



INTERNATIONAL (Page 2)

Hamas Accumulates \$41 Million in Cryptocurrency Leading Up to Israel Conflict

SPECIAL FOCUS: BLOCKCHAIN IN CHINA (Page 6)

Do Chinese Crypto Miners Pose a National Security Concern for the US?

CRYPTOCURRENCIES (Page 7)

Ferrari Drives into Crypto Payments: Expanding Horizons in the United States and Beyond



INTERNATIONAL

Mastercard's Breakthrough: Tokenizing CBDCs Across Blockchains

Hauri, Christoph

Mastercard has launched a groundbreaking solution in Australia that revolutionizes the use of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). This innovative technology enables CBDCs to be securely tokenized or 'wrapped' across multiple blockchains, streamlining transactions. Developed in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), the Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC), Cuscal and Mintable, the solution provides strong security measures to ensure that only authorised and KYC-verified entities can access and use pilot CBDCs.

This solution allows a pilot CBDC owner to purchase an NFT listed on the Ethereum public blockchain.

Furthermore, the process involves locking a certain amount of Pilot CBDC on the RBA platform and minting an equivalent amount of wrapped Pilot CBDC tokens on Ethereum.

Mastercard's Multi-Token Network, currently in beta testing with international financial institutions, promises to reshape the use of blockchain technology in payment scenarios. It is now being tested with a number of global financial institutions, giving regulated entities access to digital asset capabilities. Mastercard's solution is a significant step forward in the world of CBDCs, offering users greater flexibility and security in their transactions.



Mastercard launches solution in Australia that revolutionizes the use of CBDCs.

India Collects Over \$12 Million in Crypto Tax as Adoption Surges



More and more people in India trade with cryptocurrencies

Douga, Erietta

Crypto transactions in India have yielded over \$12 million in Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) collections, reflecting a substantial increase in cryptocurrency in the country. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has accumulated more than 100 crore rupees (equivalent to over \$12 million) through a one percent TDS applied to crypto transactions during the present fiscal year.

Crypto Taxation Impact

In her budget speech for the fiscal year 2022-23, India's Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, introduced a one percent Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on cryptocurrency transactions. This move was aimed at bringing a degree of regulation to the rapidly expanding crypto market in India. She cited the extraordinary growth in cryptocurrency transactions as the primary motivation behind the implementation of this tax policy. Additionally, Sitharaman proposed a 30 percent tax on income generated from the transfer of virtual digital assets. The Indian government's position on cryptocurrency regulation has evolved significantly, shifting from advocating for a complete ban to endorsing a more global regulatory framework.

TDS Collection and Beyond

The head of the tax body revealed that they have collected over 700 crore rupees (approximately \$84 million) through TDS from both online gaming companies and crypto transactions, exceeding the \$12 million threshold. However, it's important to clarify that this TDS collection does not include the 30 percent tax imposed by the government on income generated from cryptocurrency transfers.

India Leads in Crypto Adoption

Despite the weight of crypto taxation, India is experiencing rapid growth in cryptocurrency adoption. Notably, India has secured the top position in Chainalysis' Global Crypto Adoption Index, which evaluates cryptocurrency adoption in over 150 countries based on various metrics. This rising trend in cryptocurrency adoption within India is prompting the government to reconsider and refine its regulatory approach towards this sector.

Decentralized Finance in the EU: Balancing Innovation and Risk

Mottis, Fabrizio

In the world of decentralized finance (DeFi), the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) has sounded a cautious note in their recent report. ESMA acknowledges the promising aspects of DeFi within the European Union, including enhanced financial inclusion and quicker, more secure transactions. However, the regulatory body also highlights specific potential risks associated with DeFi in the region.

The Promise

DeFi has undeniably brought innovation to the financial sector. It has made payments more convenient and accessible, particularly for individuals who are unbanked or underbanked. DeFi relies on blockchain technology, which offers transparency and eliminates the need for intermediaries. Smart contracts are a key component of DeFi. They have paved the way for various innovative financial products, from futures contracts to automated market makers. These advancements have the potential to reshape the financial landscape.

The Danger

ESMA's report raises concerns about DeFi's inherent risks. The high volatility of crypto assets raises liquidity risks, with fluctuation in Bitcoin and Ethereum being significantly higher than traditional stock indices. Counterparty risks, which smart contracts were designed to mitigate, can still pose a threat due to inconsistencies, particularly in lending platforms. Inadequate Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols have also made DeFi susceptible to scams.

The Verdict

Despite these concerns, the report concludes that DeFi does not present meaningful risks to financial stability in the EU. This is due to the relatively small size and limited connections between the crypto and traditional financial markets. As the DeFi area evolves, regulatory monitoring will most likely increase to handle these risks and realize the full potential of this new financial environment.

CRYPTO CRIMES

Sam Bankman-Fried's Spectacular Downfall: Luxury Living, Drafted Tweets, and Financial Schemes Revealed in Trial

Douga, Erietta

The trial of Sam Bankman-Fried, former CEO of FTX and once a powerful figure in the crypto world, has gripped the financial community. His alleged fraudulent activities leading up to the collapse of FTX have sent shockwaves through the industry. Under the microscope are his extravagant lifestyle, financial irregularities, and a revealing Twitter thread draft.

Luxurious Bahamas Living and Funding Sources

Prior to the collapse of his crypto empire, Sam Bankman-Fried enjoyed a life of luxury in the Bahamas with a circle of close friends and associates. This group included FTX co-founder Gary Wang and Fried's ex-girlfriend, Caroline Ellison. Both Wang and Ellison are now testifying against Bankman-Fried after pleading guilty to their own acts of fraud. During the first week of the trial, prosecutors probed how the group funded their extravagant residence, known as "Orchid," a \$35 million penthouse situated within the Albany oceanside resort. The 600-acre resort is renowned as the ultimate gem, enjoying support from an array of wealthy celebrities, including Tiger Woods and Justin Timberlake.

Senior FTX developer Adam Yedidia testified that Alameda Research was responsible for purchasing the penthouse. In his testimony, Yedidia revealed the lead of a fellow developer that FTX had used customer deposits to pay back Alameda's creditors. Ellison's testimony confirmed this input by adding that the company received the insane amount of \$10 billion to pay off its debt, all at Bankman-Fried's order.

A Draft Twitter Thread Revealed

During the trial, it came to light that Bankman-Fried had prepared a Twitter thread back in September 2022, contemplating the idea of closing his hedge fund, Alameda Research. This revelation sheds light on the events leading up to the eventual downfall of FTX.



Sam Bankman Fried drowning in debt spends time in luxurious holiday on the Australian Albany coast.

In the draft thread, Bankman-Fried praises Alameda Research for its crucial role in the crypto ecosystem and its significant global influence. But he also admits a major setback, namely the loss of millions in Ripple tokens due to Alameda's accounting negligence in February 2018. The former CEO aimed to address the narrative of excessively close ties between Alameda and FTX, labeling them as a distraction from competitors' own troubles.

Bankman-Fried's Plan Hindered

Bankman-Fried's intention to close Alameda Research was thwarted by the company's massive \$14 billion debt to FTX. Consequently, his hypothetical statement in the draft thread, "*Alameda Research is dead. Long live FTX,*" remained unrealized.

Conclusion of Wang's Testimony

On the sixth day of the trial, Wang admitted to wire fraud, securities fraud and commodities fraud in his capacity as FTX's chief technical officer and as a co-owner of Alameda Research, the cryptocurrency hedge fund co-founded by Wang and Bankman-Fried in 2017.

He revealed that the duo illicitly withdrew a substantial sum of \$8 billion from FTX funds through the channel of Alameda Research. Wang claimed that Bankman-Fried was the mastermind behind these illicit activities, which ultimately resulted in FTX's collapse and the legal predicaments confronting the once-influential crypto entrepreneur.

As the trial unfolds, the crypto world watches closely, seeking to understand the full scope of the transgressions that may have brought an empire to its knees.

ISRAEL PALESTINA CONFLICT

Crypto Aid Israel: Web3 Community Unites to Support Displaces Israelis

Mottis, Fabrizio

Members of Israel's local Web3 community have launched a remarkable initiative "Crypto Aid Israel." This charitable campaign intends to provide humanitarian assistance to Israeli citizens affected by the recent conflict with Hamas.

The Tragic Numbers Of The First Days Of War

The war, which began with a surprise assault by Palestinian from Gaza, has been damaging on both sides, forcing many Israeli people to move out of their homes. According to a recent report, the conflict has killed at least 700 Israelis and injured almost 2,400 others. Palestinians in Gaza report 560 deaths and nearly 2,700 wounded.

Blockchain Community Uniting In Time Of Crisis

Crypto Aid Israel, backed by major players in the cryptocurrency space, is on a mission to provide immediate aid to those affected. Their purpose is to raise funds that will provide essentials like food, shelter for displaced families, sanitary goods, and medical help to the bombarded Israeli civilian population. Donations can be made in a variety of cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), Tether (USDT), and USD Coin (USDC). These digital assets will be kept in a multi-signature wallet managed by the crypto custody firm Fireblocks, with the assistance of Israeli banks. So far, they have already collected more than \$100,000 to support their cause.

Cooperation Is A Key Factor

It's worth mentioning that, at the same time, Israeli authorities are actively attempting to freeze Bitcoin accounts linked to Hamas. Cooperation between Israeli authorities and cryptocurrency exchanges such as Binance aims to close accounts used to raise funding by the Palestinian group. Crypto Aid Israel is a great example of how the blockchain, and cryptocurrency communities can help in times of crisis. The initiative reminds the huge potential of smart contracts and blockchain to improve people's lives in ways that go far beyond financial transactions.

Hamas Accumulates \$41 Million in Cryptocurrency Leading Up to Israel Conflict

Douga, Erietta

Recent findings have disclosed that Hamas, a Palestinian organization involved in the current conflict with Israel, received substantial cryptocurrency funding prior to the recent hostilities. These revelations, which stem from inquiries driven by Israeli government seizure orders and blockchain analytics, shed light on the financial activities of Hamas and related groups.

From August 2021 to June 2023, both Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), another group involved in the recent conflict, accrued significant digital assets. Research by Elliptic shows that PIJ's crypto wallets received up to \$93 million in cryptocurrencies during this period. Simultaneously, data from BitOK reveal that crypto wallets linked to Hamas gathered around \$41 million.

These surprising revelations beg a vital question: Why couldn't the security and intelligence systems detect and prevent such financial activities?

Both Hamas and PIJ are subject to international sanctions, which should limit their access to foreign funding. Yet, they managed to raise significant amounts of cryptocurrency.

Although the findings highlight the major role of cryptocurrency in their financial strategies, it remains uncertain whether these digital assets directly funded the recent conflict. Cryptocurrency transactions are renowned for their ability to facilitate quick and private transfers of digital tokens between wallets.

This poses challenges for authorities when it comes to tracking and regulating such transactions. Importantly, these features have been utilized by various organizations in the past, even beyond the Middle East.

Israeli authorities have attempted to freeze cryptocurrency accounts that were used by Hamas to solicit fundraising via social media platforms. Yet, the precise amount of cryptocurrency seized in these actions remains undisclosed.



The dark side of cryptocurrencies comes to light once again during the current Middle East conflict.

The global landscape is witnessing a mounting concern regarding the role of cryptocurrencies in financial activities. It's imperative for governments and regulatory authorities to tackle regulatory gaps and improve monitoring within the cryptocurrency sector to effectively combat such funding. The recent case involving Hamas emphasizes the pressing need for synchronized and all-encompassing efforts to address these challenges. Cryptocurrencies' unique features, like their international nature and relative secrecy, call for new and collaborative strategies to prevent the potential misuse of digital assets across diverse activities.

Morgan's Tokenized Collateral Network: Transforming Traditional Assets into Digital Tokens

Mottis, Fabrizio

JPMorgan's launch of the in-house blockchain-based tokenization application, known as the Tokenized Collateral Network (TCN), marks a noteworthy development for blockchain and smart contract enthusiasts. This platform has the potential to revolutionize the financial industry by allowing traditional assets to be converted into digital tokens.

TCN enables investors to use their assets as collateral. Using blockchain technology, collateral ownership can be transferred without physically moving assets in the underlying ledgers. The application made its debut on October 11 by settling its first trade with BlackRock, an industry-leading asset management firm.



JPMorgan launches TCN.

On TCN shares of a money market fund were converted into digital tokens. These tokens were then transferred to Barclays Bank to serve as security for an over-the-counter derivatives exchange between the two companies. This example demonstrates how TCN simplifies traditional settlements, making them faster, more secure, and more efficient.

This platform facilitates the creation, transfer, and settlement of tokenized traditional assets while allowing the rapid movement of collateral. TCN has the ability to provide liquidity via secured repo transactions using tokenized collateral rather than relying on costly unsecured credit lines.

JPMorgan's transition from opposing the decentralized world to actively engaging in blockchain services indicates the increased demand and interest in this field. JPMorgan's Tokenized Collateral Network, backed by BlackRock, marks a significant step towards a more efficient and secure financial ecosystem. This innovation carries the potential for a lasting influence on the way conventional assets are managed and traded.

Zero-Knowledge Proofs: A 21st-Century Solution to Fake News and Digital Privacy Challenges

Douga, Erietta

Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) have stepped into the spotlight as a revolutionary cryptographic protocol in our data-exploitive reality. Although, first introduced in the 1980s, their recent advancements have unlocked a wealth of potential solutions to the modern challenges of privacy and data authenticity.

The core strength of ZKPs lies in their ability to verify the accuracy of computations without the need to redo them, drastically reducing the resources required for validation.

As explained in a forthcoming paper by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, "ZKPs allow a party to prove that a computation was executed correctly without the need to replicate it. The key advantage is that verifying a ZKP demands significantly fewer resources than re-executing the computation".

Initially embraced in the world of cryptocurrency and blockchain to enhance transaction efficiency, the scope of ZKPs extends far beyond. Imagine proving your income for a mortgage without revealing your actual earnings or verifying your residency or citizenship without exposing personal details to the authorities.

ZKPs also hold promise in combatting fake news, AI-altered content, and identity concerns, making them a key player in the battle for data authenticity. Industries like finance stand to benefit from revolutionary audit practices. However, hurdles remain as ZKPs grapple with challenges concerning computational complexity, usability, and scalability.

BLOCKCHAIN HISTORY

What happened in the blockchain world this month some years ago?

October 31, 2008: The Birth of Bitcoin

On October 31, 2008, Satoshi Nakamoto published the whitepaper "Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System." This important written work pioneered the concept of Bitcoin, a decentralized digital currency based on blockchain technology. This whitepaper laid the foundation for the creation of Bitcoin. Satoshi Nakamoto's identity remains a mystery, adding to the intrigue surrounding this historic release.

October 17, 2010: The first Bitcoin Over-The-Counter (OTC) exchange is born

The first Over-the-Counter (OTC) Bitcoin exchange was born on October 17, 2010, within the Freenode IRC's #bitcoin-otc channel.

*Hauri, Christoph
Mottis, Fabrizio*

BLOCKCHAIN IN CHINA

China's Digital Push: From Cryptocurrency Control to e-CNY Deployment

Kessler, Nicolai

China's relationship with cryptocurrencies has evolved over the past ten years, moving from enthusiasm to strict restriction. The rise in popularity of the cryptocurrency presented problems for China, which was formerly a leader in Bitcoin trade and mining. After considering the possible effects on its fiat currency, the government decided to outright forbid non-state-approved cryptocurrencies in September 2021. The nation's largest cryptocurrency exchanges were shut down, and Bitcoin mining operations were stopped, as a result of years of gradual restrictions.

China hasn't abandoned digital currencies despite its tougher stance on decentralized cryptocurrencies. Quite the opposite. The country has been aggressively creating the foundation for the digital yuan, also known as e-CNY, which is the official central bank's digital currency (CBDC). With this attempt, China demonstrates its desire to hold firmly to its financial ecosystem while adjusting to the global digital economy. A significant step was recently made in Sanya, Hainan, when the state-run Bank of Communications provided a loan worth more than \$20 million in e-CNY, the city's first CBDC-backed loan. Such banks see enormous advantages in working with the CBDC, noting the capacity to rigorously track down funds and reduce potential theft.

But this digital shift goes beyond purely commercial activities. The State Administration of Foreign Exchange's deputy director, Lu Lei, emphasized the potential capabilities of the digital yuan to modulate and regulate interest rates. The e-CNY's role might change from rapid cash transfers to more comprehensive monetary operations by utilizing its built-in programmability to integrate smart contracts linked to interest rates.



China gains ground in the Blockchain world.

However, as with other disruptive technologies, the ongoing journey of the digital yuan comes with challenges. Concerns have been raised about issues such as data integrity, privacy, and potential financial exclusion. In addition, the adoption of distributed ledger technologies could lead to high-frequency transaction rates, which could increase market vulnerability in times of distress.

To conclude, China's transition from a pioneer in the crypto industry to a leader in the development of the CBDC perfectly reflects its strategic aim of maintaining economic control while embracing technological advancements. China's actions, which the rest of the world is closely observing, may serve as models for the broad adoption of digital currencies.

Do Chinese Crypto Miners Pose a National Security Concern for the US?

Kessler, Nicolai

US authorities are heightening scrutiny on Bitcoin mining companies linked to China, due to national security reasons. The New York Times reported that many US-based Bitcoin mining centers can be traced back to the Chinese government. This has sparked concerns, especially when such centers are near crucial facilities, like military bases. A notable site under surveillance is in Wyoming, close to a Microsoft data center supporting Pentagon operations.

While Microsoft found no direct evidence of malicious intent by the mining firm, the presence of Chinese nationals near a strategic US missile base pose potential security risks. The company Bit Origin, which transformed a meat facility into a crypto center and is listed amongst those monitored, emphasized its location choice was due to local electricity deals.

In the midst of political tensions between the US and China, the relocation of miners from China to crypto-friendly US regions like Texas and Wyoming, following China's 2021 mining ban has intensified scrutiny on such operations.

US authorities are closely monitoring all entities and individuals associated with China and have been levying sanctions on cryptocurrency wallets believed to be connected to the production of the drug Fentanyl.

We watch closely, as the events evolve.

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Brokers with Mainland China Ties Pursue Hong Kong Crypto Licenses

Kessler, Nicolai



"One country, two systems."

As part of Hong Kong's strive to become a key Crypto Hub, two financial entities, linked to mainland China, Yax and PantherTrade, are seeking to apply for a virtual asset service platform (VASP) license for retail trading.

Yax has connections to Tiger Brokers, supported by Xiaomi, while PantherTrade is reportedly linked to Futu, backed by Tencent. Both companies had previously facilitated offshore asset trading for mainland clients, but this had come to a halt due to Chinese regulatory constraints. They are currently undergoing evaluations in anticipation of their submissions to Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC).

Though retail cryptocurrency trading is banned in mainland China, Hong Kong has seen \$64 billion in crypto trades from July 2022 to June 2023, indicating a flourishing market. This growth showcases the potential under the "one country, two systems" framework.

Crypto Regulations Worldwide: A Roadmap from Switzerland to Asia

Hauri, Christoph

From Switzerland's Early Adoption to the EU's MiCA Regulation

As the world experiences the exponential growth of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology, countries are taking significant steps to adapt to the complex regulatory landscape. This is all happening with Switzerland leading the way as an early adopter of comprehensive crypto guidelines and a provider of legal and regulated cryptocurrency exchange and custody services.

EU's MiCA Regulation: A Game-Changer in Crypto Regulation

The European Union has taken a pioneering initiative with its revolutionary Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) regulation, which sets a new standard for crypto regulation globally and will begin to roll out in 2024. The plan with this regulatory framework is to track crypto asset transactions in the same way as traditional money transfers.

US Crypto Regulation: Ongoing Evolution and Diverse Challenges

While the Biden administration provided some clarity on crypto regulation in 2022, the US remains immersed in a complex regulatory landscape, with various agencies, including the SEC, CFTC and OCC. These agencies are competing for dominance in this dynamic space, creating challenges and debates over the appropriate regulatory approach.



There are different approaches to handle cryptocurrencies in the world

Diverse Approaches in Asia: India, China, Japan, Singapore, and More

Across Asia, various countries are grappling with distinct approaches to cryptocurrency regulation. India, for instance, is transitioning from contemplating a complete crypto ban to exploring regulatory measures - as seen in the article „India Collects Over \$12 Million in Crypto Tax as Adoption Surges“. Meanwhile, China maintains a cautious stance, and Japan and Singapore are actively embracing cryptocurrencies with well-defined legal frameworks, fostering innovation and driving economic growth.

Middle East Emerges as a Thriving Crypto Hub

The Middle East, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, is positioning itself as a crypto-friendly region. Dubai, in particular, is aiming to become a global hub for crypto and blockchain, signaling its intention to lead the crypto revolution.

What do you think the regulation of cryptocurrencies will look like in the near future?

Ferrari Drives into Crypto Payments: Expanding Horizons in the United States and Beyond

Mottis, Fabrizio

Luxury automaker Ferrari is accelerating into the world of cryptocurrency payments in the United States. Customers will soon be able to pay for their dream cars using Bitcoin, Ether, and USD Coin, with no additional fees. A partnership with BitPay, a leading cryptocurrency payment processor, will ensure a seamless experience.

To address cryptocurrency price fluctuations, BitPay will promptly convert the received payments into traditional fiat currency. Additionally, BitPay will enforce stringent security protocols to verify the legitimacy of virtual currencies, enhancing transaction security for both Ferrari and its customers.

Ferrari's entry into cryptocurrency payments reflects the growing acceptance and adoption of cryptocurrencies within mainstream businesses. This move demonstrates the luxury automotive industry's commitment to embracing innovation and technology. An expansion to Europe is expected in early 2024, solidifying the brand's position as a pioneer in the crypto automotive world.



Ferrari clients will soon be paying of their crypto wallets.

\$250m investment boosts sustainable Bitcoin mining in El Salvador

Hauri, Christoph

El Salvador's cryptocurrency mining project, Volcano Energy, has received its first \$250 million investment. The company is building a 241-megawatt (MW) power generation park in the Metapán region, powered by renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

Volcano Energy's sustainable bitcoin mining initiative offers a solution to the environmental challenges facing the industry. The project will be powered by a combination of 169 MW of photovoltaic solar energy and 72 MW of wind energy, striving for a remarkable computing power exceeding 1.3 Exahashes per second.

Stablecoin issuer Tether has shown its dedication to sustainable energy production and mining infrastructure by joining the rank of investors. Volcano Energy's project reflects the booming landscape of Bitcoin mining, signifying a shift towards sustainable practices.



El Salvador's Volcano Energy project receives \$250 million investment.

The Salvadoran government plays an active role in the project, ensuring a substantial portion of the earnings, while investors will hold a 27% stake. The remaining 50% will be reinvested to expand energy production and boost Bitcoin mining capacity. These transformative initiatives would not have been possible, had the government of El Salvador not made Bitcoin legal tender back in 2021.

Ultimately, this current project represents a significant step towards eco-friendly cryptocurrency mining, and the future will show how it continues in El Salvador.

Binance CEO Anticipates “All-Time Highs” After 2024 Bitcoin Halving Speculation

Hauri, Christoph

Changpeng Zhao, CEO of Binance is positive about the 2024 halving of Bitcoin. The CEO of the biggest cryptocurrency exchange globally predicts that this event could trigger a new price increase, following the pattern of previous bitcoin halving events in 2013, 2017, and 2021.

Zhao's optimism is based on some market dynamics:

1. Normally before the Bitcoin halving, excitement builds up in the crypto community with increased media attention, showing strong hopes for the event.
2. Following the halving, Bitcoin's value typically doesn't experience an immediate increase. Rather, there is often a period of consolidation.

3. Subsequent price spikes: Historical data shows that the cryptocurrency's price has surged to reach new all-time highs in the years that follow the halving. This upward trend is driven by growing awareness, adoption, and reduced bitcoin production.

Zhao's perspective underscores the predictability and cyclical nature of Bitcoin's price movements due to its status as money with an apolitical monetary policy. This highlights the unique deflationary characteristics of digital currencies that set them apart from traditional fiat currencies. Ultimately, only time will tell what the price of Bitcoin will be in the future; the exact price is a matter of speculation.

What is a Bitcoin Halving?

Bitcoin halving events are significant milestones in the cryptocurrency's timeline that occur approximately every four years. These events involve a reduction in the rate at which new Bitcoins are created through mining. This results in a decrease in the overall supply of the digital asset.

EVENTS

Guest Speaker Event: Learn More About DeFi

Dougas, Ioannis



An impressive audience showed up at SCL's second Guest speaker Event.

On Wednesday, October 18th, the Smart Contact Lab (SCL) marked a milestone in its journey by organizing its second guest speaker event, the first one open to the public. With over 50 external registrations in addition to SCL's own members, the event drew a full house to the main building of the University of Zurich.

The evening unfolded with two insightful presentations from guest speakers Magnus Woodgate and Henry Fudge, followed by a lively Apéro at the south side of the Lichthof.

SCL had the privilege of hosting two distinguished experts in the field of DeFi (Decentralized Finance) and Blockchain, who generously took time from their busy schedules to share their practical insights and experiences with the eager audience.

Main host Camille Zuber set the stage for the evening's proceedings, introducing the first speaker, Magnus Woodgate, a quantitative engineer at TX91. Woodgate's presentation began by highlighting key similarities and differences between liquidity in traditional financial markets and the blockchain. He dived deep into the workings of liquidity pools, the role of liquidity providers, and traders. Woodgate's presentation then transitioned into a more practical exploration, showcasing various decentralized cryptocurrency exchange platforms employing smart contracts to execute trades. He discussed advantages and challenges of these platforms and shed light on the potential for profit within this dynamic ecosystem.



After the presentations, everyone enjoyed some snacks and drinks in the "Lichthof".

Following Woodgate's engaging talk, Henry Fudge, the Founder of 512M and a close associate of Magnus, took the stage. Fudge's presentation focused on Concentrated Liquidity Automated Market Makers (CLAMM), a liquidity pool that has been gaining significant attention. CLAMM is designed to concentrate liquidity within a specific price range, maximizing capital and yielding better returns. Fudge outlined the associated risks and potential high returns,



Henry Fudge's talk about Concentrated Liquidity Automated Market Makers (CLAMM).

underscoring the complexities of the subject and the fierce competition in the field. He also highlighted the transformation from the initial concept of cryptocurrencies being accessible to everyone, to extensive operations investing significant capital to maximize profits and eliminate rivals.

The event concluded with Camille inviting the audience to the Apéro held at Lichthof. Drinks and snacks flowed as attendees engaged in discussions and networking. Regrettably, the Apéro had to conclude at 22:00 due to the university's closing, but this did not mark the end of the night for most participants. Many continued their discussions and networking in the streets and bars of Zurich.

The event proved to be a tremendous success, with engaging presentations and a strong turnout for the Apéro, demonstrating the support and enthusiasm within the SCL community.

The SCL team extends its heartfelt gratitude to the guest speakers, Magnus and Henry, as well as everyone who attended and supported the event. Also, the Apéro wouldn't have been as successful, had it not been with the kind sponsorship and support of Sparklys Hard Seltzer Switzerland and the Badener Oederlin Areal, who kept everyone hydrated and in a great mood with their refreshing beverages and rich wines. It is this collective enthusiasm and curiosity that keeps the spirit of SCL thriving.

SCL NOW

SCL Offboarding

Douga, Erietta

Six wonderful months have gone by for three valued members of SCL. Recently, they attended an offboarding presentation hosted by the Operations Team, which equipped them with the necessary tools for their Bachelor's or Master's Theses. In the midst of their hectic final days with us, they generously spared some time for an interview to discuss their experiences with the project.

We wish Jasmin, Camille and Siyo all the best for the future and we eagerly anticipate their future achievements.



From left to right: Siyo, Camille and Jasmin at the Offboarding Event.

Reber, Jasmin

What was your topic?

I was part of the regulation team, and our mission was to combat financial fraud by leveraging the transformative potential of blockchain technology. Our team integrated the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) processes onto the blockchain. Currently, we're focused on developing a receipt NFT to prevent expense reimbursement fraud.

What was your function?

I had the honor of being the head of board, overseeing the teams and their coordination.

Are you in your Bachelor's or your Master's? What are you studying?

I am currently pursuing my Master's degree with a major in Banking and Finance.

What were your main responsibilities in the project?

My primary focus was ensuring the project's smooth and efficient operation, working closely in collaboration with Adi Hanna Gol. My role encompasses overseeing the topic teams, managing the function teams, and project management in general.

What did you learn in the last six months?

Over the past six months, I've had the opportunity to deepen my understanding of blockchain technology and enhance my collaboration, leadership, and problem-solving skills. I've also gained a greater appreciation for the importance of a positive attitude and effective communication in overcoming challenges.

What would you say was your highlight within the project?

The entire past six months! It has been an unforgettable journey for me. I've acquired invaluable life lessons and shared countless memorable moments and laughter with my dedicated team members.

What are your plans after you've submitted your thesis?

After submitting my thesis, I plan to visit my family and friends in China and travel. On the professional front, I'm open to exploring various career opportunities, including the possibility of working in a different country.



Jasmin's favorite picture from her time at SCL. This was the first picture taken after SCL officially became an association.

Zuber, Camille

What was your topic?

I was first in the Market Analysis Team and then moved to the Functional Platform & Accounting Team.

What was your function?

BD/CRM

Are you in your Bachelor's or your Master's? What are you studying?

I'm doing my Master in Economics, minor in Banking & Finance

Which were your main responsibilities in the project?

When I joined SCL, the Market Analysis Team was almost done with their project. I supported them in finalizing their research and their final paper. I then became leader of the Functional Platform and Accounting Team, where we started a new project from scratch: a backend allowing the user to get information and statistics about any smart contract. In parallel, I led the BD/CRM Team, where I oversaw SCL's external representation to the blockchain industry.

What did you learn in the last six months?

During my 6 months at SCL I learnt a lot! I consider it as a real work experience. In particular, I learned to code in Python, which is something I've always wanted to learn, and which will come in handy later on. Perhaps the most rewarding part of this experience has been the teamwork and leadership. Organizing and maintaining the work of an entire team was a challenge I loved.

What would you say was your highlight within the project?

I really enjoyed organizing the Guest Speakers Event because it was extremely collaborative, and many members participated. Whether it was creating the flyer, promoting it on social networks, organizing the apero... Everyone pitched in and I loved the team spirit.

What are your plans after you've submitted your thesis?

Take some time to travel and then getting started in the world of work.

Sivayogarahaj, Siyopan

What was your topic?

My topic is regulation, where me and my group are working on developing a concept to eliminate duplicate expense receipts. I have been actively involved in both conceptualizing and writing the text for this project from the beginning.

What was your function?

My function within the group is Business Development and Customer Relationship Management (BD/CRM). In this capacity, I assist in the planning of both internal and external events. I also attend external events as a representative of our project. Additionally, I am in the process of building a network for the SCL in third-world countries. The aim of this network is to expand the reach and impact of SCL. Additionally, we have also conducted experiments in the realm of Web 3, collaborating with individuals from these countries.

Are you in your Bachelor's or your Master's? What are you studying?

I am currently doing my Bachelor's degree in Economics with a specialization in Economics Business Administration at the University of Zurich.

What did you learn in the last six months?

In the past six months, I have gained a lot of valuable experience. Especially in efficient collaboration with fellow students, I was able to develop my skills significantly. Although I already had a basic knowledge of blockchain, SCL's support has expanded my knowledge and given me a better understanding of how to independently develop blockchain projects and successfully use smart contracts. I have been particularly engaged with the topic of tokenization. At the same time, I took on the challenge of building a network in developing countries. This required intensive communication, during which I introduced the concepts of blockchain and Web 3 to many people, which gave me great pleasure. Over time, I have improved my ability to communicate blockchain concepts to others more quickly and in a way that is easier to understand.

What would you say was your highlight within the project?

I consider attending external events to be extremely valuable, as they gave me the opportunity to see how quickly you can get in touch with CEOs of large projects.



Syio presenting the BD/CRM Function at the Onboarding Week

This opens up impressive opportunities that can significantly impact our lives. Regardless of my future affiliation with SCL, I plan to maintain this practice.

What are your plans after you've submitted your thesis?

After the thesis I will do my Master at the University of Zurich. I already attended some master courses this semester.

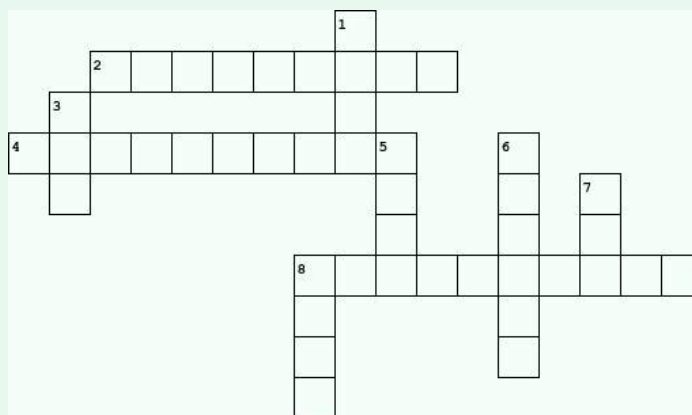
In my free time, I will continue to engage with blockchain technology.

SCL Crossword

Mottis, Fabrizio

Across

2. Measures imposed by governments or international bodies to restrict or prohibit certain actions, often in response to a violation of international laws or norms
4. Which credit card firm is revolutionizing the tokenization of CBDCs?
8. Satoshi Nakamoto published the ___ of Bitcoin



Solutions: 1 - Four, 2 - Sanctions, 3 - TDS, 4 - Mastercard, 5 - DeFi, 6 - Crypto, 7 - ZKP, 8 (Down) - Wind, 8 (Across) - Whitepaper

Down

1. Approximately every ___ year a Bitcoin halving is happening
3. A tax collection method used to ensure that income tax is deducted at the source of income.
5. Abbreviation of decentralized finance
6. A common abbreviation used to refer to cryptocurrencies and digital assets?
7. The core strength of ___s lies in their ability to verify the accuracy of computations without the need to redo them
8. Besides solar; what source of renewable energy is the "Volcano Energy" Project in El Salvador producing?

Impressum

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