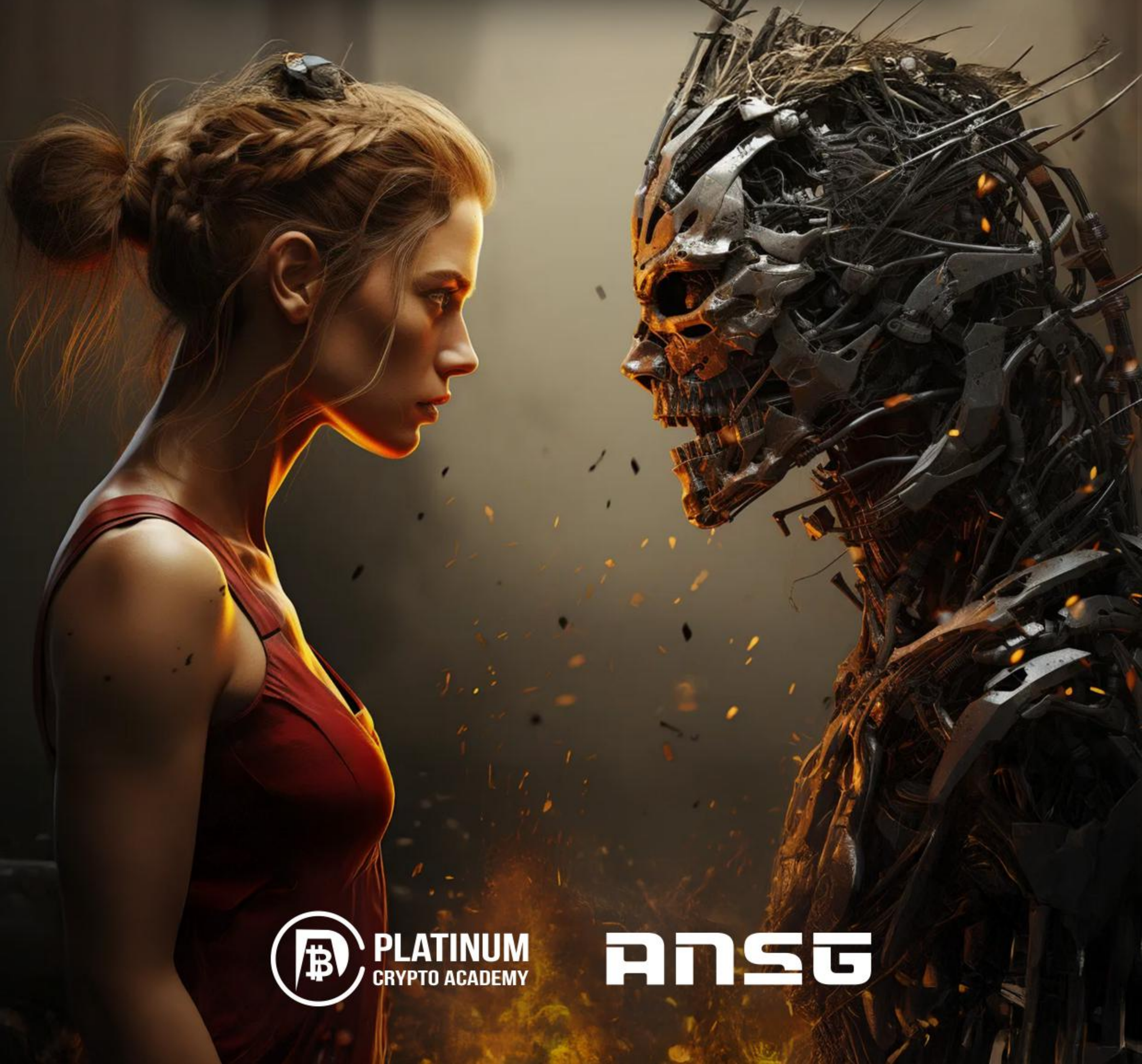
APRIL 15th, 2025

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

383 RD EDITION

AI VS. ME - TRADING REVOLUTION LEAVING HUMAN INTUITION BEHIND?



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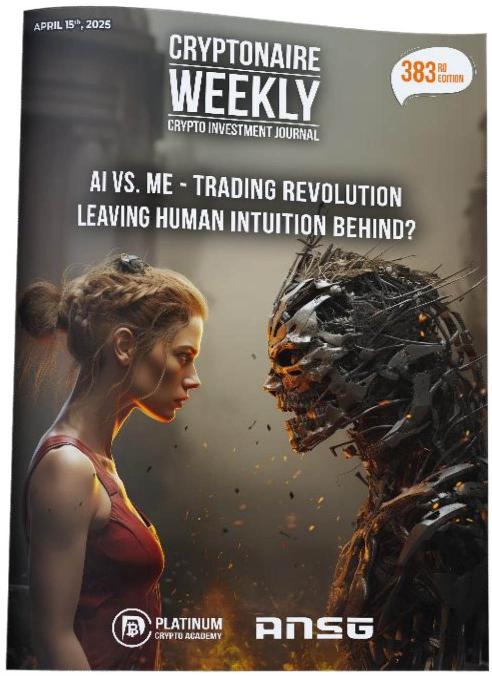


EDITORS LETTER

Bitcoin staged a strong rebound and is now hovering near the $78,000 level after a dramatic sell-off over the weekend. The drop below the psychological $80K mark came right after US stock futures opened sharply lower on April 6, dragging BTC to a new year-to-date low of $74,508 on April 7. But that dip was met with aggressive buying as bulls stepped in to defend the zone. The wider macro environment remains bearish, with the US stock market's Fear & Greed Index plunging to just 4 out of 100 a level that usually signals capitulation. This kind of panic often sets the stage for a bottom, where weaker hands exit and strong hands start loading up. A fast recovery could follow, but given the high volatility, it's smart to stay cautious and avoid going heavy on leverage right now.

Bitcoin has broken out above its resistance line as of April 12, and the bulls managed to defend that level during the retest on April 13. This move shows the selling pressure is cooling off, with the 20-day EMA now flattening and the RSI hovering near neutral territory. BTC/USDT looks set to test the $89,000 zone next, which will likely act as a tough ceiling. If the price gets rejected sharply from that level and dips back below the 20-day EMA, it could signal a range-bound phase, with BTC chopping between $89,000 and $73,777 for a while. For the bears to regain control, they'll need to force the price back below the 20-day EMA quickly. If that happens, BTC might slide down to $78,500 and then retest the major support around $73,777.

Ether is struggling to break through the 20-day EMA near $1,722, as shown by the long upper wick on the April 14 candle—indicating selling pressure at that level. If ETH drops below $1,546, there's a good chance it will head back to test key support at $1,368. That's a must-hold zone for the bulls because a break below could open the door to a deeper drop toward $1,150. On the flip side, if buyers manage to push the price above the 20-day EMA, it would be a sign that the bears are starting to lose control. ETH may then push past the 50-day SMA around $1,955 and aim for the stronger resistance zone at $2,111.

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

Enjoy the issue

Karnav Shah

Karnav Shah
Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief

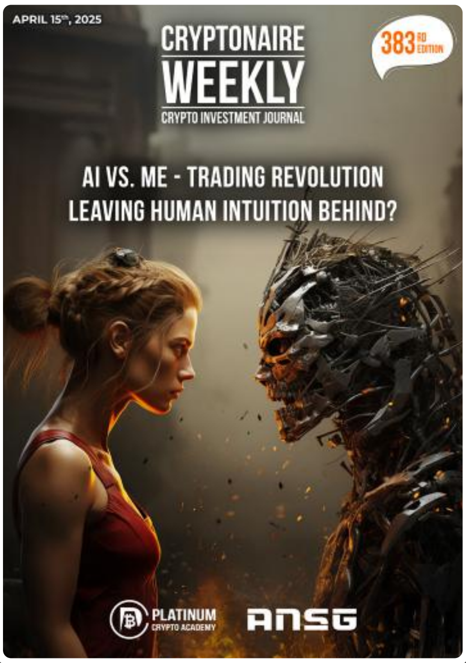
CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

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

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

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

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



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WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 383rd edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is $2.70 Trillion, UP 190 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at $78.62 Billion which makes a 4.79% decrease. The DeFi volume is $7.13 Billion, 9.07% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is $73.22 Billion, which is 93.14% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the industry right now are Polkadot Ecosystem and XRP Ledger Ecosystem cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 7.62% from $79,400 last week to around $85,450 and Ether's price has increased by 4.13% from $1,575 last week to $1,640 Bitcoin's market cap is $1.70 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is $1.00 Trillion.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

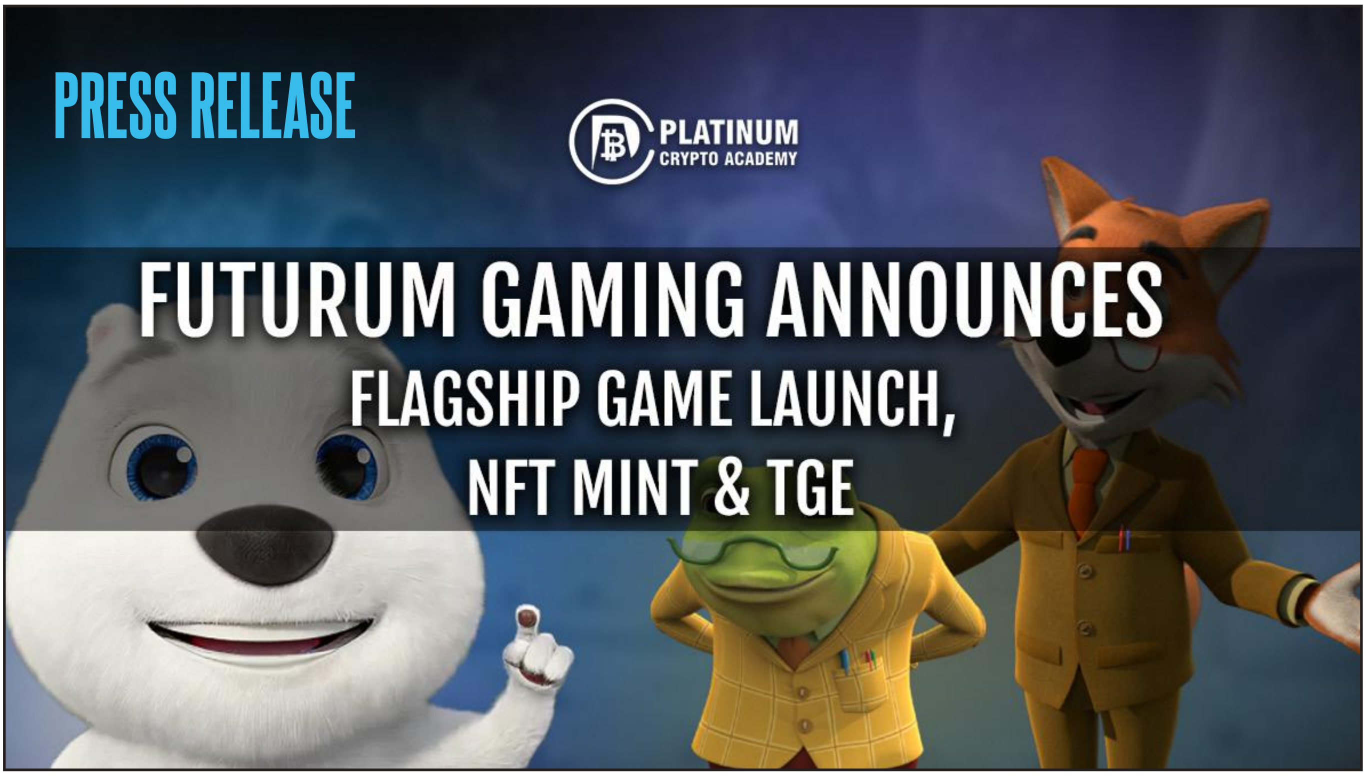
BTC	60.83%
ETH	7.32%
USDT	5.22%
XRP	4.53%
BNB	3.12%
SOL	2.50%
USDC	2.18%
DOGE	0.89%
ADA	0.84%
Others	12.57%

Bitcoin bulls kicked off the week with a push above $85,000, trying to shake off last week's volatility. Michael Saylor's firm, Strategy, bought the dip again—scooping up 3,459 BTC for about $285.5 million at an average price of $82,618. That brings their total stash to 531,644 BTC, acquired at an average price of $67,556. While that kind of buying shows long-term confidence, not everyone in the institutional crowd is as bullish in the short term. CoinShares reported that crypto ETPs saw a hefty $795 million in outflows last week, wiping out nearly all year-to-date inflows. After $7.2 billion in outflows since February, only $165 million remains in net inflows for the year. While Bitcoin may have found short-term support, traders shouldn't expect a full-blown bull run just yet. Upcoming tariff headlines and negotiations between the US and other countries could be the next catalyst for a major move—up or down.

In other news, NFT platform Emblem Vault's CEO Jake Gallen got hit by a Zoom-based hack that drained over $100,000 in crypto from his wallets. Gallen said a scammer using the alias "ELUSIVE COMET" tricked him during a Zoom call into granting remote access to his computer. Once inside, malware was installed and used to swipe credentials from various wallets, resulting in losses of both BTC and ETH. The scam was set up via a verified X account claiming to be a crypto mining platform founder. Gallen said the malware file was later recovered, showing that even experienced users are vulnerable to creative social engineering attacks in the crypto space.

Meanwhile, Anchorage Digital Bank, a high-profile crypto institution backed by Wall Street giants like Goldman Sachs and Visa, is reportedly under investigation by the US Department of Homeland Security's El Dorado Task Force. The task force, known for tackling international money laundering cases, has been questioning former Anchorage employees about the company's policies and operations. Anchorage operates in the US, Singapore, and Portugal, and was co-founded by Diogo Mónica and Nathan McCauley. While the exact nature of the probe hasn't been disclosed, its involvement suggests scrutiny around potential cross-border financial activity.

Also making waves in the crypto space is a 90% crash in the OM token from the Mantra project. Blockchain sleuth ZachXBT linked Reef Finance founder Denko Mancheski and X user Fukugo Ryōshu to suspicious movements ahead of the plunge. Vortex, a market maker, confirmed that Fukugo had approached them before the crash, raising more red flags. Although there's no hard proof of wrongdoing yet, the community is already speculating about possible insider activity. Lookonchain reported that large wallets, including ones tied to Laser Digital and Shorooq Partners, moved tens of millions of OM tokens to centralized exchanges just before the crash. One wallet reportedly linked to Shorooq founding partner Shane Shin received 2 million OM on the same day. The investigation is still unfolding, but all eyes are on potential connections and whether this was an orchestrated dump or just badly timed whale movements.

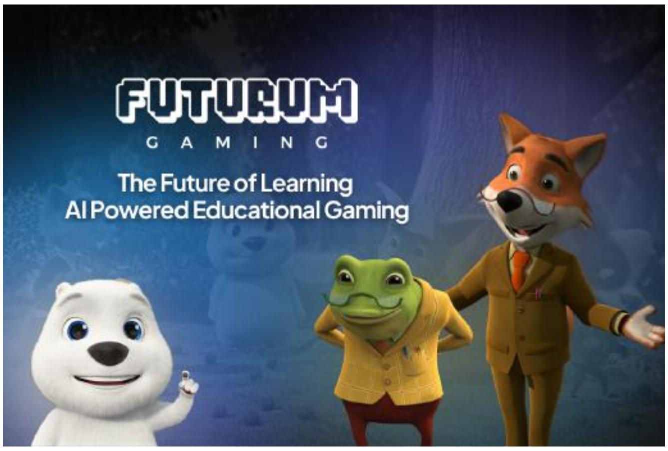


Futurum Gaming has announced the official launch of its debut Web3 title, Race to Infinity, alongside the minting of its Genesis NFT collection and the forthcoming Token Generation Event (TGE) slated for Q2 2025. Positioned at the nexus of immersive gameplay and purposeful learning, the platform sets a new benchmark in blockchain-enabled educational entertainment.

Race to Infinity isn't a traditional game. Designed in collaboration with educational innovator Begenio, it turns curriculum-aligned mathematics into a mentally demanding, strategy-driven experience. Field data shows a 59% improvement in mathematical proficiency among players, a statistic that underscores the platform's pedagogical backbone.

At the core of this initiative resides a distinct objective: to eliminate the perceived divide between cognitive development and digital play. *"Our goal is to create an ecosystem where learning is seamlessly integrated into the gaming experience," said Martin Hugo, Project Leader at Futurum Gaming. "By merging education with Web3, we're not just building games; we're building the future of learning."*

Futurum is not just building a platform; it's addressing a deep, persistent issue in modern education. Traditional learning environments struggle to keep pace with the attention economy. Static lessons, rigid structures, and minimal feedback



loops leave many students disengaged. Futurum's approach transforms abstract learning into kinetic engagement.

Every problem solved, every move made, and every decision taken in Race to Infinity pushes cognitive boundaries and reinforces academic foundations. It also redefines the role of assessment by offering real-time feedback and tokenized recognition.

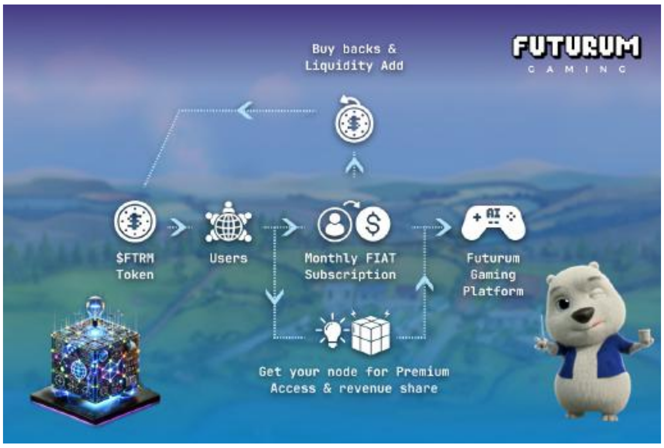
While Race to Infinity introduces players to a world where academic fluency equals strategic advantage, its successor, ***Quest to Infinity***, deepens the narrative and gameplay complexity. Tailored for adult learners, this iteration introduces philosophical puzzles, applied math, and real-world logic, wrapped in a competitive game structure that rewards mental agility with token incentives.

With the launch comes the Genesis NFT mint. Known as the **Paddles! NFT**, these tokenized assets, function as playable in-game characters and gateways to exclusive digital privileges. Paddles come in four rarity tiers (each represented by a different character), each offering ascending levels of staking benefits and competitive edge. Beyond gameplay, they are fully tradable across secondary markets, introducing collector value and market liquidity into the educational space.

Meanwhile, the TGE marks a pivotal structural advance. The **FTRM token** will act as the system's fuel, enabling in-game transactions, NFT upgrades, reward mechanisms, and participation in DAO governance. This introduces an economy of learning, where intellectual progression finds reward in tangible assets.

The technological infrastructure behind the project has been reinforced by a strategic collaboration with Immutable. "We partnered with Immutable for their easy onboarding for web2 users via the IMX passport," said a Futurum spokesperson. *"We're also in discussions with SKALE (SKL) to explore complementary infrastructure support that prioritizes interoperability. Our goal is to build a platform that's frictionless, adaptable, and enduring."*

The broader architecture supporting this initiative is Futurum Group, an ecosystem builder that backs high-impact projects across education, AI, and decentralized technologies. With holdings in both traditional and blockchain-native ventures, the Group operates as both incubator and strategist.



"Futurum Gaming is a flagship venture, but it's also a proof of concept," noted (Tony Walden, BlockConsult). "We are designing environments where learning isn't a byproduct; it's the product. And we're ensuring that those environments have economic gravity."

The platform's roadmap includes new content releases, deeper integration of community-driven features, and a reward structure that evolves alongside user engagement. Leaderboards, staking programs, and guild-based challenges are designed to nurture both competition and collaboration.

The next phase will also see the seamless integration of Immutable's Passport, creating a frictionless onboarding journey for gamers regardless of their familiarity with crypto technologies.

Race to Infinity anchors all of these ambitions in one accessible, well-engineered experience. It is, at once, a game, a learning tool, and an invitation to participate in an economy that values intellectual agility.

To learn more, visit https://futurumgaming.io

Follow Futurum Gaming on X for regular updates: https://x.com/futurum_gaming

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About Futurum Gaming:

Futurum Gaming is the digital arm of Futurum Group, a leading animation and media company with five exciting wholly owned IPs and an award-winning team linked with popular brands such as Bob the Builder, Barney & Friends, Thomas & Friends, and Jakers.

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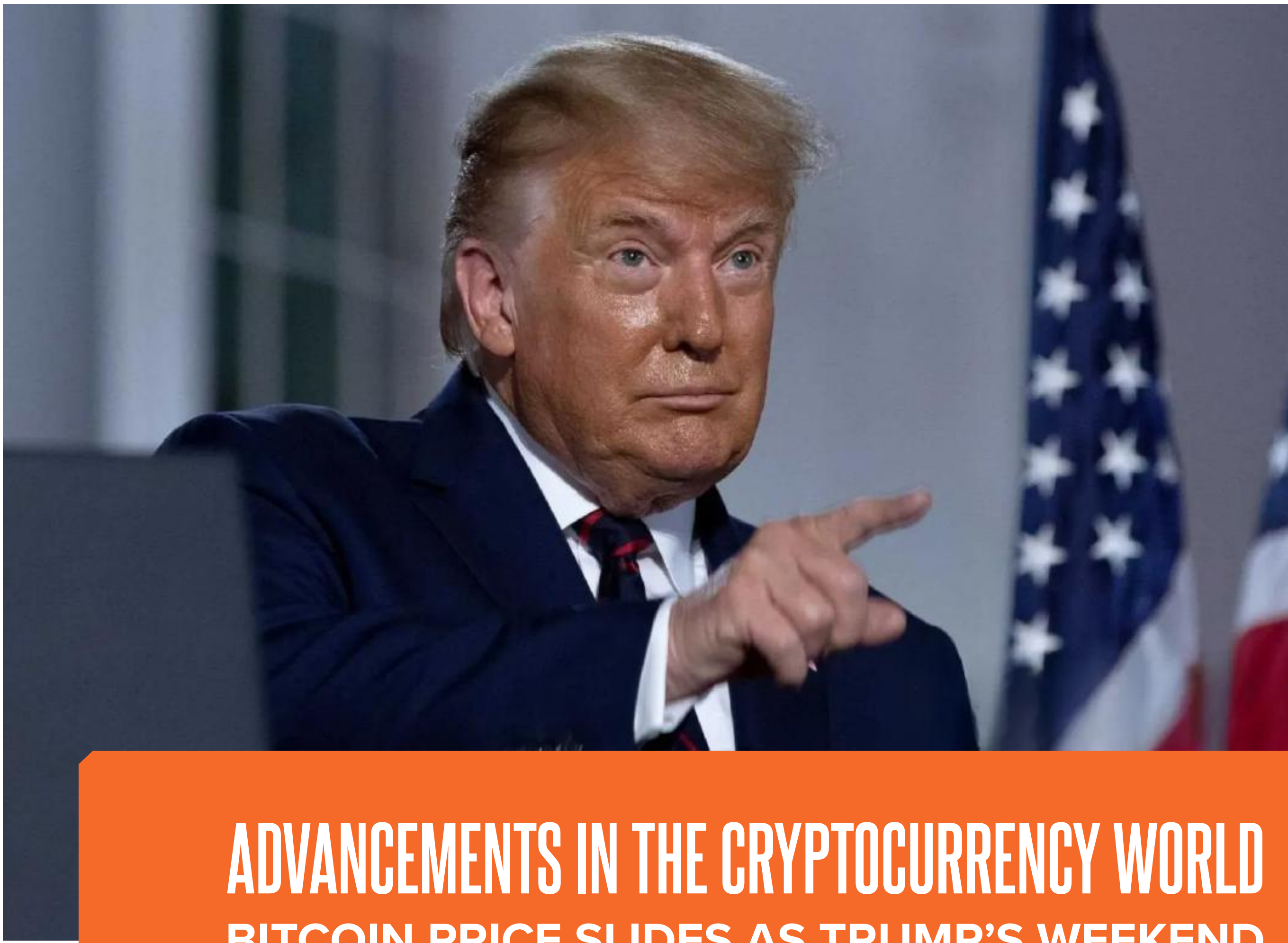

ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

BITCOIN PRICE SLIDES AS TRUMP'S WEEKEND TARIFF MESSAGING JOLTS CRYPTO MARKETS

Bitcoin dropped over 2% on Sunday as Trump's mixed signals on China tariffs spooked crypto traders and stoked inflation fears.

Bitcoin fell more than 2% on Sunday as digital assets struggled to find footing amid shifting signals from Washington on trade policy with China.

The price of the world's largest crypto slipped to $83,482 during Asia trading hours, partially reversing last week's gains and underperforming relative to equity markets.

Ethereum, the second-largest crypto, fell below $1,600, while altcoins posted mixed results, CoinGecko data shows.

The drop followed a weekend of mixed messages from the Trump administration over whether Chinese-made electronics—including smartphones, semiconductors, and laptops—would face fresh tariffs.

Late Sunday, President Trump posted to Truth Social, clarifying that while certain electronics were temporarily excluded from the new 10% "reciprocal" tariff regime, those same products would remain subject to a separate 20% levy tied to national security and fentanyl enforcement concerns.

"NOBODY is getting 'off the hook' for the unfair trade balances, and non-monetary tariff barriers, that other countries have used against us, especially not China, which, by far, treats us the worst!" Trump wrote. "There was no tariff 'exception' announced on Friday."

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said over the weekend that further sector-specific tariffs on electronics would be introduced within the next two months.

Equity markets appeared to take comfort in the temporary reprieve.

Nasdaq 100 futures rose more than 1% in early trading, while S&P 500 futures gained 0.7%. But crypto showed little of the same resilience.

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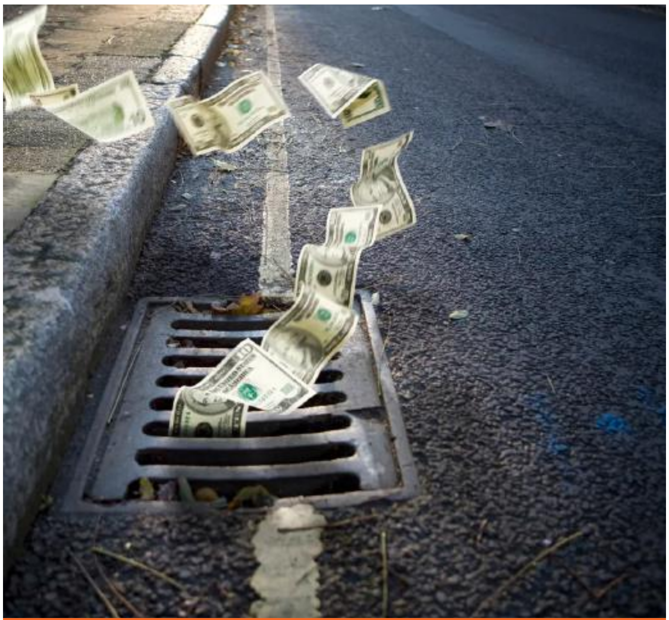

Spot Bitcoin ETFs Bleed $713 Million In The Past Week — What's Happening?

US-based spot Bitcoin ETFs (exchange-traded funds) have not been left out of the escalating trade tensions between the United States and China, as they have witnessed significant withdrawals over the past few days. Due to the ongoing trade war, US investors appear to be moving away from risk assets like digital assets and crypto-based financial products.

Spot Bitcoin ETFs Extend Negative Outflow Streak To Seven Days
According to the latest market data, the spot Bitcoin ETFs witnessed a significant $713 million in total net outflow over the past week. This negative streak of capital outflows suggests a worsening climate and declining appetite for crypto exchange-traded products among United States investors.

Data from SoSoValue shows that the US-based spot Bitcoin exchange-traded registered a daily total net outflow of $1.03 million on Friday, April 11. This round of withdrawals represented the seventh consecutive day of net outflow for the crypto-based financial products.

Interestingly, most spot Bitcoin ETFs, including BlackRock's IBIT (the largest BTC exchange-traded fund by net assets), recorded zero netflow to close the week. ARK 21Shares Bitcoin ETF (with the ticker ARKB) and Bitwise Bitcoin ETF (with the ticker BITB) were the only funds that witnessed any activity on Friday.

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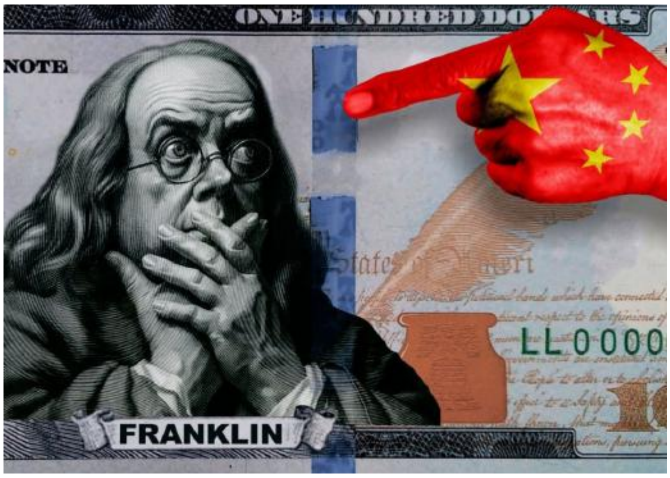
Fake McAfee Pop-ups Hijack PCs in Ruthless Bitcoin and Gold Bar Scams

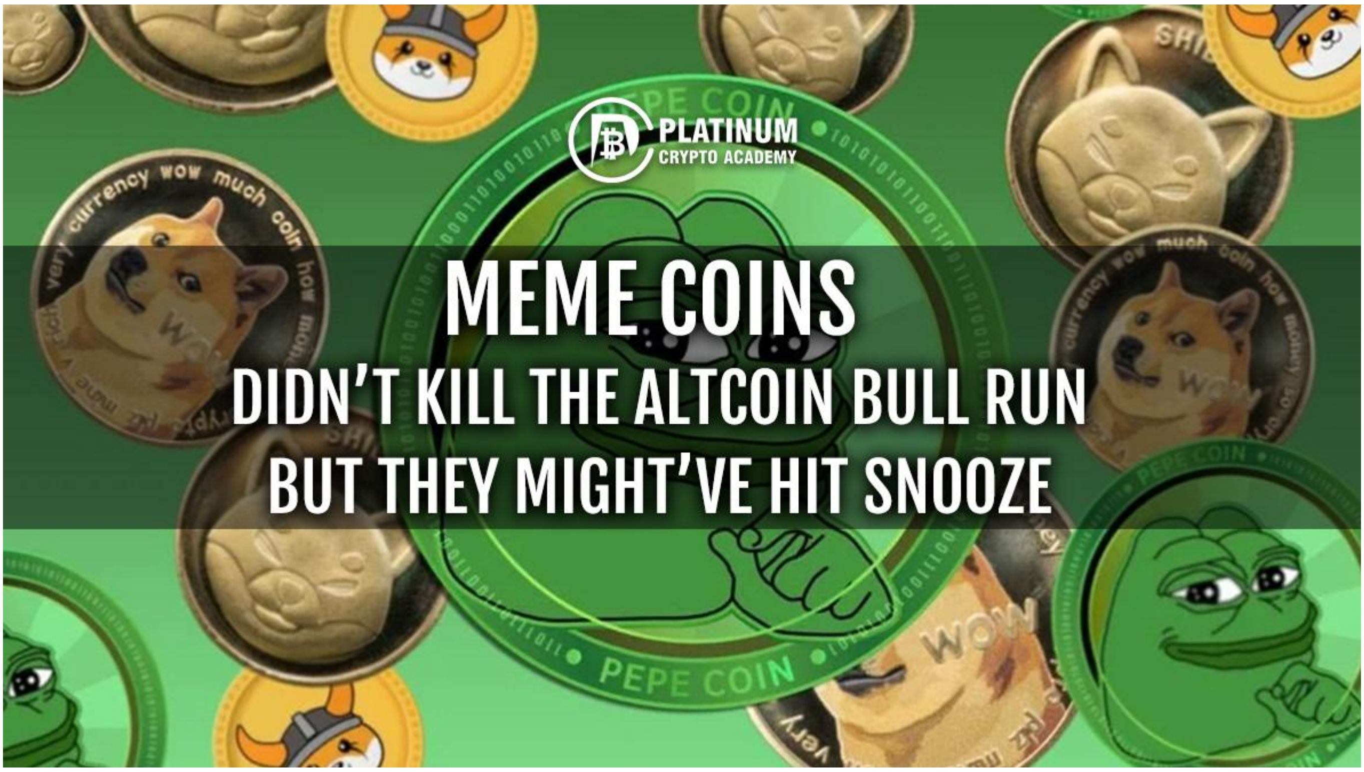
Criminals are leveraging counterfeit McAfee pop-ups to deceive individuals in Pinellas County, Florida, by gaining unauthorized remote access to personal computers. Once control is obtained, scammers manipulate victims into transferring funds through bitcoin ATMs, purchasing gold bars, or withdrawing substantial cash amounts that are later picked up by couriers. One recent incident resulted in a financial loss exceeding $530,000. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office warns against sharing sensitive details online or by phone and urges residents to report any suspicious interactions. Pop-up impersonations, especially from trusted brands, are being weaponized to exploit



individuals. Sheriff officials emphasize vigilance, stating, "We advise citizens not to give personal information or account information over the phone or computer."

Peter Schiff has urged China to retaliate in the trade war by dumping U.S. dollars and buying gold. Meanwhile, Ray Dalio warns of an impending once-in-a-lifetime global economic meltdown, masked by short-term distractions like tariffs. Strike CEO Jack Mallers claims Bitcoin is poised to surge as governments turn to fiat printing, especially in Europe and China. In the U.S., inflation has dropped to 2.4%, potentially clearing the way for a Fed rate cut. Finally, the crypto industry scored a big victory as Trump dismantled an IRS rule seen as a threat to DeFi, paving the way for renewed innovation.

Read more...



Let's be honest with ourselves, we kind of saw this coming.

Every crypto cycle has its chaos, its curveballs, its moments that no one can fully predict. But if you've been paying even half attention this year, you know what's taken centre stage. It wasn't the blue-chip altcoins. It wasn't the latest DeFi protocol or that promising Layer-1 everyone's been quietly building on.

No, it was the meme coins. Again and this time, they didn't just steal the spotlight they kicked down the door, lit the room on fire, and threw the furniture out the window on the way in.

A Meme Coin Frenzy, Supercharged

We're not talking minor pumps or a few Reddit threads going viral. We're talking $VIRTUAL a token that skyrocketed by 24,908%. We're talking DOGE, SHIB, PEPE… the usual suspects showing up like it's 2021 again, but this time supercharged by platforms like Pump.fun, where launching a meme coin is about as easy as sending a tweet.

December alone saw 1.2 million new tokens launched on Solana. Think about that a million-plus coins in a month. Most of them memes. Most of them speculative. Many of them worthless. But for retail traders priced out of Ethereum or Solana itself, they became something else entirely: lottery tickets. And in a few cases, those tickets hit.

But as this meme coin mania played out, something was happening quietly in the background and not all of it was bullish for the rest of the market. So… Where Did the Real Altcoins Go? While the memecoins lit up the charts, the traditional altcoin heavyweights Ethereum, Cardano, even DeFi blue chips felt more like they were stuck in molasses.

Even with long-awaited ETH ETF inflows starting to appear, price action was sluggish. Cardano's rally stalled out and a great initial surge. The DeFi sector? Quiet, thin liquidity, and a distinct lack of narrative momentum. There has been of course the AI hype and RWA narrative and stable coins are going to evolve in to stables 2.0 but where is the major altcoin pump, we all know and love the face melting returns. Are these a thing of the past?

It led to a very real question:

Are meme coins siphoning the capital that usually fuels altcoin seasons? Let's look at the hard numbers. As of April 2025:

Meme coins collectively hold a $47.6 billion market cap

They're pushing $8.4 billion in daily trading volume

Dogecoin is still a top 10 cryptocurrency by market cap

That's not just a sideshow. That's a core liquidity event and when that much money is spread across thousands of high-risk, high-volatility tokens, it's no wonder the traditional altcoins are having a hard time catching a bid.

The Chart That Tells the Story

Let's put this into perspective. Here's a quick look at how the landscape is shaping up in 2025:

Category	Market Cap (Apr 2025)	24h Volume (Apr 2025)	Notable Examples
Meme Coins	$47.6 Billion	$8.4 Billion	Dogecoin, PEPE, WIF
Other Altcoins	Varies (e.g., Solana ~$100B)	Varies (e.g., Ethereum ~$50B daily)	Ethereum, Solana, Cardano

Additionally, a table showing the percentage gains of top meme coins versus top altcoins in 2025 can further illustrate this disparity:

Category	Top Performers	Percentage Gain (2025 YTD)
Meme Coins	Tongtongcoin	262,586%
	PepeCat	12,363%
	StratoVM	2,770%
	Derive	2,350%
	AI Meta Club	1,213%
Other Altcoins	Mantra	82.2%
	GateToken	31.5%
	WhiteBIT Coin	16.2%
	XRP	14.2%
	Fasttoken	13.0%

This data, sourced from 10 Best-Performing Cryptocurrencies of 2025 So Far Nasdaq, as of March 17, 2025, shows meme coins have significantly higher percentage gains compared to altcoins with higher market caps, supporting the article's point about capital diversion.

These aren't fringe numbers. This is serious capital flow. On November 14, 2024, Crypto.news reported meme coins like PNUT and PEPE gained 122.5% and 75% respectively while many other altcoins barely moved. That's not coincidence. That's a trend.

Bitcoin's Holding the Throne — And the Oxygen

Now, here's something that gets overlooked in these debates: Bitcoin's dominance.

It's been climbing all year, hitting local highs in early 2025, buoyed by ETF enthusiasm, institutional trust, and companies like MicroStrategy going on buying sprees.

That's important because historically, altcoin seasons don't start when Bitcoin is surging, they start when Bitcoin stalls, consolidates, or even dips. In past cycles (think 2017, 2021), BTC pumped first. Then cooled. Then the altcoins ran.

But this time?

Bitcoin kept pumping. And in that vacuum, meme coins jumped the line.

They didn't wait for the classic handoff. They absorbed the momentum early giving the market a dopamine hit before ETH, ADA, and others even had a chance to warm up.

So, did they kill the altcoin season? Not quite. But they may have hit the snooze button.

Here's where the community really starts to split. Some traders, analysts, and Reddit warriors see meme coin rallies as the canary in the coal mine early signals that retail is waking up, that risk appetite is returning. They argue this is just the first chapter in a new altcoin cycle, and meme coins are doing what they always do: front-running the fun.

Others, though, are sounding the alarm. They're looking at the sheer volume of new launches thousands per week and seeing a dangerously fragmented capital pool, one that's too diluted to power a real altcoin surge.

Both camps have a point.

BeInCrypto predicted back in July 2024 that meme coins might lead the next altcoin season, thanks to their roots in Ethereum and Solana ecosystems. Meanwhile, CoinDesk warned in March that meme coin hype might delay broader market rotation due to Bitcoin's gravity. So what's the truth?

Maybe it's both. Maybe meme coins are part of the altcoin story now not a distraction from it. So What Happens Next?

If you've been around this space long enough, you know better than to call tops and bottoms with absolute confidence.

But here's what we can say:

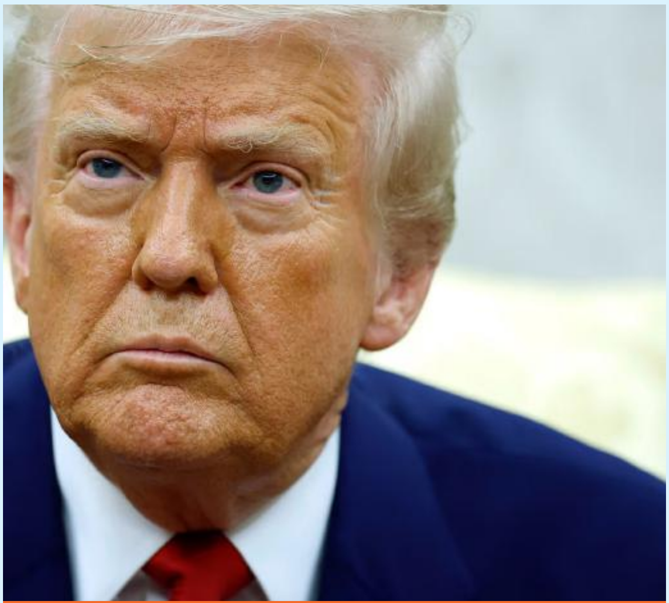
The altcoin season isn't dead. It's late maybe even fashionably late. We're seeing strong performance from projects like Solana, steady (if slow) accumulation of ETH, and ongoing signs that institutional capital is preparing for a broader rotation. Meme coins haven't replaced altcoins. They've just taken the wheel for a bit maybe driving too fast, maybe swerving a little too hard but they're still on the same road.

Final Thoughts: The Party's Still On Just in Another Room

So no, meme coins didn't kill the altcoin bull run. But they did hijack the playlist.

And if you're trying to figure out where we go from here, don't write off the madness learn from it. Understand the flows. Watch the narratives. Because when capital shifts back toward utility, toward infrastructure, toward real adoption plays and it will you'll want to be positioned.

Until then, the market's alive. It's just louder in the meme room.



Trump-Linked Crypto Project Buys $775,000 Worth of SEI as Altcoin Accumulation Continues

World Liberty Financial added SEI to its growing altcoin portfolio as it keeps accumulating and after it denied reports suggesting it sold ETH.

World Liberty Financial purchased $775,000 worth of SEI tokens.

The company holds a diverse portfolio including BTC, ETH, TRX, MOVE, ONDO, and other tokens.

The purchase was funded with USDC transferred from the project's main wallet to a trading wallet.

World Liberty Financial, the crypto venture backed by U.S. President Donald Trump's family, purchased $775,000 worth of SEI tokens as its altcoin accumulation strategy keeps going.

The move was funded with USDC transferred from the project's main wallet to a trading wallet that has been used in prior altcoin buys, according to fresh data from Arkham Intelligence.

The SEI purchase adds to a growing portfolio that includes not only the top two cryptocurrencies, bitcoin (BTC) and ether (ETH), but also TRX, movement (MOVE), ondo (ONDO) and various other tokens.

World Liberty Financial recently denied selling ether or any of its other positions after reports suggested a wallet belonging to the project sold around $8 million worth of the second-largest cryptocurrency.

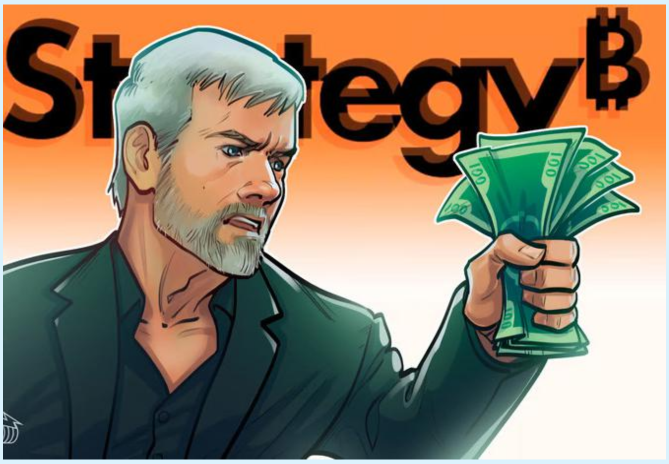
Read more...

Saylor signals Strategy is buying the dip amid macroeconomic turmoil

The company continues to buy Bitcoin amid the recent economic downturn that has negatively impacted markets and left investors uncertain.

Strategy co-founder Michael Saylor has signaled that the company plans to acquire more Bitcoin BTC $85,020 following a nearly two-week pause in purchases.

The company's most recent acquisition of 22,048 Bitcoin on March 31 brought its total



holdings to 528,185 BTC.

According to SaylorTracker, Strategy's BTC investment is up by approximately 24%, representing over $8.6 billion in unrealized gains.

Strategy continues to accumulate BTC amid the recent market downturn that took Bitcoin's price below the $80,000 level, and the company continues to be closely monitored by BTC investors as a barometer for institutional interest in BTC.

Bitcoin's store-of-value narrative grows despite the recent price decline The current macroeconomic uncertainty from the ongoing trade tensions between the United States and China has negatively impacted risk-on assets across the board.

Stock markets wiped away trillions in shareholder value in response to Trump's sweeping tariff order, and crypto markets also experienced a deep sell-off.

Data from the Total3, an indicator that tracks the market capitalization of the entire crypto sector excluding BTC and Ether ETH$1,674, shows that altcoins have collectively shed over 33% of their value since the market peak in December 2024.

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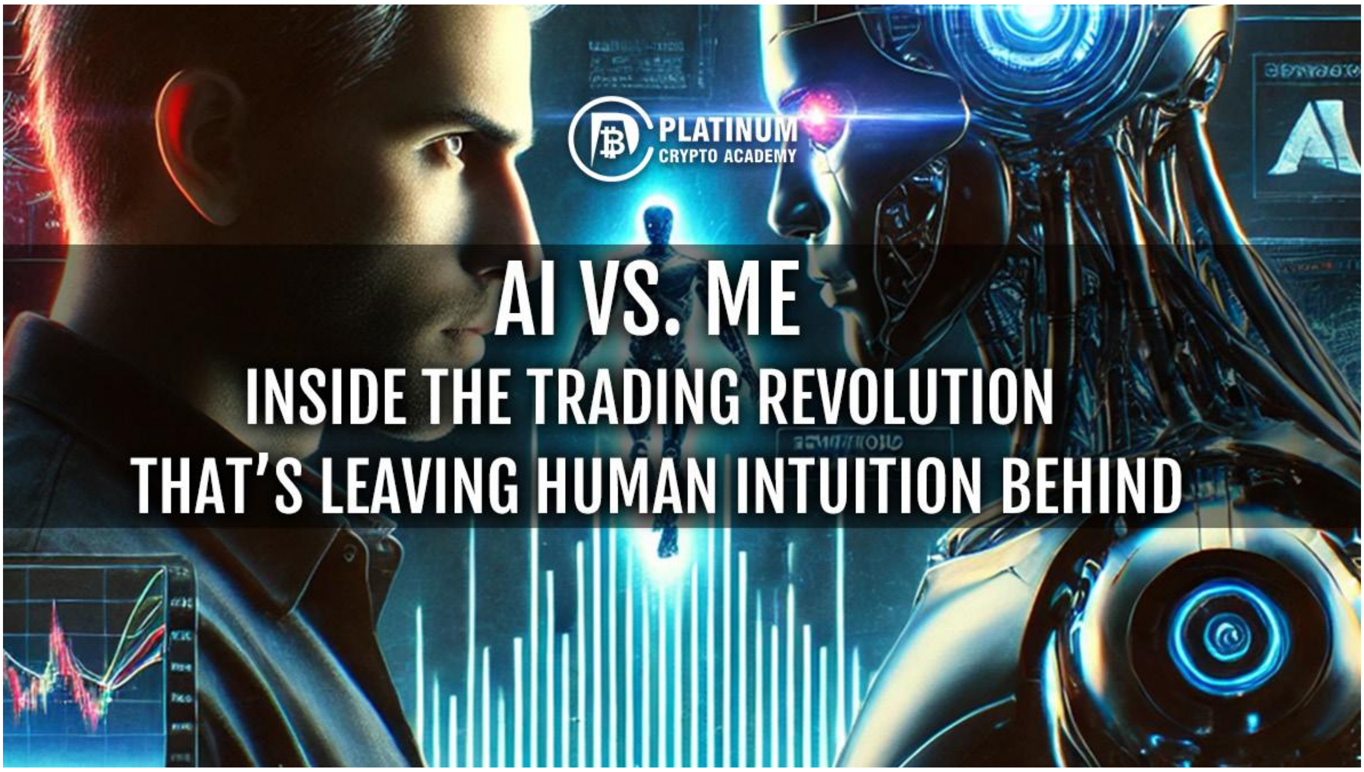


There's this moment I keep thinking about. It was 2:46am. I was staring at my screen, watching a small-cap altcoin I'd been tracking for days spike 22% in under five minutes. No news. No whale tweet. No volume build-up. It just… moved.

I refreshed. Checked Etherscan. Jumped into Discord. Nothing.

And then I saw it — a quiet note in a Telegram group I'm in:

"One of the AI models flagged sentiment two hours ago. Looks like it fired."

That's when it hit me. I wasn't trading against other people anymore. I was trading against machines. And they were faster, smarter, and already in the trade.

I've spent the last ten years living inside this market charts, cycles, narratives, the works. I've made and lost small fortunes. I've called tops, bought bottoms, and faded hype like a pro.

But this feels different.

What's happening right now with AI in crypto isn't another narrative play. It's not a trend. It's a transition a hard, permanent shift in the way this entire game is played. Because the edge that elusive, sacred edge we all chase it's not emotional control anymore. It's not information asymmetry. It's not even execution.

It's computation.

I've watched projects like Fetch.ai, Numerai, NEAR Protocol, and SingularityNET step into the spotlight this year, but I'll be honest I didn't pay them much attention at first.

Another narrative. Another stack of whitepapers promising disruption. Another wave of overhyped utility. Until I started seeing the outputs. Not the marketing. The trades. The signals. The models that could identify wallet clusters moving ETH before the price reacted. The bots that could digest 30,000 Reddit posts in real-time and map sentiment to token correlations. The autonomous agents negotiating trades for users completely permissionless.

I'd never felt slower.

At first, I tried to fight it. Doubled down on instinct. Spent more time on charts. Built more complex systems. But I couldn't shake the feeling. The market felt… rigged. Not in a malicious way. Just optimized like it had evolved past me. That's when I changed my approach.

I started learning how these models worked. Where the data came from. How the strategies were trained. I dove into Numerai's tournaments. I played with Render's GPU allocations. I used Fetch agents to simulate trades. It wasn't easy. But slowly, I realized something important:

This isn't man vs. machine.
It's man + machine — or man gets replaced.

Trading has always been a brutal meritocracy. But the rules are changing.

We're entering a cycle where success won't come from faster fingers or sharper instincts but from building systems that see what we can't.

AI can't "feel" conviction. But it doesn't get tired, it doesn't doubt itself, and it doesn't make emotional decisions at 3am because the charts look scary.

That matters. Because this market is built to punish emotion. And AI it doesn't have any.

Still, I'm not here to glorify the machine. It's not perfect. I've watched AI models overfit, make wild assumptions, and blow up on black swan events. I've seen "autonomous" bots get manipulated by bad data. Garbage in, garbage out always.

But the potential is undeniable. And the ecosystem being built around it? Even more so.

Fetch agents executing cross-market arbitrage. NEAR embedding AI tooling natively for dApp developers. SingularityNET monetizing models directly on-chain. Render scaling decentralized GPU compute for AI workloads. Numerai turning data science into a gamified prediction engine for real capital. These aren't whiteboard ideas. They're operational. Now.

What I've come to believe is this:

The best traders of the next cycle won't be the loudest, the fastest, or even the most experienced. They'll be the ones who know how to collaborate with intelligence that isn't their own. They'll train models. Feed them data. Interpret their signals. They'll run hybrid desks human oversight, machine execution. They won't think faster than the market they'll build something that can. And the rest?

They'll still be chasing breakouts that the AI already exited hours ago.

People ask me now:
"Do you think AI is going to replace traders?"

No. I think it already has.

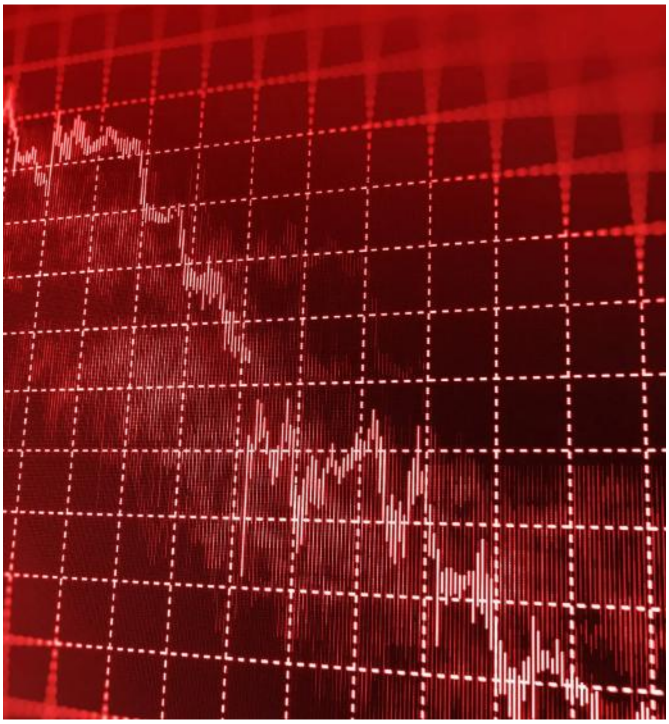
But it's not all or nothing.

We're not being wiped out we're being invited to evolve. To trade differently. To use tools that feel foreign, uncomfortable, even a little threatening… until you realize they're just extensions of yourself.

This isn't the end of trading. It's the beginning of what trading is becoming.

The edge is still out there.

You just have to decide if you want to be part of it or part of someone else's data.



Mantra Token Crashes 90% in One Hour, Team Blames 'Reckless Liquidations

Mantra's co-founder has denied any team involvement, pointing to forced exchange liquidations during a low-liquidity trading period.

The Mantra token (OM) plummeted over 90% within an hour on Sunday, crashing from nearly $6 to below $0.4 and wiping out billions in market value.

"The timing and depth of the crash suggest that a very sudden closure of account positions was initiated without sufficient warning or notice," Mantra co-founder John Patrick Mullin stated on X.

Mullin claimed positions were "closed without margin calls or notice," suggesting exchange actions triggered the cascade.

In a separate official message, the project claimed that the crash was "triggered by reckless liquidations."

The crash represents one of the steepest single-day declines in crypto this year, raising concerns over centralized exchange practices and the stability of RWA (real-world asset) tokens.

Mantra is a Layer 1 blockchain built for tokenizing real-world assets with regulatory compliance baked in. Powered by the Cosmos SDK, it supports IBC and CosmWasm, making it interoperable and smart contract-ready across multiple chains, according to its website.

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New York Lawmaker Introduces Bill That Would Allow State Agencies To Accept Crypto Payments

A new bill working its way through New York's legislature would allow residents to pay state agencies with crypto.

New York State Assemblyman Clyde Vanel (D-Queens) introduced Assembly Bill A7788 on Thursday, and the potential legislation was referred to the Standing Committee on Governmental Operations.

If passed, the bill would enable all state agencies to enter into agreements with individuals to receive crypto payments for fines, civil penalties, rent, rates, taxes, fees, charges, revenue and/or financial obligations.

Other states have also taken similar steps. In 2022, Colorado became the first state to accept crypto for tax payments, and last September, Louisiana enabled its residents to pay for state services with digital assets. Similar bills have also bubbled up in California and Florida.

Vanel introduced similar bills in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. The lawmaker, who has a long history of supporting crypto-related legislation, also recently introduced Assembly Bill 7716, which would direct the New York State Board of Elections to study and evaluate the use of blockchain technology to protect voter records and election results.

If passed, the bill would require the State Board of Elections to submit a report about blockchain technology to the governor and the legislature within a year of the legislation taking effect.

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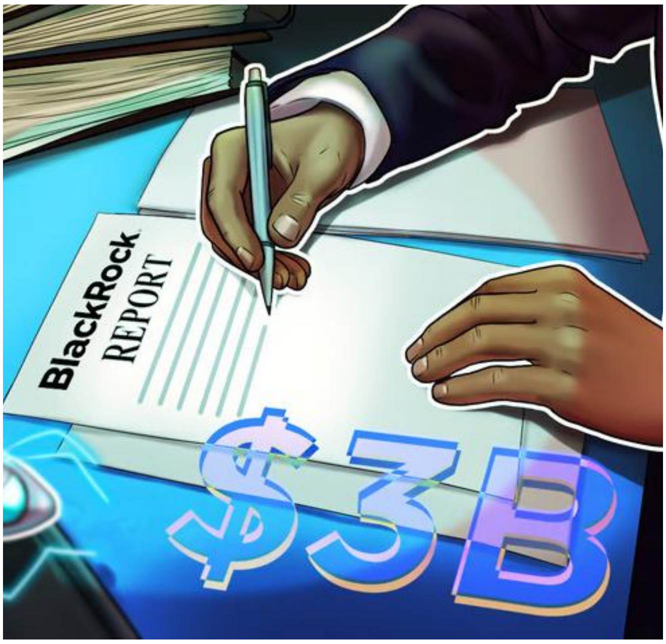

BlackRock reports $3B in digital asset inflows during Q1

In the first quarter of 2025, digital assets accounted for $34 million in base fees or less than 1% of BlackRock's long-term revenue.

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager with $11.6 trillion in assets under management, reported $84 billion in total net inflows in the first quarter of 2025, marking a 3% annualized growth in assets under management.

The firm's strong performance was led by a record first quarter for iShares exchange-traded funds (ETFs) alongside continued strength in private markets and net inflows, according to BlackRock's Q1 earnings released on April 11.

Of the $107 billion in net inflows to iShares ETFs, $3 billion, or 2.8% of the total ETF inflows, was directed to digital asset products in Q1, BlackRock said.

Alternative investments also played a significant role in Q1, with private market inflows totaling $9.3 billion.

Digital assets remain small segment
As of March 31, digital assets accounted for $34 million in base fees or less than 1% of BlackRock's long-term revenue.

By the end of the first quarter, BlackRock's total digital assets under management amounted to $50.3 billion, which represents about 0.5% of the firm's $11.6 trillion in total assets under management.

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Metaplanet Becomes 9th Largest Public Bitcoin Holder With Latest BTC Buy

Company adds 319 BTC, bringing total holdings to 4,525 as part of aggressive treasury expansion backed by capital market activity.

The latest purchase from Metaplanet acquired 319 BTC at an average price of ¥11,845,786 ($83,147) per coin.

BTC Yield remains a key performance metric, with 2025 Q1 yield at 95.6% and 6.5% quarter-to-date, reflecting strong digital asset growth.

Metaplanet Inc. (3350) added 319 bitcoin (BTC) to its treasury. The Japanese firm made its latest buy at an average price $83,147) per coin.

This latest purchase brings the company's total bitcoin holdings to 4,525 BTC, with an

aggregate cost basis of $408.1 million and an average acquisition price of $90,194.

This move is part of Metaplanet's broader bitcoin treasury operations strategy, launched in December 2024, aimed at using digital assets to enhance shareholder value.

The company evaluates its performance through BTC Yield, a measure of bitcoin holding growth relative to share outstanding. For Q1 2025, its BTC yield reached 95.6%, with a year-to-date figure of 6.5% as of April 14.

The acquisitions are supported by dynamic capital market activity, including bond issuances and stock acquisition rights, enabling Metaplanet to raise substantial funds while minimizing dilution. In total, approximately 41.7% of the company's "210 million plan" has been executed.

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Standard Chartered, OKX, Franklin Templeton launch trading platform pilot with tokenized fund collateral

Brevan Howard Digital, a division of the global alternative investment manager Brevan Howard, is among the first firms to participate in the pilot.

Standard Chartered, OKX, and Franklin Templeton launched a pilot trading platform designed to enable institutional clients to use crypto and tokenized money market funds as collateral in off-exchange transactions, according to an April 10 release.

Franklin Templeton's Digital Assets division will contribute tokenized on-chain assets, which OKX clients will be able to integrate into trading and risk management workflows. The structure is intended to meet institutional security, regulatory compliance, and liquidity standards.

Franklin Templeton's head of digital assets, Roger Bayston, emphasized the importance of native blockchain integration.

He added that minting assets on-chain enables true ownership and near-instantaneous settlement, removing reliance on traditional infrastructure and aligning operational speed with blockchain-based systems.

Brevan Howard onboarded

The framework is intended to allow institutions to mirror collateral held securely with a third party while maintaining operational flexibility for trading.

Brevan Howard Digital, a division of the global alternative investment manager Brevan Howard, is one of the first firms to participate in the pilot.

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Binance Executives Met With US Government Officials To Discuss Easing of Regulatory Supervision

Executives at Binance reportedly sat down with Treasury Department officials in March to discuss the possibility of relaxing the US government's regulatory scrutiny of the world's largest crypto exchange.

Citing people familiar with the matter, the Wall Street Journal reports that Binance wants the Treasury Department to remove one of the two monitors that oversee the exchange.

The US government is keeping a close eye on Binance after it pleaded guilty to having engaged in anti-money laundering (AML), unlicensed money transmitting and sanctions violations.

The Treasury Department appointed a monitor to ensure that Binance complies with anti-money laundering laws, but a spokesperson for the exchange says that monitors led to "inefficient and costly burdens."

The report says that during last month's meeting, Binance chief executive Richard Teng and Chief Legal Officer Eleanor Hughes asked Treasury officials to remove the monitorship, or reduce its duration and scope.

Binance's executives are said to be optimistic that the Trump administration will greenlight the request.

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Binance Continues to Lead Spot Trading Volume Despite Market Correction

While total spot trading volume generally declined in Q1, Binance saw more trading activity compared to other crypto exchanges.

For the last two months, cryptocurrencies have been in correction mode, with spot trading volume for bitcoin (BTC) and altcoins declining by tens of billions of dollars.

Despite this plunge in spot trading volume, the world's largest crypto exchange, Binance, has continued to lead other platforms, with its share of spot volume increasing by the end of the first quarter.

Binance Leads Spot Volume Market
According to a report from the on-chain analytics firm CryptoQuant, bitcoin's spot trading volume on exchanges fell from a high of $44 billion on February 3 to $10 billion by the end of Q1. Likewise, the total altcoin spot trading volume on crypto trading platforms plummeted from $122 billion to $23 billion within the same period.

While total spot trading volume generally declined, Binance saw more trading activity compared to other crypto exchanges. This indicates that trading volumes on other exchanges reduced much faster than on Binance and that the world's leading crypto platform became the largest liquidity venue during periods of higher market volatility.

From February 3 to the end of Q1, Binance's share of total Bitcoin spot trading volume rose from 33% to 49%, while that of altcoins spiked from 38% to 44%.

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CryptoPunks trader pleads guilty to $13m NFT tax fraud

A Pennsylvania man has pleaded guilty to federal charges after failing to report millions in profits from trading non-fungible tokens.

In an April 11 press release, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania said Waylon Wilcox, 45, admitted to filing false tax returns for 2021 and 2022, underreporting more than $13 million in income from NFT trades.

Most of the unreported gains came from buying and selling 97 pieces from the popular CryptoPunks collection.

According to prosecutors, Wilcox filed a false return in April 2022, claiming significantly less income for 2021 than he actually made. The move reduced his tax bill by over $2.1 million. He did it again in October 2023 for the 2022 tax year, dodging another $1.1 million in taxes.

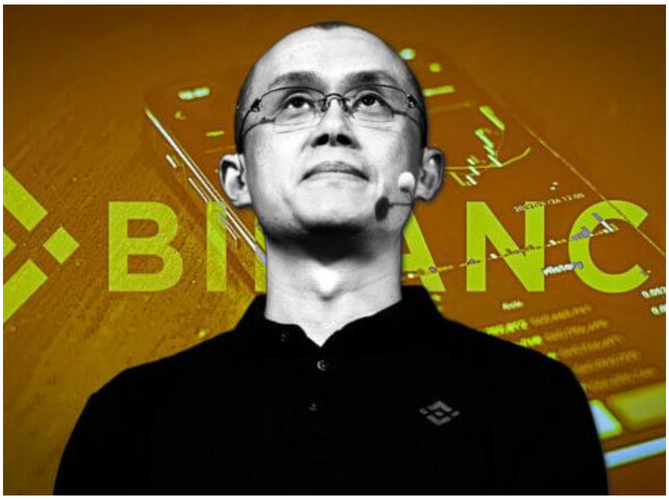
In total, Wilcox underreported about $8.5 million in 2021 and another $4.6 million in 2022. He falsely answered "no" when asked on both returns if he had traded digital assets.

Federal investigators allege Wilcox made around $7.4 million from selling 62 CryptoPunks in 2021 and another $4.9 million from 35 Punk sales in 2022.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and its Criminal Investigation Division. According to the release, taxpayers are expected to report any gains or losses from NFT sales as part of their taxable income.

Read more...

WSJ alleges CZ agreed to inform on Justin Sun in plea deal; CZ denies claims



Tron Founder Justin Sun claimed that he was "not aware" of "rumors" about CZ agreeing to provide evidence against him.

The former CEO of Binance, Changpeng Zhao or CZ, agreed to assist prosecutors in building their case against Justin Sun, the founder of Tron, The Wall Street Journal reported on April 12. The exclusive report that cited anonymous sources familiar with the matter stated:

"As part of Zhao's plea deal, he agreed to give evidence on Sun to prosecutors."

This "arrangement" or clause of his plea deal "hasn't previously been reported," the report said.

CZ discredits WSJ report as "hit piece" Prior to the WSJ report's publication, CZ posted on X that he had learned that the WSJ was writing "another baseless hit piece." He noted that he had received the information from "multiple" sources.

After the report's publication, CZ further discredited it on X, stating:

"WSJ is really TRYING here. They seem to have forgotten who went to prison and who didn't."

CZ pleaded guilty to violating anti-money laundering laws by failing to institute proper measures to bar criminals from using the largest crypto exchange.

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Avalanche to Modernize RTGS Systems and Boost Post-Trade Efficiency

Avalanche aims to enhance post-trade infrastructure by delivering real-time settlement and reducing reconciliation inefficiencies in traditional systems. Institutional exchanges and custodians can benefit from Avalanche's decentralized network by achieving reduced latency and tamper-proof processing.

Avalanche enables tokenization, margin optimization, and programmable yields, providing new tools for financial institutions amid shifting regulatory frameworks.

Avalanche is gaining attention for its potential to enhance traditional financial systems, especially in real-time gross settlement (RTGS) operations. According to Olivia Vande Woude who serves as a business development expert in blockchain, Avalanche functions to enhance mainstream finance systems instead of completely replacing current platforms.

According to Woude, Avalanche offers capabilities that produce substantial advancements for post-trade operations. Existing processing frameworks experience prolonged delay times together with operational ineffectiveness. Through its real-time finality capability, Avalanche operates to enhance operational efficiency while making liquidity easier to access.

Woude pointed to significant enhancements Avalanche could bring to legacy exchange infrastructure, including those operated by CBOE and ICE.

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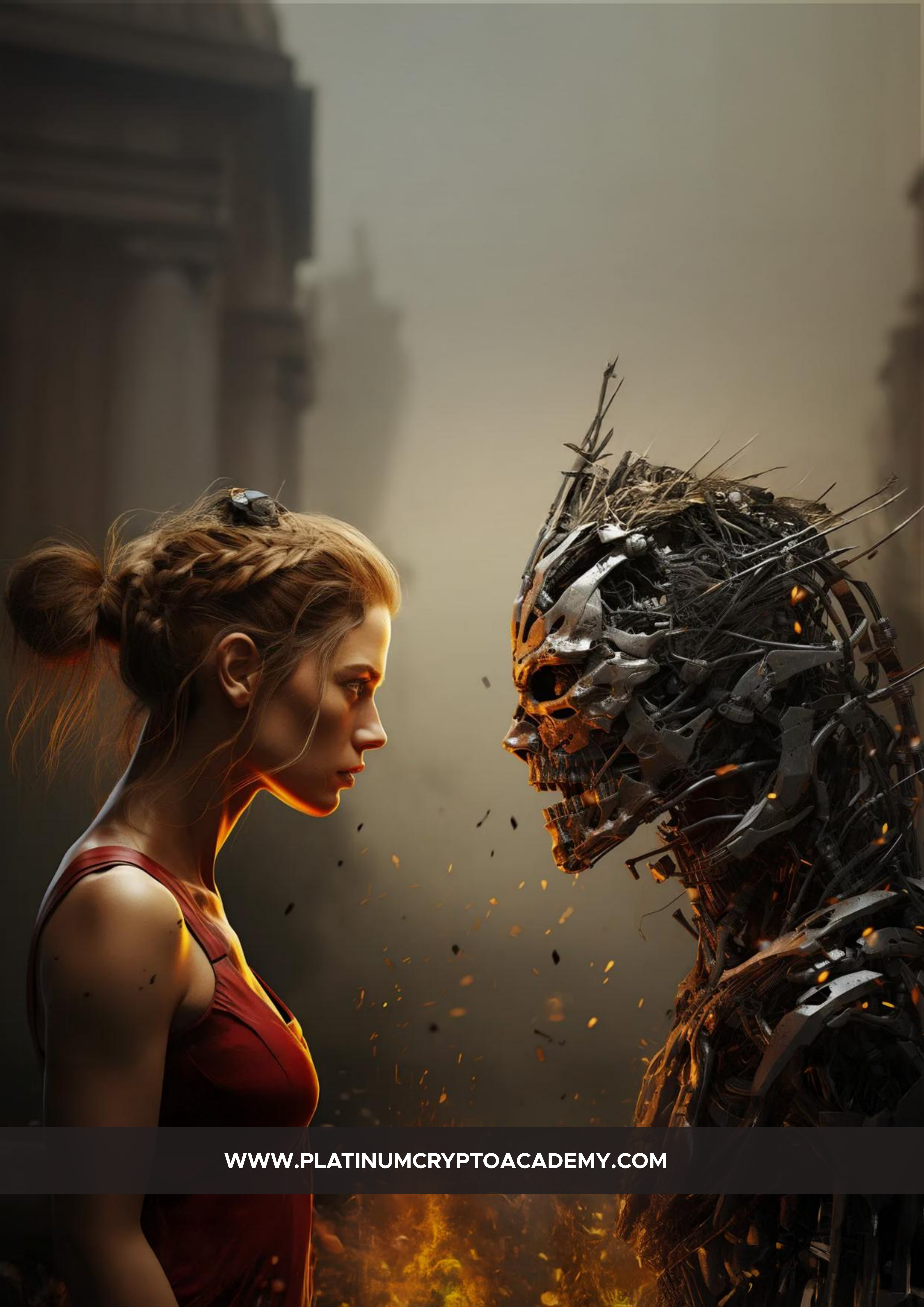
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