

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2026 Global Digital Asset Outlook

Security, Compliance, and the New Paradigm of Liquidity

Delta Research Team (Delta & Capital)

Version 1.0 | 2026

This document provides an English executive summary of the full Chinese report. All case details are anonymized for research and educational purposes.

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Core Thesis: Liquidity is increasingly priced by compliability – assets must be auditable, explainable, and defensible across jurisdictions to remain usable.

Key Takeaways

- Compliance clarity becomes a **liquidity premium**; audit-ready assets face lower friction.
- Risk shifts from **theft** to **usability**: passive taint, AML controls, and blacklisting can immobilize assets without intent.
- Enforcement converges into a **cross-border grid** where VASPs act as gatekeepers and distribute risk signals rapidly.
- Restoration requires a combined stack of **on-chain forensics, jurisdiction mapping, and compliance engineering**.

2026 Market Shift

Institutional participation accelerates the TradFi-fication of Web3. Capital increasingly favors venues with clearer compliance paths (KYC/AML, Travel Rule readiness, policy-aligned custody). Compliance is not only a cost – it is a liquidity attribute.

Usability Risk: key mechanisms

- Passive taint triggers freezes and enhanced due diligence.
- **Algorithmic de-risking** excludes addresses based on proximity and heuristics.
- Issuer / service-layer controls immobilize funds at the protocol edge.

Deliverables (standard package)

- SOF memo + evidence checklist
- Jurisdiction mapping note + procedural roadmap

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References: Coinbase (State of Crypto), TRM Labs (policy review/outlook), SlowMist (security & AML annual report), MiCA, FATF Travel Rule.

Disclaimer: Informational and educational purposes only. Not legal or financial advice. Case details are anonymized.

Usability Risk Taxonomy

Judicial Freeze

Court/prosecutor action

VASP AML Controls

Withdrawal suspension

Issuer Blacklisting

USDT/USDC contract freeze

Service-layer Freeze

Bridge/swap provider hold

Delta Methodology

Delta & Capital focuses on **compliance** restoration: reconstruct facts, map jurisdiction, and communicate in a format consumable by platform compliance and legal stakeholders. The objective is not evasion – it is defensible usability.

Compliance Restoration Stack

Layer 3 Compliance Engineering

Evidence package, narratives, and compliance communications

Layer 2 Jurisdiction Mapping

Freeze origin, AML regimes, and procedural path

Layer 1 On-chain Forensics (KYT)

Flow reconstruction, risk labels, and SOF mapping

Evidence Highlights (anonymized)

- **United States:** restriction resolved after a structured evidence package (SOF memo + forensic flow reconstruction).
- **Germany:** long-duration judicial freeze restored through localized procedural filings and evidence translation.
- **On-chain:** blacklisting and service holds lifted after KYT audit and direct compliance liaison.

- On-chain forensic report (flows, clusters, risk labels)
- Compliance communications package (structured narrative + exhibits)