

**Week of May 1 - May 7** (Published May 10)

**PERSPECTIVES** by Steve Payne

**22 Crypto Private Financings Raised ~\$95M**

Not much to write home about this week - a decent number of financings were announced, but announced capital raised was the second lowest week of the year. Arguably, one week is too short a period to extract much meaning, but let's parse the data a bit:

- Deals raising over \$100M - zero
- Deals raising over \$10M - just two
- Stage - half of the top ten are seed stage
- Lead Investors - evenly split between VCs, crypto-centric VCs and some large institutions/strategics

Compared to our financing snapshot from [one year ago](#):

- \$433M was raised in 47 announced financings (and this was the lowest week in April)
- Deals raising over \$100M - zero
- Deals raising over \$10M - ten!
- Stage - none were seed stage, half were Series B/late stage
- Lead Investors - 2/10 were VCs, 8/10 were crypto-centric or not disclosed (=same)

The largest deal last week, Fedi, was a \$17M raise by this project started in 2022. Today, most users store their crypto on an exchange for convenience, or in their own wallet, for security. Both have problems - like FTX in the former case, or losing your keys (and being unable to recover your crypto) in the latter. To provide both convenience and security, Fedi is building a product to help trusted communities ("federations") store bitcoin together and simplify crypto transactions between members. Using an open-source protocol called Fedimint, Fedi offers a compromise between (easy) custodial storage and (safe) self-custody: outsourcing backup storage to people you personally know and trust.

Fedi lead investor Ego Death Capital (!) explains it well: "Imagine a wallet app holding your Bitcoin where a family could act as their own guardians and trusted network for each other. Lose your key - no problem as the members of your family can easily vouch for you and get your Bitcoin back. Now imagine that the definition of "family" could be extended to any size of network of trusted "guardians". With Lightning and Fedi, since transactions are not on-chain and instead use blind signatures, privacy is greatly enhanced and scale becomes unlimited and cheap." We're interested to see how this project develops.

PAST WEEK NOTABLE TRANSACTIONS (Top 10 by Capital Raised)						
Company	Date	Size (\$M)	Post-Money Valuation (\$M)	Stage	Subsector	Lead Investor(s)
Fedi	May 4	17	77	Series A	Investing & Trading Infrastructure	Ego Death Capital, Ash Park Capital
AlienSwap	May 4	12	ND	Seed	DApp: Investing & Trading	C Squared Ventures, NEXT Leader Capital
Array	May 1	10	ND	Seed	DApp: Investing & Trading	Temasek Holdings
zkLink	May 4	10	ND	Series A	Blockchain & Protocol	Big Brain Holdings, Coinbase Ventures, Fenbushi Capital
Gamma	May 4	8	ND	Series A	Investing & Trading Infrastructure	ND
Tangem	May 2	8	ND	Series B	Investing & Trading Infrastructure	Shima Capital
Huan Cang	May 4	7.3	73	Series B	Brokers & Exchanges	ND
FARE Protocol	May 1	6.2	ND	Seed	Blockchain & Protocol	C Squared Ventures
Tristero	May 3	4.8	ND	Seed	DApp: Investing & Trading	General Catalyst, Steel Perlot
Vibe	May 4	4	ND	Seed	Developer Tools & Infrastructure	Aglae Ventures, Alchemy, Naval Ravikant

