



Weekly News Recap

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Top Stories of The Week

Bitcoin surges to \$97k as market leverage hits historic \$63 billion

CryptoSlate

Bitcoin surged to a new all-time high of \$99,645 on Friday, driven by optimism from Donald Trump's political victory. Open Interest in derivatives reached a historic \$63b, while US spot Bitcoin ETF inflows and trading volumes surged. Other cryptocurrencies joined in on the fun too, with the total crypto market cap excluding Bitcoin and Ethereum up 18% over the last week, highlighted by Solana hitting a new all-time high of \$263.

Trump's proposed Crypto Advisory Council could establish US bitcoin reserve: report

The Block Crypto News

There continued to be progress with respect towards a more positive US stance in the wake of Trump's Presidential election victory. First, Trump proposed creating a Crypto Advisory Council, which could work towards digital assets regulatory clarity as well as establish a strategic Bitcoin reserve. In addition, Trump is reportedly still planning to hire a Crypto Czar. Lastly, Trump continues to nominate pro-Bitcoin candidates for key governmental positions, such as Howard Lutnick, Robert F Kennedy Jr, and Pete Hegseth.

SEC broker-dealer rule struck down by US courts, big win for crypto

Cointelegraph

A US district judge tossed out the SEC's broker-dealer rule, which had changed the definition of a dealer to include liquidity providers and automated market makers with more than \$50m in capital. The judge ruled that the SEC had exceeded its statutory authority by enacting such a broad definition. While the SEC may appeal the verdict, many view the decision as a big win for the crypto industry.

SEC chief Gary Gensler says he'll resign on Trump's inauguration

DL News Feeds

Current SEC Chair Gary Gensler announced that he will resign on January 20, coinciding with Trump's inauguration. Gensler's actions towards the crypto industry while at the helm of the agency were controversial, as he believes the existing laws written nearly a century ago are clear, that the "vast majority" of cryptocurrencies are securities, and that the industry is "teaming with hucksters, fraudsters, scam artists, [and] Ponzi schemes." Many in the industry viewed Gensler's SEC as overstepping its boundaries, and thus celebrated the announcement.

Bitcoin ETF Options Introduction Marks Milestone, Despite Position Limits

CoinDesk

Options on the US spot Bitcoin ETFs began trading this week after the OCC gave final clearance. Options on BlackRock's IBIT were first up, quickly followed by options on ARKB, FBTC, BITB, GBTC, and BTC. The IBIT options debut was strong, with over \$2b in notional exposure traded on the first day despite the existence of position limits. Many believe the options, which can protect downside, generate yield, or enable leverage, can increase demand for the ETFs with their ability to customize exposure.

Bitcoin

['BITSANITY' — Records broken with \\$70B in volume for Bitcoin stocks, ETFs](#)

[Bitcoin is inches away from cracking all-time high against gold](#)

[Ethereum falls to 4-year low against Bitcoin as BTC breaks above \\$94k](#)

[Tokenized US Treasury Bills on Bitcoin's Liquid Network: NexBridge Launches 'First Regulated Public Offering'](#)

[AI Tokens Rebound Amid Bitcoin Rally](#)

[Coinbase Delists Wrapped Bitcoin wBTC, Citing 'Listing Concerns'](#)

[Bitfinity Network launches Bitcoin L2 with \\$12M backing](#)

[CME Bitcoin Friday Futures experience notable increase in institutional demand](#)

[OP_VAULT explained: How it could enhance Bitcoin security](#)

['I put most of my wealth into Bitcoin, so I am fully committed' — RFK Jr.](#)

[Cardano-Bitcoin bridge may be first step to true Bitcoin DeFi](#)

Ethereum

[The blobs conundrum: Ethereum's balancing act](#)

[ETHGlobal hackathon's 10 finalists showcase AI agents, crypto games, DAO tools, and](#)

[more](#)

Altcoins

[XRP Soars 25% in Wake of Gary Gensler's SEC Resignation](#)

[Solana hits new \\$264 all-time high as DEX volume reaches \\$100 billion monthly milestone](#)

['Just a Chill Guy' Sparks TikTok Memecoin Craze](#)

[The Graph introduces GRC-20 standard for Web3 data structure](#)

[Blockchain Intelligence Platform Arkham to Launch Spot Trading in the US](#)

[Jito Token Holders Slated for Payday Under TipRouter Proposal](#)

[Just a Chill Guy Character Creator Moves to Enforce Copyright as \\$CHILLGUY Meme Coin Explodes](#)

[Solana Ecosystem Continues to Gain Market Share from Ethereum](#)

[Sui network outage triggers 7% price drop despite broader bull market](#)

[IOTA Upgrades Its Layer 1 to Move to Become More Competitive](#)

[Dueling 'Eliza' AI Tokens Boom and Zoom in Frenzied Trading](#)

[Injective launches new toolkit for building on-chain AI agents](#)

[StarkNet Activity Hits Highest Level Since March](#)

[Shiba Inu whale holds 10% of SHIB supply, up 250,000x to \\$2.5B](#)

[DYdX Launches Permissionless Listings With Unlimited Upgrade](#)

[Hamster Kombat user drop 'expected' but team plans to 're-engage'](#)

[Hedera Price Jumps 29% on Rumors Brian Brooks Could Get Another Trump Nod](#)

[ai16z token rockets 50% after nod from top venture firm](#)

[Dogecoin Investors Drop Legal Battle Against Elon Musk](#)

[Memecoin returns were 6x higher than crypto market average over past 30 days](#)

['Earn & Burn' Could Push FET and ASI Alliance to New Highs](#)

[Ripple Labs and CEO come under fire amid rumors of a Trump meeting](#)

[Look out, Solana: Starknet to 4X TPS within 3 months](#)

[Solana DApps See Record Fees and Revenue Amid Meme Coins Resurgence](#)

Stablecoins

[Stablecoin bill faces several challenges — former Senator Pat Toomey](#)

[Stripe and Circle's USDC integrate into Aptos ecosystem](#)

[Solana is excited about new stablecoin infrastructure provider Perena](#)

[Sky, formerly Maker, launches USDS stablecoin on Solana](#)

[Netherlands-Based Quantoz Launches Stablecoins EURO, USDQ Amid Regulatory Push](#)

[Tether invests in Dutch firm to launch MiCA-compliant stablecoins](#)

[Ethena adopts fee-sharing proposal for ENA token](#)

[Tether, Kraken-Backed Quantoz Payments Launch MiCA-Compliant Stablecoins](#)

[Spark Liquidity Layer To Unlock Multi-Chain Functionality For Sky's USDS Stablecoin](#)

Crypto Ecosystem

[FTX set to begin creditor distributions in early 2025](#)

[Crypto market maker B2C2 taps PV01 to issue its first corporate bond on Ethereum](#)

[Rekt Coin Launching With Airdrop Following Rekt Drinks Sellout](#)

[DeFi's Renaissance](#)

[Coin Center lawyers argue Tornado Cash is not property](#)

[DCG launches new Bittensor-focused subsidiary Yuma, doubling down on decentralized AI investments](#)

[Vana to Launch Mainnet for Decentralized User-Owned Data](#)

[SuiHub Global Accelerator launches with \\$200K, expert support in MENA](#)

[Cosmos co-founder proposes peer-to-peer clearing system in white paper](#)

[BitGo Launches Singapore Services, Eyes Other Crypto-Friendly Regions in Asia](#)

[Memecoin Launchpad GraFun Expands to Ethereum to Clinch New Users](#)

[Polymarket survives post-election drop-off though volume falls 60%](#)

[Securitize, Elixir launch DeFi vaults for Blackrock's BUIDL](#)

[A16z-backed Forta launches Firewall to help prevent smart contract exploits](#)

[Paxos acquires Membrane Finance for EU stablecoin expansion](#)

[Crypto Custody Firm Copper's Asia Exec to Join Ledger](#)

[Cyvers launches institutional crypto security tool for \\$4B vulnerability](#)

[Phantom takes second spot in Apple's US App Store utilities category](#)

[Nansen Integrates with TRON DAO to Deliver On-Chain Insights for Ecosystem Growth](#)

[CyVers and Station70 Team Up for Transaction Security Solution Launch](#)

[Crypto Valley Exchange to Go Live in January With Cheap On-Chain Futures and](#)

[Options Trading](#)

[Pump Science Combines DeSci with Memecoins](#)

[Japan's DMM Crypto shuts down Seamoon Protocol amid challenges](#)

[ai16z partners with Ryze Labs to launch AICombinator with \\$5M fund](#)

[Decentralized AI Project Morpheus Goes Live on Mainnet](#)

[Lido Co-Founders Said to Plot Competitor to Sam Altman's World Network](#)

[Ethereum-compatible Layer 1 Monad begins rolling out testnet](#)

[Mobile Crypto Apps Are Climbing the Charts as Bitcoin Blasts Off](#)

[AI Meme Coins Creating 'New Super Cycle Narrative': Gate.io](#)

[Project Liberty Joins SOAR to Challenge Centralized Social Media Giants With AI, Decentralized Data](#)

NFTs / Gaming / Metaverse

[Notcoin and Helika Gaming launch Telegram Gaming Accelerator](#)

[110M Doodles coffee cups appear at McDonald's across the US: NFT Collector](#)

[Justin Sun just spent \\$6m on a banana. Next, he's going to eat it](#)

[Justin Sun enters the banana zone with \\$6.2 million purchase of 'Comedian' artwork](#)

['Blue chip' NFTs spring back to life as CryptoPunks double in value](#)

[Pac-Man NFTs to Fuel Pokémon Go-Like Scavenger Hunt in Tokyo](#)

[Magic Eden Unveils \\$ME Tokenomics](#)

[Ethereum Game Series 'Super Champs' Reveals Base Token Launch Date](#)

[KARRAT Foundation Introduces Studio Chain: A Dedicated Blockchain for Web3 Gaming and Entertainment](#)

[NFTs weekly sales surge 94% as crypto market continues bullish run](#)

Mining

[150 Russian Firms Have Already Applied for Crypto Mining Permits, Says Gov't](#)

[Miners Going Nuclear: A Symbiotic Synergy](#)

[Putin Wants Russian Regions With Excess Power to Mine Crypto](#)

[Wall Street Miner Canaan Raises \\$30 Million, Sees 121% Revenue Increase in Q3 2024](#)

[Russia plans to restrict crypto mining in 13 regions to save electricity](#)

[MARA Holdings Increases Convertible Note Offering From \\$700M to \\$850M Amid Investor Demand](#)

[Binance Pool Introduces Fractal BTC Mining Starting Nov. 18](#)

[BIT Mining to pay \\$10M fine for bribing Japanese politicians in former life](#)

[Dagestan Government Chief Asks Moscow to Let it Ban Crypto Mining](#)

[Marathon Digital eyes Bitcoin growth with \\$700 million in convertible notes](#)

Exchanges

[Binance Boosts Compliance Staff by 34% Year-Over-Year, Citing Industry's 'Rapid Maturation'](#)

[Coinbase VP Shares Plans to 'Do More' With Meme Coins As Trump Promises Regulatory Clarity](#)

[Flurry of Crypto.com acquisitions reveal Robinhood-style ambitions — not crypto monopoly](#)

[Coinbase Wallet introduces 4.7% APY reward for USDC holders](#)

[North Korea to blame for 342,000 ETH Upbit hack in 2019, South Korean police say](#)

[Memecoin revival drives Solana DEX Raydium past Tether in fees](#)

[Bitfinex Securities launches first tokenized Treasury bills under El Salvador's law](#)

[Crypto Exchange Woo X Adds AI-Powered Trader 'George AI' to Its Copy Trade App](#)

[Digital Asset Exchange Archax Adds State Street, Fidelity and LGIM to Platform](#)

[Gemini Launches in France as Part of European Expansion](#)

[Binance clarifies 'rewards-bearing' BFUSD asset is not a stablecoin, hasn't launched](#)

[Crypto.com Scoops Australian Firm to Broaden Financial Products in Local Market](#)

[OKX Enables Instant Singapore Dollar Deposits and Withdrawals for Local Users](#)

Investment Mgmt

[Bitcoin ETFs Take in \\$1 Billion as BTC Price Nears \\$100,000](#)

[Webull Taps Coinbase for Retail Crypto Futures](#)

[South Korea bans ETFs tracking crypto-related companies](#)

[SEC delays decision on Franklin Templeton's crypto Index ETF to 2025](#)

[Bitwise Asset Management Takes Step Towards Solana ETF with Trust Entity Filing](#)

[Bitwise registers Solana Trust signalling future SEC application for SOL spot ETF](#)

[U.S. Bitcoin ETFs Surpass \\$100 Billion in Assets Amid BTC Rally](#)

[WisdomTree Launches Low-Cost XRP ETP on European Exchanges](#)

[Grayscale completes reverse share splits of Bitcoin and Ether ETFs](#)

[MicroStrategy upsizes note offering to \\$2.6 billion for Bitcoin plan due to high demand](#)

[Grayscale to Launch Bitcoin ETF Options Following BlackRock's Record Debut](#)

[Switzerland-Based 21Shares Adds Staking to its Ethereum Core ETP](#)

[Colombia's Stock Exchange Mulls Crypto ETF Launch](#)

[Growing Confidence in Crypto Spurs Advisors to Increase Digital Asset Diversification](#)

[Bitwise expects options trading for its Bitcoin ETF to start tomorrow](#)

[Paul Tudor Jones' Hedge Fund Holds \\$230 Million Worth of BlackRock Bitcoin ETF](#)

[Options on BlackRock's Bitcoin ETF Will Launch Tuesday](#)

[Odds favor Solana ETF in 2025: VanEck](#)

[DeFi Technologies' AUM jumps 38% amid crypto market boom](#)

[Crypto ETFs filings to test an SEC likely to change](#)

[Spot bitcoin ETF options are one step closer to going live](#)

[BlackRock Targets Middle East Market with Abu Dhabi License](#)

[Digital Asset Inflows Hit \\$33.5B YTD as Weekly Investments Surge by \\$2.2B](#)

Capital Raises

[Market-based media platform Truemarkets raises \\$4 million from public NFT sale, attracting Vitalik Buterin as a buyer](#)

[Modular DEX protocol Valantis raises seed round at \\$40 million valuation](#)

[Crypto casino Monkey Tilt raises \\$30 million Series A led by Pantera Capital](#)

[Maven 11 leads \\$3 million seed round for DeFi liquidity solver system Barter](#)

[Former Robinhood employees raise \\$5 million for crypto-AI startup OpenLayer](#)

Trad Fi / Tech

[Allianz, Germany's biggest insurer, buys 24% of MicroStrategy's \\$2.6B notes](#)

[Apple Admits to Remote Code Exploit That Threatened Crypto Security](#)

[Charles Schwab to enter spot crypto market once regulations improve](#)

[MicroStrategy completes its \\$3 billion debt offering to buy more bitcoin](#)

[Donald Trump's media company files trademark application for 'TruthFi', a crypto payments service](#)

[Nvidia sees bright future in agentic AI amid record Q3 revenue](#)

[Reddit's r/cryptocurrency Launches On-chain Domain for 9 Million Users](#)

[MicroStrategy Bitcoin Bet Wreaks Havoc on Wall Street, MSTR Becomes Second Most Traded Stock After NVIDIA](#)

[Mastercard and JPMorgan Link Up to Bring Cross-Border Payments on the Blockchain](#)

[Hot Therapeutics allocates \\$1M to Bitcoin as treasury asset](#)

[CME data suggests institutions are field-testing new crypto moves](#)

[PayPal taps Xoom for cross-border stablecoin payments](#)

[Trump Media shares ride post-election, potential crypto acquisition wave](#)

[Rumble shares rise 9% as founder mulls scooping up Bitcoin](#)

[Microsoft Buying Bitcoin? Michael Saylor Will Make His Case to the Board](#)

[Metaplanet Shares Surge 15% Following \\$11.3M Bitcoin Acquisition](#)

[More companies name BTC a treasury reserve asset](#)

[Genius Group kicks off Bitcoin treasury play with \\$10M in BTC](#)

[Bakkt shares surge 162% after report suggests Trump Media is buying it](#)

[MicroStrategy Plans \\$1.75 Billion Convertible Notes Offering to Expand Bitcoin Holdings](#)

[Goldman Sachs to spinout digital assets business within 12-18 months: Bloomberg](#)

[Michael Saylor's MicroStrategy Added Additional 51,780 Bitcoin for \\$4.6B](#)

[Semler Scientific reports 37.3% Bitcoin yield, expands holdings](#)

CBDC

[Indian central bank in 'no hurry' to rollout CBDC nationwide](#)

[ECB Pushes for Digital Euro Launch to Keep Pace with Global CBDC Race](#)

[Brazil advances CBDC technology with new cross-chain pilot using Chainlink's CCIP](#)

[Norwegian Task Force Urges Caution on CBDC Rollout: Report](#)

Regulatory / Countries

[Texan Lawmakers Explore Strategic Bitcoin Reserve Legislation, Says Satoshi Action Fund](#)

[CFTC commissioner urges US crypto policy reforms](#)

[Shanghai Court Recognizes Virtual Currency as Property, Tightens Trading Crackdown](#)

[UK to deliver comprehensive crypto regulation framework by early 2025](#)

[Trump Considers Chris Giancarlo for First-Ever White House Crypto Czar Role](#)

[Chris Giancarlo, ex-CFTC chair, emerges as frontrunner for White House 'crypto czar' role](#)

[Switzerland regulator warns of rising crypto money laundering risks](#)

[Japan to ease crypto taxation under new stimulus package](#)

[Bitcoin Smashes Through \\$97,000 As Trump Team Signals At First-Ever White House Crypto Role](#)

[MicroStrategy Hits All-Time High Price After Bitcoin Tops \\$98,000](#)

[CFPB spares self-hosted crypto wallets from new fintech regulations](#)

[Former CFTC Chair Chris Giancarlo a top contender for White House 'crypto czar': Fox Business](#)

[SEC Returns \\$4.6M to Investors in Ethereum-Based BitClave ICO](#)

[Trump taps crypto advocate Howard Lutnick as commerce secretary](#)

[Trump considers crypto lawyer Teresa Goody Guillén for SEC Chair](#)

[FDIC chair, 'architect of Operation Chokepoint 2.0' Martin Gruenberg to resign Jan. 19](#)

[Argentinian Lawmaker Wants to Let Central Bank Buy and Mine Bitcoin](#)

[Hong Kong Cyberport Web3 network grows to 270 blockchain firms](#)

[BIS study questions decentralization in DeFi liquidity provision](#)

[South Korea's Democratic Party pushes to implement 20% crypto tax in 2025](#)

[China's Ex-CBDC Chief Yao Qian Accused of Cryptocurrency Bribery, Faces Prosecution: Report](#)

[US Democrat House Members Ask Treasury About Tornado Cash's Continued Operations Despite Sanctions](#)

[DAO Members Liable Under Partnership Law: California Ruling](#)

[Software author Jason Lowery looks to White House role advising on Bitcoin national security](#)

[Russia to Set 15% Tax on Crypto Earnings](#)

[Swiss FINMA Highlights Money Laundering Risks in Digital Assets](#)

[California Judge Puts the Kibosh on Kraken's Interlocutory Appeal Attempt](#)

[Coinbase CEO to meet Trump to discuss 'personnel appointments': Wall Street Journal](#)

[RBA Governor Michele Bullock Criticizes Crypto, Rejects its Role in Australia's Economy](#)

[Crypto enforcement to take a back seat under Trump as immigration becomes priority](#)

[Report: Nigeria Introduces Stricter Penalties for Crypto Fraud](#)

[Senator Lummis says Treasury should convert gold for Bitcoin reserve](#)

[Australia 'Risks' Falling Behind as RBA Governor Rejects Crypto's Financial Role](#)

[South Korean city threatens to sell crypto of tax debtors](#)

[Poland presidential candidate wants to allow nation to hold Bitcoin with strategic reserve](#)

[Nepal to fight crypto fraud with public awareness, transaction monitoring](#)

[What Trump's frontrunners for Treasury Secretary say about crypto](#)

Environmental, Social, Governance

[Charity Platform JustGiving Adds Support for Bitcoin, Dogecoin Donations](#)

Surveys, Hacks, Other Misc

[FTX's Gary Wang Gets No Prison Time](#)

[U.S. Prosecutors Charge Five in \\$11M Crypto Theft and Hacking Scheme](#)

[Two More Suspects Arrested in Crypto Influencer Murder Case](#)

[A middleschool memecoin founder's dog was stolen as part of a shilly stunt. Or was it?](#)

[Smithsonian to display IRS laptop that tracked Bitfinex's 120K stolen Bitcoin](#)

[Logan Paul faces allegations of undisclosed crypto promotions: Report](#)

[NBA legend Shaquille O'Neal signs \\$11M Astrals NFT settlement](#)

['Razzlekhan' sentenced to 18 months for Bitfinex heist of 120,000 Bitcoin](#)

[Backpack Wallet, Blockaid prevent \\$26.6M loss from DeFi attacks on Solana](#)

[Helix mixer operator gets 3 years in prison for money laundering](#)

[Class-Action Lawsuit Filed Against Ben Armstrong \(BitBoy\) Over \\$BEN Coin](#)

[Crypto Lender Polter Finance Shuts Down After Hack Drains Nearly All Funds](#)

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