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# Weekly News Recap

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## Top Stories of The Week

### **Grayscale ETF Outflows Slow As BTC Price Rises**

The Defiant

Grayscale has seen over \$5b of outflows from its Grayscale Bitcoin Trust ETF. However, outflows have declined in recent days and are a main reason for BTC's positive performance this week.

### **Bankrupt FTX Plans to Repay Creditors in Full: Squashes Restart Ploy**

CryptoCurrency " Finance Magnates

Collapsed crypto exchange FTX expects to fully repay its creditors, but customer assets will be evaluated based on their value as of November 2022. In addition, FTX revealed that it does not plan to restart the cryptocurrency exchange, as no investor is willing to commit the necessary capital.

### **Ethereum's Dencun upgrade goes live on Sepolia testnet**

Ethereum's latest major upgrade Dencun went live on the Sepolia test network on Tuesday, and was a success. Holesky, the final testnet, is scheduled for February 7 before Dencun goes live on mainnet, likely in March. The Dencun upgrade features EIP-4844 and proto-danksharding, which introduce a new blob-carrying transaction that will significantly lower the cost of posting data back to mainnet by L2s.

### **Fed Leaves Rates Unchanged, Sounds Hawkish Note on March**

CoinDesk

The Fed held rates steady at its meeting earlier this week and cautioned that a rate cut in March is unlikely, disappointing traders. Positively, Fed Chair Powell did state that economic growth has been solid and that inflation is expected to decline.

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## Bitcoin

[Bitcoin needs DeFi, consumer apps for mass adoption â€” L2 devs](#)

[Bitcoin halving hopium: Study reveals 84% of investors expect new all-time highs](#)

[BitcoinOS Unveils â€”Superlayerâ€”™ Protocol, Introducing Rollups to Enhance Bitcoin](#)

[Trac Core launches â€”Trac Core for TAP Protocolâ€”™ to revolutionize Bitcoin data indexing](#)

[Sothebyâ€”s Breaks New Ground with First Bitcoin Ordinals Poem Sale](#)

[Shift to contango: Bitcoin futures premiums rise on CME](#)

[Record drop in Bitcoin yearly volatility as ETFs present further stability, analysts say](#)

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## Ethereum

[Ethereum devs consider â€”existentialâ€”™ upgrade to the EVM](#)

[Testing â€”went very wellâ€”™ â€” ETH devs to set Dencun hard fork date on Feb. 6](#)

[Ethereum Projects Urged To Donate 1% Of Token Supply To Support Development](#)

[Vitalik Buterin reflects on his role, says â€”time for the next generation to take up the mantleâ€”™](#)

[Big Geth users are diversifying their clients following Nethermind bug](#)

[Swell Launches Liquid Restaking Token As LRTs Boom](#)

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## Altcoins

[Solana registers all-time high in monthly new addresses for January](#)

[Chainalysis finds pump-and-dumps in over half of 2023 DEX Ethereum listings](#)

[Polygon Labs Cuts 19% of Staff, 60 Roles, for 'Enhanced Performance'](#)

[Stride will airdrop 5M STRD tokens to stTIA holders](#)

[Aevo plans airdrop for early adopters of derivatives protocol](#)

[Jupiter registers nearly \\$1.4 billion in daily volume amid token launch](#)

[Blast Accused Of Dishonestly Forging Optimismâ€”s Code](#)

[BNB Chain braces DeFi, gaming, AI for 2024 mass adoption](#)

[Jupiter token to begin trading on exchanges today](#)

[Worldcoin under investigation in Hong Kong over data privacy concerns](#)

[Ripple's XRP Drops 5% Amid Report of Potential \\$112M Hack](#)

[Solana monthly transaction volume hits multi-year high](#)

['GameStop' Meme Coin on Solana Pumps 330% as Gaming Giant Bails on NFTs](#)

[Fetch.ai claims "business as usual" amidst opposing reports of insolvency](#)

[dYdX Community Likely to Approve Foundation's \\$30 Million Funding Proposal](#)

[DeFi Insurer Nexus Mutual Requests \\$153K for 6-Month Budget](#)

[dYdX Chain adds liquid staking support with latest upgrade](#)

[SUI hits new monthly high, TVL surges 98% in one month](#)

[Ava Labs outlines scaling solution Vryx in plan for Avalanche to reach 100,000 TPS](#)

[Ripple Receives Permission to File Sur-Reply to Correct "Factual Mischaracterization" by the SEC](#)

[SFC flags Floki staking programs as unauthorized](#)

[Optimism to unlock \\$81 million in tokens next week](#)

[Stellar Development Foundation delays Protocol 20 upgrade following bug discovery](#)

[Solana Trading Aggregator Jupiter Sees Trading Volumes Jump Ahead of JUP Issuance](#)

[WEN Airdrop: 41% of Solana Meme Coin Still Unclaimed as Deadline Looms](#)

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## Stablecoins

[JPMorgan says Tether's increasing dominance is negative for crypto](#)

[Euro-backed stablecoin trials begin in Spain](#)

[Solana stablecoin volume just hit a record \\$144bn. Or did it?](#)

[Circle's USDC token will go native on Celo blockchain, pay for gas](#)

[MIM Stablecoin Suffers Flash Crash Amid \\$6.5M Exploit](#)

[TUSD Slides to 3-Year Low as Speculation Mounts Justin Sun is Using it to Cash Out](#)

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## Crypto Ecosystem

[Solana Mobile confirms token drop for Chapter 2 phone pre-order buyers](#)

[Stride Launches Liquid Staking Token For Celestia](#)

[Genesis Settles SEC Lawsuit, Agrees to \\$21 Million Civil Penalty for Earn Product](#)

[OPNX Founder Su Zhu Says Shutdown Comes Because FTX Estate Claims Reached Recovery](#)

[Liquid Restaking Protocol Puffer Finance Attracts Nearly \\$200M On First Day](#)

[Bankrupt FTX wants to sell \\$175 million claim against Genesis to aid creditor repayment](#)

[Market Manipulation May Have Hit Majority of New Ethereum Tokens in 2023: Chainalysis](#)

[FalconX Expands Liquidity Access through TP ICAP's Fusion Digital Assets Partnership](#)

[Superstate Debuts Tokenized Short-Term Treasury Fund on Ethereum to Compete for Zero-Yield Stablecoins](#)

[Crypto Market Maker GSR Appoints Former JPMorgan Executive as Head of Trading](#)

[Coinbase has donated \\$25M to crypto super-PAC Fairshake; Ripple has given \\$20M](#)

[SIX Launches New Crypto Reference Rates and Real-Time Indices for Institutional Investors](#)

[Delegate LayerZero to launch naming protocol "Clusters"™ on Ethereum, Solana and other chains](#)

[Celsius Begins Asset Distributions To Customers As Court Approves FTX's Repayment Plan](#)

[CME Group Bitcoin Futures™ Open Interest Slides 24% as Spot ETFs Gain Traction](#)

[Founders Fund-backed Layer N hits 120K TPS in testing ahead of February public testnet](#)

[ZetaChain to go live on mainnet within days, aiming to unite Bitcoin, Ethereum and other chains](#)

[Vitalik Buterin Says Developers Should 'Tread Carefully' Mixing Crypto and AI](#)

[Terraform Labs says bankruptcy will aid appeal of SEC suit](#)

[Polygon Labs proposes framework to classify DeFi as "critical infrastructure"](#)

[Starknet collaborates with Celestia on data availability for Layer 3 ecosystem](#)

[Vitalik Buterin details four ways cryptocurrency and AI can overlap: "A growing number of use cases"](#)

[LayerZero V2 goes live, community eyes token launch](#)

[SocialFi App Farcaster's Activity Spikes After Launching Frames Feature](#)

[Newly OKX-backed Layer 2 bridge Orbiter Finance announces its own L2 network](#)

[Solana hands over hackathons, accelerator program to Colosseum](#)

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## NFTs / Gaming / Metaverse

['Parallel' Teases Open Beta Plans as New Ethereum NFT Cards Launch](#)

[Mutant Ape Game 'Serum City' Launches "How to Claim an Ethereum NFT Pass"](#)

["Overwatch"™ Esports League Bans Crypto, NFT, and AI Sponsors](#)

[Web3 Gaming Company Saltwater Raises \\$5.5M Seed Funding](#)

[Art Blocks Acquires NFT Marketplace Sansa](#)

[Ethereum Gaming Token Ronin Price Spikes to Two-Year High After \\$246K "Axie Infinity"™ NFT Sale](#)

['Doom' Runs on Bitcoin and Dogecoin "And Now Gut Bacteria Too"](#)

[Animoca Brands Japan appoints new COO to drive Web3 expansion](#)

[NFTs Outpaced Ether's Gains in January](#)

[MarbleX Gaming Network From Mobile Giant Netmarble Teams With Saga](#)

[Billionaire Biohacker Bryan Johnson Dives into NFT Realm with Drip Solana Android](#)

[Gas-Free Ethereum Games? Animoca Brands and Layer-2 LightLink Team Up](#)

[Monthly NFT Sales on Bitcoin Fall 62% + More NFT News](#)

[Solana's 'MixMob' Game Sets MXM Token Launch, First Airdrop Details](#)

[Magic Eden launches multi-chain wallet for Solana, Bitcoin, Polygon and Ethereum](#)

[Taproot Wizards Debut Sale of Bitcoin NFTs 'Quantum Cats' Marred by Tech Issues](#)

[Billionaire Biohacker Gets Into NFTs with Drip Solana Airdrop](#)

[Web3 Gaming Firm Immutable Opens zkEVM Mainnet Early Access with Polygon](#)

[Play-to-earn is alive and kicking: Ronin Network sees 193% monthly growth in activity](#)

[Amazon Developing Movie on Bitcoin Money Laundering Couple Linked to Bitfinex Hack](#)

[Binance Pours Cold Water on NFT Game That Pulled In \\$115 Million for Its Mint](#)

[Lionel Messi's Inter Miami replaces crypto firm XBTO with new sponsor](#)

[Football Star Cristiano Ronaldo Plays Football with Binance NFT Holders Amid Lawsuit](#)

[Star Trek's Jonathan Frakes Set to Direct Series for Jeff Garzik's Web3 Production Studio: Deadline](#)

[Web3 Watch: Study finds musical artists hold mixed views on blockchain use](#)

[OpenSea considers acquisition as NFT market consolidation continues](#)

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## Mining

[Hut 8 signs four-year deal to manage Celsius Bitcoin mining operations Ionic Digital](#)

[Bitcoin mining difficulty to see largest increase in a year](#)

[Company formed from Celsius bankruptcy estate launches bitcoin mining operation](#)

[US Gets Serious About Tracking Crypto Mining Electricity Usage](#)

[Jihan Wu will take over as Bitdeer CEO in March](#)

[Record-high Hash Rates and Mining Difficulty Pushed Miners to Sell BTC: Compass Mining](#)

[Bitcoin miner GRIID debuts on Nasdaq under GRDI ticker](#)

[OKX Halts Mining Pool Services, Registration Closes January 26](#)

[Crypto Hiring: Hut 8 exec set to take over Celsius mining company](#)

[Despite ETF rotation fears, mining stocks recover as Bitcoin crosses \\$42K](#)

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## Exchanges

[Digital Asset Exchange Bybit Applies For Hong Kong VASP License](#)

[Hamas victims file class action against Binance over allegedly facilitating terrorism financing](#)

[Gate.io and D3 Partner to Apply for and Obtain .Gate Top-Level Domain](#)

[Zipmex under Scrutiny: Thailand Orders Suspension over Financial Irregularities](#)

[Coinbase targets â€˜VIPâ€™™ crypto traders at rival exchanges with no-fee promo](#)

[Coinbase Exchange Advisory Council Adds Former UK Chancellor to Team](#)

[Binance claims GitHub code leak poses â€˜negligibleâ€™™ risk to users](#)

[Binance launches marketplace for inscription tokens](#)

[Families of Hamas-Attack Victims Sue Binance Over Alleged Role in Terror Financing](#)

[Bitfinex Securities launches digital asset services in El Salvador](#)

[Binance to Reduce Stake in South Korean Digital Asset Exchange GOPAX](#)

[Binance allowing larger traders to hold funds at Sygnum Bank and FlowBank: FT](#)

[Coinbase app declines in App Store ranking after December surge](#)

[Bitpanda Crypto Exchange to Withdraw From Netherlands](#)

[Gate.io Announces Launch of Innovative Inscription Launchpad and Navigation Services](#)

[Binance allows customers to custody trading collateral off exchange as market share recovers](#)

[Hong Kong sets licensed crypto exchange insurance requirement to 50%](#)

[Coinbase to charge fees on USDC to USD conversions over \\$75 million](#)

[OKX to enable Doginals, Atomicals, Stamps and Runes inscription standards](#)

[Binance.US Restricted in Florida and Alaska After Former CEOâ€™™s Guilty Plea](#)

[Kraken Taps Former N26 and Coinbase Execs for Key Positions](#)

[HTX turns off proof-of-reserves as TUSD struggles to hold its peg](#)

[Binance and SEC Clash Over Evidence Production and Witness Depositions in Ongoing Legal Battle](#)

[Bankrupt FTX Strengthens Cash Holdings to \\$4.4 Billion by Selling Crypto](#)

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## Investment Mgmt

[CoinShares shares ETH staking yield with ETP clients](#)

[Spot Bitcoin ETF options could be approved as late as December 2024](#)

[DeFiance Capital Wins in Lawsuit Against Defunct Crypto Fund 3AC in Singapore](#)

[Valkyrieâ€™™s spot Bitcoin ETF adds BitGo as a second custodian](#)

[Hong Kong finance firm VSFG targets to apply for spot Ethereum ETF in Q2](#)

[Grayscaleâ€™™s Bitcoin Trust marks lowest outflow since trading inception](#)

[Sanctor Capital and Press Start Capital join forces to help 100 web3 founders](#)

[DeFiance Capital Scores Win in Singapore Dispute Against 3AC](#)

[Uncorrelated Ventures raises \\$315 million for crypto and software-focused fund](#)

[Bitpanda launches institutional crypto platform with cold storage](#)

[BlackRock, VanEck, and Franklin Templeton compete to promote Bitcoin ETFs on Google Ads](#)

[Invesco Galaxy lowers bitcoin ETF fee to match BlackRock, Fidelity](#)

[BlackRock's IBIT ETF Soars: Surpasses \\$2 Billion Market Cap in Crypto Milestone](#)

[Jim Cramer isn't always wrong: Inverse Cramer ETF to shut down](#)

[Crypto funds saw \\$500 million in outflows last week as GBTC impact subsides](#)

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## Capital Raises

[Velar secures \\$3.5M funding to develop Bitcoin's first perp DEX](#)

[From NFT Punchline to \\$8 Million Raise, Pixelmon Preps for MON Token Launch](#)

[Squid secures \\$4m to fuel competition in one-click transfers between blockchains](#)

[Binance Labs Invests In Bringing Ethereum Restaking To BNB Chain](#)

[Hybrid crypto exchange Cube reaches \\$100 million valuation in new funding round](#)

[Derivatives DEX BBOX raises \\$2.7 million in pre-seed funding from Arrington Capital and others](#)

[Portal raises \\$34M for atomic swaps while DEX is still in testnet](#)

[Decentralized BBO Exchange secures \\$2.7 million in pre-seed funding](#)

[PayPal Ventures Invests in Mesh, Driving Crypto Payment Integration](#)

[Gevulot raises \\$6 million in seed funding for blockchain focused on zero-knowledge proofs](#)

[imonaI raises \\$1.6 million seed round to support "digital companion" launch](#)

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## Trad Fi / Tech

[Germany Banking Giant DZ to Pilot Crypto Trading This Year: Bloomberg](#)

[Jack Dorsey's Block announces layoffs, citing "leaner" operations](#)

[Visa Partners with Transak To Enable Direct Crypto-to-Fiat Transactions](#)

[Google's New Crypto Ad Policy Might Increase Investors' Attention towards Bitcoin ETFs](#)

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## CBDC

[Group of 17 Russian Banks Officially Joins "Second Stage" of Digital Ruble Pilot](#)

[UAE and China Complete First \\$13.6M Cross-Border CBDC Transaction](#)

[Reserve Bank of India Furthers CBDC Efforts: Report](#)

[Russia's Central Bank Exploring Use of Crypto, CBDCs with BRICS Allies](#)

[UAE makes first digital dirham transfer via mBridge CBDC platform](#)

[Bank of Japan Holds First CBDC Meeting with Key Finance Officials](#)

[Belarus Set to Launch Hyperledger Fabric-powered Digital Ruble Platform](#)

[Chinese Company Issues First \\$350 Million Tech Innovation Bond Raised in Digital Yuan](#)

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## Regulatory / Countries

[Brazilâ€™s IRS identifies 25,000 Bitcoin investors with unreported holdings](#)

[Belarusian-Cypriot National Charged by US for Operating Unlicensed Crypto Exchange BTC-e](#)

[Hong Kong to Consult on Regulation for OTC Crypto Venues 'Very Soon'](#)

[Hong Kong regulator says unlicensed VASPs must cease operations by May](#)

[Labour Wants UK to Be a Securities Tokenization Hub and Advance Digital Pound Work](#)

[US lawmakers push back on proposed CFPB rule, citing potential impact on crypto](#)

[Russian Banking Association Launches â€˜Digital Assets Councilâ€™](#)

[El Salvador President Nayib Bukele Eyes Bitcoin-Backed Bonds, Bitcoin Cities in Re-election Bid](#)

[India Keeps Stiff Taxes on Crypto as Interim-Budget Is Revealed in Election Year](#)

[Argentinaâ€™s Milei Administration Reverses Course on Crypto Tax Benefits Law](#)

[China to introduce revised crypto AML regulations by 2025](#)

[Swiss city of Lugano embraces diverse digital currencies future](#)

[Argentinian Authorities Introduce Bill to Drop Crypto Tax Opportunities](#)

[Thailand's SEC Breaks New Ground in 2024 With Crypto-Friendly Rules](#)

[Sharp Decline in Crypto Payments Puts El Salvadorâ€™s Bitcoin Adoption in Question](#)

[SEC asks to toss Debt Box suit after court threatens sanctions](#)

[NYC Bar Association pushes for crypto law reforms to halt firm exits](#)

[Biden administration announces key AI actions after executive order](#)

[CFTC Chair calls for comprehensive regulation for digital assets following ETF approvals](#)

[CFTC warns AI cannot pick your next crypto winner](#)

[ESMA Calls for Opinions on Crypto Regulation Game Changer](#)

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## Environmental, Social, Governance

[The bid for a climate-conscious spot bitcoin ETF presses on](#)

[Tether launching new arm to create, coordinate educational initiatives](#)

[Bitcoin ETFs could actually be good for the environment](#)

[Could the EU Ban Bitcoin to Meet Energy Goals?](#)

[US Ramps Up Monitoring of Crypto Miners' Energy Use](#)

[Bitcoin mining boosts the transition to renewable energy](#)

[AI and Crypto Mining to More Than Double Energy Use by 2026, Report Says](#)

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## Surveys, Hacks, Other Misc

[Crypto Influencer BitBoy Ends YouTube Show Amid Ongoing Legal Battles](#)

[DOJ charges trio in sim-swap scheme potentially linked to \\$400 million FTX crypto heist](#)

[UK Police Seized \\$1.77 Billion in Bitcoin from Chinese Investment Fraud + More](#)  
[Crypto News](#)

[German Police Seize \\$2.17 Billion in Bitcoin from Pirate Website Operator](#)

[Chris Dixon's New Book Explores All the Cool Stuff Blockchain Can Do](#)

[Defendant Pleads Guilty to Drug Related Charges, Forfeits \\$150 Million Worth of Cryptocurrency](#)

[London Trial Sheds Light on Alleged Bitcoin Laundering in £5 Billion Fraud Case](#)

[DOJ Charges Three People in \\$1.9 Billion Crypto Scam](#)

[Trickbot Ransomware Developer Behind \\$833M Crypto Theft Gets Prison Term](#)

["Bazlekhan": Amazon Is Turning \\$4 Billion Bitfinex Bitcoin Heist Into Feature Film](#)

[South Korean Crypto Exchanges Blocked \\$82m Worth of Romance Scam Transactions in 2023](#)

[South Korean Web3 Music Service Somesing Loses \\$11.58 Million in Token Exploit](#)

[Stolen crypto worth \\$674M successfully recovered in 2023](#)

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