**Current Market state**

The cryptocurrency market moved in a positive direction and appeared to be making a recovery with the total market cap edged closer to $147B over the week.

Bitcoin reached a monthly high of around $4120 before starting to correct downwards. The daily volume of bitcoin recorded a 3-month high today of more than $11 billion.

Resurrection of the updates on Ethereum towards Proof of Stake (PoS) and Plasma implementation with the Constantinople update revived the investor confidence in Ethereum (ETH) again. Ethereum is ranked second with a total market capitalization of $15 billion.

Ripple (XRP) has lost 12.2% of its value since the beginning of the year. The volatility index of XPR is low as trading has been mostly concentrated in the range of $0.299 and $0.33 since the second week of January. Last week XRP ended at $0.309.
**Coincheck launches Bitcoin OTC trading desk for large-scale institutional clients**

Japanese cryptocurrency exchange Coincheck has launched a Bitcoin (BTC) over-the-counter trading desk for large-scale institutional investors. The Coincheck OTC trading desk will enable clients to directly trade large volumes of Bitcoin — starting from 50 BTC ($207,000 to press time) — between each other using a web interface hosted by Coincheck.

**Over 130-year-old liquor company William Grant & Sons to track whiskey on blockchain**

Premium scotch whisky brand Ailsa Bay, which is owned by William Grant & Sons (WG&S), a liquor company founded in 1887, is set to launch what it claims to be the world’s first scotch whisky tracked on the blockchain. According to the company, the whisky will be tracked in collaboration with blockchain firm arc-net, which will develop the new products and a system to track manufacturing from distillery to store.

**Russian social media giant VK eyes launching its own crypto**

The most popular social media platform in Russia, VKontakte (VK), is considering developing its own cryptocurrency, RNS has obtained a presentation from the VK that shows how one of the ways users would be able to obtain the firm’s tokens is in exchange for their activeness and time spent on the platform. According to the article, the coins earned this way could be accumulated, transferred between users, exchanged for goods and converted (presumably to fiat currency) via VK Pay.

**Japan’s Largest Railway Company Considers New Crypto Payment System for Transport Cards**

Kazuhiro Tokita, representative director, board member and president at Japanese cryptocurrency exchange DeCurret, unveiled a new cryptocurrency payment system during a business presentation. The new system would enable the Suica payment card issued by the East Japan Railway Company (JR East), Japan’s biggest railway company, to be topped-up with cryptocurrency. Still, the report points out that there are no concrete plans as of press time, and that JR East is only considering the implementation. Data released by the company shows that as of the end of March last year, nearly 70 million Suica cards were issued.
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

**IEO**
The Initial Exchange Offering becomes popular from week to week. More investors are paying attention to this way of crowdfunding that is more secure and backed up by exchanges.

**Bitcoin**
The Bitcoin’s positive trading tendency brought activity and vital attention to the coin from the investors worldwide. The community indicated the third week or bullish tendency for the Bitcoin.

**Bithumb**
Since the exchange hack happened during last weekend, the Bithumb exchange took lead in the searches due to the hack amount is not defined.

**QuadrigaCX**
QuadrigaCX is on the trendy feed more than a month already. The community is paying attention to the investigation and discusses new findings regarding the exchange and disappeared funds.

**Justin Sun**
To celebrate the Tether/Tron partnership, the Foundation decided to organize a USDT giveaway from 30 April. Additionally, the Foundation promised one Tesla to begin the giveaway.
**Weiss Crypto Ratings puts Bitcoin aside EOS and XRP in annual outlook**

The newest Weiss Crypto Ratings and given top cryptocurrency Bitcoin an “A,” along with Ripple(XRP) and EOS. In the report, which was based on an analysis of 120 cryptocurrencies, letter grades were assigned based on an evaluation of the possibilities for adoption and technology. XRP received the “A” ranking as it is well-positioned to compete with global interbank system SWIFT, while EOS was noted as making a solid attempt to become the “backbone of the new internet.”

**Tim Draper urges Argentina’s president to legalize Bitcoin to improve economy**

When speaking to Argentine president Mauricio Macri, crypto bull and investor Tim Draper said that the legalization of Bitcoin (BTC) in the country could help improve their economic situation. During the meeting, Draper noted that the use of blockchain and crypto could help improve major economic problems, including the devaluation of the Argentine peso (ARS).

**Delays decision on Bitcoin ETF applications from VanEck and Bitwise**

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has again delayed its decision on a rule change to the Securities Act that would allow the listing of Bitcoin (BTC) exchange-traded funds (ETF). According to the latest notice, the SEC has extended the period to 90 days, after Bitwise’s Feb. 15 application reached the end of its 45-day time period. According to the extension, the SEC must now reach a decision on the rule change by May 16, 2019.

**Crypto Exchange Bithumb reportedly hacked of almost $19M in EOS and XRP**

Crypto exchange Bithumb reported this weekend that they have experienced a hack of an unknown amount, and are currently working with various law enforcement on the issue. The exchange notes that withdrawals and deposits have been temporarily paused, and that the loss does not affect users’ funds, but only those of the exchange. Unconfirmed reports state that around 3 million EOS (around $12.5 million) and 20 million Ripple (about $6.2 million) are the funds lost.

**Owner of ICO that never happened attempts to sell project on eBay for $60,000**

The owner of a crypto-related startup dubbed Sponsy, which never launched its initial coin offering (ICO), is attempting to sell the project on eBay for $60,000. The project is described as a blockchain-related identity that is able to launch both an ICO and a security token offering (STO), with the author of the posting claiming that the project was both audited by an investment firm and approved by several investment banks.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Token</th>
<th>Greatest volatility</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Attention</td>
<td>+9.54%</td>
<td>Another AMA session was announced by the team.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digitex</td>
<td>+9.07%</td>
<td>There is no explanation regarding the token growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuls</td>
<td>+7.78</td>
<td>The 2.0 Alpha v1.0 was recently released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tezos</td>
<td>-7.29%</td>
<td>There is no explanation for the token’s decline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revain</td>
<td>-3.56%</td>
<td>The token drop is not explained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjin Coin</td>
<td>-3.11%</td>
<td>The community does not pay the interest to the project’s news.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citation of the week

“If Quadriga was licensed under the Bermuda Monetary Authority, what has happened would not have been able to happen, because we have rules regarding the custody of master keys and making sure they’re not held by a particular individual.” — David Burt, Premier of Bermuda

“One of my theses here is that the cypherpunks’ attempts to get into the money business forced them to realize some other things along the way. You have to start thinking about governance, social contracts, common shared expectations in this community, how do changes get made, how do we decide how changes get made, how do we discuss things. These are all very political things.” — Vitalik Buterin, speaking at the RadicalxChange conference

“All of the big tech companies will come and say blockchain, blockchain, blockchain. I say, ‘Show me the use case. You bring me the use case and I’ll try it.’”— Catherine Bessant, Bank of America (BoA) chief technology officer