

It's 1974 in the Crypto Market

This "Secret" Trading Tool Signals a 10X Rally Coming to Crypto

By Teeka Tiwari on April 19, 2018



"The Analog" made him a \$100 million in a day.

It was the winter of 1986. A New York City film crew followed a brash young trader's every step. At just 32 years old, he was dominating the trading scene. The following year, he would make \$100 million in a day (around a \$250 million in today's money).

He unwittingly revealed the secret to his success to the documentary crew. He called it "The Analog." Realizing his mistake, he spent years buying up every single copy of the tapes he could.

In the 1980s and '90s, rare copies of the tape would sell for thousands of dollars. By the time it went mainstream via the internet, the trader had already made over \$4.5 billion from "The Analog."

In this month's issue, I have no trade recommendation for you. Instead, I'll explain what "The Analog" is... and how I've been using the idea behind it for the past two years to make many of my subscribers wealthy from the cryptocurrency markets.

I'll also do a deep-dive on every position we own.

Understanding "The Analog"

An analog model uses one data set to forecast the outcome of another similar data set.

In stock investing, an analog is a period in history when one set of trading data lines up with another set of trading data. Sometimes, these data sets can be separated by decades.

That's how Paul Tudor Jones—the young trader from our story above—made \$100 million in 1987. He and his then-27-year-old partner, Peter Borish, stumbled upon an amazing discovery.

While analyzing the Great Bull Market of the 1920s, Borish realized he had seen similar chart patterns before. He pulled out a chart of the 1980s bull market and put the two side by side.

After manually entering the opening, high, low, and closing prices of the Dow in the 1920s and the '80s, he uncovered something remarkable.

Two markets separated by six decades were showing an almost identical trading pattern. They matched 92% of the time. Tudor and Borish called the study "The Analog."

They bet their entire fledgling hedge fund on The Analog continuing. A 2014 *Business Insider* article referenced The Analog with a quote from Tudor Jones about his remarkable performance in 1987:

How did he manage to profit so handily from an event nobody saw coming? Jones answers, "our analog model to 1929..."

All through the 1980s, Jones followed The Analog. It proved to be the secret path that led him and his investors to a mother lode of wealth.

Our Very Own "Analog"

Sitting in a sparsely populated Las Vegas convention hall in January 2016, the penny finally dropped. That's when I discovered the huge potential of crypto assets.

In that moment, I knew I had uncovered a massive wealth-building opportunity on par with the 1990s tech boom.

Back in the '80s and '90s, I saw technologies like the PC and internet go from being ridiculed curiosities to mainstream necessities in just a few short years.

That experience gave me the "The Analog" for understanding how the crypto trend would play out.

Just like the early tech days, I knew crypto was little-understood and would face huge skepticism, but would eventually impact just about every aspect of our lives.

Even the pullback we're in right now correlates with the 1990 pullback we saw in tech. Just like Peter Borish's study of the 1920s and 1980s stock markets, the crypto market is closely following the trajectory of the 1990s.

So far, we're seeing an 87% correlation between the 1990 Nasdaq and today's crypto market (see chart below).

The Crypto Analog



PALM BEACH RESEARCH GROUP

Source: Bloomberg & Coinmarketcap.com

Even though they are separated by 27 years, the correlation between these markets is uncanny. You'll see that the crypto market has more volatility and moves faster.

That's because we have far greater connectivity now. In other words, information moves faster and is much more widespread today than in the 1990s. So moves on the both the downside and upside happen quicker and with greater ferocity.

The Analog is suggesting we'll start to see a new bull phase emerge soon in the crypto market. If it follows the post-1990 recovery, we will see the market start to turn higher between April and May of 2018.

Back in 1990, the market made new all-time highs within 14 months. If we see the crypto market follow the same path, we'll witness a 300% rally in the entire market.

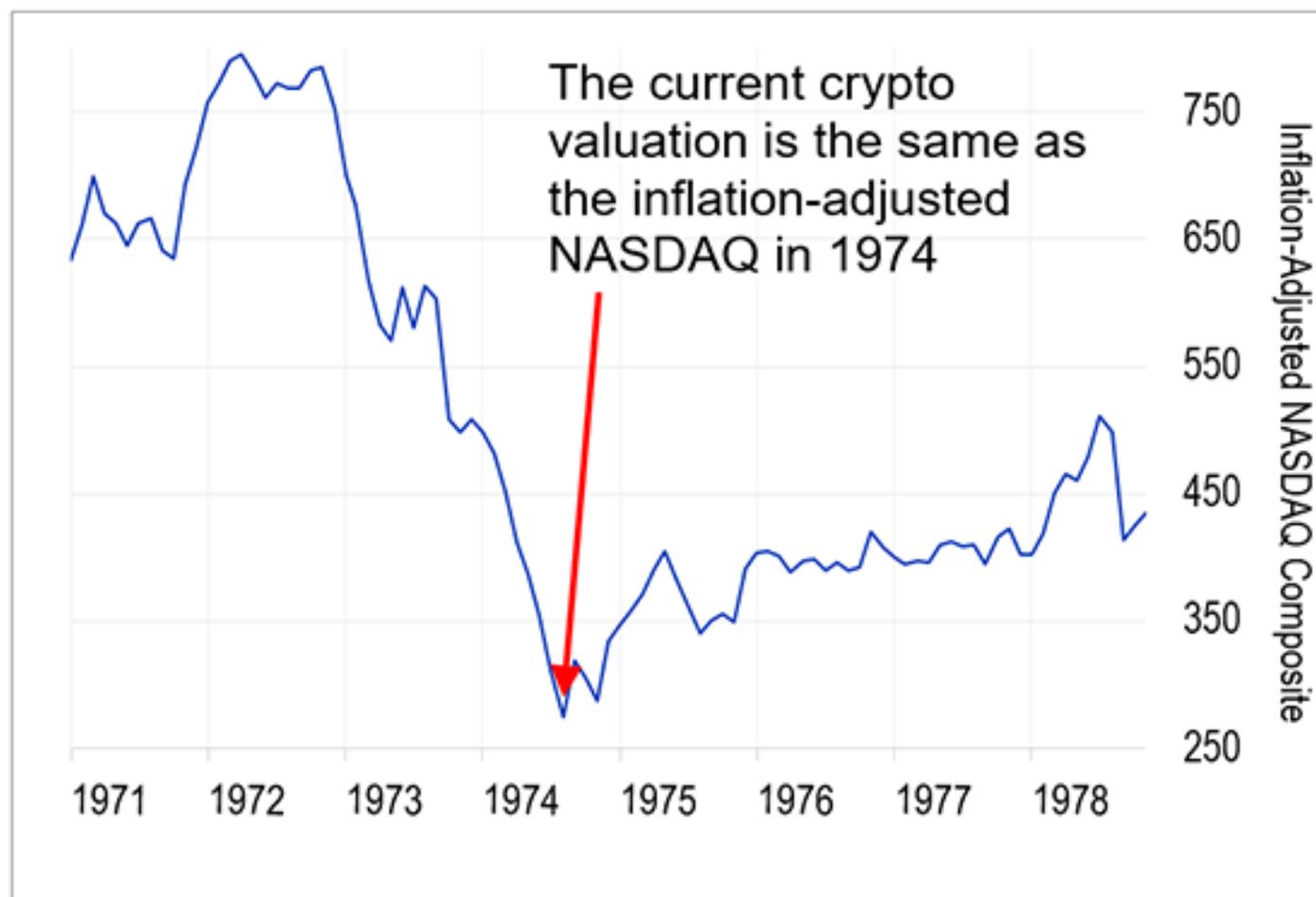
However, due to crypto being a global market (meaning it's traded by the entire world, not just a small region like tech stocks were in 1990), I expect new highs to happen in about half the time of the 1990 market.

That suggests we'll see new highs in the crypto market by this November.

Is It Too Late to Get In?

The most frequently asked question I get is: "Is it too late to invest in cryptos?" To answer that question, I prepared this chart.

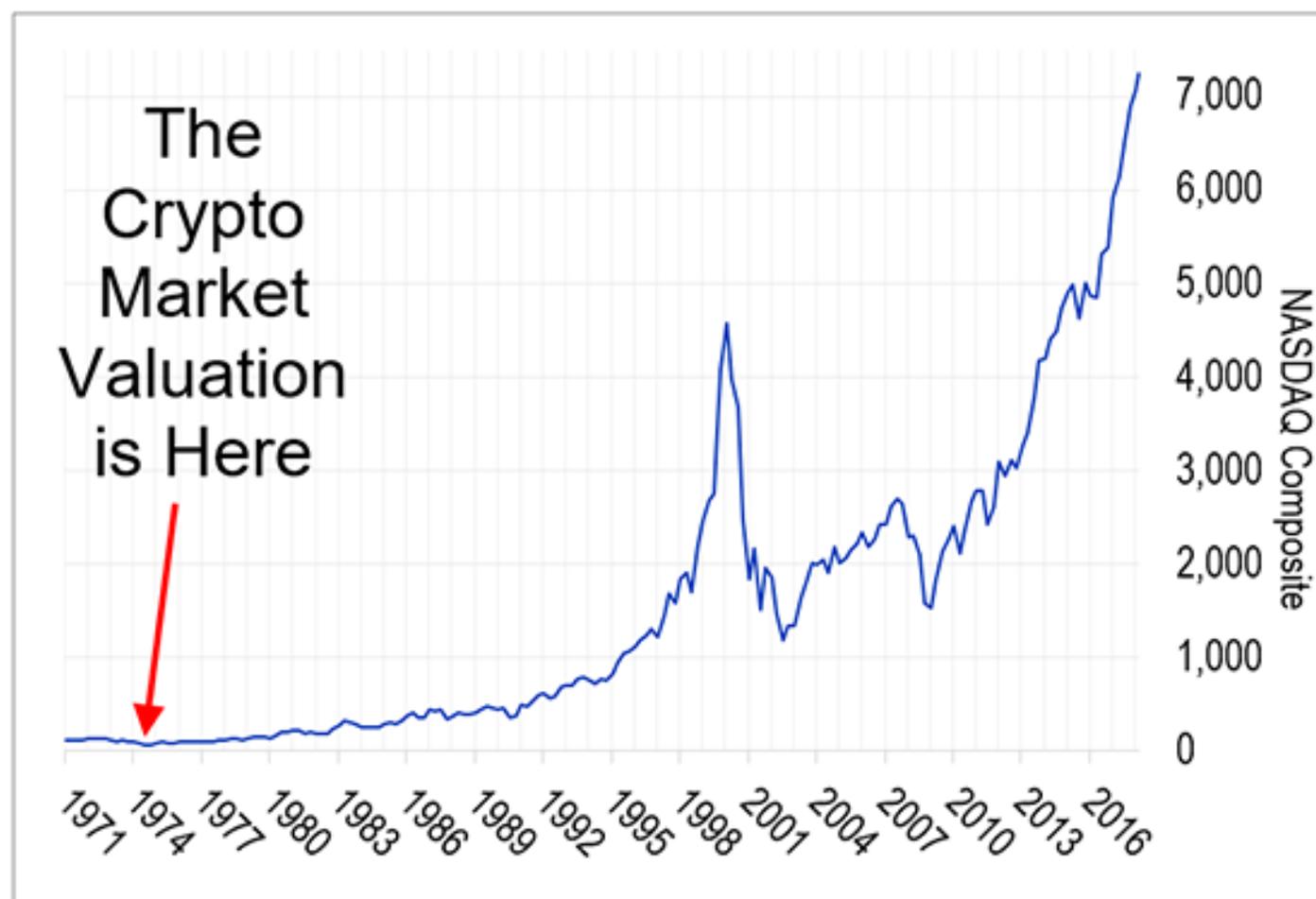
NASDAQ: 1971-1978 (inflation-adjusted)



The chart above shows that the current value of the crypto market is the same as the inflation-adjusted value of the Nasdaq in 1974.

Let's put 1974 into context by looking at the chart below:

NASDAQ: 1971-Present



Source: Bloomberg

Does that look expensive to you?

You can see that 1974 was the perfect time to buy the Nasdaq. The index started a 26-year, long-term uptrend that didn't end until 2000. We will see a similar move in crypto with one difference...

It will happen much faster.

As I explained earlier, the connected nature of today's world leads to much faster price discovery... which leads to bigger and more explosive booms in price.

Since starting in cryptos in 2016, this is my ninth bear market and the fourth time I've had to navigate widespread 85% drops in my portfolio. The reason I don't sweat these pullbacks is because we are so early in this game.

You can see from the charts above that the entire crypto market is literally trading at 1974 valuations. Imagine buying the Nasdaq during the 1990 sell-off, but getting in at 1974 prices.

That's the opportunity we have today in crypto.

But it's even better than that because, in 1990, the internet wasn't even commercially developed. From a development standpoint, today's market is more like the 1994–1995 period.

Back in '94–'95, the internet went from a curiosity to a serious institutional investment. 2018 will be same type of transitional year for cryptocurrencies. We'll look back on 2018 as the year institutions took crypto seriously.

It's this incoming flood of institutional money that will trigger what I call a "Second Boom" in crypto prices. As I'll show you, this surge higher in prices is well supported by The Analog.

So, let's add up where we are:

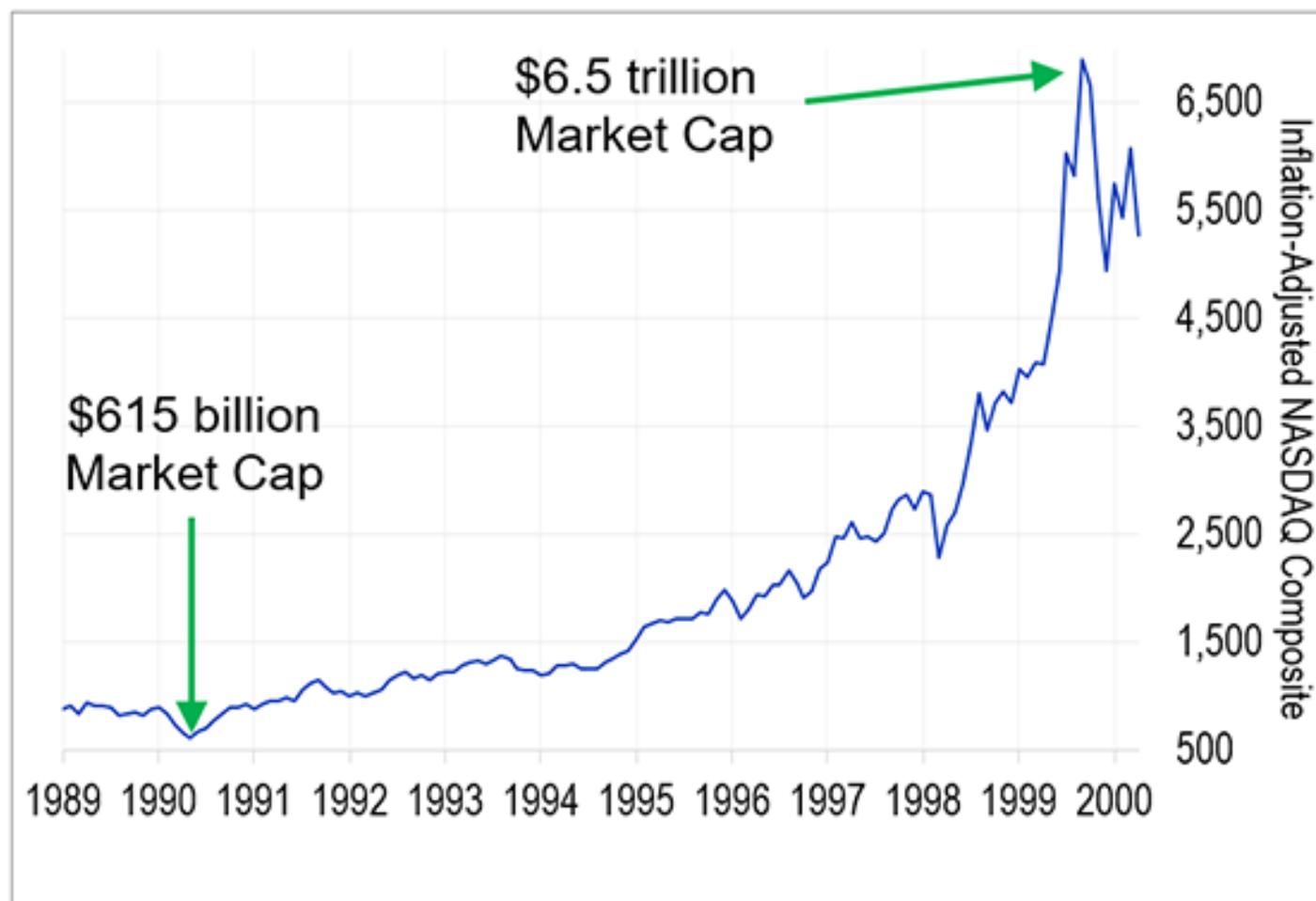
- Valuations are comparable to those of the Nasdaq in 1974.
- The crypto market has an 87% correlation to the 1990s tech market.
- Technological development and institutional interest mirror the 1994–1995 tech market.

The Analog suggests this is all adding up to explosive price appreciation.

Think of it like a rubber band stretched from 2018 all the way back to 1974. The Analog from 1990 shows us the "snapback" will be violent to the upside.

In 1990, the Nasdaq dropped all the way back to its 1982 valuation level before increasing in value 10 times off the 1990 lows.

NASDAQ: 1989-2000 (inflation-adjusted)



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Source: *Macrotrends*

The Analog to our market conservatively puts the “snapback” crypto market valuation at \$2.6 trillion.

Bringing It All Together

The Analog suggests we will see a minimum of a tenfold increase in crypto valuations. That is enough of a move to make you rich—not well off... not even well-to-do... You will become rich.

You will see prices explode higher in a way that will dwarf anything you have seen before.

The action plan is simple:

- If anything is below the buy-up-to price and you don't own it, you should buy it.

If you already have a full complement of positions, then just hang tight. The Analog tells us we are close to the bottom.

Remember: The biggest moves higher are yet to come.

Below is a full up-to-the minute update on all our open positions.

Important Note: You'll notice this month's issue is much longer than normal. Periodically, we like to revisit every position in the portfolio and give you a deep-dive into how each coin is progressing.

Whether you are a brand-new subscriber or a veteran, you'll find a lot of value by deepening your understanding of what we own and the progress each idea is making.

Crypto Corner

We've recently renovated the entire *Palm Beach Confidential* Crypto Corner. If you have questions about anything cryptocurrencies, chances are you'll find the answers there.

There, you can access our research and step-by-step videos on web-based wallets, hardware wallets, and other cryptocurrency services.

Be sure to check out our wallets and exchanges list to see which exchanges you can buy all our recommended coins on and which wallets we recommend holding them in.

Where to Be Invested Now

A Review of Our Entire Crypto Portfolio

By Teeka Tiwari and Greg Wilson

Bitcoin (BTC)

Two major developments are significantly reducing bitcoin transaction fees and wait times... This will allow bitcoin to scale like the internet did in the early 1990s. This is huge news for bitcoin owners (more on that in a moment).

First, the developments...

Regular readers may recall the bitcoin network adopted the Segwit scaling solution in August 2017. Today, adoption is over 30%.

Increased adoption is partially responsible for the 99% drop in the median bitcoin transaction fees since late December.

Lightning Network is the second scaling solution. It works on top of the bitcoin blockchain (the same way an app works on top of your smartphone's operating system).

Lightning Network uses “payment channels” to allow instant payments, near-free transaction costs, and cross-chain support via “atomic swaps” (an exchange of cryptocurrencies without the need of a third party).

Until recently, developers used payment channels only in test environments. That just changed. Lightning Labs recently released a beta version of the Lightning Network. That's significant because it means developers believe it's now safe enough to use with real money on the bitcoin network.

I can't emphasize how profound this development is. It's the functional equivalent of the leap the internet made when it transitioned from slow dial-up modems to high-speed cable modems.

That massive increase in speed unleashed a slew of new uses for the internet and created an explosion of value that made many investors rich.

But even if none of that happens to bitcoin, I'd still recommend owning it. Here's why...

Since launching on January 3, 2009, bitcoin has experienced 99.99% uptime. That means it's been in operation with very limited exceptions.

It's also the most secure network in the world. It's never been hacked.

Current estimates suggest you'd need nearly \$9 billion worth of equipment just to try to hack the network. And that doesn't even account for the cost of electricity.

That's why bitcoin is the backbone of digital currencies.

In the world of digital money, bitcoin is the equivalent of the reserve currency. Bitcoin's “reserve” status means it deserves a home in your portfolio.

Action to Take: Buy bitcoin (BTC) up to \$25,000.

Ether (ETH)

Coinbase recently announced it will add ERC20 support and extend the service to its soon-to-be-launched “custody” product. (ERC20 is the token standard for Ethereum.)

The new service will not only make it easier for retail investors to buy ERC 20 tokens... but institutional investors as well. You see, most money managers use a custodian to hold their clients' assets. Coinbase new custody solution will provide that service for cryptocurrencies.

Looking back, it's been quite a ride for us with Ethereum. We first recommended it at \$9 in April 2016. At the time, Ethereum was just getting started... But we saw signs of good things to come.

Eleven major banks were testing the Ethereum blockchain. And the Ethereum foundation had formed partnerships with Fortune 500 companies like IBM and Samsung, and Microsoft. (The Microsoft partnership alone gave Ethereum access to over 3 million developers to work on the Ethereum platform.)

In 2017, JPMorgan, Microsoft, BP, and about 30 other companies launched the Enterprise Ethereum Alliance (EEA) in 2017. Today, it has over 400 members, including startups, academic institutions, technology vendors.

The community building worked for Ethereum as it became the go-to platform for initial coin offerings (ICOs) in 2017.

According to Coindesk, blockchain projects raised \$5 billion from ICOs in 2017. About 60% of those projects launched on the Ethereum platform.

We've seen the activity reflected in Ethereum's usage. At the start of 2017, Ethereum processed 30,000 transactions per day. Today, it's up to 600,000 transactions per day. That's up 1,900% since our initial recommendation.

The success has been reflected in its price. At its peak, ether reached \$1,432, giving us gains of 15,811%.

Looking forward, the Ethereum developers are working on solutions to scale the network while still maintaining security.

With improved scaling, Ethereum can fulfill its grand vision of being a globally adopted computing infrastructure.

Action to Take: Buy ether (ETH) up to \$400.

Monero (XMR)

On April 30, Monero may undergo a hard fork called MoneroV.

MoneroV is similar to Monero with two main differences. MoneroV plans to:

- Cap its supply of tokens with no inflation
- Implement a technology called MimbleWimble for improved privacy and scalability.

Important Note: The original Monero team **does not support** the hard fork and will not provide support to access MoneroV coins.

Monero cautions XMR owners against using their private keys directly to redeem coins from the MoneroV blockchain. If your private key falls into the wrong hands, all of your funds could be stolen.

As of today, the hard fork is scheduled for April 30. But the date fork has been postponed in the past. We'll keep you updated.

Meanwhile, on April 6, Monero performed a scheduled security and scaling upgrade (called Lithium Luna) to Monero client 0.12.0.0.

Switching gears, when we first recommended Monero in September 2016, it averaged less than 1,000 transactions per day.

Today, the network averages about 4,000 transactions daily.

We think usage will continue to ramp up. That's because Monero solves a key issue: privacy.

Many think bitcoin is anonymous. In reality, it's pseudonymous. Your name isn't part of bitcoin's blockchain. But the bitcoin blockchain is open for the whole world to see.

Monero, on the other hand, is completely private. The network mixes together hundreds of public transactions. And that keeps your transactions anonymous.

In a world where our financial privacy is becoming increasingly diminished, the need for a private currency is growing stronger. And people will turn to privacy coins like Monero.

Action to Take: Hold Monero (XMR).

Neo (NEO)

One key factor of NEO's success has been its community development. The NEO community has contributed wallets, blockchain explorers, documentation in over 10 languages, and much other support.

To promote its project, NEO holds world tours. Its Europe tour kicked off April 14 and runs through April 26. NEO plans to hit a half-dozen cities, starting in Amsterdam.

The tour includes meet-ups, workshops, and presentations. Microsoft is co-sponsoring a development competition during the tour with \$490,000 up for grabs. Developers submitted nearly 500 projects. Winners will be announced shortly

As of this writing, there are 10 tokens on the NEO platform, not including NEO and GAS. And you may even own one of them, Ontology (ONT). Make sure to check our alert here.

More than 20 other projects are looking to launch on the NEO platform in the near future.

That activity has increased usage of the NEO platform. When we first recommended NEO in February 2017, it processed less than 500 transactions per day (and often less than 100 hundred). Today, it averages 30,000 transactions per day (and has processed as many as 150,000).

NEO is set up to perform in 2018 like Ethereum did in 2017. The community is growing, more ICOs are launching on the NEO platform, and the ecosystem is expanding rapidly.

One project we're really excited about is NEX, a decentralized exchange and payment service for the NEO platform that's compatible with Ethereum.

NEX will hold its token sale in the second quarter of 2018 and plans to launch its mainnet in the third quarter.

NEX is just one of many great projects on NEO. We expect great things out of NEO for the rest of 2018.

Action to Take: Hold Neo (NEO).

Gas (GAS)

See NEO above.

Action to Take: Buy Gas (GAS) up to \$45.

Factom (FCT)

Factom recently rolled out M3, a fully decentralized Factom protocol. The long-term goal is to have 65 (or more) independent parties running the actual protocol on a day-to-day basis.

During 2017, Factom made a lot of progress. It completed a round of Series A funding for just over \$9 million. And it made two big hires in Jason Nadeau and Laurie Pyle. Jason and Laurie have 20 and 15 years of experience, respectively, in leading startups and enterprise software companies.

It also expanded its relationship with the Department of Homeland Security and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, added enterprise clients, and expanded its infrastructure to increase volume support and throughput.

Factom says it's established agreements with more than 20 companies, mainly in the banking, insurance, and healthcare sectors. Most of the recent discussions are involve Fortune 100 companies. We expect to hear announcements about these projects throughout year.

Factom sees two areas for expansion: Physical assets and business process management (BPM).

Physical tokens: Factom wants to tie physical assets to crypto tokens. And it's working with a number of recent ICOs to tokenize their assets. That requires making a great deal of documentation and data secure and immutable. The Factom Harmony software is perfectly positioned to solve this problem.

Business process management (BPM): Currently, business use software and databases to improve optimization and efficiency. But the databases need constant auditing and verification. Blockchain technology solves that problem. Companies can combine their current BPF software with Factom to create indisputable, permanent records. This is an \$8 billion market opportunity for Factom.

With the roll out of M3 and a slew of upcoming partnership agreements, 2018 will be another great year for Factom.

Action to Take: Buy Factom (FCT) up to \$50.

Storj (STORJ)

Storj recently announced the hire of Ben Golub as executive chairman and interim CEO.

Golub is the former co-founder and CEO of Docker, the world's leading software containerization platform (container technology allows developers to port applications across different operating systems).

Under Golub, Docker grew from a small, open-source project to a cloud leader with hundreds of customers, over 400 employees, 3,000 contributors, and 12 billion downloads. It also raised over \$250 million.

Golub's goals are to advance the Storj platform, drive revenue growth, and help the company scale its network to the exabyte range and beyond.

The news is exciting because Storj is growing rapidly and Golub has the experience managing rapid growth.

Since recommending Storj the amount of data stored on its network has increased 30-fold. They now have 70,000 customers spread across 150,000 storage nodes. That's an 1,300% increase in customer count and 650% increase in node count.

Long term, Storj aims to be the storage layer for decentralized applications, providing economics, availability, and security properties that traditional cloud providers cannot.

Action to Take: Buy Storj (STORJ) up to \$1.

Ethereum Classic (ETC)

Ethereum Classic wants to be the first blockchain to properly address the needs of Internet of Things (IoT) devices. The IoT is the connection via the internet of computing sensors embedded in everyday objects (including cars, home appliances, electronic devices, and even clothes).

Two important projects working on this problem are SputnikVM and Emerald Project.

Sputnik can run smart contracts anywhere, including browser and in embedded devices that you would need for IoT.

SAT-1, a space research and technology company, is using SputnikVM to develop a decentralized app that allows its satellites and ground stations to communicate and share data with each other.

Emerald Project will provide a common framework to build decentralized apps on top of the Ethereum Classic blockchain.

The Ethereum Classic Cooperative (ECC) will help fund the projects.

At the end of 2017, the ECC held just over \$470,000. It plans to spend 50% of those funds on development, with the rest split evenly between marketing and the community.

In early March, the ECC announced its board of advisors. Members include Charles Hoskinson, the co-founder of Ethereum and the CEO of IOHK, the technology company behind Ethereum Classic and Cardano.... and Barry Silbert, the CEO of Grayscale Investments, which sponsors of the Ethereum Classic Investment Trust.

When we first recommended ETC in May 2017, daily transactions averaged about 20,000. Today, it's doubled to roughly 40,000. And it's done over 100,000 transactions in a single day.

The future is bright for Ethereum Classic.

It should also be noted that Circle's Invest app (now in beta) will support ETC. That will make it easier for the masses to buy ETC.

Action to Take: Buy Ethereum Classic (ETC) up to \$25.

Dash (DASH)

Behind the scenes Dash is working on its next project, Evolution, a platform for building user-based decentralized apps (dApps). DApps will make integrating Dash payments into third-party applications much easier. So, merchants will be able to easily adopt Dash into their payment systems.

Here's why we think merchants will take to Evolution.

it will be as easy to use as online payment process PayPal while keeping the security and privacy features of blockchain technology.

Dash Evolution will make using cryptos so easy that you won't need to know anything about cryptos in the first place. And that's a game changer.

With the arrival of Evolution, Dash will be in a great position to take advantage of the partnerships it has formed over the last year, such as:

- **Alt Thirty Six:** Targets payments in the marijuana industry.
- **Wirex and SBI Holdings:** Dash-backed debit cards in Japan.
- **Bitnovo:** A Spanish cryptocurrency platform that will allow people to purchase Dash and use at over 10,000 retailers.
- **Uphold:** A platform for buying, selling, and sending cryptocurrencies. The integration of Dash makes it available for purchase by 94% of the world's population.
- **Kuvacash:** A project to bring Dash to Zimbabwe.
- **GoCoin:** An online payments processor with prominent users like CheapAir, Lionsgate, and RE/MAX.

- **Strike Social:** The world's largest YouTube optimization firm with Fortune 500 clients. Dash will help facilitate international payments.
- **RocketPay:** A payment provider in Southeast Asia that provides a platform for buying, storing and spending Dash and access to over 100 merchants.
- **Payza:** An online e-wallet and payment processor that serves 190 countries and 16 million members and supports 26 currencies. Payza brings Dash to over 100,000 online merchants.
- **Abra:** A digital currency app and wallet that lets you buy, sell, and store 20 cryptocurrencies and exchange with 50 fiat currencies.
- **QuikWallet:** A mobile payment app in India that enables conversion of rupees into cryptocurrencies, including DASH. QuikWallet has a network of over 4,500 merchants so users can spend their DASH as well.

With all the new partnerships, we've seen Dash's transactions increase.

At the start of 2017, total daily transaction averaged 1,000 per day. Today, that's up to 7,500 transactions per day, even with the current price downturn.

Dash is the first truly decentralized autonomous organization. It's an entire self-funded ecosystem with unique partnerships and advancing technology.

And Evolution promises to be the springboard for mass adoption of censorship-resistant money that anyone can use.

Action to Take: Buy Dash (DASH) up to \$800.

Ripple (XRP)

The Japan Bank Consortium—a collection of 61 Japan-based banks—announced it will release a new XRP-powered smartphone application called "MoneyTap."

It's the first app of its kind. And it will allow customers to settle transactions instantly during any day of the week. (Right now, domestic payments in Japan can only be settled during banking hours.) The app will also reduce banking fees and transaction times.

Ripple also announced that it will integrate into Uphold, a digital wallet that allows you to hold fiat currencies, commodities, and cryptocurrencies. With Uphold, you can exchange XRP for 23 fiat currencies, four commodities, and seven cryptocurrencies.

In yet another partnership, Ripple announced a pilot program with Cambridge Global Payments, a subsidiary of FleetCor Technologies. Cambridge is a leading provider of commercial payment solutions.

The pilot program will use XRP for cross-border payments using Ripple's xRapid. Cambridge joins five other major financial institutions, Cuallix, MoneyGram, IDT Corporation, Mercury FX, and Western Union, in piloting xRapid for cross-border payments.

Today, over 100 financial institutions are using Ripple's blockchain technology to provide global payments.

Consequently, transaction usage continues to rise. Ripple is processing an average of 800,000 transactions per day (including as much as 1.6 million transactions in a single day). That's quadruple its average from 2013.

Looking forward, Ripple will be the global leader in enterprise solutions for global payments.

It's the only digital asset specifically designed for financial institutions and payment providers. It can scale to handle the same throughput as Visa. And it acts as a bridge between fiat currencies.

With its growing partnerships, we see a bright future for Ripple.

Action to Take: Hold Ripple (XRP).

OmiseGo (OMG)

OmiseGo is making great progress toward Plasma, a framework for scalable autonomous smart contracts.

The release of Plasma will be a significant development for OmiseGo. It will give the network nearly unlimited scalability and pave the way for a decentralized exchange.

OmiseGo is quickly progressing to its vision of being the next-generation financial network for the decentralized economy.

Relationships with the likes of the Bank of Thailand and Stripe should bear fruit before the year is out.

Action to Take: Buy OmiseGo (OMG) up to \$20.

ZenCash (ZEN)

ZenCash has made a lot of development progress since we recommended it last October.

It has a full set of desktop and mobile wallets and the Ledger wallet will add ZEN in the near future. It's also working on Trezor integration.

One of ZEN's biggest projects has been implementing secure nodes for its network. Secure nodes are important for two reasons. First, they provide the network with end-to-end encryption. And second, they lock up ZEN tokens because you need to stake them to run the node.

ZenCash now has more than 8,000 secure nodes, surpassing its goal of 1,000 by the end of the first quarter of 2018.

Recently, ZenCash announced Super Nodes. Super Nodes will manage key network and system functions.

Further, the super node network ups the allocation to the treasury to 10% from 8.5%, which will aid development.

They are also required to stake 500 ZEN to run the node. That locks up supply, making the trading supply more valuable.

As the Zen ecosystem has expanded, so has its transactions. When we first recommended Zen in October, it averaged 2,000 transactions per day. That's up to 12,000.

Action to Take: Buy ZenCash (ZEN) up to \$40.

Cindicator (CND)

Cindicator is a project that combines crowd intelligence with artificial intelligence to make predictions about markets. It recently announced that it has deployed its first fully functioning neural network.

The neural network incorporates Cindicator's various machine learning methods to improve the overall accuracy of its signals.

Cindicator is also gearing up for growth. In the last six months, it has increased its number of analysts from roughly 20,000 to over 83,000 today. And its added a 12-person public relations and marketing department.

With that the number of predictions has exploded. There were 404,393 in March 2018 alone. That's a nearly thirtyfold increase from last July.

And more people than ever are holding Cindicator tokens. There were roughly 4,000 after the token sale. Today, it's over 15,000.

Looking forward, Cindicator's focus for 2018 is on the creation of professional analytics decision tools for the crypto economy. Plus, it aims to capture a significant share of the international predictive analytics market.

So far, Cindicator's growth has been organic. But we expect it to ramp up with the new public relations and marketing department. Exciting times are ahead for Cindicator holders.

Action to Take: Buy Cindicator (CND) up to \$0.30.

Aion (AION)

Aion is our blockchain interoperability project. And it's hard at work building out its third-generation blockchain network.

The engineering team recently released FastVM, a virtual machine that paves the way for powerful interchain applications.

In testing, FastVM showed it could execute computations at higher speeds and lower costs than the Ethereum Virtual Machine. FastVM was 59% faster per execution and used 50% less space. That resulted in a 72% decrease in execution costs.

This means we could see Ethereum developers “off load” much of their processing needs onto the AION network while still working on the Ethereum network. This can create a “virtuous cycle” that attracts more and more developers to the AION platform.

Remember, the more a platform is used by developers the more valuable it becomes.

Aion also recently released its hashing algorithm, Equihash2109.

What's important about Aion's hashing algorithm is it is designed to be resistant to future ASIC designs (ASIC is a form of computer chip used by large scale crypto miners.) And that will help keep the network decentralized.

Lastly, all code for the Aion PoW (PoW means “proof of work,” a form of securing the blockchain and issuing new coins) release is now open-source and published on Github. This opens the door for third-party testing and development.

Action to Take: Buy Aion (AION) up to \$10.

Gifto (GTO)

Right now, Gifto is working on a wallet. It's the first step to getting Uplive's current userbase of over 30 million to start using GIFTO.

The GIFTO wallet will be a real-life application of crypto tokens to purchase goods and services on a large commercial platform.

The wallet is testing in-house right now with over 400 participants. Release is expected before the end of the second quarter.

Gifto also entered into two key strategic partnerships for the security of its platform.

The first is with DATA, a company that offers data authentication technology.

DATA can detect malicious nodes in the Gifto ecosystem and prevent them from generating fake virtual gifts.

The second partnership is with DATx, a decentralized advertising ecosystem with anti-fraud monitoring technology.

Gifto's goal for 2018 is simple: Create the largest consumer application of blockchain technology measured by actual user data.

Action to Take: Buy Gifto (GTO) up to \$0.80.

Steem Power (STEEM)

Last month, Facebook announced that about 87 million users had their information collected by a third-party. The privacy scandal rocked the company, and Facebook faced a backlash as users deleted their accounts.

The story highlights the downside of large, centralized social media sites. They collect your data and store it in a central location, making it a honeypot for hackers. And they profit greatly from your information, without you getting a cut.

There are many companies trying to solve this problem, but the leader is Steemit, the decentralized, blockchain-based social network. It's the most active and used blockchain in the world.

Right now, Steem processes, on average, 1.8 million transactions per day. That's nearly triple its closest competitor.

What's unique about Steemit is that you get paid for your posts in Steem cryptocurrency. You can also get paid for curating other people's posts.

People are catching on to the story. When we first recommended Steem in November 2016, it was just shy of 100,000 users. Today, it's closing in on 1 million.

And the ecosystem is rapidly growing. There's a number of apps that work on the Steemit blockchain that provide services other than blogging.

For example, there's DTube, a YouTube alternative; DMania, a service where you can get paid for creating memes; DLive, for live streaming; and Zappl, a Twitter alternative.

Looking forward, one of the big projects for Steemit in 2018 is Smart Media Tokens.

Smart Media Tokens allow anyone, even with no coding knowledge, to launch their own token for just \$1. They can do it without having to use steemit.com or the Steem cryptocurrency (except to buy in).

That means any content platform will now have the ability to monetize user-generated content with Smart Media Tokens.

The first Smart Media Token is being issued by a company called APPICS. The best way to describe APPICS is it is like a decentralized Instagram.

The app is expected to launch in the third quarter of 2018.

With the current Facebook privacy scandal highlighting the dangers of centralized databases, the public is starting to catch on to social media alternatives. We expect the growth to continue and another great year for Steem in 2018.

Action to Take: Buy SteemPower (STEEM) up to \$3.50.

Peerplays (**PPY**)

At the end of March, Peerplays released the public testnet for Bookie, its sports betting app.

The public testnet will help improve the network, fix bugs, and prepare it for the mainnet release.

To engage the public, Peerplays launched Betting with Bookie. It's an education series about online gaming.

The series is on Steemit. You can find the first two articles [here](#) and [here](#).

Bookie will be the first-ever public showcase of provably fair sports betting. With its launch, we'll see a ramp up of activity on the Peerplays blockchain.

Action to Take: Hold Peerplays (PPY).

Lykke (LKK)

Lykke aims to be a world-class exchange and user-friendly wallet application for all assets, including cryptocurrencies.

It's made a lot of progress towards that goal over the last 18 months:

- Added limit order capability to the Lykke Exchange.
- Added ETH, ETC, and LTC to the Exchange, with plans to add 13 more coins.
- Added margin trading and ERC20 support to the Lykke Wallet.
- Implemented offchain settlement, which decreases settlement times and lowers settlement costs.

Lykke's next goal is to move beyond hardcore traders and increase access to this space for regular people.

The next big step toward this vision in 2018 is Alpha Engine, an automated trading model algorithm.

Alpha Engine is expected to be released before the first half of the year is done.

In addition to Alpha Engine, Lykke also plans to offer new investment products like a crypto exchange-traded fund, and start a Lykke Card program.

Exciting times are ahead for Lykke.

Switching gears, we wanted to update you on regulatory issues affecting Lykke in the United States. In April 2017, Lykke suspended new U.S. customers from accessing the platform.

Here is the latest from Lykke:

Due to the regulatory restrictions of U.S., we are not yet permitted to approve residents and citizens from U.S. for full trading. Since we have now started the process to register our U.S. entity, we had to change our approach to clients in order to remain compliant and prevent potential problems.

Lykke hasn't provided a time frame, but it's looking resolve the issue as soon as possible. We'll keep you up to date with any new developments.

Action to Take: Hold Lykke (LKK).

Short-Term Cryptocurrency Portfolio

Iconomi (ICN)

Iconomi is a digital assets management platform. It enables users to invest in digital asset funds, which they call Digital Asset Arrays (DAA).

In March, Iconomi introduced fees payable in its ICN token. Adding fees payable in ICN will increase usage of the token.

Further, starting July 2018, DAA management fees will be collected and converted to ICN on a daily basis, then burned at the end of each quarter (this is like stock buybacks). The burn program will reduce the overall supply, making the remaining ICN tokens more valuable.

This is in addition to the ICN repayment program, which takes a percentage of revenue each quarter and uses it to purchase and burn ICN tokens.

Looking back at 2017, Iconomi grew rapidly:

- The book value of Iconomi grew from \$21 million in Q1 2017 to \$327 million by the end of the year.
- Iconomi revenues grew from \$50,000 in Q1 2017 to over \$1 million in Q4 2017.
- Users grew from zero to almost 44,000.

Looking into 2018, Iconomi remains resolute in its vision to be the bridge between the old and the new economy.

For users, Iconomi wants to redesign the website, provide more statistics, add a debit card, and make available the direct purchase of individual digital assets.

Action to Take: Buy Iconomi (ICN) up to \$2.

NEM (XEM)

After 2.5 years of development, the NEM.io Foundation and the developers of NEM announced the private beta launch of Catapult.

The project was done in conjunction with Tech Bureau, a fintech and cryptocurrency company. Catapult provides a customizable approach for businesses. It improves speed and scalability of the blockchain and adds other features.

Financial institutions around the world are already testing the software during the beta phase. Once beta testing is done, it will release the open-source version.

Over 2018, the NEM.io Foundation expects to spend \$40 million on global expansion.

In other news Tutellus, a blockchain which pays students for studying, has announced that it would be migrating from Ethereum to NEM.

There's now over 50 projects working on NEM, with a range of use cases from authenticity to gaming to payments.

Over the last year, we've seen the number of NEM accounts explode from less than 10,000 to over 110,000 today.

Transactions on the network are growing, too. A year ago, the NEM blockchain averaged 500 per day. Today, it's around 3,000—a sixfold increase.

Looking forward, NEM is working on a new blockchain platform called ProximaX. It's an all-in-one platform for cross-industry application and decentralized application (dApp) development.

Action to Take: Buy NEM (XEM) up to \$0.30.

Wings (WINGS)

After two years, Wings launched the WINGS Beta in mid-March.

Its prime objective is to provide the infrastructure for cryptocurrency projects around the globe to collaborate in trusted, reputation-based ICOs.

It's important to know some of the biggest names in crypto use the Wings platform... Well-known names include Jihan Wu of Bitmain, David Drake of LDJ Capital, and Transform Group headed by Michael Terpin.

That means projects on Wings are not just vetted by some anonymous crowd, but by well-known crypto whales, venture capitalists, and influencers.

During 2017, over 30 projects forecasted on the Wings platform. In total, those projects raised over \$425 million in the time that Wings pre-beta has been operational.

That's about 14% of total money raised in all ICOs in that time period.

Looking forward, Wings recently announced the addition of LDJ Capital founder and chairman David Drake to its advisory board.

LDJ Capital currently maintains over 50 global directors and partners, maintaining relations with institutions and family offices with \$1.5 trillion in assets.

Now, top blockchain projects that have leveraged Wings will have the opportunity to gain access to David Drake's extensive network of family offices and investors.

Action to Take: Buy Wings (WINGS) up to \$1.

Lisk (LSK)

Lisk is an open source blockchain platform powered by LSK tokens that will enable developers to create decentralized applications using JavaScript, one of the most popular programming languages.

Over the last month, Lisk released desktop and web app Lisk Hub, launched the Lisk Academy, introduced Lisk Template, ramped up marketing efforts, and improved customer support.

Some of the projects now building on include:

- Rencoin, an educational incentive platform for children. REN is a proof-of-work coin mined through educational effort.
- Sapiens, a decentralized academic and reputation platform. It's a blockchain-based protocol for a complete decentralized academic and certification system with an integrated courses marketplace.
- MADANA, a platform for data analysis. It uses blockchain technology allowing participants to get in on the data market with their own data and simultaneously protecting their privacy.

These projects chose Lisk for its speed, scalability, and developer tools.

2018 will be another great year for Lisk as it continues to improve the platform and more projects start building with Lisk.

Action to Take: Hold Lisk (LSK).

Basic Attention Token (BAT)

In late March, BAT completed its million-dollar BAT giveaway to 52,829 Brave browser users.

The goal was to incentivize use of the platform.

The Brave browser is a fast, open-source, privacy-focused browser that blocks ads and trackers. It measures user attention to reward publishers.

In the ecosystem, advertisers give publishers BATs for user views. Users also receive BATs for participating.

With the success of the first million-dollar BAT giveaway, a second was announced, this one in conjunction with Twitch.

Twitch is a popular live-streaming video game platform. It has over 2 million broadcasters and 15 million daily active users.

BAT wants to roll out Brave Payments to thousands of Twitch streamers.

There are now over 11,000 verified Brave website publishers and YouTube creators on the platform. This is great progress for the decentralized, open-source, blockchain-based digital advertising platform.

One big verified publisher is *The Washington Post*, owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. That means readers can now donate BAT to the publication via the Brave platform.

For the rest of 2018, BAT plans to continue adding publishers and creators to the platform. Further, it's targeting real ad revenue from the platform in 2018.

If successful, BAT can disrupt Google, Facebook, and the entire digital advertising industry.

Action to Take: Buy Basic Attention Token (BAT) up to \$0.35.

Bitshares (BTS)

In late March, the Bitshares Blockchain Foundation announced Bitshares Core Release 2.0. The upgrade makes security and bug fixes and improvements.

The Foundation also announced BTS will get listed on the Lykke Exchange. It's great news as it opens the door for other Bitshares assets being listed on Lykke.

Bitshares is an industrial-grade financial smart asset platform. Its software's scalability allows the network to do 100,000 transactions per second.

Bitshares features include price-stable cryptocurrencies, user-issued assets, and a decentralized asset exchange. It can also be used to launch a decentralized autonomous organization (DAO).

As an open-source and open-community project, Bitshares is governed by the Bitshares Blockchain Foundation and the 11-member Bitshares Committee.

They aim to grow and develop the Bitshares ecosystem.

All Committee members are set by the votes of Bitshares owners and work to provide transparency and visibility to the community.

One recent successful development came from Super.one, which released a mobile wallet for the Bitshares platform. Projects like that will help the Bitshares community continue to grow.

There are now over 100,000 BTS holders on the Bitshares blockchain. That's up from 40,000 six months ago.

Further, the total value on the Bitshares blockchain is \$40 million. That's up from \$15 million six months ago.

And it continues to be one of the most active blockchains in existence. Bitshares averages 750,000 transactions per day. Second only to Steemit.

Looking forward, the Foundation sees community development as a key pillar of the success of the ecosystem.

To that end, it announced the first Bitshares-centered conference called BitFest. It'll be held in Amsterdam in September and will bring together the Bitshares community to collaborate and network.

Action to Take: Buy Bitshares (BTS) up to \$0.40.

Syscoin (SYS)

The goal of Syscoin is to be the eBay of blockchain. In addition to being a decentralized platform to buy and sell goods, it is also a cryptocurrency and offers other services.

With Syscoin, you'll be able to buy and sell things online with lower fees, less restrictions, anonymity, and better speed and reliability than big competitors.

Syscoin is the flagship project of Blockchain Foundry, a software development company with a focus on the blockchain. Blockchain Foundry has a partnership with Microsoft. And Syscoin launched its products on Microsoft's Azure cloud computing service.

In September 2017, Syscoin released Blockmarket Desktop v 1.0. Blockmarket is Blockchain Foundry's flagship software. It's the decentralized marketplace that allows users to buy and sell products.

The release is impressive considering the Syscoin team just went full time at the end of 2017. That's when Blockchain Foundry received C\$3.3 million in funding.

Looking forward, Syscoin is expected to release Syscoin 3.0 at the end of April. This is a significant release, as it will add masternodes and token issuance to the platform.

A masternode is an important, incentivized way to run a decentralized network. And in order to run a masternode, you need to hold a set amount of the tokens (100,000 for Syscoin), which locks up supply.

Token issuance enables the creation of custom asset tokens on the network. It opens the door to services such as hosting and running loyalty programs, ICOs, or simple reward applications.

Lastly, Syscoin plans on releasing Blockmarket Web in 2018. This is the mobile version of Blockmarket and it will open up Syscoin to even more users.

With funding in place and the upcoming releases of Syscoin 3.0 and Blockmarket Web, Syscoin is well-positioned for a great 2018.

Action to Take: Buy Syscoin (SYS) up to \$0.30.

Zcoin (**XZC**)

Zcoin recently released an update that includes performance enhancements, security fixes, and better privacy.

Zcoin also expanded its team.

It's great to see the Zcoin team expanding, as it made great strides in 2017. First, it made mining on Zcoin ASICs more fairly distributed. It also uses a bitcoin base, which means it can adopt bitcoin improvements easily.

Second, Zcoin implemented Znodes. Znodes will enable the entire system to process more transactions, improving scalability. Further, miners will no longer need to verify transactions, which will improve efficiency.

Znodes also have the benefit of locking up supply, which reduces the float of XZC in the market. Each Znode is required to hold 1,000 XZC. Today, there are nearly 3,000 Znodes.

The progress over the year led to increased usage of the network as well. For much of 2017, Zcoin averaged 750 transactions per day. But by the end of the year, it had grown to 4,000.

Looking forward, Zcoin wants to develop a truly secure and private platform that works for everything, from peer-to-peer transactions to more commercial applications.

Action to Take: Buy Zcoin (XZC) up to \$20.

Waves (**WAVES**)

In late 2017, Waves launched Waves Lab.

The Waves Lab takes promising startups that on the Waves platform, equipping them with financial, legal, and technical advice, as well as marketing assistance to make sure its projects get off to a flying start.

The first projects include Simdaq (a social trading platform), MyTrackNet (a blockchain-based, geo-tracking application), Viso (a hybrid e-payments/cryptocurrency payment platform), and Likey (a one-stop shop for loyalty programs).

Simdaq reached its hard cap of \$5 million in just 28 hours thanks its partnership with the Waves Lab incubator.

Waves Lab is now reviewing hundreds of applications for its next set of participants.

Waves made great strides in 2017 to make this possible. Key projects included the launch of Waves-NG and the release of Waves Client 1.0.

Waves-NG, a new consensus algorithm, improved the speed and scalability of the platform. And Waves Client 1.0 was a complete overhaul of the user interface.

The advancements and ICOs have led to rapid growth of the ecosystem.

The Waves decentralized exchange, for example, is now regularly doing over 10,000 transactions per day. It launched in the second quarter of 2017.

The Waves ecosystem now regularly does over 100,000 transactions per day. At the beginning of 2017, it was less than 1,000 per day.

Looking forward for 2018, Waves will continue to incubate new projects on its platform, add a blockchain messenger service to the platform, and add smart contract functionality.

There's two other exciting developments as well.

The first will enable developers to quickly and easily integrate new cryptocurrency coins within their ecosystem. With that, users will be able to trade those coins on the Waves Decentralized Exchange.

The second is Waves' partnership with Tokenomica, a global, blockchain-based investment bank. With its focus on regulatory compliance, Tokenomica could usher in institutional investment to the Waves platform.

Action to Take: Buy Waves (WAVES) up to \$4.

MaidSafeCoin (**MAID**)

The MaidSafe mission is to provide security and privacy for everyone by building a better internet platform.

It's doing that through what it calls the SAFE Network, which is the world's first autonomous and decentralized data network.

The network is made up of the unused hard-drive space, processing power, and bandwidth of its users, and it will include storage, peer-to-peer communications, transactions, internet functionality, and other applications.

MaidSafe is planning new partnerships, hires, and conferences that will bring the development team together.

Looking forward, MaidSafe will make its network architecture more decentralized.

Down the road is Alpha 4, which adds a storage layer to the platform and enables autonomous data services.

Action to Take: Buy MaidSafeCoin (MAID) up to \$0.50.

Golem Network (**GNT**)

Over the beginning of 2018, Golem released upgrades to prepare for the Golem mainnet release.

And on April 10, Golem released Brass Golem Beta 0.15.0. The main feature of the new release is that it now runs on the Ethereum mainnet.

That means you can now connect Golem to the Ethereum mainnet and earn and spend real GNT for computations.

Further, with the release of Brass Golem Beta 0.15.0, Golem also initiated a bug bounty program. A bug bounty program is common for new software releases. Individuals are incentivized to report any bugs, exploits, or vulnerabilities.

Golem has a total bounty reward pool of 500,000 GNT. Individuals will earn GNT based on the severity and frequency of any vulnerability they may find.

Looking forward, one area that Golem is actively investigating is training machine learning models. It's a field with an insatiable need for computing power.

Its goal is to be able to provide developers with a set of tools to enable them to host their machine learning stack on Golem.

Action to Take: Buy Golem Network (GNT) up to \$0.60.

Aragon Network (**ANT**)

Aragon believes we've evolved so much as a society, yet our governance structures are hundreds of years old. Aragon wants to change the way we govern, putting an end to nation-states and corporations as we know them today.

At the end of March, Aragon released a beta codenamed "The Architect."

It's the most powerful way to create and manage any type of decentralized organization.

Aragon released a video describing it, which you can watch here.

What's neat is that you can expand its functionality by installing additional new apps.

To spur development of its network, Aragon recently launched Aragon Nest. Done in conjunction with Placeholder Capital, it's a grants program to support the development of the ecosystem. The program is designed to attract talent to research and build the necessary tooling for developing

solutions around Aragon and Ethereum. Aragon Nest is now taking submissions.

Aragon also announced Aragon Labs, a partnership with other Ethereum ecosystem projects. The goal is to enable experimental research and development efforts.

Exciting times are ahead for Aragon as the leader in decentralized autonomous organization governance.

Right now, Aragon has total cash on its balance sheet of \$151 million. Meanwhile, it trades at a valuation of \$94 million, a 38% discount to its cash value.

Action to Take: Buy Aragon (ANT) up to \$8.

Bitcoin Cash (BCH)

There are three simple reasons why you need to own BCH.

First, it's a hedge against bitcoin. According to Bitcoin Cash, it brings sound money to the world, fulfilling the original promise of bitcoin as "peer-to-peer electronic cash."

Second, it's supported by some of the biggest names in the cryptocurrency space. Specifically, "Bitcoin Jesus" Roger Ver and Jihan Wu of Bitmain. Both have deep pockets and deep connections in the cryptocurrency world.

And third, it's one of the most accessible coins for new investment. BCH is available on nearly 300 exchanges including Coinbase and Gemini. It's easy for retail investors to buy BCH in their local currency. And when exchanges such as Coinbase and Gemini add institutional custodial services, it will be one of the first coins that institutions buy.

Action to Take: Buy Bitcoin Cash (BCH) up to \$1,400.

EOS.IO (EOS)

EOS.IO bills itself as the most powerful infrastructure for decentralized applications. It launches June 1.

Block.one, its parent company, recently announced the release of EOSIO, Dawn 3.0.

Dawn 3.0 adds many features such as improved scalability features, inter-blockchain communication, lost password recovery, a transaction proposal system, and many others. With Dawn 3.0, EOS is capable of handling 6,000 transactions per second.

EOSIO expects to be capable of a Visa-like 25,000 transactions per second.

When it launches, it plans on hitting the ground running. Here's some of what's going on in the background:

- In January, Block.one announced a partnership with TomorrowVentures, the venture capital firm backed by former Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt. The firm will seed TomorrowBC with \$50 million for opportunities leveraging EOS.
- In January, Block.one announced a partnership with Galaxy Digital LP, the venture capital fund of ex-hedge fund manager Mike Novogratz. Block.one and Galaxy Digital will fund an EOS.IO Ecosystem Fund with \$325 million.
- The same month, Block.one hired Richard Jung to lead development of the EOS.IO community in Korea. He's the former CEO of Bithumb.
- Additionally, Everipedia, a blockchain-based competitor to Wikipedia led by Sam Kazemian and Wikipedia co-founder Larry Sanger, announced in January that it will be developed exclusively on the EOS platform.
- In March, Block.one announced a \$100 million joint venture with FinLab AG. The venture will accelerate the development of EOS.IO projects in Europe. FinLab AG is one of the largest German investors in the financial services technology sector.

There are currently over 70 dApps building on the EOS platform.

To date, Block.one, through the EOS token sale, has raised a war chest of over \$2.7 billion.

Looking forward, the release of EOSIO Dawn 3.0 paves the way for the public launch in June.

According to Dan Larimer, chief technology officer of EOS, "EOSIO has become far more powerful and easy to develop for than we had conceived a year ago."

Action to Take: Hold EOS.IO (EOS).

Binance (BNB)

Recently, regulators cracked down on exchanges in Japan, Hong Kong, and the U.S. In response, Binance announced it would open an office in Malta.

Malta, a tiny European island south of Italy, is looking to become a global leader in blockchain. Per Malta Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, "We aim to be the global trailblazers in the regulation of blockchain-based businesses and the jurisdiction of quality and choice for world-class fintech companies."

Said Binance CEO Changpeng Zhao, "We are very confident we can announce a banking partnership there soon. Malta is very progressive when it comes to crypto and fintech."

In addition to having a more supportive regulatory environment, moving to Malta will also enable fiat-to-crypto exchange. Binance is working to secure deals with local banks to provide access to fiat deposits and withdrawals.

It's been a roller coaster ride for Binance. It launched in July 2017 and quickly became one of the leading cryptocurrency exchanges.

When it launched, it had less than 30 trading pairs and exchanges volume averaged less than \$100 million per day. Today, Binance offers 300 trading pairs and does volume of over \$1 billion daily.

And Binance boasts 7.9 million users—more people than the population of Hong Kong.

But with the increase in users comes risks. And in March, we saw a large-scale phishing and theft attempt on the Binance exchange.

The theft attempt highlights one of risks of centralized exchanges—namely, that your funds could be stolen.

Thankfully, Binance has a strong risk-management system. As soon as the system triggered, all withdrawals were halted immediately.

Binance was able to identify and freeze the funds of the hacker(s). No Binance users lost any funds. And all funds from the hacker(s) will be donated to charity.

Further, Binance instituted a \$250,000 bounty for any information that leads to the arrest of the hacker(s).

In response to the regulatory crackdowns and theft attempts, Binance announced the development of Binance Chain in March.

This is the planned Binance decentralized trading platform. With a decentralized exchange, orders and information are routed peer-to-peer, and individuals hold funds. It eliminated the risk of a central party holding all the funds.

Binance continues to be a great picks-and-shovels play for the cryptocurrency market.

Action to Take: Hold Binance (BNB).

Salt Lending (**SALT**)

It's been a busy 2018 so far for Salt Lending.

With an expanding business, it made two new key hires.

First is Jennifer Neelson as chief marketing officer. In her last role, she turned the Denver Center for the Performing Arts into the largest theater organization in the U.S.

And second is Bill Sinclair as chief technology officer. He has over 20 years of experience managing IT departments and software development teams in a number of industries including finance, energy, and IoT.

In the last year, Salt grew community participation from a few hundred members to over 65,000 today.

To cope with a rapidly growing community, it recently started a community channel partner program. The first two partners are Telegram and Discord.

On the loan side, Salt is now able to service loans in both the UK and New Zealand, opening up two new markets.

Finally, Salt launched the SALT Foundation. The Foundation intends to partner with nonprofits in small pilot programs around the world.

Since launching at the beginning of the year, the Salt Lending platform now has 64,177 active members and has funded \$38 million in loans.

Also look for Salt to add ETH-collateralized loans and launch a crypto credit card.

One more thing to keep in mind: Loans on the Salt platform can be repaid in SALT at the retail price of \$27.50, much above the current market price. It's an anomaly that won't last forever.

Action to Take: Buy Salt Lending (SALT) up to \$20.

Stellar Lumens (XLM)

Announced last October, the partnership between Stellar and IBM is gaining steam.

In a recent Reddit "Ask Me Anything" forum, Jesse Lund, IBM's leader for blockchain market development and digital currency strategy, gave the following highlights of the partnership:

- Stellar is already live on IBM for cheaper and quicker payments across borders.
- The chance of the Stellar network being the first to see central bank-issued digital tokens is very likely. (According to Lund, the world is "very, very close" to seeing a central bank-issued digital currency token.)
- Stellar Lumens is intended to be the primary bridge asset in IBM's universal payments solution.
- IBM has no immediate plans of giving out its own tokens; instead, it will be pushing XLM to its clients. Stellar is an integral part of IBM's strategy for the future.
- IBM aims to use Stellar to compete with Ripple and take over cross-border transactions. It already has a long list of clients ready to go live with Stellar Lumens international transactions in Q2 2018.

This is exciting news. It's possible XLM will become the default crypto for central banks. IBM works with many of the central banks already.

Stellar is growing rapidly. It's averaging 50,000 transactions per day, up from less than 10,000 per day six months ago.

Co-founder Jed McCaleb thinks that by 2028, Stellar could power a "Universal Payments Network" that processes not only payments, but also traditional assets like stocks and shares.

Said Jed, "In the next 10 years, I wouldn't be surprised if all equity isn't tokenized on some blockchain somewhere. The change will potentially occur before 2028."

Action to Take: Buy Stellar Lumens (XLM) up to \$0.24.

Qtum (QTUM)

Qtum is a blockchain application platform for smart contracts and decentralized applications.

Applications on Qtum can combine the security of the bitcoin blockchain with the functionality of Ethereum smart contracts.

We're now starting to see a host of decentralized applications build on Qtum.

One is Vevue, a peer-to-peer incentivized video network that runs on the Qtum blockchain.

It's teaming up with indie film *No Postage Necessary* to distribute the film on the Qtum blockchain.

Director Jeremy Culver noted, "There are many advantages to blockchain distribution, including immutable proof of intellectual property rights, transparent royalty payments, and, since all data on the blockchain is resistant to duplication, we can now envision a world where films are no longer pirated."

Another project building on Qtum is Bingo. The Bingo team has a proven track record of over 15 years of experience creating entertainment products. And it recently developed Qtum Heroes, which is the first cryptocurrency game on Qtum.

Qtum is becoming a popular vehicle through which start-ups can use the blockchain and build their decentralized applications.

Looking forward, Qtum will look to continue to develop its relationships in 2018. One example is Baofeng Bokocloud. It's one of the most popular online video players in China, with over 200 million users.

On the development side, we should see the release of the Qtum x86 Virtual Machine. It will be a game changer since it will support mainstream programming languages, equipping more developers to launch more applications on the platform.

Action to Take: Buy Qtum (QTUM) up to \$65.

Dragonchain (DRGN)

Dragonchain recently started its incubation program for blockchain start-ups called Dragonscale. Businesses can launch their own tokens on top of the Dragonchain network.

So far, there's already five Dragonscale incubator projects announced. Those include Iagon (AI-powered supercomputing), GiveWithNothing.org (trustless charitable giving), BioCrypt Technologies (biometric wallets for payments and security), Metropolis (distributed employment marketplace), and Look Lateral (global art exchange).

In March, Dragonchain announced the sixth project to its incubator program. Called Coiin, it's a digital engagement platform that rewards social media users through the blockchain. It's aiming to upend social media platforms, where the vast majority of financial benefits currently go to the platform owner and not the users.

Behind the scenes, Dragonchain also opened limited access to its commercial AWS Serverless Platform.

There are many benefits including:

- No fixed costs. It's a pay-as-you-go model, so you only pay for what you need.
- Quicker deployment.
- Enhanced scalability.
- Less delays.

Official launch of the serverless platform is expected in the first half of 2018.

Also on deck for 2018 is adding a smart contracts library, developing a commercialized dashboard and marketplace, and deploying on Microsoft Azure.

Since its launch in October 2017, Dragonchain has gone quickly from an idea to a leader in helping commercial businesses use the blockchain.

Expect more projects to launch on its platform over the course of 2018.

Action to Take: Buy Dragonchain (DRGN) up to \$5.

Worldwide Asset Exchange (**WAX**)

WAX is the global decentralized marketplace for virtual assets.

Created by top virtual goods marketplace OPSkins, WAX allows anyone to host their own marketplace to buy and trade securely and with low fees from anywhere in the world.

WAX is designed to serve the 400 million gamers who already collect, buy, and sell in-game items with a simple exchange that leverages blockchain technology for transaction verification and recording.

OPSkinS boasts over 2 million transactions on its platform, with 200,000 new users joining every month.

Cryptocurrency and gaming are a natural fit. Gamers tend to be technologically savvy and are more comfortable with the idea of cryptocurrencies. For example, 55% of millennial gamers own cryptocurrency, compared to just 5% of all millennials.

Now, with cryptocurrencies, games can monetize their virtual gaming goods.

WAX is becoming the go-to platform for in-game items and crypto collectibles.

WAX is forming a number of partnerships and continues to add assets to its platform:

- OPSkinS partnered with Salt Lending to enable WAX tokens to be used as collateral for cash loans.
- WAX formed a strategic partnership with Gifto, the blockchain virtual gifting protocol, where Gifto virtual gifts will be tradable on WAX.

Today, more than 5 million in-game digital items are listed for sale in exchange for WAX on the OPSkinS platform. Items range anywhere in price from pennies to tens of thousands of dollars.

That means buyers can use WAX to purchase items. Sellers can accept earnings in WAX. Then, WAX can be used to purchase other items or can be sent to a crypto wallet for other uses.

Looking forward, the focus for the remainder of 2018 is launching the WAX blockchain.

The first half of 2018 will see a testnet and alpha development. The second half of the year brings the beta and official launch of WAX's custom blockchain.

That will bring WAX one step closer to its ultimate goal of creating a complete decentralized platform for virtual goods.

Action to Take: Buy Worldwide Asset Exchange (WAX) up to \$1.40.

Cardano (ADA)

Cardano is a third-generation cryptocurrency and technology platform. It aims to have the capabilities of bitcoin and Ethereum, but at a scale of billions of people, with built-in interoperability, funding, and governance.

The project is unique in that it takes a scientific philosophy and a research-driven approach. Small groups of academics and developers compete with peer-reviewed research. There's heavy use of interdisciplinary teams, including early use of security experts. And there's fast iteration between white papers.

The company behind Cardano is IOHK. Led by Ethereum co-founder Charles Hoskinson, the team has over 100 members, including scientists, engineers, developers, and researchers.

Cardano is being constructed in layers, which provides flexibility and enables easier upgrades.

Currently, Cardano is progressing from its current development phase called Byron to the next phase called Shelley. Byron launched in September 2017 and got the network off the ground. In Shelley, Cardano will lay the groundwork for a path to full decentralization of the Cardano network.

Over the second and third quarters of 2018, Cardano will release the features of Shelley including proof-of-stake protocol Ouroboros, a wallet backend, light client support, voting, and human-friendly addresses.

By the end of 2018, you'll see a whole new decentralized Cardano Network.

This is big news because the opportunity is so big. Cardano wants to be the underlying financial system of the world.

Per Charles Hoskinson, "We have a vision that one day we can build a system that can have 3 billion users."

Action to Take: Buy Cardano (ADA) up to \$0.90.

Power Ledger (**POWR**)

Power Ledger is building a trustless, transparent, interoperable energy-trading platform. It will connect with both the current power system and with rapidly growing alternative energy sources, like solar and wind power.

The company already has several successful partnerships and pilot projects:

- Busselton, Western Australia: Power Ledger's pilot enabled a community to buy, sell, and trade energy on the Power Ledger platform. Power Ledger completely bypassed the traditional energy grid. A review of the project showed the average home in the community saved 600 Australian dollars (US\$481) per year.
- Origin Energy: One of Australia's largest utility providers. In a pilot program between Origin and Power Ledger, Origin will explore the benefits and challenges of peer-to-peer energy trading.
- The Australian Government: The Australian government granted Power Ledger 8 million Australian dollars for a project in Fremantle, Australia. The project will test the use of blockchain-powered distributed energy.
- BCPG: BCPG is a Thai-government-backed renewable energy developer. BCPG and Power Ledger will collaborate to establish a microgrid development in Bangkok. Further, Power Ledger will work with the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand to study smart energy infrastructure for Thailand's Smart Park.

Over 2018, Power Ledger will be looking to strengthen existing relationships and form new ones. It intends to start distributing POWR tokens from its growth pool that will incentivize use of the platform.

It's also looking for new areas for deployment. It recently partnered with the Clean Energy Blockchain Network to identify opportunities in North America.

They are also in talks for projects in India and Tasmania.

Also exciting is that Power Ledger is one of three finalists for Richard Branson's Extreme Tech Challenge. They will get to showcase their product this upcoming October on Necker Island.

Power Ledger is quickly becoming one of the leading blockchain energy projects in the space.

Action to Take: Buy Power Ledger (POWR) up to \$0.85.

VeChain (VEN)

VeChain, a subsidiary of China's biggest blockchain technology company, BitSE, is a leading global enterprise-level public blockchain platform.

It aims to connect blockchain technology to the real world by providing a comprehensive governance structure, a robust economic model, advanced IoT integration, and pioneers in real-world applications.

In late February 2018, VeChain rebranded to VeChainThor. It will use a two-token system like NEO does with NEO and GAS. In the case of VeChainThor, it will be VET and THOR. (Please note: You may still see the VEN ticker being used.)

Since launching in early 2017, it formed numerous strategic partnerships:

- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC): The second-largest professional services firm in the world. In May 2017, VeChain became a part of PwC's incubation program. The incubation program will help VeChain accelerate development by providing access to markets and strategic advice.
- Direct Imported Goods: China's largest importer of fine wines. Direct Imported Goods placed 1 million bottles of wine on VeChain's platform to counteract the huge issue of fake wine in the country.
- Renault: French carmaker. Partnered with VeChain for automotive supply chain management and car data integrity.
- Kuehne & Nagel: The world's largest freight company—which accounts for 10% of the world's air and sea freight business—signed a service contract with VeChain to track assets, especially luxury goods, on the blockchain.

- Michigan State University: VeChain formed a research partnership with Michigan State University and PwC to look into non-financial applications of blockchain.
- BMW: German automaker. It will utilize the supply-chain enhancement capabilities of the VeChain platform.

Perhaps the most important strategic relationship, however, is with the Chinese government.

Every five years, China puts out a five-year plan that maps out economic development.

In its most recent one, China made 5G wireless, smart manufacturing, cloud computing, IoT, and blockchain technology priorities.

Further, it mandated VeChain as the blockchain technology partner of the government of Guian New Area, considered to be the national data center of China.

As part of the mandate, VeChain will improve government operations, develop and build the world's first smart city, register businesses on the blockchain, work on smart-agriculture solutions, and more.

VeChain also notes that there many other partnerships that are yet to be disclosed due to non-disclosure agreements.

On the development side, VeChain is working to release the VeChainThor blockchain by the end of the second quarter of 2018. That will introduce the two-token system of VET and THOR.

To spur development, VeChain is looking to add more than 100 additional full-time developers by the end of 2018.

It's also working on implementing its masternode systems. The masternodes are responsible for processing and confirming transactions on the network. They also have the added benefit of locking up VET tokens, making circulating tokens more valuable. (VeChain will have different levels of nodes, with the highest level needing to stake 250,000 VET.)

To that end, it recently started its Economic X Nodes Program, which rewards participants for running nodes.

Action to Take: Buy VeChain (VEN) up to \$5.

STOCKS

Name	Symbol	Buy Date	Curr Price	Return	Yield	Stop Loss	Action
<u>Sandstorm Gold Ld</u>	SAND	07/22/2016	\$4.81	-7.0%	0.0%	52.3% Trailing	Buy up to \$8
<u>Orezone Gold</u>	ORE-V	10/21/2016	\$0.91	21.3%	0.0%	50% Trailing	Buy up to C\$0.75
<u>SPARK THERAPEUTICS</u>	ONCE	12/22/2016	\$81.45	72.1%	0.0%	50% Trailing	Hold
<u>Net 1 UEPS Tech Rg</u>	UEPS	03/15/2018	\$8.79	-17.2%	0.0%	35% Hard Stop	Buy up to \$12

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Name	Symbol	Buy Date	Curr Price	Return	Yield	Stop Loss	Action
<u>Bitcoin</u>	BTC/USD	04/18/2016	\$8165.36	1807.8%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$25,000
<u>Ether</u>	ETH/USD	04/18/2016	\$524.16	5724.0%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$400
<u>Monero</u>	XMR/USD	09/15/2016	\$228.29	2598.4%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Peerplays</u>	PPY/USD	11/23/2016	\$4.88	277.4%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Lykke</u>	LKK/USD	11/23/2016	\$0.07	47.8%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>NEO</u>	NEO/USD	02/16/2017	\$72.89	57980.3%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Factom</u>	FCT/USD	03/16/2017	\$27.86	563.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$50
<u>Storj</u>	STORJ/USD	04/20/2017	\$1.04	210.0%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$1.00
<u>Ethereum Classic</u>	ETC/USD	05/18/2017	\$17.63	58.1%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$25
<u>Dash</u>	DASH/USD	05/25/2017	\$419.56	216.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$800
<u>Ripple</u>	XRP/USD	05/25/2017	\$0.71	163.6%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>OmiseGo</u>	OMG/USD	08/07/2017	\$15.05	413.8%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$20
<u>Gas</u>	GAS/USD	08/14/2017	\$21.58	-4.7%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$45
<u>ZenCash</u>	ZEN/USD	10/19/2017	\$35.16	53.3%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$40
<u>Cindicator</u>	CND/USD	12/18/2017	\$0.10	156.9%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.30
<u>Aion</u>	AION/USD	01/02/2018	\$3.11	-49.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$10
<u>Gifto</u>	GTO/USD	02/15/2018	\$0.28	-19.7%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.80
<u>SteemPower</u>	SteemPower	11/23/2016	\$2.85	2449.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$3.50

SHORT-TERM CRYPTOCURRENCY TRADING

Name	Symbol	Buy Date	Curr Price	Return	Yield	Stop Loss	Action
<u>Iconomi</u>	ICN/USD	05/22/2017	\$1.24	32.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$2
<u>NEM</u>	XEM/USD	05/25/2017	\$0.37	57.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.30
<u>Wings</u>	WINGS/USD	06/02/2017	\$0.52	16.3%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$1
<u>Lisk</u>	LSK/USD	06/02/2017	\$11.35	772.7%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Basic Attention Token</u>	BAT/USD	06/07/2017	\$0.36	34.7%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.35
<u>Bitshares</u>	BTS/USD	06/21/2017	\$0.23	-28.8%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.40
<u>Syscoin</u>	SYS/USD	06/21/2017	\$0.42	105.0%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.30
<u>Zcoin</u>	XZC/USD	06/21/2017	\$37.36	133.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$20
<u>Waves</u>	WAVES/USD	06/26/2017	\$4.93	23.3%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$4
<u>MaidSafeCoin</u>	MAID/USD	06/28/2017	\$0.36	-23.6%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.50
<u>Golem Network</u>	GNT/USD	06/28/2017	\$0.45	-19.1%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.60
<u>Aragon</u>	ANT/USD	06/28/2017	\$3.57	35.9%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$8

Name	Symbol	Buy Date	Curr Price	Return	Yield	Stop Loss	Action
<u>Bitcoin Cash</u>	BCH/USD	11/13/2017	\$888.77	-28.0%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$1,400
<u>Eos.io</u>	EOS/USD	11/14/2017	\$9.02	526.4%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Binance</u>	BNB/USD	11/29/2017	\$12.24	551.0%	0.0%	None	Hold
<u>Salt</u>	SALT/USD	12/06/2017	\$3.13	-47.5%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$20
<u>Stellar</u>	XLM/USD	12/20/2017	\$0.35	50.0%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.24
<u>Qtum</u>	QTUM/USD	01/08/2018	\$17.55	-68.8%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$65
<u>Dragonchain</u>	DRGN/USD	01/08/2018	\$1.16	-72.1%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$5
<u>Worldwide Asset Exchange</u>	WAX/USD	01/08/2018	\$0.34	-71.1%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$1.40
<u>Cardano</u>	ADA/USD	01/12/2018	\$0.26	-66.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.90
<u>Power Ledger</u>	POWR/USD	01/17/2018	\$0.47	-39.2%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$0.85
<u>VeChain</u>	VEN/USD	03/12/2018	\$3.58	-4.5%	0.0%	None	Buy up to \$5

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