MARCH 2021

THE WORLD OF CRYPTOCURRENCY

NEW CAREERS AND SPOTTING THE RED FLAGS

ANNA RYBAKOVA

COMPLIANCE IN CRYPTO

THE RUN DOWN

ALEX MCCORKINDALE

5 MINUTES WITH AN EXPERT

ANDY HIGGS

ATTIC

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TIC co.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The year is certainly running away with us, and the extension of our New Zealand bubble in to Australia is only adding to the excitement here at ATTIC HQ. We have spent the first quarter supporting a couple of initiatives in the pacific islands and it is a privilege to be supporting international regulators with creating sustainable and secure approaches to monetary flows in and out of New Zealand.

All things crypto have been on our radar since the annual FIU Conference. It has been a learning curve, as we navigate supporting our friends who have 'unique' challenges in the current regulatory space. It will undoubtedly continue to be a hot topic and we appreciate the support from BitPrime and Easy Crypto.

It will be an interesting few months. The industry is evolving quickly, we know that it can be difficult to find your way through the maze of providers and opinions. Check out the AMLSummit - if you know me you will know I love a bargain- discount provided via ATTIC on the last page. The regulators and experts in the private sector will be there to say their piece, and it is a fantastic opportunity for you to ask your questions and connect with other like minded professionals in the industry.

Let's make sure that we continue to support each other, as collaboration is key in supporting best practice in New Zealand, whilst setting the benchmarks globally for effective anti-money laundering and countering terrorist finance for our friends offshore.

DR. ALICE TREGUNNA
Editor-in-Chief

The World of Cryptocurrency with Anna Rybakova

Compliance in Crypto with Alex McCorkindale

5 Minutes with an Expert: Andy Higgs

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THE WORLD OF CRYPTOCURRENCY

CRYPTOCURRENCY. COMPLIANCE AND HOW TO SPOT THOSE RED FLAGS.

BY ANNA RYBAKOVA, COMPLIANCE MANAGER AT BitPrime

Did I ever expect to know anything about red flag indicators relating to cryptocurrency transactions or extended customer due diligence? Or to know what AML or CFT even mean? Well, I probably would have heard about them being an accountant but I moved out of that line of work just before the financial world went AML crazy.

The first time I heard those mysterious abbreviations was in August 2020 when I was browsing through Trade Me listings looking for an interesting job that would utilise my skills other than financial or management accountant roles.

I started my accounting career as an office manager at a small IT firm, continued as an auditor at EY and finished it at the Auckland International Airport. Just after I got my CA (good timing!) I realised that accounting is not what makes me excited and keeps me going.

"The miraculous world of compliance where every decision you make is literally going to affect people's lives."

Well, it did keep me going during late nights completing sample testing or preparing financials and I cannot be happier knowing that time has passed.

In September 2020 I took the role of Compliance Officer at BitPrime, one of New Zealand's leading cryptocurrency retailers. I self-studied the AML/CFT legislation and all regulator guidance issued at that time and I was amazed at how interesting the job might be. I moved to the AML/CFT field almost two years ago now and there hasn't been a day gone by where I didn't feel gratitude towards my fate that brought me to that Trade Me page.

Instead of multiple spreadsheets with millions of tiny numbers and IFRS standards, I am involved in the miraculous world of compliance where every decision you make is literally going to affect people's lives. It can be your customer, your employee, your management, or yourself!

THE INDUSTRY

Despite everything previously explained, I still find my accounting experience very useful. In general, I think compliance is a line of work that utilises skills that you never knew you had. It keeps your mind sharp and focused, makes you analyse and apply unconventional approaches to every new case.

THE COMPLIANCE INDUSTRY REQUIRES YOU TO BRING OUT YOUR INNER LAWYER / ACCOUNTANT / COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR AND CRISIS MANAGER.

The cryptocurrency industry poses additional challenges that keep you on your toes about every recent technological development. Not only those that relate to the cryptocurrency industry itself, but also to the transaction monitoring you must do – constant vigilance against scammers, criminals and fraudsters who find this mode of payment very attractive. Scams are moving in front of technological advances in the compliance field most of the time. There are a number of reasons for it, one of them being the slow speed of big business bureaucracy. BitPrime is a small company, and I am glad that every decision that we make has the ability to be implemented by the end of the day we discussed it.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

I find the AML/CFT field fascinating. I have heard a number of complaints about how risk-based legislation is hard to understand and implement. I thrive in risk-based legislation. It makes complete sense to me and I couldn't do it in any other way. That's exactly the way you want to do it. **Ask for certified copies from a $10K transaction if you find it risky** (your customer is completely and utterly unaware what a "wallet" is and tells you he wishes to buy some "blockchain") **but approve a $20K one based on the bank statement and a search of public sources**. Because sometimes it just makes sense!

Above
Anna Rybakova, Compliance Manager, BitPrime

That's what AML compliance is all about to me and that's what makes it very different from accounting. There is no black and white, there is a judgement that you must apply based on the existing information, your research, gut feel and common sense. Cryptocurrency compliance has many indicators that can point you in the right direction and give you the feeling if the business relationship or transaction "makes any economic sense".

TO CONCLUDE...

IT IS CHALLENGING AND NEVER EASY.

One day you wonder if you add any value to the company or society. That day is when your customers send you the "extremely dissatisfied" reviews when you decline their accounts or call you names because they just don't want to share their personal information.

And there are other days, when DIA or FATF issue a brand new VASP (Virtual Asset Service Provider) guidance or VASP Red flag indicators and it makes your world bright and sunny again because it provided answers you couldn't find anywhere else!

It has been a roller coaster ride, starting from the moment I submitted my first AML report and up until now when I am researching the advanced transaction monitoring technologies available for cryptocurrency businesses.

But that's why we live our lives and get up from the bed each morning, isn't it? To develop, to look forward, to solve problems, to find solutions, to overcome and empower!

I am a happy person now and I want to assure everyone who thinks about **changing jobs, fields, countries – it is never too late.**

I was 31 when I decided to quit accounting right after I achieved everything for what is assumed to be "a perfect and guaranteed career path". I left with no job and we moved to another town (from Auckland to Rakaia of all places!) where I did not know a soul. I took my break and got back to life. And what a great life I must say!

Sometimes, it's all what's needed – to **take a break and a deep breath and to ask yourself some honest questions**. And if you hesitate answering even one of them – you get your answer.

BitPrime

ATTIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

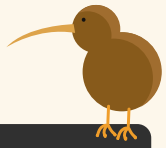
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Cryptocurrency is a is a form of payment that can be exchanged online for goods and services. However, you'll need to exchange real currency for the cryptocurrency to access the good or service. According to research, there are more than 6,700 different cryptocurrencies being traded publicly, but popular cryptocurrencies are the likes of bitcoin and ethereum.

Cryptocurrencies work using a technology called blockchain. **Blockchain** is a decentralised technology (i.e. isn't controlled by one government or person) spread across a system of computers that manages and records transactions.

HAS NO INTRINSIC VALUE | **HAS NO PHYSICAL FORM**



CRYPTO IN NEW ZEALAND

Cryptocurrency has been around since 2008, and in the past few years Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have experienced a greater growth.

According to CERT NZ, the NZ Government has seen a large increase in the number of incidents relating to stolen cryptocurrencies, or cryptocurrency scams. It is recommended that you get professional advice before making decisions.

ATTIC
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THE RISKS

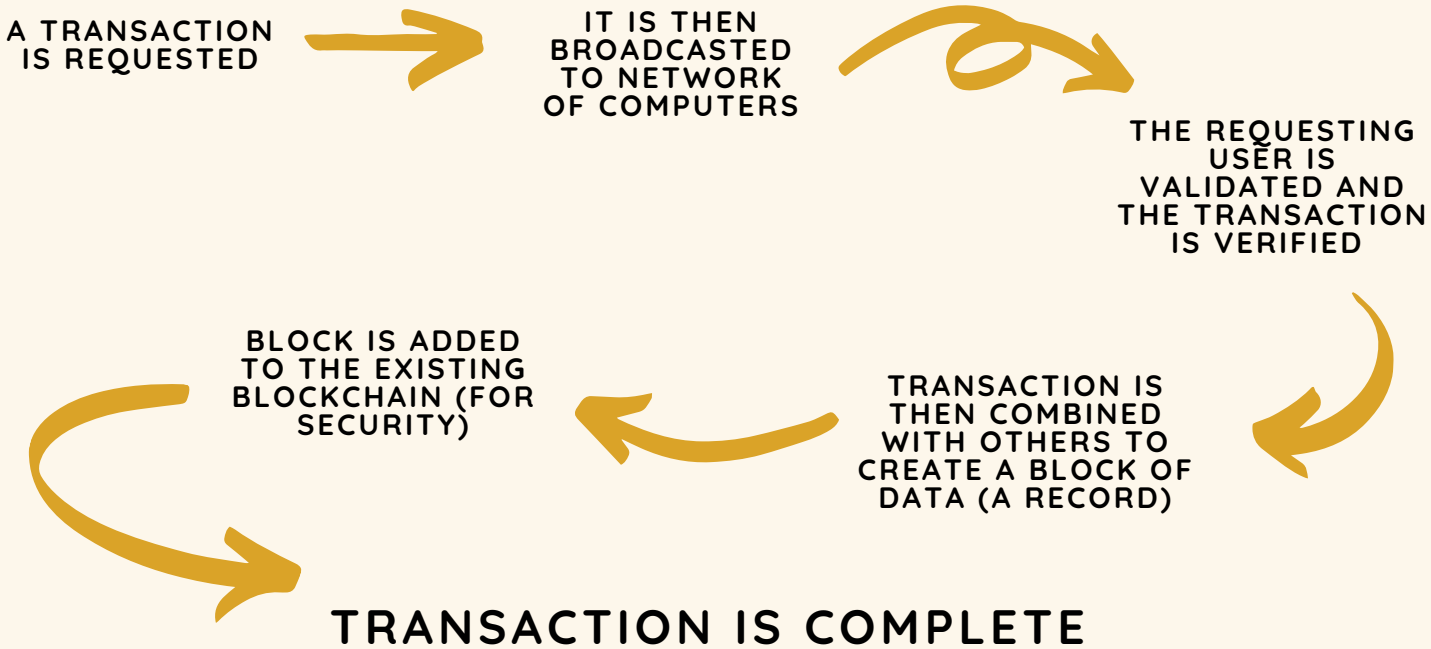
The Financial Markets Authority warns of **three** main risks regarding cryptocurrencies, these being the following:

1. They are high risk and volatile, with prices changing from high to low very quickly.

2. Cryptocurrencies are not regulated in NZ.

3. The people that use cryptocurrencies and crypto-exchanges are often the targets of hacking, scams and online fraud.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



COMPLIANCE IN CRYPTO

FEATURE

BY ALEX MCCORKINDALE, HEAD OF COMPLIANCE AT EASYCRYPTO

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Cryptocurrency is becoming less a tool for criminals confined to dark web activity. Instead, many everyday investors are now looking to diversify their portfolio with some crypto, and there are even crypto credit cards that let you buy your groceries, clothing and even that Friday bevvy using your own crypto!

With so many emerging use-cases for Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, it's no surprise that the regulators have started to look at ways in which digital assets like these should be regulated.

In NZ, cryptocurrency companies (also called Virtual Asset Service Providers, or "VASPs") were brought in to DIA regulation with the other Phase 2 entities, and since then it's been an exciting (but challenging) few years.

WHAT DOES COMPLIANCE IN CRYPTO LOOK LIKE?

Any financial instrument is vulnerable to being abused for money laundering or the financing of terrorism, and cryptocurrencies are no exception! So, as have other reporting entities over time, NZ crypto companies were pushed to wade into the waters of compliance and the journey of understanding exactly how AML/CFT looks in their space.

We are always working to improve our systems and processes in this new and fast-paced industry! Part of this is also trying to work with the regulators to help them understand what AML/CFT currently (and could potentially) look like in the crypto space.

Below
Alex McCorkindale
Head of Compliance at Easy Crypto

Here's a brief glimpse of what compliance in crypto looks like to date:

KYC/CDD
Customers are on-boarded at the sign-up stage, with their ID and address verified.

EDD
Enhanced due diligence is performed where required by law/legislations, including collecting source of funds (both fiat and crypto) evidence.

SPEND LIMITS/TIERS
New customers' spending is limited until we have collected and are satisfied with the relevant source of funds evidence. This includes both the NZD that will be used to purchase, and any externally sourced crypto a customer is looking to sell.

ACCOUNT & TRANSACTION MONITORING
Account and transaction monitoring includes (but isn't limited to): Automatic monitoring systems & Manual monitoring techniques

COMPLIANCE REVIEWS
Accounts are monitored by compliance teams for regular checks where needed

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

LACK OF PRE-ESTABLISHED CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR PROFILES

It's been a real challenge having to build an understanding of typical and atypical customer behaviours from scratch, with very few industry examples to help as a starting point. This has led to some fun and exciting research projects!

CONSTANT NEW TRENDS/TECHNOLOGIES EMERGING

There are always new and innovative ideas being born in the crypto space, which is extremely exciting for the future of finance and economics as we know it. But it also means we're always needing to understand the latest new thing in crypto in order to identify and mitigate any potential compliance risks.

With these new technologies come not only new opportunities for criminals, money launderers or terrorist supporters - but also constant new opportunities for scams. This is why we've made it our mission to educate our customers on the risk of scams, as well as teach our staff how to spot possible scams and how to support victims. This is another reason why it's important for ourselves and the industry/regulators to keep up with new trends to identify any emerging compliance risks.

MAKING THE LEGISLATION FIT

Interpreting the legislation for cryptocurrencies (or "digital assets") was difficult to begin with… but after some chats with and clarification from the regulators, it was possible to build our processes in a way that fit. A huge part of this was understanding the purpose for each part of the legislation, and one of the biggest resources referred to for this was the DIA's virtual asset service provider (VASP) guidance.

WHAT ARE THE GREAT BENEFITS OF CRYPTO IN TERMS OF AML/CFT?

BETTER OVERSIGHT OF THE MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

The nature of crypto allows for blockchain explorers and address mapping software (such as Blockchair.com or Chainalysis) which means we can build a clearer picture of the movement of crypto being bought and sold by customers. From a compliance perspective, this has proven to be hugely beneficial as it allows for more transparency not only for where the funds are going once we send them to the customer's wallet, but also for whether an individual is being honest in their claims.

UNCOVERING NEW TRENDS

Some of the new technologies/ideas can be utilised for compliance tools/methods, and there's the potential for crypto investigations to assist understanding some of the methods used by large ML/TF groups.

BRINGING THE DARK TO THE LIGHT

Crypto has had a bad reputation for being used by criminals, particularly going back to its common adoption for use in making purchases on the dark web in its early days. This is why it's important for legitimate crypto companies to do their part in bringing crypto into regulation in order to make sure it's sustainable. We want crypto to be brought into the light to be used by everyone!

IN SUMMARY...

The widespread adoption of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies for investment and other purposes means it's super important for crypto companies and regulators to continue exploring the emerging technologies to stay ahead of criminals - which makes compliance in the crypto space a uniquely challenging area. While they come with some compliance challenges, cryptocurrencies offer AML/CFT benefits that other financial instruments can't offer (such as blockchain analysis), which can help to improve our understanding of the way ML/TF groups are working. For this reason, the crypto space will be one to watch over the coming years, and could provide some useful new tools and knowledge in the general area of AML/CFT compliance.

5 MINUTES WITH AN EXPERT: ANDY HIGGS

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF CENTRAPASS

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDY HIGGS BY REBECCA RANJAN

Andy is General Manager of Strategic Partnerships at Centrality and is the Director of CentraPass, which is part of the Centrality ecosystem, focusing on digital identity. He is well-versed in the world of cryptocurrency and is a key part of Centrality's vision of propelling New Zealand and the world into the internet of value.

Andy has a 20 year track record delivering growth, new business and performance improvement in commercial leadership roles across public and private sector organisations. Andy's offshore experience includes Deloitte Consulting, MTV Networks Europe and co-founding Accelerate Sport (now CSM) developing sport and entertainment rights based in London. He held Director and Executive Leadership roles with Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development, Directorship with Rotorua Economic Development and has spearheaded a broad range of community building initiatives.

Andy ensures that Centrality partners with world leading brands and startups to achieve mainstream adoption for decentralised ID, open systems and distributive technologies.

What is a myth around cryptocurrency that you believe needs to be debunked?

People believe that cryptocurrency is used by criminals in order to launder money and conceal assets. However, cryptocurrency is essentially a very public system - if you can establish the on-ramp and off-ramps into the blockchain system, who is using that system, business or machine, everything is public.

The best way to govern cryptocurrency and its misuse is through sharing intelligence or an identity custodian who has the right access so that they can identify who is behind, for example, a wallet address.

ANDY'S TOP TIPS FOR PEOPLE CURIOUS ABOUT CRYPTOCURRENCY & BLOCKCHAIN

Andy shares his words of wisdom as a professional with extensive experience in cryptocurrency including digital assets and decentralised technologies.

1

Cryptocurrency is the future and it is happening whether you like it or not.

It is not a question of **if** it is going to happen, but rather a question of **when**. Cryptocurrency is the future of internet and money, so it is important that it is taken very seriously.

2

Blockchain systems are smarter than current systems.

An ecosystem approach to customer digital identity will enhance AML compliance while reducing servicing costs. Access to data can be facilitated by blockchain based systems to ensure trust, privacy, security and fairness is built into the infrastructure by design.

3

Governance is crucial.

The largest barrier to data interoperability in industry is not technology, it is governance. When creating a data institution, it is important to spend time sorting through shared pain points and focus on how to fix these problems for stakeholder benefit.

The reason why a blockchain-based cryptocurrency like Bitcoin is so successful is because it employs community governance. This takes power away from central authorities and gives the power to the Bitcoin community, meaning there is good alignment of incentives to create mutual success.

4

Environmental compliance can be enterprise blockchain's biggest driver for change.

Environmental and sustainable practices are a major focus for governments and imperative for change across industries. Enterprises will need a solid baseline of environmental impact data and a plan to reduce that impact over time to survive in the face of increased regulatory compliance.

Enterprise data initiatives using trusted and tamper proof blockchain ledgers are the missing link to driving and enforcing compliance across industries.

OPINION

CAREER VS. CHILDREN (AND A SPOONFUL OF AML)

BY SUZANNE DOWMAN, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR AT THE TIC COMPANY

IN HONOUR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, WE HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR VERY OWN, SUZANNE DOWMAN, ON HER EXPERIENCES AS A WOMAN WORKING WITH ALL THINGS AML AND TAKING PARENTAL LEAVE WHEN BEING INVOLVED IN A FAST PACED AND DEVELOPING INDUSTRY.

In the world of AML, you may turn your head away for a brief moment and be met with a series of business updates, alterations to regulations, captivating news articles or office birthday parties bombarding you upon return. For reasons such as these, going onto parental leave for AML related employment can be exciting but daunting when working in such a fast paced industry. You have the pending arrival of your little bundle of joy, but the potential isolation from the work and colleagues that are important to you.

Above
Suzanne Dowman
Business Administrator at The TIC Company

Approaching parental leave in a positive frame of mind not only allowed me to enjoy my time away from my role, but also to bring new skills back to it when I return - if you have ever had to negotiate with a toddler you will understand that it not only helps you with problem solving skills but much more, the ultimate 'mum skill'... negotiation (oh, and snack provider). In a client-centric company such as the TIC Co, negotiation is an important skill within our team, regardless of whether or not you are a brand spanking new analyst, or are part of the furniture.

While taking the time to raise the future of AML (start em' young), I have found that it is so important to keep up to date with all things AML and stay in the loop during parental leave. This doesn't have to be extreme; smaller things I have found that help are being subscribed to the ATTIC Newsletters and Magazine, following LinkedIn profiles that share insight into the interesting world of AML, and staying in contact with fellow AML colleagues and friends.

International Women's Day

"CONSCIOUSLY WORK ON KEEPING THAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TEAM MEMBER ON PARENTAL LEAVE"

AN INGRAINED ISSUE

I think that many organisations tend to unintentionally withdraw from team members on parental leave, whether this is due to workloads taking up so much time that the time of absence flies by, or not wanting to 'intrude' on the time a parent has with their new family member. In situations like this, time spent on parental leave can sometimes make the team members in mention feel a little segregated from the organisation and colleagues.

I believe that by consciously working on keeping that relationship with the team member on parental leave, can not only help the team member, but also show others in the organisation that going on extended leave is not a negative thing. This could be as simple as sending a GIF via message (who doesn't love a good GIF) or a simple "How are you?" email; quick, easy but with so much meaning it can brighten the day for someone or give them the opportunity to talk about struggles they may be having.

Not only does this give the parent on leave the opportunity to talk but also the organisations the opportunity to help.

THE AUNTS AND UNCLES PROGRAMME

TIC Co. has recently implemented a new approach to provide support during parental leave, The Aunts and Uncles Programme. This is an active way to ensure that team members on parental leave do not 'drop off the radar', can remain 'in the loop' and do not get missed off of crucial invitations to celebrations, feedback sessions and company developments.

I have appreciated this in my current parental leave as it has shown me that this isn't just a thing someone has been given to "do"; it has been carefully thought of and takes into consideration the sometimes anxious times that team members can have when going on parental leave and becoming parents for the first, second or even fifth time.

In essence, there are so many things that can be done to make parental leave a more enjoyable experience while accounting for a fast paced industry, whether these be personal efforts such as a scroll through LinkedIn in the afternoon (or the wee hours of the morning), or a company wide initiative like The Aunts and Uncles Programme. The relationship between starting a family and between professionalism and industry should not be an ultimatum over career or child, but more so provide an opportunity to develop a better work-life balance.

WITH THANKS TO SUZANNE, FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF PARENTAL LEAVE (AND A BUSY SCHEDULE AS SNACK PROVIDER) TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTIC MAGAZINE.

VIRTUAL ASSET SERVICE PROVIDERS (VASPS)

DR. AML

FATF defines virtual asset service providers (VASPs) as any natural or legal person, or business who partake in a set of specified transactions and/or activities in relation to virtual assets. Virtual assets are a digital representation of a value that are used for payment or investment, and is traded or transferred digitally.

VASPS ARE SUPERVISED BY THE DIA

VASPS have the same obligations as other reporting entities under the AML/CFT Act. These being that they must know who their customers are, keep records and report transactions when they suspect money laundering or terrorist financing.

FATF have reiterated that it is up to the sector itself to develop the technology to meet the FATF requirements, particularly when it comes to securely collecting and transmitting originator and beneficiary information. They have even stated that crypto-asset exchanges and other virtual asset service providers (VASPs) need to be able to detect: transactions involving other VASPs that fail to apply robust AML/CFT measures.

HOW VIRTUAL ASSETS CAN BE MISUSED

THE 'WANNACRY' EXAMPLE

Multiple transactions convert the payments from one virtual asset to another **(Layering)** to remove all links to the crime.

Each ransom payment goes into a publicly identified **bitcoin wallet.**

Hackers send the cleaned bitcoins to a service provider of bank **(VASPs)** that converts the virtual assets into flat money.

Victims pay the hackers a **Ransom** in Bitcoin to decrypt their computer and resume their activity

Authorities stopped the 'Wannacry' hackers before ransom payments were converted.

Hackers receive the bitcoins in the **Currency** of their choice, ready to be invested.

Computers are infected with a **Virus**, disabling businesses (including hospitals) until a ransom is paid.

$$$ is spent

The above figure was influenced by a FATF publication in relation to Virtual Assets

The "Wannacry" attack paralysed its victims' source of income, health care and other vital services, resulting in a total damage of **USD 8 Billion**. Had the hackers been successful, they would've received a fraction of the amount of damage they caused (**USD 100 Million**)

ASSESSING RISK

DISTINGUISHING THE GOOD FROM THE BAD

CRYPTO-ASSET EXCHANGES

Low Risk

- Regulated
- Strong AML/ Sanction controls
- Banking Partner
- Low transaction volumes with illicit entities

High Risk

- No local regulation of crypto businesses
- No/ little KYC required
- Support for privacy coins
- Significant transaction volumes with illicit entities

KEY RED FLAGS

FATF outlines a number of red flag indicators in regards to Virtual Assets and VASPs, these being the following:

Transaction Size & Frequency

Transaction size is a key indicator of criminal activity. Examples of this being when a large transaction is structured as a series of small transactions that are under record-keeping / reporting thresholds, or if multiple high-value transactions are made.

Increased Anonymity

Ever advancing technological features can allow for increased anonymity, which in turn makes virtual assets more attractive to criminals. This red flag must be assessed on a case by case basis, in the context of the customer, business relationship and motivation behind the transaction.

Geographic Risks

As not all countries have effective AML/CFT measures in place for virtual assets, criminals have greater opportunity to exploit gaps in regulations in higher-risk jurisdictions. Red flags regarding geographic risk can be from where the source of the virtual asset is located, its journey through multiple jurisdictions and the final location of the virtual asset.

Transaction Patterns

As with many other investigative scenarios, irregular or unusual patterns can indicate criminal activity. Transactions involving multiple assets and accounts with no clear business explanation may be a red flag for VASPs, as well as frequent and repeating transactions into the same virtual asset that are from multiple accounts but the same location.

Want to know more?
Contact me: draml@ticc.nz

UPCOMING

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

TECHWEEK 2021

Monday, 24 May - Sunday, 30 May 2021

techweek2021
24 — 30 May

Techweek is a nationwide series of events, showcasing and celebrating New Zealand innovation. It provides a platform for everyone to meet, share ideas and create connections to enhance our future world.

The intention behind Techweek is simple. New Zealand's technology and innovation sectors are growing rapidly and Techweek fosters that growth by providing the national ecosystem with a week-long opportunity for connection and collaboration.

Techweek is an independent platform where individuals and organisations can showcase their unique and inspiring innovation stories.

Find out more here.

WOMEN IN LAW SUMMIT NZ

Thursday, 26th August 2021

NZ|LAWYER
WOMEN IN LAW
SUMMIT

The Women in Law Summit is a series that recognises, celebrates, and boosts the careers of women who make the legal sector so great. The summits aim is to encourage a wider representation of women in senior executive roles, and take down bias and leadership barriers.

The speakers discuss the questions and solutions to challenges that are faced by woman in the legal sector, with the event providing the opportunity to network and make great industry connections.

Panels feature a selection of influential thought-leaders from top law firms.

Further details to come soon

ACAMS™

ANTI-FINANCIAL CRIME FINTECH SUMMIT

Tuesday, 15th June - Thursday, 17th June 2021

The face of banking has significantly changed due to the FinTech industry, and is now faster and more convenient than ever before, this bringing new challenges to the AFC community. The Anti-Financial Crime FinTech Summit looks into the latest regulations and trends that impact the industry, hosting over 80 expert speakers across three days of virtual presentations, seminars and trainings.

Content from the summit can be watched live, or watched as recordings for 90 days after the event concludes (catering to attendees in all time zones). ACAMS members can earn 18 ACAMS Credits at the Conference. These credits count towards maintaining your ACAMS Certification.

Find out more here.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

BVI RANKED AS THE 'GREATEST ENABLER OF CORPORATE ABUSE'

Campaign group Tax Justice Network have placed Britain's overseas territories at the top of the list for the world's most significant tax havens, with the Cayman Islands and Bermuda following up in second and third.

READ MORE

$10 MILLION FROZEN: TEN PEOPLE ARRESTED

Police carried out 12 search warrants across Auckland on the morning of March 17th, making 10 arrests and freezing more than $10 million in assets - including luxury homes. The action comes as part of an investigation by the Financial Crime Group into money laundering and other offences.

READ MORE

FCA LAUNCHES CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NATWEST

The majority state-owned bank has failed to act on suspicious transactions, despite £264m cash allegedly being paid into a customer account. The FCA Claims NatWest "failed to adequately monitor and scrutinise this activity."

NatWest, until recently known as Royal Bank of Scotland, is 62%-owned by the taxpayer after its bailout in the financial crisis.

READ MORE

KIDD LEGAL ISSUED THE FIRST FORMAL WARNING UNDER THE AML/CFT ACT

The DIA has issued a formal warning to law firm Kidd Legal under the AML/CFT Act, this being the first formal warning issued to the legal section for Anti-Money Laundering Non-compliance. Kidd Legal has failed to meet several of their AML/CFT obligations, and was unable to demonstrate how they would ensure compliance from staff.

READ MORE

REAL ESTATE: PROPERTIES CANNOT BE SHOWN TO POTENTIAL PURCHASERS WITHOUT A SIGNED AGENCY AGREEMENT

Both REINZ and the REA have been made aware of a number of instances where agents have shown potential purchasers through a property (seeking to gain a listing) without an agency agreement. To take prospective buyers through without a signed Agency Agreement is unethical and breaches Rule 9.6 of the REA Professional Conduct and Client Care Rules 2012, section 16(2) of the AML/CFT Act, and may also breach the uninvited direct sale provisions in the Fair Trading Act 1986.

READ MORE

ICIJ INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM of INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS

GLOBAL RESPONSE NEEDED TO STOP RAMPANT TAX ABUSE COSTING GOVERNMENTS TRILLIONS, UN PANEL SAYS

The International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity UN panel, includes high-ranking politicians, experts, and other stakeholders , has released its final report which outlines 14 recommendations aimed at updating and enhancing the international financial system. The goal is to tackle cross-border financial corruption and rampant tax abuse to obtain the necessary resources to eradicate poverty, address climate change and reduce inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Turning a blind eye to such illicit financial flows, especially during a time of economic recession triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, is nothing short of criminal," says Munir Akram, president of the UN Economic and Social Council and permanent representative of Pakistan in the UN.

READ MORE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY AML NZ SOLUTIONS

The 2021 AML Summit will take place on Thursday 13th May and an optional AML Workshop will be run the following day on Friday 14th May.

This practical conference will explore the latest AML/CFT expectations, guidance and developments involving attendees in live discussions on critical topics. A networking function will be held from 5 pm - 7 pm and will provide further opportunity to network with AML/CFT Professionals.

The optional second day will explore practical insights on AML/CFT compliance and discuss guidance in a workshop setting to assist you with day to day complexities.

AN ATTIC EXCLUSIVE

10% off AML SUMMIT 2021 Tickets

USE THE CODE **ATTICMAG10** WHEN PURCHASING YOUR TICKET.

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