2025, allows users to convert reais to stablecoins via PIX integration and earn up to 10% APY on their balances.

7. Crypto.com



Now let’s move to number seven, Crypto.com, a platform built for users who want everything in one place. The platform supports over 350 cryptocurrencies and 500 trading pairs across spot, margin, and derivatives markets, all backed by institutional-grade liquidity. What truly makes Crypto.com stand out is its lifestyle ecosystem. It connects everyday spending with crypto through its well-known Visa card program.

The platform’s native token, Cronos (CRO), powers many features, from fee reductions to staking rewards and cashback on card purchases. Beyond trading, Crypto.com bridges traditional finance and Web3 through its Cronos Chain and DeFi products. The platform holds 1:1 proof of reserves and maintains a \$750 million insurance fund for cold-storage assets, offering strong financial protection for users. It is best suited for intermediate traders who value both trading tools and real-world crypto utility.

Key Features:

Spot trading fees start at 0.075% maker and 0.075% taker on the Exchange, with CRO staking further

reducing these rates for high-volume traders.

Derivative fees stand at 0.017% for makers and 0.034% for takers, with BTC and ETH perpetuals offering up to 100x leverage.

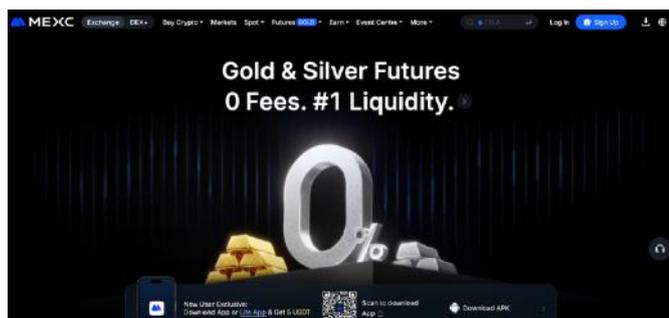
The Rewards Hub features daily missions where users earn diamonds, redeemable for prizes including mystery boxes and event passes.

Crypto.com Onchain is a non-custodial wallet that gives users full control over their assets and direct access to DeFi products.

The OTC trading service is available for high-volume traders and institutions needing large-order execution with minimal market impact.

Automated trading bots, including DCA, Grid, and TWAP, allow users to run strategies around the clock without manual intervention.

8. MEXC



Moving on to number eight, MEXC is one of the best exchanges for traders who want access to the widest range of tokens available anywhere. Founded in 2018, MEXC handles an average of \$3.5 billion in daily spot volume and holds licenses in jurisdictions such as Australia (AUSTRAC), though its regulatory status in the U.S. and Estonia has faced significant headwinds. The platform has built a strong reputation for listing new tokens faster than almost any other exchange in the world.

MEXC serves over 40 million users globally and runs a trading engine capable of handling 1.4 million transactions per second. From a practical standpoint, very few platforms offer this combination of speed, variety, and cost efficiency. In 2025, MEXC launched its Proof of Trust initiative, which includes live Proof of Reserves reporting and a \$100 million Guardian Fund to reimburse users in case of platform breaches or technical failures. However, U.S. residents cannot access the full platform due to regulatory restrictions.

Key Features:

Spot trading fees are 0% for makers and 0.05% for takers, with futures fees at 0% maker and 0.01%–0.02% taker, making MEXC one of the lowest-cost exchanges in 2026.

Over 1,200 perpetual contracts are available with leverage up to 200x on select major assets, catering to aggressive traders seeking maximum flexibility.

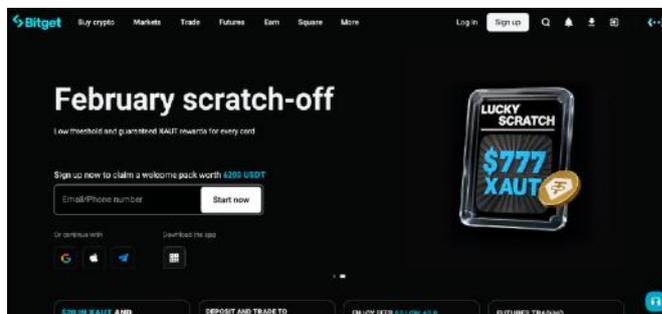
MEXC has captured roughly 7.8% of the global spot market, with daily spot trades often exceeding \$3 billion and significant liquidity across its extensive pair list.

A 10 out of 10 Trust Score on CoinGecko and a CertiK “AAA” security rating place MEXC in the top tier of crypto platforms for operational security.

MEXC has listed thousands of digital assets since its inception, maintaining an aggressive listing strategy while publishing bi-monthly security reports on asset integrity.

Effective early 2026, MEXC expanded its KYC requirements, requiring identity verification to access higher withdrawal limits and participate in exclusive platform events like “Kickstarter.”

9. Bitget



Next up is Bitget, and it has earned its spot by doing one thing better than almost anyone else: copy trading. Founded in 2018, Bitget has grown into one of the largest crypto copy trading platforms, with over 45 million registered users and daily trading volumes exceeding \$10 billion. The platform is packed with tools for all trader types, but its social trading features are what truly set it apart from the crowd.

Bitget is recognized globally as a leader in copy trading, with over 180,000 elite traders and more than 800,000 followers actively using the feature. Clearly, beginners love it for the ability to mirror

proven strategies without needing deep market knowledge. The exchange holds ISO 27001 and ISO 27701 certifications and has never experienced a major security breach since its launch in 2018. It is worth noting that U.S., U.K., and Canadian users currently face access restrictions on the platform.

Key Features:

Spot trading fees are 0.1% for both makers and takers, with futures fees at 0.02% for makers and 0.06% for takers, with VIP users unlocking lower rates.

A \$450 million Protection Fund safeguards user assets, maintained at a high level following the collapse of FTX in 2022 to ensure user confidence.

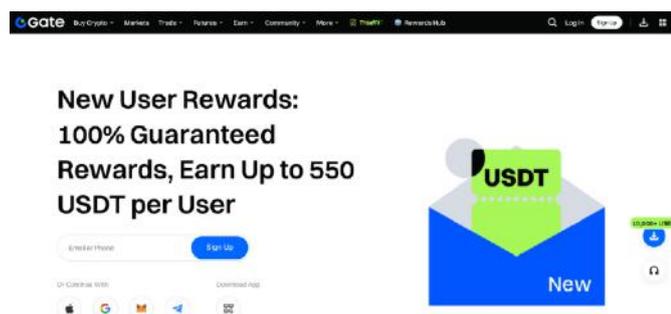
In 2025, Bitget introduced the Unified Trading Account, allowing users to manage margin and collateral across multiple products within a single view.

Leverage of up to 125x is available on perpetual contracts, including USDT-M, USDC-M, and Coin-M contracts, along with delivery futures.

Monthly Merkle tree Proof of Reserves reports confirm a reserve ratio exceeding 100%, ensuring all user funds are fully backed at all times.

High-profile global partnerships with Lionel Messi and LALIGA reinforce Bitget's credibility and mainstream brand presence.

10. Gate



Last but certainly not least, Gate.io rounds out our list as one of the most veteran platforms in the entire crypto space. Launched in 2013, Gate.io has grown significantly over the years and now serves 17 million users globally, consistently ranking among the top 10 exchanges by trading volume. In May 2025, the platform also rebranded and adopted the new international domain Gate.com, signaling its continued push toward global expansion.

Gate lists over 3,800 cryptocurrencies, making it one of the most diverse exchanges available for discovering niche and emerging tokens. For experienced traders who want pre-market access, advanced bots, and deep altcoin variety, Gate.io is genuinely hard to beat. The exchange recorded a daily trading volume of over \$4.95 billion, reflecting strong liquidity and an active user base. Gate.io is not available to U.S., Canadian, or Indian users due to current regulatory restrictions.

Key Features:

Base spot trading fees start at 0.1% for both makers and takers, scaling down to 0% maker and 0.02% taker at the highest VIP levels, with an extra 10% discount when fees are paid in GT tokens.

Futures fees are as low as 0.015% for makers and 0.05% for takers, with margin trading offering up to 100x leverage on select contracts.

Gate.io maintains 100% proof of reserves, ensuring it holds enough assets to fully cover all user deposits at all times.

The Gate SAFU user protection fund is valued at over \$100 million, providing an additional safety net for users in cases of platform-level risk.

Pre-market OTC trading lets users buy and sell tokens before their official launch, giving early access to emerging projects ahead of the crowd.

Built-in copy trading and automated trading bots, including spot grid, futures grid, and DCA bots, are integrated directly into the main trading interface.

Best Crypto Exchanges by Category

Not every trader has the same needs. Some want simplicity, while others chase low fees or deep altcoin markets. Below, we break down the best exchange for each specific use case, based on real, verified data from 2026.

Best Exchange for Beginners: Coinbase

Coinbase stands out as an ideal crypto exchange for beginners taking their first steps into digital asset investing. Established in 2012, the platform has built a solid reputation by prioritizing simplicity and security, making it accessible to users with no prior experience.

Coinbase is best for compliance-first users who want a simple way to buy and hold major coins with strong legal oversight. The signup process is

smooth, verification is quick, and the dashboard never overwhelms new users. The exchange offers multiple types of two-factor authentication and allows customers to store funds in a vault with time-delayed withdrawals. While USD cash balances are held in FDIC-insured banks up to \$250,000, it is important to note that crypto assets themselves are not insured by the FDIC or SIPC.

Lowest Fee Crypto Exchange: MEXC

When it comes to trading costs, MEXC sits in a category of its own. MEXC offers 0% maker fees and 0.1% taker fees for spot trading, significantly below industry averages, and 0% maker fees with only 0.02% taker fees for futures trading. For active traders, those savings compound quickly over time.

MEXC's zero-fee policy applies not just to specific trading pairs but covers the vast majority of mainstream coins on the platform, something almost unique in the industry. On top of that, traders holding 1,000 or more MX tokens for 24 consecutive hours qualify for a 50% discount on futures trading fees and various spot incentives. For cost-conscious traders, it is very hard to beat this structure in 2026.

Most Secure Crypto Exchange: Kraken

Security is where Kraken truly goes the extra mile, and its record speaks for itself. Kraken has never been hacked since its founding in 2011, with 95% cold storage, multiple security layers, and industry-leading practices across the board. That track record is exceptional given how many exchanges have suffered major breaches over the years.

The platform uses a multi-layered security approach, including storing over 95% of customer assets in air-gapped cold wallets, enforcing two-factor authentication, and offering features like Global Settings Lock, withdrawal whitelists, and Master Key protections. Proof of Reserves audits confirm that in-scope assets are backed one-to-one, and each client can download a record and match it to the auditor's root. In 2026, that level of verifiable transparency is rare and genuinely valuable.

Best Exchange for Futures Trading: Bybit

For futures traders, Bybit has been the gold standard since its very beginning. Bybit was launched in 2018 as a derivatives-focused exchange, with spot trading only being added in 2021. Today, it ranks

as one of the largest exchanges by trading volume, second only to Binance.

Bybit has built its reputation as a derivatives-first exchange, catering primarily to active and experienced futures traders. The platform focuses on perpetual contracts for major cryptocurrencies and selected altcoins, with an emphasis on fast execution, system stability, and a professional trading interface. It offers both crypto- and stablecoin-margined contracts with leverage up to 125x on major assets, backed by strong liquidity and a reputation for reliability, with advanced order types, API integrations, and built-in risk controls. From a practical standpoint, serious derivatives traders consistently name Bybit as their platform of choice.

Best Exchange for Altcoins: KuCoin

When it comes to altcoins, KuCoin has earned its place at the top of the list. KuCoin's massive selection of 1,200-plus coins makes it a leading destination for altcoin traders, with coins like KASPA listed on KuCoin years before reaching platforms such as Kraken, giving traders early access to tokens before they hit the broader market.

KuCoin's wide listing roster of over 1,230 assets and 1,300-plus pairs makes it a strong hunting ground for smaller-cap and early listings, which is great for discovery if you manage liquidity risk. The platform also features a dedicated Launch Hub, including GemPool and Pre-Market options for early token participation. KuCoin's most popular launch program, GemPool, regularly sees total value locked exceeding \$4 billion during active events. For altcoin explorers who want early access and deep variety, few exchanges come close.

Best Exchange for Passive Income: Binance

For traders who want their crypto working around the clock, Binance offers one of the most complete passive income ecosystems available. Binance Earn offers different duration options so users can choose between liquidity and higher returns, with everything presented in a single dashboard for staking, earning interest, or participating in promotions easily.

Binance Earn includes Simple Earn with flexible and locked products, ETH Staking, SOL Staking, Launchpool, and Dual Investment products across more than 300 assets, with returns varying by

product type. Research suggests that Binance Earn is best suited for investors who hold many different types of altcoins and want convenience above all else. Staking on Binance is generally considered safe, supports dozens of Proof of Stake coins, and gives users the flexibility to select between locked or flexible options based on their specific needs. For passive income built inside one trusted ecosystem, Binance remains a top pick in 2026, serving over 300 million users globally.

CEX vs. DEX: Understanding How Crypto Exchanges Actually Work

Before choosing a platform, every trader should understand how different exchange types operate. The difference between a centralized and decentralized exchange is not just technical. It directly affects your control over funds, your privacy, your costs, and your overall trading experience. Knowing which model suits you is one of the most important decisions you will make in crypto.

CEX

A centralized exchange is run by a company that manages all trading activity on your behalf. As of early 2026, roughly 75% to 85% of all crypto trading volume flows through centralized exchanges, largely because of their accessibility, deep liquidity, and high-speed order management. They support fiat deposits, offer intuitive interfaces, and provide customer support. The trade-off is that you do not hold your own private keys, meaning the platform holds custody of your funds and you must trust the exchange's security infrastructure.

DEX

A decentralized exchange runs entirely on blockchain technology, with no company controlling your funds or requiring identity verification. Decentralized exchanges collectively represent approximately 17.9% to 25% of spot trading volume as of February 2026, a figure that has grown significantly as more users value self-custody and open access. Trades execute through smart contracts, giving users full ownership of their assets at all times. However, DEXs come with a steeper learning curve and often have wider bid-ask spreads than their centralized counterparts.



Which To Use?

In 2026, the CEX vs. DEX question is no longer an either-or decision, since most crypto investors use both depending on what they are trying to accomplish. Centralized exchanges work best for beginners, high-volume traders, and anyone needing fiat access. DEXs suit experienced users who want full asset control and early access to new tokens.

You can use a mix of both exchange types, starting with a centralized platform and gradually exploring decentralized options as your knowledge and portfolio grow. From a practical standpoint, many seasoned traders use a CEX for daily trading and a DEX for DeFi participation. The smartest approach is to match the tool to the task rather than commit to just one model.

How to Pick the Right Crypto Exchange for Your Needs

With so many platforms available, choosing the right exchange can feel overwhelming. The good news is that the right choice becomes clear once you understand what to look for. Here are five key factors that every trader should evaluate before committing to any platform in 2026.

Check the Security Record

Security should always be the first thing you examine before depositing any funds. Look for exchanges that publish regular Proof of Reserves reports, maintain the majority of funds in cold storage, and hold recognized certifications such as ISO 27001 or SOC 2. Security incidents have surged in recent years, prompting a necessary industry-wide shift toward greater transparency and stronger risk management practices. An exchange with a clean security track record and verifiable reserves is far more trustworthy than one without.



Ethereum Smart Accounts Set to Launch Within a Year, Says Vitalik Buterin

Ethereum Smart Accounts Set to Launch Within a Year, Says Vitalik Buterin

Ethereum's long-discussed "account abstraction" feature, often described as smart accounts, could arrive within the next year as part of the upcoming Hegota network upgrade, according to Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin. Speaking over the weekend, Buterin said the effort, first discussed in 2016, has finally reached a workable design.

A new proposal, EIP-8141, bundles together the remaining technical pieces needed to implement the feature across the network. "After over a decade of research

and refinement, this looks possible to deploy within a year," he wrote.

Ethereum Account Abstraction Turns Wallets Into Programmable Apps Account abstraction changes how transactions work on Ethereum. Instead of a transaction being a single action signed by a private key, it becomes a structured sequence of "frames."

These frames can reference one another and separately verify authorization, execution and fee payment.

In practice, this allows wallets to behave more like programmable applications rather than simple key holders.

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Ether is 60% down from its 2025 high, but TradFi keeps betting on ETH: Here's why



Ethereum's dominant total value locked and widespread adoption by traditional finance institutions confirm its role as the base of global onchain finance. Will Ether price follow?

Institutional adoption of the Ethereum network accelerates despite Ether disappointing price action. Ethereum and its layer-2s hold 65% of TVL market share.

Vitalik Buterin is shifting focus toward base layer scalability and ZK-EVM to ensure long-term onchain efficiency and security.

Ether ETH \$2,000 has declined 36% in 2026, sparking frustration as the \$3,000 level feels increasingly out of reach. Despite a

retreat toward \$1,900, Ethereum fundamentals appear resilient. Development continues at a rapid pace, specifically targeting base layer scalability, privacy, and quantum resistance.

Critics claiming Ether is poorly positioned may be surprised if the market sentiment shifts back toward cryptocurrencies.

Ether has underperformed the broader crypto market by 9% during the first two months of 2026, challenging the theory that external factors are the sole drivers of this correction. Decentralized exchange (DEX) volumes on the Ethereum network fell 55% over the past six months,

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Crypto At The Casino? UK Weighs Letting Online Bettors Pay With Digital Currency



British gamblers searching for ways to bet with cryptocurrency are more likely to end up on an illegal website than a regulated one. That is part of what prompted the UK Gambling Commission to start asking whether something needs to change.

Related Reading:
Mt. Gox Ex-CEO
Wants Bitcoin's Rules
Rewritten To Claw Back
\$5B In Stolen Coins
Tim Miller, the regula-

tor's executive director for research and policy, told an industry gathering in London last Thursday that the Commission now wants to look seriously at allowing crypto to be used as a payment method at licensed online gambling platforms in Great Britain.

Illegal Sites Are Driving
The Conversation
Miller's case for taking another look at crypto payments was not built purely on demand, though he acknowledged that

appetite among bettors is growing. He made the remarks during the Betting and Gaming Council's annual general assembly.

The more pointed argument was about where that demand currently goes. According to reports, Miller told attendees that crypto ranks among the two

most common search terms that lead British gamblers straight to unregulated, illegal sites.

Blocking crypto from licensed platforms, in other words, may be sending consumers somewhere far less protected rather than discouraging them altogether.

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Crypto investment cons now run like call centers and the DOJ \$580M haul shows where the money pools

Victims watched balances soar, then the withdrawal step triggered taxes and fees that drained everything still within reach.

For years, the wrong-number text arrived like clockwork. A friendly mistake, then apologies, small talk, and gradual friendship. Eventually, the investment tip was a "sure thing" on a slick platform showing returns that seemed too good to ignore.

Americans watched account balances climb on fabricated dashboards, only to discover the withdrawal button led nowhere. Life savings had vanished into a laundering network spanning continents.

The DOJ froze or seized over \$580 million tied to these overseas scam networks in just three months. That figure maps the contours of an industrial fraud supply chain that has turned confidence schemes into shift work, complete with quotas, scripts, and coerced labor inside guarded compounds.

Factory model of fraud
What separates contemporary investment scams from their predecessors isn't sophistication in the traditional sense, but operational scale.

These networks don't rely on a single talented con artist. They've built a repeatable system: mass texting generates leads.

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Ethereum Foundation Launches Treasury Strategy, Begins Staking \$3,800,000 in ETH



The Ethereum Foundation is now staking part of its treasury stockpile of ETH.

The organization says it has staked an initial deposit of 2,106 ETH worth around \$3.8 million.

Approximately 70,000 ETH will be staked in total, with all rewards directed back to the EF treasury.

“By participating directly in consensus through solo staking, the Ethereum Foundation generates native, ETH-denominated yield to help fund its stewardship of the ecosystem.

It does so using Ethereum’s own economic rails and thereby subjects itself to the friction, risks, and

operational realities of staking while setting a standard both in transparency and in operational management of validators.”

The foundation says the move will help secure the Ethereum network while creating native ETH yield to fund core work like protocol R&D, ecosystem development and community grants.

The launch of staking has been fueled by Ethereum creator Vitalik Buterin, who has sold more than \$6 million in ETH in recent days.

In late January, Buterin withdrew 16,384 ETH worth approximately \$44 million from his personal holdings to fund ecosystem development in a period.

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Finance Minister Pledges Reform After Crypto Handling Failure in Korea

The pledge follows examples of custody lapses that have exposed weaknesses in how South Korean authorities secure seized crypto.

South Korea’s finance minister has pledged sweeping reforms to how government agencies handle crypto. The review comes after police lost access to Bitcoin by relying on a third-party custodian without control of private keys.

The latest failures have underscored the operational risks facing governments grappling with the technical demands. South Korea’s finance minister has pledged sweeping reforms to how government agencies handle digital assets after a series of high-profile failures

exposed weaknesses in state custody and oversight of seized crypto. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economy Koo Yun-cheol said Saturday that the government would urgently review how digital assets are held and managed across public institutions, following revelations that police and tax authorities mishandled confiscated digital assets.

“Together with relevant agencies such as the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Supervisory Service, the government will inspect the current status and management practices of digital assets held and managed by government and public institutions through seizure and other enforcement measures,” Koo said in a statement posted on X.



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Crypto Exchange Kraken Launches ‘World’s First’ Tokenized Equity Perpetual Futures



The crypto exchange Kraken just launched 24/7 leveraged access to stocks, indices and key assets using the blockchain.

The exchange is offering tokenized equity perpetual futures contracts with regulated benchmarks to eligible non-US clients in over 110 countries.

Initial contracts track tokenized versions of major assets: S&P 500 via SPYx Perps, Nasdaq 100 via QQQx Perps, gold via GLDX Perps, and individual stocks including Nvidia (NVDAX), Apple (AAPLx), Alphabet (GOOGLx), Tesla (TSLAx), Robinhood (HOODx), MicroStrategy (MSTRx), and Circle (CRCLx).

In what Kraken calls a “world first,” traders can gain up to 20x leverage around the clock, with continuous exposure when traditional markets are closed.

xStocks, developed in partnership with Backed, are fully collateralized and 1:1 backed by the underlying equities and ETFs.

They enable on-chain trading, real-time price discovery, and interoperability between centralized and decentralized environments.

Kraken plans to add more tokenized stocks and ETFs in the months ahead and extend access to additional markets.

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Morgan Stanley Applies for National Trust Charter to Hold Clients’ Crypto

Morgan Stanley has taken another step deeper into digital assets, filing for a new national trust bank charter that would allow the firm to custody cryptocurrencies and carry out related services for clients in the United States.

A public filing with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency shows the application, submitted Feb. 18, is under the name Morgan Stanley Digital Trust, National Association.

The move would establish a newly created banking entity rather than an acquired institution.

Morgan Stanley Subsidiary to Offer Crypto Custody, Trading and Staking Services According to reports from Bloomberg and

Forbes, the subsidiary would provide custody for selected digital assets and support investment activity through purchases, sales, swaps and transfers.

The filing also outlines plans to offer staking services, an increasingly common feature among institutional crypto platforms.

A national trust charter permits fiduciary operations such as asset safekeeping, custody and trust services. “De novo” status indicates the bank is being formed from scratch.

If approved, it would mark Morgan Stanley’s first trust charter dedicated specifically to crypto.

The application comes amid a broader push by financial institutions to secure federal oversight for digital asset operations.



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