

EQ

IQ

The EQ/IQ Crypto Newsletter

November 18 - 25, 2024

Top Stories

Bitcoin's Momentum Nears \$100K as Options Trading Booms

Bitcoin (BTC) is closing in on the landmark \$100,000 price level, climbing approximately 8.3% in the past week to reach a new all-time high of ~\$99,800. This surge is bolstered by the debut of options trading for BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust ETF (IBIT), which recorded nearly \$1.9 billion in notional exposure on its first day—a figure Bloomberg analysts described as "unheard of."

Options trading allows investors to hedge risks or speculate on price movements. For instance, a trader buying a call option at \$90,000 could profit if Bitcoin's price surpasses that level, while put options provide opportunities to profit from price declines. Of the 354,000 contracts traded on IBIT's launch, 289,000 were call options, signaling strong bullish sentiment. Analysts suggest this influx of options trading played a key role in Bitcoin's latest rally.

Institutional investors are expected to deepen their involvement as options enhance risk management and investment strategies. Historically, derivatives markets, including options, drive significantly higher trading volumes than their underlying assets, making them a vital tool for professional investors and trading desks. Data from the IBIT options market suggests "smart money" remains optimistic about Bitcoin's ongoing upward momentum, underscoring expectations of continued growth.

This milestone highlights the increasing maturation of the crypto market, as institutional-grade products like options create new opportunities for sophisticated trading and investment strategies. Bitcoin's path to \$100,000 appears increasingly within reach.

Bitcoin: Price Performance Since Cycle Low



Headlines

- Bitcoin Nears \$100,000 Milestone: BTC reaches \$99,500 as spot ETFs record over \$1 billion in daily inflows
- Solana hits its all-time high as Bitwise joins the race for Solana ETF
- FTX plans to start reimbursing users by March 2025
- Charles Schwab seeks direct crypto investment offerings
- Gary Gensler to step down as Trump signals pro-crypto agenda
- Marathon Digital Announces \$700M Note Sale: Bitcoin mining company to use proceeds for BTC purchases and debt repayment
- Magin Eden Foundation Announces ME Token TGE on December 10
- Zircuit (ZRC) to Enable Transfers and Launch on Bitget Launchpool
- FTM - Sonic L1 is launching in December
- AVAX - Avalanche's Fuji9000 will go live on Nov. 25. This is the last step before Avalanche9000, Avalanche's largest upgrade ever
- JUP - Voting for Jupyter, one of the biggest upcoming airdrops on Solana, starts on Nov. 25
- STRK - Starknet's STRK staking is launching next week
- Monad Launches Ethereum-Compatible Testnet: Layer-1 blockchain begins rollout of testing environment
- California court rules Lido DAO members liable under partnership laws, rejecting decentralized immunity
- Trump's media group considers buying crypto trading venture Bakkt
- Sky, formerly known as Maker, has launched its USDS stablecoin on Solana, marking its first multichain deployment since its 2017 launch
- Coinbase to delist wBTC as Justin Sun gains influence over protocol
- Phantom Outranks Whatsapp and Instagram on Appstore. Crypto wallet app Phantom placed ninth among the top free iPhone apps on Nov. 20, marking the first time Phantom has breached the top 10 bracket
- Coinbase Wallet Introduces 4.7% Yield on USDC. Users holding USDC in their Coinbase Wallet can now earn 4.7% annual percentage yield, paid out monthly on Base L2
- Sui Network suffered a 2-hour outage due to a bug in transaction scheduling logic, halting block production