Multipolitan's Crypto Report 2025

Multipolitan

The Future Is Onchain

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OVERVIEW

01

The cryptocurrency market is at a decisive crossroads, propelled by intensifying geopolitical pressures, rapid technological breakthroughs, evolving wealth preferences, and shifting regulatory environments.

Multipolitan's Crypto Report 2025 titled

The Future is Onchain cuts through the noise to reveal how these dynamics are reshaping the crypto ecosystem and blockchain adoption. A pro-crypto pivot in the U.S.—potentially under Trump presidency—could set off a regulatory domino effect worldwide, pushing other countries to revise restrictive policies.

Already, wealthy crypto investors are scouting alternative residencies, and entrepreneurs are chasing friendlier business climates, threatening a "brain drain" among top talent. Meanwhile, Gen Z and Millennials are adopting crypto faster than older cohorts, viewing digital assets as must-haves in a modern portfolio. At the same time, progressive governments are racing to integrate blockchain into public services moving our lives "Onchain".



SUMMARY

01

Multipolitan's Crypto Report titled **The Future is On Chain** unveils the Crypto Friendly Cities Index for 2025, spotlighting global hotspots attracting crypto wealth, innovation, and talent. The index identifies cities primed for crypto dominance, driven by clear regulations, favorable taxes, advanced tech infrastructure, talent, and dynamic innovation ecosystems mapping out the new epicenters of digital finance.

Backed by 13 expert commentaries, the report explores blockchain's transformative impact on finance, asset management, and governance. It highlights key developments including a potential pro-crypto regulatory shift in the U.S., rapid adoption of Bitcoin and digital assets among Gen Z and Millennials, accelerated tokenization of traditional assets, and increasing governmental blockchain integration. The reports illustrate how technological breakthroughs, demographic trends, and geopolitical dynamics are driving a future that is decisively on-chain fundamentally reshaping finance, governance, and society.



KEY TAKEAWAYS



Crypto Ownership

UAE tops with 25.3% ownership, followed by Singapore, Turkey, Argentina, and Thailand.



Strategic Residency Moves

Crypto whales are combining Caribbean citizenship with Dubai's Golden Visas; Oman is emerging as a tax-friendly hub.



Generational Adoption

Millennials and Gen Z show at least 3x higher crypto adoption than Baby Boomers.



Tokenization Boom







Family offices allocating measured portions of assets into crypto, signaling growing confidence.



U.S. Market Influence



Metaverse Engagement

Gen Z spends twice as much time in the metaverse compared to real life.



Ethereum faces a scaling crisis

ZKsync comes to rescue.

U.S. crypto trading hit \$2.06 trillion (2022-2024), with pro-crypto policies fueling optimism under Trump.



Digital ID Revolution

Blockchain digital IDs could empower billions of people lacking official identification.

INTRO

We are experiencing a reshaping of global financial and technological hubs.

Wealth, talent, and innovation are actively migrating away from jurisdictions hostile to crypto, gravitating instead toward cities that openly embrace blockchain and digital assets.

Identifying the friendliest crypto cities isn't merely insightful; it's essential. The future of finance, innovation, and talent mobility is being rewritten in real-time—and understanding this shift is critical for anyone aiming to remain ahead in a rapidly evolving landscape.



THE NEXT GLOBAL FINANCIAL CENTER WILL BE CRYPTO-FORWARD

The next epicenter of global finance won't just embrace crypto—it will thrive on it.

3

Here's why the most successful cities of the future are already betting big on blockchain and digital assets:

1

2

Regulatory Arbitrage: The New Financial Power Play

Businesses, investors, and crypto pioneers flock to jurisdictions offering clear, consistent, and crypto-friendly regulation.

Look at Binance strategically relocating operations, or Coinbase considering leaving the U.S. due to regulatory friction. Regulatory clarity isn't just beneficial—it's essential.

Follow the Money and Talent

Crypto-friendly cities like Dubai, Singapore, and Zug are rapidly becoming magnets for wealth, innovation, and elite talent.

Conversely, places burdened by regulatory hostility—risk losing their competitive edge and driving talent away.

5

Crypto: The Parallel Financial Revolution

Governments that proactively adopt crypto can gain new streams of investment, tax revenue, and economic growth.

Those that resist or overregulate risk not only capital flight, but also a damaging brain drain. Crypto isn't just another asset—it's a powerful economic catalyst.

4

Digital Nomads & the Multipolitan Future

Crypto wealth is borderless, and its holders increasingly embrace the "Multipolitan Lifestyle"—strategically diversifying their residences and assets across pro-crypto jurisdictions.

Stability, low taxes, and innovative policies are no longer just attractive—they're now prerequisites for cities aiming to at-tract the sovereign individuals shaping tomorrow's economy."

First-Mover Advantage: Crypto's Winner-Takes-Most Game

Cities quick to embrace crypto are securing outsized economic advantages. El Salvador moved from obscurity to becoming a global Bitcoin hub, while Dubai's fintech-forward policies have made it a global financial heavyweight. In crypto, first movers aren't just leading—they're dominating.

The global financial landscape is shifting. Cities that move quickly to embrace crypto aren't merely positioning themselves for relevance—they're securing their place as the financial centers of tomorrow. WHERE IS CRYPTO WEALTH MOVING?

Crypto-Friendly Hubs DUBAI PARTS OF U.S. (regulatory hostility) SINGAPORE ZUG (Switzerland) CHINA (ban-driven exodus) LISBON MIAMI PARTS OF EU (uncertain regulatory path for some countries) PUERTO RICO HONG KONG (recent shift back to crypto-friendliness)

Jurisdictions Losing Crypto Talent







HOW WE WENT ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE CRYPTO FRIENDLY CITIES OF THE WORLD?

Most crypto-friendly indices focus only on tax advantages, but the reality is far more complex. While tax policies matter, regulation, legal clarity, and real-world adoption are equally crucial in determining a city's crypto friendliness.

The Crypto Cities Index 2025 goes beyond surface-level metrics. Our methodology involved a rigorous, multi-metric analysis to capture the full picture. We began by pre-selecting 27 cities based on 5 country-level criteria to ensure they align with thriving crypto ecosystems. We focused on:

1

Clear legal status of cryptocurrencies

A stable and predictable regulatory framework.

2

Robust economic growth

Cities that provide strong macroeconomic conditions for businesses to thrive. High-growth cities offer better business opportunities, investor confidence, and a robust financial infrastructure to support crypto ventures.

5

3

High-income classifications

Wealth hubs where crypto adoption is driven by both retail and institutional players.

4

Quality of Life

Cities that rank highly in both national and city-level well-being indices, ensuring sustainability for long-term crypto adoption. A city must not only be business-friendly but also liveable. Factors like healthcare, safety, and cost of living impact crypto entrepreneurs, digital nomads, and investors choosing to relocate.

Not just regulatory havens

The best crypto cities should not just be regulatory havens; they should also be places where talent wants to settle and thrive.

HOW WE WENT ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE CRYPTO FRIENDLY CITIES OF THE WORLD?

By incorporating these factors, we've created a first-of-its-kind crypto city index, offering a snapshot of where digital finance is truly flourishing and where crypto is truly integrated.

After identifying 27 cities, we then assessed the 'crypto integration' of these cities across five metrics.

METRIC 1: Regulatory Environment

We evaluated national regulations by analysing local tax policies, licensing frameworks, and incentive programs, assigning scores from a three-point scale based on comparative analysis.

METRIC 2: Tax Regime

Tax implications were assessed using the highest potential capital gains tax rate, recognising varying legislative conditions. Scores ranged from 1 to 3 based on how jurisdictions compared against the mean of the sample.

METRIC 3: Wealth & Lifestyle

The economic health of cities was measured using GDP per capita and housing prices, proxies for investment potential and quality of life. Scores were derived by comparing data to the mean, applying a weighted average with city-level housing price data given greater emphasis.

METRIC 4: Digital Infrastructure

Connectivity and technological readiness were captured using metrics like internet speed and smart city rankings. This score accounted for how each city's infrastructure supported cryptocurrency activity, with cities grouped into high, medium, or low performers.

METRIC 5: Crypto Infrastructure

The presence of crypto ATMs and retail adoption rates were analysed to reflect each city's embedded cryptocurrency culture. High concentrations of these assets earned the top scores, showcasing cities at the forefront of crypto integration.

Each metric contributed to an aggregate score, with cryptocurrency culture weighted double to highlight its importance. The final scores, scaled to 180 points, determined the rankings, spotlighting cities that combine legal, economic, and infrastructure strengths to attract crypto enthusiasts and investors. You can find the full methodology and research work in Appendices.

MULTIPOLITAN'S CRYPTO FRIENDLY CITIES INDEX 2025

RANK	CITY	INDEX SCORE
RANK 1	놜 Ljubljana	173
RANK 2	🧐 Hong Kong	172
RANK 3	C Zürich	172
RANK 4	Singapore	168
RANK 5	🗲 Abu Dhabi	160
RANK 6	Luxembourg City	148
RANK 7	는 Muscat	147
RANK 8	🧿 Porto	147
RANK 9	🛟 Oslo	143
RANK 10	🚱 Sydney	140
RANK 11	🖨 Riga	137
RANK 12	Doha	137
RANK 13	👙 Madison, Wisconsin	137
RANK 14	🕮 Riyadh	137
RANK 15	🕩 Valletta	133
RANK 16	🕛 Bratislava	133
RANK 17	London	133
RANK 18	🥏 Nicosia	133
RANK 19	Jilnius	133
RANK 20	🛑 Sofia	127

THE NEW FINANCIAL CAPITALS OF THE FUTURE

The global financial landscape is no longer dictated solely by traditional powerhouses like New York or London. The rise of crypto-friendly cities is changing the equation, proving that digital assets and decentralization are the future.

CRYPTO-FRIENDLY CITIES

Abu Dhabi, Ljubljana, Luxembourg City, Muscat, Nicosia, Lisbon, Riga, Singapore, Zurich—each offering clear legal frameworks and attractive tax regimes.

TOP SMART CITIES

Zurich, Oslo, Singapore, London, Abu Dhabi—ranking high in IMD's 2024 Smart City Index, proving that crypto-friendly cities also lead in technology and infrastructure.

CRYPTO ATM & MERCHANT LEADERS

Sydney leads the way with 330 crypto ATMs and retail locations, followed by Hong Kong (201) and Ljubljana (155)—showcasing cities with real-world crypto integration.

In addition, speed and connectivity are foundations of a digital economy, with connectivity fueling crypto adoption. Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Oslo top the charts in internet speed, securing 398, 265, and 205 Mbps, respectively— enabling high-frequency trading, digital finance, and seamless blockchain transactions.

For us at Multipolitan, mapping the friendliest crypto cities aligns perfectly with the borderless ethos of the industry. As people and capital seek favourable jurisdictions, advisory services that help HNWIs relocate, establish businesses, and manage assets will be in increasing demand.

HOW IS THE CRYPTO WEALTH CONCENTRATED?

It's no longer enough to track how many people own cryptocurrency. What matters equally is to understand who holds substantial crypto wealth. Millions of users with modest holdings tell a very different story compared to nations dominated by a few influential crypto magnates. Multipolitan's Crypto Wealth Concentration Index combines crypto ownership rates and trading volume (adjusted by the Gini coefficient for inequality) to provide an insightful analysis.

Crypto has transformed from a speculative curiosity into a global financial phenomenon. As digital assets gain mainstream acceptance, one critical question remains: Where does crypto wealth truly reside? To understand the emerging financial geography, Multipolitan developed the Crypto Wealth Concentration Index 2025, revealing not just adoption, but actual concentration of crypto wealth globally.

MULTIPOLITAN'S CRYPTO WEALTH CONCENTRATION INDEX 2025

RANK	CITY	PER CRYPTO OWNER (USD)
RANK 1	Slovenia	240,460.17 USD
RANK 2	🥏 Cyprus	174.972.89 USD
RANK 3	😵 Hong Kong	97,531.40 USD
RANK 4	🐹 South Korea	94,827.77 USD
RANK 5	Singapore	85.536.63 USD
RANK 6	🛟 Norway	74,314.17 USD
RANK 7	🛑 Ukraine	74,191.27 USD
RANK 8	Republic of Ireland	71,601.33 USD
RANK 9	🚺 Canada	57,328.12 USD
RANK 10	🚱 Australia	53,772.06 USD
RANK 11	elgium	52,595.17 USD
RANK 12	• Turkey	47.929.66 USD
RANK 13	 Switzerland 	42,753.11 USD
RANK 14	🖕 Chile	33,710.38 USD
RANK 15	ermany	31,502.10 USD
RANK 16	C United Arab Emirates	28,231.50 USD
RANK 17	👙 United States	23,271.65 USD
RANK 18	👙 Malaysia	20,895.49 USD
RANK 19	😣 Vietnam	16,681.28 USD
RANK 20	> Philippines	14,194.46 USD

THE CRYPTO POWER PLAYERS



The Global Adoption Leader

With an astounding 25.3% of the population holding crypto, the UAE stands unmatched in adoption rates, boosted by proactive government policies and clear regulations that have turned cities like Dubai into thriving crypto hubs.



India A Giant in Numbers

India boasts 118.9 million crypto holders, making it the largest crypto community worldwide. Despite regulatory hurdles, its retail investors continue to drive massive market participation, underscoring India's growing influence.



USA Still the Money Mover

The United States, home to some of the largest exchanges and institutional investors, dominates in trading volume, recording a massive \$2.07 trillion. This immense activity cements the U.S. as a critical node in global crypto finance.



Slovenia, Cyprus, and Hong Kong Small Nations, Big Influence

Slovenia tops trading volume per crypto owner, averaging \$240,000 per individual, suggesting high per-user trading activity and concentrated wealth. Cyprus follows at \$174,000, while Hong Kong stands at \$77,000 per user, highlighting these regions as places where crypto wealth is concentrated.

THE FUTURE IS BORDERLESS - AND FLUID

Crypto wealth no longer belongs exclusively to traditional finance capitals like New York, London, or Singapore. It's borderless, fluid, and finding new homes wherever innovation and clarity converge. Cities and nations that embrace these dynamics will set the stage for the next financial era. At Multipolitan, we believe the future financial capital will be crypto forward.

This index is more than data—it's a strategic tool guiding decisions about relocation, business growth, and asset management. Knowing where crypto wealth is concentrated today will determine tomorrow's global financial landscape. The question now isn't who's adopting crypto—it's who will hold the keys to crypto's immense wealth in the future. The race for the ultimate crypto capital is just heating up. Please refer to Appendices for complete methodology of the data presented here and references.



BITCOIN HAS GAINED OVER 50% AND TOUCHED ALL-TIME HIGH SINCE TRUMP BECAME PRESIDENT-ELECT ON NOV 6 U.S. President Donald Trump has transitioned from being a crypto skeptic in the past to a vocal crypto supporter in the run-up to the recent presidential elections.

Bitcoin, the largest cryptocurrency, has seen a sharp spike in prices since Trump's presidential victory. The cryptocurrency gained about 50% after the election results were announced on November 6, declaring Trump as the 47th U.S. president.

In December, Bitcoin prices crossed the \$100,000 mark for the first time and touched an all-time high of \$108,268. Just over two years ago, Bitcoin prices crashed below \$16,000 after FTX—the world's second-largest crypto exchange —declared bankruptcy.

Trump's views on crypto have also swung from one extreme to another since his last presidential term. Here's how his stance has evolved.

TRUMP'S PAST CRYPTO REMARKS

In the run-up to the 2016 general elections, which led to Trump's first term as president, cryptocurrencies were hardly mentioned by Trump.

In November 2016, Bitcoin was valued at approximately \$700, climbing to around \$900 by his inauguration in January 2017. By the time Trump left the White House in January 2021, Bitcoin had surged nearly 4000%.

Trump's former national security adviser, John Bolton, revealed in his book The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir that the president had instructed his Treasury Secretary to 'go after Bitcoin' in 2018, hinting at a possible regulatory crackdown.

1

During Trump's presidency, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), led by Chair Jay Clayton, pursued several enforcement actions related to crypto assets. Enforcement actions continued under the Biden administration, led by SEC Chair Gary Gensler. After losing the 2020 election to Joe Biden, Trump maintained his crypto-skeptic stance. In a June 2021 interview, seven months after leaving office, he labeled Bitcoin a "scam," arguing that it undermines the U.S. dollar's dominance.

2

Speaking to Fox Business, Trump said, "Bitcoin just seems like a scam. I don't like it because it's another currency competing with the dollar. The world should have only one currency—the U.S. dollar. Cryptocurrencies should be heavily regulated because they diminish the dollar's importance."

3

In 2019, amid the controversy surrounding Facebook's Libra project, Trump posted on X (formerly Twitter): "I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. They aren't real money, their value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated crypto assets can fuel illicit activities, including drug trafficking and other crimes."

TRUMP'S EVOLVING VIEWS ON CRYPTO

Trump's stance on crypto seems to have shifted since the beginning of 2024. In March 2024, during an interview, Trump said, "If you think of it, it's (Bitcoin) a new form of currency. I want one currency, I want the dollar; I don't want people leaving the dollar. I feel that way, but I will tell you it (Bitcoin) has taken on a life," Trump said.

"There has been a lot of use of that (Bitcoin) and I'm not sure that I would want to take it away at this point,"

DONALD TRUMP

The president also mentioned that many of the buyers of his limited-edition sneakers paid in the "new currency (Bitcoin)." "I couldn't believe the amount," he said.In August 2024, Trump promoted a crypto platform launched by his sons, Donald Jr. and Eric Trump, called "The DeFiant Ones."

"For too long, the average American has been squeezed by the big banks and financial elites," he wrote on X. "It's time we take a stand—together."

Trump's engagement with cryptocurrencies deepened in the run-up to the general elections. In October 2024, in the launch video of a new crypto project, World Liberty Finance, he said, "Crypto is the future. Let's embrace this incredible technology and lead the world in the digital economy."

Trump has been much more vocal in his support for crypto after winning the election in November. "We are gonna do something great with crypto because we don't want China, or anybody else ... but others are embracing it, and we want to be ahead," he told CNBC in December.



THE TRUMP COMEBACK: A NEW ERA FOR CRYPTO?

Crypto executives have cheered Trump's second term, as he has been saying all the right things that they want to hear. Light-touch regulations and more legitimacy for cryptocurrencies would be the best-case scenario for crypto executives.

And so far, President Trump appears to be on board. There is a possibility of a U.S. Strategic Bitcoin Reserve (SBR). Trump had mentioned the creation of an SBR in the run-up to the general elections. If the world's largest economy gives legitimacy to cryptos, other countries will have to take note.

Trump's executive order categorically called for ending the development of CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currencies). Instead of government-controlled digital currencies—which other countries have also experimented with—Trump seems to be looking for innovative solutions (such as dollar-backed stablecoins) from the private sector.

The crypto industry is hopeful that a Trump 2.0 administration will mean fewer regulatory actions and scrutiny. On the campaign trail, Trump promised to end the "persecution" of the crypto industry.

More crypto-friendly appointments have already been made by the Trump administration. The new SEC Chair, Paul Atkins, is pro-crypto. Another key pro-crypto figure is Howard Lutnick, the commerce secretary in Trump's cabinet. David Sacks, a venture capitalist with investments in several crypto companies, has been appointed as the White House's new crypto and Al tsar. Elon Musk, one of Trump's closest confidants, has been a crypto advocate for years.

Crypto executives will closely watch how U.S. policy shapes up in the coming days. For example, the industry has been seeking clarity on classifying cryptocurrencies as commodities rather than securities, as the latter subjects cryptos to stringent regulatory requirements. U.S. policymakers will have to decide to what extent cryptos should be embedded in the financial system without posing a systemic risk. Cryptocurrencies are highly volatile, at least as things stand.

A friendly regulatory environment with necessary safeguards for institutional and retail investors can lead to wider acceptance of cryptos as an asset class. If more institutional investors hold cryptocurrencies, it may reduce their price volatility.

The U.S. government will also have to address issues around the alleged use of cryptocurrencies for unlawful activities due to their untraceability. The industry will also need to clean up its own act to avoid further scrutiny. In 2023, FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried was found guilty of misusing investor funds, which caused the exchange's collapse.

Trump's campaign trail—both in previous and current presidential elections—has always been about 'Making America Great Again'. He has consistently spoken about wanting the dollar to remain the currency of the world. However, it now seems Trump sees the crypto industry as an ally rather than a nemesis in ensuring America's financial hegemony. Why Millennials And Gen Z Are Betting Big on Crypto ABOUT THE AUTHOR



ABHISHEK MENON

Abhishek Menon is the Managing Partner for the Middle East & South Asia region at Multipolitan. Prior to that Abhishek served as a private banker at Deutsche Bank for over 10 years managing high and ultra net families across Asia and Middle East. Abhishek graduated from London School of Economics, Additionally, he pursued his Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Asian Institute of Management.

WHY MILLENNIALS AND GEN Z ARE BETTING BIG ON CRYPTO The new generation of investors – Gen Z and Millennials – are showing greater appetite for cryptocurrencies. This generation wants to look beyond traditional investments for optimal returns in their portfolios. They don't fear new investment ideas or new asset classes.

From Beeple's headline-making \$69 million NFT sale at Christie's to Tesla's brief acceptance of Bitcoin and MicroStrategy's billion-dollar crypto investments, this generation has witnessed technology's ability to reshape markets overnight. Payment giants like Visa and Mastercard are testing the crypto waters, while decentralized finance platforms on Ethereum open new lending and borrowing possibilities. Having grown up amid these seismic shifts, young investors increasingly see digital assets as a compelling addition to their portfolios.



BEEPLE'S COLLAGE, EVERYDAYS: THE FIRST 5000 DAYS, SOLD AT CHRISTIE'S. IMAGE: BEEPLE

CHANGING PORTFOLIO CHOICES

Despite persistent skepticism among older investors, recent surveys reveal a seismic shift in portfolio choices among Millennials and Gen Z. A Galaxy Research study shows younger generations adopt or accept crypto at triple the rate of Baby Boomers, while PwC's 2024 survey finds 29% of Gen Z and 25% of Millennials have invested in or used crypto—compared with just 8% of those over 50.

A global Bitget report echoes this trend, showing that 46% of Millennials own cryptocurrencies, compared to 21% of Gen Z and just 8% of Boomers. Meanwhile, a 2024 Bank of America Private Bank Study of wealthy Americans indicates that 72% of respondents aged 21 to 43 doubt traditional assets can deliver above-average returns, with many opting for digital assets and real estate over stocks and bonds. Across these surveys, Millennials and Gen Z now allocate roughly 12-17% of their portfolios to crypto—a striking sign of their evolving investment appetites.



Why Millennials And Gen Z Are Betting Big on Crypto

RISK TOLERANCE AND LONG-TERM VISION

Younger investors increasingly view cryptocurrencies not as an exotic gamble but as an essential component of a well-rounded portfolio, especially amid ongoing global uncertainty. In hyperinflation-hit economies like Venezuela, Turkey, and Argentina, residents rely on digital currencies for everyday transactions, bypassing rapidly devaluing local currencies. Turkey's lira, for instance, lost more than half its value in under a year, prompting a spike in stablecoin use for dayto-day commerce. Meanwhile, Bitcoin's 21-million coin cap solidifies its "digital gold" allure, suggesting built-in resistance to the inflationary forces that erode fiat money.

This generation also recognizes how quickly new technologies can leap from fringe to mainstream—much like TikTok's meteoric rise to a billion users or ChatGPT's record-breaking adoption. They point to high-profile milestones—from El Salvador's adoption of Bitcoin as legal tender to Beeple's \$69 million NFT sale at Christie's—as evidence that crypto may soon anchor the next wave of financial innovation. For these younger investors, the real risk is missing out on tomorrow's transformative growth rather than clinging to yesterday's conventional wisdom.



NFT, GAMING AND DEFI

Gen Z and Millennials—often called the multitasking generations—are bringing their penchant for on-the-go lifestyles directly into crypto investing, demanding mobile-friendly platforms like Robinhood and Coinbase, whose user bases are largely under 35. They're also fueling unprecedented activity in NFT marketplaces: OpenSea peaked with daily trading volumes exceeding \$200 million in 2022, and Axie Infinity in the Philippines became a lifeline for thousands of gamers looking to earn income through play-to-earn mechanics.

According to Razorfish, Gen Z spends twice as much time socializing in virtual worlds than in real life, turning platforms like Decentraland and The Sandbox into thriving hubs for digital self-expression. Communities have formed around large-scale NFT projects such as the Bored Ape Yacht Club, which graduated from cartoonish profile pictures to exclusive events and brand partnerships. Meanwhile, decentralized finance (DeFi) protocols like Aave and Uniswap enable users to "yield farm"—providing liquidity in return for token rewards. For a demographic that prizes immediacy, communitybuilding, and financial autonomy, the metaverse, NFTs, and DeFi are quickly becoming core parts of both their social and investment ecosystems.



THE DYNAMIC INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND CRYPTO

Information on various cryptocurrencies is available across the internet, but finding reliable sources is a challenge. The younger generation of investors might already know a fair bit through social media, but separating the genuine ones from the fake ones remains a challenge.

Social media and meme culture has also played an important role in the growth of certain cryptos. For instance, DOGECOIN first started as a joke currency in 2013, based on the popular "Doge" meme. In 2021 its price surged after backing from a Reddit community and tech billionaire Elon Musk's posts on X. Ironically, Musk started the series of posts with a meme. Meme coins show the speculative side of the crypto market. Investors bet on meme coins, which they think will gain popularity through social media endorsements from influencers and celebs.

Social media can be a treasure trove of information, but also a treacherous place with misleading information. Paid promotions or pump-and-dump schemes can leave unsuspecting investors at a loss. Whitepapers, project roadmaps, team credentials, and community discussions on credible forums can help investors make informed decisions.

According to research by FINRA Investor Education Foundation and CFA Institute, Gen Z investors use online resources. They prefer YouTube, internet searches, Instagram, TikTok, X, Reddit, and Facebook to get their information.

Unlike traditional financial markets, where regulatory bodies oversee investment products, crypto regulations are still evolving. Hence, due diligence is important. Understanding the fundamentals of a cryptocurrency—its underlying technology, real-world utility, developer activity, and security protocols—can help pick promising projects and avoid speculative ones.

There are thousands of cryptocurrencies and the crypto market is constantly evolving. In the fast-changing world of cryptos, knowledge can be a powerful edge for the new generation of investors.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



NICHOLAS MICHAEL

Nicholas is an Executive Partner for the Middle East region at Multipolitan advising HNW and UHNW families on citizenship & residence planning. Nicholas has over a decade of experience in wealth management. He has worked at UBS, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong and Jersey, managing the financial needs of high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth families. Nicholas graduated from Durham University in Computer Science and holds a Master's in Management.

SOVEREIGN SHIFT: INSIDE THE CRYPTO MOVEMENT TOWARDS ALTERNATIVE CITIZENSHIP & RESIDENCIES Cryptocurrencies have come a remarkably long way since Satoshi Nakamoto created the genesis block for Bitcoin in 2009. Bitcoin's value has seen an astronomical rise since then. Tech-savvy investors who rode this trend early on have built significant wealth for themselves.

Governments around the world have tried to regulate cryptocurrencies. Some countries have been particularly cautious, creating more deterrents than catalysts for crypto's growth. Consequently, regulations can vary significantly from one country to another. When Crypto UHNWIs and HNWIs find their home jurisdictions falling short of creating a conducive environment, they often seek alternative residencies and citizenships as a crucial safeguard for their wealth.

They aim to insulate their portfolios from these regulatory risks. They fully grasp the borderless nature of their crypto wealth, which is simultaneously global and local—with borderless exchange operations yet geographically concentrated mining activities.



CRYPTO-FRIENDLY CITIES

According to Multipolitan's 2025 Crypto Friendly Cities Index 2025, Singapore ranks 4th, and Abu Dhabi (UAE) ranks 5th. The capital city of Slovenia – Ljubljana – tops the list. Hong Kong (China) is ranked 2nd, Zurich (Switzerland) 3rd, Luxembourg City (Luxembourg) 6th, Muscat (Oman) 7th, Porto (Portugal) 8th, Oslo (Norway) 9th, and Sydney (Australia) 10th. The Latvian capital, Riga, is ranked 11th, and the Maltese capital Valletta is ranked 15th.

This index measured cities based on national cryptocurrency market regulations, tax regimes, the economic health of cities (such as GDP per capita and housing prices), digital infrastructure, and crypto infrastructure (including crypto ATMs and retail adoption rates).

These leading crypto-friendly cities are firmly on the radar of crypto elites looking to secure alternative residencies.

Galaxy Research estimates an incremental \$160bn-\$225bn will flow into crypto markets as wealth moves into the hands of younger generations. This emerging generation of Crypto UHNWIs and HNWIs will seek residency alternatives to protect their crypto wealth against regulatory risks.



HOW COUNTRIES ARE OFFERING REGULATORY ARBITRAGE To attract Crypto UHNWIs and HNWIs, crypto-friendly countries offer multiple attractive incentives – favourable regulations, low tax rates, advanced digital infrastructure, and tax-free zones.

For example, the UAE doesn't levy capital gains or personal income taxes on crypto holdings (or any asset class). Crypto entrepreneurs looking to set up start-ups in the UAE benefit from some of the lowest corporate tax rates globally.

Regulations in the UAE consistently support innovation. The FSRA (Financial Services Regulatory Authority), which governs Abu Dhabi Global Market, offers a regulatory sandbox—the ADGM RegLab—that allows fintech companies to test their innovations in a controlled environment. The RegLab allows the FSRA to engage with innovative start-ups and better understand their business models and associated risks.

Obtaining a residency visa in the UAE requires an investment of AED 2 million. The Golden Visa offers renewable residency for 10 years.

Portugal does not impose taxes on profits from cryptocurrency trading if the holding period exceeds one year. Another prominent crypto-friendly jurisdiction is Malta, where capital gains remain untaxed, except for short-term trading activities.

Portugal's Golden Visa requires an investment of €500,000 in a qualifying fund.

Malta was the first country in the world to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for blockchain, cryptocurrency, and DLT companies. The government recognized that serious entrepreneurs seek legal certainty.

With a real estate investment of €375,000, one can obtain permanent residency in Malta.

Switzerland and Singapore also provide robust regulatory certainty, along with favourable taxation for crypto investors.

CRYPTO BUSINESSES ON THE MOVE Crypto entrepreneurs are actively on the move. Within the European Union (EU), now governed by the unified MiCA regulations, entrepreneurs have relocated their operations to European nations that have demonstrated greater regulatory agility.

The crypto exchange Gemini recently relocated its EU headquarters from Ireland to Malta. Similarly, OKX has also chosen Malta after initially considering France as its EU hub. Singapore-based Crypto.com has likewise selected Malta.



Australia, despite its growing cryptocurrency start-up ecosystem, has also seen crypto businesses relocate as the country struggles to establish clearer regulatory guidelines.



India, home to the largest number of crypto owners globally (according to Multipolitan's 2025 Crypto Wealth Concentration Index), has seen several prominent crypto platforms shift their operations to more crypto-friendly jurisdictions like Singapore and the UAE.



Importantly, when crypto businesses migrate abroad, talent—including developers and engineers—often follows, resulting in additional job creation in the destination country.

CRYPTO VILLAGES AND VALLEY

Besides businesses, well-known Crypto UHNWIs and HNWIs have increasingly transitioned to crypto-friendly environments.



Portugal

The patriarch of the 'Bitcoin family,' Didi Taihuttu, settled in Portugal from the Netherlands. Taihuttu famously sold all his family's assets in 2017 and invested the proceeds entirely into Bitcoin when the cryptocurrency was just \$900.

Taihuttu has since helped establish a crypto village in Portugal, now home to a community of 150 supporters.

The collaborative community aspect of the cryptocurrency industry provides crypto entrepreneurs with an ecosystem that helps them nurture their businesses.



Zug Valley

NiceHash, a leading cryptocurrency mining platform, relocated its headquarters from the British Virgin Islands to Switzerland's Zug Valley to benefit from a location closely aligned with EU regulations like MiCA. Zug Valley is a small yet influential Swiss city near Zurich, notably where Canada-born Vitalik Buterin created Ethereum.

Following Ethereum's success, many businesses, programmers, and investors established their operations in Zug, earning it the nickname "Crypto Valley."

Crypto-friendly jurisdictions not only offer regulatory clarity and efficiencies to new businesses but also foster a vibrant environment for exchanging ideas, collaboration, and innovation—creating a powerful network effect.



FROM BLOCKCHAIN TO BEACHES: HOW CARIBBEAN CITIZENSHIP BECAME CRYPTO'S NEW HEDGE For crypto investors grappling with taxes as high as 37% in the U.S. and 45% in parts of Europe—not to mention looming data-sharing mandates like the FATF Travel Rule—second citizenship in the Caribbean offers a valuable lifeline. Countries such as Antigua and Barbuda have no capital gains, inheritance, or wealth taxes, meaning a Bitcoin windfall remains untouched by the government.

Beyond taxes, Caribbean nations are increasingly crypto-friendly, recognizing digital assets as legitimate once converted to fiat—crucial for traders for whom even routine tasks like opening a bank account can be an uphill battle in other regions. While governments worldwide scramble to regulate or even ban certain crypto activities at a moment's notice, Caribbean citizenship serves as an "insurance policy," diversifying both personal risk and geographic ties.

For those who've hedged their portfolios with Bitcoin or Ethereum, securing a second citizenship in a forward-thinking Caribbean nation is quickly becoming the next logical step to safeguard wealth and privacy.



WHY CRYPTO WHALES ARE FLOCKING TO DUBAI? New research from Chainalysis indicates the Middle East is one of the fastest-growing crypto markets globally, with Dubai emerging as a top destination for high-net-worth "crypto whales." The city's prime allure lies in its completely tax-free personal income structure—a stark contrast to the heavy tax burden whales face in the U.S. or Europe.

Regulatory clarity further fuels Dubai's appeal. The emirate's newly formed Virtual Asset Regulatory Authority (VARA) is pioneering transparent guidelines for crypto businesses, making it easier for major exchanges and startups to swiftly establish operations. This ecosystem fosters innovation, encourages compliance, and reassures large-scale investors who require a stable, forward-thinking environment.

Lifestyle and infrastructure further strengthen its attractiveness. According to Knight Frank, prime real estate transactions in Dubai surged 56% year-over-year in 2023, offering crypto whales attractive diversification opportunities beyond digital assets. Meanwhile, streamlined banking services – more accommodating of crypto-derived fund – reduce red tape often encountered by investors elsewhere.

In a sector where policy changes can devalue portfolios overnight, Dubai's unique combination of tax benefits, regulatory transparency, and global connectivity remains highly appealing to crypto's biggest players.



COULD OMAN'S MUSCAT BECOME THE NEXT GULF CRYPTO HAVEN?

While Dubai remains the region's headline grabber, Muscat is steadily gaining attention from "crypto whales" drawn by Oman's attractive zero personal income tax and emerging legislative framework designed to attract foreign digital investments.

In 2023, Oman's Capital Market Authority announced plans to draft regulations for virtual assets—a proactive response to rising trading volumes and growing interest from international crypto players. With the International Monetary Fund projecting Oman's GDP will grow by 4.1% in 2024, the government appears committed to diversifying beyond oil by embracing blockchain technology and positioning Muscat as an appealing fintech-friendly hub.

Beyond tax incentives, infrastructure enhancements are already facilitating deeper crypto adoption. The nation has rolled out upgraded payment platforms and mobile banking services, making it easier for investors to move seamlessly between digital assets and fiat currencies. Meanwhile, Muscat's strategic location along major maritime and air routes positions it ideally to offer crypto whales easy connectivity across the GCC and Asia, similar to Dubai's recognized global reach.

It's still early days, and the timeline for Oman's comprehensive crypto regulations remains fluid. But for high-net-worth investors seeking a quieter yet equally advantageous alternative to Dubai—still boasting zero personal income tax and a growing commitment to digital finance—Muscat is quickly emerging as a serious contender in the race to attract the world's crypto elites.


Sovereign Shift: Inside the Crypto Movement Towards Alternative Citizenship & Residencies

CONCLUSION

As crypto investors navigate a landscape of increasing regulatory scrutiny and volatile geopolitical dynamics, the quest for financial freedom has sparked a notable shift toward acquiring alternative citizenship. Taxation challenges, sovereign risks, and the borderless nature of digital assets have accelerated the demand for passports from crypto-friendly jurisdictions like Antigua & Barbuda, offering critical advantages such as zero capital gains taxes and expansive global mobility.

Meanwhile, emerging hubs like Dubai and Muscat are becoming strategic bases for investors, blending favorable tax regimes with supportive financial ecosystems tailored specifically for digital wealth. This trend underscores a broader generational shift: Millennials and Gen Z investors, shaped by crypto's meteoric rise and rapid evolution, are redefining how wealth is protected, prioritizing self-governance, mobility, and financial autonomy.

In an era marked by economic uncertainty and rapid technological advancement, alternative citizenship emerges not merely as a privilege, but as a prudent strategy—a powerful hedge to ensure financial sovereignty, unrestricted capital movement, and global access. Ultimately, for crypto investors today, the most valuable asset of all remains freedom itself.





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BLOCKCHAINS AS "PLACES": METAVERSE, NETWORK STATES, DIGITAL IDS AND E-GOVERNANCE

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Blockchain technology is reshaping how governments and nations deliver public services. By enabling decentralized, transparent and immutable transactions, Bitcoin-inspired systems are streamlining identity verification, welfare distribution, and digital payments; ensuring citizens receive services instantly and without bureaucratic friction.

The technology is seeing innovations to comply with data and privacy regulations set by governments and policymakers. Countries are making necessary tweaks in their own regulatory framework to make blockchain-based technologies mainstream. While governments realize how blockchain technology can redefine governance standards, a new idea has emerged of a Network State; a borderless nationhood built on blockchain and metaverse.



BEYOND TRANSACTIONS: THE BROADER VISION OF BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain technology is evolving beyond financial applications, transforming into complete ecosystems that integrate identity, governance and digital economies. Countries like South Korea and the Island of Palau are investing heavily in blockchain to create virtual spaces for citizenship and public services. These spaces can function separately from traditional government structures.

South Korea is re-imagining residency and citizenship identity with blockchain technology. Starting from December 27 2024, it implemented a digital ID infrastructure using blockchain. The new digital identification system is available to South Koreans aged 17 and older, who hold resident registration cards.

Data privacy concerns? The decentralized identity (DID) systems in a blockchain network, allows users and entities to identify and authenticate themselves without a centralized authority.

The tiny island nation of Palau has launched a digital residency programme for foreign nationals. After the application is approved, a digital resident ID card in the form of a non-fungible token (NFT) is issued.

Digital IDs can play a significant role in delivery of government services.

A World Bank report observed that lack of official identification (ID) prevents people from fully exercising their rights and isolates them socially and economically. "Yet in the developing world, nearly 2 billion people lack an official ID. The problem imposes a particular burden on poor rural women, whose lack of an ID often nullifies their legal right to divorce or exert property claims or directly receive government benefits. The expansion of digital mobile phone technology in developing countries has accelerated the emergence of digital identification and the electronic delivery of services."



NETWORK STATES, METAVERSE & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

A Network State is this utopian idea of creating a digital nation that is "ideologically aligned, but geographically decentralized. The people are spread around the world in clusters of varying size, but their hearts are in one place".

A Network State is this utopian idea of creating a digital nation that is "ideologically aligned, but geographically decentralized. The people are spread around the world in clusters of varying size, but their hearts are in one place".

Dr. Balaji Srinivasan expounds on the idea in his book "The Network State".

A Network State begins as a community with a shared purpose, evolving into a network union that takes collective actions in community's interest. It builds trust offline through in-person meetups, while building an economy online with the use of cryptocurrency.

Once trust and funds grow, the community crowdfunds physical spaces and transitions its digital citizens into real-world communities.

These physical nodes are then linked into a network archipelago spread across geographies, accessible via web3 crypto passports. Mixed reality – metaverse and physical spaces – seamlessly links online and offline worlds of the Network State.

As the society scales, it conducts an on-chain, auditable census to showcase its population, income, and real estate footprint. With sufficient traction, it seeks diplomatic recognition, progressing towards sovereignty as a true Network State.



NETWORK STATES, METAVERSE & DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

The rules of governance and laws will apply not only in the virtual metaverses of the Network State, but also in the community-managed physical spaces. These will be consensus-based laws that have evolved after the organic formation of the community.

The legal framework will encourage self-governance. Citizens will be able to decide if they wish to opt-in when changes are proposed in policies.

As The Network State puts it, the user has "consented to be governed by a startup society if he has signed a social smart contract that gives a system administrator limited privileges over that user's digital life in return for admission to the startup society". The government's reach in the citizen's life will be limited by a social smart contract.

Network States will allow citizens to even run their own policy experiments with other opt-in participants.

Here is a glimpse of how the metaverse and physical world of Network State can be governed on blockchain systems. The ENS (Ethereum Name Service) protocol acts as a digital identity, allowing users to log into startup societies, access digital and physical spaces, and thereby opt-in the community's governance rules in those spaces. Kleros, a decentralized justice protocol, can facilitate disputes resolution. If someone is found to be in violation, their deposits could be frozen and their ENS locked out of all doors for a time period as a punishment.

An integrated cryptocurrency acts as the digital ledger of all the financial and non-financial transactions in the Network State. "This is the digital backbone of the network state. It manages the internal digital assets, the smart contracts, the web3 citizen logins, the birth and marriage certificates, the property registries, the public national statistics, and essentially every other bureaucratic process that a nation state manages via pieces of paper. Because it's protected by encryption, it can coordinate all the functions of a state across the borders of legacy nation states," Srinivasan explains.



KYC AND GDPR COMPLIANCE

Immutability and transparency of the data enabled by blockchain technology allows any member institution to prove to regulators that the secure blockchain platform provides trustworthy information. A blockchain KYC utility would not remove the need for financial institutions to perform screening and monitoring of customers. Instead, it provides a streamlined way to gain swift and secure access to clean, up-to-date customer data. The result is a reduction in labor-intensive information gathering, overall KYC processing time, and associated costs.

A blockchain KYC utility could also offer regulators a better understanding of how customers have been onboarded and the application of underlying KYC information. This would, in turn, enable regulators to better understand customer activity. All actions by financial institutions and customers would be fully recorded and tracked, while activity data on the platform would be fully auditable.

Customers may understandably have privacy concerns about sharing of their personal and financial data. Here, blockchain offers another advantage, with certain models giving customers the power to approve which organizations have access to their information, and when. Digital integration could make the approval process simple, such as pushing a permission request with a one-time password (OTP) to the customer's phone for approval. Other solutions could be integration of smart digital signatures or using biometrics.



KYC AND GDPR COMPLIANCE

One of the biggest concerns of GDPR's impact on blockchain, is that the immutability of recorded transactions violates GDPR's "right to be forgotten." Article 17(1) of GDPR clearly provides that a data subject has the "right to be forgotten" by demanding the erasure of his/her personal data upon the withdrawal of consent, or upon his or her objections to the processing. However, Article 17(1)(b) and (3) recognizes that the data subject' "right to be forgotten" can be overridden by the controller's legal or legitimate grounds to process the personal data, or for compliance with a legal obligation. In the context of blockchain, it is easy to imagine a scenario where an individual's right to be forgotten is overridden by the legitimate interest of the owners or operators of blockchain to comply with legal obligations.

Take for instance, in the financial context, financial institutions have to comply with KYC rule and must keep records of such transactions, including the personal data of the parties involved in the transaction.

While popular cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, use public blockchains, businesses and industries are developing private or permissioned blockchains. The key difference between a public and private blockchain is that in a public blockchain, there is no central authority and anyone can view the information contained in the digital ledger; whereas in a private blockchain, a central authority oversees who has access and how the data is distributed and stored. Creation or adoption of private blockchains will allow companies to account for, and ensure compliance with, GDPR.

Another feature that could be useful for blockchain in the context of GDPR compliance, is the concept of "off-chain storage" of personal data. Instead of uploading an individual's personal data onto the digital ledger, personal data can simply be maintained off the blockchain in a central location with only a hash of the personal data recorded on the ledger. Upon request, the personal data stored off the chain can simply be deleted, rendering the hash key useless.

Finally, another solution around the immutability of blockchain is to utilize smart contracts. Smart contracts are self-executing contracts with the terms of the agreement between the parties written into the code and are automatically triggered by the occurrence of a condition or event. Smart contracts can be written in a way that revokes all access rights and/or deletes the contents after a set period of time, rendering the personal data inaccessible.

E-GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Countries and governments are realizing how blockchain technology can enhance the quality of public service for its citizens.

The East European nation of Estonia is an interesting case-study. It has not stopped at one or two sectors, but is using blockchain technology across sectors to provide its citizens seamless and immediate access to public services.

Through the e-Estonia initiative, the country has integrated essential services—such as healthcare, education, banking, and taxes—into a unified digital ecosystem. Citizens can perform everyday tasks like voting, signing documents, and accessing medical records online with the help of a secure digital ID.

A key aspect of Estonia's digital success is the "once only" principle, which ensures that citizens never have to enter the same piece of information twice across government services. Data is securely shared between different agencies, allowing processes like tax filing to be completed in minutes. With the help of the government's X-Road platform, data is encrypted and decentralized, reducing the risk of breaches while ensuring transparency. Citizens also have full control over their personal data, with the ability to monitor who accesses their information, thereby preventing unauthorized use.



E-GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

In December 2024, Estonia even made a complex and stressful process like divorce an entirely digital service with the help of blockchain technology.

Couples can file for divorce by submitting applications digitally, access pre-filled forms, and finalize their divorce. The service includes a mandatory 30-day reflection period, ensuring thoughtful decision-making. It also provides tools for dividing marital property and guidance for families dealing with custody agreements.

One of Estonia's most innovative programs is its e-Residency initiative, launched in 2014. This programme allows non-Estonians to establish and manage businesses remotely within the European Union. E-residents receive a digital ID that enables them to access banking services, sign contracts electronically, and even pay taxes in Estonia without ever setting foot in the country. This initiative has attracted thousands of entrepreneurs, particularly those in tech and e-commerce, making Estonia an international hub for digital business.

Unlike traditional residency applications, which can take months or even years, e-Residency applications are processed within a few weeks.



E-GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

More governments are starting to adopt blockchain. China's Guangdong province has launched a blockchain-based financing platform to help small companies get quicker loan financing from banks. In 2016, Georgia built a land registry system based on blockchain, becoming the first country to do so. After the successful implementation in Georgia, more countries are adopting blockchain for their land registries. Sweden has also done the same for its land registry. The Netherlands is using a blockchain-based infrastructure for its pension program, which has reduced its management costs. The Maltese government has used the Blockcerts standard to implement a system whereby its Ministry for Education and Employment can verify any academic credential using blockchain.

PwC economists expect blockchain to boost global GDP by US\$1.76 trillion by 2030 as the technology sees wider use-cases across industries and public and private sector.

According to Mckinsey, a lot of the initial economic value will be generated just by bringing in more efficiencies in the systems. "Blockchain might have the disruptive potential to be the basis of new operating models, but its initial impact will be to drive operational efficiencies," a Mckinsey report pointed out.

To implement blockchain at scale, more work is needed. Governments, along with the private sector, need to build common standards. The true power of blockchain is in its network effect, which can be harnessed when there is interoperability and not "multiple siloed blockchain". As more governments and businesses realize blockchain's potential, we will see more solutions and innovations to make blockchain more mainstream.



BLOCKCHAIN, FIAT MONEY AND THE RISE OF NETWORK STATES

The Austrian School of Economics has long argued that sound money—free from government manipulation—is crucial for economic stability and individual freedom. Yet, over the past decades, central banks have embraced quantitative easing as a permanent tool, injecting massive amounts of liquidity into the system and weakening trust in fiat currencies. This constant expansion of the money supply has fueled inflation, widened wealth gaps, and made traditional monetary systems increasingly fragile.

Blockchain-based digital currencies, particularly Bitcoin, offer an alternative aligned with these principles—a decentralized, non-inflationary monetary system governed by fixed supply rules rather than political agendas. This shift isn't just financial, it's about governance and society as a whole. As fiat money becomes more unstable, the concept of the Network State gains traction. These emerging digital nations rely on self-sovereign digital identities, smart contracts and decentralized finance to operate outside the reach of traditional nation-states and their monetary policies. In this new paradigm, citizenship is no longer linked to geography but to economic and ideological alignment. Just as fiat-based economies function on central bank policies, Network States could operate on crypto-native economies, where governance, social contracts and even public services are executed through decentralized mechanisms. As people lose faith in legacy institutions, blockchain isn't just reshaping money—it's redefining governance, identity and the very concept of nationhood.





ELISHA ASWANI

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elisha Aswani is a Venture Builder at EmergentX. With experience as a product manager and growth strategist at Binance, she identifies both the challenges and opportunities in early-stage projects. At EmergentX, she guides projects from concept to market, championing the potential of blockchain to redefine modern entrepreneurship.

WHY THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS ONCHAIN? Starting a business should be simple. But over time, we've made it unnecessarily complex.

The traditional 9-to-5 job is giving way to portfolio careers and passion-driven projects that span multiple time zones. But even as new opportunities for global entrepreneurship emerge, many founders struggle dealing with financial and administrative systems designed for an era that never foresaw borderless, digital-first businesses.

At EmergentX, we're committed to rethinking what these businesses could look like. One of our flagship projects, Werk, is built around a single goal: making global entrepreneurship simpler, more transparent, and infinitely more scalable by leveraging blockchain technology.



CUTTING THROUGH COMPLEXITY

The hardest part of running a business isn't the work itself—it's everything around it. Getting paid, managing finances, and dealing with compliance take up valuable time. A study found that small business owners spend 36% of their workweek on admin tasks (Forbes), time that could be spent growing their business instead.

Werk streamlines these processes by uniting payments, payroll, and financial management on a single blockchain-powered platform—ensuring inherent transparency and building verifiable social proof.



Entrepreneurs can set up their business operations in minutes with no upfront costs. It's a frictionless approach that puts founders back in the driver's seat.



WORK IS BECOMING MORE FLUID

The way people work is changing. The pandemic didn't start it, but it made things clearer—having a single job isn't always the safest or most fulfilling path. More people are experimenting with side hustles, freelancing, and new ways of making a living.

We see it everywhere. Platforms like Patreon, OnlyFans, Substack, and Gumroad have grown exponentially because people want more control over how they earn. It's not just about quitting a job; it's about exploring what success means to you—building something around your skills and passions, rather than fitting into a predefined path.

Nike's belief is that everyone is an athlete—Werk is built on the idea that anyone can be an entrepreneur. If you have an idea, you should be able to build it. Whether freelancing, testing a venture, or scaling a company, no one should be held back by outdated systems. Werk allows anyone to get paid, automate admin, and keep things tidy.



BUILDING WITHOUT BORDERS

Entrepreneurs today aren't thinking locally—they're hiring across borders, working asynchronously, and targeting global audiences. Yet traditional banking systems can be a nightmare to navigate, often riddled with high transfer fees, slow transaction times, and unpredictable regulatory hurdles.

Picture paying a software developer in Singapore while billing a client in Berlin—all without requiring different bank accounts, tedious wire transfers, or endless paperwork.

Werk removes these limitations. Finance and operations are integrated. Global commerce becomes as straightforward as sending a quick message, liberating entrepreneurs to think big from the very start.



THE FUTURE OF ORGANIZATIONS IS ONCHAIN

Work is shifting from fixed employment to fluid collaboration. Organizations are becoming digital-first, global from day one, and structured to operate openly and efficiently. More startups are embracing decentralized teams, token incentives, and new ways to reward work based on real impact. This isn't just a trend—it's a response to what entrepreneurs and contributors actually need: borderless opportunities, transparent compensation, and long-term engagement where people have a real stake in what they build.

And it's not just for startups or freelancers. Just like open-source changed how software is built, onchain models will reshape how companies collaborate at scale. Large teams will work across borders seamlessly, aligning incentives through transparent systems rather than rigid hierarchies.

Werk is the vehicle for businesses moving onchain, making it easier to build, scale, and collaborate in a way that feels natural for the digital world.



A NEW ERA FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The takeaway is clear: the future of work will be shaped by flexibility, inclusivity, and boundless innovation. Entrepreneurship isn't a privilege—anyone with an idea and an internet connection can attempt to build something that resonates worldwide.

At EmergentX, we harness blockchain's power to reshape industries, and Werk embodies that vision. It empowers founders to launch borderless operations, cut through red tape, and create a transparent, trusted environment for growth. We believe the next generation of organizations won't just exist online-they'll thrive onchain.

Success will favor those who embrace new ways of collaborating, minimize overhead, and tap into a global talent pool. If you envision a future where entrepreneurship is seamless, secure, and free from traditional constraints, it's time to embrace onchain solutions like Werk. This could be the start of a whole new era-one in which work transcends traditional jobs, inviting you to shape your future and redefine success.





MAURICIO RIBEIRO

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mauricio Ribeiro is the Co-Founder & CEO of MOIQ Capital, a Singapore-based wealth management powerhouse launched in April 2023. Hailing from Brazil, Mauricio started his career as a veterinarian, earning a Ph.D. in beef production. However, a curiosity for global markets led him to finance in 2008, eventually taking roles at EFG Bank and Julius Baer in Hong Kong's private banking sector. By 2020, Singapore's thriving financial scene lured him south, setting the stage for MOIQ Capital. With a vision that marries blockchain technology and timeless investment strategies, Mauricio's focus remains on transparent, client-centric wealth solutions. His journey underscores a passion for breaking molds and staying ahead of the curve in the ever-evolving world of finance.

FROM SCEPTICISM TO SYSTEMATIC STRATEGY - HOW FAMILY OFFICES ARE EMBRACING DIGITAL ASSETS

In recent years, digital assets have experienced a seismic shift in perception among family offices. What was once viewed with skepticism is now increasingly regarded as a legitimate component of a well-balanced portfolio. Factors such as the rapid growth of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, rising institutional adoption, and the search for diversification and inflation hedges have all contributed to this evolution in outlook.

According to research from Ocorian, over 90% of family offices in Hong Kong and Singapore are either already investing in or planning to invest in digital assets, underscoring a global trend that shows no sign of slowing.



ADDRESSING VOLATILITY AND RISK

One of the primary hurdles for family offices is the perceived risk associated with cryptocurrencies. The volatility often ranging from 50% to 80% annualized—can be off-putting, especially when compared to the S&P 500's historical volatility of 15% to 20%. But we view digital assets as a potential hedge against inflation and currency devaluation, with an upside that could position them as "next-gen gold" or "gold 2.0."

At MOIQ Capital, we typically limit exposure to digital assets at around 5% of the overall portfolio. Within that allocation, we utilize proprietary risk management signals developed through rigorous quantitative modeling. These signals help manage downside risks while still capturing the high-growth potential characteristic of emerging technologies. For families focused on wealth preservation, this balanced approach can serve as an effective middle ground.

Binance	Q Search	ETH SHIB	ADA		
۵	BTC/USDT 45006.91 -8.44%	ETH/USDT 3488.85 -8.38%	DOGE/USD1 0.50011 -4.13	ADA/USDT	TRX/USDT
Callet	XLM/USDT 5x		EUR Trading Co	mpetition - 50,000 EVR to I	
8	Stellar Lumens	0.68102 \$0.681020	24h Change	24h High 24h Low 24h Vol 0.77650 0.61895 766,92	
Trade		0.00001 👻	Time Total	15m 1H All co	6.400.60 666.67
Markets	0.68188 0.68183 0.68182	500.0 20	0.9500	B XLMUSSE	1W 8m - 5
utures	0.68181 0.68179 0.68178	14.036.2 9.57		MA (7, close, 0) C C C MA (25, close, 0) C C C MA (99, close, 0) C C C	0.691080 0.69108000 0.69766880



Generational Divides

Discussions around investing in digital assets often highlight generational differences. Younger clients—Millennials and Gen Z—are more comfortable embracing the blockchain revolution. They see Bitcoin and Ethereum as natural fits in a tech-disrupted world, pushing for allocations of 5% to 10%.

Conversely, older generations—Baby Boomers and Gen X—tend to prioritize stability. Many have witnessed multiple market bubbles and crashes, from the dot-com bust to the 2008 financial crisis. Unsurprisingly, they are cautious about the high volatility of digital assets. In response, we offer tailored education sessions and risk-managed strategies, ensuring each family member's comfort level and objectives are recognized and respected.



Regulatory Developments

Recent regulatory changes have played a pivotal role in tempering concerns. Jurisdictions such as Hong Kong, Singapore, and Abu Dhabi (ADGM) have introduced clear frameworks—ranging from crypto licensing in Hong Kong to Singapore's Payment Services Act and ADGM's regulatory initiatives. These developments offer investors greater confidence by clarifying security, compliance, and tax obligations.

MOIQ Capital closely monitors these shifts, working with legal and industry experts to align our strategies with evolving guidelines. The clearer the regulatory environment, the more confident our clients feel about investing in what was once deemed the "Wild West" of finance.

Cautious but Incremental Allocations

Despite growing comfort, most family offices are taking a measured approach, often dedicating a small percentage of their assets to crypto and related opportunities. In our view, many are "late to the party," overestimating their knowledge of this rapidly evolving space. Yet, as the market matures, education increases, and confidence builds, these allocations are gradually inching upwards.

At MOIQ Capital, we've participated in digital assets from our inception. We recognize that even a modest holding can enhance a portfolio's diversification profile without exposing it to undue volatility. This balanced position—seeking growth while mitigating risk—is particularly appealing for families wary of placing too many eggs in any one basket.

Essential Infrastructure for Digital Assets

For family offices venturing into digital assets, the need for robust infrastructure cannot be overstated. While the industry is not yet at a private banking "gold standard," several key components have matured significantly in recent years:



Custodial Solutions

Cold storage and multi-signature authentication help safeguard assets.



Trading Platforms

Segregated accounts, staking integration, and access to deep liquidity pools ensure efficient and secure transactions.



Compliance Tools

Blockchain analytics for due diligence, transaction monitoring, and AML/KYC compliance provide an additional layer of security.

At MOIQ Capital, we've woven these elements into our operations through strategic partnerships. Although no single solution is perfect, combining multiple best-in-class providers can deliver the institutional-grade reliability family offices expect.

Beyond Cryptocurrencies: Tokenization and DeFi

The potential of blockchain extends well beyond Bitcoin and Ethereum. Tokenization—where real-world assets are represented as digital tokens—opens possibilities for fractionalizing ownership. Large-scale assets like real estate or private equity stakes become more accessible and liquid. Instead of tying up \$30 million in a single property, investors can purchase fractional tokens, allowing for more flexible trading and portfolio composition.

We've embraced these possibilities by exploring Real World Assets (RWAs) across multiple sectors. At MOIQ Capital, we've experimented with tokenizing a private jet and its flying hours, transforming a previously illiquid asset into a tradable stake. Likewise, we're particularly interested in real estate, private equity, fine art, and luxury collectibles. Imagine splitting a Picasso into multiple tradable tokens or holding a fraction of a vintage Ferrari—these once "passion-only" assets now represent liquid, investable opportunities.

Looking Ahead

Over the next decade, digital assets are poised to become a mainstream feature of diversified portfolios. As blockchain technology matures and regulatory frameworks solidify, family offices will no longer question whether to participate, but rather how to optimize their allocations.

From our perspective at MOIQ Capital, the writing on the wall is clear: digital assets will be integral to forward-thinking investment strategies. They offer a hedge against traditional market risks while potentially delivering outsized returns— a combination that becomes increasingly compelling as more institutions validate the asset class.

Final Thoughts

For family offices still on the sidelines, the core advice is to start small but start now. Even a 1% to 2% allocation can be educational, providing real-world experience without exposing an entire portfolio to volatility. By partnering with experienced custodians, leveraging institutional-grade platforms, and conducting thorough due diligence, the risks can be carefully managed.

Given the pace of innovation and the potential returns, waiting too long might mean missing out on a once-in-a-generation opportunity. In the rapidly evolving world of digital assets, a measured, strategic approach can position family offices to benefit from the transformative power of blockchain technology—without sacrificing the cornerstone of wealth preservation that underpins family office mandates.



The \$2 Trillion Digital Asset Revolution: How Regulated Tokenization is Transforming Global Finance

The \$2 Trillion Digital Asset Revolution: How Regulated Tokenization is Transforming Global Finance



DAVID PACKHAM

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David founded Chintai in 2018 to promote the adoption of compliant digital assets that utilise blockchain technology to modernise capital markets for banks, asset managers, and SMEs. A financial industry veteran with more than 20 years of experience in banking, finance and asset management with leading banks including Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, Barclays Wealth and HSBC Global Asset Management. David also served on the Board of Advisors to several Singapore start-ups, including Credify Inc and Worbli, and Treasurer on the Board of Trustees for deafPLUS, an organisation championing integration and equality between deaf and hearing people in all areas of life.

THE \$2 TRILLION DIGITAL ASSET REVOLUTION: HOW REGULATED TOKENIZATION IS TRANSFORMING GLOBAL FINANCE

Tokenization: The Next Evolution in Global Finance

The financial world is witnessing a paradigm shift as tokenization becomes the cornerstone of modern investment strategies. By leveraging blockchain technology, real-world assets (RWAs) such as real estate, private equity, and sustainable investments are being tokenized, unlocking unprecedented opportunities for liquidity, transparency, and accessibility.



The \$2 Trillion Digital Asset Revolution: How Regulated Tokenization is Transforming Global Finance

The Growing Market for Tokenized Assets

With McKinsey forecasting the market for tokenized assets to exceed \$2 trillion by 2030, traditional financial institutions are increasingly recognizing the transformative potential of this technology. Leading players like BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan, and HSBC are actively exploring and implementing tokenization solutions to enhance efficiency and democratize access to capital markets to a wider audience.

Unlike cryptocurrencies, tokenized real-world assets exist within a highly regulated framework. Compliance mechanisms, legal structures, and institutional-grade due diligence ensure that tokenized assets maintain their credibility, making real-world assets tokens an attractive option for both institutional and accredited investors.

Institutional Adoption and Regulatory Evolution

The rise of institutional adoption is accelerating as governments and regulators develop frameworks for blockchain-based financial instruments. Jurisdictions like Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong, the UAE, and the U.S. are paving the way with progressive regulatory policies that encourage responsible innovation while ensuring investor protection. This regulatory clarity is instrumental in building confidence among financial institutions and enabling seamless capital market flows across borders.

As global regulatory landscapes mature, companies specializing in tokenization are playing a pivotal role in bridging traditional finance with blockchain technology. By integrating automated compliance engines, secondary marketplaces, and end-to-end digital asset administration, tokenization platforms ensure adherence to stringent regulatory requirements while maximizing efficiency.





Democratizing Access to Capital Markets

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One of the most profound implications of tokenization is its ability to democratize capital markets, which Chintai continues to champion. Traditionally, access to high-value asset classes such as commercial real estate, venture capital, and fine art was restricted to a select group of ultra-high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors. Tokenization enables fractional ownership, lowering entry barriers and allowing mid-sized businesses, accredited investors, and even retail participants to access opportunities that were previously out of reach.

Moreover, the shift towards digital asset tokenization fosters greater market liquidity. Unlike traditional investment structures, which often require long lock-in periods, tokenized assets can be traded on regulated secondary markets, providing investors with more flexibility and reducing capital inefficiencies.



Security and Compliance: The Backbone of Tokenization

As tokenization gains traction, security and regulatory compliance remain paramount. Companies leading the charge in this space are developing permissioned blockchain ecosystems that enforce compliance rules for every transaction. By embedding risk management protocols, identity verification, and investor accreditation into blockchain-based infrastructure, these solutions mitigate financial crime risks while ensuring regulatory alignment.

The involvement of seasoned blockchain specialists, developers, and system engineers from leading financial institutions further strengthens the credibility of tokenization platforms. With a focus on regulatory adherence and cybersecurity, these platforms provide a secure, scalable foundation for the future of digital asset markets. The regulated Chintai platform is built to tokenize compliant digital assets efficiently and cost-effectively.

The Future of Finance: A Regulated, Scalable, and Efficient Ecosystem

As the global financial ecosystem evolves, tokenization is poised to play a defining role in shaping its future. Over the next five years, the integration of tokenized assets into mainstream financial markets is expected to accelerate, driven by increasing regulatory clarity, institutional participation, and technological advancements.

Success in this rapidly growing sector will be determined by the ability to offer regulated, compliant, and user-friendly tokenization solutions. The ultimate vision is a financial infrastructure where tokenized assets seamlessly integrate into capital markets, fostering greater efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.

With its potential to transform traditional finance, tokenization is not just a technological advancement—it is a financial revolution that will redefine how assets are managed, traded, and invested in the years to come.

From Paper to Protocol: The Need for Tokenized Securities



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Huelsmann was recognized as one of the ten most innovative finance and insurance experts in Germany in 2020 by leading business magazine Business Punk and is Regional Chair of the blockchain and real estate foundation Fibree. He studied management with a focus on finance at the University of Warwick (UK), was assistant to the Global Chief Controlling Officer of a large multinational corporation and co-head of an international incubator. He is also an accredited financial investment broker, has collected art for many years and learned the basics of art investment at Sotheby's Institute of Art in London.

FROM PAPER TO PROTOCOL: THE NEED FOR TOKENIZED SECURITIES The financial industry is undergoing a seismic shift, with tokenization emerging as a game-changer in capital markets. Blockchain-powered tokenization is transforming how securities are issued, distributed, and traded, making investments more accessible,efficient, and cost-effective.

Traditional capital markets, long plagued by inefficiencies, are now witnessing a digital revolution that eliminates intermediaries, reduces costs, and enhances liquidity.

The Problem: Inefficiencies in Traditional Capital Markets

Legacy financial systems rely on cumbersome, paper-based processes, leading to high transaction costs and lengthy settlement periods. These inefficiencies have historically restricted access to investment opportunities, particularly in private markets such as real estate, private equity, and infrastructure. Investors in these asset classes often struggle with liquidity constraints, making it difficult to exit their positions when needed.

Tokenization addresses these challenges head-on, offering a streamlined, digital-first approach to securities.



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The Solution: Tokenization and Blockchain Technology

Tokenization creates digital representations of real-world assets on a blockchain, enabling fractional ownership and broadening investor participation. By eliminating intermediaries and leveraging smart contracts, tokenization enhances the issuance, distribution, and trading of securities, reducing costs and significantly shortening transaction timelines.

Tokenized securities also improve liquidity in private markets, allowing investors to trade assets seamlessly on digital platforms. Unlike traditional markets that require long holding periods, tokenized assets provide exit opportunities and price discovery mechanisms, increasing flexibility and market dynamism.

The Role of Regulatory Frameworks

Despite its advantages, the widespread adoption of tokenization faces regulatory complexities across jurisdictions. The European DLT Pilot Regime and Germany's eWpG are paving the way for structured regulatory frameworks, offering clear legal pathways for digital securities. As regulatory clarity improves, institutional adoption is expected to accelerate, further legitimizing the digital asset ecosystem.

Technological Innovations Powering Tokenization

Several technological advancements have been critical in driving the growth of tokenization:



Automated Compliance & Smart Contracts: Real-time regulatory enforcement reduces administrative burdens and enhances transparency.



Secondary Market Trading: Digital platforms enable peer-to-peer trading of tokenized assets, increasing liquidity and investment flexibility.



API Integrations: Seamless connectivity with banks, wealth managers, and financial institutions facilitates automated transactions and expands investor access.

The Future of Capital Markets

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As financial institutions recognize the efficiency and accessibility benefits of tokenized securities, traditional market barriers continue to dissolve. Studies suggest that tokenization could unlock trillions of dollars in previously illiquid assets, making private markets more dynamic and inclusive. The launch of regulated trading venues for tokenized assets will further enhance liquidity and institutional participation, positioning digital securities as a cornerstone of the modern financial system.

At FINEXITY, we are pioneering the transformation of capital markets through blockchain-powered tokenization. Our platform streamlines the issuance, distribution, and trading of tokenized assets, replacing outdated, manual processes with a fully digital approach. By eliminating inefficiencies, reducing transaction costs, and ensuring seamless execution, we enable greater accessibility to private market investments. Specializing in fractional ownership and secondary market liquidity, we are committed to democratizing investments while maintaining the highest regulatory compliance and institutional-grade security.

Tokenization represents a paradigm shift in how capital markets operate. By addressing inefficiencies in traditional finance, this technology is democratizing access to investment opportunities, enhancing liquidity, and streamlining transactions. As regulatory frameworks evolve and technological advancements continue, tokenization is set to redefine the future of finance, providing a more inclusive, efficient, and secure marketplace for institutional and retail investors alike. With the continued efforts of key players in the space, such as FINEXITY and other innovators, the transition to a blockchain-powered financial ecosystem is well underway.



Ethereum's Scaling Revolution: How ZKsync is Shaping the Next Decade of Blockchain

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AUTHOR: PEARL IMBACH ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pearl Imbach looks after business development for Matter Labs, the core contributors behind ZKsync-the fastest-growing Layer 2 scaling solution on Ethereum. ZKsync is fully open source, decentralized, secure, and infinitely scalable, effectively resolving the blockchain trilemma. It offers users a Web2-like experience at near-zero fees. Thanks to its modular, open-source framework, ZKsync enables enterprises to deploy customized blockchains powered by advanced zero-knowledge technology. Pearl specializes in positioning ZKsync as the ideal blockchain solution for financial institutions seeking security, reliability, privacy, scalability, and interoperability.

ETHEREUM'S SCALING REVOLUTION: HOW ZKSYNC IS SHAPING THE NEXT DECADE OF BLOCKCHAIN

As Ethereum pushes towards its ambitious goal of becoming the world's decentralized computer—a global, neutral settlement layer—scaling remains its critical challenge. With network congestion and soaring transaction fees, Ethereum urgently needs scalable solutions. Enter ZKsync, a groundbreaking layer-2 solution poised to redefine blockchain technology and digital asset management over the next decade.

From Single Chain to Elastic Network: ZKsync's Evolution

ZKsync addresses Ethereum's scalability woes with zero-knowledge (ZK) rollups, enabling transactions at lightning-fast speeds and dramatically lower costs while preserving Ethereum's robust security. Starting from its initial chain, "Era," ZKsync has rapidly evolved into the Elastic Network, a dynamic cluster of interconnected chains. Today, this ecosystem already encompasses over 20 chains, positioning ZKsync as a frontrunner in blockchain scalability. ZKsync's roadmap includes achieving 10,000 transactions per second (TPS) per chain, with horizontal scaling capabilities for even greater throughput.



Ethereum's Scaling Revolution: How ZKsync is Shaping the Next Decade of Blockchain

Bridging the User Experience Gap

What sets ZKsync apart is its ability to simplify user and developer experiences drastically. Matter Labs, the organization behind ZKsync, has prioritized ease-of-use by introducing native account abstraction, making every account a smart contract wallet. This innovation eliminates traditional blockchain hurdles, like cumbersome gas fees or complex transaction processes, allowing for smoother user onboarding and seamless interactions akin to traditional Web2 platforms.

"Our technology doesn't force users to deal with complexities like gas fees or seed phrases," says the ZKsync team, highlighting their developer-friendly Smart Sign On (SSO) toolkit. Users can effortlessly manage transactions, with enterprises able to subsidize costs, significantly enhancing adoption potential.

Customization and Privacy: The Enterprise Advantage

Privacy and customization further distinguish ZKsync's rollup cluster. Enterprises worldwide are taking note of its unique ability to operate private, permissioned, permissionless, or hybrid chains, enabling seamless, secure data and asset transfer across platforms without forming restrictive consortiums. Such privacy features uniquely empower businesses to retain full control and customization over their blockchain environments while maintaining interoperability across the Elastic Network.


Ethereum's Scaling Revolution: How ZKsync is Shaping the Next Decade of Blockchain

Solving the Blockchain Trilemma

In tackling the infamous blockchain trilemma—achieving security, scalability, and decentralization simultaneously—ZKsync's innovation with zero-knowledge proofs ensures there are no compromises. As adoption grows, ZKsync plans to further decentralize its proving and sequencing processes, paving the way for a future where blockchain networks are as decentralized as they are efficient.

Navigating Regulatory Landscapes

Regulatory environments remain a critical consideration, with frameworks like Europe's MiCa and America's GENIUS Act signaling greater acceptance of blockchain technology. ZKsync is proactively positioned to adapt and thrive, providing enterprises the flexibility they need to navigate evolving regulatory landscapes without concessions. Decentralization remains not just an ethos but a necessity to ensure security and censorship resistance.

Unified, Not Fragmented: ZKsync's Vision for Interoperability

Interoperability, crucial to preventing fragmentation among Layer 2 solutions, is a priority. ZKsync envisions a unified ecosystem where multiple chains within and beyond Ethereum communicate seamlessly, offering users a frictionless, interconnected experience. This modular approach represents the future of blockchain—open, connected, and user-centric, ensuring native interoperation at the ecosystem level and supporting Ethereum-wide modularity.

Leading the Real-World Asset Tokenization Movement

Already a leader in real-world asset (RWA) tokenization, ZKsync is second only to Ethereum in total value locked (TVL), surpassing all other networks combined. Its growth signals a profound shift towards institutional adoption, where ZKsync's unique combination of scalability, security, customization, and interoperability unlocks new possibilities for financial transformation, digital identity, and beyond. Institutions can securely perform atomic settlements and transactions 24/7 without intermediaries.

Al and Automation: The Next Frontier

Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to play a significant role in blockchain scalability, security, and governance. Al-driven tools can simplify user interactions, autonomously manage network optimization, detect and prevent security threats in real-time, and recommend strategic improvements, ultimately making blockchain usage more intuitive and efficient.

Paving the Way for a Decentralized Future

As blockchain's potential becomes increasingly integrated into daily life—surpassing even today's dependence on cloud computing—ZKsync's pioneering solutions stand ready to shape a decentralized future where digital transactions, data ownership, and governance are seamlessly managed at internet speeds. Real-world initiatives such as decentralized social platforms, digital identities in Buenos Aires, and Deutsche Bank's fund tokenization illustrate the emerging onchain paradigm powered by ZKsync. Barbados: A Caribbean Epicentre for Blockchain and Innovation



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AUTHOR: LILY DASH ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lily Dash is Co-Founder at ACTAI Advisors. Through ACTAI Advisors, Lily connects groundbreaking web3 entrepreneurs with capital, top-tier resources, and unparalleled talent, empowering founders to scale their ventures and make meaningful global impacts. Born and raised in Barbados, Lily is deeply committed to advancing the Caribbean's technology and blockchain and technology ecosystem, actively championing innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural progression in the region.

BARBADOS : A CARIBBEAN EPICENTRE FOR BLOCKCHAIN AND INNOVATION While pristine beaches and luxury escapes may be the first images that spring to mind at the mention of Barbados, the Caribbean nation is rapidly carving a compelling new identity—as a vibrant global epicenter for technology, blockchain, and innovation.

Long recognized as a paradise for vacationers, Barbados is now strategically positioning itself as an oasis for tech entrepreneurs, crypto investors, and digital nomads drawn by the country's unique blend of favorable regulatory environments, first-rate connectivity, and an unmatched lifestyle.

An Early Innovator with a Global Vision

Barbados isn't new to embracing digital frontiers. In fact, the island's relationship with cryptocurrency began nearly a decade ago, when, in 2014, a fully Barbadian team launched Bitt.com—one of the world's earliest crypto exchanges. By 2015, the Central Bank of Barbados demonstrated visionary leadership, openly exploring the inclusion of Bitcoin in its international reserves—an idea now echoed in financial capitals like Washington, London, and Berlin.

This pioneering spirit has paved the way for a flourishing ecosystem for innovation attracting global innovators from Canada, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, the UAE, and the United States. Initially drawn by the Caribbean's charms as a luxurious refuge during the COVID pandemic, these entrepreneurs have transitioned from visitors to long-term residents, actively investing in real estate, fueling local startups, and laying the foundations for Barbados' Innovative future.



Barbados: A Caribbean Epicentre for Blockchain and Innovation

Tax Incentives, Lifestyle, and Connectivity: Barbados' Winning Trifecta

So, what precisely makes Barbados such an attractive hub? Firstly, the tax structure: with an attractive maximum corporate tax rate of just 5.5%, no capital gains taxes, yet not flagged as a tax haven by the European Union, Barbados offers significant advantages without the reputational risks typically associated with offshore finance.

Add to that the allure of a high-quality lifestyle, robust legal frameworks, outstanding infrastructure, and political stability, and Barbados emerges as an ideal environment for entrepreneurs seeking to balance innovation with comfort. Coupled with advanced fiber optic connectivity surpassing that in many developed economies, tech teams and digital nomads find themselves working more efficiently from the Caribbean coast than from bustling metropolises back home.



Blockchain as a Force for Economic Empowerment

For Barbados, blockchain and crypto aren't just buzzwords; they're powerful vehicles for economic transformation. The country recognizes blockchain's potential for enhancing financial inclusion, reducing transaction costs, and accelerating economic growth. Applications include blockchain-powered digital payments, transparent peer-to-peer lending platforms, and an efficient blockchain integrated land administration system.

Moreover, Barbados understands the critical importance of digital identity solutions in promoting seamless access to banking, voting, and government services—crucial components in creating a truly inclusive digital economy.



DAOs: The Next Frontier in Governance

The rise of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs)—entities governed entirely through blockchain-based smart contracts—marks another groundbreaking opportunity. Recognizing the potential for DAOs to reshape traditional governance structures, Barbados would need to proactively adapt its legislation, ensuring clarity, flexibility, and compliance to enable DAOs to integrate seamlessly into existing legal frameworks. Such forward-thinking regulatory approaches could position Barbados at the forefront of global innovation in blockchain governance.

Building a Robust Regulatory Foundation

To solidify its position as a crypto leader, Barbados would need to adopt a comprehensive regulatory framework tailored specifically for digital assets. This includes:



Barbados: Charting the Future of Global Tech Hubs

Standing at this digital crossroads, Barbados is more than just a picturesque island getaway; it's an innovative, globally-minded economy on the brink of a digital renaissance. By thoughtfully leveraging its unique advantages and strategically implementing clear regulations, Barbados can secure its position as the Caribbean's leading technology hub.

For entrepreneurs, investors, and visionaries across the globe, the island offers a uniquely compelling proposition an opportunity not just to enjoy paradise, but to actively shape the future of finance, technology, and innovation.

In other words, paradise has gone digital.



The Tokenized Era: Redefining Wealth Creation



AUTHOR: ANDREAS MICHAEL

THE TOKENIZED ERA: REDEFINING WEALTH CREATION

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andreas Michael is a Director at Realize, a forward-thinking tokenization platform based in Abu Dhabi. He oversees global operations and plays a key role in advancing the company's mission to bring real-world assets onto the blockchain. Backed by the co-founders of IOTA and Nakama, Realize is building the infrastructure to unlock the full utility of traditional assets through tokenization. Together with their strategic regional partnerships, the company is positioned at the forefront of the global shift toward smart, on-chain assets. Prior to joining Realize, Andreas served as Operations & Relationship Lead at Komainu, an institutional custodian delivering secure digital asset services to global clients.

> In an age where asset tokenization and digital ownership are rapidly reshaping financial markets, the challenge has never been about simply bringing assets on-chain.

The real question is: What do we do with them once they're there?

Beyond Tokenization: Unlocking True Financial Utility

Fractionalization has long been the headline feature of asset tokenization, but its real potential lies in how these assets are integrated into financial ecosystems. Tokenization isn't just about digital representation; it's about unlocking new financial opportunities such as enhanced liquidity, efficiency, and broader investment access.

Most tokenization platforms have focused on bringing as many assets on-chain as possible, without considering their long-term use cases. The next stage of evolution in this space is ensuring that tokenized assets are seamlessly integrated into decentralized finance (DeFi) applications, creating new layers of utility, yield generation, and financial inclusion.



A New Era for Institutional and Retail Investors

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High-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and institutional investors have long been drawn to digital assets, yet traditional investment platforms remain riddled with inefficiencies. Tokenization enables individuals and institutions to invest directly, bypassing costly intermediaries, reducing fees, and increasing transparency. This efficiency leads to enhanced returns and a more attractive investment environment.

Moreover, tokenized assets introduce an unprecedented level of accessibility. By lowering the barriers to entry, tokenization allows everyday investors to participate in markets previously reserved for large institutions, creating a more inclusive financial ecosystem.



Regulatory Stability in a Rapidly Evolving Industry

Regulatory uncertainty has been one of the biggest hurdles in the mass adoption of tokenized assets. Various jurisdictions have approached digital assets in different ways—some embracing innovation, while others impose restrictive policies.

However, global financial hubs such as Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) are setting the stage for more structured digital asset frameworks. These regulatory developments aim to balance investor protection with innovation, ensuring a sustainable and trustworthy tokenized economy.

Bridging Traditional Finance with Blockchain Innovation

One of the most significant challenges in tokenization has been aligning decentralized blockchain infrastructure with traditional financial structures, which operate at different speeds and regulatory frameworks.

Direct tokenization models, where investors have direct rights to underlying assets, eliminate unnecessary intermediaries and offer real-time transparency on holdings. This contrasts with indirect tokenization, which often involves complex legal structures and additional costs. The transition to a fully integrated digital asset management system will require further advancements in blockchain interoperability and regulatory standardization.

AI-Driven Finance: The Future of Digital Asset Management

Blockchain's ability to deliver real-time, transparent data is one of its most overlooked advantages. Unlike traditional financial systems that rely on fragmented, centralized entities, blockchain enables immediate access to trading and investment data.

By integrating Al-driven DeFi trading strategies and yield vaults, tokenized platforms can eliminate inefficiencies and automate asset management processes, unlocking new levels of efficiency. However, balancing regulatory compliance with Al-driven trading strategies remains a challenge, as financial authorities work to develop guidelines that safeguard investors while fostering innovation.



Tokenized Assets as a Hedge Against Global Uncertainty

In a world of economic instability, from shifting U.S. trade policies to inflationary pressures, investors are looking for new ways to hedge risks and diversify. Tokenized real-world assets offer a compelling alternative. For example, tokenized Short-Term U.S. Treasuries retain their core financial stability while allowing investors to generate additional yield through DeFi applications.

With traditional markets becoming increasingly unpredictable, investment managers can no longer afford to ignore digital assets. Tokenization is not a replacement for conventional investment strategies, but it is becoming an essential tool in building diversified, resilient portfolios.

The Road to Mass Adoption: Where Tokenization is Headed

While the U.S. is often cited as the epicenter of Web3 development, the Middle East and Asia are proving to be key drivers of tokenized asset adoption. Scaling global adoption will require regulatory bodies to keep pace with blockchain's rapid technological advancements.

Regulatory frameworks remain a barrier to large-scale adoption, but the tide is shifting. As global financial authorities introduce more structured digital asset regulations, tokenization will move from a niche innovation to a fundamental component of wealth management.

2030 and Beyond: The Future of Tokenized Wealth

By 2030, success in the tokenization space will not be measured by the number of assets brought on-chain, but by the impact of these assets on financial accessibility, efficiency, and inclusion. The goal is to ensure that tokenized investment opportunities are not just limited to large institutions but are accessible to everyday investors seeking new ways to build wealth safely and efficiently.

Realize has established itself as a pioneer in institutional-grade tokenization. By tokenizing funds within ADGM, Realize has created a secure platform that enables asset issuers to tokenize assets with long-term investor protections in place. The company's mission is to bridge the gap between traditional finance and blockchain, setting the stage for the future of digital asset investment.

As blockchain, AI, and digital finance continue to evolve, one thing is clear: the future of asset management is being rewritten, and tokenization is at the heart of this transformation.



Crypto Surge Meets Institutional Momentum: Navigating Regulation and Expansion in 2025

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lasanka Perera is the co-founder of Independent Reserve and currently serves as the chief executive officer of Independent Reserve Singapore. Under Lasanka's stewardship, Independent Reserve is the first crypto exchange licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to provide crypto trading services to all investors. With extensive experience in markets and trading, Lasanka established several regulated consumer-facing financial services businesses. As an early adopter and passionate advocate for crypto-currency, he actively participates in trade conferences, connecting with like-minded individuals to foster the growth of the industry.

CRYPTO SURGE MEETS INSTITUTIONAL MOMENTUM: NAVIGATING REGULATION AND EXPANSION IN 2025 Bitcoin recently surged to new all-time highs, marking another chapter in the crypto market's cyclical history. Yet, despite a buoyant Q4 2024, optimism has somewhat tempered entering 2025. Analysts are split: bulls cite the post-halving cycle as bullish momentum, while bears highlight escalating macroeconomic headwinds, especially the threat of global trade wars dampening sentiment. According to experts, this cycle's key determinant remains U.S. interest rate policies, critical in shaping global liquidity and consequently crypto valuations.

Navigating Evolving Crypto Regulations

Regulatory frameworks for cryptocurrencies are rapidly evolving worldwide, significantly impacting centralized exchanges. Independent Reserve emphasizes that balanced regulations are essential: overly strict policies risk pushing innovation and consumers toward unregulated spaces, whereas thoughtful regulations promote consumer protection and mass adoption. Independent Reserve proactively engages with regulators, advocating industry-informed regulations, ensuring high compliance standards to secure its market position.



Crypto Surge Meets Institutional Momentum: Navigating Regulation and Expansion in 2025

Institutional Adoption Driving Liquidity

Institutional adoption, evidenced by ETFs and corporations like Tesla and MicroStrategy holding Bitcoin, signals growing confidence from traditional financial sectors. This trend enhances market liquidity and potentially increases price stability, given institutions typically adopt long-term investment horizons. Nevertheless, Independent Reserve cautions that despite deeper liquidity pools, the crypto market's relative youth means volatility is likely to persist.

Stablecoins, CBDCs, and the Future of Exchanges

With central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and stablecoins gaining traction, centralized exchanges like Independent Reserve remain critical infrastructure for crypto-to-fiat gateways, liquidity provision, and facilitating trading activities.

Decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms also see increasing interest, especially with recent reductions in on-chain gas fees. However, their lack of regulatory oversight continues to present barriers for significant institutional participation, reinforcing centralized exchanges' pivotal role.



Crypto Surge Meets Institutional Momentum: Navigating Regulation and Expansion in 2025

Altcoins and Emerging Narratives

Beyond Bitcoin and Ethereum, significant excitement surrounds emerging narratives such as Layer 2 solutions, artificial intelligence (AI) tokens, and real-world asset tokenization. The crypto market has witnessed a surge in asset tokenization projects, enabling decentralized international investments and efficient capital raising. Additionally, networks like Ripple are increasingly discussed as alternatives to traditional payment infrastructures like SWIFT.

Independent Reserve's Strategic Expansion

Independent Reserve, a trusted exchange particularly strong in Australia and Singapore, is broadening its horizons, notably expanding further into Asian and Middle Eastern markets. Beyond spot crypto trading and secure custody solutions, it plans to introduce sophisticated financial services, including treasury management, stablecoin products tailored for high-net-worth individuals, family offices, and multinational corporations, as well as yield generation, leverage, and derivatives trading.



Prioritizing Security Amid Cyber Threats

With cyber threats growing more sophisticated, Independent Reserve prioritizes security, having maintained an impeccable 11-year track record without incidents. Their robust cybersecurity framework includes advanced encryption, secure cold storage solutions, continuous monitoring, risk management, regular audits, and penetration testing, alongside stringent segregation of customer assets to ensure immediate liquidity upon client requests.



Driving Mass Crypto Adoption

Recognizing crypto adoption is still nascent, Independent Reserve aims to bridge this gap with intuitive platforms, educational tools, and streamlined banking integrations for seamless 24/7 crypto transactions. Their recent acquisition of Bitcoin.com.au exemplifies efforts to enhance retail investor accessibility and education, accelerating mass adoption.

Al Integration and Automation

Artificial intelligence and automation increasingly support Independent Reserve's operational efficiency, particularly in risk management and customer service. While AI provides valuable tools to expedite processes, the exchange maintains a cautious approach, emphasizing human oversight to protect sensitive client data, signaling an ongoing evolution rather than full reliance on automated systems.

Five-Year Vision: A Comprehensive Financial Hub

Looking ahead, Independent Reserve envisions becoming a comprehensive financial services provider within the digital asset ecosystem. Its five-year goal encompasses a suite of products ranging from execution services and stablecoins to corporate treasury management, global payments, yield generation, leverage, and derivatives trading, solidifying its role as a key player amidst growing global competition.



Latin America's Financial Revolution: How Blockchain is Bridging Infrastructure Gaps

Latin America's Financial Revolution: How Blockchain is Bridging Infrastructure Gaps



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Felipe M.B. Whitaker, CFP, serves as a board member at Transfero, a leading blockchain-based financial solutions provider offering infrastructure services for banking, crypto, and payments across Latin America. A wealth management veteran in Brazil, Felipe began his distinguished career in private banking at prestigious institutions such as UBS and BTG Pactual. With extensive experience running multifamily offices, Felipe brings deep expertise in wealth management, reinforcing Transfero's strategic direction in enhancing financial inclusion and digital asset integration in the region.

LATIN AMERICA'S FINANCIAL REVOLUTION: HOW BLOCKCHAIN IS BRIDGING INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS Latin America has long grappled with an outdated financial infrastructure, hampering economic progress and limiting financial inclusion. Transfero, a pioneering fintech leveraging blockchain technology, is at the forefront of addressing these deep-rooted financial challenges.

A Region in Need

Key financial infrastructure issues in Latin America include high friction in cross-border payments, soaring remittance fees, limited financial inclusion, and persistent currency volatility. Millions remain unbanked, small businesses face restricted access to credit, and inflation continuously erodes purchasing power.

Transfero addresses these barriers by utilizing stablecoins pegged to local currencies—Brazil's BRZ and Argentina's ARZ—to provide efficient, transparent, and affordable international transactions independent of traditional banks. Transfero's solutions offer financial inclusion, cheaper and faster transactions, hedges against inflation, decentralized lending, and secure payments.



Stablecoins: Protection Against Volatility

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Stablecoins like BRZ and ARZ mitigate currency volatility and enhance global financial access. They protect against inflation by providing stable digital alternatives to volatile national currencies. These stablecoins facilitate easier access to international markets, allow instant and low-cost cross-border transactions, enable financial inclusion without traditional banks, and integrate seamlessly with decentralized finance (DeFi) products.



"Stablecoins aren't merely digital assets—they're infrastructure for financial democracy, bridging Latin America to global opportunities."

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Latin America's Financial Revolution: How Blockchain is Bridging Infrastructure Gaps

Regulatory Complexities and Transfero's Strategy

Blockchain-based financial services face significant regulatory challenges, including unclear regulations, foreign exchange controls, taxation complexities, and stringent AML/KYC requirements. Transfero proactively addresses these issues by engaging closely with regulators, maintaining international compliance standards, and building strategic partnerships.

With operations licensed in Switzerland, Brazil, the Bahamas, South Africa, and Argentina, Transfero emphasizes regulatory integrity and transparency, ensuring responsible blockchain adoption in the region.

The Evolving Role of Traditional Banks

Traditional banking faces disruption from embedded finance and crypto-native financial products. Banks are transitioning into essential infrastructure partners, integrating blockchain and crypto solutions to remain competitive.

Transfero's flagship BaaSiC (Banking as a Service in Crypto) framework provides a powerful, integrated solution enabling traditional institutions to swiftly adopt crypto capabilities. Portfolio companies such as Chainless, DFB, and BRX further enhance embedded finance by integrating banking functionalities, expanding Web3 products, and bridging traditional finance with blockchain innovations.

Tokenization: Opportunities and Risks

Tokenization presents significant opportunities by enabling fractional ownership of previously inaccessible assets, enhancing liquidity, and democratizing investments. However, tokenization also brings regulatory uncertainty, cybersecurity risks, and educational challenges.

Transfero emphasizes that addressing these issues is crucial for tokenization's widespread adoption, highlighting the need for clear regulatory frameworks and robust investor education.

Overcoming Adoption Barriers

Transfero addresses key barriers to crypto adoption in Latin America, such as regulatory uncertainty, inflation, limited financial education, restricted banking access, and security concerns. Educational initiatives like Transfero Academy, Panorama Cripto, and Crypto Investidor boost financial literacy. Transfero also enhances accessibility through strategic partnerships and strong security measures to build trust.

Ensuring Security and Compliance

With increasing scrutiny on crypto security, Transfero maintains financial integrity and protects users through strict AML/KYC compliance, real-time transaction monitoring, advanced cybersecurity protocols, transparent stablecoin issuance, proactive regulatory engagement, and user-focused risk management.

The Future of Cross-Border Payments

Blockchain and stablecoins are revolutionizing cross-border payments, especially in high-remittance corridors. These technologies drastically reduce costs and transaction times, enhancing financial inclusion globally. Transfero envisions a blockchain-powered global payment system where stablecoins dominate international transactions, reshaping financial services across emerging markets.



"The transition to blockchain-powered global payments is irreversible"

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For a comprehensive understanding of the methodology used, references cited, or for any inquiries regarding the contents of this report, readers are invited to contact Multipolitan at contact@multipolitan.com.

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