

Current Market state

The crypto markets are slightly up at the end of the week, with Bitcoin trading at around \$3,600, Ripple at around \$0.32 and Ethereum at \$120. Total market cap is at about \$120 billion.

Ethereum's Constantinople Hard Fork Delayed Until February After Vulnerability Found

Constantinople contains various Ethereum Improvement Proposals (EIPs) created to ease the transition from the current proof-of-work (PoW) to the proof-of-stake (PoS) consensus algorithm, which has been found to be more energy-efficient.

Ethereum's (ETH) Constantinople hard fork has been delayed until late February after smart contract audit firm ChainSecurity found a security vulnerability allowing a reentrancy attack. The security bug found would potentially let an attacker steal crypto from a smart contract on the network while requesting funds from it repeatedly while feeding it false data. In the aftermath of the discovery, Ethereum developers said that the activation would instead take place at block number 7,280,000, which is expected to be mined on Feb. 27, 2019, instead of in January. Before the bug was found, an Ethereum developer had said that the hard fork would be the least eventful in the history of Ethereum.

As this news propagated, the market fell, with Ether falling by upwards of 5% in a few hours' time.



US: Bitcoin ATM Firm Coinme to Sell Bitcoin at Coinstar Coin Counting Machines

United States Bitcoin ATM ('BTM') operator Coinme has entered a partnership to sell Bitcoin (BTC) at coin counting kiosks owned by Coinstar, the company confirmed in a press release Jan. 17.

Coinme, which was the first BTM operator to receive a license in the U.S. in 2014, will reportedly add thousands of locations via the move, which has already seen integrations go live.



Ripple: Only XRP Private Keys That Used Software From Before August 2015 Are Vulnerable

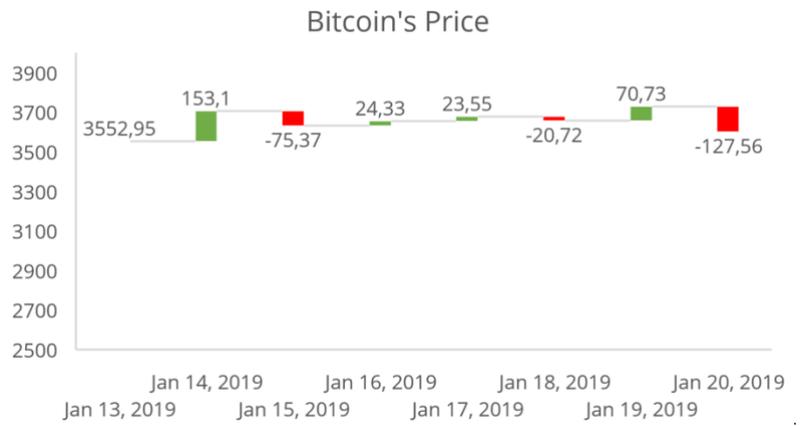
Ripple (XRP) software libraries published before August 2015 potentially rendered private keys which signed multiple transactions vulnerable, Ripple announced in a statement released on Jan 16.

Recent research jointly conducted by the DFINITY Foundation and the University of California revealed that a portion of Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH) and Ripple addresses are vulnerable.

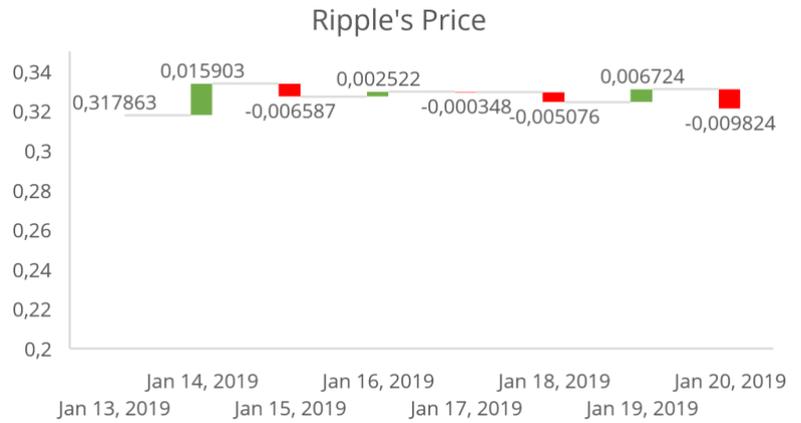
According to Ripple, deterministic nonce generation has also been part of their software since August 2015. This feature also makes addresses that interacted with the blockchain employing newer software libraries safe from this vulnerability.



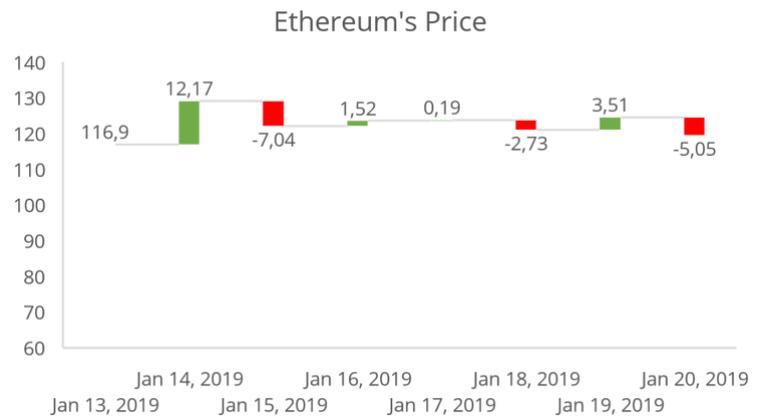
Bitcoin's (BTC) volatility has declined sharply in the past three days. Overall, BTC/USD is +1.4% compared to the last week.



This past week, we saw a decent recovery above \$0.3300 in ripple price against the US Dollar. However, the XRP/USD pair failed on many occasions to clear the \$0.3380 and \$0.3400 resistance levels. As a result, there was a bearish reaction and the price declined below the \$0.3200 support level.



Though the bulls have successfully defended the ETH price for the past four days, they haven't been able to push Ethereum (ETH) further.



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 maximum for the year.

Crypto Topics & Events

Google Trends

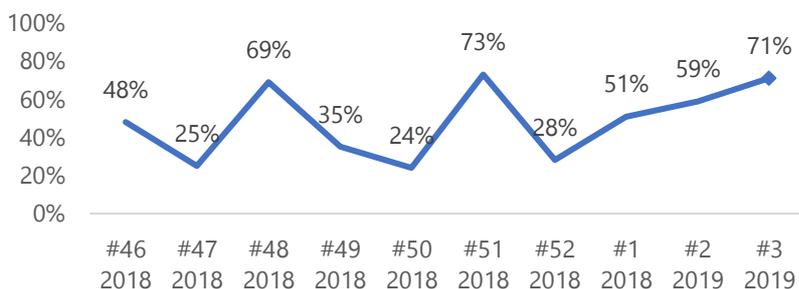
Ethereum Constantinople

Last week this search term was at maximum during the year. Ethereum's (ETH) Constantinople hard fork has been delayed until late February after smart contract audit firm ChainSecurity found a security vulnerability allowing a reentrancy attack.



Security token offering

People are interested in the relatively new and secure digital assets offerings – STO.





Wyoming Introduces a Bill Aiming to Define Virtual Currencies as Money

A bill meant to clarify the classification of cryptocurrencies has been introduced in the U.S. state of Wyoming Jan. 18, according to the official state legislature website. The bill places crypto assets into three categories: digital consumer assets, digital securities and virtual currencies. The bill defines assets falling in any of those three categories as intangible personal property and grants virtual currencies the same treatment as fiat money.



United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia Collaborate on New Cryptocurrency

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have announced an agreement to cooperate on the creation of a cryptocurrency, UAE official news agency Emirate News Agency reports on Jan. 19.

According to the report, the Executive Committee of the Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council has held a meeting in UAE capital Abu Dhabi, with 16 members in total from both countries, in order to discuss the joint initiatives in the Strategy of Resolve.



Bakkt

NYSE-Backed Digital Assets Platform Bakkt Announces First Acquisition

Bakkt, the digital assets platform that is backed by the operator of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), announced an acquisition this week of some assets in futures commission merchant Rosenthal Collins Group (RCG). According to a Medium post, Bakkt CEO Kelly Loeffler noted that this move is part of Bakkt's plans to continue operations while awaiting regulatory approval by the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) for the launch of regulated trading in crypto markets. Bakkt had previously announced a target launch date of the end of January, but the platform is still waiting on approval amid the United States' ongoing government shutdown.



Spanish Securities Regulator Adds 23 Forex and Cryptocurrency Exchanges to Warning List

The Spanish National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) has added 23 unauthorized forex and cryptocurrency entities to its warning list on Jan. 14. Spain was among the seven countries which have signed a declaration calling for help in the promotion of Distributed Ledger Technology's (DLT) use in the European region.



New Zealand Crypto Exchange Reports Hack, Local Police Start Investigation

New Zealand digital assets exchange Cryptopia reported that a major hack had resulted in significant losses this week. In response, the New Zealand police have released a statement that they are investigating the reportedly major hack, that involved an unconfirmed amount of around \$3.6 million. According to the police, the exchange is cooperating with the investigation, and they are still in the process of ascertaining the process of events. In the wake of the reported hack, a lawsuit has been relaunched involving traders who claim they lost funds held on the exchange over a year ago.

Volatility extremums

The top three altcoin gainers of the week are PayPie, TenX and Steem. The top three altcoin losers of the week are HondaisCoin, PitisCoin and ICOBay.

Token	Greatest volatility	Comment
PayPie	+978%	The team has not posted anything regarding the development updates. It looks like a pump.
TenX	+191%	There are no updates from the team and the community claims that it is time to forget about this project due to inactivity. It looks like a pump.
Steem	+49%	The team has announced two releases.
HondaisCoin	-89%	The team announced several exchange listings last week and the price crashed.
PitisCoin	-84%	MyPW, one of the prominent wallet provider for PitisCoin, has experienced an attack on the wallets.
ICOBay	-79%	The market cap of the coin dropped 9 times overnight.

Citation of the week



"The ICO mania of 2017 — we view that as the Pets.com of the securities token world. They were unregistered and it was crazy town for about six months there. I think the next wave will see the real innovation, and the really interesting assets that become tokenized — like real estate, like buildings that are currently not traded in a really liquid fashion. So that's exciting," — **Cameron Winklevoss, co-founder of cryptocurrency trading platform Gemini**



"This has hampered innovation and left many American businesses in regulatory limbo, particularly with respect to whether or not their tokens are classified as securities," — **George Nethercutt, former Republican Representative speaking on the perceived slowness of regulators**