CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

FBI Links TraderTraitor Unit to $6 Billion Crypto Theft

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 11



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced that North Korea was responsible for stealing more than $6 billion in virtual assets from Binance, with the theft occurring on or about October 29, 2026. The FBI attributed the operation to a state-sponsored unit called TraderTraitor, identified as the same group behind a $1.5 billion Bybit hack the previous year. Binance reportedly used over $6.34 billion of company funds to purchase replacement tokens, covering roughly 90 per cent of the stolen assets; the remaining 10 per cent consisted of less liquid tokens requiring more time to acquire. The FBI warned that TraderTraitor was converting the stolen assets primarily into ethereum and expected further laundering through decentralised finance platforms and instant swap services. Officials called on crypto exchanges and blockchain analytics companies to block transactions linked to identified addresses to prevent the stolen funds from being laundered. News of the cyberattack caused prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall.

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2 Key words

attributed /əˈtrɪbjʊtɪd/ *verb*

to say or believe that something is the result or responsibility of a particular person or group

The decline in sales was attributed to changing consumer preferences rather than poor product quality.

laundering /ˈlɒndərɪŋ/ *noun*

the process of hiding the origin of money obtained illegally so that it appears to come from a legitimate source

Investigators discovered a complex network of shell companies used for the laundering of proceeds from fraud.

liquid /ˈlɪkwɪd/ *adjective*

(of an asset) easily and quickly converted into cash without significant loss of value

Investors typically prefer liquid assets during periods of market uncertainty because they can be sold at short notice.

state-sponsored /ˌsteɪt ˈspɒnsəreɪtɪd/ *adjective*

carried out with the official support and funding of a government

Several countries have accused foreign powers of engaging in state-sponsored cyber operations against their infrastructure.

decentralised /diːˈsentrəlaɪzd/ *adjective*

operating without a single central authority controlling the system, with functions distributed across many participants

The organisation adopted a decentralised management structure so that each regional office could make decisions independently.

hack /hæk/ *noun*

an illegal or unauthorised intrusion into a computer system or network

The company suffered a major hack that exposed millions of customers' personal details to the public.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. Binance reportedly used over $6.34 billion of company funds to purchase replacement tokens, covering roughly 90 per cent of the stolen assets; the remaining 10 per cent consisted of less liquid tokens requiring more time to acquire.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Reading Comprehension

3 points

Read the passage and choose the best answer for each question. All answers can be found directly in the text.

1 According to the text, what proportion of the stolen assets had Binance replaced by the time of the announcement?

(a) All of the stolen assets
(b) Approximately 10 per cent
(c) Approximately 90 per cent
(d) Roughly half of the stolen assets

2 What action did the FBI call on crypto exchanges and blockchain analytics companies to take?

(a) To conduct their own independent investigations
(b) To block transactions linked to identified addresses
(c) To freeze all ethereum transactions permanently
(d) To report every suspicious transaction to law enforcement

3 What was the reported market reaction to news of the cyberattack?

(a) Prices of most major cryptocurrencies rose sharply
(b) The effect on crypto markets was not mentioned
(c) Prices of most major cryptocurrencies fell
(d) Only ethereum prices were affected

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 2 Match the Words

5 points

Match each vocabulary term with its correct definition.

1 attributed _____
2 state-sponsored _____
3 laundering _____
4 decentralised _____
5 liquid _____

A the process of hiding the origin of money obtained illegally so that it appears to come from a legitimate source

B to say or believe that something is the result or responsibility of a particular person or group

C carried out with the official support and funding of a government

D (of an asset) easily and quickly converted into cash without significant loss of value

E operating without a single central authority controlling the system, with functions distributed across many participants

EXERCISE 3 Put the sentences in order

3 points

These sentences are from the story. Put them in the order they appear.

A The FBI warned that TraderTraitor was converting the stolen assets primarily into ethereum and expected further laundering through decentralised finance platforms and instant swap services.

B Officials called on crypto exchanges and blockchain analytics companies to block transactions linked to identified addresses to prevent the stolen funds from being laundered.

C News of the cyberattack caused prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall.

Correct order: _____ _____ _____

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Reading Comprehension

1 C. Approximately 90 per cent The text states that Binance used over $6.34 billion of company funds to purchase replacement tokens, covering roughly 90 per cent of the stolen assets.

2 B. To block transactions linked to identified addresses The text says officials called on crypto exchanges and blockchain analytics companies to block transactions linked to identified addresses to prevent the stolen funds from being laundered.

3 C. Prices of most major cryptocurrencies fell The final sentence states that news of the cyberattack caused prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall.

Exercise 2 Match the Words

1 B. to say or believe that something is the result or responsibility of a particular person or group

2 C. carried out with the official support and funding of a government

3 A. the process of hiding the origin of money obtained illegally so that it appears to come from a legitimate source

4 E. operating without a single central authority controlling the system, with functions distributed across many participants

5 D. (of an asset) easily and quickly converted into cash without significant loss of value

Exercise 3 Put the sentences in order

A, B, C The FBI warned that TraderTraitor was converting the stolen assets primarily into ethereum and expected further laundering through decentralised finance platforms and instant swap services. Officials called on crypto exchanges and blockchain analytics companies to block transactions linked to identified addresses to prevent the stolen funds from being laundered. News of the cyberattack caused prices of most major cryptocurrencies to fall.