



Weekly News Recap

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Top Stories of The Week

Rising Bitcoin Fees Prompt Renewed Battle Over Ordinals, BRC-20 Tokens

Decrypt

Alongside the euphoria among investors over Bitcoin's recent surge above \$44,000, increased network congestion is prompting another battle over the NFT-like Ordinals project and BRC-20 tokens. More than 46m such inscriptions have been made since January, including inscriptions tied to BRC-20, a type of fungible token minted on the Bitcoin blockchain. Opponents call Ordinals a misuse of the Bitcoin network and cite their impact on everyday users in the form of higher transaction fees, while proponents argue that Bitcoin is a free and open protocol and that higher transaction fees is what will replace Bitcoin's declining security budget.

SEC, Spot Bitcoin ETF Issuer Talks have "Advanced to Key Details"

News

Discussions between the SEC and spot Bitcoin ETF issuers have progressed to "key details," signaling the possibility that the SEC will approve the applications. Specifically, the SEC and the issuers are reportedly discussing key operational mechanics, such as in-kind versus cash creations. Assuming the SEC wants to approve all applications at once, industry analysts have pegged the approval window to be between January 5th and January 10th, 2024.

El Salvador's Bitcoin Investment 'In the Black,' Says President Bukele

CoinDesk

El Salvador's president took to X to announce that the country's bitcoin investment is now profitable. He also added that they have no intention of selling and that price volatility doesn't affect their long-term strategy. El Salvador owns roughly 2,744 bitcoin at an average price slightly below \$42,000.

Crypto-fueled wireless carrier Helium Mobile debuts unlimited nationwide plan in US

Helium Mobile launched a nationwide cellular phone plan in the US for unlimited data, text and talk that costs just \$20 a month. The service combines the peer-to-peer Helium Network, an internet-of-things project that uses the Solana blockchain, and a nationwide 5G network.

Brazil's largest bank Itau Unibanco launches Bitcoin trading

Cointelegraph

Brazilian bank Itaú Unibanco launched a cryptocurrency trading service for its clients, starting with Bitcoin and Ether (and with plans to add more cryptocurrencies in the future). Itaú will serve as the custodian for the service, storing crypto assets for its clients. Initially, clients will not be able to deposit and withdraw cryptocurrency using external wallets, but will have the guarantee of Itaú's balance sheet for security.

Bitcoin miner Riot Platforms gears up for halving with strategic \$290M hardware investment

CryptoSlate

Texas-based Bitcoin miner Riot Platforms has acquired 66,560 units of BTC miners from MicroBT for \$290.5m, representing 18 EH/s of hash rate. Riot also has options to acquire an additional 265,000 miners, aiming to achieve a 100 EH/s hash rate capacity.

Bitcoin

[Bitcoin Core v26 goes live as 1% of nodes upgrade on launch day](#)

[Developers of Bitcoin sidechain MVC prepare for BRC-20 DEX launch](#)

[Sotheby's announces its first Bitcoin Ordinals sale](#)

[Bitcoin dev Luke Dashjr calls inscriptions 'spam,' community members push back](#)

[Bitcoin's illiquid supply hits 10-year high, signaling strong investor conviction](#)

[Bitcoin Lightning Network experiences capacity and channel surge](#)

[Qatar's Sovereign Wealth Fund Dives into Bitcoin with Potential \\$500B Investment – Confirmed News or Just Rumors?](#)

[Bitcoin ORDI Token Sets All-Time High, Up 549% in One Month](#)

Ethereum

[Blocknative Releases New Ethereum Mempool Explorer, to Help With MEV Protection](#)

[Ethereum's Decentralization Questioned as Block Builders Censor Transactions Tied to US Sanctions](#)

[Mantle introduces mETH liquid staking protocol, expanding its Ethereum-based DeFi ecosystem](#)

Altcoins

[Over 11 million LINK staked in half hour as Chainlink staking v0.2 early access goes live](#)

[TON blockchain slows to a halt as Ordinals-inspired protocol sees surge in activity](#)

[Blockchain Firm LayerZero Labs to Launch Native Token in 2024](#)

[Starknet Foundation to Allocate 1.8B STRK Tokens 'Soon'](#)

[Jito token witnesses \\$1.1 billion of trading volume in first day](#)

[Polygon 2.0: 2024 to see unified ZK-powered L2 chains](#)

[Deloitte Taps Polkadot Ecosystem's Kilt Blockchain for Digital Shipping Logistics](#)

[Arbitrum Greenlights Grants To Fuel Incentives For 26 Ecosystem Projects](#)

[Protocol Village: Lantern Launches Staking Platform in 15 U.S. States](#)

[Worldcoin launches grant program, outlines decentralization plans](#)

[Ankr launches Rollup-as-a-Service for zkSync Hyperchains](#)

[Jito Unveils JTO Airdrop Eligibility and Allocation](#)

[Bitcoin developer's 'bug' claim triggers ORDI token brief dip below \\$50](#)

[Solana Hype Bumps BONK to Third-Largest Dog Token, Behind DOGE, SHIB](#)

[Fantom Foundation Launches Accelerator Program with Andre Cronje as Mentor](#)

[Solana DeFi Platform Jupiter Shares Airdrop Allocations – Here's How to Check Eligibility](#)

Stablecoins

[Galaxy-Backed Gyroscope's 'All-Weather' Decentralized Stablecoin Goes Live on Ethereum Mainnet](#)

[Russia debuts cross-border payments in Tether stablecoin](#)

[Stablecoin FDUSD crosses \\$1bn mark as Binance launches zero-fee trading](#)

[Mantle Jumps On T-Bill Bandwagon With mUSD Stablecoin](#)

[Societe Generale-Backed Euro Stablecoin EURCV Starts Trading on Bitstamp](#)

Crypto Ecosystem

[Circle-backed Xion rolls out testnet based on 'generalized abstraction'](#)

[Seed Phrases No More, SafeAuth Brings Social Logins to Wallets](#)

[Russia's Exved Launches Cross-Border Payment Service Powered By Tether's USDT](#)

[Stablecoin](#)

[Safe, Sygnum Bank, CoinCover Partner to Launch Optional Crypto Recovery Hub](#)

[El Salvador launches exclusive Bitcoin-driven Freedom Visa with Tether](#)

[Zodia Custody Launches New Product to Facilitate Crypto Transfers and Trade Settlements for Institutional Investors](#)

[Thiel-backed One Trading to launch new platform, promising market's fastest crypto trading venue](#)

[Safe joins forces with Sygnum Bank and Coincover to launch crypto recovery service](#)

[Singapore-Based Crypto Investment Firm Cake Group Files for Liquidation](#)

[Crypto Lending Firm Ledn Offers Low-Risk Custodied Loans](#)

[Debt Box urges judge to toss suit, says SEC got case "badly wrong"](#)

[Digital Financial Giant Nubank Partners with Circle for USDC Integration](#)

[BRC-20 style tokens are spreading to chains beyond Bitcoin. But why?](#)

[Folks Finance Launches DeFi Services For Gold and Silver Tokens](#)

[Web3 firm detects major security flaw in common smart contracts](#)

[DigiFT becomes Singapore's first regulated public blockchain exchange for asset tokenization](#)

[Cosmos project Neutron acquires 25% stake in CosmWasm developer Confio](#)

[Bitcoin custodian Nostr Assets pauses deposits after reaching "maximum capacity"](#)

[Binance Backed Crypto Wallet Firm Web3Auth, and Safe Launch SafeAuth](#)

[Friend.tech Completes On-Chain Transaction for Ownership Transfer](#)

[Terraform Labs cites SEC's alleged misrepresentations in DEBT box case in its own bid for summary judgment](#)

[Web3 Attribution Platform Spindl Teams Up With AppsFlyer to Improve Blockchain Gaming Analytics](#)

[Osmosis and UX Chain propose merger within Cosmos ecosystem](#)

[Asset Manager Abrdn, Crypto Exchange Archax Strive for Pole Position in Race to Tokenize Trade](#)

[From SEBA to AMINA: Swiss-Regulated Crypto Bank Rebrands](#)

[Nomic upgrade to unlock new DeFi possibilities on Cosmos](#)

[Forkast Cuts Majority of Editorial Staff After CryptoSlam Merger](#)

[Trust Wallet Expands in LATAM with Alchemy Pay and Banxa](#)

[FTX and Alameda transfers another \\$22M worth of crypto asset](#)

[Standard Chartered-Backed Zodia Custody Joins Ripple-Owned Metaco's Global Crypto Storage Network](#)

NFTs / Gaming / Metaverse

[Early Bitcoin Ordinals Art Sells for Record \\$450,000](#)

[Hong Kong Gaming Giant Boyaa Interactive Shareholders to Vote on \\$100M Crypto Purchase Plan](#)

[Reebok's Blockchain-Powered Gaming Experience Set to Transform Fashion](#)

[NFT trading volume nears \\$1B as markets turn bullish: Report](#)

[Beam jumps 20% as it expands gaming ecosystem from Avalanche to Immutable zkEVM](#)

[Bitcoin Boost: GTA VI Trailer Leak Features 'Buy BTC' Message](#)

['Axie Infinity' creator welcomes new 'Apeiron' video game to its ecosystem](#)

[Gods Unchained Launches To 200M Amazon Prime Gaming Subscribers](#)

[Amazon Prime Is Giving Out Free Card Packs for NFT Game 'Gods Unchained'](#)

[ARAX Holdings acquires 20% stake in the Nemesis' blockchain-based metaverse](#)

[Crypto Gaming Platform Portal Adds Rockstar Co-Founder Amid Airdrop Frenzy](#)

[Coinbase NFT and OpenSea respond after Thirdweb vulnerability disclosure](#)

[Blur dominates almost 80% of NFT trading volume as market activity spikes](#)

[ParaSpace to continue NFT lending as it rebrands to Parallel Finance](#)

[Notorious B.I.G. Immortalized in Ethereum Metaverse Game The Sandbox](#)

[Gamers Are Paying Big Bucks for Square Enix NFT Characters Like 'Egg' and 'Starvation'](#)

[3 Out of Every 4 Web3 Games Have Met Their Demise: CoinGecko Report](#)

[Illuvium Joins Blockchain Gaming Partnership With Esports Powerhouse Team Liquid + More News](#)

[Bored Ape Avatars Debut in Roblox's New Kingship Islands Game](#)

[Vitalik Buterin-themed NFT collection causes brief spike in Ethereum gas fees](#)

[Ethereum Gaming NFT Marketplace Aqua Shuts Down Citing Slow Industry Growth](#)

Mining

[Hive Digital says BTC miners bought last Dec. have already paid themselves off](#)

[Phoenix Group Acquires \\$380 Million Worth of Green Mining Equipment from WhatsMiner](#)

[Ocean Mining defends accusations of censoring privacy-focused Bitcoin transactions by Samourai Wallet](#)

[New-look Hut 8 eyes AI-related opportunities after merger](#)

[Bitcoin miner Phoenix Group makes \\$2.47B trading debut in Abu Dhabi rising 50%](#)

[Core Scientific explains its latest bankruptcy plan ahead of court date](#)

[Celsius Network's Bitcoin Mining Pivot Faces Hurdles, Judge Suggests New Vote](#)

[Antpool Surges Past Foundry in Bitcoin Mining Race](#)

[Bitcoin Miners Hut 8 and USBTC Complete Merger, Forming New Hut 8 Corp for Upcoming Halving](#)

Exchanges

[Binance Proof-of-Reserves show Bitcoin balance dropped 23k BTC in November amid regulatory woes](#)

[Kazakhstan blocked 980 unlicensed crypto exchanges in 2023](#)

[Binance Withdraws Abu Dhabi Investment Fund Licence Application](#)

[Gate.io Lend & Earn Reaches New Heights with \\$500M in Loaned Assets](#)

[Bitcoin Breaks Barriers: Crypto Exchanges Volumes Soar to 8-Month High](#)

[FTX to submit revised reorganization plan in mid-December](#)

[FCA Flags Poloniex: Affiliation with Justin Sun Raises Concerns](#)

[BitMEX Announces Strategic Partnership with PowerTrade, a Crypto Options Platform](#)

[Binance CEO Richard Teng refuses to reveal location of company HQ](#)

[Judge accepts Binance CEO CZ's guilty plea, with sentencing in Feb](#)

[Binance to compensate traders who mistakenly bought a rally in AEUR stablecoin](#)

[New Features in Coinbase Wallet Simplify International Money Transfers – Crypto Adoption on the Rise?](#)

[Binance looks to boost FDUSD adoption with fee-free trading for Ethereum, XRP, others](#)

[SEC's Absence at Binance Settlement Announcement Raises Questions](#)

[South Korean financial authorities solicit reports on unlicensed crypto exchanges](#)

[Hong Kong's HashKey says token incentives drove spike in trading volumes](#)

[Crypto.com secures Electronic Money Institution license from UK financial regulator](#)

[IRS Deals Devastating Blow to FTX With \\$24 Billion Tax Claim, Crypto Exchange Pushes Back](#)

[Soccer Star Cristiano Ronaldo Faces \\$1B Class Action Suit Over Binance Endorsement](#)

[Coinbase market share grows outside US trading hours amid Binance saga: Report](#)

[Web3 Watch: Binance seems likely to retain its sports partnerships despite DOJ actions](#)

[Binance is now "totally different": Interview with CEO Richard Teng](#)

Investment Mgmt

[VanEck predicts \\$40B inflow into Bitcoin ETFs and \\$100k BTC in 2024](#)

[Crypto ETP Issuer 21Shares' COO Exits](#)

[Grayscale CEO says he's feeling optimistic following conversations with the SEC about a spot Bitcoin ETF](#)

[Warbler Labs dogfooding its Goldfinch protocol with Heron Finance](#)

[SEC Delays Grayscale Ethereum ETF, Confirms Receipt of BlackRock ETH Fund](#)

[Swiss Crypto firm Valour to Introduce 20 New Crypto ETPs in 2024](#)

[Taiwan will review global trends before deciding on crypto ETFs](#)

[First Mover Americas: BlackRock Received \\$100K Seed Funding for Its Spot BTC ETF](#)

[Bitwise, BlackRock update filings in push for first U.S. spot Bitcoin ETF](#)

[Crypto fund inflow streak hits \\$1.76 billion as bitcoin, ether reach 18-month highs](#)

[Tiger Global marks down stakes in BAYC, OpenSea: Bloomberg](#)

[Crypto hiring: Grayscale brings on new managing director ahead of ETF decision](#)

Capital Raises

[Versatus Labs Raises \\$2.3 Million To Launch Stateless Rollup](#)

[Worldcoin developer Tools For Humanity looks to raise funds through WLD sale](#)

[Zero-knowledge platform Sindri closes \\$5 million seed round led by CoinFund](#)

[Ethereum scaling startup Versatus raises seed round at \\$50 million valuation](#)

[Crypto Data Company Shadow Raises \\$9M in Seed Round Led by Paradigm](#)

[Crypto data platform startup Shadow raises \\$9 million in Paradigm-led seed round](#)

[Curvance emerges from stealth with a \\$3.6 million seed round for DeFi 'everything app'](#)

[Dtec Token Project Raises \\$1.3 Million In Seed Round Funding](#)

Trad Fi / Tech

[France's 3rd-largest bank, Société Générale, launches euro-pegged stablecoin](#)

[Jack Dorsey's Block Launches Self-Custody Bitcoin Wallet 'Bitkey' – Here's What You Need to Know](#)

[Polygon CDK to power Web3 loyalty program for Indian e-commerce Flipkart](#)

[South Korea's Biggest Supermarket Says Next-gen ATMs May Be Crypto Compatible](#)

[Robinhood Crypto Launches in EU With 'Crypto Back' Bitcoin Rewards Program](#)

[BBVA Forges a Path in the Crypto Landscape with New Collaboration](#)

[Google unveils Gemini, its 'most capable' AI model to date](#)

[JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon on Crypto: "If I was the government, I'd close it down"](#)

[Meta Adds AI Across Its Apps, Launches Standalone Image Generator](#)

[Elon Musk's xAI files with SEC for private sale of \\$1B in unregistered securities](#)

[Tech Titans Assemble: IBM and Meta Lead 50+ Organizations in New AI Alliance](#)

[IBM Unveils New Cold Storage Technology for Enhanced Crypto Asset Security](#)

[IBM, Meta and others form 'AI Alliance' to advance AI development](#)

[IEEE to issue blockchain skill certificates on Avalanche in India](#)

['Fire in the cauldron' as Coinbase, Marathon surge over 300% in 2023](#)

[Robinhood Reports a 75% Surge in Crypto Trading Volume in November](#)

[IBM says it will have hit a quantum computing 'inflection point' by 2029](#)

[AXA, Generali Jump on the RWA Wagon Following Purchase of SocGen's Green Bonds](#)

[Shopify COO: Expect Surprising Progress in Our Crypto Implementation](#)

[Regulators have scared SoFi out of crypto: Bloomberg](#)

CBDC

[Chinese Cities Launch End-of-Year Digital Yuan Giveaways](#)

[Italy and South Korea central banks agree on CBDC cooperation](#)

[Swiss banks issue first digital bonds using real CHF wholesale wCBDC on regulated DLT platform](#)

[Solomon Islands and Soramitsu Unveil Partnership To Launch CBDC Pilot](#)

[UK lawmakers wary of launching retail CBDC due to privacy, financial stability concerns](#)

[Chinese Firms Can Now Make Digital Yuan Housing Fund Payments](#)

Regulatory / Countries

[Basel Committee Seeks to Consult on Stablecoins Risk Treatment](#)

[Armenian cultural heritage sites tokenized on Solana blockchain](#)

[US Lawmakers Introduce Bipartisan Anti-Crypto Terror Finance Bill in Senate](#)

[Parliament of India Holds Discussion on Future of Web3](#)

[House committee passes bill to “preserve US leadership” in blockchain](#)

[IRS Reports Increase in Digital Asset Tax Investigations](#)

[Pro-crypto lawmaker Patrick McHenry to retire from Congress](#)

[Japan to Exempt Companies From Unrealized Crypto Gains Tax – Report](#)

[Hong Kong crypto investors blocked from two more sites as authorities play whack-a-mole](#)

[Singapore releases National AI Strategy 2.0, plans for 15,000 AI experts](#)

[Swiss city Lugano accepts Bitcoin and Tether for municipal taxes](#)

[Kenya’s Capital Markets Bill Defining Crypto Assets as Securities Progresses in Parliament](#)

[Cryptocurrency Industry Spends Record \\$18.96 Million in Federal Lobbying So Far in 2023](#)

[Coinbase Brings 2024 US Presidential Candidates Together for Blockchain Forum Ahead of New Hampshire Primary](#)

[South Africa’s Financial Regulator to Assess 36 Crypto Firms Seeking Licenses in December](#)

[South African regulator may license 36 crypto companies in December](#)

[China, Japan, and South Korea Explore Collaboration in Big Data, Blockchain, and AI](#)

[28 Indian Crypto Service Providers Have Registered With Country’s Anti-Money Laundering Unit](#)

[Nayib Bukele steps down as El Salvador’s President ahead of re-election bid](#)

[Tensions rise as US lawmakers work to get crypto provisions into end-of-year bills](#)

[Madeira seeks to boost economy with startups, innovative payment system](#)

[North Korea loots enough crypto to fund almost half of military budget](#)

[SEC Lawyers Warned by Judge for ‘Misleading’ Request in Crypto Case](#)

Environmental, Social, Governance

[Bosch showcases dePIN sensor kit using AI agents to reward users for local environmental data streams](#)

[How to Buy Green Bitcoin in 2023 – Easy Guide](#)

[Digital Asset Exchange OKX Joins Ethereum Climate Platform to Foster Sustainability](#)

[UAE researchers launch blockchain carbon trading platform at COP28](#)

[Hong Kong Monetary Authority Set to Launch Second Tokenized Green Bond in Coming Months](#)

[Envision partners with HBAR and UN on new digitization platform for carbon markets](#)

[Ethereum validator and node growth leads to emissions decline: Report](#)

[Bitcoin Water Footprint Adds Pressure to Mining Regulations: Report](#)

[Bitcoin mining: A catalyst for energy sustainability](#)

[Decoding Web3: Blockchain Laboratories Set to Revolutionize ESG Markets with Innovative Solutions](#)

Surveys, Hacks, Other Misc

[Craig Wright's Tulip Trading Must Prove Ownership of Bitcoin in Hacking Case, English Court Rules](#)

[Do Kwon to be Extradited to the United States: Report](#)

[Binance's Changpeng Zhao confined in U.S. as judge officially declares him a flight risk](#)

[Bitzlato founder pleads guilty, agrees to dissolve dark web exchange](#)

[Terraformâ€™s Do Kwon mounts last-ditch effort to avoid extradition: Report](#)

[SBF Decides Against Filing Post-Trial Motions, Shifts Focus to Appeal](#)

[KyberSwap announces treasury grants for hack victims](#)

[Velodrome, Aerodrome websites compromised for second time in days](#)

[Platypus Finance hackers cleared of criminal charges: Le Monde](#)

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