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Hello. The US has passed its first major national cryptocurrency legislation, in a big win for the industry. Proponents of the bill, which was backed by President Donald Trump, hope it will help digital assets become more mainstream. But there are concerns about consumer protection and alleged conflicts of interest, as I explain below. We also explore how new age-verification rules for adult websites in the UK will work, and visit the US base tracking global missile strikes.

THE DOWNLOAD

Crypto's investment in Trump comes good



The crypto industry views regulation as a path to mainstream acceptance. Credit: Getty Images

The cryptocurrency sector spent a whopping \$131m on Donald Trump's 2024 election campaign - more than any other industry - and opened its wallet for key congressional races, too.

On Thursday it felt like those investments paid off, as the House of Representatives rubber stamped **America's first ever national crypto regulation**.

Known as the Genius Act, the bill will create a regulatory framework for stablecoins - a type of cryptocurrency pegged to the value of another asset, like the dollar. They are considered vital to making crypto safer - and more attractive - for mainstream investors, something the industry badly needs.

The House also sent two other key bills to the Senate - one to regulate other forms of crypto and reduce legal scrutiny on companies, the other to stop the US Federal Reserve creating its own digital currency.

The industry views regulation, which is long overdue, as a path to mainstream acceptance.

But the new bills do nothing to tackle the sector's long-standing problems such as **rampant fraud** and **cybercrime**, says Lee Reiners, an expert in financial regulation at Duke University.

"These are bad bills - written by and for the crypto industry," he says.

There are also questions about the Trump family's extensive crypto investments.

The president denies any **conflicts of interest**, saying he is simply supporting an "important" industry. But the legislation will clearly benefit his crypto holdings.

"The various ways in which the president and his family are profiting from crypto does suggest his priority is personal enrichment, not promoting innovation," says Timothy Massad, a lawyer and former government official in the Obama administration.

The download: *This is a big win for crypto and the White House, but it's unlikely these bills will rein in the industry's worst excesses.*

TOP STORIES



Netflix uses AI effects for first time to cut costs

The streaming giant said AI, which produces videos and images based on prompts, was used to create a scene in new Argentine show *The Eternauts*.

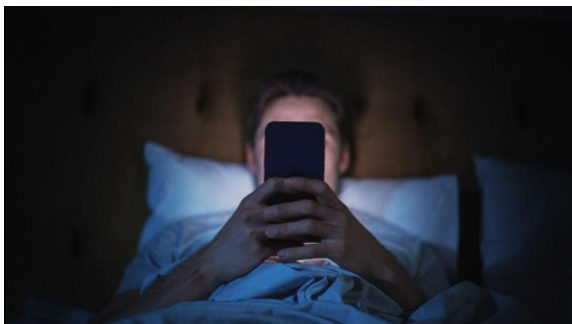
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Meta investors settle \$8bn lawsuit with Zuckerberg

Mark Zuckerberg has agreed to settle a lawsuit with a group of shareholders over how top Meta executives handled repeated privacy violations at Facebook.

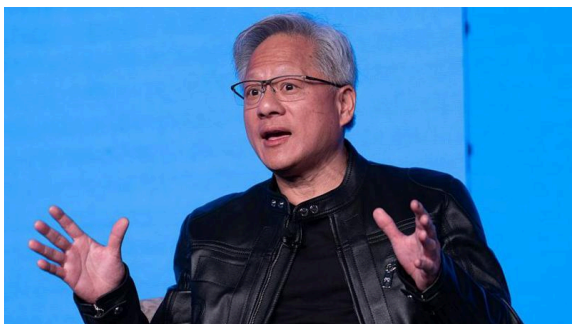
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How will age verification for porn work?

Adult websites in the UK will have to introduce advanced age checks by 25 July. But how will it work, and what about user privacy?

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Nvidia says it will restart AI chip sales to China

The Trump administration has reversed a ban on exports of Nvidia's H20 chips, despite earlier fears they could be used by the Chinese military.

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Is Ukraine's new drone scheme gamifying war?

Under a scheme first trialled last year, Ukrainian army units can earn points for each Russian soldier killed or piece of equipment destroyed.

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SOMETHING DIFFERENT

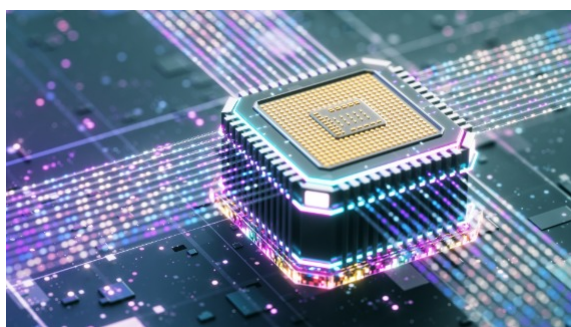
Inside the US base tracking missile strikes



The US Space Force's warning and tracking operations room. Credit: Matthew Goddard/BBC

From their base in Denver, Colorado, the US Space Force is able to track a missile launch from anywhere in the world and follow it to its likely point of impact. Most recently, it helped to intercept the salvo of rockets fired by Iran at the US military base at al-Udeid in Qatar - protecting the site and its personnel. The BBC was given **rare access to the unit's warning and tracking operations room**, a nerve centre where staff are on alert 24 hours a day.

PODCAST PICK



Quantum question time

The BBC answers your questions about quantum computing - a technology that promises to revolutionise everything from particle physics to fertiliser production.

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And finally...

AI accents. AI-voice cloning tools are increasingly used in content such as training videos, sales support and presentations. But many of the products available sound similar, because they are largely trained on North American data. Now, a UK firm hopes to change this with software it claims can

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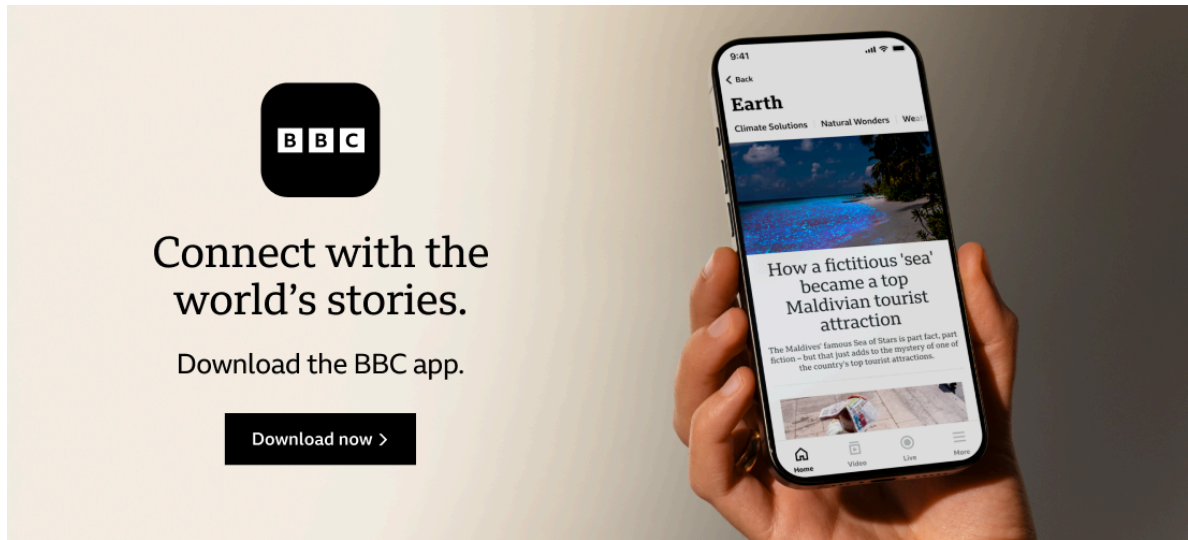
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