

USD as Usual?

A CASE STUDY ON HOW USUAL MAY HAVE UNCOVERED A WAY TO PAY YIELD ON MICA-COMPLIANT STABLECOINS

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Introduction

Usual issues a US dollar-pegged stablecoin and a yield-generating version that at first glance appears to have found a way to circumvent the European Union's flagship crypto-asset law, the Markets in Crypto Assets ("MiCA") regulation.

Stablecoins are divided into two categories under MiCA, e-money tokens and asset-referenced tokens, both of which are prohibited from "granting interest" to token holders.¹

Usual issues the USD0 token as a "USD-pegged"² stablecoin backed by tokenized Real-World Assets ("RWAs").³

While USD0 doesn't pay any interest to token holders, USD0 token holders can stake their USD0 to receive USD0++ which "is a composable token that represents staked USD0, functioning like a liquid savings account."⁴

Unlike USD0, USD0++ pays a yield to token holders in the form of USUAL tokens whose "value increases with the Total Value Locked (TVL)" in the USUAL protocol.⁵

Usual's USDO and USDO++ are issued and managed by two French entities and their terms of service are governed by French law, which would include MiCA.

While USD0 could possibly be compliant with MiCA, it is less clear whether USD0++ would be compliant given it pays interest in the form of yield.

If USDO++ could be MiCA-compliant, then Usual would have found an incredible loophole in the EU's crypto-asset regulations that opens fresh opportunities for a variety of service providers.

In this case study, we explore how Usual uses two complementary stablecoin products that combined deliver one of crypto's killer use cases – paying yield from real world assets to anonymous beneficiaries.

¹Article 50 and Article 40 of MiCA.

- ² https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin#usd0-the-stability-asset-of-the-usual-protocol
- ³ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin

⁴ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/usd0++-characteristics#characteristics

⁵ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/usd0++-alpha-yield#advantages-of-usual







Usual isn't a single stablecoin product but consists of two offerings, USDO and USDO++ which combined allow participants in the Usual dollar stablecoin ecosystem to receive yield from their stablecoin holdings.

What is USD0?

Unlike stablecoins backed by bank deposits, USDO is,⁶

"Backed 1:1 by Real-World Assets (RWA) with ultra-short maturity, USD0 ensures unparalleled stability and security."

"USDO is the world's first RWA stablecoin that aggregates various US Treasury Bill tokens, providing a secure, bankruptcy-remote solution unlinked to traditional bank deposits. USDO is fully transferable and permissionless, ensuring seamless integration and accessibility within the DeFi ecosystem."

Despite being backed by assets which appear to pay interest, USDO does not pay any interest to its token holders, consistent with Article 50 of MiCA.

Is USD0 an "e-money token" under MiCA?

According to Article 3, 1.(7) of MiCA,

'electronic money token' or 'e-money token' means a type of crypto-asset that purports to maintain a stable value by referencing the value of one official currency;

Article 3, 1.(8) of MiCA further defines,

'official currency' means an official currency of a country that is issued by a central bank or other monetary authority;

"USDO is Usual's USD-pegged stablecoin"⁷ and presumably "USD" refers to the United States dollar, the official currency issued by the US Federal Reserve, so USDO would likely come under MiCA's definition of an e-money token ("EMT").

⁶ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin#introducing-usd0-usual-usd-fiat-backed-stablecoin ⁷ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin#usd0-the-stability-asset-of-the-usual-protocol





What is USD0++?

USDO++ on the other hand pays yield to USDO token holders who lock their tokens with the Usual protocol for varying lengths of time, to receive their yield in the form of USUAL tokens.

USUAL tokens come with a variety of rights,⁸

"Consequently, \$USUAL is a genuine governance token, backed by real yield and revenue, granting ownership rights over the protocol's actual revenues, future revenues, and infrastructure. This sets it apart from many other governance tokens, which often lack intrinsic value."

"USD0++ serves as the primary vehicle for this distribution, offering holders an enhanced T-Bill equivalent."

USDO++ does not purport "to maintain a stable value by referencing the value of one official currency" and is therefore unlikely to be classified as an EMT.

Is USD0++ an "asset-referenced token" under MiCA?

It is however unclear whether USD0++ would be construed as an asset-referenced token ("ART") under MiCA, where Article 3,1.(6) provides,

'asset-referenced token' means a type of crypto-asset that is not an electronic money token and that purports to maintain a stable value by referencing another value or right or a combination thereof, including one or more official currencies;

Usual describes⁹ USDO++ as a "composable token that represents staked USDO" which could be interpreted as USDO++ "referencing another value."

USDO++ is described¹⁰ as having "No Risk to Principal" as well as a "Guaranteed Risk-Free Yield" which suggest that its value is intended to remain referenced to USDO while paying a minimum guaranteed level of yield.

⁹ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/usd0++-characteristics

¹⁰ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token

⁸ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/why-usd0++

USDO++ also includes a "Price Floor Redemption" where "users have the option to redeem USDO++ at a price floor without burning USUAL" tokens¹¹ and guarantees a minimum redemption price for USDO++.

Many yield-paying tokens are re-basing tokens, meaning the number of tokens holder increases as it accrues yield, while others such as USDO++ are not.

Non-rebasing tokens receive more yield the longer such non-rebasing tokens are staked, as is the case for USD0++.

Because USDO++ is a non-rebasing token, its value tracks the value of the underlying tokens and accrued yield.

As such, a reasonable argument could be made that in substance, USDO++ would satisfy MiCA's definition of an asset-referenced token.

Why should MiCA apply to Usual?

Two French entities appear to be behind the Usual ecosystem – Usual Labs and ADDU, and Usual's founding team, who authored Usual's whitepaper, appear to be predominantly French.

According to Usual's Terms of Service,¹² Usual Labs:

"means the User's co-contracting party, Up Only Co, a software company contributing to the development of the Protocol, registered at 1, rue de Stockholm, 75008 Paris, with the Commercial and Companies Register of Paris under number 919 540 427."

While ADDU refers to:

"the Association de Développement de la DAO Usual (ADDU), a French law association having its registered office located at 10, rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris, and registered with INSEE under SIREN number 925 013 245, developing and organizing the Usual DAO, composed of Usual Token holders."

Three of the four authors of Usual's whitepaper appear to be French nationals, while one appears to be resident in the United States.

¹¹ https://docs.usual.money/resources-and-ecosystem/whitepaper

12 https://docs.usual.money/resources-and-ecosystem/legal-documentation/terms-of-services





The CEO of Usual is Pierre Person, a former member of the French Parliament.¹³

Adli Takkal Bataille, the Design Executive Officer and co-founder of Usual also appears to be French.¹⁴

Pierre Cunmeal¹⁵ was a former quantitative analyst at BNP Paribas and Natixis in France, and in an interview with Coinlive,¹⁶ lists himself as Usual's CFO .

Anthony Levesque¹⁷ appears to be the only non-French national who contributed to Usual's whitepaper and looks to be based in the United States.

While Usual prohibits access to its product to US persons in its terms of service, it does not exclude residents of the European Union and provides,

Jurisdiction: means France, as provided in Article 8.9 of these Terms.

France is a member of the EU and so Usual would be subject to MiCA's jurisdiction under Article 2,1.

This Regulation applies to natural and legal persons and certain other undertakings that are engaged in the issuance, offer to the public and admission to trading of crypto-assets or that provide services related to cryptoassets in the Union.

¹³ https://www.linkedin.com/in/pierre-person/

¹⁴ https://www.linkedin.com/in/adlitb/

¹⁵ https://www.linkedin.com/in/pierre-cumenal-2408b156/

- ¹⁶ https://www.coinlive.com/news/in-depth-analysis-of-usual-a-decentralized-rwa-stablecoin-protocol
- ¹⁷ https://www.linkedin.com/in/anthony-levesque-a242a8157/



Is Usual "granting interest"?

Does USD0 "grant interest" under MiCA?

Provided the other MiCA requirements for an EMT are satisfied by USDO, the key issue is whether payment of yield to holders of USDO through USDO++ could be interpreted as "granting interest" under MiCA.

Article 50, 1. of MiCA makes clear that granting interest in to e-money tokens holders is prohibited and the definition of "interest" is expansive in Article 50, 3. which provides,

For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, any remuneration or any other benefit related to the length of time during which a holder of an e-money token holds such e-money token shall be treated as interest. That includes net compensation or discounts, with an effect equivalent to that of interest received by the holder of the e-money token, directly from the issuer or from third parties, and directly associated to the e-money token or from the remuneration or pricing of other products.

Article 50, 3. of MiCA contemplates "an effect equivalent to that of interest" received "from third parties" which on a plain reading includes USD0 holders receiving yield from USUAL tokens by staking USD0 for USD0++.

While USD0 doesn't itself pay yield to USD0 token holders, it is surely possible that yield from USD0++ could be deemed the "equivalent to that of interest" from "third parties" that is "directly associated to the e-money token."

Usual contemplates this possibility as it describes how,¹⁸

USDO++ serves as the primary vehicle for this [yield and revenue] distribution, offering holders an enhanced T-Bill equivalent.

Had an entirely distinct and unassociated company been the one to offer yield on USDO tokens, it is less clear that such a company would be "directly associated to the e-money token."

Both USDO and USDO++ are "fully transferable and permissionless"¹⁹ meaning anyone can deal with these tokens however they so choose, including paying yield from underlying RWAs through a third-party staking service.

Such a third-party staking service would arguably not be "directly associated to the e-money token" and could reasonably pay yield on USDO, independent of the Usual ecosystem.

¹⁸ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/why-usd0++

¹⁹ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin#key-features-and-benefits-of-usd0



Does USD0++ "grant interest" under MiCA?

It is unclear whether USDO++ would be characterized as an asset-referenced token under MiCA but if so, it would be prohibited from paying any form of interest to token holders.

Article 40, 3. of MiCA provides that "any remuneration or any other benefit related to the length of time during which a holder of asset-referenced tokens holds such asset-referenced tokens shall be treated as interest."

Usual makes clear²⁰ that "USDO++ holders who wish to benefit from the Base Interest Guarantee (BIG) must lock their USDO++ for a period of 6 months."

Usual's USDO++ "Alpha Yield" mechanism²¹ in particular is tied to the duration that USDO token holders lock their USDO with the Usual protocol where,

Users who wish to gain exposure to Alpha Yield in the form of \$USUAL tokens must lock their USD0 in a USD0 Liquid Bond (USD0++) for a specified period.

Usual's yield mechanisms tied to the duration that USD0 or USD0++ tokens are locked with the Usual protocol are consistent with Article 40, 3. of MiCA's definition of "interest" and are almost certainly prohibited.

Much hinges on whether USDO++ is considered an asset-referenced token for the purposes of MiCA and if so, it would be prohibited from granting interest.

²⁰ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/base-interest-guarantee-big#eligibility
²¹ https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-liquid-staking-token/usd0++-alpha-yield



Usual's initial collateral partner is Hashnote which issues the USYC product, a permissioned, whitelist-only product that is the on-chain representation of Hashnote's Short Duration Yield Fund ("SDYF").²²

"SYDF invests in short-term US Treasury Bills and performs repo / reverse-repo activity as the underlying asset of the USYC token."

The USYC product is intended by Hashnote to be compliant and operated in a heavily regulated environment,

Hashnote Management LLC is registered as a Commodity Pool Operator (CPO) and Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA) with the National Futures Association (NFA), and it is regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Hashnote's US funds are regulated by CFTC, and the offshore fund is registered as a mutual fund, regulated by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA). We adhere to strict regulations, ensuring our operations meet institutional investment standards.

Usual has been whitelisted by Hashnote, allowing it to purchase USYC that serves as collateral to mint USD0. The largest receiver of USYC, at just over 708 million USYC tokens is the Usual DaoCollateral Address.²³



Figure 1. Largest Receivers of the USYC token. In this case, it is Usual's DaoCollateral Address.

²² https://docs.usual.money/usual-products/usd0-stablecoin/rwa-collateral#why-usyc

²³0xde6e1f680c4816446c8d515989e2358636a38b04 (https://docs.usual.money/resources-and-ecosystem/smart-contracts)

The Usual DaoCollateral Address is the largest minter of USD0 tokens, at just over 749 million USD0 tokens minted, consistent with USYC providing the majority of the initial collateral for USD0.

Create	Rela	thereum] Largest Minter of USD	0		
<> Develop	ſ		Minters		
		Labels	To Address	Sum of Transfer Amounts	
GhainArgos Home	1	👅 USYC #48 cur balance ;; 🍯 USD0 #1 lifetime recv ;; 🍯 USYC #1	0xde6e1f680c4816446c8d515989e2358636a38b04		749,460,561.05
	2	1 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other_hack) ;; 14 sus xfers (from [SCAM]	0x171c53d55b1bcb725f660677d9e8bad7fd084282	28,000,099.96	
S Recently Viewed	3	Ø	0xc47bb29d495aabb3ce2593a0a0eafec2694f4e1f	24,996,995.60	
♡ Favorites	4	🐮 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🐮 USD0 #34 lifetime recv ;; 🐮 USD0++	0x790c7528459fe791d6d029475e33d46382ca75fc	10.013.469.14	
	5	🐮 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🐮 USYC #20 lifetime recv ;; 🐮 USYC #	0x85dc4279b2c59e4b8ba51a9a2527ed72175f3f6b	6,000,940.31	
Boards +	6	🚏 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🌹 USD0 #35 lifetime recv ;; 🍸 USYC #	0xdd04ccdf463a99873631598a712475d28e12710f	5.000.580.06	
	7	🗑 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🍯 USD0 #37 lifetime recv ;; 🍧 USYC #	0xc1e9022628f8ec6b894335c6044226abd0baa292	4,999,811.45	
 □ Folders □ Blocks ☆ Applications 	8	👕 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 👕 USYC #26 lifetime recv ;; 👕 USYC #	0x3c2b59b0100af7d881bd223f1f51fc404425c0ce	4,998,864.00	
	9	🗑 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🕈 USD0 #32 lifetime recv ;; 🕈 USD0++	0xe4d39aea808469bb6ad25a6a1c711c23f14225bd	4,997,869.60	
	10	46 sus xfers (from [SCAM] impersonation, [SCAM] other, [SCAM] ot	0xf991acd672d5b344afcb29931af6401ed32e2691	3,876,214.10	
	11	TUSYC #42 cur balance ;; TUSYC #21 lifetime recv ;; TUSYC #	0xa4ec98bbf7da31dec204b72bf6c1b7d23f1001e6	2,386,528.62	
	12	1 sus xfers (from [SCAM] impersonation ;; [SCAM] other_black	0x34dc124e0ea6e0cdac7605ec3c5153dca17b6ba1	2,190,186.36	
	13	TUSD0++ #17 cur balance ;; TUSYC #45 cur balance ;; TUSYC	0x24390ce57883670134451d5e3c62ac9e19c21ef7	2,000,179.66	
	14	TUSD0++ #18 cur balance ;; TUSYC #45 cur balance ;; TUSYC	0x6603375999ff22b94b2a18a7c3a48d0f1eac4a7e	2,000,000.00	
	15	TUSD0++ #25 cur balance ;; TUSYC #45 cur balance ;; TUSYC	0x0999de42dff6f646d385cc49285be33797206b39	1,000,457.25	
	16	TUSD0++ #38 cur balance ;; TUSYC #45 cur balance ;; TUSYC	0xdeb66f084f2b41b6d409aec82fc33281b7193fe8	1,000,010.00	
	17	🗑 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🕈 OETH #48 lifetime recv ;; 🕈 OETH #	0x07d7685becb1a72a1cf614b4067419334c9f1b4d	499,715.99	
	18	¥ USD0 #15 cur balance ;; ¥ USYC #46 cur balance ;; ¥ USD0 #2	0x2c43a0c66729192d4b25209929b5feb53b6bedec	474,065.14	
	19	🕈 USYC #45 cur balance ;; 🕈 USYC #46 max ever balance ;; USD0	0xc6af2e83ee77123b0d73f7f438895f3e21cd2851	415,109.97	
	20	ENS: Owner ;; warp-speed.eth ;; 1 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other) ;; 3	0x8ccaf951c46899aa11e96435261c271c3e5ba963	355,797.62	
	21	TUSYC #45 cur balance ;; TUSYC #47 lifetime sent ;; TUSYC #	0x882432963d5e29dc3f30ead991ba0c4fd67f62f1	348,956.73	
	22	¥ USD0++ #48 cur balance :: ¥ USVC #45 cur balance :: USD0 rec	0xaf2b202e9a695542a01e8d3eca7126a0eb1da028	260 145 01	

Figure 2. Largest Minters of USD0 with the Usual DaoCollateral Address minting over 749 million USD0 tokens.

It's important to note that USYC is not the sole collateral provider for USDO, which is why the figures may not line up precisely.

The Usual DaoCollateral Address also burns just over 317 million USDO, leaving approximately 431 million USDO in circulation.





Figure 3. Largest Burners with the Usual DaoCollateral Address burning over 317 million USD0 tokens.

Given the USD0++ address²⁴ receives slightly over 495 million USD0 tokens it is consistent with USD0's primary use for staking to receive yield from USD0++.

Create Explore Develop	Rela 0	thereum] Largest Receivers of L ative Months Prior Symbol 48 5 15 USD0	JSD0				
G Admin		Receivers					
	-	Labels	To Address	Sum of Transfer Amounts			
ChainArgos Home	1	VSYC #48 cur balance ;; VSD0 #1 lifetime recv ;; VSYC #1 lifetime	0xde6e1f680c4816446c8d515989e2358636a38b04	749 460 561 05			
; chainAigos Home	2	O USD0++ token USD0 Liquid Bond :: 1 sus xfers (from scammer (88.0093	0x35d8949372d46b7a3d5a56006ae77b215fc69bc0	495.027.295.39			
Recently Viewed	3	NULL	0x000000000000000000000000000000000000	386.394.170.02			
and the second sec	4	100 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other, [SCAM] phishing) ;; 🍯 USD0 #2 cur bala	0x1d08e7adc263cfc70b1babe6dc5bb339c16eec52	315,832,344,46			
2 Favorites	5	429 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other, [SCAM] phishing, scammer (88.00932%	0x14100f81e33c33ecc7cdac70181fb45b6e78569f	281.115.196.88			
	6	4 sus xfers (from [SCAM] airdrop, [SCAM] phishing, scammer (88,81859% c	0xf081470f5c6fbccf48cc4e5b82dd926409dcdd67	143 038 522 28			
E Boards +	7	1030 sus xfers (from [SCAM] airdrop) ;; 3130 sus xfers (from Finiko pyrami	0x6a000f20005980200259b80c5102003040001068	131.103.486.12			
	8	Curve.fi: CurveRouter v1.1 ; 224 sus xfers (from Terra-Classic Hack, SC	0x16c6521dff6bab339122a0fe25a9116693265353	112,633,552,50			
	9	25 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other) ;; 🍯 USD0 #9 cur balance ;; 🍯 USD0 #8 li	0xbabe4e748f4e6b3127bbef2fed88c623db2d3d72	57,183,312,67			
Folders	10	Cow Protocol ;; Wolves Of Wall Street: Contract ;; GPv2Settlement ;; 2 su	0x9008d19f58aabd9ed0d60971565aa8510560ab41	56.697.584.49			
	11	4 1 sus xfers (from [SCAM] impersonation ;; [SCAM] other_blackmail) ;;	0x34dc124e0ea6e0cdac7605ec3c5153dca17b6ba1	48,754,743.61			
8 Blocks	12	👅 USD0 #4 cur balance ;; 🎽 PYUSD #26 cur balance ;; 🎽 USD0 #9 lifetime	0x12db556e5313e3954f146339586dbdfe18dc9467	47,283,837.47			
	13	5 sus xfers (from scammer (53% confidence), scammer (75% confidence),	0x56c526b0159a258887e0d79ec3a80dfb940d0cd7	38,518,623.08			
Applications	14	I [SCAM] other ;; 13716 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other, scammer (90.8773	0x111111125421ca6dc452d289314280a0f8842a65	34,557,553.92			
	15	1 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other_hack) ;; 14 sus xfers (from [SCAM] other_h	0x171c53d55b1bcb725f660677d9e8bad7fd084282	34,002,550.18			
	16	4 sus xfers (from scammer (53% confidence), scammer (90.87737% confid	0x888888888889758f76e7103c6cbf23abbf58f946	32,332,985.96			
	17	👅 USD0++ #4 cur balance ;; 🕈 USD0 #15 lifetime recv ;; 🕈 USD0++ #14 lif	0x9295bd6ce26e5896dc21feda84ef65d2472070dc	29,995,510.81			
	18	Ø	0xc47bb29d495aabb3ce2593a0a0eafec2694f4e1f	24,996,995.60			
	19	¥ USD0++ #1 cur balance ;; ¥ USD0++ #3 lifetime recv ;; ¥ USD0 #20 life	0x52453825c287ddef62d647ce51c0979d27c461f7	23,548,721.28			
	20	zeropants.eth FKA ENS: Owner ;; 21 sus xfers (from Finiko (pyramid schem	0x614d98a57a5d879d717152de0690ed2b04562ade	22,879,033.51			
	21	Paraswap Augustus ;; Paraswap (AugustusSwapper6.0) ;; Paraswap (Au	0xdef171fe48cf0115b1d80b88dc8eab59176fee57	22,003,812.39			
	22	Odos Router V2 ;; 2509 sus xfers (from [SCAM] airdrop ;; [SCAM] impers	0xcf5540fffcdc3d510b18bfca6d2b9987b0772559	21,450,461.12			
		A COLOR MANAGEMENT AND A COLOR MANAGEMENT					

Figure 4. Largest Receivers of USD0 with the USD0++ address receiving over 495 million USD0 tokens.

²⁴ 0x35D8949372D46B7a3D5A56006AE77B215fc69bC0 (https://docs.usual.money/resources-and-ecosystem/smart-contracts)



Are there workarounds?

An alternative to Usual's scheme could have been to offshore parts of the system so that those parts were not subject to MiCA.

For instance, while USD0 could have been domiciled in France if its founders so chose, the entity operating USD0++ ought to have been domiciled in a jurisdiction not subject to MiCA.

In that case, USD0 could be MiCA-compliant and the offshore entity providing the yield from RWAs would not be in breach of MiCA, because MiCA would not have had jurisdiction over it to begin with.

It is unclear such a scheme would work because USD0 would still be "granting interest" from a "third party" under MiCA's definitions.

When crypto-asset exchange Binance created a "wrapped" version²⁵ of Paxos Trust's ("Paxos") BUSD stablecoin for use on the BNB Smart Chain, the New York Department of Financial Services ordered²⁶ Paxos to cease its BUSD issuance for failing to adequately supervise its relationship with its marketing partner Binance.

It is conceivable that where a relationship between the MiCA-compliant stablecoin issuer and the offshore yield provider exists, the MiCA-compliant stablecoin issuer could be taken to task for the actions of its offshore partner.

What is unclear however, is whether the entity issuing a MiCA-compliant stablecoin could be held liable for the actions of an unaffiliated and unrelated offshore third party, especially where no relationship between the two could be reasonably established.

Given stablecoins tend to facilitate permissionless transfers, the MiCA-compliant stablecoin issuer could argue that it has no power to control the actions of offshore entities who have "wrapped" its product.

If this is the official stance for MiCA, then one could imagine a situation where multiple layers of "wrapping" MiCA-compliant stablecoins could be achieved, like Russian nesting dolls, allowing yield and interest to be paid on MiCA-compliant e-money and asset-referenced tokens, in contravention of MiCA's prohibitions.

While such a scenario is possible, it remains to be seen whether they would work in practice and many EU e-money and asset-referenced token issuers are about to find out when MiCA comes into full effect in 2025.

²⁵ https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-01-10/binance-bnb-acknowledges-past-flaws-in-managing-busd-peg-stablecoin-reserves

²⁶ https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/alerts/Paxos_and_Binance

Who are we?

ChainArgos is the blockchain intelligence firm best known for uncovering crypto-asset exchange Binance's \$1.4bn BUSD stablecoin undercollateralization, forcing the New York Department of Financial Services to take action.

We provide unparalleled blockchain intelligence by focusing on the financial drivers of transactions, facilitate investigations and analysis centered on the economic value of transfers, and provide insight into the motivation behind specific flows.

ChainArgos is recognized globally as a leader in blockchain intelligence.

We've tracked illicit flows funding terrorism and sanctions evasion, analyzed transaction patterns connecting global scams, and uncovered crypto-asset trading opportunities before the market.





Where else have you seen us?

ChainArgos works with the United Nations, governments, central banks, financial institutions, hedge funds, proprietary trading firms, regulators, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, research institutes, universities, and crypto-asset service providers globally.

We're trusted by top news outlets including the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Forbes, Fortune, Thomson Reuters, and the South China Morning Post, for unimpeachable blockchain intelligence.

Here's just a selection of our blockchain intelligence that created news:



Who uses blockchain intelligence?





Compliance



Law Enforcement



Finance and Banking

Assess the risks and opportunities in crypto-assets, stablecoins, and decentralized finance. Develop innovative products, explore tokenization opportunities, and generate new revenue streams.

Compliance

Fight money laundering, expand know-your-customer tools, and combat the financing of terrorism while expanding your customer base. Manage risk from customer crypto-assets and confidently verify sources of crypto-asset wealth.

Law Enforcement

Terrorists and criminals are using blockchain technology to avoid the banking system, launder money, and fund operations. Blockchain wallet analysis and transaction tracing fights crime, prosecutes criminals, and tracks illicit fund flows.

Regulators and Policymakers

Develop and implement effective crypto-asset and stablecoin supervisory, licensing tax, compliance, and regulatory frameworks to foster innovation, while managing threats to national security and the financial system.

How are we different?

We deliver actionable blockchain intelligence.

Say "no" to pseudo-science and "yes" to blockchain intelligence you can count on for commerce, compliance, and crime-fighting.

ChainArgos is built by finance, legal, and technology professionals to deliver actionable blockchain intelligence focused on financially-relevant analysis.

Whether you're looking to on-board a customer, determine source of wealth, or ensure your evidence isn't rejected on appeal, our blockchain intelligence is based on established principles of statistics, math, and forensic science.





How do we do it?

Blockchain intelligence is a relatively new industry, and it's not uncommon to hear of methods which have little basis in finance, let alone forensic science.

Let's look at one example to understand the limitations of blockchain tracing.



In Fig. 1, A and B start with \$1, while C starts with \$0. In Fig. 2, A transfers their \$1 to B who now has \$2. Finally, in Fig. 3, B transfers \$1 to C, who now has \$1.

If it turns out A is an illicit actor, with what degree of confidence can we say that C has received \$1 from illicit sources? 50-50?

= ChainArgos

+ Create

@ Explore

<>> Develop

Would you accept a "risk score" of 50%?

Follow the money.

Instead of passing off "risk scores" as "risk management" ChainArgos helps you follow the money.

Most blockchain transactions don't derive from a single source, and believing they do is what leads to poor outcomes.

🕞 Admin [Blockchain] Your Queried Addresses' Labels & Categories Address Labels Categories Organizatio 1 Recently Vie Blacklisting Info (If Any) → ♡ Favo Timestamp Date Authority Action • 🖻 Boards + 🗅 Folders [Blockchain] Inbound Counterparties Blocks USD Value Sum of Transfer Number of Avg Today Amounts Transfers Size Labels + 🛱 Applica [Blockchain] Outbound Counterparties To Address Labels USD Value Sum of Transfer Amounts Number of Avg Transfer Date Date Last Txn Date 1

[Blockchain] Counterparties for Addresses

is any value is any value

Make better decisions by focusing on what matters - where the money went, where it came from, and where does it look like it's headed to?

How much does one address deal with another? What's the average transaction size? What's the frequency? What's the crypto-asset or stablecoin of choice? What's the transaction behavior? When did the transaction size change?

And so much more.



Better attribution.

Don't risk critical legal, trading, and compliance decisions to questionable or subjective attribution methods. Trust math and science.

ChainArgos is the only blockchain intelligence firm that delivers programmatic address labels and wallet tags that are unassailable whether you're making business decisions or preparing to sue someone.

Blockchain addresses are automatically ranked and labeled based on a variety of factors including:

- **Transaction Count**: the number of transactions by an address. Sending \$100,000 in one transaction may have very different implications from sending 10 transactions of \$10,000 each. Either way, you'll know the difference.
- Lifetime Sent/Received: lists the biggest sender and/or receiver of any given crypto-asset or stablecoin currently. Markets are extremely dynamic. The biggest movers today may not be the same tomorrow.
- Max. Historical / Current Balances: helps you decide whether an address is participating in affiliated crypto-assets and/or stablecoins based on their maximum historical balance and who's stocking the highest current balances.
- **Recipient Number**: gives you a sense of whether they were an early adopter, or even possibly an insider of a crypto-asset or stablecoin. Recipients are ranked according to the date and time they received a crypto-asset or stablecoin.

Say "no" to dodgy wallet tagging and "yes" to attribution you can trust.





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