

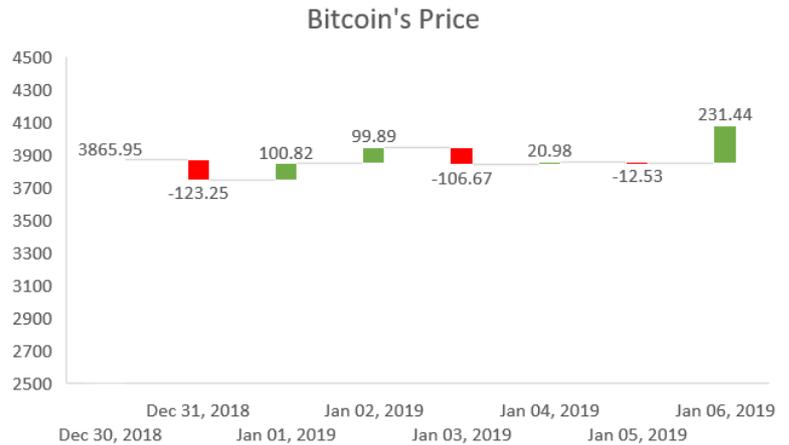
Weekly Digest 2019 #1

31 Dec – 6 Jan

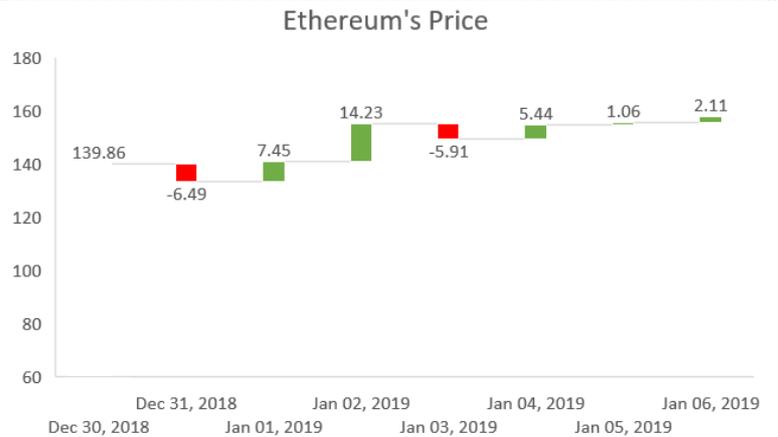
Current Market state

The first week of the year brings the cryptocurrency market to the green zone with the overwhelming majority of top-20 coins demonstrating positive momentum. The total value of all digital assets in circulation settled at \$137,1 billion.

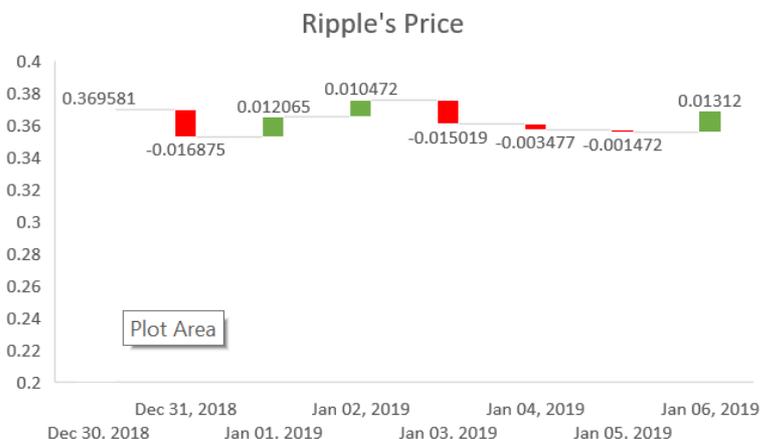
Bitcoin is clinching to \$4,000 handle. Thus, Bitcoin (BTC) remains above current psychological barrier. The largest digital coin managed to gain about 1.2% on a day-to-day basis.



Ethereum finally took the second place by the market cap (\$15,8 billion) that is slightly higher than the Ripple's market cap. Ethereum gained 2.5% and was traded at the highest of \$157 on Sunday. The coin is growing even as the looming hard fork also known as investors prefer to take a wait-and-see strategy ahead of Constantinople upgrade.



Ripple, the third largest coin by market capitalization, has settled above \$0.3700, gaining 1% on a day-to-day basis. The coin is moving within a short-term bullish trend amid low volatility.



Since the beginning of the year, the cryptocurrency markets have experienced green zone exploration. The crypto community is wondering if crypto market went in green for long or it is temporary. Also, the investors are nervously waiting for Constantinople upgrade in the Ethereum network. In addition, there is news about law enforcement against Kraken exchange and US federal agencies' raid in Tech Hub that the crypto users were discussing during the week as well.



Ethereum (ETH) lethargic ahead of Constantinople upgrade

The new protocol release also known as Constantinople upgrade is scheduled on January 16. Basically, Constantinople is also a hard fork. The fork will take place at block number 7,080,000, which means that all client applications with full node support shall be upgraded by that time and run the new version of the protocol to avoid multiple forks.



Law Enforcement Inquiries Sent to Kraken Nearly Tripled in 2018

Cryptocurrency exchange Kraken has received nearly three times more law enforcement inquiries in 2018 than in 2017. In 2018 the exchange received 475 law enforcement inquiries from global government agencies, while in 2017 there had been only 160.



US Feds Raid Tech Hub for Unauthorized Crypto Trading

United States federal agencies reportedly raided the office of a Michigan-based science and tech center last month during a crypto-related investigation. The founder also reportedly believes he is facing federal prison time and up to \$100,000 in legal expenses.

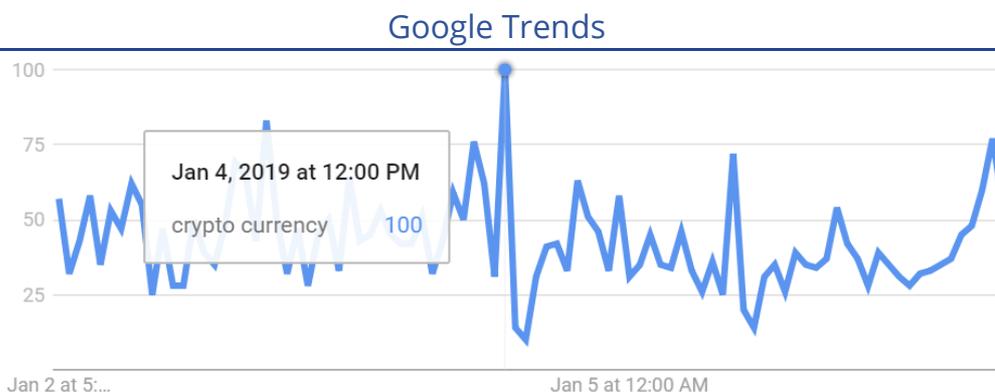
Crypto community's interest

The section below presents the most searched terms in google about recent crypto industry news for the last week. The graphs below show the percentage ratio between requests and their historical maximum.

Crypto Topics & Events

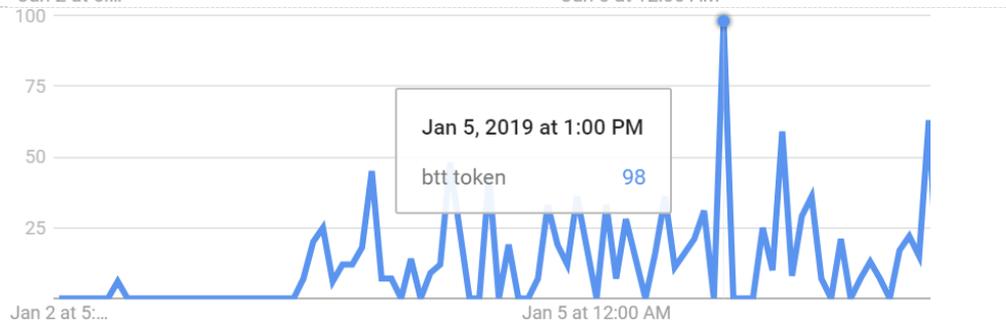
Cryptocurrency

The recent cryptocurrency trading in green in the beginning of the year worries the investors and makes them to guess about the possible trading above the psychological barrier for Bitcoin, Ethereum and Ripple.



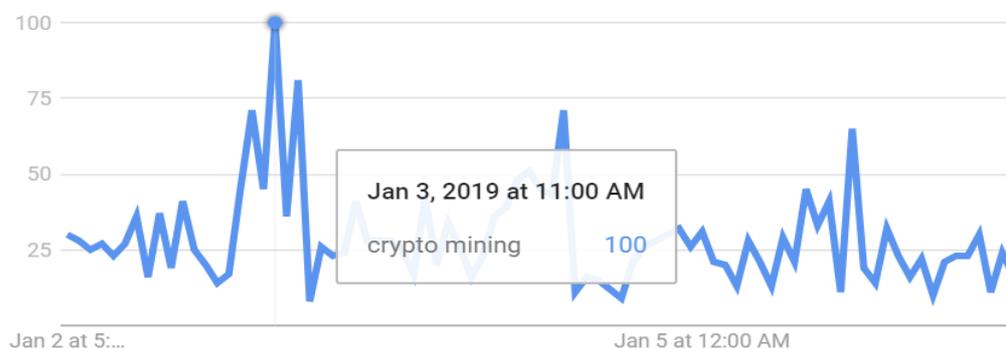
BitTorrent BTT Token

Tron acquired BitTorrent for \$126 million in July, and since the acquisition, has steered the peer-to-peer file-sharing company towards blockchain. Further, BitTorrent released its own cryptocurrency token (BTT).



Crypto mining

Recently, the miners of crypto have been facing charges and new law regulations and restrictions around the world: as in USA as in Asia. Also, the case with Senator from Georgia is based on mining issues. So, the crypto mining is trending topic since the beginning of the year.



Coinbase

Coinbase reportedly bans personal account of social media platform Gab Founder. Gab's business account on Coinbase was allegedly closed in December. The main reason for that ban is the reputation for being the social network for people banned from mainstream platforms for hate speech.





Bakkt

NYSE Operator's Bakkt Announces Completion of \$182.5 Million Funding Round

Bakkt, the digital assets platform created by the operator of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), announced the completion of its first funding round this week, having officially raised \$182.5 million from 12 partners and investors. Those who participated in the round reportedly include ICE, Boston Consulting Group, Galaxy Digital, Goldfinch Partners, Alan Howard, Horizons Ventures, Microsoft's venture capital arm and Pantera Capital.



 **MONERO**

Fortnite Merchandise Store Begins Accepting Monero as Exclusive Crypto Payment Method

The merchandise store for the online video game Fortnite, Retail Row, has started exclusively accepting Monero (XMR) as a cryptocurrency payment option. Specifically, Retail Row supports crypto payments service GloBee, which includes Bitcoin, Litecoin (LTC) and Ripple (XRP) support as well as Monero, even if the Fortnite store will only support Monero.



 **Ledger**

Crypto Security Company Ledger Releases Bluetooth-Enabled Hardware Wallet

The wallet, called the Ledger Nano X, was shown at the CES 2019 conference in Las Vegas. At the same time, the firm has announced a mobile app set to go live on Jan. 28, allowing its users to manage their transactions and check their balances from a mobile device. The Ledger Nano X will have the capacity to store 100 crypto assets. At the end of November, Ledger Nano S had begun to support altcoin Monero (XMR).



Georgia State Senator Reports to Jail Over Alleged Theft of Crypto Mining Equipment

Republican state senator of Georgia, Michael Williams, has reported to jail in the United States for allegedly lying about the theft of cryptocurrency mining equipment worth around \$300,000. Williams had declared that a server that was used to mine unnamed cryptocurrencies had disappeared from his office premises, but last month was indicted by grand jury on three counts.



Iran Declares Telegram Cryptocurrency Plans a Threat to National Security

The Iranian government this week declared that messaging app Telegram's cryptocurrency development is a threat to national security. The country had first banned the messaging app in April, after criticizing its initial coin offering (ICO) for having the potential to undermine the national currency of Iran.



Media Reported Bitcoin's Death 90 Times in 2018, While There Are 1,000 Dead Altcoins

At the end of the year, an analysis of the number of times that Bitcoin has been reported as dead in the media has totaled 90. The coin's death has been reported by world media almost 100 times from December 2017 to December 2018. In contrast, a site that tracks the "death" of altcoins contains around 1,000 entries at the end of the year.

Volatility extremums

This section presents three of each of the best performed tokens and the worst performed tokens during the last week. Their volatility is presented in the table below.

Token	Greatest volatility	Comment
PundiX	+17.44%	The team announced the participation in the CES 2019 meetup in Las Vegas
NEO	+8.4%	NEO's team has released the Annual report 2018 and announced the workshop about NEO Smart Economy.
Ontology	+8.11%	Ontology is holding the Tech AMA on Jan 10 th
Dentacoin	-6.88%	Even the new version of Dentacoin Trusted Reviews, the community doesn't pay major interest to the project
Revain	-5.93%	The project hadn't posted development updates in a while
Waves	-1.26%	Token price's decline is unusual due to latest news and updates within the Waves's project, including the smart assets activation on Waves MainNet now

Citation of the week



*"Withdtaw [sic] your funds. I was trashed for calling out HitBT [sic] as a corrupt company [sic]. Tough sh*t. You had six months warning from me to withdraw your funds. Do not ask me to help you now," — John McAfee, tweeting about rumors that HitBTC was blocking user withdrawals*



"The area I am most concerned about are actions brought by misguided regulators who will take aim at high quality projects and harm them. And we will continue to see all sorts of failures, from scams, hacks, failed projects, and losing investments be a drag on the sector," — Fred Wilson, venture capital investor



"Bitcoin is different because Bitcoin is decentralized. The advantages of decentralization are often subtle and easy to dismiss, but they are real benefits," — Jimmy Song, Bitcoin developer