



Blockchain Assets

CRYPTOASSET MANAGERS



Dear Investors,

In this news bulletin I cover two significant public blockchain adoption cases. The first, is a serious TradFi adoption via the US Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC). The second, at the other end of the scale from a client perspective, is Mr Beast's purchase of Gen Z financial app 'step'.

I also set out a short summary of the crypto conference 'Consensus' which I attended in Hong Kong in February.

The Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation

The DTCC can be thought of as the US equivalent of the Australian Clearing House Electronic Subregister System (CHES). The DTCC is a co-operative made up of brokers, banks, custodians and other financial market participants. It acts as a co-ordination layer and record keeper for over USD 100 trillion of assets.

The DTCC has recently announced their strategy regarding the tokenisation of all assets on their platform (see interview with DTCC CEO [here](#)).

Transforming Finance Through Secure Tokenisation

The above heading comes from a 15 January 2025 DTCC video recording of an interview with DTCC executives regarding strategic discussions on tokenization and the future of digital market infrastructure.

Both executives are deeply experienced in traditional financial markets infrastructure. But now they are talking like crypto native entrepreneurs. This is very positive and refreshing. DTCC sees their adoption of blockchain technology as a pivotal moment with profound implications for custody, trading, registry, distribution and market participation. A lot of the discussion is about providing choice to their clients on all aspects of the technology, whether that be the choice of which blockchain to use (they will not be using just Ethereum) or how to pay for the gas fees.

Ultimately their objective is to tokenise on-chain all USD 100 trillion of their assets under administration. For perspective, that figure is roughly 400 times the value currently secured on Ethereum.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission - No Action Letter

Over the past number of years the DTCC has been engaging with the SEC relative to the tokenisation of assets. In particular, the tokenisation of securities in the form of stocks and bonds. Up until recently the laws and regulations did not anticipate the emergence of decentralised ledgers and there was a reluctance by legislators and regulators to make the necessary changes to accommodate blockchain technology.

This changed on 20 January 2025 in the US when the new 'crypto friendly' administration moved into Washington.

Following this, the DTCC wasted no time in pushing forward with their plans to adopt the technology and to this end they wrote to the SEC in December 2025 seeking a letter from them that they would take no regulatory action to penalise or stop the DTCC from tokenising a large proportion of the assets under their administration.

On 11 December 2025 the SEC issued a so-called 'no-action' letter, clearing the pathway for the tokenisation of up to USD 100 trillion worth of assets.

The DTC Tokenisation Service

The DTCC are no longer dabbling in this space. They have the regulatory green light, significant client demand and an emerging new demographic of investors to service. This service is being built at speed and at scale. They aim to roll-out the first offering of the service in the second half of this year.

We do not have access to the full offering or roadmap, but we do know the following :

1. They will use a number of different blockchains as long as the blockchain complies with their criteria - same for wallets;
2. They will develop their own 'Launchpad' - not sure what this will cover but expect it will be enable direct token launches;
3. They see Collateral Management as being one of the 'killer apps' for this technology so will be working with clients to develop such apps, they may develop their own app chain.; and
4. They will run the existing systems in parallel and be able to switch from a tokenised asset to a paper based centralised ledger asset in 15 minutes.

The adoption of the system by their clients is of course voluntary and the first offering will just be the start. DTCC advises that they are '...just at the beginning stages of innovation...'

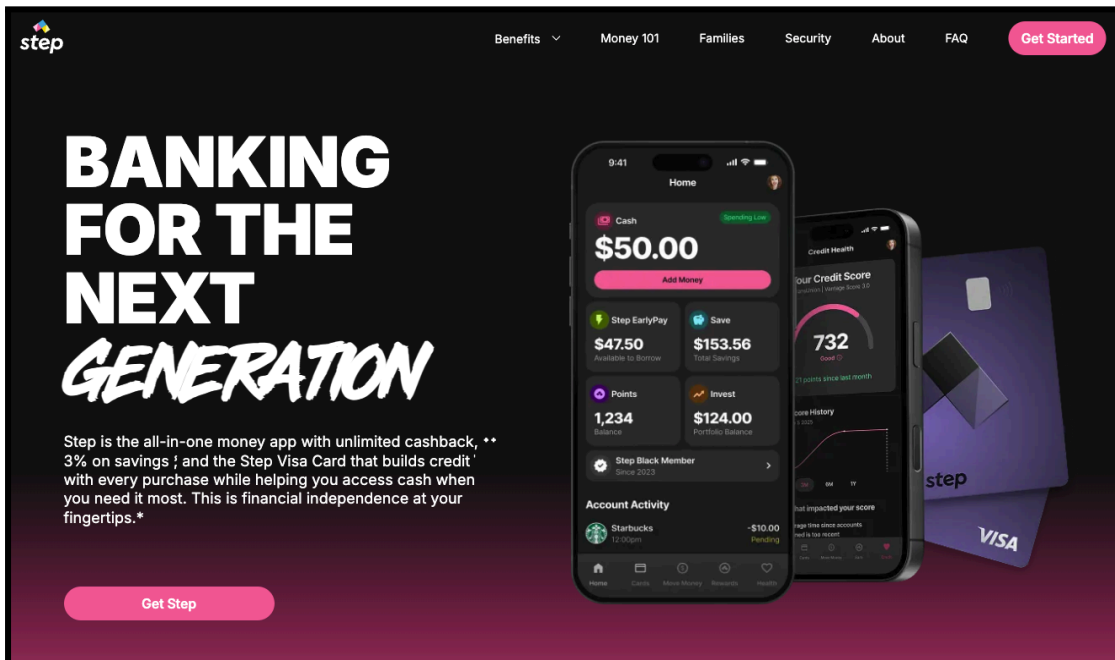
Mr Beast + step

As mentioned in my January news bulletin ([see here](#)) Jimmy Donaldson (Mr Beast) is the largest individual internet content creator in the world by reach and influence. He has over 1 billion views across his videos and close to 500 million subscribers. He truly is a marketing phenomena and brand building whisperer (although he shouts all the time!). See a great Dealbook interview with him [here](#).

Readers of my January bulletin will recall that Ethereum owning company Bitmine Inc (BMNR) invested USD 200 million in Beast Industries in mid-January 2026. Also at that time Beast Industries made it clear that they intend to build a financial platform for their target market.

Then on 10 February 2026 Beast Industries announced they had acquired [Step.com](#) a front Gen-Z, Gen-Alpha targeted front end app to traditional banks. It offers traditional financial services but targets younger clients who are just starting to build their financial knowledge. In relation to the acquisition Beast Industries said that '...Financial health is fundamental to overall well being, yet too many people lack access to the tools and knowledge they need to build financial security. This acquisition positions us to meet our audiences where they are, with practical, technology-driven solutions that can transform their financial futures for the better.'

Mr Beast wrote on X that 'Nobody taught me about investing, building credit, or managing money when I was growing up, I want to give millions of young people the financial foundation I never had.'



The advertisement for the Step app features a dark background with a pink and white color scheme. On the left, the text reads "BANKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a smaller text block describes the app's features: "Step is the all-in-one money app with unlimited cashback, ** 3% on savings, and the Step Visa Card that builds credit with every purchase while helping you access cash when you need it most. This is financial independence at your fingertips.*" A pink button labeled "Get Step" is positioned below the text. On the right side, two smartphones are displayed. The front phone shows the app's home screen with a balance of \$50.00, a "Step EarlyPay" button for \$47.50, a "Save" button for \$153.56, and a "Points" section showing 1,234 points. The back phone shows a "Credit Health" screen with a credit score of 732. A Step Visa Card is also visible, partially overlapping the phones.

Screen shot of Step.com landing page

Consensus 2025 - Hong Kong

'Consensus' is the original crypto conference. I first attended it in New York in 2017. I do not go every year but it is a good way to meet people in person and identify the latest and hottest topics of the moment. This was the first time I attended the Hong Kong version of the event and I was not disappointed.

The conference was held over two days. There was a reported attendance of over 11,000 people from 110 countries. Despite the horrible market conditions the convention center and adjacent hotel was abuzz with conversations and presentations. It was definitely up-beat.

The new themes this year were AI Agents, the Agentic economy and robotics. There was also an Institutional Summit and a Future of Finance Stage where these topics were the subject of focus.

[This interview](#) with Ethereum co-founder Joe Lubin is a good summary of the event and the state of play with Ethereum and DeFi. [This interview](#) with Anthony Scaramucci gives a good insight into regulatory and political developments in the US.

These touch points between crypto, Wall Street and Main Street are significant. The adoption of this technology is accelerating. Our thesis is playing out and our portfolio is positioned to capture the value as more value is bought on-chain in the years ahead.

Best Regards



Ian Love
Founder and CEO
Blockchain Assets Pty Ltd

The content of this newsletter has primarily been prepared by a human, Ian Love. Artificial intelligence may have been utilised for some fact-checking and for providing explanations of some specific words and concepts.

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