

JANUARY 6th, 2026

CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

408TH
EDITION

CRYPTOGAMES EXPANDS ONLINE CASINO OPERATIONS IN 2026



PLATINUM
CRYPTO ACADEMY

CONTENTS

CRYPTONAIRE
WEEKLY
CRYPTO INVESTMENT JOURNAL

05 WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

07 PRESS RELEASE

WINITY LIFE LAUNCHES WINITY LOOP, A REFERRAL PROGRAM THAT TURNS EVERYDAY SPENDING INTO SHARED VALUE 07

CRYPTOGAMES AFFIRMS A FORWARD-FOCUSED STRATEGY FOR ONLINE CASINO OPERATIONS 09

BITCOIN BRIEFLY HITS \$93,000 AS CRYPTO MARKET EXTENDS NEW YEAR RALLY WITH \$260 MILLION IN LIQUIDATIONS 11

ETHEREUM POWERS \$8T IN STABLECOIN TRANSFERS IN Q4, SMASHING RECORD 12

CRYPTO GIANT BITWISE FILES FOR ZCASH, AAVE, SUI AND EIGHT ADDITIONAL ALTCOIN ETFS WITH SEC 12

14 HOW UK FINANCIAL LTD'S ERC-3643 TOKENS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF REGULATED CRYPTO TRADING?

BLACKROCK'S BITCOIN ETF SEES BIGGEST INFLOW IN THREE MONTHS AS CRYPTO PRICES RISE 17

TETHER JUST BOUGHT 8,888 BITCOIN, EXPOSING A MECHANICAL PROFIT ENGINE TURNING T-BILLS INTO AUTOMATIC CRYPTO DEMAND 17

18 BITCOIN MINING REVIEW 2026: PROFITABILITY, COSTS, HARDWARE, AND REAL MINING STRATEGIES

ETHEREUM NEW ADDRESSES UP 110% SINCE FUSAKA UPGRADE, ADDING 292,000 WALLETS DAILY 24

NOTORIOUS BITCOIN HACKER RELEASED YEARS EARLY, CREDITS TRUMP 24

BITCOIN TURNS 17-YEARS OLD TODAY: FROM 'MAGIC MONEY' TO GLOBAL ASSET 25

COINBASE EXITS ARGENTINA: PESO-TO-USDC TRADING ENDS JANUARY 2026 25

RUSSIA'S BIGGEST BANK ISSUES FIRST CRYPTO-BACKED LOAN TO BITCOIN MINING COMPANY 26

BITMINE STAKES \$259M MORE ETH, PUSHING VALIDATOR ENTRY QUEUE NEAR 1M ETHER 26

IRAN ACCEPTS CRYPTOCURRENCY AS PAYMENT FOR ADVANCED WEAPONS 27

COINBASE TARGETING STABLECOIN GROWTH, ONCHAIN ADOPTION IN 2026: BRIAN ARMSTRONG 27

EUROPEAN CRYPTO TRADING VOLUME IS SOARING, BUT A HIDDEN "VENUE GAP" IS SILENTLY KILLING YOUR EXECUTION PRICE 28

CRYPTO MONEY ON THE MOVE: \$110 BILLION FLEES SOUTH KOREA IN 2025 28



EDITORS LETTER

Bitcoin pushed higher over the weekend and carried that strength into Monday, extending its recovery as risk appetite slowly returned to the market. Sentiment has started to improve, with the Crypto Fear and Greed Index shifting back to neutral after spending most of the past few months stuck in fear territory. From a seasonal perspective, January has historically been kind to Bitcoin. Since 2020, BTC has closed January in the red only once, and data going back to 2013 shows an average January gain of nearly 4%. If this pattern plays out again, Bitcoin could remain supported through the early part of the year. Institutional flows are also turning positive. Spot Bitcoin ETFs recorded \$471 million in inflows on Friday, the strongest single-day inflow since November, suggesting larger players are stepping back in at current levels.

Bitcoin closed above its 50-day simple moving average around \$89,200 on Friday and followed through with strength, pushing price toward the key resistance zone near \$94,600. Momentum is clearly improving, with the moving averages close to flipping bullish and the RSI holding comfortably in positive territory. This tells us buyers are in control for now. If BTC can break and hold above \$94,600, the path opens toward the psychological \$100,000 level, with \$107,500 coming into view next. However, if price gets rejected at resistance and slips back below the moving averages, Bitcoin may stay stuck in a broad consolidation range between roughly \$84,000 and \$94,600 as the market digests recent gains.

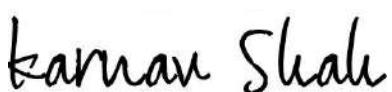
Ether has continued to attract dip buyers and is now pressing up against the resistance line of its symmetrical triangle. The technical picture has improved, with a bullish moving-average crossover in place and RSI strength showing solid momentum. A clean close above the triangle resistance would confirm a breakout and could send ETH toward \$3,650 initially, followed by a test of the \$4,000 region. On pullbacks, the moving averages and the lower boundary of the triangle are likely to act as support. Bears would need to force ETH back below that support line to regain control and restart the downtrend.

BNB has also strengthened, extending its move higher after reclaiming the moving averages and heading toward the \$928 resistance level. This zone is critical, as a close above it would complete an ascending triangle pattern and signal continuation toward the \$1,060 area. Until that breakout happens, sellers are expected to defend this level. A rejection and move back below the moving averages would point to range-bound action, with price likely oscillating between \$790 and \$928.

Trader's Outlook:

Bitcoin is testing a key resistance zone near \$94,600, and a strong close above this level could open a move toward \$100,000, while failure may keep price rotating back toward the \$89,000–\$84,000 support area. Ether looks relatively strong, with the triangle structure hinting at an upcoming breakout, and a push above resistance could quickly send ETH toward \$3,650 and \$4,000. If ETH fails to break higher, consolidation is likely as long as key supports hold. BNB is approaching a decision point at \$928, where a breakout would signal continuation toward the \$1,060 region, while rejection could lead to range-bound trading. Overall market sentiment has improved, but traders should wait for confirmed breakouts before increasing risk exposure.

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



Karnav Shah

Founder, CEO & Editor-in-Chief



CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY



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

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

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

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

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

408th EDITION

RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW

ADVERTISE WITH US @ CRYPTONAIRE WEEKLY

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



Featuring in this weeks Edition:

- Winity Life
- CryptoGames
- UK Financial Ltd
- Aetheris

Also Get,

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

HOW UK FINANCIAL LTD'S ERC-3643 TOKENS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF REGULATED CRYPTO TRADING?

BITCOIN MINING REVIEW 2026: PROFITABILITY, COSTS, HARDWARE, AND REAL MINING STRATEGIES

For Latest update

SUBSCRIBE NOW



WEEKLY CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET ANALYSIS

Hello, welcome to this week's 408th edition of Cryptonaire Weekly Magazine. The global crypto market cap is \$3.21 trillion, Up \$210 billion since last week. The total crypto market trading volume over the last 24 hours is \$124.56 billion, which makes a 38.70% increase in the last 24 hours. The Fear & Greed index is 49% Neutral and the Altcoin season index is 26%. The largest gainers in the industry right now are Polkadot Ecosystem and XRP Ledger Ecosystem cryptocurrencies.

Bitcoin's price has increased by 5.91% from \$88,375 last week to around \$936,00 and Ether's price has increased by 6.81% from \$3,010 last week to \$3,215

Bitcoin's market cap is \$1.87 trillion and the altcoin market cap is \$1.34 trillion.

Bitcoin pushed higher over the weekend and carried that strength into Monday, extending its recovery as risk appetite slowly returned to the market. Sentiment has started to improve, with the Crypto Fear and Greed Index shifting back to neutral after spending most of the past few months stuck in fear territory. From a seasonal perspective, January has historically been kind to Bitcoin. Since 2020, BTC has closed January in the red only once, and data going back to 2013 shows an average January gain of nearly 4%. If this pattern plays out again, Bitcoin could remain supported through the early part of the year. Institutional flows are also turning positive. Spot Bitcoin ETFs recorded \$471 million in inflows on Friday, the strongest single-day inflow since November, suggesting larger players are stepping back in at current levels.

Political alignment between the crypto industry and US leadership is also becoming more visible. Major exchanges such as Gemini and Crypto.com have made sizable contributions to pro-Trump political groups ahead of the US primaries. These donations reflect the sector's growing confidence in a more crypto-friendly regulatory environment, which has already delivered policy changes such as stablecoin legislation, leadership shifts at key regulators and ongoing progress toward a broader crypto market structure framework.

On the investment side, crypto products continued to attract strong capital over 2025. Exchange-traded crypto products pulled in roughly \$47 billion in inflows, just slightly below 2024's record. While Bitcoin inflows slowed compared to the previous year, Ether, XRP and Solana saw sharp growth. Ether products led the way with inflows jumping more than 130%, while Solana and XRP funds posted explosive growth as investors diversified beyond Bitcoin. Total crypto ETP assets under management climbed to around \$180 billion, underlining the steady expansion of institutional exposure.

From a technology standpoint, Ethereum took another step forward. Vitalik Buterin said Ethereum has effectively addressed the blockchain trilemma through live upgrades such as data availability sampling and progress toward ZK-EVMs. These developments aim to improve scalability without sacrificing decentralization or security, strengthening Ethereum's long-term foundation.

Market Outlook:

The broader crypto market is showing early signs of recovery, with buyers slowly stepping back in after defending key support levels. Bitcoin remains the main driver of sentiment, and its ability to break above near-term resistance will likely determine whether the market shifts into a stronger risk-on phase. Ethereum and select large-cap altcoins are starting to show relative strength, suggesting capital rotation rather than broad market fear. However, volatility remains elevated, and macro uncertainty means rallies are still vulnerable to sharp pullbacks. Until major resistance levels are clearly reclaimed, the market is best viewed as cautiously bullish, with traders favoring disciplined entries and tight risk management.

Percentage of Total Market Capitalization (Dominance)

BTC	58.37%
ETH	12.11%
USDT	5.84%
BNB	3.89%
SOL	2.42%
Others	17.37%



Backed By Gold, Not Promises.

Maya Preferred is a project by UK Financial Ltd. fully backed by gold, built to bring long-term stability and trust to digital assets. It is not just a promise — it is transparently supported by real reserves and verifiable disclosures.

[Explore Tokens →](#)[View Proofs](#)

Dual-Class Architecture

Two tokens, two roles. MPRA (Preferred) prioritizes asset strength; MPRD (Common) powers utility and access.

[Learn about MPRA & MPRD](#)

Backed by Gold & Silver

A premium reserve model with precious metal backing for resilient value and market confidence.

[Why Maya Preferred?](#)

Proofs & Transparency

Published proofs and third-party audits underscore our commitment to verifiable, real-world assets.

[See Proof Documents](#)

What is Maya Preferred?

- Asset-backed design
- Modern transparency
- Long-term resilience

Why Maya Preferred?

 Gold & Silver Backing. Reserves-oriented structure for premium value integrity.

 Premium Token Economics. Historically high pricing with robust design considerations.

 Transparent Disclosures. Proof documents and third-party audits available anytime.



Dual-Class Tokens, Real-World Backing

A carefully engineered, dual-class token system designed to balance stability and upside. MPRA (Preferred) and MPRD (Common) collectively power the Maya Preferred ecosystem.

[Explore Tokens →](#)

We are the largest Business expert in Europe and Asia.

01. Extra benefit through Invest
02. Expand profit and reduce Tax
03. Financial Security
04. Benefit through Invest



PRESS RELEASE



WINITY LIFE LAUNCHES WINITY LOOP, A REFERRAL PROGRAM THAT TURNS EVERYDAY SPENDING

Invite. Earn. Repeat.

Now live in the App. invite a friend to start earning

Global, 2026 – **Winity Life**, the lifestyle-focused platform bridging digital assets with real-world Visa® payments, today announced the launch of Winity Loop, its new referral program designed to reward real usage and community participation rather than speculation.

Built around everyday spending behavior, Winity Loop enables users to earn instant cash rewards while expanding a trusted, global crypto-spending network. The program reinforces Winity Life's core philosophy: sustainable adoption is driven by utility, peer trust, and shared incentives.

As crypto adoption continues to move beyond trading into daily financial activity, Winity Loop positions referrals not as a marketing tactic, but as an extension of real economic participation. Each successful referral strengthens the ecosystem by bringing in active users who deposit, spend, and transact globally.

Winity Loop: A Referral Model Built for Real Utility

Winity Loop allows users to generate tangible value while helping friends and family access a simple, globally accepted crypto-to-USD payment experience.

Every Winity Life user receives a unique referral link or code directly within the app, enabling seamless

sharing via messaging platforms, social media, or email. When a referred user completes onboarding and demonstrates genuine usage, both the referrer and the new user receive \$2 in cash, instantly credited to their Winity Life wallets.

Unlike short-term or one-off referral schemes, Winity Loop is designed as a continuous growth mechanism. Each new participant can invite others, creating an organic reward loop that compounds across the community while maintaining a clear focus on real activity.

Program Highlights

Mutual Rewards: Both referrer and referee earn \$2 in instant cash, reinforcing fairness and shared benefit.

Usage-First Design: Rewards are unlocked only after meaningful activity, supporting responsible and sustainable adoption.

Instant Wallet Credit: No points, delays, or conversions. Rewards are credited directly in cash.
Scalable by Nature: Referral chains grow organically as users continue inviting others.

Borderless by Default: Fully aligned with Winity Life's global Visa® acceptance and cross-border usability.

How to Participate in Winity Loop

1. Download the Winity Life app from the App Store or Google Play and complete KYC verification.
2. Deposit a minimum of \$10. Supported crypto assets are converted to USD within the app.
3. Activate the virtual Winity Visa® Card.
4. Navigate to the Winity Loop section and copy your unique referral link or code.
5. Share the link with friends and contacts.
6. When a referred user completes KYC, deposits, and spends \$10 or more, both users receive \$2 instantly.
7. Track referrals and rewards in real time through the app dashboard and continue sharing to grow rewards.

Strengthening the Winity Life Ecosystem

Winity Loop reflects Winity Life's broader mission to make crypto spending practical, rewarding, and community led. By incentivizing real-world usage and peer advocacy, the program strengthens trust within the ecosystem while accelerating adoption in a measured and sustainable manner.

The launch of **Winity Loop** builds on the strong performance of Winity Life's recent **Christmas campaign**, which validated its usage-first growth strategy. During the holiday period, targeted festive incentives drove increased onboarding,

wallet funding, and cross-border card spending, while reinforcing a clear behavioral insight: users engage more deeply when rewards are tied to real spending rather than passive sign-ups.

Organic peer sharing emerged as users introduced friends and family while transacting globally, a dynamic now formalized through Winity Loop.

As one community member noted, *“Who doesn’t like a festive bonus? I’ve been farming WAVE and bridging it to USDT so I could get the Winity holiday \$5 bonus directly on my card.”*

About Winity Life

Winity Life is a global financial lifestyle platform that unifies traditional and digital payments into one seamless ecosystem. Built for borderless living, it enables users to manage digital assets, hold USD balances, and spend instantly worldwide using the Winity Card. With integrated loyalty rewards, 24/7 AI support, and a secure mobile app, Winity Life provides the flexibility required to operate confidently in a global economy.

For more information, visit www.winity.life

For media inquiries and partnerships:

Arijit Das
Senior Manager – Marketing and PR
Contact: marketing@winity.life

Download now on Apple Store and Google Play:
[Apple Store](#)
[Google Play Store](#)



PRESS RELEASE



CRYPTOGAMES AFFIRMS A FORWARD-FOCUSED STRATEGY FOR ONLINE CASINO OPERATIONS

CryptoGames today announced proactive measures ensuring seamless operational continuity into 2026. Already licensed by **Curaçao Gaming Authority** (CGA), the platform proactively adapts to new regulations, staying ahead of anticipated stricter oversight requirements.

Most players on the platform have completed KYC (Know Your Customer) verification. Industry report confirms that KYC-compliant crypto casinos reduce fraud by up to 38%. With KYC done on CryptoGames, users unlock premium promotions and full loyalty benefits site-wide.

Last year, the platform has surpassed 10 billion total bets since inception, demonstrating remarkable long-term reliability. The dice game alone has processed over 9.2 billion wagers, showcasing player confidence. Furthermore, decades of consistent service proves the platform transcends fleeting cryptocurrency trends.

CryptoGames is planning to expand its gaming portfolio with some exclusive features and new coin integrations in 2026. The platform features exceptionally low house edge games including Dice, Plinko, and Roulette. These games offer favorable odds compared to industry standards, attracting serious players. VIP members receive exclusive 20% promotional rewards, enhancing loyalty and platform engagement.

When it comes to seasonal and promotional events, CryptoGames celebrates major events with extraordinary promotional campaigns. The platform hosted spectacular X-Mas and New Year promotional events featuring generous offers. Players enjoyed half house edge reductions on all games during these celebrations. No bet speed restrictions allowed players maximum control over their gaming pace. Voucher airdrops were distributed throughout the day. These promotions affirm CryptoGames' emphasis on real, rewarding loyalty experiences.

As regulatory expectations tighten globally, CryptoGames demonstrates that compliance and innovation work together seamlessly. The company prioritizes infrastructure stability, secure transactions, and responsible gambling oversight. These principles guide every operational decision and game system enhancement.

About CryptoGames

CryptoGames is a Curaçao-licensed crypto casino offering provably fair blockchain-based gambling. The platform supports multiple cryptocurrencies and maintains operational integrity across all services. CryptoGames prioritizes transparent gameplay, secure transactions, and dependable crypto gambling experiences.



AETHERIS COIN TOKENOMICS





ADVANCEMENTS IN THE CRYPTOCURRENCY WORLD

BITCOIN BRIEFLY HITS \$93,000 AS CRYPTO MARKET EXTENDS NEW YEAR RALLY WITH \$260 MILLION IN LIQUIDATIONS

The rally in crypto was mirrored by a surge in commodities and Asian equities, driven by AI-led momentum and geopolitical developments.

Bitcoin briefly reached \$93,000 as traders embraced risk following the U.S. ousting of Venezuela.

Major cryptocurrencies experienced gains, with XRP and Solana rising, while Dogecoin led with a 17% weekly increase.

The rally in crypto was mirrored by a surge in commodities and Asian equities, driven by AI-led momentum and geopolitical developments.

Bitcoin BTC \$93,061.87 briefly touched \$93,000 on Monday as traders leaned into a fresh risk bid across markets following a U.S. ousting of Venezuela, while year-opening flows pushed major tokens higher after a choppy finish to 2025.

BTC traded up about 1% over 24 hours and roughly 3% over seven days, while ether ETH \$3,178.47 held near \$3,160, also higher on the day.

XRP \$2.1334 added around 3% to above \$2.10, extending its early January outperformance, while Solana SOL \$135.65 hovered near \$136. Dogecoin DOGE \$0.1476 eased on the day but remained up 17% over the past week, the highest gains among majors.

Derivatives positioning amplified the move. Liquidations crossed \$260 million over 24 hours, with shorts accounting for about \$200 million, showing late sellers were forced to cover as prices pushed higher.

More than \$121 million in short positions were wiped out in the past four hours alone, compared with less than \$9 million in longs. Long liquidations remained comparatively modest throughout, pointing to a market where bearish leverage was crowded and vulnerable. On leading decentralized perpetual-focused platform Hyperliquid, shorts still accounted for roughly 54.4% of all liquidated positions versus 45.6% longs, according to HyperDash.

[Read more...](#)



Ethereum powers \$8T in stablecoin transfers in Q4, smashing record

Ethereum processed \$8 trillion in stablecoin transfers during Q4, nearly double Q2's volume, while active addresses and daily transactions peaked.

Stablecoin transfer volume on Ethereum surpassed \$8 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2025, marking a new all-time high, Token Terminal reported on Monday.

The \$8 trillion milestone is almost double the transfer volume figure for the second quarter, which was just over \$4 trillion, according to Token Terminal's chart.

Stablecoin issuance on Ethereum increased by around 43% in 2025 from \$127 billion to

\$181 billion by year's end, according to BlockWorks.

"This isn't speculation. This is global payments happening on-chain," commented "BMNR Bullz" on X. "This is before SWIFT-style integrations, full RWA tokenization, and institutional rails going live."

"The rails are already built. Adoption is catching up," they added.

The milestone coincided with an all-time high in total daily transactions on the Ethereum network, which hit 2.23 million in late December, according to Etherscan. Ethereum daily transactions are currently up 48% since the same time last year.

[Read more...](#)

Crypto Giant Bitwise Files for ZCash, Aave, Sui and Eight Additional Alt-coin ETFs With SEC

Bitwise Asset Management just filed registration statements with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for 11 new cryptocurrency strategy exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

The filings would trade on NYSE Arca if

approved, expanding regulated access to major altcoins.

The proposed funds include individual strategy ETFs tracking Aave (AAVE), Zcash (ZEC), Sui (SUI), Uniswap (UNI), Starknet (STRK), Near (NEAR), Bitensor (TAO),



Hyperliquid (HYPE), Ethena (ENA), Canton (CC) and Tron (TRX).

Each fund is designed to invest a significant portion of assets in the underlying token, while using related exchange-traded products and derivatives to provide regulated exposure.

Bitwise positions the filings as part of broader efforts to widen institutional and retail access to digital assets beyond Bitcoin and Ethereum, which already have US spot ETF products.

The filings arrive amid forecasts from Bitwise leadership that 2026 will see a significant wave of new crypto ETF launches.

Bitwise CIO Matt Hougan tells CNBC he expects more than 100 crypto ETFs and exchange-traded products could launch in the United States next year as regulatory clarity improves and index-based products gain traction.

[Read more...](#)



CRYPTOGAMES



CATCH THE WINNING SPIRIT!

Play your favorite game, use the coin of your choice & chat with your friends.
Simple, social and most importantly entertaining!

PLAY NOW!



Dice



Video Poker



Roulette



Slot



Blackjack



DiceV2



Keno



Plinko



Minesweeper



Lottery

VIP membership



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

Fast withdrawals



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

Low house edge



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

Provably fair



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

Progressive jackpots



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

Secure and private



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





HOW UK FINANCIAL LTD'S ERC-3643 TOKENS ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF REGULATED CRYPTO TRADING?

Major cryptocurrency platforms openly advocate for stronger regulations. Yet they quietly avoid listing regulated securities tokens. The problem is real and urgent. Banks want compliance infrastructure. Exchanges resist the compliance costs. Investors demand regulated tokens but cannot access them.

This deadlock left the crypto ecosystem fragmented and disconnected from traditional finance. However, **UK Financial Ltd** resolved this issue by leading the adoption of SEC-compliant ERC-3643 security tokens. This article explores how one company solved the problem and what it means for crypto's future in 2026.

The Regulatory Landscape Problem

1. The Crypto Exchange Contradiction

Major cryptocurrency platforms publicly champion stronger industry regulation. Yet behind closed doors, they avoid listing institutionally-grade security tokens. ERC-3643 tokens require KYC verification, automatic compliance enforcement through transfer restrictions, and continuous regulatory monitoring. Most exchanges lack the infrastructure to support these obligations. Regulators treat exchanges as critical infrastructures and expect compliance standards comparable to traditional finance. Building this system costs millions and introduces liability risks. Exchanges fear regulatory scrutiny more than they desire market access. This contradiction keeps

regulated tokens off mainstream platforms despite investor demand. The gap between rhetoric and reality remains the industry's biggest operational problem today.

2. Why Asset-Backing Alone Isn't Enough

Gold reserves and precious metal collateral cannot resolve institutional trust issues alone. ERC-3643 separates identity management, compliance rules, and token logic into distinct smart contracts with claim-based identity systems validated by authorized entities. Institutional investors demand more than tangible assets backing tokens. They need transparent compliance infrastructure proving regulatory readiness. Banks require documented KYC procedures and transfer restrictions automatically enforced on-chain. Asset-backing becomes meaningful only when supported by compliance systems institutions recognize. Without this infrastructure, gold reserves feel insufficient to professional money managers. Regulatory clarity and technical compliance matter more than collateral for institutional adoption.

3. The Chicken-and-Egg Problem

The regulated token market faces a frustrating paradox nobody wants solving alone. Developer support for ERC-3643 remains limited compared to simpler ERC-20 alternatives. ERC-3643 received recognition from the SEC Crypto Task Force in

July 2025, with approval in 11 jurisdictions after industry engagement with 21+ regulators globally. Exchanges hesitate listing compliant tokens due to liability concerns and operational complexity. Investors desperately seek regulated tokens but find limited exchange options available. This deadlock discouraged builders from developing infrastructure while discouraging platforms from listing tokens. The entire market stalled waiting for someone brave enough breaking the cycle. UK Financial Ltd finally stepped forward to solve what the industry avoided.

How Did UK Financial Ltd Evolve From Vision to Full-Scale Execution?

The Beginning

UK Financial Ltd started in 2018 as a bold innovator. They created asset-backed digital tokens early on. The Maya Preferred Project launched as one gold-backed pioneer. This set them apart from speculative cryptos. They focused on real gold reserves for trust. Investors loved the stability it promised. No hype, just tangible value backing every token. This vision built a strong base over years.

2019 Bold Move

In 2019, UK Financial made history. They backed Bitcoin with 21 million MPRA tokens in escrow. This matched Bitcoin's exact supply perfectly. No one else dared such a step. It aimed to create a safety net for all crypto holders. Gold and silver reserves supported the effort. CEO's prediction linked precious metals to digital gold. This move shocked the industry then. It showed deep commitment to ecosystem health.

2025 Shift

By September 2025, the board pivoted smartly. They ended the Bitcoin-backing to boost their own tokens. Reserves now strengthen Maya Preferred and MayaCat fully. Own infrastructure proved more valuable long-term. Focus turned to ERC-3643 for SEC compliance. This unlocks doors for big institutions safely. No more insuring rivals—build the future instead. Strategic gold redirection fueled massive growth.

A Compliance-First Framework for Regulated Digital Assets

Maya Preferred brings powerful regulated tokens to market. SMPRA (Maya Preferred PRA) is a preferred-class regulated security token built under ERC-3643 standard. SMCAT represents the first

meme coin achieving full ERC-3643 regulatory compliance, proving gold-backed assets work across diverse use cases.

Three verified smart contracts operate transparently on Etherscan for public verification—the main token contract, compliance module, and identity registry maintain SEC-ready status. Each contract serves critical functions. The compliance contract checks all rules before approving transfers. The main registry tracks ownership and permissions continuously without delays.

The Identity Registry is responsible for managing and verifying identities of participants, ensuring only compliant and verified participants can hold and transfer tokens. On-chain KYC runs smoothly with these integrated tools. Whitelisting locks transfers to approved users only automatically. Restrictions block non-compliant moves instantly without exceptions. Real-time auditability lets anyone check the blockchain live. No secrets, full transparency rules every transaction.

Why UK Financial Ltd's Regulated Tokens Matter?

Developer Ecosystem Gap

ERC-3643 is more complex to develop and integrate than ERC-20, and currently has a smaller developer ecosystem, though these drawbacks are outweighed by its ability to streamline compliance and offer enhanced security. Few projects are built on ERC-3643 today. Most developers chase easier standards like ERC-20 instead of wrestling with regulatory complexity.

UK Financial Ltd fills this void boldly and deliberately. They lead with proven tools, verified smart contracts, and real-world examples for others to follow. ERC-3643 is gaining traction among financial institutions, regulators, and blockchain infrastructure providers as the de facto standard for regulated real-world asset tokenization. SMPRA grabs critical first-mover advantage early. No rival competitors match their compliance depth and institutional infrastructure maturity yet. This advantage lets them set industry standards. Builders now follow their proven path forward into regulatory compliance.

Exchange Adoption Barriers

Exchanges fear regulatory heat when listing traditional meme coins without compliance infrastructure. SMPRA represents the world's first cryptocurrency engineered for SEC compliance

from inception, built on the ERC-3643 standard with automatic regulatory features like on-chain KYC verification, whitelisting, and transfer restrictions. SMCAT blends viral meme appeal with full regulatory compliance in unprecedented ways.

It trades on CATEX. Daily trading volume on CATEX exceeds \$3 million, showing strong investor interest and market confidence in MCAT's dual-asset foundation. Retail investors love the hype and accessibility. Institutions trust the built-in safeguards protecting them automatically. This dual appeal breaks old barriers down completely. No other token hits both crowds effectively. Adoption accelerates as major exchanges line up to list compliant tokens confidently.

Real-World Asset Integration

SMPRA and SMCAT link directly to verifiable gold and silver reserves backing each token. No empty promises fuel these ecosystem tokens whatsoever. The asset backing mechanics ensure each token maintains real value through precious metal reserves, with the company maintaining eight years of continuous exchange trading without gaps. Mexican mining operations back them with tangible, hard assets.

What Token Holders Need to Know: Key Dates This January

Token Conversion Deadline: Act by Jan 13 for MCAT, MPRA, MPRD

The conversion period runs from December 14, 2025 through Friday, January 13, 2026, applying exclusively to MPRA (Maya Preferred PRA Preferred Class), MPRD (Maya Preferred Common Class), and WMPRA (Wrapped Maya Preferred PRA). This 30-day window is not optional—it's essential for ecosystem participation. UK Financial Ltd announces this mandatory conversion window to prepare the ecosystem for transition to regulated infrastructure supporting future compliance requirements.

The process is straightforward. The Company's official MayaPro Wallet system handles all conversion processing to ensure regulatory compliance. Token holders must convert their assets within this window to unlock access to institutional infrastructure, SMPRA's regulated trading, and Retirement Plan benefits.

UK Financial Ltd clearly states that any holder failing to complete conversion will permanently lose eligibility. This deadline carries no exceptions, extensions, or second chances. Missing January 13

means permanent exclusion from future ecosystem evolution. Your tokens will remain frozen outside the regulated system UK Financial Ltd is building.

Investor Governance Vote: Secure Futures Program on Jan 31

An online governance vote is scheduled for January 31, 2026, relating to the future structure of the Secure Futures Program, which is positioned as an evolution of the Maya Preferred Retirement Plan. This democratic process shows UK Financial Ltd's commitment to community-driven decision-making.

Participation in the vote will be open to eligible investors and token holders, with voting conducted through an online governance portal. Any structural changes would be subject to the outcome of the governance process. This means communities shape the future, not executives.

UK Financial Ltd's Future Outlook

UK Financial Ltd's future shines bright as regulatory tailwinds boost institutional adoption. The company pivoted in 2025 from visionary fintech to compliance leader. It gains first-mover advantage with ERC-3643 tokens like SMCAT on CATEX exchange. This positions them ahead of rivals in tokenization.

The immediate horizon shows critical milestones. UK Financial Ltd announced formal establishment of U.S. operations following incorporation in Delaware and issuance of two active U.S. business licenses for 2025 and 2026. McAllen, Texas will be the first expansion location outside Delaware, strategically selected for geographic positioning and proximity to cross-border commerce. This deliberate expansion proves the company executes from strength, not necessity.

Takeaway

UK Financial Ltd's seven-year journey reaches a critical inflection point in 2026. Early adopters of ERC-3643 compliant infrastructure position themselves for exponential growth ahead. Traditional finance watches closely as institutional capital prepares to flow into regulated digital assets for the first time.

The paradigm shift from promise-based to asset-backed crypto is final. SMPRA proves that gold-backed tokens with regulatory compliance create institutional-grade confidence institutions trust. The future isn't revolutionary—it's institutional, disciplined, transparent, and backed by real value.



BlackRock's Bitcoin ETF Sees Biggest Inflow in Three Months as Crypto Prices Rise

Analysts cite Bitcoin portfolio rebalancing as institutional investors price in three more years of Trump's "America First" policy.

BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT) recorded \$287.4 million in inflows on Friday, its largest single-day haul since early October. Bitcoin ETFs collectively pulled in \$471.3 million on Friday, marking the highest total inflows since mid-November. Bitcoin is trading at \$92,670 according to CoinGecko data, amid broader institutional appetite.

BlackRock's spot Bitcoin ETF pulled in its biggest single-day inflow in nearly three months on Friday, as investors piled into crypto-linked funds.

Heightened geopolitical tensions following the U.S. capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro have also helped spur the asset into a fourth consecutive daily win streak.

On Friday, BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust (IBIT) recorded \$287.4 million in inflows, its largest daily haul since October 8, 2024, according to Farside Investors data.

The spike comes as markets digest the Trump administration's controversial military operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro over the weekend, which sent oil futures prices to four-year lows while crypto markets held steady.

[Read more...](#)

Tether just bought 8,888 Bitcoin, exposing a mechanical profit engine turning T-Bills into automatic crypto demand

As liabilities swell to record highs, this aggressive allocation strategy transforms the stablecoin from a passive dollar proxy into a massive, risk-on hedge fund.

Tether bought 8,888 Bitcoin in Q4 2025, lifting its holdings above 96,000 BTC, according to a post by CEO Paolo Ardoino.

The purchase extends a



strategy Tether has tied to operating results: allocating 15% of quarterly profits to Bitcoin.

If USDT liabilities keep expanding and short-term rates remain high enough to keep interest income elevated, that policy can translate stablecoin earnings into recurring spot demand for BTC.

The same choice also expands mark-to-market exposure inside a reserve stack built to meet redemptions.

That issue has become more central to ratings and regulatory scrutiny. How Tether's reserve strategy turns stable-

coin growth into systemic exposure. The most recent point-in-time reserve snapshot available in Tether's public reporting is its BDO assurance for the period ending Sept. 30, 2025.

In Tether's Q3 2025 assurance by BDO, the firm reported \$181.223 billion in reserves against \$174.445 billion in liabilities, leaving \$6.778 billion in excess reserves.

In that table, Tether valued its Bitcoin position using a BTC reference price of \$114,160 at the timestamp, putting the BTC line at \$9.856 billion.

[Read more...](#)



BITCOIN MINING REVIEW 2026

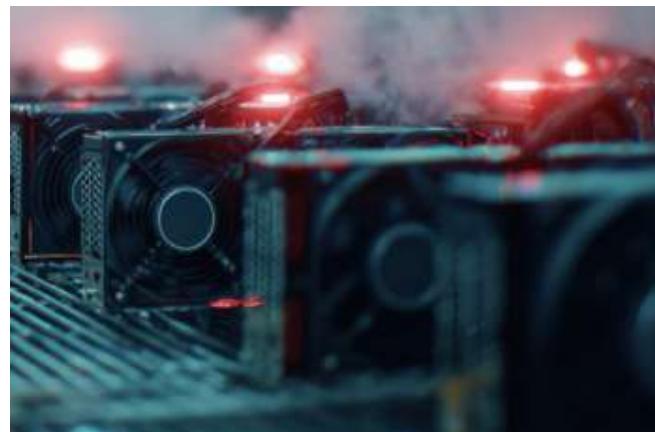
In 2026, mining isn't what it was in the early days when hobbyists ran operations from bedrooms. Today's landscape demands serious planning, cheap electricity, and efficient machines. The April 2024 bitcoin halving cut block rewards from 6.25 to 3.125 BTC, permanently raising the bar for profitability. Nowadays bitcoin mining is all about tight cost control and hardware efficiency which will determine winners and losers, not just raw hashpower.

Our bitcoin mining review 2026 cuts through the noise about whether mining makes sense today. We'll examine real profitability numbers, actual hardware costs, electricity requirements, and the genuine risks you face. So read on!

What is Bitcoin Mining?

Bitcoin mining is the computational process that validates transactions and secures the Bitcoin network. Miners solve complex mathematical puzzles using specialized hardware, often called ASICs (Application-Specific Integrated Circuits). The first miner to solve each puzzle wins newly created bitcoins plus transaction fees as a reward.

The story begins on January 3, 2009, when an anonymous person or group using the name Satoshi Nakamoto mined the genesis block, Bitcoin's very first block. This block paid a 50 bitcoin block subsidy,



although its reward is unspendable due to how the block was constructed. Mining difficulty was set to 1, and Satoshi used a regular CPU, reflecting how easy mining was at launch. The genesis block also embedded a message: "The Times 03/Jan/2009 Chancellor on brink of second bailout for banks." This newspaper headline referenced the 2008 financial crisis and hinted at Bitcoin's motivation as an alternative to the existing financial system.

In the earliest months, Bitcoin mining was highly accessible, and anyone could participate at home with a basic computer. Satoshi is widely estimated to have mined on the order of hundreds of thousands of bitcoins, possibly close to one million. By mid-2010, mining difficulty began rising quickly as more participants joined the network and hash rate increased. In July 2010, after Bitcoin was

featured on the tech site Slashdot, interest surged and difficulty spiked, pushing miners to move from CPUs to more powerful GPUs. Over time, this hardware race continued, evolving from GPUs to FPGAs and then to dedicated ASIC machines. What started as a hobby with minimal barriers gradually became a capital-intensive, industrial-scale activity.

What Types of Mining Hardware Exist?

ASIC Miners (Application-Specific Integrated Circuits)

ASIC miners are specialized machines built exclusively for cryptocurrency mining. These devices contain custom chips optimized for solving Bitcoin's SHA-256 algorithm. ASICs represent the cutting edge of mining technology today. Think of them as dedicated computers that do one job extremely well, nothing else. Unlike general-purpose processors, they can't run games, apps, or other software tasks. ASIC miners generate terahashes per second (TH/s)—trillions of calculations every single second. This massive processing power far exceeds what CPUs or GPUs can achieve.

Modern ASICs typically deliver hash rates between roughly 100 and 1,160 TH/s, depending on their specific model. Energy efficiency has become crucial in recent years. Today's top models achieve roughly 9.5 to 13.5 joules per terahash (J/TH). This means less electricity is needed per unit of computational work. Most ASICs consume between about 2,500 to 11,000 watts when operating continuously.

Bitmain and MicroBT dominate this market segment. Leading models include the Antminer S21 series and Whatsminer M series; some other newer machines also target similar performance tiers. ASIC miners cost significantly more upfront—ranging from around \$1,800 to \$20,000+ depending on specifications. However, their superior efficiency can mean faster payback periods in favorable electricity markets. Industry experts generally agree that ASIC miners have become absolutely essential for any serious Bitcoin mining operation.

GPU Miners (Graphics Processing Units)

GPU mining uses graphics cards originally designed for video games and visual computing. These processors can perform cryptocurrency mining, though they're far less efficient than ASICs. GPUs offer flexibility—they can mine different altcoins

by switching algorithms. For example, miners can switch between Ethereum Classic, Ravencoin, and Monero without changing hardware. However, GPUs produce only megahashes per second (MH/s), which is thousands of times slower than ASIC output.

A high-end gaming GPU might deliver 50 to 100 MH/s for certain coins. They also consume substantial electricity relative to their computing power delivered. GPUs require more energy per hash than ASICs, making them less profitable for Bitcoin mining specifically. Modern graphics cards cost between \$500 and \$2,500 per unit. Building a profitable GPU mining operation requires multiple cards working together.

Today, GPUs are used mainly for altcoin mining rather than Bitcoin. They remain viable for coins using algorithms like Ethash, RandomX, or Equihash. There is only one advantage of having GPUs is it retains value after mining. If mining becomes unprofitable, miners can resell them to gamers, developers, or AI researchers. This secondary market doesn't exist for specialized ASICs.

CPU Mining (Central Processing Units)

CPU mining uses regular computer processors like Intel or AMD chips. This was how Bitcoin mining started way back in 2009. Satoshi Nakamoto mined the genesis block using just a basic CPU. Early miners earned substantial rewards with minimal competition on their personal computers. Today, CPU mining is practically obsolete for serious operations. Modern CPUs deliver only a few megahashes per second for algorithms like SHA-256. Mining difficulty has increased exponentially since those early days, making CPUs uncompetitive. However, some new ASIC-resistant coins like Monero use the RandomX algorithm specifically designed for CPUs. Monero miners can still use basic CPUs and earn meaningful rewards.

Home mining with a CPU is technically possible but economically inefficient. Your electricity cost will almost certainly exceed your earned Bitcoin value. CPUs consume less power than ASICs or GPUs, but their hash output is so low it doesn't matter economically. The mining difficulty adjusts every two weeks to maintain consistent block times. As more powerful hardware joins the network, CPU mining becomes exponentially less rewarding.

FPGA Miners (Field-Programmable Gate Arrays)

FPGA miners occupy a middle ground between GPUs and ASICs in the hardware spectrum. These devices contain programmable chips that miners can customize for specific algorithms. Unlike ASICs, FPGAs aren't locked into one task—you can reprogram them. However, FPGAs are significantly more complex to set up and configure. They require deep technical knowledge and coding skills to optimize effectively. Mining performance depends heavily on proper firmware configuration and tuning. FPGAs deliver better power efficiency than GPUs but fall short of ASIC-level performance. They generate hash rates between GPU and ASIC levels, making them niche hardware.

Today, FPGAs represent less than 1% of total Bitcoin network hashrate. They lack the massive adoption that ASICs enjoy. Software support and community development for FPGAs is limited compared to other hardware types. FPGAs cost between GPUs and ASICs, placing them in an uncomfortable middle ground.

Which Bitcoin Mining Hardware Is Worth Buying Today?

Choosing the right mining hardware in 2026 requires careful analysis of several key factors. The market has consolidated around proven leaders: Bitmain, MicroBT, and a few newer manufacturers. Your decision ultimately depends on electricity costs, available capital, and your mining timeline expectations.

Bitmain Antminer S21 XP Series is still a top-tier choice for serious miners. These machines focus on strong performance, good efficiency, and reliable long-term operation for Bitcoin mining. The air-cooled S21 XP delivers around 270 TH/s at roughly 13.5 joules per terahash efficiency. Hydro-cooled versions increase hashrate to about 473–495 TH/s while improving efficiency to around 12 J/TH. Hydro units also reduce noise a lot compared with air models, which helps in noise-sensitive sites. Because electricity prices and Bitcoin price change often, fixed daily profit numbers are misleading.

Miners now usually model revenue using up-to-date calculators, hashprice data, and exact power costs. At cheap electricity, around \$0.04–\$0.06 per kWh, S21-class miners remain highly competitive. When power costs move toward \$0.08 or higher, net profit



drops quickly and margins tighten. Prices for S21 XP units typically sit in the mid-thousands to low five-figure range per machine. Some official XP and XP Hydro models are actually listed below \$12,000, depending on batch and terms. Because of this, return on investment can vary a lot and should never be promised as fixed. A 12–18 month payback might be possible in ideal conditions, but it is not guaranteed at all. Bitmain generally offers around a 12-month warranty on new units and continues firmware updates regularly. Many miners see Bitmain's warranty and software support as among the strongest in the current market.

MicroBT Whatsminer M Series directly competes with Bitmain at the high-end of Bitcoin mining hardware. The brand is known for solid build quality and stable performance in demanding farm environments. Older M50S models usually deliver around 118–128 TH/s, with efficiency in the mid-20s J/TH range. That is less efficient than the newest generation, but still usable where power is cheap enough. Newer Whatsminer generations, like the M6x and M70 families, push hashrates above 200 TH/s per unit. These newer models also cut efficiency closer to the low-teens J/TH, especially in hydro configurations. Because of age and efficiency, M50S pricing now often falls in the low to mid thousands of dollars.



Recent flagship Whatsminer models, especially hydro or high-hash versions, can cost much more, near top Antminers. Daily profit for M50-series miners at around \$0.06 per kWh is usually quite modest. Many profitability tools show only a few dollars per day gross, and sometimes under one dollar net. That makes accurate, time-stamped modelling essential instead of quoting fixed earnings for long periods. MicroBT has also improved logistics and distribution, making newer models easier to source than before. The company is widely regarded as reliable, with consistent firmware support and stable long-term operation.

Canaan Avalon A16 Series offers a balanced choice for miners who want efficiency at a lower entry cost. It targets medium-sized or scaling operations that do not require the absolute top hydro systems. The Avalon A16XP delivers about 300 TH/s with energy efficiency around 12.8 joules per terahash. This puts it close to other modern efficient miners, while remaining a straightforward air-cooled design. Official pricing for the A16XP is around \$5,580, which works out to roughly \$18.6 per terahash. That makes the A16XP attractive for farms focused on capex efficiency rather than maximum possible hashrate.



Profitability calculators often show high single-digit dollars in daily net profit at \$0.06–\$0.07 per kWh. These numbers still depend heavily on Bitcoin price, network difficulty, and the specific power contract. Because the upfront cost is lower than many hydro flagships, A16XP can fit nicely into staged expansions. It appeals to miners with limited

capital who still enjoy access to reasonably cheap electricity sources. Warranty terms from Canaan and official partners are generally competitive, often around 6–12 months coverage. Some operators report that repair processes and support networks feel less smooth than the largest rivals. However, the overall package still offers a solid mix of price, performance, and reliability for many farms.

What Does Bitcoin Mining Really Cost in 2026?

Bitcoin mining costs break down into four main categories that shape your bottom line. Understanding each layer reveals why electricity dominates your expenses month after month. Electricity alone accounts for roughly 70% of total mining costs, making power the ultimate deciding factor for profitability.

Electricity costs reign as the single most important variable. At rates above \$0.10/kWh, a standard 3–3.5 kW ASIC consumes more than 40–60% of daily mining revenue at current difficulty levels. For context, with a hashrate of 390 TH/s consuming 7,215 watts at \$0.05/kWh, mining 1 Bitcoin takes 6,047 days which is roughly 16.5 years of nonstop operation. The math becomes brutal quickly: a single Antminer S21 XP draws approximately 75–85 kilowatt-hours daily. At residential rates of \$0.12/kWh, that's \$9–\$10 in daily power costs alone. Most profitable operations source power between \$0.04–\$0.08 per kilowatt-hour through industrial contracts or renewable energy.

Hardware costs represent your second-largest expense, though they're one-time purchases. Modern ASIC miners cost between \$1,800 and \$20,000 depending on hashrate and efficiency specifications. A Bitcoin miner's profitability depends on electricity cost, hardware efficiency, and Bitcoin's market value, meaning newer machines with better J/TH ratings create advantages that last 12–24 months before obsolescence sets in. A top-tier unit depreciates rapidly—residual value after two years typically reaches 20–30% of purchase price.

Operational costs include cooling, maintenance, and pool fees. Cooling represents roughly 7% of total expenses, with pool fees taking another 3% of revenues. Mining pools charge 1–2.5% for distributing rewards, which beats solo mining's virtually zero probability of finding blocks. Repairs

cluster unexpectedly—a weak hardware batch forces simultaneous swaps, straining cash flow. Network difficulty adjusts every two weeks, directly affecting earnings. As hashrate climbs, your machine's daily reward shrinks proportionally. At current difficulty around 148 million, earning one full Bitcoin requires industrial-scale operations. This is why ROI projections matter more than price fantasies. Bitcoin mining in 2026 is capital-intensive and energy-dependent with exposure to price volatility, difficulty adjustments, regulatory changes, and hardware obsolescence. Most realistic timelines show 8-18 months to recover hardware costs if electricity stays cheap and difficulty doesn't surge unexpectedly.

What are the Biggest Risks in Bitcoin Mining?

Bitcoin Price Volatility

Bitcoin's price swings create the most obvious risk for mining profitability. A sudden price drop can render previously profitable operations completely unprofitable overnight. Your electricity costs stay constant, but revenue plummets when price crashes. For example, miners earning \$30 daily at \$65,000 BTC suddenly earn \$15 daily if price halves. Many small operators don't have cash reserves to absorb multi-month losses. Larger miners accumulate Bitcoin treasures as buffers, but this strategy exposes balance sheets to dramatic volatility.



Network Competition

Mining difficulty automatically increases as more hashrate joins the network, reducing per-miner rewards proportionally. When hashrate surges, your machine earns less Bitcoin for identical work. Pressure on miners could persist into 2026 if Bitcoin enters a broader downturn, a pattern seen in previous post-halving cycles, but difficulty doesn't automatically fall—it adjusts based on hashrate

alone. Competing against industrial-scale operations makes independent mining nearly impossible without advantages like cheap power.

Mining Pool Failures

Your mining pool could experience technical failures, security breaches, or operator misconduct without warning. Six mining pools collectively produced more than 95% of blocks, deciding which transactions are included in block templates—pool code, firmware, and payout flows now determine real control. If your pool server goes offline, you're mining nothing for hours or days.

Hardware Failure and Maintenance Costs

ASIC miners generate substantial heat, requiring effective cooling solutions—inadequate cooling reduces hardware lifespan and increases failure rates, directly impacting profitability. When repairs cluster, your swap pool depletes quickly and replacement lead times stretch to weeks. A single ASIC failure might cost \$100-\$300 in parts plus days without mining revenue. Good manufacturers like MicroBT and Bitmain offer 1-2 year warranties, but out-of-warranty repairs cost hundreds.

Regulatory Risks

Government regulations around cryptocurrency mining could tighten unexpectedly. Bitcoin mining is capital-intensive with exposure to regulatory changes and difficulty adjustments that are non-negotiable factors, making regulatory risk impossible to fully predict. Some countries have banned mining, made it restrictive, or imposed punitive tax treatments.

Should You Mine Bitcoin or Choose an Alternative Strategy?

Mining Direct ASIC Hardware with Pool Participation

Mining ASIC hardware while joining an established mining pool offers genuine control. Pool participation dramatically improves your odds compared to solo mining. Today's Bitcoin network hashrate exceeds 1,010 EH/s with mining difficulty reaching 148 trillion, making individual block discovery nearly impossible without industrial-scale equipment. Joining a pool like Foundry USA or ViabTC smooths your rewards into consistent daily payouts. Leading pools now integrate firmware, fleet management software, energy optimization systems, and

financial instruments, transforming hashrate into a manageable asset rather than binary lottery tickets. This strategy works best if you can secure electricity below \$0.06/kWh. You'll need 12-18 months of uninterrupted operations to recover hardware costs. Investing in miners is effectively betting that Bitcoin's price will appreciate faster than the network's hash rate increases.

Buying Bitcoin Directly vs Mining Alternative

Purchasing Bitcoin on exchanges like Kraken, Coinbase, or Binance offers simplicity and certainty. Buying and holding Bitcoin constitutes a relatively passive investment strategy. Your capital is deployed immediately. There's no waiting for hardware delivery, no facility setup, no ongoing maintenance overhead whatsoever.

Direct purchases expose you only to price volatility, not to operational complexity. If your all-in mining cost exceeds Bitcoin's market value, you're economically losing money versus simply buying.

Cloud Mining Services and Hosted Operations

Cloud mining lets you rent hashrate from professional data centers without owning hardware. Platforms like AutoHash and DeepHash offer AI optimization, renewable energy operations in Iceland and Uruguay, beginner-friendly interfaces, and low entry costs. You send capital, receive daily payouts, and skip infrastructure entirely. This appeals to investors who dislike operational complexity. However, cloud mining introduces serious counterparty risk. You have zero control over uptime, repair speed, or operational decisions affecting your returns.

Hybrid Strategy

The balanced approach mixes mining and regular Bitcoin purchases strategically. A hybrid approach offers a practical strategy—selling Bitcoin to cover operational costs while accumulating cash enables infrastructure expansion when opportunities arise, and reinvesting portions back into mining operations boosts competitive hash rate. This method hedges both strategies' weaknesses simultaneously.

You deploy capital across ASIC hardware and direct Bitcoin purchases. Mining supplies regular income to cover electricity costs. Excess profits accumulate as Bitcoin holdings. If mining becomes unprofitable temporarily, your direct BTC purchases continue

building positions. This removes the all-or-nothing pressure of pure mining operations. You're not trapped by failing hardware or spiking difficulty because purchasing continues regardless.

Mining Pool Participation

Some miners skip hardware ownership by joining pool-management services. These platforms handle ASIC procurement, facility hosting, and technical management while you receive Bitcoin payouts minus hosting fees. MiningStore's Managed Mining Program provides white-glove service with customer success teams handling everything—sourcing latest-generation miners, setting them up in secure facilities, and managing 24/7 with proactive problem-solving. This approach eliminates operational burden while maintaining some control. You're not buying hardware directly, but you own the ASICs and keep all mined Bitcoin. You choose the mining pool and manage payouts independently. This sits between cloud mining and pure self-management. Hosting fees typically consume 20-30% of mining revenue, reducing returns versus direct ownership.

Takeaway

Bitcoin mining remains viable in 2026, but only for disciplined operators controlling their destiny. The honest answer depends on your personal situation more than mining's viability generally. If you access cheap renewable power, can tolerate operational complexity, and commit to realistic timelines—mining can accumulate more Bitcoin than direct purchases over five years. Mining isn't inherently superior; it's a different tool suited for specific circumstances. Most casual investors benefit more from regular Bitcoin purchases and portfolio allocation strategy rather than chasing mining complexity.



Ethereum New Addresses Up 110% Since Fusaka Upgrade, Adding 292,000 Wallets Daily

Ethereum has recorded a sharp increase in on-chain user activity since deployment of Fusaka upgrade executed in early December, with new address creation rising 110% over the past month. Glassnode data shows the network is now adding approximately 292,000 new addresses per day, marking its fastest pace of wallet growth since the 2024 bull market.

The surge follows the December 3 deployment of Fusaka (Fulu-Osaka), an upgrade aimed at improving data availability and lowering Layer 2 costs. Market participants say the sustained rise in new wallets suggests structural adoption rather than short-term speculative activity.

Fusaka Upgrade Drives Surge in Ethereum Network Activity
Fusaka introduced Peer Data Availability Sampling (PeerDAS), a key technical change designed to reduce the cost of posting data to Ethereum. The upgrade directly benefits Layer 2 networks by lowering operational expenses and improving scalability, making it cheaper for users and applications to interact with the Ethereum ecosystem.

Since the upgrade went live, Ethereum's address creation rate has accelerated steadily. Daily new addresses climbed throughout December and into early January, reaching levels not seen since the previous cycle's expansion phase.

[Read more...](#)

Notorious Bitcoin Hacker Released Years Early, Credits Trump

Ilya Lichtenstein, the man at the center of the 2016 Bitfinex theft, has been released from federal custody after serving roughly 14 months of a five-year sentence, according to reports.

He had been sentenced in November 2024 for a money-laundering conspiracy tied to the theft of about 120,000 bit-coin, one of the largest crypto thefts on record.

The move has reignited debate over how prison credits and reform laws affect high-value cyber-crime cases.

Bitcoin Hacker's Release Credited To First Step Act
According to Lichtenstein's public posts and interviews, he credited his early freedom to the First Step Act, the prison-reform law signed by US President Donald Trump in 2018.

Reports say he was placed on home confinement after qualifying for earned time credits and program participation, a process allowed under federal rules.

BitStarz Player Lands \$2,459,124 Record Win!
Could you be next big winner?

He posted on social media a short message thanking Trump and saying he hopes to work in cybersecurity going forward.

Thanks to President Trump's First Step Act, I have been released from prison early. I remain committed to making a positive impact in cybersecurity as soon as I can.

To the supporters, thank you for everything.

To the haters, I look forward to proving you wrong.



[Read more...](#)



Bitcoin Turns 17-Years Old Today: From 'Magic Money' to Global Asset

On January 3, 2009, an anonymous creator known as Satoshi Nakamoto mined the Bitcoin genesis block, embedding a now-famous message referencing the global banking crisis unfolding at the time. Back then, almost no one noticed.

Fast-forward to today, seventeen years later, that creation has now become one of the most disruptive financial inventions in modern history, surviving ridicule, banks, crashes, and countless declarations of its death. Happy birthday, Bitcoin!

17-Years Old
In its infancy, BTC was little more than an experiment among cryptographers and libertar-

ians. It didn't really have a known price, there were no exchanges where you could openly trade it, and there was no clear use case beyond peer-to-peer value transfer, which was actually intended in the whitepaper.

The first known transaction occurred in May 2010 – the infamous Bitcoin Pizza Day, as it is referred to now, when 10,000 BTC was used to purchase two pizzas. At the time, though, Bitcoin was dismissed as a toy for geeks, a failed attempt at digital cash, or as “magical internet money” with no intrinsic value.

Later, the first actual attention from the mainstream was for all the wrong reasons.

[Read more...](#)

Coinbase Exits Argentina: Peso-to-USDC Trading Ends January 2026



Coinbase informed Argentine users on January 3, 2026, that it will discontinue peso-to-USDC trading on its platform effective January 31, marking a strategic retreat from local currency operations barely a year after launching with regulatory approval.

The exchange emphasized that crypto-to-crypto trading remains fully operational while giving customers a 30-day window to convert and withdraw their pesos.

“At Coinbase we are continuously reevaluating the products we offer to ensure the most efficient experience possible for our community,” the company stated in an email to users.

The announcement stated that after January

31, purchasing or selling USDC with Argentine pesos will no longer be possible.

However, the ability to buy, sell, send, and receive cryptocurrencies across different digital assets will remain uninterrupted.

Rapid Expansion Followed by Swift Contraction

Coinbase launched operations in Argentina on January 28, 2025, after receiving approval from the National Securities Commission (CNV) to operate as a Virtual Asset Service Provider.

The exchange appointed Matías Alberti, an experienced fintech professional from companies such as Buenbit and Clara, to lead regional operations, with regulatory compliance and security as core priorities.

[Read more...](#)

Russia's Biggest Bank Issues First Crypto-Backed Loan To Bitcoin Mining Company

Russia's largest bank, Sberbank, has issued the country's first corporate loan backed by cryptocurrency, extending financing to one of the nation's biggest Bitcoin mining firms, Intelion Data.

In a pilot deal, Intelion pledged digital assets it mined as collateral, marking a significant moment in the integration of digital coins into traditional banking practices in Russia.

Sberbank did not disclose the size of the loan, the amount of crypto used as collateral, or the loan's duration, underscoring that the transaction is experimental rather than a full commercial rollout.

The key to the deal's risk management was the use of Sberbank's proprietary digital asset custody solution, Rutoken, which holds the pledged cryptocurrency securely for the duration of the loan,



ensuring that the collateral cannot be accessed or used outside the terms of the agreement.

The move comes amid Russia's broader efforts of utilizing digital assets following its blacklisting from the SWIFT system.

In a recent speech to the Association of Russian Banks, Elvira Nabiullina, the governor of the Central Bank of

Russia, said that a pilot for the digital ruble was "going well," and that there was a growing interest in smart contracts among Russian banks, businesses and governments.

She says that a group of clients consisting of 1,700 individuals from 15 banks.

[Read more...](#)



BitMine stakes \$259M more ETH, pushing validator entry queue near 1M Ether

Ethereum's validator entry queue has climbed toward 1 million ETH, with an estimated wait time of nearly 17 days for new validators to become active.

BitMine Immersion Technologies has added another 82,560 Ether, worth roughly \$259 million, to Ethereum's staking system, intensifying congestion in the network's validator entry queue as institutional demand for yield continues to build.

Data from Arkham shows that the Ether ETH \$3,163 treasury firm sent multiple large deposits to Ethereum's BatchDeposit con-

tract within the past few hours. With the new stake, BitMine's total staked ETH has climbed to 544,064 Ether, valued at approximately \$1.62 billion at current prices, according to onchain analyst Lookonchain.

BitMine first started staking ETH on Dec. 26, transferring nearly \$219 million worth of ETH to staking-related contracts on the Ethereum network.

In November, BitMine revealed plans to begin staking Ether in the first quarter of 2026 through an internal infrastructure known as the Made-in-America Validator Network (MAVAN). The company said it had selected three institutional staking providers for an initial pilot.

[Read more...](#)

Iran accepts cryptocurrency as payment for advanced weapons



Prospective customers could purchase weapons such as missiles, tanks and drones using crypto, according to a government website.

Iran's Ministry of Defence Export Center is accepting cryptocurrency payments method for advanced weapons systems as a means of bypassing international sanctions that the country faces.

The offer is among the first known instances of a country accepting cryptocurrency as a means of payment for military equipment, according to the Financial Times. The facility for using cryptocurrency to pay for transactions involving sanctioned countries is already well established.

Mindex, the export center of Iran's Ministry

of Defense, is accepting cryptocurrency payments method for advanced weapons systems as a means of bypassing international sanctions that the country faces.

Prospective customers can buy weapons such as missiles, tanks and drones using crypto, amongst other accepted payment methods including Iranian rials or bartering, according to the center's website.

Mindex is responsible for Iran's overseas defense sales and claims to have clients in 35 countries.

No prices are displayed for the available items.

The offer is among the first known instances of a country accepting cryptocurrency as a means of payment for military equipment.

[Read more...](#)

Coinbase Targeting Stablecoin Growth, Onchain Adoption in 2026: Brian Armstrong

The exchange beat financial expectations in Q3 of last year, and it's aiming to grow its stablecoin and payments businesses in 2026.

Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong has said that the exchange is aiming to scale up its offerings in stablecoins and payments in 2026.

Armstrong also declared that Coinbase is aiming to become the biggest financial app in the world, and that it wants to expand blockchain adoption globally. Industry commentators suggest that such aims may be unrealistic within a single year, but that Coinbase has a key role to play in onboarding newcomers to crypto. Crypto exchange Coinbase is aiming to scale up its stablecoin offerings and increase

onchain adoption worldwide in 2026, according to CEO and founder Brian Armstrong.

In New Year's Day tweet, Armstrong declared that the company's overarching aim is to make Coinbase "the #1 financial app in the world."

The post unpacked how Coinbase aims to move closer to this goal in 2026, with the company focusing on scaling stablecoins and payments, while also expanding its presence globally in crypto, equities, prediction markets and commodities.

Armstrong also affirmed that the exchange will be making "major investments" in automation and product quality, and that it will harness its Ethereum layer-2 network Base and Base App to "bring the world onchain."



[Read more...](#)

European crypto trading volume is soaring, but a hidden “venue gap” is silently killing your execution price



MiCA made euro stablecoins “real,” fast. But did they fix Europe’s order books or just add new rails?

The euro finally has a substantial stablecoin market, and for once, it’s not just a niche corner of DeFi. When MiCA’s stablecoin rules kicked in June 2024, they turned euro-pegged stablecoins into a regulated product category with paperwork, reserve rules, and an actual licensing lane.

Under MiCA, stablecoins that reference a single fiat currency sit in the “e-money token” bucket, while tokens tied to a basket fall under “asset-referenced tokens.” This means that if an issuer and an exchange want to keep a euro stablecoin available to EU users,

the compliance burden is now explicit, and it shows up in listings, disclosures, and what gets routed where.

A year and a half later, it’s easy to find the headline number. DECTA’s “Euro Stablecoin Trends Report 2025” puts the post-MiCA arithmetic plainly: across its monitored set of major euro-pegged stablecoins, market cap in the 12 months after MiCA’s rollout increased by 102%, reversing a 48% decline in the 12 months leading into MiCA.

It also says the combined market cap reached \$500 million in May 2025, and that aggregated monthly transaction volume jumped from \$383 million to \$3.832 billion.

[Read more...](#)

Crypto Money On The Move: \$110 Billion Flees South Korea In 2025

According to joint research cited in news reports, about \$110 billion — roughly ₩160 trillion — left South Korean crypto platforms during 2025. Trading activity did not stop. Instead, much of the money moved to foreign exchanges where more products and tools are available to ordinary investors.

Reports have disclosed that domestic rules largely confine local exchanges to spot trading. Many complex products remain off limits for retail traders in Korea, so traders turned to overseas platforms such as Binance and Bybit. The joint study by CoinGecko and Tiger Research is cited as the primary basis for the \$110 billion figure.

South Korea tightened compliance and user protections in recent years. Laws designed

to protect customers were passed, such as the Virtual Asset User Protection Act in 2024, but firms and users say the laws did not create a full framework for wider market services.

Lawmakers debated the Digital Asset Basic Act, but delays left gaps that some traders found limiting. As a result, a growing share of Korean-held crypto migrated to wallets and platforms abroad.

Based on platform analyses, fee revenue from Korean users on overseas exchanges became significant. Estimates in the sector put user-based fees at about ₩2.73 trillion for Binance and roughly ₩1.12 trillion for Bybit in 2025.

Reports also indicated the number of Korean accounts with large overseas balances grew by more than double year-on-year.



[Read more...](#)



WWW.PLATINUMCRYPTOACADEMY.COM