

JANUARY 21st, 2025

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

371ST
EDITION

**TRUMP MEMECOIN HITS
TOP 15 WORLDWIDE IN 48 HOURS!**



PLATINUM
CRYPTO ACADEMY

ANS6

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EDITORS

Bitcoin soared to a new all-time high, breaking past \$109,500 on Jan. 20, driven by speculation around a potential strategic Bitcoin reserve. DeFi betting platform Polymarket saw the odds for this reserve jump to 69%, fueling excitement in the crypto market. Adding to the buzz were the launches of Trump-themed memecoins, Official Trump (TRUMP) and Official Melania (MELANIA), which quickly gained traction among traders. Intergovernmental blockchain expert Anndy Lian remarked that these launches could mark a transformative moment for memecoins and altcoins. However, the sharp volatility in TRUMP and Solana serves as a reminder for traders to approach such parabolic moves with caution, as vertical rallies often lead to steep corrections.

LETTER

Bitcoin bounced off the 20-day EMA at \$99,257 on Jan. 20 and surged to a fresh all-time high of \$109,588, showing strong bullish momentum. If buyers can keep the price above the critical level of \$108,353, it could signal the start of the next big move upward. In that scenario, the bulls might aim to push BTC/USDT toward the next major target of \$126,706. However, if Bitcoin fails to hold above \$108,353, it would suggest that sellers are aggressively defending this level. A drop below the moving averages could weaken bullish sentiment, leading to a consolidation phase between \$109,588 and \$90,000 over the next few days.

Ether's bulls are holding the line at the neckline of the head-and-shoulders pattern but are struggling to overcome selling pressure at the 50-day SMA, which stands at \$3,537. The 20-day EMA, trending downward at \$3,362, along with the RSI hovering near neutral, gives bears a slight upper hand. A decisive break below \$3,125 could increase bearish momentum, driving the ETH/USDT pair down to the solid support zone near \$2,850. For buyers to regain control, they need to push Ether above the 50-day SMA, which would signal a reduction in selling pressure. If successful, the pair could climb toward \$3,745, where stiff resistance is expected.

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

Enjoy the issue

Karnav Shah

Karnav Shah

Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief



CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY



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

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

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

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



Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- BricklayerDAO
- TVVIN
- CryptoGames

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

WHY INVESTING IN BRICKLAYERDAO IS A GAME-CHANGER FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

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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 371st edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$3.51 Trillion, Up 230 Billion since the last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is at \$285.22 Billion which makes a 26.44% decrease. The DeFi volume is \$16.20 Billion, 5.68% of the entire crypto market's 24-hour trading volume. The volume of all stable coins is \$264.29 Billion, which is 92.66% share of the total crypto market volume the last 24 hours. The largest gainers in the industry right now are XRP Ledger Ecosystem and AI Applications cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 7.91% from \$94,800 last week to around \$102,300 and Ether's price has increased by 2.36% from \$3,175 last week to \$3,250
Bitcoin's market cap is \$2 Trillion and the altcoin market cap is \$1.51 Trillion.

Bitcoin soared to a new all-time high, breaking past \$109,500 on Jan. 20, driven by speculation around a potential strategic Bitcoin reserve. DeFi betting platform Polymarket saw the odds for this reserve jump to 69%, fueling excitement in the crypto market. Adding to the buzz were the launches of Trump-themed memecoins, Official Trump (TRUMP) and Official Melania (MELANIA), which quickly gained traction among traders. Intergovernmental blockchain expert Anndy Lian remarked that these launches could mark a transformative moment for memecoins and altcoins. However, the sharp volatility in TRUMP and Solana serves as a reminder for traders to approach such parabolic moves with caution, as vertical rallies often lead to steep corrections.

President Donald Trump's return to the White House came with a flurry of executive actions—42 on his first day—but none directly addressed cryptocurrency. Despite this, the industry remains optimistic about upcoming crypto-related policies. Reflexivity Research's Will Clemente noted that some are anxious for Trump to make a crypto move, while crypto lawyer Jake Chervinsky highlighted that, for the first time, the SEC and CFTC are led by figures who favor clear crypto regulations over enforcement-driven approaches. Rumors are also swirling about potential executive orders, including one to ban a central bank digital currency, another to establish a crypto council, and possibly actions on a strategic Bitcoin reserve or a pardon for

Silk Road founder Ross Ulbricht. Industry commentators believe these measures could significantly shape the regulatory landscape for crypto.

Bitcoin's price surge to over \$109,000 was one of the day's standout market moves, occurring just hours before Trump's inauguration. The rally marked a continuation of the bullish momentum sparked by Trump's election victory in November, which helped Bitcoin breach the \$100,000 level in December 2024. Data from TradingView showed BTC reaching a peak of \$109,036 at 6:55 am UTC before retracing to \$108,342. Trump's presidency appears to be a key catalyst for Bitcoin's recent rally, reinforcing bullish sentiment in the market.

MicroStrategy, the largest corporate Bitcoin holder, has seen its holdings climb to a valuation of \$47.3 billion, reflecting a 69% gain on its investment. On Jan. 19, co-founder Michael Saylor hinted at another impending BTC purchase, marking the 11th consecutive week of such signals. The next day, MicroStrategy added 2,530 BTC, worth approximately \$243 million, bringing its total holdings to 450,000 BTC. The company remains committed to its ambitious 21/21 strategy, aiming to raise \$42 billion through equity and debt offerings to acquire more Bitcoin, solidifying its position as a leading advocate for institutional adoption of the cryptocurrency.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Domnance)

BTC	56.62%
ETH	10.91%
XRP	5.11%
USDT	3.77%
SOL	3.38%
BNB	2.72%
DOGE	1.48%
USDC	1.31%
ADA	1.02%
Others	13.68%



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INTELLIGENCE AND VIRTUAL ASSET GROWTH, OFFERING THE
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OPTIMISE YOUR PORTFOLIO.

WHITEPAPER

WEBSITE



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VOICE IS HEARD.

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SECURE LUCRATIVE **REWARDS** FROM REAL ESTATE
PERFORMANCE WITHOUT THE HASSLE OF OWNERSHIP.

› TOKENOMICS:

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PLATFORM SERVICES AND PORTFOLIO DIVIDENDS.

› SECURITY & LIQUIDITY:

TRADE TOKENS **ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, WITH CONFIDENCE**
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ENHANCING LIQUIDITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO PREMIUM COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE, **GET BRICK'D**

PRESS RELEASE



CRYPTOGAMES UNVEILS NEW GAMBLING CHALLENGES AND EXCITING BLACK FRIDAY REWARDS

CryptoGames, a leader in crypto gambling, continues to captivate players with exciting new features and enhanced gaming experiences. CryptoGames' Wager Quest provides a unique gaming experience that actively engages players. Participants earn rewards through wagering on multiple game types, from dice to roulette.

To add to the excitement, CryptoGames has introduced Mini Challenges, designed to provide quick and rewarding gaming opportunities. Players can complete smaller tasks to earn lottery tickets, which can be used for entry into their 0% house edge lottery draws.

Recently, CryptoGames expanded its cryptocurrency options by adding **Solana (SOL)** and **Tether (USDT)** to its platform. These strategic additions provide players with enhanced blockchain flexibility and improved transaction options. With popular options like Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Litecoin already supported, Crypto Games caters to diverse crypto-gambling enthusiasts.

For Black Friday, CryptoGames is delivering extraordinary promotions. Players can enjoy unprecedented benefits such as:

Zero house edge for dice games

Removed speed limitations for all bet sizes

50% reduced house edge on Saturday

Special voucher and lottery promotions

CryptoGames creates a superior online casino environment focused on fairness and innovation. With active moderators, a robust support system, and unlimited withdrawal options, the platform continues to set the standard for online crypto gambling.

"CryptoGames is establishing new standards in digital gambling," stated the spokesperson for Cryptonaire Weekly. "Its innovative and user-centric design reflects its commitment to players. The platform evolves effortlessly with market demands. Crypto gambling enthusiasts should give it a try."

For more information and to explore the latest challenges, visit [CryptoGames](https://cryptogames.com). From innovative challenges to unparalleled promotions, CryptoGames delivers excitement at every turn. d services, including Operps (Perpetual Options), lending protocol liquidation protection, and a derivatives RFQ platform for institutional clients. Backed by prominent investors and driven by a team of experienced professionals, EthosX spearheads the evolution of on-chain derivatives trading.



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Roulette



Blackjack



Keno



Minesweeper



Video Poker



Plinko



Slot



DiceV2



Lottery

VIP membership



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



Provably fair

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



Fast withdrawals

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



Progressive jackpots

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



Low house edge

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



Secure and private

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

No crypto? No problem. You can buy it here.





ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

BITCOIN SURGES TO \$109K, HITS RECORD HIGH AHEAD OF DONALD TRUMP'S INAUGURATION

Bitcoin (BTC) zoomed to a record level above \$109,000 during the Asian trading hours on Monday ahead of Republican Donald Trump's scheduled inauguration later in the day.

Bitcoin hit \$109,333 on Binance, setting fresh highs. The moves come ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration scheduled for later in the day.

Trump mentioned the asset's record performance in a Sunday speech alongside gains in the broader U.S. stock market.

Bitcoin (BTC) zoomed to a record level above \$109,000 during the Asian trading hours on Monday ahead of Republican Donald Trump's scheduled inauguration later in the day. The largest cryptocurrency touched \$109,333 on Binance.

Trump mentioned the asset's record performance in a Sunday speech alongside gains in the broader U.S. stock market.

"Since the election, the stock market has surged and small business optimism has soared a record 41

points to a 39-year high. Bitcoin has shattered one record high after another," Trump said.

BTC reversed losses from earlier in the day when it fell to nearly \$100,000 from a high over \$102,000 on Sunday as first lady Melania Trump issued a memecoin, drawing liquidity away from major assets.

Trump has been vocal about his support for cryptocurrencies during his campaign. Promises like making the U.S. the "crypto capital of the planet" and creating a "strategic national bitcoin reserve" have fueled investor optimism.

"Bitcoin reached \$108K while other cryptocurrencies have rapidly pumped on the eve of the US presidential inauguration, with hopes that new policies and regulators will send the price of BTC much further this year as the US economy continues to show strength in the long term," Ben El-Baz, Managing Director of HashKey Global, told CoinDesk in a Telegram message.

[Read more...](#)



TRUMP memecoin hits top 15 worldwide in 48 hours, sparking tax cut rumors

Rumors have surfaced about potential crypto tax reforms as Donald Trump's official memecoin, TRUMP, hits \$71 billion in fully diluted value and rises to the 15th-largest crypto in the world.

Rumors about potential tax cuts or complete removal of taxes on crypto capital gains are circulating, fueled by the buzz surrounding US President-elect Donald Trump's official memecoin, Official Trump (TRUMP).

The Solana-based token has flipped major memecoins like Pepe PEPE \$0.00001523, Shiba Inu (SHIB) and Dogecoin DOGE \$0.3402, achieving a

fully diluted valuation (FDV) of \$71 billion, according to CoinGecko.

TRUMP is now the 15th-largest cryptocurrency by market cap, reaching it in under 48 hours.

Currently, cryptocurrency in the US is taxed as property, meaning any sale, trade or disposal of crypto is subject to capital gains tax.

Short-term capital gains for assets held less than a year are taxed at rates ranging from 10% to 37%, depending on the individual's income. Based on income levels, long-term capital gains for assets held over a year are taxed at 0% and 20%.

[Read more...](#)

Will Switzerland Adopt Bitcoin Reserve? National Vote To Decide

Switzerland has proposed to adopt Bitcoin reserve, expanding the SNB's portfolio, which currently includes the dollar, euro, and gold.

Switzerland is gearing up to adopt the Bitcoin reserve amidst growing cryptocurrency acceptance fueled by Donald Trump's progressive policies. Cryptocurrency advocates nationwide

propose considering BTC as a reserve asset along with the dollar, euro, and gold. This initiative tends to provide Bitcoin legal recognition in the European country.

As per a recent report, the campaigners have begun collecting 100,000 signatures, triggering a national vote on Bitcoin adoption. This move could potentially pressure the



Swiss National Bank (SNB) to reconsider its pessimistic approach to the flagship cryptocurrency.

Switzerland To Vote For Bitcoin Reserve
The Swiss Federal Chancellery kicked off the Bitcoin reserve proposal on December 31, 2024, following a failed attempt in October 2021. The motion gained increased attention when Donald Trump, who hails himself the "crypto President," won

the 2024 US election. The country launched the BTC proposal to amend the Swiss Federal Constitution, facilitating the addition of Bitcoin to the SNB portfolio. The deadline to gather the required signatures is June 30, 2026. After fulfilling the signature count, the proposal would reach the Federal Assembly and then for a public vote.

[Read more...](#)



WHY INVESTING IN BRICKLAYERDAO IS A GAME-CHANGER FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

The global real estate tokenisation market is set for phenomenal growth, projected to expand at a **CAGR of 21% from 2024 to 2033**. Currently valued at **USD 3.5 billion**, this market is expected to attain the **USD 19.4 billion mark by 2033**, according to recent research by the CMI Team. This surge reflects a significant shift in how real estate assets are owned, traded, and valued.

You, as an investor, can be part of this transformation with **BricklayerDAO**. It's a platform bridging the gap between traditional real estate and blockchain technology. By combining transparency, liquidity, and community-driven governance, BricklayerDAO offers a unique entry point into the future of real estate investment.

Let's explore how BricklayerDAO can help stay ahead of other investors and help achieve tangible

results, arguing that the plaintiffs' individual claims do not meet the required threshold for a federal case.

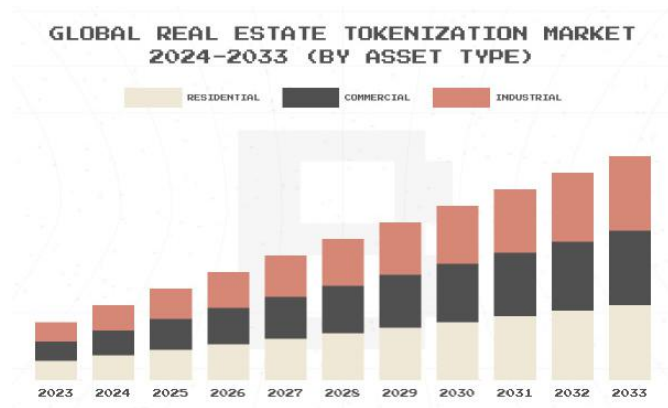
Earn Passive Wealth Through Tokenised Real Estate

BricklayerDAO offers you a unique opportunity to earn passive wealth through tokenised real estate investments. At the epicenter of this innovative approach lies a dual-token system: **BRCK** and **MRTR**.

These tokens aren't just digital assets; they're backed by real-world, revenue-generating properties, primarily industrial warehouses. This system blends traditional real estate income with blockchain technology to create a transparent and highly valuable investment model, offering both stability and accessibility.

BRCK and MRTR Tokens: Backed by Real-World Assets

The **BRCK** and **MRTR** tokens represent your fractional ownership in revenue-generating real estate assets. Unlike speculative cryptocurrencies, their value is directly tied to physical properties, such as industrial warehouses, leased to globally recognised Fortune 50 companies. This backing ensures that your tokens aren't only resilient to market volatility but also offer predictable income streams.



For example, when an industrial warehouse generates rental income, a portion of that revenue is distributed among BRCK and MRTR token holders. This creates a tangible link between token ownership and your passive income.

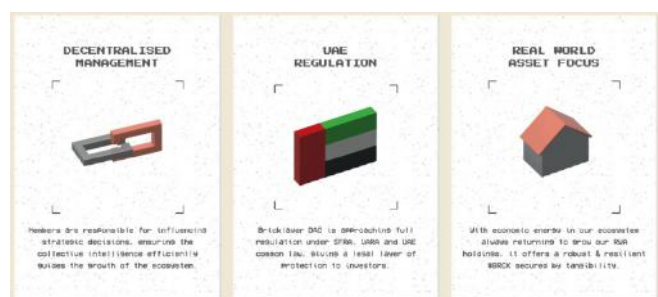
Currently, **MRTR tokens are available in a presale**, giving you an opportunity to secure your stake in these income-generating assets at preferential terms. By entering during the presale phase, you can potentially maximise your long-term returns as the value of these assets appreciates over time.

Stable Income Through Long-Term Rental Agreements

One of the key advantages of BricklayerDAO's real estate portfolio is the presence of **long-term rental agreements with Fortune 50 companies**. These agreements provide stability and predictability, minimising the risks often associated with short-term or uncertain leases.

For instance, an industrial warehouse leased to a Fortune 50 logistics company guarantees consistent rental payments over several years. This reliability translates into steady returns for you as a BRCK or MRTR token holder.

Additionally, long-term rental agreements reduce operational disruptions and provide a clear financial roadmap, allowing you to plan your financial strategies with confidence.



Accessibility Through Fractional Ownership

Traditional real estate investments often come with high entry barriers, requiring significant capital and complex legal processes. BricklayerDAO removes these barriers by offering **fractional ownership** through BRCK and MRTR tokens. You can now own a share of industrial real estate assets without needing millions in capital.

For example, instead of buying an entire warehouse, you can purchase BRCK or MRTR tokens, representing a fraction of the property. This approach democratises real estate investments, making them accessible regardless of your financial capacity.

Fractional ownership also enables diversification. Instead of concentrating your investment on a single property, you can spread your assets across multiple properties, reducing risk and optimising returns.

Lower Investment Barriers and Enhanced Liquidity

Beyond fractional ownership, the blockchain-based nature of BRCK and MRTR tokens reduces administrative and operational costs. You no longer need to navigate tedious paperwork or rely on intermediaries to manage your assets. Every transaction on the blockchain is **transparent, secure, and easily verifiable**.

Beyond fractional ownership, the blockchain-based nature of MRTR tokens enhances liquidity, a feature not typically associated with traditional real estate investments. The MRTR tokens will be available for purchase and trading on decentralized exchanges (DEXs), with **25.1% of the total supply (251,000,000 tokens) allocated to public DEXs and liquidity pools**.

This accessibility allows you to adjust your portfolio swiftly in response to market fluctuations. Additionally, blockchain technology reduced administrative and operational costs by eliminating intermediaries and tedious paperwork. Smart contracts further streamline the process by automating revenue distribution, ensuring efficiency and accuracy.

Experience Investor Empowerment Through DAO

In a DAO-driven ecosystem, your voice matters. The **quadratic voting mechanism** ensures fairness by giving every participant an equal opportunity to influence key decisions, regardless of their token holdings. This approach prevents dominance by a few large stakeholders and promotes balanced governance where every vote carries weight.

As an active member, you directly shape investment strategies and ecosystem developments. Your participation isn't just symbolic – it's impactful.

Decisions on **funding allocations, project approvals, and community initiatives** are all influenced by your input, nurturing transparency and collective accountability.

Owning a **Membership NFT** takes your involvement even further. This digital license grants you **Masonry** status with boosted voting power, exclusive invitations to events, and priority access to ecosystem services. It's your key to engaging with Bricklayer Ventures and staying ahead with insider opportunities.

The **Membership NFT collection** comes in four distinct rarity tiers:

Clay (59%)

Granite (30%)

Marble (10%)

Ten unique 1-of-1 gemstone variants

Each tier provides varying levels of privileges, making your engagement meaningful and rewarding.

To become a recognised **Mason**, you can actively contribute to the community in its early phases or secure your spot by holding 1+ BRCK tokens.

Why Early Investors in MRTR Stand to Benefit Most

Early adoption of the MRTR token comes with clear advantages that position you for long-term growth and influence within the BricklayerDAO ecosystem. Here are the key benefits:

Exclusive Early Access: Gain priority access to governance participation, decision-making processes, and ecosystem services ahead of the wider community.

Staking Rewards: Presale buyers have the option to stake their MRTR tokens for 12 months and receive lucrative yields, further enhancing their potential returns.

Token Pricing: Early investors can acquire MRTR tokens at more favourable rates, maximising value before broader market adoption.

Governance Influence: Early adopters hold increased voting power, allowing them to shape key decisions and the strategic direction of the platform.

Enhanced Incentives: Early participation often

includes bonus rewards, exclusive event invitations, and first access to upcoming features.

Positioned for Growth: As BricklayerDAO scales into diverse real estate asset classes, early investors will be well-positioned to benefit from increased platform utility and token demand.

Latest Milestones

BricklayerDAO is working tirelessly to make significant strides in the decentralized real estate industry. It has achieved some major milestones recently, such as:

Telegram Mini App: For easy accessibility and communication between investors and BricklayerDAO, a Telegram app has been launched. You can click [HERE](#) to access it.

BricklayerDAO x Cointelegraph: A strategic partnership between two powerhouses to ensure the visibility of the project increases and more exposure is acquired.

Contract with Amazon Warehouse: The portfolio of high-value real-estate assets is expanding exponentially, and this contract with Amazon Warehouse facility is a solid step in that direction.

Build Your Future, Brick by Brick

BricklayerDAO stands at the intersection of innovation and opportunity, offering a decentralised approach to real estate investment. With MRTR tokens, you gain more than just financial stakes. You will become active participants in a transparent, community-driven ecosystem designed for long-term growth and stability.

The presale phase isn't just an entry point; it's a strategic advantage. Early adopters secure governance rights, benefit from exclusive incentives and position themselves at the foundation of a platform poised for significant expansion across diverse real estate sectors.

The window of opportunity is wide open, **but it won't stay that way forever**. For those ready to step into a future where real estate investment is democratised and community-led, the time to act is now.

Secure your stake in **MRTR in presale** and be part of building a smarter, decentralised real estate industry.



Coinbase's Base Plans for 25 Million Users and \$100 Billion in Assets by 2025

Bubated Ethereum Layer 2 network – has announced an ambitious roadmap for 2025, in a bid to solidify its position as a leading player in the ecosystem.

According to the press release shared with CryptoPotato, the network aims to onboard 25 million users and 25,000 developers, significantly expanding its community and technical contributions. Base also plans to scale its blockspace capacity to 250 Mgas/s, to enable faster and more efficient transactions, while targeting \$100 billion in total assets on the platform.

Base Unveils Ambitious 2025 Goals
Base has outlined its 2025 strategy through five key focus areas. First, it aims to

empower developers by creating open tools, including OnchainKit and support for AI-driven apps, to streamline app development and adoption.

Second, it seeks to foster a robust ecosystem of on-chain applications, focusing on distribution, monetization, and improving core functionalities like social, trading, payments, and messaging.

Third, Base plans to simplify user experience by ramping up its Smart Wallet, to facilitate quick onboarding, seamless app interactions, and secure management of assets and identities. Fourth, it aims to become a hub for global on-chain markets by increasing asset liquidity.

[Read more...](#)

Indian crypto platform WazirX freezes \$3M to aid recovery from \$230M hack

Indian crypto sector rallies around WazirX, as \$3 million frozen to secure compromised funds.

Indian crypto exchange WazirX has frozen \$3 million in USDT as part of efforts to recover funds stolen during a \$230 million hack in July 2024.

The platform confirmed this progress in a Jan. 17 update on X, saying this move showcases its determination to safeguard user funds and rebuild trust after the breach.

It stated: “As part of the ongoing recovery efforts following



the cyberattack, \$3 million USDT has been successfully frozen. This marks an important milestone in safeguarding user interests and recovering stolen assets.”

WazirX co-founder Nischal Shetty said the fund recovery showed that the firm was “fully committed to recovering the stolen funds” and “leaving no stone unturned to maximize recoveries under a scheme.”

Over recent months, the platform has implemented various measures to reimburse

affected users. These include restructuring initiatives and plans to launch a decentralized exchange (DEX) to enhance user security.

Shetty reassured users that the recovery process is nearing completion, adding that the team will soon reflect the recovered funds in user accounts once the rebalancing is finalized.

Industry support
Since the attack, the broader crypto industry has shown solidarity with WazirX through various initiatives.

[Read more...](#)



CULTURAL CONVERGENCE

A CAUTIONARY TALE IN THE VOLATILE WORLD OF NFTS

In the fast-evolving world of blockchain technology and digital collectibles, one collection stands out for its remarkable rise. Mad Lads, an NFT collection built on the Solana blockchain, has recently skyrocketed to 6th place among the most valuable NFTs, by floor market cap. This surge in popularity coincides with an even bigger crypto narrative—the TRUMP memecoin buzz—showcasing the ever-evolving relationship between politics, pop culture, and digital currencies. In this blog, we'll explore the significance of Mad Lads' rise, how Solana has become a key player in the NFT space, and the impact of the TRUMP memecoin on the wider NFT market.



Mad Lads Solana NFTs: A Rising Star in the NFT Space

Mad Lads is a collection of 9,965 NFTs launched on April 19, 2023. Created by Armani Ferrante and Tristan Yver of Backpack Exchange, the project

blends anime-style art with Peaky Blinders-inspired themes, appealing to both pop culture enthusiasts and art collectors alike. The floor price of Mad Lads has surged to \$18,905, marking a 5.15% increase in the last 24 hours, signaling its strong demand. The collection has reached an impressive market cap of \$188.1 million, with \$473,788 in trading volume recorded over the last day alone. This surge places Mad Lads in the spotlight, firmly establishing it as a key player in the ever-expanding world of Solana-based NFTs.

But what makes Mad Lads so appealing? The collection's success lies not only in its striking artwork but also in the creativity and storytelling behind each digital asset. As a platform for artistic expression, NFTs have become a beacon for creators, and Mad Lads stands as an example of how to combine visual aesthetics with compelling narratives.

Moreover, the innovative nature of Solana's blockchain, which offers low-cost and high-speed transactions, has fueled the rise of Mad Lads and other NFT collections on the platform. Unlike Ethereum, which can be expensive and slow, Solana allows for a more efficient NFT trading experience. The combination of Solana's powerful infrastructure with the creativity of Mad Lads has created the perfect storm for success.

The Impact of TRUMP Memecoin Buzz on the NFT Market

While Mad Lads’ rise is impressive in its own right, the collection’s newfound popularity is partly attributed to the TRUMP memecoin buzz. On January 17, 2025, the TRUMP memecoin launched on the Solana network, which caught the attention of the crypto community and further boosted the Solana ecosystem’s momentum. Solana’s native coin, SOL, reached an all-time high of \$287, a 19% increase in just 24 hours, driven by the excitement surrounding the memecoin.

Memecoins, often seen as a playful side of the crypto world, have a long history of triggering viral trends and bringing in new investors. The TRUMP memecoin is no exception. But what makes this memecoin especially interesting is its political connection, being backed by US President-elect Donald Trump. This unique blend of politics, pop culture, and digital finance has created a narrative that resonates with a wide range of audiences, including crypto enthusiasts, collectors, and even those interested in Trump’s digital ventures.

The TRUMP memecoin has reignited interest in Trump’s Digital Trading Cards, which were launched as NFTs on the Polygon blockchain. These digital assets also saw a boost in sales, with the first collection reaching a floor price of \$936.91 and a 12% increase in the past 24 hours. This renewed attention from Trump’s supporters and crypto traders alike has spilled over into other Solana-based NFTs like Mad Lads. The memecoin’s success is a testament to how interconnected the crypto, NFT, and memecoin worlds truly are.

Collection	Price Floor	24h %	Top Bid	24h Volume	24h Sales	Owners	Linked	Supply	Market Cap
 CryptoPunks	37.25 ETH \$17,538	+1.62% +0.9%	-	423.33 ETH \$1,946,033	10	41.9%	10.89%	10,000	372,500 ETH \$1.7B
 Rugby Penguins	30.49 ETH \$15,043	-5.56% -6.5%	19.62 ETH \$104	1003 ETH \$5,446,233	49	51.14%	5.09%	8,668	182.11 ETH \$117.8M
 Bored Ape Yacht Club	14.30 ETH \$6,619	-0.34% -0.9%	10.89 ETH \$49.3k	229.82 ETH \$104,613	16	12.0%	2.7%	10,000	143,000 ETH \$69.4M
 Azuki	10.60 ETH \$5,050	+1.36% +1.9%	10.12 ETH \$47.5k	3655 ETH \$17,072,830	249	40.67%	6.40%	10,000	106,000 ETH \$53.4M
 Autograph	123.00 ETH \$58,328	0% -3.3%	40.79 ETH \$19.1k	0 ETH \$0	0	33.50%	0.00%	50	62.97 ETH \$3.0M
 Mad Lads	64.81 SOL \$18,675	+12.81% +5.00%	-	180 SOL \$47,575	20	11.00%	2.72%	1,000	846,829 SOL \$245.8M

Solana Fuels the NFT Rally

The Solana blockchain, long known for its scalability and low transaction fees, has become a major contender in the NFT space. In the past 24 hours, the Solana NFT market grew by 15%, bringing its total market cap to \$714 million. The trading volume during this period was \$3.39 million, according to

data from CoinGecko. This surge in activity reflects not only the success of collections like Mad Lads but also the growing adoption of Solana as a preferred blockchain for NFT creators and traders.

Several other Solana-based NFT collections have also seen an uptick in their value. Claynosaurz, for example, saw a 13.8% rise in its floor price, reaching \$4,882 with a market cap of \$48.8 million. Solana Monkey Business, another popular collection, recorded a 7.1% increase in its floor price to \$7,956 and reached a market cap of \$39.7 million. These developments underscore the strength of the Solana ecosystem and its increasing role in the NFT market.

But why is Solana becoming such a powerful player in the NFT space? The answer lies in its combination of efficiency, scalability, and low fees. As a result, more and more creators and collectors are flocking to Solana, drawn by the platform’s promise of faster, cheaper, and more accessible NFT experiences.

The Rise of TRUMP Memecoin: A Unique Digital Phenomenon

At the heart of the TRUMP memecoin craze lies an intriguing intersection of political narratives, pop culture, and digital assets. This convergence, while not entirely new, has taken on a particularly amplified form with the emergence of memecoins. Memecoins have long been a staple in the crypto landscape, offering a blend of humor, satire, and a sense of community-driven value. These digital currencies often thrive on social media, propelled by viral trends and shared inside jokes that resonate with a wide audience. However, the TRUMP memecoin stands out as a unique case in this space, combining the larger-than-life persona of a political figure with the thrill and volatility of the digital currency market.

What makes the TRUMP memecoin particularly fascinating is its seamless blend of political commentary with the excitement of cryptocurrency. By capitalizing on the popularity and polarizing nature of the former president, this memecoin has captured the attention of a wide demographic, ranging from crypto enthusiasts to political followers. It taps into the ongoing political discourse, turning it into a meme-driven financial product. This reflects the growing trend of how digital currencies

and memes can shape political narratives and influence public sentiment, further blurring the lines between politics and digital finance.

Cultural Influence: How Memecoins Impact the NFT Market

The excitement surrounding the TRUMP memecoin and similar tokens has had a profound effect on the broader cryptocurrency ecosystem, including the increasingly popular NFT market. As investors flock to memecoins, many have begun to recognize the cross-pollination between different sectors of the digital asset space. This influence is especially noticeable within the Solana ecosystem, where the speed, low fees, and scalability of the blockchain have made it a hub for both NFTs and memecoins. Investor sentiment in this space is often driven by meme culture, viral trends, and the influence of political figures, creating a unique confluence of digital trends.

The impact of memecoins like TRUMP on NFTs can be seen in how they shape the themes and narratives surrounding digital art collections. As NFTs gain mainstream attention, they are increasingly seen as platforms for cultural expression, incorporating not only traditional art forms but also elements of humor, satire, and political commentary. Memecoins have demonstrated the power of memes as a form of digital expression, and this influence is making its way into the NFT space. Collections that focus on memes, pop culture references, and even political themes are flourishing, reflecting the growing desire to use NFTs as a medium for cultural commentary and personal expression.

Mad Lads and Solana NFTs: Digital Collectibles as Cultural Statements

In this evolving digital landscape, collections like Mad Lads and other Solana-based NFTs have emerged as more than just digital assets—they have become symbols of evolving cultural trends. Mad Lads, in particular, represents a convergence of anime art, political influences, and meme culture. With its anime-inspired visuals and themes that echo popular culture and political narratives, Mad Lads has found a unique place within the NFT world. It is a perfect example of how digital art can transcend traditional boundaries, merging fandoms and creating a sense of community that reflects contemporary societal dynamics.

These Solana-based NFTs, driven by a strong sense of community and engagement, are not just about owning a digital collectible. They embody the ideas and narratives that shape the current cultural landscape. Whether it's the influence of political figures, the popularity of meme-driven humor, or the rise of anime culture, NFTs like Mad Lads are reflections of these evolving trends. The community-driven aspect of NFTs amplifies their value, as collectors and creators come together to participate in shared experiences and cultural conversations.

Community-Driven Narratives: NFTs as Cultural Commentary

One of the defining aspects of NFTs is their ability to act as vehicles for cultural commentary and personal expression. The rise of meme-driven NFTs, especially those linked to memecoins like TRUMP, shows how digital assets can be leveraged as a form of storytelling. Unlike traditional art forms, NFTs have the advantage of being able to incorporate real-time social and political narratives. The community that forms around a specific collection often contributes to the cultural dialogue, adding layers of meaning to the digital asset that extend far beyond the artwork itself.

NFTs have evolved into a medium that allows individuals to participate in a broader cultural conversation. As collectors and creators engage with the narratives tied to these digital assets, they are not only participating in the creation of art—they are shaping and influencing the discourse that defines their generation. The intersection of memes, politics, and digital currencies has given rise to a new form of cultural expression, one that is highly decentralized, participatory, and constantly evolving.

Mad Lads NFTs: More Than Just Digital Collectibles

A Unique Blend of Art and Community

Mad Lads NFTs have quickly risen to prominence, gaining a strong and dedicated following that extends beyond their striking art style. This project has garnered significant attention not only because of its unique visual appeal but also due to the active and passionate community it has successfully cultivated. The collection's growing popularity is a result of a perfect storm—its fusion of art,

storytelling, and cultural relevance. Fans aren't simply collecting digital assets; they are investing in a shared experience, one that is deeply rooted in a sense of belonging and community. This connection is evident through the high levels of social media activity, where fans and collectors continuously engage in vibrant discussions, share memes, and celebrate every milestone, making the Mad Lads ecosystem feel alive and ever-evolving. The social dynamics within this space further strengthen the bond between collectors and the collection itself, creating a community where individuals feel as though they are part of something much bigger than just an NFT drop.

Cultural Relevance: Anime Meets Peaky Blinders

As an NFT project, Mad Lads has carved out a distinct niche by merging traditional collectible art with the pulse of modern digital culture. The artwork, inspired by anime and influenced by iconic shows like Peaky Blinders, creates a unique cultural resonance that appeals to a diverse audience. This intersection of art and storytelling not only attracts collectors with an appreciation for high-quality visuals but also draws in those who identify with the broader narrative themes woven into the collection. Whether it's the gritty charm of Peaky Blinders or the dynamic energy of anime culture, Mad Lads has created an environment where art isn't just a passive form to appreciate—it's a living, breathing piece of a larger digital experience.

The Innovation Behind Mad Lads: A Team of Industry Veterans

The innovative spirit of the Mad Lads project is further driven by the team behind it, composed of industry veterans from the renowned Backpack Exchange. This experienced team brings a wealth of knowledge and creativity, constantly pushing the boundaries of what's possible within the Solana blockchain ecosystem. With Solana's fast, low-fee transactions, Mad Lads is well-positioned to continue its rapid rise. The collection's recent success, marked by its ascent to 6th place in the rankings, is a testament to its growing appeal. However, this milestone is only the beginning.

The Future of Mad Lads and Solana NFTs

The future of Mad Lads NFTs looks promising. As more people become aware of Solana's unique

value proposition and the growing significance of NFTs as digital assets, projects like Mad Lads are well-positioned for continued success. The success of Solana-based NFTs, including Mad Lads, will likely inspire more artists and creators to explore blockchain as a means for sharing their work, with the potential for new and exciting innovations.

With continued support from both the Solana community and the broader NFT space, Mad Lads and other Solana-based collections may continue to rise, pushing the boundaries of digital collectibles and offering new opportunities for creators, collectors, and investors alike.

1. Continued Growth in Solana's Ecosystem

With Solana's efficient blockchain and growing user base, Solana NFTs, including Mad Lads, are likely to continue thriving. As the ecosystem expands, platforms like Solana provide artists and creators with the tools needed to innovate further, fueling growth in the NFT market.

2. Increased Integration with the TRUMP Memecoin Buzz

The TRUMP memecoin's impact has been substantial, and this momentum may continue to drive awareness and interest in Solana NFTs. With the alignment of political and pop culture figures, there's potential for Solana-based NFTs to gain even more traction.

3. Enhancing Community Engagement

Mad Lads has demonstrated a strong community following, which is a key to their future success. Building on this engagement, the project is poised to offer more value through collaborations, events, and continued interaction with collectors. As the community grows, so will the project's influence in the NFT space.

4. Cross-Platform Collaborations and Partnerships

Future success could come from collaborations with other NFT projects, brands, and artists. By forging partnerships across Solana and other blockchain ecosystems, Mad Lads could attract new audiences and continue to expand its influence.

5. Focus on Unique Artistic and Narrative Designs

One of the core strengths of Mad Lads NFTs lies in their anime-inspired artwork and storytelling elements. With ongoing creativity and an evolving

narrative, the project has the potential to continue captivating both collectors and fans, making the assets more desirable.

6. Technological Advancements and Enhancements

As blockchain technology evolves, new features and capabilities can enhance the Mad Lads experience. From augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) integrations to interactive NFTs, future upgrades could redefine the way collectors engage with digital assets.

7. NFTs as Cultural Currency

With cultural trends, like the TRUMP memecoin buzz, influencing digital asset markets, Solana NFTs, including Mad Lads, may continue to intersect with wider societal phenomena. These NFTs could evolve into symbols of cultural relevance, offering unique ways for fans to express their affiliation with certain digital movements or ideologies.

8. The Rise of Solana's Competitive Advantage

As Ethereum gas fees remain high and transaction times are slower, Solana's scalable infrastructure offers a more attractive alternative. This could lead to further adoption of Solana-based NFTs, including Mad Lads, as collectors and creators look for more cost-efficient and fast options.

9. Increased Institutional Investment

The increasing popularity and market cap of Solana NFTs could attract institutional investors looking to capitalize on the NFT boom. With higher investment, Mad Lads could gain increased credibility and reach, which could further propel its ranking and influence in the market.

10. Expansion Beyond Collectibles into Utility

The future of Mad Lads may involve expanding their role from collectibles into more functional

NFTs. This could include offering exclusive access to events, digital services, or even integration with real-world applications like gaming, fashion, and entertainment. This evolution could add substantial value for collectors and expand the project's long-term viability.

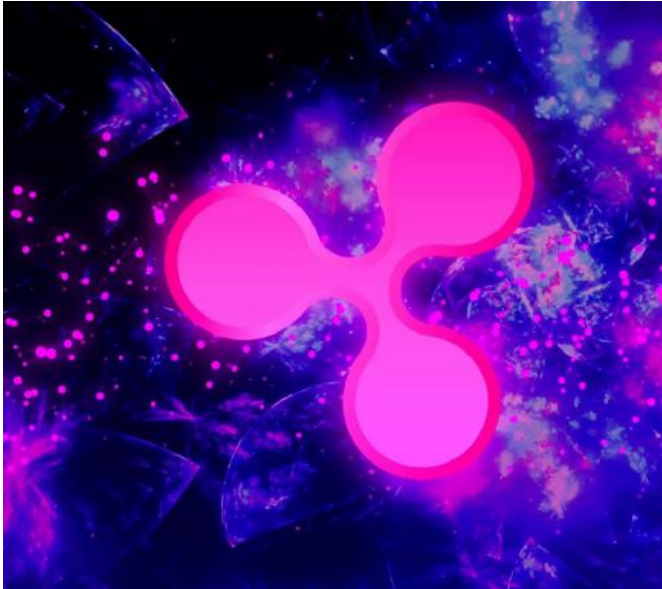
As the Solana NFT space continues to evolve, Mad Lads' growth potential seems promising, given their combination of artistic appeal, community involvement, and the scalability of the Solana blockchain. The intersection of technological progress, cultural influence, and an expanding market suggests that the future for Mad Lads and other Solana-based NFTs is bright.

Conclusion

Mad Lads' meteoric rise to 6th place among the most valuable NFTs showcases the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of the digital asset space. The convergence of politics, pop culture, and digital currencies—highlighted by the TRUMP memecoin buzz—has reshaped the NFT market, demonstrating the power of community-driven narratives and the importance of cultural relevance in the crypto world. With its creative artwork, strong community engagement, and the backing of Solana's efficient blockchain infrastructure, Mad Lads is poised to play a significant role in the future of NFTs.

As the NFT market continues to mature, projects like Mad Lads will serve as examples of how blockchain technology can drive innovation, empower creators, and connect global communities in ways that were once thought impossible. The future of NFTs on Solana looks bright, and Mad Lads is at the forefront of this exciting new frontier.





SEC moves ahead with Ripple appeal in Gensler's final days

Its research team continues to evaluate crypto assets like the firm has done for public equity markets and credit markets for decades

Ripple's CLO noted the SEC's brief is nothing but "a rehash of already failed arguments"

The SEC has moved forward with an appeal in its case against Ripple.

The securities regulator is seeking to reverse a 2023 ruling that determined retail sales of Ripple's XRP token were not unregistered securities offerings. Federal Judge Analisa Torres said that blind/programmatic sales of XRP, which occur on exchanges, were not in violation of US securities laws.

"The district court erred both factually and legally in concluding that defendants' offers

and sales of XRP to public buyers who purchased on crypto asset trading platforms," the SEC wrote in its opening brief, filed late last night.

Even if buyers didn't know their XRP tokens were coming from third parties or Ripple itself, Ripple still led the public to have "reasonable expectations of profits" from the cryptocurrency, the SEC said. Ripple's "public marketing campaign... specifically engaged 'less sophisticated' investors," the regulator added.

Ripple chief legal officer Stuart Alderoty dismissed the SEC's claims, writing on X that the brief is nothing but "a rehash of already failed arguments."

Plus, Alderoty added, new leadership at the SEC is likely to "abandon" the case altogether.

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Solana (SOL) Rockets to New All-Time High as TRUMP Mania Sweeps the Market

The cryptocurrency market has a new superstar that has evidently pushed the native token of the blockchain it is based on to a new all-time high.

More specifically, the newly launched OFFICIAL TRUMP meme coin has propelled a massive rally for SOL, which became the top gainer from the 10 largest alts and briefly spiked to \$270 for a fresh peak, according to CMC and most exchanges.

CryptoPotato reported earlier today the biggest news in the cryptocurrency industry as of late – the launch of an official meme coin by the president-elect, Donald Trump.

Given his popularity and significance not only in the crypto and financial markets but also in the entire world, the token (TRUMP) gained massive attention, and

its market cap has skyrocketed to roughly \$6 billion as of now, making it the 33rd largest digital asset by that metric.

Being based on Solana's blockchain, the demand for the asset, which saw trading volumes of over \$11 billion in the past 24 hours, impacted the former's native token as well.

In a landscape where most altcoins, as well as BTC, are posting daily declines, SOL has exploded by 18% within the past 24 hours and now sits at \$255. Moreover, it briefly spiked to \$270 on Coinbase and other exchanges to chart a new all-time high by breaking the November peak of \$265.

SOL's market cap has blown up as well and is now above \$120 billion, which made it the fifth-largest cryptocurrency, surpassing BNB's \$102 billion.



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MAKERSPLACE CLOSURE

A CAUTIONARY TALE IN THE VOLATILE WORLD OF NFTS



The world of digital art and non-fungible tokens (NFTs) has experienced a whirlwind of growth, evolution, and volatility over the past few years, with platforms like MakersPlace playing a pivotal role in shaping the NFT landscape. Launched in 2018, MakersPlace emerged as a significant digital art marketplace, offering artists, creators, and collectors an innovative space to mint, buy, and sell unique NFT-based artworks. The platform quickly gained attention for its use of blockchain technology to provide secure, verifiable ownership for digital art, enabling artists to monetize their creations in ways that were previously unimaginable. Over the course of its existence, MakersPlace became one of the leading platforms in the NFT space, partnering with renowned artists and securing investments from major backers like Pantera Capital, Coinbase Ventures, and Sony Music Entertainment.

However, in a shocking turn of events, MakersPlace announced its closure on January 15, 2024, citing ongoing market challenges and financial difficulties that made it impossible to sustain operations. The platform, which once thrived during the explosive growth of the NFT market, was no longer able to weather the storm brought on by a significant downturn in the market. The announcement of MakersPlace's shutdown is part of a larger trend within the NFT industry, which has faced a sharp decline in trading volumes and interest since its peak in 2021. As the digital art world grapples with the reality of a contracting market, MakersPlace's closure serves as a stark reminder of the volatility inherent in the NFT space, illustrating how even well-established platforms can be swept away by shifting market dynamics.

MakersPlace: A Brief History and Rise to Prominence

MakersPlace was founded in 2018 with a clear and ambitious vision: to bring digital art to the forefront of the global art scene through the use of blockchain technology. The platform sought to create a new kind of marketplace for digital creators, where they could not only showcase their works but also monetize them in ways that were never before possible. By utilizing blockchain's capabilities, MakersPlace allowed artists to mint their digital art as NFTs, providing a secure and



verifiable proof of ownership that could be bought, sold, and traded on the open market. This approach was revolutionary in how it provided digital creators with the same kind of ownership and scarcity that traditional art forms enjoy.

The idea of NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) was still in its infancy when MakersPlace launched, but the platform quickly gained momentum by positioning itself as a trusted venue for both creators and collectors of digital art. Unlike traditional art marketplaces, which often required artists to depend on galleries, auction houses, or agents to reach buyers, MakersPlace offered a direct-to-collector model. This model empowered artists by allowing them to control the distribution and sale of their works, keeping more profits in their hands. Additionally, the blockchain-backed certificates of authenticity gave both buyers and sellers a sense of security and transparency that traditional art markets lacked.

MakersPlace provided artists with creative freedom while offering them a way to profit from their work. By allowing digital art to be sold as NFTs, the platform opened up new revenue streams for creators. Whether they were well-established artists with a large following or newcomers looking for exposure, the platform became an attractive option for anyone wanting to monetize their digital creations. The ability to mint NFTs on the blockchain meant that creators could also track their works, ensuring that they received the credit and financial compensation they deserved every time their art was sold or resold.

The Decline of the NFT Market

However, the rapid rise of NFTs was followed by an equally swift decline. By 2024, the NFT market was experiencing its worst performance levels since its inception. Trading volumes, which had surged to all-time highs in 2021, plummeted, and the enthusiasm surrounding NFTs began to fade. This decline was particularly pronounced in the wake of the broader cryptocurrency market downturn, which affected investor sentiment and liquidity.

At its peak in 2021, the NFT market was worth billions of dollars, with platforms like OpenSea, Rarible, and MakersPlace leading the charge. The advent of highly sought-after NFT collections, such

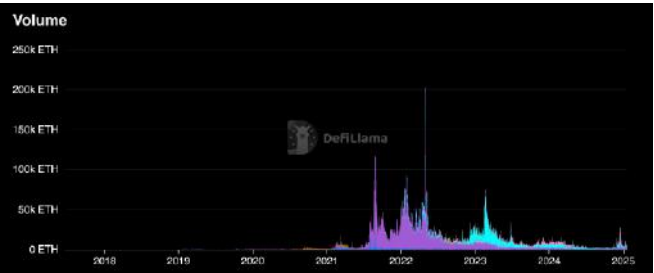
as the Bored Ape Yacht Club and CryptoPunks, generated widespread media coverage and excitement. The popularity of NFTs was driven by their perceived potential to revolutionize the way digital art and collectibles were valued and traded, creating new avenues for artists and investors to profit.

But as the crypto market entered a “crypto winter” in 2022 and 2023, the demand for NFTs began to wane. The high volatility of cryptocurrencies, coupled with regulatory uncertainty, made investors hesitant to commit large sums to digital assets. Additionally, the saturation of the market with low-quality projects and speculative investments led to a loss of trust among many collectors and artists. As the excitement around NFTs faded, platforms like MakersPlace, which had thrived during the boom, began to face increasing financial pressure.

Name	Volume change	Volume 1d	Volume 7d
2 Opensea	+715%	1128.82	8180.53
3 Blur Aggregator	+49.40%	1022.91	9940.99
4 Cryptopunks	+122%	590.56	2216.28
5 Superrare	+197%	52.18	73.12
6 X2Y2	+43.25%	18.84	376.53
7 Gem	-39.95%	16.35	549.10
8 Sudoswap	+9.30%	5.84	26.61

MakersPlace Shuts Down: What Happened?

On January 15, 2024, MakersPlace officially announced its closure. According to the company’s content manager, Brady Evan Walker, the platform’s inability to sustain operations amidst the market downturn and ongoing funding challenges led to the decision. MakersPlace revealed that while new account sign-ups and NFT minting would be disabled immediately, users would still be able to buy, sell, and transfer NFTs on the platform until it completely shut down in June 2025.



MakersPlace's closure was a direct result of the broader decline in the NFT market. The announcement cited the company's failure to maintain a steady flow of revenue in the face of declining interest and competition from other platforms. Despite raising \$30 million in funding from major investors such as Pantera Capital, Coinbase Ventures, and Sony Music Entertainment in 2021, MakersPlace struggled to stay afloat as the market shifted away from NFTs and digital collectibles.

MakersPlace's Funding Journey and The 2021 NFT Boom

In 2021, MakersPlace was one of the many platforms that capitalized on the NFT market boom. The platform raised \$30 million in a Series B funding round, which included investment from major players in the venture capital and entertainment sectors. This round of funding was aimed at expanding MakersPlace's operations, building out its infrastructure, and increasing its user base as NFTs became a mainstream phenomenon.

MakersPlace's Role in the Digital Art World

MakersPlace was not just a marketplace—it was a community of digital artists, collectors, and enthusiasts. The platform fostered an environment where creators could thrive, express themselves, and monetize their work in new and innovative ways. Through its support of limited-edition drops, collaborations with established artists, and a curated collection of works, MakersPlace quickly became a hub for digital creativity.

The limited-edition drops were one of the key factors in MakersPlace's rise to prominence. By allowing artists to release exclusive collections of digital art, MakersPlace was able to generate excitement and anticipation for these works, creating an atmosphere of exclusivity and scarcity. Collectors were drawn to the idea of owning something truly unique—something that no one else could replicate. This sense of scarcity, combined with the authenticity of the blockchain, made NFTs on MakersPlace particularly appealing to collectors looking for high-value assets.

MakersPlace also supported emerging artists by offering them exposure to a global audience. The platform's curated approach to NFT art meant

that only the most promising works were featured, helping to maintain a level of quality that appealed to both collectors and investors. At the same time, MakersPlace offered a supportive environment for newcomers who were looking to make their mark in the NFT space. Through its easy-to-use platform, artists could quickly mint their works and begin selling them, reaching a global audience of potential buyers.

The partnerships that MakersPlace forged with top artists and companies helped the platform stand out from other NFT marketplaces. Beeple, one of the most well-known names in the NFT space, partnered with MakersPlace to release several of his works on the platform. His work, "Everydays: The First 5000 Days," made history when it sold for \$69 million at a Christie's auction in March 2021. This sale marked a pivotal moment for the NFT industry, and MakersPlace played a key role in showcasing Beeple's work to the world. The platform's association with such high-profile figures added legitimacy to the NFT space and helped fuel the frenzy around digital art.

The decline of the NFT market began to take hold after the speculative bubble burst in early 2022. With the rise of cryptocurrencies and NFTs, many investors flocked to the digital asset space, hoping to profit from the surge in prices. However, as the market became increasingly saturated, demand for NFTs began to slow down. The oversupply of low-quality projects and the growing number of NFT platforms made it difficult for any one platform, including MakersPlace, to maintain its dominance.

The Broader Impact of MakersPlace's Shutdown on the NFT Market

MakersPlace's closure marks a significant turning point in the NFT space. The platform's shutdown is just one of several NFT marketplaces that have ceased operations in recent years. In 2023, platforms like Recur and Voice also shut down due to similar challenges in the crypto market. The closures of these platforms highlight the volatility of the NFT market and the risks involved in investing in digital assets.

While the shutdown of MakersPlace is a sign of the times, it also raises questions about the long-term sustainability of the NFT industry. Many experts

and analysts believe that the market will eventually recover and evolve, but the current downturn has led to a consolidation of resources and a shift away from speculative investments. The closure of MakersPlace signals that platforms that fail to adapt to the changing market conditions may not survive in the long run.

Despite the challenges, some industry figures remain optimistic about the future of NFTs. Animoca Brands chairman Yat Siu has expressed confidence that NFTs will make a comeback, potentially outperforming their previous peak. According to Siu, the market will mature, and NFTs will become more integrated into mainstream industries, including gaming, entertainment, and digital ownership.

The Environmental Concerns: Sustainability Issues Facing NFTs

One issue that has weighed heavily on the NFT market is the environmental impact of blockchain technology, particularly Ethereum, the network on which many NFTs are minted. Ethereum's Proof of Work (PoW) consensus mechanism has long been criticized for its high energy consumption and carbon footprint. While the Ethereum network has transitioned to Proof of Stake (PoS) in an effort to reduce energy use, environmental concerns remain a significant point of contention for both creators and buyers in the NFT space.

As awareness of climate change grows, the demand for environmentally friendly digital platforms has increased. This shift could drive the development of more sustainable blockchain technologies that allow for energy-efficient NFT transactions. Platforms like Tezos and Flow are already working on this issue, but broader industry changes may be necessary for NFTs to overcome the environmental concerns that have plagued them from the start.

Lessons from MakersPlace: What Can We Learn from the Platform's Journey?

The rise and fall of MakersPlace offer valuable lessons for those looking to understand the broader trends within the NFT space. One of the key takeaways is that the NFT market is highly speculative, and platforms must adapt quickly to changing market conditions. MakersPlace, despite its strong initial backing and success, struggled

to maintain relevance as the market shifted away from NFTs.

The lesson for future NFT projects and marketplaces is clear: sustainability is key. Platforms that rely on short-term trends and speculative buying will likely face the same fate as MakersPlace. Instead, the future of NFTs may lie in their integration into industries such as gaming, virtual reality, and digital ownership. Projects that prioritize long-term value, real-world applications, and sustainable business models will have a better chance of thriving in the coming years.

The Future of NFTs: Will They Recover?

While MakersPlace and other NFT platforms have struggled to maintain relevance in the current market climate, the future of NFTs is still uncertain. Some believe that NFTs are simply undergoing a natural market correction, while others argue that the technology itself is flawed and unsustainable in its current form.

The NFT industry's future may depend on its ability to adapt and find new use cases beyond digital art and collectibles. One promising area of growth is the integration of NFTs into gaming and virtual worlds. Projects like Decentraland and The Sandbox are exploring the use of NFTs for in-game assets, virtual real estate, and other forms of digital ownership. Additionally, NFTs are being explored as a means of authenticating physical goods and intellectual property rights, offering a broader range of applications outside the art world.

Another factor that may influence the future of NFTs is the regulatory environment. Governments around the world are beginning to take a closer look at NFTs, with some considering potential regulations to address concerns about fraud, money laundering, and environmental impact. As the industry matures, it is likely that clearer guidelines will emerge, which could help restore confidence among investors and creators alike.

Conclusion

MakersPlace's closure is a sobering reminder of the volatility that exists within the digital asset space. The platform's rise and fall mirror the larger boom-and-bust cycle that has characterized the NFT market. Despite its struggles in the face of market

decline, MakersPlace played a significant role in the early days of the NFT movement, helping to establish digital art as a legitimate and valuable asset class.

While MakersPlace may be shutting down, its legacy will continue to influence the NFT space. The platform's contributions to the democratization of digital art and its role in fostering a global community of artists and collectors cannot be understated. As the NFT market continues to evolve, MakersPlace's story will serve as a cautionary tale of the risks and rewards of investing in emerging technologies.

In the end, MakersPlace's closure is not the end of NFTs, but rather a reflection of the challenges that come with operating in a rapidly changing market. The future of NFTs may look different, but the technology and its potential for transforming industries like art, gaming, and digital ownership are here to stay. Whether the NFT market experiences a full recovery or undergoes a dramatic transformation, one thing is certain: the impact of NFTs on the world of digital assets is far from over.

FAQs

1. What is MakersPlace?

MakersPlace is a digital marketplace that allows artists to mint, showcase, and sell their digital art as NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens). Founded in 2018, it leverages blockchain technology to offer secure, verifiable ownership of digital art, empowering artists to directly engage with collectors. It became a leading platform for digital creators and art enthusiasts worldwide. MakersPlace helped shape the early landscape of NFTs and became one of the top venues for buying and selling exclusive digital artworks.

2. How do NFTs on MakersPlace work?

NFTs on MakersPlace function as unique, blockchain-backed digital assets that represent ownership of a specific piece of digital art. Artists

mint their works as NFTs, which are then sold on the platform. Buyers can verify the authenticity and ownership of the art, and artists earn royalties from secondary sales, creating a new revenue model for creators. The NFTs are minted on the Ethereum blockchain, ensuring a decentralized and transparent marketplace.

3. Who can sell art on MakersPlace?

Anyone can sell their digital art on MakersPlace, provided they meet the platform's approval process. This includes both established artists and newcomers. MakersPlace has a curatorial approach, ensuring that only high-quality, original works are featured, offering a trusted environment for collectors. New artists are given opportunities to showcase their work alongside well-known creators, gaining visibility and exposure in the growing NFT market.

4. What types of digital art can be sold on MakersPlace?

MakersPlace allows the sale of various forms of digital art, including illustrations, animations, videos, and even music. The platform supports a wide range of creative expressions, making it an ideal venue for diverse creators to explore the world of NFTs. Artists have the freedom to experiment with innovative mediums, combining digital technology with traditional art forms to create groundbreaking, collectible digital pieces.

5. Why did MakersPlace shut down?

MakersPlace announced its closure due to the NFT market downturn and challenges in securing additional funding. Despite being a key player in the NFT space, it faced difficulties amid market fluctuations, regulatory uncertainty, and the overall slowdown of the cryptocurrency market, leading to the platform's decision to shut down operations by June 2025. Despite its closure, MakersPlace remains a significant part of the history of NFTs, having contributed to the digital art revolution. The platform will allow users to offload NFTs until June 2025, giving them ample time to transition.



Crypto.com Exchange Secures 'In-Principle' MiCA License, Paving the Way for Full European Union Approval

The Singapore-based exchange Crypto.com has secured an "in-principle" license to operate under the European Union's new digital asset regulatory framework.

Crypto.com bills itself as the "first major global crypto asset service provider" to receive a Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) approval.

MiCA is new EU legislation that establishes rules covering the supervision, consumer protection and environmental safeguards of crypto assets.

The regulatory framework, which took effect in December, includes measures that aim

to reduce financial crimes including market manipulation, money laundering and terrorist financing. It also places stablecoin issuers under the European Banking Authority and requires them to hold sufficient liquid reserves.

The in-principle license paves the way for full regulatory approval, which would enable Crypto.com to provide a full range of digital asset services across the EU.

Eric Anziani, the exchange's president and chief operating officer, says the EU is "a growing and vital hub for crypto investment."

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Trump-Linked DeFi Venture Buys \$48M in ETH as Son Eric Drops Hint

The platform has acquired 14,403 ETH, raising its total Ethereum holdings to 28,612, valued at approximately \$109 million.

World Liberty Financial (WLF) has scooped up \$48 million worth of Ethereum over an eight-hour buying spree, stretching from Sunday afternoon to late evening.

The purchases come as the Trump family

has rocked the crypto industry with consecutive meme coin launches over the weekend.

The platform purchased 14,403 ETH at an average price of roughly \$3,300, data from Arkham Intelligence shows. This brings the Trump-linked total holdings in ETH to 28,612, worth approximately \$109 million at current prices.

"Wait until you see what they do tomorrow," Eric



Trump posted on X, tagging the project's account after the initial transactions surfaced.

Further details on what's expected were not provided. Decrypt has reached out to the project to learn more.

WLF's accumulation follows the project's clarification last Tuesday, when it moved approximately \$60 million in assets, writing on X that this was part of the ven-

ture's routine "treasury management" for its operations.

This involves "payment of fees and expenses" and "working capital requirements," the project explained, as speculations of its trading activity began circulating on social media.

"The timing is notable given recent Trump-related token activity on Solana," Min Jung, an analyst at Presto Research, told Decrypt.

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Vitalik Buterin announces leadership changes for Ethereum Foundation

People seeking a different vision are welcome to start their own organizations,” Buterin wrote in a Jan. 18 social media post.

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin announced major changes to the Ethereum Foundation’s leadership to emphasize technical expertise and improve communication between the foundation and builders in the Ethereum ecosystem.

Buterin outlined several

goals for an overhaul in a Jan. 18 X post, which included supporting decentralized application developers and promoting decentralization, censorship resistance, and privacy.

The Ethereum co-founder also said the Ethereum Foundation would not engage in political lobbying, ideological shifts, or take a more central role in the development of the Ethereum ecosystem.

This leadership change at the Ethereum



Foundation follows a rocky year in 2024, which saw the Foundation’s spending, roadmap goals, and personnel come under fire from the Ethereum community.

The Ethereum Foundation instituted a conflict of interest policy in May 2024 after several notable researchers at the Foundation

took paid advisory roles at the EigenLayer Foundation — the organization that oversees the development of the restaking protocol.

Justin Drake, a long-time researcher at the Ethereum Foundation, accepted a paid advisory role at the EigenLayer Foundation in May 2024, followed by Dankrad Feist.

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Vitalik Buterin suggests AI hardware pause for humanity’s safety

Buterin said a last resort to “slow down” dangerous forms of superintelligent AI would be to restrict available global computing power for a year or two.

Ethereum co-founder Vitalik Buterin said temporarily halting globally accessible computational resources might be a way to “buy more time for humanity” in the face of a potentially dangerous form of AI superintelligence.

In a Jan. 5 blog post following up his November 2023 post advocating the idea of “defensive accelerationism,” or d/acc, Buterin said superintelligent AI might be as little as five years away, and there’s no

telling if the outcome would be positive.

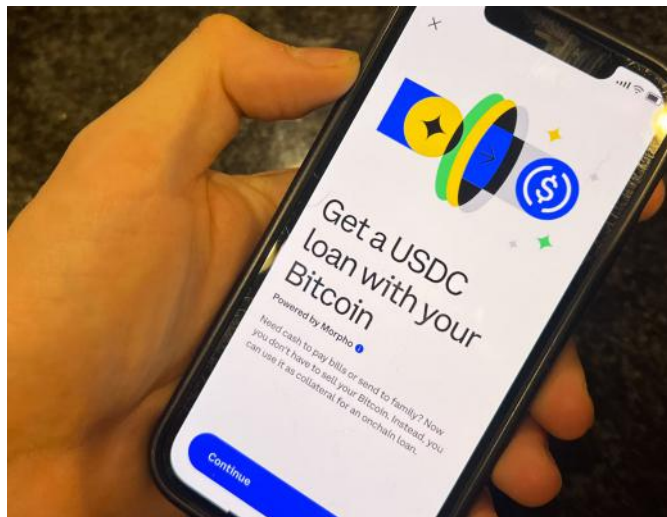
Buterin said a “soft pause” on industrial-scale computer hardware could be an option to slow AI development if this happens, reducing available global computing power by up to 99% for one to two years “to buy more time for humanity to prepare.”

AI superintelligence is a theoretical AI model that is typically defined as being far more intelligent than the most brilliant humans in all fields of expertise.

Many tech executives and researchers have aired concerns about AI, with over 2,600 urging in a March 2023.

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Coinbase to Offer Bitcoin-Backed Loans Through Morpho



Telegram is continuing its embrace of crypto, adding support for a feature that lets users convert gifts into NFTs on The Open Network (TON).

The ability to post collateral, rather than credit rating, will determine whether a client can borrow.

Crypto exchange Coinbase is adding bitcoin-backed loans to its U.S. product offerings through the Morpho platform.

Borrowers will post sizable amounts of collateral rather than rely on their credit score for access.

The new setup feeds the Coinbase flywheel at every step.

Coinbase (COIN) is adding bitcoin-backed loans to its U.S. prod-

uct lineup, leaning on Morpho, the largest lending platform on its Base network, to drive eyeballs and wallets to its growing on-chain economy.

The lending product isn't completely new: those familiar with playing on Base have long been able to borrow USDC against their bitcoin on Morpho or via other DeFi services. What's new here is the easy access: Coinbase is baking Morpho's borrow books into its own widely popular user interface, removing a critical barrier to entry.

"This is a moment where we're planting a flag that Coinbase is coming on-chain, and we're bringing millions of users with their billions of dollars," said Max Branzburg, head of Consumer Products at Coinbase.

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Crypto-Friendly Retail Trading Platform eToro Files for IPO on US Stock Market: Report

Israel-based retail trading firm eToro is reportedly spurning the London Stock Exchange in hopes of chasing a US initial public offering (IPO).

According to a new report by The Financial Times, people familiar with the matter say that the crypto-friendly trading platform has made confidential filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) even though its largest market is the United Kingdom.

Confidential filings allow firms to pursue their plans without revealing them to the public until they are ready.

The report also says that eToro is seeking a \$5 billion evaluation and could be live in the New York markets as soon as Q2 of this year.

Last year, eToro chief executive and founder

Yoni Assia told The Financial Times that being listed in the US instead of in the UK could give the company access to more investors.

"Very few of our global clients would trade UK shares. Something in the US market creates a pool of both deep liquidity and deep awareness for those assets that are trading in the US."

eToro, which launched in 2007, had tried to go public in 2021 through a \$10.4 billion deal with a Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC) but eventually canceled the plans after the implosion of SPACs.

In 2023, eToro was valued at \$3.5 billion after a funding round where the firm raised \$250 million from investors such as the Tokyo-based asset management firm SoftBank and market data company Ion Group.



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Bitcoin adoption is outpacing the internet and mobile phones – BlackRock



BlackRock also advocated Bitcoin exposure through its spot ETF, IBIT, as it deems direct exposure complex for many.

Bitcoin's (BTC) adoption is outpacing the transformative technologies of the past, including the internet and mobile phones, according to a recent report by BlackRock.

The document highlighted that since its launch in 2009, Bitcoin has quickly evolved from a niche innovation to a globally recognized asset. It attributed the evolution to demographic trends, economic shifts, and the ongoing digital transformation of finance.

Younger generations, often referred to as "digital natives," are significantly more inclined to embrace Bitcoin compared to Gen X and Baby Boomers. Their

comfort with technology and preference for digital-first solutions have positioned them as the leading demographic in crypto adoption.

Regarding economic shifts, trends such as rising inflation, geopolitical tensions, and concerns over traditional banking systems have highlighted Bitcoin's value as a decentralized asset.

It added that, in uncertain times, Bitcoin's independence from central authorities has resonated with investors worldwide.

The third driver is the maturation of digital asset infrastructure, which has lowered Bitcoin's barriers to entry while creating new use cases. As the global economy digitizes, BTC is becoming integral to the evolving financial landscape.

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Latam Insights Encore: El Salvador Is Becoming Latam's Crypto Hub

Welcome to Latam Insights Encore, a deep dive into Latin America's most relevant economic and cryptocurrency news from the past week. This edition examines how El Salvador is becoming the capital of crypto for Latam, moving its economy positively.

Latam Insights Encore: El Salvador Will Become Latam's Crypto Hub El Salvador, a little nation that just five years ago was not in the sights of anyone five years ago, is in the process of becoming a pioneer in the crypto industry in Latam. Just this last week, two crypto and tech-linked companies announced their entrance to the country.

Tether, one of the landmarks of the stablecoin

and crypto industry, announced first that it was moving its headquarters to El Salvador. The company, that issues USDT, praised the conditions offered by EL Salvador's regulatory framework to crypto companies, stating that it would allow them to produce innovative products.

Later, Tether CEO Paolo Ardoino confirmed that this movement would include the construction of a skyscraper in a yet undisclosed location, hinting at a possible movement from Tether's associated companies into the country.

Rumble, a video distribution and cloud computing services company, also announced it would start hiring locally to open offices in El Salvador.



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