

Strategic Layout of Next-Gen Chains

Sonic, Berachain, Abstract,
Sui, Hyperliquid, Unichain, Sei



Abstract

- **Escalating Public Chain Competition:** In 2025, blockchain infrastructure has shifted to a game of market share. A new wave of public chains—such as high-performance Sonic, model-driven Berachain, L2s like Abstract and Unichain, and DeFi-focused Sei and Hyperliquid—is reshaping the next phase of inter-chain competition.
- **Sonic's Rapid Growth and Incentive Effectiveness:** Driven by its dual engines of performance and incentives, Sonic saw its TVL surge nearly 40-fold within three months of mainnet launch, surpassing \$1 billion. Its on-chain "GDP" reached \$1.47 million.
- **Berachain's PoL Innovation and Liquidity Engine:** Berachain leverages a unique Proof-of-Liquidity (PoL) consensus and three-token model (\$BERA, \$BGT, \$HONEY) to bind governance with liquidity. As of May 20, 2025, its TVL reached \$1.189 billion.
- **Abstract's Consumer-Grade L2 Strategy:** Positioned as a consumer-grade Ethereum Layer 2, Abstract reduces user friction through chain abstraction. As of May 22, 2025, its DeFi TVL exceeded \$27 million, with tool-based protocol Reservoir Tools contributing \$14.87 million, indicating early traction from tools and speculative activity.
- **Sui's Performance and Security Concerns:** Sui adopts the Move language and parallel execution architecture to achieve high performance. but a \$260M hack on its top DEX, Cetus, on May 22, 2025, caused TVL to plunge from \$2.1B to \$1.54B—raising serious concerns about security in the Move ecosystem.
- **Hyperliquid's On-Chain Futures Growth and Profitability:** As a perpetual contract trading protocol on a self-developed L1, Hyperliquid has reached a TVL of \$1.309 billion with daily trading volume exceeding \$11.5 billion, securing its leadership in the on-chain derivatives space.
- **Unichain's Uniswap-Driven Growth and Liquidity Incentives:** Launched by Uniswap Labs as a DeFi-optimized L2, Unichain saw its TVL jump from \$9 million to \$267 million after launching a \$5 million incentive program. As of May 23, 2025, Unichain's TVL reached approximately \$530 million, with \$437.44 million contributed by Uniswap.
- **Sei Network's DeFi Optimization and Data Performance:** Focused on DeFi and high-frequency trading, Sei Network employs an on-chain central limit order book (CLOB). As of May 25, 2025, its TVL stood at \$487 million, with over 300,000 daily active addresses.

Keywords: Gate Research, Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Sui, Hyperliquid, Unichain, Sei

Gate Research: Strategic Layout of Next-Gen Chains: Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Sui, Hyperliquid, Unichain, Sei

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1. Introduction: The Evolution from "Chain Chaos" to Strategic Inter-Chain Competition

Since the launch of Bitcoin in 2009, blockchain technology has evolved steadily. The emergence of smart contract platforms, led by Ethereum, marked the beginning of a programmable blockchain era. However, early public chains soon encountered bottlenecks in throughput, transaction costs, scalability, and developer experience—struggling to meet growing user demand, increasing application complexity, and performance expectations.

To overcome these limitations, a new generation of public chains began to emerge after 2021. These projects focus on high performance, modular design, composability, and developer-centric experiences, aiming to reshape the public chain landscape through differentiated strategies.

By 2025, the infrastructure race in crypto has shifted from the early-stage "multi-chain battle" to a mature phase of "stock competition." Interchain rivalry has intensified:

- High-performance chains like Berachain and Sonic have joined Solana and Sui in the performance race, emphasizing tighter native incentives to bind ecosystem participants.
- Alt-VM-based Layer 2s such as Abstract and Unichain are rapidly rising, redefining EVM compatibility and execution efficiency within the Rollup landscape.
- Sei Network, built in the Cosmos ecosystem, focuses on DeFi optimization and high-frequency trading, while Hyperliquid positions itself as a native trading chain centered on perpetual contracts and on-chain derivatives.

In this fast-evolving "interchain war," next-generation public chains are no longer merely technical innovators. They are becoming strategic actors with clear intentions. Their choices around technical architecture, ecosystem design, tokenomics, and relationships with developers and users highlight distinct strategic positioning.

This report explores the following core question: What are the key strategic differences among new-generation public chains? How do these projects build their path to success across dimensions such as performance, ecosystem growth, token mechanisms, and developer relations? We analyze seven representative projects: Sui, Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Hyperliquid, Unichain, and Sei Network. These were selected based on three criteria:

- Clear strategic innovation paths—such as modular architectures, PoL consensus, or native app-driven growth.
- Significant ecosystem activity and community attention from 2024 to the present, reflecting their central roles in the new competitive landscape.
- Distinctive technical or economic models that offer strong comparative value in terms of performance, developer experience, or user growth.

Through systematic analysis of these projects, this report aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the mainstream strategies, innovation paths, and ecosystem-building trends shaping the next generation of public blockchains.

2. Strategic Analysis of Next-Generation Public Blockchains: Exploring Their Success Paradigms

The success of next-generation public blockchains is no longer solely dependent on technological stack depth, but rather hinges on their ability to strategically restructure — namely, whether they can establish relative advantages in architecture choices, ecosystem strategies, and user positioning. This chapter analyzes representative next-gen blockchains from the perspectives of strategic positioning, technical architecture choices, and ecosystem incentives.

2.1 Sui Network: Object-Oriented + Move Language Paradigm

Sui is a high-performance Layer-1 blockchain developed by Mysten Labs, focused on high-interaction, high-throughput scenarios such as on-chain gaming, social applications, asset trading, and financial services. It introduces an innovative object-centric data model and parallel execution architecture, while adopting a refined version of the Move programming language to balance asset security and development efficiency. Since 2022, Sui has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in investment from top-tier institutions such as a16z, Jump, and Binance Labs, and rapidly built an initial ecosystem following its mainnet launch in 2023.

2.1.1 Strategic Positioning: High-Concurrency Execution, User-Friendly, Move Language

Sui, created by former members of Meta's (Facebook) Diem team, is a high-performance Layer-1 blockchain that follows a differentiated technical path through parallel execution architecture and an object-oriented data model, with a strong focus on high-frequency interactive scenarios such as DeFi, NFTs, and gaming. Its core vision is performance-driven and developer-friendly: the object model and Move language simplify asset management workflows and reduce security risks, aiming to elevate on-chain usability to near Web2 levels.

Sui strategically targets the “high-performance + strong usability” vertical, intentionally forgoing EVM compatibility to optimize its architecture and enhance its friendliness to developers and Web2 users. Features like zkLogin and gas fee sponsorship significantly lower the onboarding threshold for Web2 users. At the same time, Sui is actively building an ecosystem flywheel through global incubators, ecosystem funds, and partnerships with both traditional and crypto-native institutions (e.g., VanEck, a16z), accelerating native app incubation and exploring the convergence of RWA and traditional finance.

Strategic positioning keywords: High-concurrency execution, user-friendliness, secure development, native asset scenarios, Web2-level experience.

2.1.2 Technical Architecture and Performance

Sui's core technical design emphasizes modular architecture and ultimate performance, featuring:

- **Object-Centric Model:** Each transaction is structured around asset objects and classified based on access permissions into parallel and consensus-required transactions — avoiding the global state bottlenecks typical of Ethereum.
- **Parallel Execution + Decoupled Consensus:** Sui utilizes the Narwhal + Bullshark consensus mechanism, along with a fast-path for single-writer transactions, achieving sub-second finality and massive concurrency.
- **Optimized Move Language:** Enhancements to the original Move language improve object lifecycle management and resource handling. Sui also supports a full-stack dev toolkit including SDKs, CLI, zkLogin, and DevNet.

In terms of performance, Sui supports sub-second confirmation and tens of thousands of transactions per second, making it well-suited for high-frequency applications like blockchain games and social platforms.

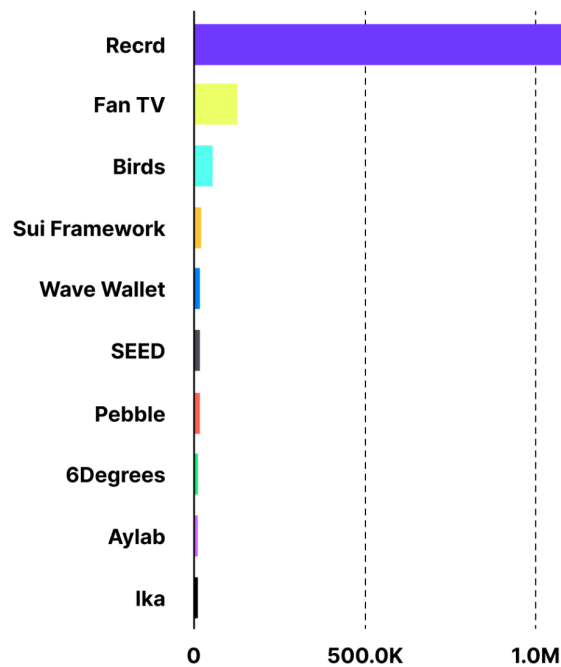
2.1.3 Ecosystem and Incentive Mechanisms

Sui adopts a developer-centric ecosystem strategy, aiming to build a robust technical community. The SuiHub Global Incubator Program provides up to \$200,000 in funding, engineering support, and tokenomics optimization — attracting over 200 projects. The Sui Foundation has also launched long-term ecosystem incentive programs and formed strategic partnerships with Animoca Brands, Tencent Cloud, XOCIEITY, and others, resulting in successful launches of native protocols such as Cetus, Scallop, and Kriya.

During its network bootstrapping phase, Sui leveraged airdrops and community incentive mechanisms to rapidly attract market attention. Since 2024, Sui's user base has grown significantly, driven by factors such as:

- **Incentive Campaigns** (e.g., SPAM, FomoSUI): Reward users with tokens simply for transacting, driving peak daily on-chain transaction volume up to 58 million.
- **Meme Token Craze** (e.g., HIPPO, BLUB, AAA): Helped build community culture and market excitement, mirroring the meme phenomenon seen on Solana.
- **Flagship DApps** (e.g., Recrd, FanTV, Birds): Recrd, a short-video platform, surpassed 1.1 million DAUs thanks to its Web2-level UX and innovative ad revenue-sharing model, becoming Sui's most active app. FanTV and Birds (a Telegram-based game) also performed well but remained far behind Recrd in terms of daily activity.
- The **launch of the Grayscale Sui Trust** served as a significant capital catalyst for SUI's token price, attracting institutional interest and boosting overall ecosystem momentum.

Figure 1: Daily Active Users Distribution of Sui Ecosystem DApps



Gate Research, Data from: Artemis, May 23, 2025

Gate Research

Despite high on-chain activity from Recrd, Birds, FanTV, and others, these DApps still lack broader market recognition, and actual user data for some projects remains to be fully verified. Structurally, Sui is still in an early DeFi phase dominated by DEXs. Protocols like Cetus, Bluefin, Momentum, and Scallop lead in fee generation, suggesting that much of the economic activity may be driven by speculation. Without strong real-use anchors, such activity is unlikely to support sustainable long-term growth.

Cetus, the leading DEX on Sui, consistently tops the fee charts — with a 24-hour fee income of \$6.98 million and a 7-day total of \$1.6 million, far ahead of competitors, highlighting its dominance. The unusually high 24-hour fee may be tied to a major hack on May 22, 2025, where Cetus Protocol's LP pool was attacked, causing a flash crash in CETUS token price and widespread market panic.

Figure 2: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Sui (May 23, 2025)

Name	Fees (24h) ↕	Fees (7d) ↕
> 1  Cetus	🔍 \$6.98m	\$1.6m
> 2  Bluefin	🔍 \$154,708	\$569,190
3  Momentum	🔍 \$58,177	\$369,629
> 4  Scallop	🔍 \$58,116	\$344,421
5  Sui	🔍 \$49,616	\$316,275
> 6  Sullend Protocol	🔍 \$48,630	\$259,056
> 7  NAVI Protocol	🔍 \$46,955	\$398,936
> 8  Haedal	🔍 \$19,301	\$87,805
> 9  FlowX Finance	🔍 \$14,748	\$49,243
> 10  Typus Finance	🔍 \$9,235	\$92,943

Gate Research, Data from: DefiLlama

 Gate Research

This attack caused over \$260 million in liquidity losses across multiple pairs on Cetus, and related tokens (e.g., CETUS, WAL, DEEP) plummeted in tandem. As Cetus accounted for more than 60% of Sui's trading volume, this incident severely impacted the network's liquidity backbone and dealt a significant blow to its ecosystem.

Although Sui has formed a strategic loop of “high performance + strong usability + developer ecosystem + user growth” through its tech stack, Move language, parallel execution, and Web2 UX, the incident exposed smart contract security weaknesses. The exploit stemmed from a vulnerability in a Move contract, sparking industry-wide debate about Move's real-world security robustness.

2.1.4 Core Metrics (As of May 23, 2025)

- Total Value Locked (TVL): \$1.542 billion — down over 25% from \$2.1 billion on May 21 due to the recent hack. Top protocols by TVL: Sui Lend (Lending): \$647M; Navi (Stablecoins): \$372M; Haedal (Liquid Staking): \$168M; Cetus (DEX, formerly dominant): now only \$37M, ranked 10th.
- Capital Flows: Once a net inflow leader, Sui has seen over \$100M in outflows over the past 3 months, with only \$83M in inflows, resulting in a net outflow of \$18.8M (Artemis data).
- On-chain Transactions: Over 3.6 billion total transactions, but daily average has dropped from 5.8 million to 4.4 million.
- DEX Volume: ~\$500M daily; weekly volume dropped from \$4.1B to \$1.4B. Total on-chain volume has surpassed \$94.2B.
- Active Addresses: Daily active users fell from 1.7M to ~410K; monthly active addresses exceed 36 million.

2.2 Sonic: The Rebirth Path of Fantom

Sonic (S) is a high-performance, EVM-compatible Layer-1 blockchain platform evolved from the original Fantom (FTM). Officially launched on December 18, 2024, by Sonic Labs, it represents a technological overhaul and ecosystem reboot for Fantom. Sonic inherits Fantom's foundational architecture while introducing upgrades in performance optimization, incentive mechanisms, and ecosystem reconstruction.

2.2.1 Strategic Positioning: A Dual Evolution from Performance-Oriented to Ecosystem-Incentive Driven

Sonic's core strategy is driven by a dual-engine model of "Performance + Incentives." As a newly launched EVM-compatible chain, Sonic focuses on high-performance DeFi use cases and introduces the "Fee Monetization (FeeM)" mechanism — allowing protocol developers to capture up to 90% of the gas fees generated by their applications, creating a usage-driven incentive loop. Legacy FTM users can migrate to the new \$S token at a 1:1 ratio, with an initial supply of 3.175 billion tokens. A 6% annualized ecological inflation incentive will be implemented six months post-launch, capped at a 15% annual maximum, with unused portions burned to target a ~3.5% net yield annually.

Sonic emphasizes multiple use cases for its token — governance, staking, fee payments, liquidity incentives, and developer grants — forming a closed value loop. Additionally, a massive \$200 million airdrop plan has been rolled out to attract developers and migrate users, driving initial ecosystem bootstrapping.

2.2.2 Technical Architecture: Performance overhaul and VM Optimization

Sonic maintains full compatibility with the EVM (supporting Solidity and Vyper), while significantly improving execution efficiency via a custom-built SonicVM. The network theoretically supports up to 400,000 TPS, with actual performance reaching 10,000 TPS and sub-second finality — positioning Sonic among the highest-performing Layer-1 blockchains.

Architecturally, Sonic likely continues Fantom's DAG + BFT hybrid design, combining the Lachesis consensus mechanism with the Carmen data storage engine to reconstruct performance. The "Sonic Gateway" has also been launched, enabling seamless bridging to Ethereum and enhancing cross-chain interoperability. This hybrid design merges L1 and L2 features, laying the groundwork for Sonic to act as a scalable layer for Ethereum.

2.2.3 Ecosystem & Incentives: DeFi-Driven High-Growth Phase

Sonic has established a multi-dimensional incentive framework covering developers, validators, and general users — aligning interests across the entire chain. The core is the Fee Monetization (FeeM) model, allowing developers to earn a share of gas fees based on protocol activity. Frequent user interaction is also rewarded, encouraging engagement and retention.

On the ecosystem side, Sonic launched an innovation fund and large-scale airdrops amounting to hundreds of millions of \$S tokens to support developers, reward users, and accelerate project onboarding. A partial gas fee burn mechanism also strengthens \$S's deflationary and value-capture attributes.

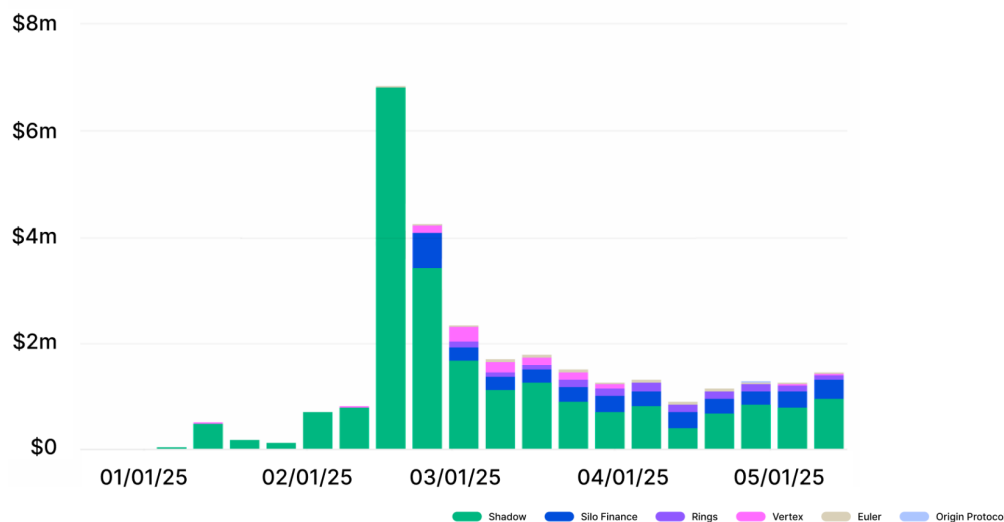
Sonic has attracted core protocols such as Lombard Finance, Ether.fi, and Rings Protocol, building a capital recycling system across staking, restaking, and incentive layers — significantly boosting on-chain capital efficiency and returns, and accelerating ecosystem expansion.

According to the report [“Gate Research: Data Modeling Assessment on Sonic's Potential to Replicate Fantom's Peak”](#), Sonic's TVL surged from \$25.41 million to \$983 million within three months of mainnet launch — nearly 40x growth, now surpassing the \$1 billion threshold. This suggests early success of its incentive strategy. The airdrop campaign and incentives have successfully onboarded major DeFi projects such as Aave, Silo, Euler, SwapX, and Shadow Exchange, rapidly forming the DeFi foundation.

As of the week ending May 12, 2025, Sonic's on-chain “GDP” (revenue) reached \$1.47 million, with Shadow Exchange alone contributing about 66% (\$974,500). Silo Finance and Rings Protocol contributed \$342,800 and \$98,800, respectively. In terms of sectoral GDP distribution, DeFi is currently the core growth engine of Sonic:

- **DEXs** account for 77.4% (\$2.3 million): Trading remains the primary use case for capital.
- **Lending** accounts for 14.2% (~\$420,000): Led by Silo Finance providing core liquidity.
- **Stablecoins and derivatives** account for 4.6% and 3.7%, respectively: Still in early stages with room for ecosystem depth.

Figure 3: Composition of On-Chain Protocol GDP (Fees) on Sonic



Overall, Sonic is currently characterized by a “transaction-centric + basic financial tool accumulation” pattern. It remains to be seen whether it can evolve into a more diverse and complex financial ecosystem.

2.2.4 Core Metrics (as of May 20, 2025)

- Sonic's TVL has reached \$1.093 billion, led by Aave with \$442 million. Silo Finance (\$270 million) and Beets (\$260 million), a liquidity staking hub, follow closely. Other key contributors include Pendle (\$140 million), a yield-generating protocol; Veda (\$119 million), an innovative DeFi platform; and Shadow Exchange (\$85.02 million), the core DEX.
- Over the past three months, Sonic has recorded a total capital inflow of \$2.2 billion, with a net inflow of \$500 million — the highest among all chains during the same period.
- Cumulative transactions exceed 78 million, with an average of approximately 900,000 daily transactions, of which Shadow Exchange contributes around 30%.
- DEX trading volume averages \$100 million per day, reaching \$600 million weekly, and has surpassed \$11.5 billion in total.
- Daily active addresses are around 60,000, while monthly unique addresses exceed 800,000, placing Sonic 11th among all Layer-1 networks.

2.3 Berachain: Innovative Practice of the PoL Paradigm and Three-Token Economic Model

Berachain is a high-performance Layer 1 blockchain tailored for DeFi, built on the Cosmos SDK, utilizing the CometBFT consensus engine, and achieving high EVM compatibility through its custom Polaris module. Its most notable innovation lies in its proprietary Proof of Liquidity (PoL) consensus mechanism and the surrounding three-token economic model, which tightly integrates on-chain liquidity with governance and consensus security to establish a closed-loop ecosystem of "incentives—governance—liquidity."

2.3.1 Strategic Positioning: Protocol as Consensus, Liquidity as Security

Unlike traditional PoS systems that emphasize "native token staking + network security," Berachain's core positioning is to treat on-chain liquidity itself as the foundation of consensus security, thereby building blockchain infrastructure for next-generation financial applications. Its strategic system consists of three core elements:

- **Novel Consensus Mechanism:** Berachain's unique PoL (Proof of Liquidity) replaces native token staking with LP tokens as validator collateral, making liquidity a direct pillar of network security.
- **Governance-Liquidity Binding:** Users participate in long-term protocol governance through the non-transferable governance token \$BGT, enabling a deep integration of governance power and liquidity.

- **Native Incentive Flywheel:** The PoL model is built around a synergistic three-token system:
 - **\$BERA:** The gas token, minted by a 1:1 burn of \$BGT, used for transaction fees and validator staking.
 - **\$BGT (Berachain Governance Token):** Earned by depositing blue-chip assets (e.g., ETH, BTC) into Berachain's native DEX (BEX) as LPs; non-transferable and used for governance voting and validator elections.
 - **\$HONEY:** An over-collateralized stablecoin minted by staking \$BGT, used for payments and DeFi derivatives.

This mechanism forms a positive flywheel: "Liquidity → Governance → Validator Eligibility → Incentives," enhancing capital efficiency and ecosystem stickiness. Berachain turns liquidity provision into the core prerequisite for network participation, making its consensus mechanism not just a block-ordering tool, but a systemic coordination framework for on-chain capital.

2.3.2 Technical Architecture: Cosmos SDK + Polaris EVM Compatibility

Technically, Berachain integrates the composability of Ethereum with the modular flexibility of Cosmos. It uses Cosmos SDK + CometBFT as its core framework and builds a modular consensus client through its proprietary BeaconKit module. The execution layer is based on the Polaris EVM module, which is compatible with Geth and Erigon clients and natively supports Ethereum upgrades (such as Dencun). Additionally, Berachain integrates with cross-chain protocols like LayerZero to enable interoperability with multi-chain liquidity and improve TVL onboarding capacity.

2.3.3 Incentive Mechanisms and Ecosystem Flywheel: Liquidity-Governance Binding and Protocol-Led Bootstrapping

Berachain constructs its incentive flywheel around a self-reinforcing loop of "Liquidity → Governance → Incentives", forming a native incentive model. Users provide blue-chip assets into native DEXes (like BEX) as LPs to earn \$BGT, which grants them governance rights and allows them to vote on key protocol parameters and incentive distributions. These \$BGT tokens can be burned to mint \$BERA for ecosystem transactions.

Validators engage in a "governance bribery" mechanism to gain voting influence, forming a bribery market at the protocol level. Protocols compete by offering bribes (often in their native tokens) to validators, who allocate their \$BGT to the most rewarding dApps. The greater the incentive per unit of \$BGT emission, the more validators are drawn to direct their votes accordingly.

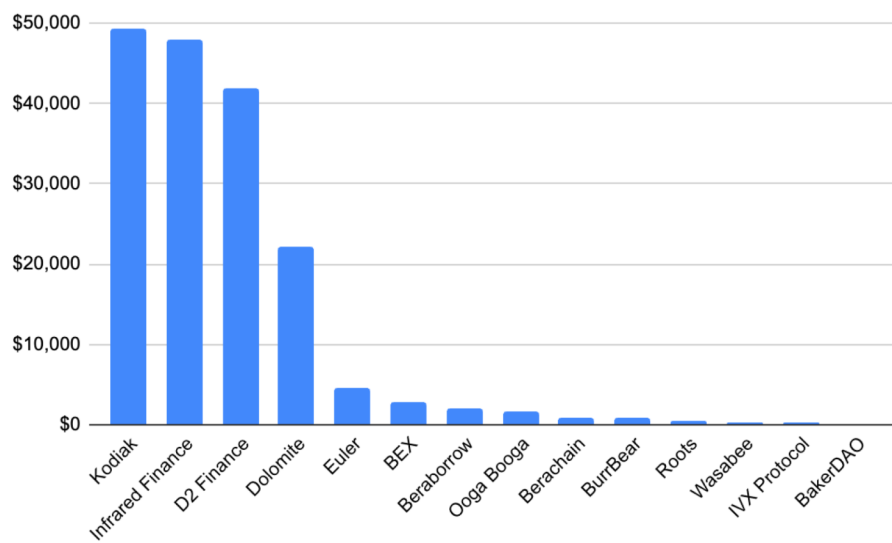
This design draws inspiration from ve(3,3), Olympus DAO, and Terra, and leverages Boyco Markets to guide liquidity allocation. Before mainnet launch, Berachain had already attracted over \$2.1 billion in liquidity, laying a solid foundation for cold-starting its ecosystem.

In terms of ecosystem development, Berachain does not blindly pursue modular expansion or TPS improvements. Instead, it focuses on building a native financial ecosystem where the chain

itself serves as a coordination layer. The foundation of this ecosystem is high-frequency DeFi protocols, centered around trading, lending, staking, and aggregation to construct liquidity infrastructure. Key protocols include BEX (trading), Kodiak (concentrated liquidity management), Infrared Finance (LST issuance), D2 Finance (capital coordination), and lending platforms such as Beraborrow and Dolomite. Additionally, the ecosystem encompasses utility protocols like Ooga Booga (aggregated trading) and Shogun (cross-chain functionality), as well as projects expanding into SocialFi, GameFi, and RWA domains, such as HoneyChat and BeraTone.

On-chain data further validates the effectiveness of Berachain’s early-stage ecological strategy. In the composition of protocol fees, Kodiak, Infrared Finance, and D2 Finance contributed 42.9%, 41.6%, and 36.4% of daily revenue respectively. These three protocols almost dominate the current on-chain economic activities, indicating that the early economic focus is concentrated on liquidity staking and capital coordination protocols. Besides these main protocols, BEX, Beraborrow (issuer of the stablecoin \$NECT), OogaBooga (aggregated trading), and Dolomite (efficient lending) are also in active stages. The TVL is mainly concentrated in infrastructure-type protocols like Infrared and Kodiak, forming the backbone support of Berachain’s early ecosystem. It is worth noting that the daily transaction fees on Berachain’s mainnet itself are only about \$900, indicating that native chain-level interactions have yet to form a high-frequency closed loop.

Figure 4: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Berachain (May 20, 2025)



Overall, Berachain’s incentive model centers around native protocols as nodes and Protocol-owned Liquidity (PoL) as the fulcrum. Through governance locking, bribery mechanisms, and token synergy, it builds a liquidity-driven positive feedback ecological

flywheel, laying a solid foundation for future high-frequency DeFi activities and ecosystem expansion.

2.2.4 Core Metrics (as of May 20, 2025)

- Berachain's current TVL has reached \$1.189 billion, with the top projects as follows: The liquidity staking protocol Infrared Finance ranks first with a TVL of \$1.102 billion; followed by the CDP project Beraborrow and the native DEX Kodiak, with TVLs of \$429.24 million and \$425.21 million respectively, ranking second and third. SatLayer (Anchor BTC) ranks fourth with \$234.7 million, and the lending protocol Dolomite ranks fifth with \$218.55 million. Another native DEX, BEX, has a TVL of \$83.25 million, ranking eighth.
- Although Berachain has continued to attract positive capital inflows in 2025, the total outflows over the past three months reached \$3.141 billion, exceeding the inflows of \$2.272 billion during the same period, resulting in a net outflow of \$800 million.
- In terms of on-chain activity, the cumulative number of transactions has surpassed 150 million, with a current daily average of approximately 1.5 million transactions, mainly concentrated within the Kodiak ecosystem.
- The DEX daily trading volume is about \$20 million, with nearly \$200 million traded in a single week, and the cumulative trading volume exceeding \$6 billion.
- Since the mainnet launch in February, Berachain's daily active addresses have been around 20,000, and monthly unique addresses have exceeded 600,000.

2.4 Abstract: Building the Netflix of Web3 — The Strategic Path for Consumer-Grade L2

Abstract Chain is a consumer-experience-focused Layer 2 (L2) blockchain platform built on Ethereum using zero-knowledge (ZK) rollup technology, aiming to provide low-cost, fast, and secure transactions.

2.4.1 Strategic Positioning: Unlocking the Next-Generation User Entry through “Chain Abstraction + Consumer-Grade Experience”

Abstract Chain was launched by Igloo Inc., the parent company behind Pudgy Penguins, in January 2025. It is an Ethereum Layer 2 blockchain targeting mainstream consumers. Unlike traditional general-purpose public chains, Abstract explicitly focuses on the “Consumer Crypto” scenario, aiming to deeply integrate on-chain applications into everyday life experiences such as gaming, social networking, and content platforms, thereby building a Web3 consumer ecosystem akin to Netflix or Disney.

Its differentiated strategy is reflected on three levels:

- **Extremely simplified user threshold:** By introducing the concept of chain abstraction through the Abstract Global Wallet (AGW), users can create wallets with a single click

using email or Google/Apple accounts, freeing them from managing mnemonics or private keys;

- **Web2-like seamless experience:** Supporting gasless transactions, no network switching, and automatic subsidy mechanisms, enabling users to access blockchain with near-zero friction;
- **Application-first, finance-later:** Starting with native social platforms, NFT creation, and live streaming ecosystems as “light entertainment applications,” gradually transitioning towards DeFi and on-chain finance.

This “application-driven chain design” contrasts sharply with traditional chains focused on financial infrastructure, aiming instead to drive ecosystem growth through on-chain content consumption scenarios.

2.4.2 Technical Architecture: Chain Abstraction Native Architecture Built on zkSync + Celestia

Abstract is a zkRollup built on zkSync’s ZK Stack, using Celestia (or EigenDA) as the data availability layer, inheriting Ethereum’s security while achieving high scalability. Key technical features include:

- **Native chain abstraction support (AGW):** Wallet creation without mnemonics, employing multi-party computation (MPC) and cloud backup for private key custody, significantly enhancing user experience;
- **Account abstraction (ERC-4337) and smart contract wallets:** Enabling advanced features such as gas fee sponsorship, batch operations, and social recovery;
- **Panoramic Governance:** A governance model combining incentives to coordinate interests among users, developers, and protocols;
- **XP points incentive system:** Users earn points through on-chain interactions (e.g., voting, trading, content creation), enhancing user engagement.

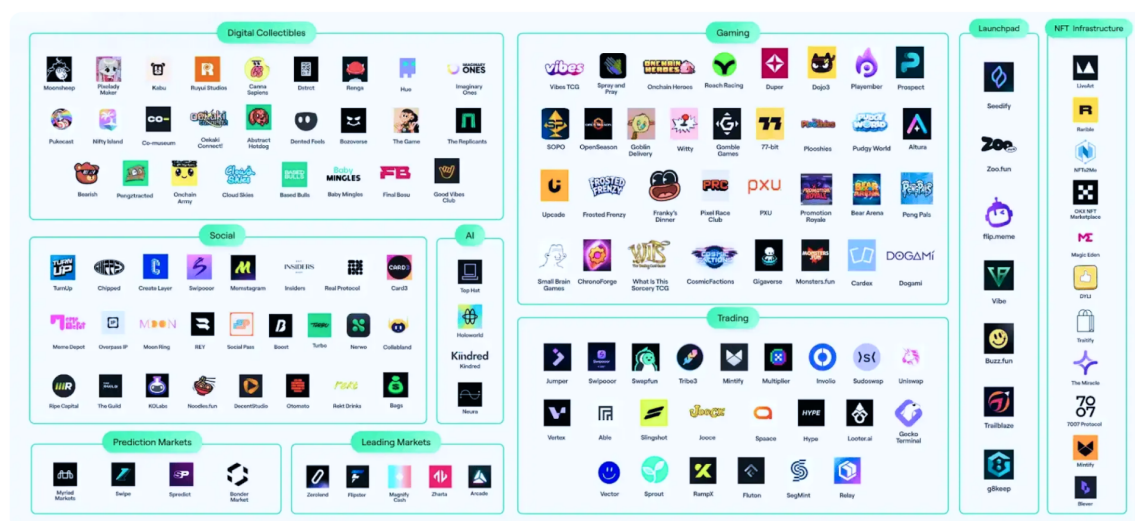
Abstract deeply integrates cutting-edge cryptography, security, and Web2 user experience at the architectural level to robustly support its “consumer-grade application-first” strategy.

2.4.3 Ecosystem Layout: Creating a User Flywheel through Content Ecosystem + Native Applications

Abstract’s public chain demonstrates highly diversified and broad ecosystem coverage across eight core sectors: digital collectibles, blockchain gaming, social networking, trading, AI, Launchpad, NFT infrastructure, prediction markets, and liquidity markets, integrating over 120 projects overall. Among them, blockchain gaming and social protocols are the most concentrated, reflecting Abstract’s strong emphasis on user-end application scenarios. In trading infrastructure, integrations with projects like Uniswap, Slingshot, and Gecko Terminal provide solid liquidity support for ecosystem assets. The onboarding of well-known projects such as Pudgy World, Magic Eden, and Zoo.fun significantly boosts Abstract’s brand effect and user growth potential, further demonstrating its “content + trading” dual-driven strategy in

building an ecological flywheel mechanism characterized by high-frequency interactions and closed-loop capital flow.

Figure 5: Abstract Ecosystem Map



Gate Research, Data from: Abstract

Gate Research

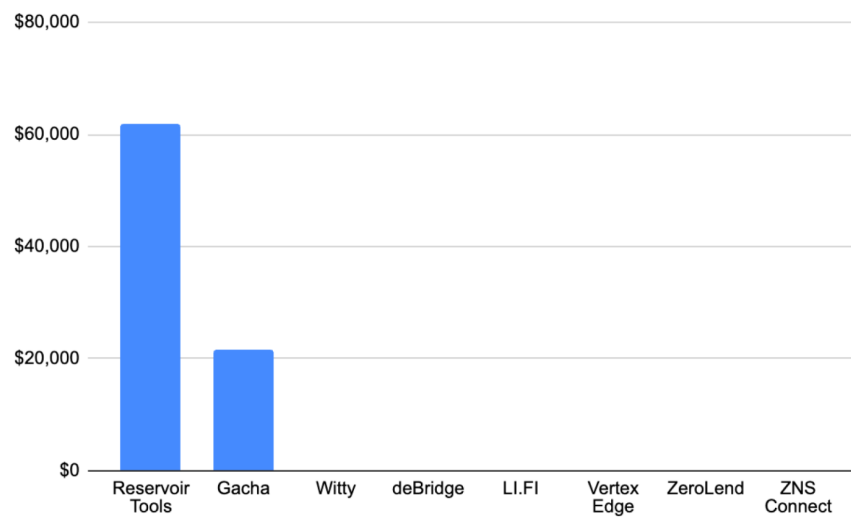
In terms of actual economic performance, the utility protocol Reservoir Tools stands out prominently. Over the past 24 hours, it generated \$62,009 in fees, accounting for the majority of total fees on the network. Its cumulative fees over the past 7 days reached \$405,816, far surpassing all other protocols.

Trailing behind are the prediction market protocol Gacha with \$21,623 and the social protocol Witty with \$156, though both still fall short by several orders of magnitude compared to Reservoir Tools. Meanwhile, the bottom three protocols — ZeroLend, ZNS Connect, and Vertex Edge — each contributed less than \$50 in fees over the past 24 hours, indicating limited activity.

By protocol type:

- **Utility and speculative protocols** (e.g., Reservoir Tools and Gacha) show higher levels of economic activity and stronger user willingness to pay;
- **Bridge protocols** (such as deBridge and LI.FI) and domain service protocols (like ZNS Connect) generate relatively small but stable revenue;
- **Lending protocols** (like ZeroLend) perform the weakest, contributing only \$14 in total over the past 7 days.

Figure 6: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Abstract (May 22, 2025)



Gate Research, Data from: DefiLlama

Gate Research

These data suggest that on the Abstract chain, utility and speculative protocols demonstrate stronger economic activity, with on-chain user behavior primarily centered around light interactions and entertainment use cases. A highly active financial infrastructure ecosystem has yet to emerge.

Abstract's ecosystem development path clearly differs from the traditional "DeFi-first, then expand" model adopted by earlier blockchains. Its strategy centers on:

1. Pudgy IP Empowerment + Native Application Lead

- The Pudgy Penguins IP brings built-in traffic, drawing early user attention;
- Native applications like the Pudgy World metaverse and Abstract Live streaming platform have already launched — Abstract Live attracted over 17,000 creators within its first 24 hours;
- Deep integration with leading Web3 platforms such as Magic Eden (NFTs) and Dune Analytics (data analytics);
- Cross-chain compatibility enabled via LayerZero, enhancing openness and interoperability.

2.NFT Creation Toolchain & Curation Mechanism

- Supports custom smart contracts and enhanced metadata for NFT issuance;
- Encourages joint governance and curation by creators and users, fostering a community-driven content economy.

3.Gamified Incentive Mechanisms

- The XP rewards system converts user actions (creation, interaction, sharing) into tradable points, building a multi-tiered incentive structure. Users earn XP through interacting with Abstract apps and the Abstract Global Wallet, with weekly updates based on engagement.
- Achievement systems include Lightning, Weekly, and Secret badges, along with regular rewards for content creators;
- A "fee-sharing + dynamic incentive" mechanism encourages active on-chain governance. This system rewards developers and protocol teams that build sustainable applications, aiming to improve resource allocation through heightened governance participation—thus forming a virtuous cycle of "Users → Voting → Incentives → Innovation".

Abstract is showcasing a **new path for blockchain development**—reverse-driving ecosystem growth from "on-chain consumption" to "on-chain finance". Its positioning as a **Web3 consumer gateway** may prove to be a key breakthrough for next-generation blockchains.

2.1.4 Core Metrics (As of May 22, 2025)

- The total DeFi TVL (Total Value Locked) exceeds \$27 million, with the majority concentrated in core applications.
- Reservoir Tools, a tooling/infrastructure protocol, ranks first with a TVL of \$14.87 million. Cross-chain bridge protocol Stargate Finance follows closely with \$11.76 million in TVL. The third-ranked protocol, Vertex Edge, has a TVL of only \$114,695, indicating a significant gap in magnitude compared to the top two. Protocols like ZeroLend, NOXA, Witty, and Gacha all have TVLs ranging from \$40,000 to \$80,000, showing relatively smaller differences among them.
- Daily active addresses are approximately 60,000, with cumulative addresses surpassing 1.3 million. Total on-chain transactions have exceeded 66 million.
- The average daily DEX trading volume surpasses \$20 million, weekly trading volume is over \$130 million, and cumulative trading volume has already broken through \$1.1 billion.

2.5 Hyperliquid: The “Ambusher” of On-Chain Futures

Hyperliquid is a perpetual futures trading protocol built on its own Layer-1 blockchain. It aims to deliver a fully on-chain order book and decentralized trading experience, while offering users a smooth, CEX-like trading experience. The protocol supports spot, derivatives, and pre-launch markets, powered by a custom-built L1 blockchain that enables parallel execution of both its trading engine and general-purpose smart contracts. The goal is to achieve CEX-level efficiency and performance within a decentralized environment.

2.5.1 Strategic Positioning: Building an On-Chain Trading System, Not Just a Protocol

Hyperliquid is committed to creating a “fully on-chain financial system”, with a decentralized exchange that combines the best of both centralized (CEX) and decentralized (DEX) platforms as its core value proposition. It emphasizes an exceptional user experience—low fees, high throughput, and diverse trading products (spot, margin, perpetuals). Its platform-oriented strategy and system-level design are reflected in three key dimensions:

- **From a "trading protocol" to an "on-chain trading system":** Unlike most DeFi protocols built on L1/L2s, Hyperliquid developed its own high-performance blockchain. It integrates trading, asset issuance, liquidity aggregation, account systems, and DAO governance into a unified financial operating system. Strategically, it positions itself as an on-chain version of Binance, not merely a single-product protocol.
- **"User-first" strategy driven by disintermediation values:** Hyperliquid rejects traditional approaches such as VC funding, private sales, and CEX listing fees. It emphasizes fair launch, community-led growth, and decentralized ownership. Its business model focuses on building for users, not capital, aiming to restructure value distribution between the platform and its users.
- **Trader-centric ecosystem built around market-making infrastructure:** Hyperliquid encourages participation from professional traders and high-frequency market makers. By offering open APIs, low-latency on-chain matching, and high-performance execution environments, it attracts substantial on-chain liquidity providers, creating a market-making flywheel. This approach replicates the integrated advantages of CEXs in a fully on-chain context.

2.5.2 Technical Architecture: A Custom Chain Built for Matching

Founded in 2022 and led by Jeff Yan, a former high-frequency trader at Hudson River Trading, Hyperliquid's design philosophy was heavily influenced by the collapse of FTX. The goal is to rebuild a trustworthy, fully on-chain financial system. Its technical stack features:

- **Proprietary high-performance L1 chain:** Utilizing the HyperBFT consensus and a parallelized execution framework, it achieves sub-second latency and up to 200,000 TPS. This far surpasses competitors like Injective and Aevo that are based on Ethereum or Layer-2 networks, offering matching performance close to that of centralized exchanges.
- **Fully on-chain matching and settlement:** Order matching logic, fund clearing, and risk control are all deployed on-chain, abandoning off-chain order books and custodianship. This results in a fully verifiable and trustless derivatives trading infrastructure, in stark contrast to semi-on-chain protocols like GMX and dYdX (v3).
- **Dual virtual machine architecture: Trading VM + EVM-compatible VM:** The dual-VM setup enables Hyperliquid to optimize its trading engine while maintaining compatibility with the Ethereum ecosystem. This lays the groundwork for future modular expansions such as lending and asset issuance.

This technical architecture not only enhances user experience and system performance but also supports the deployment of high-frequency market-making strategies, thereby enabling a robust and efficient liquidity loop.

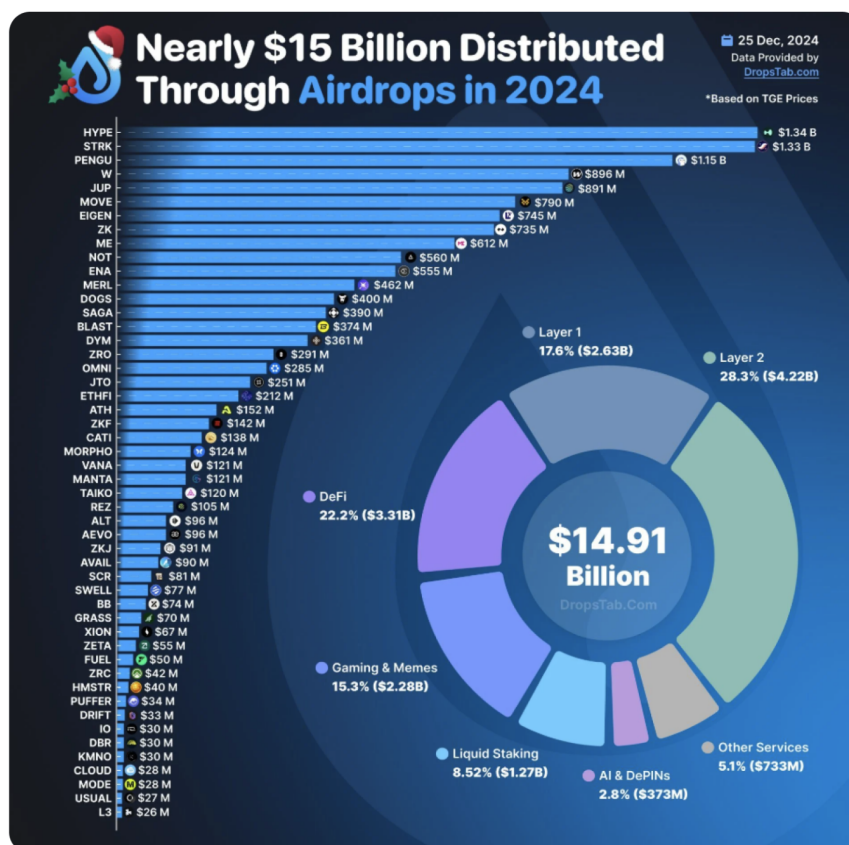
2.5.3 Ecosystem Growth and Incentive Mechanism: A Community-Driven Flywheel

In 2024, Hyperliquid launched the HYPE token to support ecosystem incentives and protocol revenue sharing. The platform has integrated cross-chain funding capabilities with over 30

blockchains, including Ethereum, Solana, and Base. Features like email login and one-click trading have significantly lowered the barrier to entry.

The key to its growth lies in a precise incentive strategy, especially its airdrop design. In 2024, Hyperliquid carried out a massive airdrop worth \$1.34 billion, covering more than 90,000 users, making it the largest airdrop of the year. Its “trade-to-earn” model effectively filters out airdrop hunters. For instance, completing \$1,000 in weekly trading volume earns about 25 points, and based on the initial listing price, the annualized yield from the airdrop far exceeds that of similar projects. This incentivizes real, high-frequency trading behavior and cultivates a highly sticky initial community.

Figure 7: Top Crypto Airdrop Projects by Scale in 2024



With the support of ecosystem incentives, Hyperliquid's platform ecosystem has rapidly expanded around its core of derivatives trading, forming a multidimensional closed-loop ecosystem encompassing finance, tools, AI, gaming, and social modules.

In terms of financial infrastructure, HyperSwap, Staked.app, Felix (a CDP platform), and Resolv Labs together form a robust DeFi backbone. For tooling and quant support, the platform integrates professional trading tools such as Insilico Terminal and CopyCat.BOT, designed to serve institutional and high-frequency users.

Additionally, Hyperliquid has introduced AI assistants like Kololu and RNDM to enhance personalized user interactions. In the meme and gaming sectors, the ecosystem supports on-chain gaming projects like Spur and Vegas, while incorporating meme assets such as PIP and YAP to energize community culture.

Finally, by combining generative NFT creation, on-chain social interaction, and high-frequency NFT trading capabilities, Hyperliquid has built a unique social and NFT ecosystem.

To date, Hyperliquid's ecosystem has demonstrated strong profitability. The core protocol, Hyperliquid, accounts for over 94% of the platform's total fees, generating \$3.23 million in daily fees and surpassing \$19.24 million in weekly fees. This highlights the platform's high daily active user base and deep high-frequency trading volume, firmly establishing it as a leader in the on-chain derivatives sector. Supporting protocols like HyperSwap and Kittenswap have each contributed more than \$300,000 in weekly fees, laying a solid foundation for their roles as key players in the Layer 2 derivatives ecosystem.

Figure 8: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Hyperliquid (May 23, 2025)

Name	Fees (24h) ↓	Fees (7d) ↓
> 1  Hyperliquid	🕒 \$3.23m	\$19.24m
> 2  HyperSwap	🕒 \$111,454	\$336,709
> 3  Kittenswap Finance	🕒 \$58,585	\$311,872
4  Felix	🕒 \$37,434	\$226,372
> 5  HypurrFi	🕒 \$4,180	\$18,474
6  HyperLend	🕒 \$2,362	\$12,191
7  Hfun	\$478	\$1,412
8  HyperYield	🕒 \$115	\$691

2.1.4 Core Metrics (As of May 23, 2025)

- Hyperliquid's L1 DeFi TVL stands at approximately \$1.309 billion. The majority of this is concentrated in the core protocol, Hyperliquid itself, leading with a TVL of \$437 million. Lending protocol HyperLend ranks second with \$280 million in TVL, followed by CDP protocol Felix with \$193 million.
- The platform boasts a substantial trading volume, with daily perpetual contract volume exceeding \$11.5 billion and weekly volume surpassing \$67.6 billion. Daily DEX trading volume is around \$586 million, while weekly volume reaches \$2.164 billion.

- Hyperliquid also processes a high number of transactions, with an average of 340 million transactions daily, and a weekly transaction count ranging between 1 billion and 2 billion. Cumulative transactions have now reached 74.4 billion.

2.6 Unichain: A Native Chain for Account Abstraction and Payments, Purpose-Built for DeFi

Unichain is a Layer 2 protocol dedicated to decentralized finance (DeFi), aiming to improve on-chain interaction efficiency. Its ecosystem currently centers around decentralized exchanges (DEX), with its first deployed DEX — UnichainSwap — already supporting basic trading and liquidity mining functionalities. As the mainnet continues to mature, more infrastructure and applications are expected to be integrated.

2.6.1 Strategic Positioning: A Next-Gen DeFi Layer 2 Powered by Uniswap

Launched by Uniswap Labs, Unichain is positioned as a Layer 2 blockchain optimized specifically for DeFi. Its goal is to consolidate liquidity, enhance user experience, and address the current issue of liquidity fragmentation within L2 ecosystems. Branded as a “DeFi aggregation chain with Uniswap V4 built-in”, Unichain represents a major product of Uniswap Labs after years of DeFi development. It is envisioned as the central hub for liquidity and users within the Uniswap ecosystem.

Through deep integration with Uniswap V4, Unichain builds a highly optimized “home ground,” gaining early-mover advantages in liquidity management, trading efficiency, and cross-chain interoperability.

2.6.2 Technical Architecture: Custom Rollup + MEV Suppression Mechanism

Unichain is built on the Optimism Superchain architecture but has been extensively customized. A key innovation is the Rollup Boost protocol, which incorporates a Trusted Execution Environment (TEE) for block building. This mechanism allows certain applications to waive gas fees on failed transactions and redirects MEV (Maximum Extractable Value) rewards to protocol developers rather than arbitrageurs, mitigating harmful “sandwich attacks.”

To combat sequencer monopolies, Unichain introduces a Block Builder Sidecar mechanism, enabling external builders to compete for block proposals. This decentralizes block construction rights, ensures fairer MEV distribution, and improves user experience and ecosystem transparency.

Additionally, Unichain plans to roll out Flashblocks technology, reducing block time from 1 second to 200 milliseconds. This will significantly increase trading frequency and responsiveness while maintaining EVM compatibility.

2.6.3 Ecosystem Growth and Incentive Mechanisms

Unichain officially launched in February 2025, with initial traction somewhat muted due to the broader crypto market downturn. However, on April 15, Unichain and Gauntlet initiated a \$5 million liquidity incentive program, which attracted \$22.23 million in capital from 11 addresses within just 24 hours — rapidly boosting TVL from \$9 million to \$267 million, marking a significant breakthrough. The Uniswap DAO has strongly supported Unichain’s development, approving at least \$21 million in initial incentives (over a three-month period), with a total annual commitment of \$60 million. Additionally, a \$95.4 million ecosystem grant budget has been earmarked, part of which will fund Unichain-based projects.

Today, Unichain has become one of the primary battlegrounds for Uniswap V4. On May 9, Unichain accounted for 76% of V4’s total trading volume, surpassing Ethereum mainnet by a wide margin. Uniswap has also deployed a cross-chain bridge based on ERC-7683 on Unichain, enhancing cross-chain liquidity integration.

Beyond Uniswap, the Unichain ecosystem has attracted integrations from protocols such as Stargate Finance, Euler, Circle, Compound, and LayerZero, forming a diverse DeFi stack encompassing DEXs, lending, derivatives, and cross-chain infrastructure.

In terms of fee contribution over the past week:

- Uniswap led with \$80,000 in generated fees.
- Unichain’s native chain followed with approximately \$63,000.
- Other major contributors included Venus, Velodrome, ZNS Connect, and Compound.

The concentration of fee generation indicates that ecosystem activity is heavily centered around a few leading protocols, particularly in AMMs and lending sectors.

Figure 9: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Unichain (May 23, 2025)

Name	Fees (24h) ↕	Fees (7d) ↕
> 1  Uniswap	🕒 \$10,895	\$80,301
2  Unichain	🕒 \$9,776	\$62,919
> 3  Venus	🕒 \$1,044	\$11,117
> 4  Velodrome	🕒 \$832	\$4,435
5  ZNS Connect	🕒 \$68	\$472
> 6  Compound Finance	🕒 \$56	\$347
7  LI.FI	\$26	\$359
8  Across	\$25	\$523
9  Banana Gun	\$2	\$15

2.1.4 Core Metrics (As of May 23, 2025)

- Unichain currently holds a Total Value Locked (TVL) of approximately \$530 million. The dominant protocol within its ecosystem is Uniswap, leading significantly with a TVL of \$437.44 million. Stargate Finance follows as the second-largest with \$77.11 million, while Euler DAO ranks third at \$34.59 million. Euler's main protocol TVL is relatively lower at \$6.46 million, placing it fourth. Established lending protocols like Venus and Compound Finance also maintain a presence, with TVLs of \$4.75 million and \$4.22 million, respectively.
- Over the past three months, Unichain has seen a substantial total fund inflow of \$770 million, with a net inflow of \$258 million, ranking fourth among all public chains during the same period.
- The platform's daily DEX trading volume is around \$470 million, with weekly volumes ranging between \$2 billion and \$3 billion, and cumulative trading volume exceeding \$14.5 billion.
- Unichain processes a high volume of transactions, averaging 1.5 million transactions daily, approximately 6.1 million weekly, and accumulating over 65 million transactions to date.
- Currently, Unichain has about 26,000 daily active addresses, and its monthly unique addresses have surpassed 5.3 million.

2.7 Sei Network: A DeFi-Optimized Chain with High-Frequency Trading Friendliness

Sei Network is a Layer 1 blockchain built using the Cosmos SDK and Tendermint, specifically designed for DeFi and high-frequency trading (HFT) scenarios. Through systematic optimization at multiple levels—including consensus mechanism, transaction ordering, and order matching—Sei aims to provide the infrastructure for large-scale, real-time trading. It features an on-chain Central Limit Order Book (CLOB) and a parallel processing architecture, achieving high throughput, low latency, and fast finality.

2.7.1 Strategic Positioning: A DeFi-Native Layer 1 Chain

Sei Network positions itself as the trading infrastructure and liquidity hub within the Cosmos ecosystem, focusing on serving decentralized trading platforms and financial applications globally. Unlike general-purpose blockchains, Sei is deeply specialized in the trading domain, with core advantages including:

- **Performance Built for Trading:** Sei prioritizes performance over generality, integrating a built-in matching engine, highly optimized execution, and on-chain order book support. Its pure on-chain CLOB enables both the security and decentralization of on-chain systems and the speed and efficiency of off-chain order books, distinguishing it from projects like dYdX and Injective.
- **Support for Diverse Trading Scenarios:** Sei's technical architecture supports a wide range of trading use cases, including spot, derivatives, options, and sports betting. Developers can easily deploy order book applications using Sei's modular CLOB engine.

- **Native MEV Protection and HFT Friendliness:** Sei provides native protection against MEV (Miner Extractable Value), balancing on-chain transparency with matching efficiency. It is designed as a Layer 1 blockchain for high-frequency and decentralized trading, enabling real-time asset trading by increasing infrastructure throughput and reducing latency.

2.7.2 Technical Architecture

Sei employs a suite of high-performance design choices to meet the demands of HFT:

- **Twin-Turbo Consensus:** Combines intelligent block propagation with optimistic execution, achieving an average block time of 0.4 seconds and enabling sub-second transaction finality.
- **Parallel Transaction Processing:** Transactions are grouped and routed based on the objects they interact with, allowing parallel execution at the state machine level, significantly boosting throughput and scalability.
- **Cross-Chain and Compatibility Support:** Supports IBC (Inter-Blockchain Communication) protocol and is compatible with both EVM and CosmWasm smart contract environments.
- **SeiDB Database:** An optimized state storage system that improves performance, controls state bloat, and reduces block finalization latency.

2.7.3 Ecosystem Development and Incentive Mechanism

Sei Network's ecosystem is built around its strategic focus on “accelerated trading,” with most flagship projects concentrated in decentralized exchanges (DEXs), aggregators, and derivatives protocols. Several projects—including stacked derivatives protocols, PerpDEX, and Celestia-based DEXs—have already launched on Sei.

To attract developers, Sei has introduced incentive programs and secured early strategic funding from FTX Ventures, providing financial backing for its ecosystem. The native token SEI is primarily used for staking, network security, and governance. With tight integration between its consensus and execution layers, Sei's network security and performance are closely tied to economic participation.

Sei's key partners and ecosystem projects include: Kado, Skip (for MEV solutions), MultiChain and Axelar (for cross-chain asset and message transfer outside of the IBC ecosystem), KYVE (for on-chain data persistence), WhiteWhale (addressing Cosmos cross-chain liquidity issues), Leap and Keplr (for wallet access), UXD (a stablecoin solution), and native DEXs such as VORTEX, Pharaoh, and Synthr.

Sei's DeFi ecosystem has taken shape, with lending protocols and DEXs being the primary contributors to TVL. Yei Finance, as the core lending protocol, serves as a major liquidity provider. DEXs such as Sailor, Jellyverse, and Dragon Swap also contribute significantly to Sei's TVL. Other active lending protocols include Takara Lend.

From a fee distribution perspective, over the past 7 days, the three leading protocols—Yei Finance, Dragon Swap, and Sailor—generated over \$419,000, accounting for more than 91% of the total fees among the top 10 protocols. This reveals a heavy dependency on a small number of protocols and shows that lending protocols are significantly more active than DEXs and other sectors.

In comparison, well-known DEXs like Uniswap and Jellyverse contributed relatively little in fees and have yet to become mainstream liquidity hubs. Long-tail protocols like Vertex Edge, Yaka Finance, and Carbon DeFi remain in early or low-activity stages.

Notably, Sei's own chain-level revenue was only \$1,069, indicating that its revenue model still heavily relies on transaction activity from ecosystem protocols.

Figure 10: Daily Protocol Fee Contribution on Sei Network (May 25, 2025)

Name	Fees (24h) ↕	Fees (7d) ↕
1  Yei Finance	🔹 \$26,294	\$176,115
> 2  Dragon Swap	🔹 \$14,000	\$140,527
3  Sailor	🔹 \$11,364	\$103,153
> 4  Uniswap	🔹 \$2,333	\$13,034
5  Jellyverse	🔹 \$1,115	\$16,617
6  Takara Lend	🔹 \$836	\$5,406
> 7  Vertex Edge	🔹 \$110	\$1,351
> 8  Yaka Finance	🔹 \$110	\$1,586
9  Sei	🔹 \$105	\$1,069
10  Carbon DeFi	🔹 \$100	\$2,148

Gate Research, Data from: DefiLlama

 Gate Research

2.1.4 Core Metrics (As of May 25, 2025)

- Sei's TVL (Total Value Locked) has reached \$487 million. Within its ecosystem, lending protocol Yei Finance leads significantly with a TVL of \$268.77 million. DEXs Sailor and Jellyverse rank second and fifth, respectively, with TVLs of \$76.89 million and \$20.18 million. Dragon Swap, also in the DEX category, is comparable to Jellyverse with a TVL of \$19.93 million, ranking sixth. Additionally, Takara Lend holds the third position with a TVL of \$55.69 million, further confirming the active lending market on the Sei Network.
- The network sees over 300,000 daily active addresses, with an average daily on-chain transaction volume of approximately 4 million transactions, and cumulative transactions reaching 3.041 billion.
- Daily DEX trading volume ranges from approximately \$5 million to \$10 million, weekly trading volume is between \$30 million and \$80 million, and cumulative trading volume has exceeded \$1.943 billion.

2.8 Summary and Comparison

Based on the systematic review of the strategic paths taken by various next-generation Layer 1 blockchains, we can summarize the key differences across projects in terms of strategic positioning, core technical approaches, and ecosystem performance. The table below outlines the core characteristics of each chain across these dimensions as of mid-2025:

Figure 11: Strategic Comparison of Next-Generation Blockchains

Project / Dimension	Strategic Positioning	Technical Architecture	Ecosystem Incentives	TVL (USD)	DEX Daily Volume (USD)	Daily Active Addresses
Sui	High-throughput L1 with parallel execution + Move language, supports NFTs, gaming, and low-level DeFi; zkLogin streamlines user onboarding	Move language + Object Model; Narwhal/Bullshark parallel consensus; 1-second finality	Developer-friendly strategy with global incubators and funding support	\$1.542B	\$500M	Dropped from 1.7M to ~410K (Post-Cetus attack)
Sonic	High-performance L1 + DeFi-focused ecosystem incentives	EVM-compatible; custom SonicVM; 400,000 TPS; sub-second finality using DAG + BFT	FeeM model (90% fee sharing to devs) + large-scale airdrops	\$1.093B	\$100M	60,000
Berachain	Governance-tied liquidity + triple-token model	Modular Cosmos SDK + Polaris EVM-compatible layer	Tri-token economy: BERA (gas/staking), BGT (governance), HONEY (rewards); native DeFi protocols (BEX, Bend); PoL liquidity bootstrapping	\$1.189B	\$20M	20,000
Abstract	Consumer-centric zkRollup L2	zkSync + EigenDA; zk-Rollup chain abstraction (AGW) supporting EVM semantics	Large-scale IP promotion (Pudgy Penguins); Portal + 200+ dApps; gas sponsorship + XP point rewards	\$27M	\$20K	60,000
Hyperliquid	Fully on-chain finance (on-chain perpetuals)	Custom HyperBFT dual-engine: HyperCore (on-chain matching), HyperEVM; 1-block finality	Airdrops based on trading volume, crypto-settled perpetuals & spot; email login without KYC; 30+ chains supported for cross-chain deposits; derivatives-centric ecosystem	\$1.309B	"Perpetuals: \$11.5B DEX: \$586M"	340M daily transactions
Unichain	DeFi-optimized L2 integrating Uniswap liquidity	OP Stack Superchain; Rollup Boost (TEE); targets 0.2s sub-blocks	Integrated with Uniswap; officially backed by Uniswap DAO; multiple rounds of UNI airdrops; ERC-7683 cross-chain bridge	\$530M	\$470M	26,000
Sei Network	L1 optimized for high-frequency trading ("parallel chain")	Cosmos SDK + DPoS; Twin-Turbo consensus (400ms); parallel execution; EVM/ CosmWasm compatible	Trade-centric ecosystem with native order matching; IBC interoperability; applications like Perps and AMMs	\$487M	\$5M-\$10M	300,000

3. Strategic Differentiation and Path Selection of Next-Generation Blockchains

As blockchain infrastructure continues to evolve, next-generation Layer 1 blockchains are no longer solely focused on “performance enhancement.” Instead, they are engaging in systematic innovation across multiple fronts, including incentive structure redesign, developer ecosystem bootstrapping, capital efficiency improvement, narrative-driven growth strategies, and on-chain user behavior orchestration. The previous sections have provided an in-depth analysis of the strategic paths taken by seven emerging blockchains—Sui, Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Hyperliquid, Unichain, and Sei Network. Their core strategic differences can be summarized along the following key dimensions:

3.1 Developer Pathways: Divergent Design Paradigms

From a developer-centric perspective, the strategic choices of next-gen blockchains exhibit three major forms of differentiation. One group follows a performance-oriented paradigm (e.g., Sonic, Sui), focusing on maximizing throughput and minimizing latency. Another group adopts a developer accessibility paradigm (e.g., Abstract), aiming to reduce development complexity and cost.

Strategically, some projects are use-case driven, optimizing for specific applications such as high-frequency trading and DeFi (e.g., Hyperliquid, Sei). Others take a foundational design-driven approach, using innovative base-layer architecture (e.g., Berachain’s PoL consensus or Unichain’s MEV-resilient solutions) to attract developers.

Additionally, these blockchains vary in their developer acquisition strategies: some seek to onboard existing developers by offering compatibility with established ecosystems (e.g., Sonic’s EVM compatibility), while others focus on cultivating a new developer base by introducing novel programming paradigms or tools (e.g., Abstract, Sui).

Figure 12: Divergent Developer Pathways Among Next-Generation Blockchains

Blockchain	Developer Pathway Keywords	Strategic Features
Sui	Object-based programming paradigm, Move language	Educates developers to adopt a "new paradigm mindset," emphasizing toolchain maturity and performance advantages.
Sonic	Continuation of the Fantom ecosystem, low latency, familiar dev stack	Focuses on compatibility + extreme performance, encourages migration from Fantom with low-barrier tools and incentives.
Bearchain	Native modularity, state isolation, MEV revenue redistribution	Attracts advanced DeFi and MEV researchers with innovative architecture and a "tech-first community" strategy.
Abstract	Appchains-as-a-Service	Lowers the development barrier, targets "rapid on-chain deployment" scenarios, and emphasizes modular components and SDK support.
Hyperliquid	L2-native DEX-driven, self-developed Rollup infra and trading engine	Uses concrete use cases (e.g., perpetual trading) to guide development, builds the dev ecosystem around trading scenarios.
Unichain	Cross-chain liquidity focus, native LSDFi support	Appeals to developers building "liquidity networks," with a focus on interest rate protocols and stablecoins.
Sei Network	Optimized for high-frequency trading, built-in order matching	Tailored for specific trading scenarios (NFTs/DEXs), attracts developers of trading tools and infrastructure.

3.2 User Pathways: Traffic Acquisition Mechanisms and User Structure Strategies

From the perspective of user acquisition and engagement, next-generation blockchains exhibit clear strategic divergence. First, in terms of narrative-driven vs. product experience-driven approaches, Unichain and Berachain tend to build user consensus and emotional resonance through strong narratives, fostering community-led self-organization. In contrast, Hyperliquid and Sui emphasize product usability and feature completeness, aiming to retain users through performance and intuitive interaction design.

Second, regarding native conversion vs. external user acquisition, Sonic focuses more on converting users organically within its ecosystem through internal incentives and protocol synergies. Meanwhile, Sei and Sui actively pursue external traffic sources by leveraging exchanges, cross-chain bridges, and strategic partnerships to draw in users.

Lastly, in terms of targeting Web3-native vs. Web2-converted users, Hyperliquid and Unichain primarily cater to existing Web3 users with prior on-chain experience, emphasizing liquidity depth and advanced interaction. On the other hand, Abstract and Sui focus more on onboarding users from Web2 environments, expanding their user base by simplifying user interactions and offering developer-friendly tools.

Figure 13: Divergent User Acquisition Pathways Among Next-Generation Blockchains

Blockchain	User Acquisition Mechanism	User-Side Strategic Characteristics
Sui	Game and NFT-centric; airdrops of Move ecosystem assets	Attracts hybrid Web2/Web3 users via blockchain gaming, emphasizes smooth and seamless interaction.
Sonic	Asset mapping from Fantom; incentive-driven user migration	Retains legacy users, prioritizes on-chain native user migration, and lowers switching costs.
Bearchain	Meme-driven cultural community; bear-themed narrative system	Builds strong community cohesion through cultural symbolism and preemptive consensus formation.
Abstract	Leveraging Pudgy Penguins' popularity; Appchains as user funnels	Users come from specific on-chain products, fragmented across platforms but unified by Abstract as the base layer.
Hyperliquid	Efficient trading experience; points airdrops; low fees	Natively trader-oriented, focuses on minimal fees, slippage, and exceptional product performance.
Unichain	LRT sector hype; Eigenlayer narrative as traction	Attracts liquidity seekers and yield hunters via trending narratives and rapid capital aggregation.
Sei Network	NFT leaderboard farming; TGE task systems and airdrops	Growth driven by strong operations, tasks and airdrops fuel expansion, though long-term user stickiness is uncertain.

3.3 Developer-User Path Orchestration or Collaboration

Driven by different strategic choices, next-generation blockchains demonstrate diverse forms of synergy between their developer and user pathways. Projects with high pathway alignment—such as Hyperliquid and Sonic—tend to exhibit stronger momentum during the cold-start phase. While narrative-driven user acquisition strategies can deliver short-term growth surges, sustained expansion requires timely follow-up from a robust developer ecosystem.

For application-specific platforms like Abstract, user-side "product appeal" will largely depend on the maturity of development toolchains and the availability of comprehensive support services, highlighting the importance of seamless integration between developer experience and end-user value.

Figure 14: Pathway Synergy Differences Among Next-Generation Blockchains

Type	Examples	Characteristics
Pathway-Synergistic	Hyperliquid, Sonic, Sui	Strong trading experience + comprehensive developer tools → Users become developers
Developer-First	Bearchain, Abstract	Architecture defines the ecosystem → Users accumulate naturally through use cases
User-First	Sei, Unichain	Rapid cold-start to attract users → Anticipated long-term feedback to developer ecosystem

3.4 Summary – Key Success Factors of Next-Gen Chains

A comprehensive analysis of emerging blockchain projects such as Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Sui, Hyperliquid, Unichain, and Sei Network reveals several key success factors:

- **Performance and Usability:** Chains like Sonic, Sui, and Sei leverage parallel architectures, high TPS, and low latency as core selling points, catering to use cases in finance, gaming, and beyond. Their success paths are technology-led, attracting high-performance applications through optimized consensus and execution mechanisms. As on-chain assets and users grow, demand for high-speed blockchains continues to rise, leaving room for further development.
- **Chain Abstraction and User Experience:** Abstract introduces the concept of chain abstraction (AGW), dramatically lowering the entry barrier for ordinary users and improving Web2 user conversion. As the blockchain user base expands, Abstract's approach may inspire wider adoption, with features like seamless login and gasless transactions expected to become mainstream.
- **Ecosystem Incentives and Capital Efficiency:** Chains like Sonic, Berachain, Unichain, and Mantle attract liquidity and project deployment through innovative token and incentive models (e.g., PoL consensus, tri-token mechanisms, and yield-sharing schemes). They emphasize usage-based rewards and community-driven governance through DAOs. In such ecosystems, initial capital and incentive mechanisms are critical (e.g., Sonic's fee mechanism and Uniswap's reward program), and serve as important observation points.
- **Cross-Chain Integration:** Modern blockchains increasingly prioritize cross-chain interoperability. Sonic offers an Ethereum gateway, Abstract connects to multiple cross-chain bridges, Hyperliquid supports deposits and withdrawals across 30+ chains, and Unichain promotes ERC-7683 cross-chain swaps. As inter-chain liquidity becomes more important, projects with efficient cross-chain capabilities will hold a competitive edge.
- **Ecosystem Positioning:** Beyond technical differences, each chain occupies a unique role in the broader ecosystem. Hyperliquid is positioned as an "on-chain financial CEX," Unichain is tightly integrated with Uniswap, Abstract targets mainstream social and entertainment use cases, and Sonic evolves from Fantom with an eye toward community migration. Chains that can establish a clear niche and build a differentiated ecosystem will demonstrate stronger competitiveness.

4. Conclusion & Recommendations

This research report analyzes the strategic positioning, technical architecture, and ecosystem development paths of seven next-generation blockchains: Sonic, Berachain, Abstract, Sui, Hyperliquid, Unichain, and Sei Network. We conclude that these projects exemplify the

diversification of Layer 1 blockchain competition amid rapid industry iteration. Key takeaways and recommendations include:

- **Maintain Differentiated Positioning:** Performance-driven chains (e.g., Sonic, Sui) should continue optimizing parallel execution and high TPS architectures. Ecosystem-driven platforms (e.g., Berachain, Unichain) should focus on liquidity design and community incentives. User experience-driven projects (e.g., Abstract, Hyperliquid) should prioritize frontend experience and interaction detail. Avoid homogenous competition and blindly chasing trends.
- **Balance Technology and Usability:** High-performance architectures are foundational but must be complemented with user-friendly Web2 experiences like gasless transactions and social login, while maintaining a balance between security and decentralization. Chains with high requirements for security and decentralization (e.g., Abstract) should further refine modular architecture and privacy protection to achieve a balance between flexible governance and secure consensus.
- **Balance Ecosystem Incentives and Sustainability:** Inspired by Berachain's PoL model and Unichain's large-scale airdrop strategy, tokenomics and developer grant funds remain critical for bootstrapping. However, short-term hype and misaligned incentives should be avoided. Mechanisms like fee sharing and token buyback & burn are recommended to enhance internal capital cycles and ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Strengthen Cross-Chain Collaboration:** In a multi-chain world, cross-chain compatibility is vital. Supporting interoperability with major ecosystems like Ethereum and Solana (e.g., Sonic's Ethereum compatibility and Abstract's LayerZero integration) should be considered essential infrastructure. Collaborations with DEXs, bridge protocols, and other infrastructure projects should be encouraged to expand ecosystem boundaries.
- **Embrace Convergence Trends:** Monitor metrics such as TVL and TPS to adapt strategies, and recognize that future development will center on the convergence of high-performance and UX-focused chains, as well as modular design, cross-chain interaction, and composability.

Overall, the new generation of blockchains has entered a new phase of "performance + application scenarios + incentives" multidimensional competition. Projects that can maintain technological innovation while building stable and prosperous developer and user ecosystems are best positioned to stand out in the coming wave of blockchain competition.

We recommend continuously tracking mainnet progress, incentive structures, and core developer trends for these projects. A thorough evaluation of token economies, governance mechanisms, and ecosystem resilience will provide forward-looking insight for investment planning and technology adoption.

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