

Trump's Billionaire Commerce Secretary Pick Howard Lutnick's Deep Cryptocurrency Interests Pose Conflicts With Commerce's Oversight Of Crypto Rules And Research

SUMMARY: President-elect Trump has [picked](#) billionaire Howard Lutnick to be secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, a "[sprawling](#)" cabinet department that oversees patents, the National Weather Service, space satellites, scientific standards, trade restrictions, economic data, and a wide range of other matters.

Lutnick, the chairman and CEO of financial services "[titan](#)" Cantor Fitzgerald, has already been accused of "[mixing his business interests](#)" with the second Trump transition and is likely to pose further conflicts in his role shaping "[a wide range of economic policies](#)" if he is confirmed as Secretary of Commerce. For example, Lutnick, who has filed over [1,000 patents](#), would oversee the Commerce Dept.'s U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Although Lutnick has claimed he will divest from his business empire, he is deeply "[entwined](#)" with Cantor Fitzgerald and he appears poised to keep the business close, with his son—who has [worked](#) for Cantor's major crypto firm client Tether—being [listed](#) as the CEO of Cantor's latest blank-check company in December 2024.

In particular, Lutnick has developed a reputation as a vocal advocate of cryptocurrencies. Lutnick told an industry conference that the leading form of crypto, bitcoin, should be accepted "[without exception and without limitation](#)." He is also a "[key ally](#)" of massive crypto firm Tether, in which Cantor holds about \$600 million and with which Cantor joined a new [\\$2 billion lending project](#) in November 2024.

Now, Accountable.US research has found how Lutnick's vast stakes in the crypto industry could conflict with his potential control of the U.S. Department of Commerce, which has played a central role in developing crypto regulations and in researching crypto technologies:

- In 2022, President Biden signed an executive order on "[Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets](#)," which instructed the Secretary of Commerce to establish a framework for "[enhancing United States competitiveness in, and leveraging of, digital asset technologies](#)."
- The Commerce Dept. issued a report on "[Responsible Advancement of U.S. Competitiveness in Digital Assets](#)," with Sec. Gina Raimondo stating support for "[effective regulatory approaches to address regulatory gaps](#)."
- The Biden White House released a comprehensive framework to "[foster responsible digital asset innovation](#)," with the Commerce Dept. charged with forming a "[standing forum](#)" to inform federal regulation and standards on digital assets.
- The Commerce Dept. [controls](#) the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), whose researchers have been [investigating blockchain](#), the underlying technology for cryptocurrency. As of December 2024, NIST lists [five advanced projects on blockchain](#), including a "[synergy](#)" effort involving members of industry.
- NIST has also published an internal report on "[security, stability, and trust issues](#)" in stablecoin technology, which [undergirds](#) Lutnick's and Cantor Fitzgerald's [multi-billion dollar partnership](#) with massive cryptocurrency firm Tether.

Howard Lutnick, Trump's Billionaire Pick To Lead The U.S. Department Of Commerce, Could Have A Wide Variety Of Conflicts Of Interest Through His Financial Services "Titan" Cantor Fitzgerald, Which Was Hit With A Multimillion Dollar Fine For "Breaking Disclosure Laws" In December 2024.

Trump's Pick To Lead The "Sprawling" U.S. Department Of Commerce Is Billionaire Howard Lutnick, Chairman And CEO Of Financial Services "Titan" Cantor Fitzgerald And An "Outspoken Advocate" Of Trump's Proposed Tariffs.

President-Elect Trump Picked Howard Lutnick, A "Billionaire Financial Services Executive," To Be Secretary Of The U.S. Department Of Commerce—Trump Said Lutnick Would "Lead" The Administration's Tariff And Trade Agenda. "President-elect Donald Trump said Tuesday that he will nominate key transition adviser and billionaire financial services executive Howard Lutnick to lead the Commerce Department. 'He will lead our Tariff and Trade agenda, with additional direct responsibility for the Office of the United States Trade Representative,' Trump said in a statement announcing the pick." [NBC News, [11/19/24](#)]

- **Lutnick's Personal Fortune Is Estimated At \$2.2 Billion, With One Source Saying It May Actually Be Twice That Amount.** "Today his personal fortune — most of it tied up in the privately held Cantor Fitzgerald and its related companies — stretches to at least \$2.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. A person familiar with his finances says Lutnick in fact might be worth nearly twice that." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]
- **Lutnick's Luxurious Lifestyle Includes A "Penthouse Atop The Luxurious Pierre Hotel On Fifth Avenue" And A Private Jet, Bought From A Sheikh, "With Christofle Tableware And Floor-To-Ceiling Mirrors In The Restroom."** "His business savvy has bought the trappings of wild success. He owns a penthouse atop the luxurious Pierre hotel on Fifth Avenue, a townhouse on the Upper East Side, a floor-through apartment in Bal Harbour and a mansion in the Hamptons. He flies aboard a private jet with Christofle tableware and floor-to-ceiling mirrors in the restroom. (He has claimed that he bought his previous plane for a song from a sheikh in the Middle East.)" [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Lutnick, An "Outspoken Advocate" Of Trump's Proposed Tariffs, Is CEO And Chairman Of Financial Services "Titan" Cantor Fitzgerald. "As co-chair of Trump's transition, Lutnick has been an outspoken advocate for his agenda, including explaining how the president-elect plans to use tariffs once in office. Lutnick is the CEO and chairman of the financial services titan Cantor Fitzgerald. The Commerce Department will play a key role in executing some of Trump's proposed tariffs on goods imported into the United States." [NBC News, [11/19/24](#)]

- **Lutnick Gave "Full-Throated Support" For Trump's Proposed Tariffs, Including A 60% Tariff On Goods Imported From China And A Tariff Of Up To 20% On All Other Imports.** "Trump on the campaign trail proposed a 60% tariff on goods from China — and a tariff of up to 20% on everything else the United States imports. On the campaign trail, Trump portrayed the taxes on imports as both a negotiating tool to hammer out better trade terms and as a way to generate revenue to fund tax cuts elsewhere. An advocate for imposing wide-ranging tariffs, Lutnick gave full-throated support for Trump's tariffs plan in a CNBC interview in September. 'Tariffs are an amazing tool for the president to use — we need to protect the American worker,' he said." [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

Lutnick Joined Cantor Fitzgerald In 1982 And Became Its President And CEO In 1991. "Joined Cantor Fitzgerald in 1983 and was appointed President and CEO in 1991. Named Chairman in 1996 Chairman and

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CEO of BGC Partners, Inc. (NASDAQ: BGCP), Executive Chairman of Newmark Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: NMRK) and Chairman and CEO of each SPAC sponsored by Cantor Fitzgerald." [Cantor Fitzgerald, [July 2021](#)]

As Secretary Of Commerce, Lutnick Would "Oversee A Sweeping Federal Bureaucracy That Includes The National Weather Service, The Census Bureau And The Agency Charged With Calculating The Nation's Gross Domestic Product." "As Commerce Secretary, Lutnick would oversee a sweeping federal bureaucracy that includes the National Weather Service, the Census Bureau and the agency charged with calculating the nation's Gross Domestic Product." [NPR, [11/19/24](#)]

If Confirmed, Lutnick Would Oversee Commerce Department Functions Including "Funding New Computer Chip Factories, Imposing Trade Restrictions, Releasing Economic Data And Monitoring The Weather." "The nomination would put Lutnick in charge of a sprawling Cabinet agency that is involved in funding new computer chip factories, imposing trade restrictions, releasing economic data and monitoring the weather." [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

The "Sprawling" Commerce Department "Oversees Everything From The National Weather Service To Space Satellites To Fishing Disputes." "His consolation prize: Commerce. With a staff of roughly 50,000, the sprawling department oversees everything from the National Weather Service to space satellites to fishing disputes. The job comes with a network of dozens of offices in the US and more in embassies around the world." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Lutnick—Co-Chair Of The Trump Transition Who Raised Or Gave \$75 Million To Trump's 2024 Campaign—Has Been Accused Of "Mixing His Business Interests" With The Transition, Which Raised "Questions About How He Is Navigating Federal Conflict-Of-Interest Guidelines," And Drew Complaints From Trump Himself For "Manipulating The Transition Process For His Own Ends."

Lutnick, "The Public Face Of Trump's Transition," Has Been Accused Of "Mixing His Business Interests" With His Duties As The Transition's Co-Chair. "The Cantor Fitzgerald CEO has led and been the public face of Trump's transition." [NBC News, [11/19/24](#)]

- **Lutnick Was Accused Of "Mixing His Business Interests With His Duties Co-Chairing The Organization That Is Piecing Together The New Administration."** "Even before Trump was re-elected, rivals in Trump's circle were accusing Lutnick of mixing his business interests with his duties co-chairing the organization that is piecing together the new administration." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Lutnick Has Continued To Oversee Cantor Fitzgerald While Co-Chairing The Trump Transition, Drawing "Questions About How He Is Navigating Federal Conflict-Of-Interest Guidelines." "Lutnick has continued to oversee them while co-chairing Trump's transition team – an arrangement that has drawn questions about how he is navigating federal conflict-of-interest guidelines." [NPR, [11/19/24](#)]

Lutnick "Has Known Trump For Decades," Hosted Fundraisers For Trump, And Has Served As A Trump Surrogate On TV. "Lutnick has known Trump for decades and has hosted fundraisers for the president-elect and appeared on TV as a surrogate." [Business Insider, [11/16/24](#)]

Trump "Privately Expressed Frustration That Mr. Lutnick Has Been Hanging Around Him Too Much And That He Has Been Manipulating The Transition Process For His Own Ends." "Mr. Lutnick, who has been running Mr. Trump's transition operation, has gotten on Mr. Trump's nerves lately. Mr. Trump has privately expressed frustration that Mr. Lutnick has been hanging around him too much and that he has been manipulating the transition process for his own ends. A person familiar with the process, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the battle between Mr. Lutnick and Mr. Bessent as a knife fight, with Mr. Lutnick as the primary aggressor." [The New York Times, [11/17/24](#)]

Lutnick Raised Or Donated \$75 Million To Trump's 2024 Campaign. "Lutnick's loyalty to Trump seems unquestionable: He raised or donated \$75 million to Trump's 2024 campaign, and he has publicly declared that appointees must be loyal to Trump." [Quartz, [12/30/24](#)]

If Confirmed As Commerce Secretary, Lutnick Will "Help Shape A Wide Range Of Economic Policies" That Affect Cantor Fitzgerald And Other Businesses—For Example, Lutnick, Who Has Filed Over 1,000 Patents, Would Oversee The Commerce Dept.'s U.S. Patent And Trademark Office.

Lutnick Is Chairman And CEO Of Cantor Fitzgerald, A "Financial Services Titan." "Lutnick is the CEO and chairman of the financial services titan Cantor Fitzgerald." [NBC News, [11/19/24](#)]

If Confirmed, Lutnick Will "Will Help Shape A Wide Range Of Economic Policies" That "Will Affect Every Business In America Including, Not Incidentally, The Cantor Fitzgerald Empire." "If his cabinet nomination is confirmed, the sharp-elbowed financier will help shape a wide range of economic policies, including the promised tariffs that have unsettled financial markets. Those decisions will affect every business in America including, not incidentally, the Cantor Fitzgerald empire." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

"Potential Conflicts Are Everywhere" For Lutnick. "For Lutnick, potential conflicts are everywhere." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Lutnick's "Knot Of Conflicts Is Unlikely To Loosen Easily," According To Former Employees And Business Associates. "Interviews with nearly two dozen current and former employees and associates paint a picture of an executive whose grip on his various businesses is bolted tight. His knot of conflicts is unlikely to loosen easily." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

For Example, Lutnick, Who Has Filed Over 1,000 Patents, Would Oversee The U.S. Patent And Trademark Office If Confirmed. "Even the US Patent and Trademark Office, another item in the Commerce portfolio, intersects with his business life. Over the years Lutnick has filed more than 1,000 patents. Some of them touch on octane fuel analysis, others on block trading systems. And still others involve card games and systems for blackjack and roulette. Those are leftovers from Cantor Gaming, an ill-fated Las Vegas gambling venture." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Although Lutnick Has Claimed He Will Divest From His Business Empire, He Is Personally "Entwined" With Cantor And Appears Poised To Keep His Business In The Family, With Lutnick's Son Newly Listed As CEO Of A Cantor Blank-Check Company In December 2024.

Lutnick's Cantor Fitzgerald Controls Two Publicly-Traded Companies: Brokerage BGC Group Inc. And Real Estate Company Newmark Group Inc.—Although Lutnick Is Personally "Entwined" With Cantor, He Claimed He Would Divest From These Companies.

Lutnick Owns The Majority Of Cantor Fitzgerald, Which Is Privately Held But Controls Two Publicly-Traded Companies. "Lutnick calls his small empire 'the biggest little guy' in finance. He owns the majority of privately held Cantor Fitzgerald, which controls three companies, two of which are publicly traded." [The Wall Street Journal, [12/01/24](#)]

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- **The Third, Private Company Held By Cantor Fitzgerald "Offers Investment-Banking Services And Is A Top Adviser To SPACs [Special Purpose Acquisition Companies]," Which Are Shell Companies Created To Take Private Firms Public Through Mergers.** "A third private company held by Cantor offers investment-banking services and is a top adviser to SPACs. A SPAC is a publicly listed shell company created to take a private firm public through a merger. SPACs raise money from professional investors and wealthy individuals. Once they start trading publicly, anyone can buy shares before or after the merger." [The Wall Street Journal, [12/01/24](#)]

Lutnick Claimed He Would Step Down From Cantor Fitzgerald, BGC Group Inc. and Newmark Group Inc. And Would Divest Interests From His Firms. "Howard Lutnick, who holds a majority stake in Cantor Fitzgerald, has said he will step down from three businesses it controls — Cantor, BGC Group Inc. and Newmark Group Inc. — as well as divest interests in his firms to comply with government ethics rules. He hasn't yet named a successor to lead Cantor or the parent company." [Bloomberg, [12/18/24](#)]

Lutnick Claimed He Would Divest From Cantor's Two Publicly-Traded Companies, Brokerage BGC Group Inc. And Real Estate Company Newmark Group Inc. "He's said he'll divest his interests in his two public companies, BGC Group Inc. and Newmark Group Inc., but he hasn't said how, beyond that he doesn't plan to sell his stock on the open market. Some associates speculate he might place at least some of his interests into a so-called blind trust. Others say ethics rules will prevent that." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

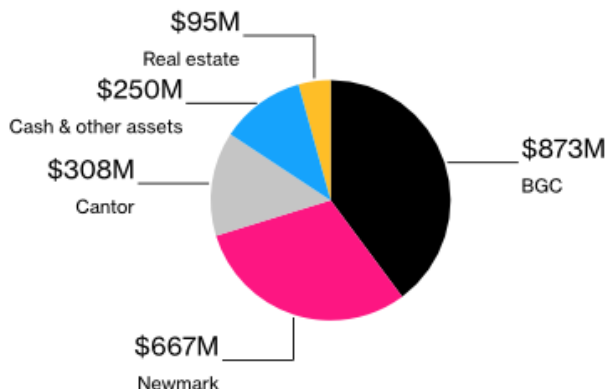
- **BGC Group Inc. Claims To Be "A Leading Global Marketplace, Data, And Financial Technology Services Company For A Broad Range Of Products, Including Fixed Income, Foreign Exchange, Energy, Commodities, Shipping, [And] Equities."** "BGC Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: BGC) is a leading global marketplace, data, and financial technology services company for a broad range of products, including fixed income, foreign exchange, energy, commodities, shipping, equities, and now includes the FMX Futures Exchange. BGC's clients are many of the world's largest banks, broker-dealers, investment banks, trading firms, hedge funds, governments, corporations, and investment firms." [PR Newswire, [11/21/24](#)]
- **Newmark Group Inc. Claimed To Be "A World Leader In Commercial Real Estate," Generating \$2.6 Billion In Revenue In The Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2024.** "Newmark Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: NMRK), together with its subsidiaries ('Newmark'), is a world leader in commercial real estate, seamlessly powering every phase of the property life cycle. [...] For the twelve months ended September 30, 2024, Newmark generated revenues of approximately \$2.6 billion. As of that same date, Newmark's company-owned offices, together with its business partners, operated from nearly 170 offices with more than 7,800 professionals around the world." [Newmark, accessed [12/09/24](#)]

Lutnick's And Cantor Fitzgerald's Interests In Bonds, Mergers, Real Estate, And Cryptocurrency Are "So Entwined That It Can Be Difficult To Know Precisely Where One Ends And The Other Begins." "Bonds, M&A, real estate, crypto: The varied interests of Lutnick and Cantor, man and firm, are so entwined that it can be difficult to know precisely where one ends and the other begins." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

In 2023, Lutnick Earned \$37 Million From Cantor Fitzgerald's Publicly-Traded Companies—More Than What JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon Earned. "His holdings of the publicly traded stock of those two firms are alone worth \$2 billion. Those companies paid Lutnick \$37 million last year, more than what Jamie Dimon earned for running the much larger JPMorgan Chase." [The Wall Street Journal, [12/01/24](#)]

Howard Lutnick's Fortune

Stakes in BGC and Newmark are the bulk of his worth, calculated at \$2.2 billion by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index



Source: Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Nov. 26, 2024.

Note: A person familiar with his wealth estimates the total value of his assets is closer to \$4 billion.

[Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Cantor Fitzgerald Has A Cryptocurrency Operation. "Today, Cantor has several businesses, including a cryptocurrency operation. Lutnick has continued to oversee them while co-chairing Trump's transition team – an arrangement that has drawn questions about how he is navigating federal conflict-of-interest guidelines." [NPR, [11/19/24](#)]

December 2024: Howard Lutnick's 26-Year Old Son, Who Previously Was Involved In Lutnick's Businesses, Was Listed As CEO Of Cantor Fitzgerald's Most Recently-Created Blank-Check Company, Cantor Equity Partners I Inc.

December 2024: Howard Lutnick's 26-Year Old Son, Brandon Lutnick, Was Listed As CEO Of Cantor Fitzgerald's Most-Recently Created Blank-Check Company, Cantor Equity Partners I Inc. "Donald Trump's commerce secretary nominee, Howard Lutnick, is taking a key step back from running his financial group, handing off leadership of one of his blank-check companies to his 26-year-old son. Brandon Lutnick, a trader at his father's Cantor Fitzgerald LP, has been listed as CEO at its most recently created SPAC, Cantor Equity Partners I Inc., according to a filing Wednesday." [Bloomberg, [12/18/24](#)]

- **Headline: Howard Lutnick's Son Takes CEO Role at Cantor Fitzgerald SPAC** [Bloomberg, [12/18/24](#)]

Brandon Lutnick Previously "Helped Carry Out His Father's Business Agenda," Including Working For Large Cantor Fitzgerald Client Tether Holdings Ltd., A Major Cryptocurrency Company. "A graduate of Stanford University, Brandon has already helped carry out his father's business agenda, including a spell working in Switzerland for a large client, cryptocurrency firm Tether Holdings Ltd." [Bloomberg, [12/18/24](#)]

- **Cantor Fitzgerald's Interest In Tether, Reportedly A 5% Ownership Stake, Was Estimated At About \$600 Million.** "Cantor's relationship with Tether deepened when the trading firm struck a deal to invest in the crypto giant, Lutnick and Devasini have each told business associates. Under the agreement, which was made in the past year, Cantor stood to receive about a 5% ownership interest in Tether. The interest, which hasn't been previously reported, was valued by Cantor at as much as \$600 million, according to some of the business associates." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

Trump Is Now Involved In The Cryptocurrency Industry And Lutnick Is A "Key Ally" Of Massive Stablecoin Firm Tether, With Cantor Fitzgerald Advancing A New \$2 Billion Deal With Tether In November 2024...

Lutnick Has Been An Outspoken Advocate Of Cryptocurrency, Telling An Industry Conference It Should Be Accepted "Without Exception And Without Limitation."

Lutnick Has Advocated For The Cryptocurrency Industry, Specifically Crypto Coin Tether. "Lutnick is a proponent of advancing aims of the cryptocurrency industry — namely, the cryptocurrency Tether." [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

- **"Cryptocurrencies Are Forms Of Digital Money That Can Be Traded Over The Internet Without Relying On The Global Banking System. Bitcoin Is The Most Popular Cryptocurrency."** [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

In 2024, Lutnick Told A Bitcoin Conference, "Bitcoin Should Trade The Same As Gold Everywhere In The World Without Exception And Without Limitation." "Bitcoin is like gold and should be free trade everywhere in the world,' Lutnick said at a bitcoin conference earlier this year. 'And as the largest wholesaler in the world we're going to do everything in our power to make it so. Bitcoin should trade the same as gold everywhere in the world without exception and without limitation.'" [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

Trump, Who Launched Crypto Currency Platform World Liberty Financial In 2024, Has Promised Industry-Friendly Regulations For Crypto Companies, Which "Faced A Series Of Legal Crackdowns In The Biden Era."

Trump Has Been Favorable Toward Cryptocurrencies, Launching Cryptocurrency Platform World Liberty Financial With Family Members In 2024. "Trump has taken on a favorable view of cryptocurrencies — from announcing in May that the campaign would begin accepting donations in cryptocurrency as part of an effort to build what it calls a 'crypto army' leading up to Election Day. He has also launched a cryptocurrency platform called World Liberty Financial with members of his family earlier this year." [Associated Press, [11/19/24](#)]

Trump Has "Embraced Crypto And Vowed To Make The US The World's Capital Of Digital Currencies." "A more likely trouble spot: cryptocurrencies. As Trump has embraced crypto and vowed to make the US the world's capital of digital currencies, Lutnick has pushed deeper into the industry. His burgeoning crypto businesses — including a nascent venture to lend dollars to those with bitcoin as collateral — could benefit if the new administration were to roll back regulations or drop investigations that have frustrated the industry." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

The Incoming Trump Administration, Which Has Promised "Industry-Friendly Regulations," Signals "A New Era For The Cryptocurrency Industry, Which Has Faced A Series Of Legal Crackdowns In The Biden Era." "Trump's election heralds a new era for the cryptocurrency industry, which has faced a series of legal crackdowns in the Biden era. The incoming administration has promised to embrace crypto and create industry-friendly regulations." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

"Few Institutions Stand To Benefit More From A Change In Crypto Policy Than Tether—And By Extension, Cantor." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

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If The Trump Administration Rolls Back Regulation Of Cryptocurrency, It Could Directly Benefit Lutnick, A "Key Ally" Of Massive Crypto Firm Tether, In Which Cantor Fitzgerald Holds About \$600 Million And Uses Cantor Fitzgerald To Hold U.S. Treasuries For Its Stablecoin, Providing Cantor Tens Of Millions Of Dollars A Year...

Lutnick Is A "Key Ally" Of Massive Crypto Firm Tether, With Cantor Fitzgerald Serving As "The Main Custodian For Tether's U.S. Treasury Bills, Which Are The Primary Asset Backing Tether's Stablecoin."

"Now, thanks to a mix of sound strategy or good luck, Tether has a key ally in the highest corridors of power: Howard Lutnick, CEO of U.S. financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald, and President-elect Donald Trump's pick for commerce secretary. Cantor Fitzgerald serves as the main custodian for Tether's U.S. Treasury bills, which are the primary asset backing Tether's stablecoin." [Fortune, [11/25/24](#)]

- **Tether "Operates The World's Most Transacted Cryptocurrency."** "Tether operates the world's most transacted cryptocurrency. Known as a stablecoin for its 1:1 backing with the U.S. dollar, tether gained a foothold among crypto speculators as a safe way to cash out trading profits." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]
- **Tether Has Become "One Of The World's Wealthiest Financial Institutions," Surpassing Blackrock In Profits.** "For a decade, the crypto firm Tether built itself into one of the world's wealthiest financial institutions, recently surpassing even mighty BlackRock in profits. Today, Tether's eponymous stablecoin, a digital token pegged 1:1 to the U.S. dollar, is one of the world's major currencies, and the company, which has long operated in the financial shadows, is making a play for mainstream legitimacy." [Fortune, [11/25/24](#)]
- **Cantor Fitzgerald "Holds Most Of Tether's \$134 Billion In Assets, Largely U.S. Treasury Bills."** "Cantor, which is majority-owned by Lutnick, holds most of Tether's \$134 billion in assets, largely U.S. Treasury bills, in exchange for tens of millions of dollars of fees each year, according to people familiar with Cantor's business." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

Cantor Fitzgerald's Interest In Tether, Reportedly A 5% Ownership Stake, Was Estimated At About \$600 Million. "Cantor's relationship with Tether deepened when the trading firm struck a deal to invest in the crypto giant, Lutnick and Devasini have each told business associates. Under the agreement, which was made in the past year, Cantor stood to receive about a 5% ownership interest in Tether. The interest, which hasn't been previously reported, was valued by Cantor at as much as \$600 million, according to some of the business associates." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

Cantor Fitzgerald "Earns Tens Of Millions Of Dollars A Year Holding US Treasuries On Behalf Of Tether" To Keep Its Stablecoin Pegged To The U.S. Dollar. "Lutnick recently dispatched his son Brandon to Switzerland as a Cantor ambassador to one of the biggest names in crypto: Tether Holdings Ltd. The company, which stands behind one of the world's most popular digital currencies, is allegedly being probed by the Justice Department. Cantor earns tens of millions of dollars a year holding US Treasuries on behalf of Tether to keep its eponymous stablecoin pegged to the dollar at 1:1." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

Lutnick's Crypto Interest "Could Benefit If The New Administration Were To Roll Back Regulations Or Drop Investigations That Have Frustrated The Industry." "A more likely trouble spot: cryptocurrencies. As Trump has embraced crypto and vowed to make the US the world's capital of digital currencies, Lutnick has pushed deeper into the industry. His burgeoning crypto businesses — including a nascent venture to lend dollars to those with bitcoin as collateral — could benefit if the new administration were to roll back regulations or drop investigations that have frustrated the industry." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

...As Of November 2024, Cantor And Tether Were In Talks To Deepen Their Relationship Further, In A Deal Worth Potentially Tens Of Billions Of Dollars.

November 2024: Lutnick And Cantor Fitzgerald Were In Talks With Stablecoin Company Tether To Launch A \$2 Billion Project—Which "Could Potentially Reach Tens Of Billions Of Dollars"—"To Lend Dollars To Clients Against Bitcoin." "U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, is in talks to deepen his financial ties with the company operating the world's largest stablecoin, Tether, by launching a \$2 billion project to lend dollars to clients against bitcoin, Bloomberg News reported on Sunday. Lutnick's financial services firm, Cantor Fitzgerald, is discussing receiving support from Tether to help fund the project, which could potentially reach tens of billions of dollars, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter." [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]

- **Headline: Trump pick Lutnick's firm in talks with Tether for \$2 billion bitcoin lending project, Bloomberg reports** [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]
- **"Stablecoins Are Digital Tokens Designed To Keep A Constant Value, And Are Backed By Traditional Currencies Such As The U.S. Dollar Or Euro."** [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]

Tether's Owner Giancarlo Devasini Reportedly Said "Lutnick Will Use His Political Clout To Try To Defuse Threats Facing Tether," Which Has Been Under Federal Investigation By The Justice And Treasury Departments For "Possible Violations Of Anti-Money-Laundering And Sanctions Laws."

In 2024, Tether's Owner, Giancarlo Devasini, Reportedly Said "Lutnick Will Use His Political Clout To Try To Defuse Threats Facing Tether." "The presidential transition adviser Howard Lutnick's most important client is Donald Trump. But as chairman of the Wall Street trading firm Cantor Fitzgerald, Lutnick counts as one of his other most important clients an ex-plastic surgeon named Giancarlo Devasini, the owner of the cryptocurrency firm Tether. Lutnick and Devasini each have a big interest in future administration policy. Devasini said privately earlier this year that Lutnick will use his political clout to try to defuse threats facing Tether, according to business associates of the two men." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

Tether Has Been Under Investigation By The Departments Of Treasury And Justice "For Possible Violations Of Anti-Money-Laundering And Sanctions Laws." "Tether, whose unregulated cryptocurrency of the same name has spawned a hard-to-police shadow financial system, is under investigation by the Treasury and Justice departments for possible violations of anti-money-laundering and sanctions laws, The Wall Street Journal reported in October, citing people familiar with the matter." [The Wall Street Journal, [11/23/24](#)]

...Meanwhile, The Commerce Dept. Has Been Central In Developing Crypto Regulations And Its National Institute Of Standards And Technology (NIST) Has Several Blockchain Projects, Including A "Synergy" Effort With Industry And A Report On The Cybersecurity Concerns Around Stablecoin, The Underlying Technology Behind Tether.

In 2022, President Biden Signed An Executive Order On Responsibly Developing Digital Assets, Which Instructed The Secretary Of Commerce To Establish A Framework For "Enhancing United States Competitiveness In, And Leveraging Of, Digital Asset Technologies."

March 2022: President Biden Signed An Executive Order On "Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets," Which Included An Objective To Identify "Specific Financial Stability Risks And Regulatory Gaps." "On March 9, 2022, President Biden signed Executive Order 14067, 'Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets' (EO 14067). EO 14067 sets forth six policy objectives for the United States with respect to digital assets, including a) the implications of developments and adoption of digital assets for the protection of consumers, investors, and businesses in the United States and the implications for equitable growth; b) identifying specific financial stability risks and regulatory gaps posed by various types of digital assets and providing recommendations to address such risks; c) the mitigation of digital-asset-related illicit finance and national security risks; d) the reinforcement of United States (U.S.) leadership in the global financial system and in technological and economic competitiveness; e) the promotion of access to safe and affordable financial services; and f) the support of technological objectives that promote responsible development and use of digital assets." [U.S. Department of Commerce, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

- **Section 8 Of The Executive Order Directed The Secretary Of Commerce To "Establish A Framework For Enhancing United States Competitiveness In, And Leveraging Of, Digital Asset Technologies," In Consultation With Other Cabinet Officials And Agency Heads.** "Section 8 of EO 14067 establishes specific policy objectives regarding U.S. competitiveness with respect to digital assets and international cooperation. [...] Accordingly, Section 8(b)(iii) directs the Secretary of Commerce (the Secretary), in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other relevant agencies, to 'establish a framework for enhancing United States competitiveness in, and leveraging of, digital asset technologies.' The Secretary presents this document in fulfillment of the direction in Section 8(b)(iii)." [U.S. Department of Commerce, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

In 2022, The Commerce Dept. Issued A Report On "Responsible Advancement Of U.S. Competitiveness In Digital Assets," With Sec. Gina Raimondo Stating Support For "Effective Regulatory Approaches To Address Regulatory Gaps."

September 2022: The U.S. Commerce Department Released A Report On "Responsible Advancement Of U.S. Competitiveness In Digital Assets," With Secretary Gina Raimondo Stating The Department "Supports Effective Regulatory Approaches To Address Regulatory Gaps And Support The Foundation Of A Healthy Market That Fosters Competition And Responsible Innovation In Digital Assets." "Today, following the release of the Department's Responsible Advancement of U.S. Competitiveness in Digital Assets report, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo issued the following statement: [...] 'The framework rests on four pillars. First, the Department supports effective regulatory approaches to address regulatory gaps and support the foundation of a healthy market that fosters competition and responsible innovation in digital assets.'" [U.S. Department of Commerce, [09/16/22](#)]

- **U.S. Department Of Commerce Report: Responsible Advancement Of U.S. Competitiveness In Digital Assets** [U.S. Department of Commerce, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

In 2022, The Biden White House Released A Comprehensive Framework To "Foster Responsible Digital Asset Innovation," With The Commerce Dept. Charged With Forming A "Standing Forum" To Inform Federal Regulation And Standards On Digital Assets.

September 2022: The Biden White House Released A Comprehensive Framework On Digital Asset Development, With The U.S. Commerce Department Charged With Establishing A "Standing Forum" Of Agencies, Industry, Academics, And Others To Inform Federal Regulation And Standards On Digital Assets. "The digital assets market has grown significantly in recent years. Millions of people globally, including 16% of adult Americans, have purchased digital assets—which reached a market capitalization of \$3 trillion globally last November. Digital assets present potential opportunities to reinforce U.S. leadership in the global financial system and remain at the technological frontier. But they also pose real risks as evidenced by recent

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events in crypto markets. The May crash of a so-called stablecoin and the subsequent wave of insolvencies wiped out over \$600 billion of investor and consumer funds. [...] In keeping with this tradition, the Administration plans to take the following steps to foster responsible digital asset innovation: [...] The Department of Commerce will examine establishing a standing forum to convene federal agencies, industry, academics, and civil society to exchange knowledge and ideas that could inform federal regulation, standards, coordinating activities, technical assistance, and research support." [The White House, [09/16/22](#)]

- **White House Press Release: FACT SHEET: White House Releases First-Ever Comprehensive Framework for Responsible Development of Digital Assets** [The White House, [09/16/22](#)]

The Commerce Dept. Runs The National Institute Of Standards And Technology (NIST), Whose Researchers Have Been Investigating Blockchain, The Underlying Technology For Cryptocurrency—NIST Lists Five Advanced Projects On Blockchain, Including A "Synergy" Effort Including Members Of Industry.

The U.S. Commerce Department Includes The National Institute Of Standards And Technology (NIST), "One Of The Nation's Oldest Physical Science Laboratories" Whose Efforts "Stimulate Innovation, Foster Industrial Competitiveness, And Improve The Quality Of Life." "The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was founded in 1901 and is now part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. NIST is one of the nation's oldest physical science laboratories. [...] NIST will be the world's leader in creating critical measurement solutions and promoting equitable standards. Our efforts stimulate innovation, foster industrial competitiveness, and improve the quality of life." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

NIST Researchers Have Been Investigating Blockchain, The Underlying Technology For Cryptocurrencies, Including "Use Cases, Applications And Existing Services, To Protocols, Security Guarantees, And Cryptographic Mechanisms." "Blockchain represents a new paradigm for digital interactions and serves as the underlying technology for most cryptocurrencies. [...] NIST researchers have been investigating blockchain technologies at multiple levels: from use cases, applications and existing services, to protocols, security guarantees, and cryptographic mechanisms. Research outcomes include scientific papers and the production of software for experimentation as well as providing direction for other NIST endeavors in this space. Blockchain has the potential to be implemented in many different systems, to include manufacturing supply chains, data registries, digital identification, and records management." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

As Of December 2025, NIST's Webpage On Blockchain Listed Five NIST Projects On Blockchain, Including A "Synergy" Effort With Industry And Academia And High-Level Technical Documents On The Technology. [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/06/24](#)]

- **NIST Projects Included A "High-Level Technical" Overview Of Blockchain Technology.** "NISTIR 8202 – Blockchain Technology Overview [...] Summary: A high-level technical document explaining the technology involved in blockchain systems, as well as how the systems work." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]
- **NIST Projects Included A "Community Of Interest" With Members Of Industry And Academia To Provide Guidelines For "Synergy Between End Users, Research Community, And Solution Providers."** "Blockchain for Industrial Applications Community of Interest [...] Summary: The BIA COI – with members from government, industry, and academia – is providing guidelines to create a (better) synergy between end users, research community, and solution providers to reduce complexity, cost, and delay of adoption of blockchain technologies." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

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- **NIST Projects Included A Study On Enhanced Distributed Ledger Technology.** "Enhanced Distributed Ledger Technology [...] Summary: The Enhanced Distributed Ledger Technology project examines the traditional blockchain data structure and seeks to create a new data structure (the block matrix) to provide high reliability, and security while also enabling deletion or updating capabilities not currently found in most blockchain systems." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]
- **NIST Projects Included A "High-Level Technical Document" On Cybersecurity And Blockchain Identity Management Systems.** "NIST Cybersecurity White Paper - A Taxonomic Approach to Understanding Emerging Blockchain Identity Management Systems [...] Summary: A high-level technical document breaking down the key components, emerging standards, and system architectures that support blockchain-based identity management systems." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]
- **NIST Projects Included An Overview Of Blockchain Token Design And Management "In An Effort To Lower The Barriers To Study, Prototype, And Integrate Token-Related Standards And Protocols"** "NISTIR 8301 – Blockchain Networks: Token Design and Management Overview [...] Summary: An overview of token data models and important building blocks for account, transaction, and infrastructure management in an effort to lower the barriers to study, prototype, and integrate token-related standards and protocols" [National Institute of Standards and Technology, accessed [12/04/24](#)]

NIST Has Also Published An Internal Report On "Security, Stability, And Trust Issues" In Stablecoin Technology, Which Undergirds Lutnick's And Cantor Fitzgerald's Highly Lucrative Cryptocurrency Partner Tether.

NIST Has Also Published An Internal Report On "Understanding Stablecoin Technology and Related Security Considerations" Which "Explores Related Security, Stability, And Trust Issues" In Stablecoins. "NIST Internal Report NIST IR 8408 [...] Understanding Stablecoin Technology and Related Security Considerations [...] This document also explores related security, stability, and trust issues with an analysis conducted from a computer science and information technology security perspective as opposed to the financial analysis and economics focus of much of the stablecoin literature." [National Institute of Standards and Technology, [September 2023](#)]

Cantor Fitzgerald "Earns Tens Of Millions Of Dollars A Year Holding US Treasuries On Behalf Of Tether" To Keep Its Stablecoin Pegged To The U.S. Dollar. "Lutnick recently dispatched his son Brandon to Switzerland as a Cantor ambassador to one of the biggest names in crypto: Tether Holdings Ltd. The company, which stands behind one of the world's most popular digital currencies, is allegedly being probed by the Justice Department. Cantor earns tens of millions of dollars a year holding US Treasuries on behalf of Tether to keep its eponymous stablecoin pegged to the dollar at 1:1." [Bloomberg, [11/26/24](#)]

November 2024: Lutnick And Cantor Fitzgerald Were In Talks With Stablecoin Company Tether To Launch A \$2 Billion Project—Which "Could Potentially Reach Tens Of Billions Of Dollars"—"To Lend Dollars To Clients Against Bitcoin." "U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick, is in talks to deepen his financial ties with the company operating the world's largest stablecoin, Tether, by launching a \$2 billion project to lend dollars to clients against bitcoin, Bloomberg News reported on Sunday. Lutnick's financial services firm, Cantor Fitzgerald, is discussing receiving support from Tether to help fund the project, which could potentially reach tens of billions of dollars, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter." [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]

- **Headline: Trump pick Lutnick's firm in talks with Tether for \$2 billion bitcoin lending project, Bloomberg reports** [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]

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- "Stablecoins Are Digital Tokens Designed To Keep A Constant Value, And Are Backed By Traditional Currencies Such As The U.S. Dollar Or Euro." [Reuters, [11/24/24](#)]