



Holiday Crypto FAQ

Between turkey and pie, someone is bound to ask about crypto, regulation, and recent headlines. Here's a quick guide to help you survive the conversation — and maybe even impress your Gen X aunt and Gen Z cousins.

From your Gen X Aunt: Should I be investing in Bitcoin?

Bitcoin surged this year amid a more pro-crypto climate, renewed institutional interest, and the launch of additional exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Some public companies (known as Digital Asset Treasury companies, or DATs) now hold large amounts of a single crypto asset on their balance sheets. A recent executive order directed regulators to explore how retirement plans could offer digital-asset exposure. Many observers see long-term potential in blockchain technology, and continued innovation may drive broader adoption and new use cases. That said, Bitcoin (and other crypto assets) remains volatile — so size any position according to your risk appetite.

From your Gen Z Cousin: Will I start to see more real use cases?

Crypto runs on blockchain technology, which is designed to enable secure, decentralized, and trustless transactions (meaning that transactions can be processed without an intermediary like a bank). Stablecoins, typically pegged to U.S. dollars, are used worldwide for payments and transfers. Digital currencies have been used for years in gaming, and now many of those games are backed by real cryptocurrencies that turn gaming communities into full-fledged economies. In addition to that, various crypto assets help fuel decentralized marketplaces, power AI tools and data markets, support gaming economies, and facilitate global remittances. You may not use these protocols every day yet, but many are exploring efficiencies from disintermediation, accessing and aggregating underutilized resources, and building tools that provide private, secure transactions and identity verification.

Even Grandma has a Question: Is crypto even regulated?

Crypto assets and blockchain protocols have never been “unregulated.” The applicability of certain regulations depends on the type of transactions or activities that a protocol or crypto asset represents or enables. In some cases, multiple regimes and jurisdictions may be implicated; in others, none may apply. In the U.S., legislators may further clarify regulatory authority to delineate the roles of the SEC, CFTC, and other regulators, while various federal agencies are actively providing more guidance to the industry to better define how existing laws, regulations, and frameworks apply.

From your Family Member Glued to the Big Game: What do prediction markets have to do with crypto — and football?

Blockchain-based platforms let people trade on real-world outcomes — from elections and sports to the price of crypto — using crypto rails. Think: hedging views on the Fed's next move or Taylor Swift's next album drop. Many prediction markets have yet to launch or be widely available in the U.S., but the landscape could evolve soon.