

# Caleb & Brown

## Crypto Brokerage

Inside the Markets

November 2025

### U.S. rate cut uncertainty rattles markets

'Uptober' didn't arrive this year, with the crypto market seeing a record [US\\$19 billion](#) of positions liquidated in the October 10 sell-off, sparked by U.S.-China trade uncertainty. In contrast, TradFi assets continued to climb, potentially demonstrating the exacerbated impact of leverage on the crypto market. The U.S. Federal Reserve's hawkish commentary, as some governors have expressed their disagreement with the October 29 rate cut and the prospect of a further 25-basis-point cut in December, saw a sell-off across risk assets to start November.

#### BTC Snapshot

12-month high \$126,080  
12-month low \$76,329  
Price (9 Nov 2025) \$105,817

#### Key Market Metrics

BTC Dominance 59.91%  
ETH Price \$3,630  
Total Crypto Market Cap \$3.66T  
Alt-Coin Market Cap \$1.55T

Keep reading for the key catalysts shaping crypto in November.

### Interest rate uncertainty shakes risk assets

To start November, the U.S. Government is entering its sixth week of the shutdown. With at least [670,000 employees furloughed](#), while a further 730,000 work without pay, the shutdown means several economic data points weren't released in October. The lack of data is causing difficulty in understanding the true state of the U.S. economy, though the consumer price index coming in at [3%](#) for the 12 months to 30 September, 2025 versus a forecast 3.1% sparked a late-October rally before the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee's (FOMC) October 29 meeting.

The FOMC cut interest rates by 25 basis points at its October 29 meeting, with the federal funds rate now sitting at [4%](#). While the market expected the rate cut, [hawkish commentary](#) from some of the U.S. Federal Reserve's governors tempered the record run happening across the key U.S. indexes, including the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow Jones. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President, Raphael Bostic, said that a December rate cut isn't a certainty, while Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland President, Beth Hammack, stated that she opposed the October 29 rate cut as inflation is still too high. The likelihood of a further 25-basis-point cut at the FOMC's December 10 meeting is currently [67%](#).

"In the committee's discussions at this meeting, there were strongly differing views about how to proceed in December. A further reduction in the policy rate at the December meeting is not a foregone conclusion. Far from it."

- [Jerome Powell, Chair, Federal Reserve](#)

October was a rocky month on the trade front. President Trump's threat of a [100% tariff](#) on Chinese exports to the U.S. saw a sharp sell-off across risk assets on October 10. TradFi assets have since regained the losses, presumably on strong earnings and the October 29 rate cut. Since the sell-off, the U.S. and Chinese governments have met to negotiate a trade deal. President Trump and Xi Jinping [met in South Korea on October 30](#). The [fact sheet](#) released following the meeting detailed the key points of the agreement: the resumption of U.S. soybean and other agricultural sales to China, the removal of China's export controls on rare earths, stopping the movement of precursors to make fentanyl into the U.S., and the end of Chinese retaliation against U.S. semiconductor manufacturers and other related U.S. companies. The deadline for a finalised U.S.-China trade deal has been moved to December, though a firm date has not been announced.

Earnings continued to beat analysts' expectations in October. Amongst the 315 S&P 500 companies that had reported their earnings by October 31, [83.2%](#) surpassed estimates, well above the historical average of 67% of firms beating earnings forecasts. Tech giants, like Amazon and Apple, also sparked a rally in the Nasdaq as both companies impressed with their Q3 earnings. To end October, the S&P 500 gained 2.3%, the Nasdaq rose by 4.7%, and the Dow Jones increased by 2.5%.

Heading into November, traders and investors will presumably be watching for a resolution on the [U.S. Government shutdown](#), as policymakers continue to negotiate on approving an appropriations bill to fund government programs that run on annual spending. Further commentary around rate cuts, the labour market (if the data is available) and public company earnings will likely move markets, as data delays mean that market participants are looking to other information to gauge sentiment. The ADP non-farm employment change for October came in at [42,000 new private sector jobs](#), above the forecast 32,000, indicating a potential rebound in the private sector labour market.

## No 'Uptober' as bitcoin declines by 3.7%

Opening October at US\$114,067 bitcoin rallied to a new all-time high of US\$126,296 on October 6. Sentiment was bullish and some market participants were expecting this to potentially be the 'blow-off top' for this cycle. What a difference a few weeks can make. Days later on October 10, the crypto market saw its largest ever liquidation event, with [US\\$19 billion](#) in positions liquidated. The sell-off came amid President Trump's threats of 100% tariffs on Chinese imports to the U.S. While a U.S.-China trade agreement has since been established, though not a formal long-term deal, mixed views amongst U.S. Federal Reserve Governors over whether a 25-basis-point rate cut will occur at the FOMC's December 10 meeting, saw a further sell-off on November 3, where [US\\$1.3 billion](#) in crypto positions, mostly long trades, were liquidated.

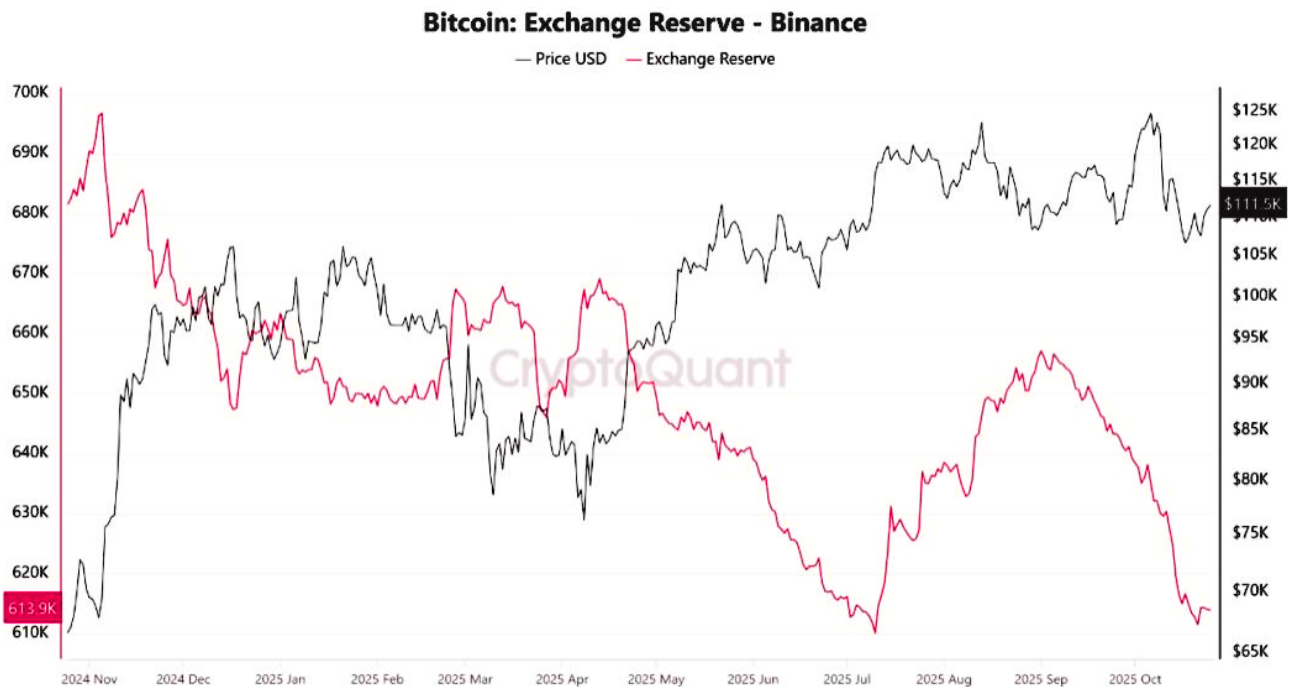
On November 4, bitcoin's October 10 low of US\$103,516 broke to the downside, though it has since recovered slightly, with BTC trading around US\$104,500 at the time of writing. Bitcoin declined by 3.7% throughout October, marking its worst October since 2018 and crushing hopes of the 'Uptober' seen in previous years. Sentiment is currently bearish across the market, with the [fear and greed indicator at 27](#) ('fear') as bitcoin and other crypto assets continue to sell off. Historically, however, November is bitcoin's strongest month. Since bitcoin's inception in 2013, November has delivered an average [gain of 42%](#).

### Bitcoin Monthly returns(%)

| BTC ↕   | Daily returns(%) |          | Weekly returns(%) |         | Monthly returns(%) |         | Quarterly returns(%) |         |           |         |          |          |
|---------|------------------|----------|-------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Time    | January          | February | March             | April   | May                | June    | July                 | August  | September | October | November | December |
| 2025    | +9.29%           | -17.39%  | -2.3%             | +14.08% | +10.99%            | +2.49%  | +8.13%               | -6.49%  | +5.16%    | -3.69%  | -3.4%    |          |
| 2024    | +0.62%           | +43.55%  | +16.81%           | -14.76% | +11.07%            | -6.96%  | +2.95%               | -8.6%   | +7.29%    | +10.76% | +37.29%  | -2.85%   |
| 2023    | +39.63%          | +0.03%   | +22.96%           | +2.81%  | -6.98%             | +11.98% | -4.02%               | -11.29% | +3.91%    | +28.52% | +8.81%   | +12.18%  |
| 2022    | -16.68%          | +12.21%  | +5.39%            | -17.3%  | -15.6%             | -37.28% | +16.8%               | -13.88% | -3.12%    | +5.56%  | -16.23%  | -3.59%   |
| 2021    | +14.51%          | +36.78%  | +29.84%           | -1.98%  | -35.31%            | -5.95%  | +18.19%              | +13.8%  | -7.03%    | +39.93% | -7.11%   | -18.9%   |
| 2020    | +29.95%          | -8.6%    | -24.92%           | +34.26% | +9.51%             | -3.18%  | +24.03%              | +2.83%  | -7.51%    | +27.7%  | +42.95%  | +46.92%  |
| 2019    | -8.58%           | +11.14%  | +7.05%            | +34.36% | +52.38%            | +26.67% | -6.59%               | -4.6%   | -13.38%   | +10.17% | -17.27%  | -5.15%   |
| 2018    | -25.41%          | +0.47%   | -32.85%           | +33.43% | -18.99%            | -14.62% | +20.96%              | -9.27%  | -5.58%    | -3.83%  | -36.57%  | -5.15%   |
| 2017    | -0.04%           | +23.07%  | -9.05%            | +32.71% | +52.71%            | +10.45% | +17.92%              | +65.32% | -7.44%    | +47.81% | +53.48%  | +38.89%  |
| 2016    | -14.83%          | +20.08%  | -5.35%            | +7.27%  | +18.78%            | +27.14% | -7.67%               | -7.49%  | +6.04%    | +14.71% | +5.42%   | +30.8%   |
| 2015    | -33.05%          | +18.43%  | -4.38%            | -3.46%  | -3.17%             | +15.19% | +8.2%                | -18.67% | +2.35%    | +33.49% | +19.27%  | +13.83%  |
| 2014    | +10.03%          | -31.03%  | -17.25%           | -1.6%   | +39.46%            | +2.2%   | -9.69%               | -17.55% | -19.01%   | -12.95% | +12.82%  | -15.11%  |
| 2013    | +44.05%          | +61.77%  | +172.76%          | +50.01% | -8.56%             | -29.89% | +9.6%                | +30.42% | -1.76%    | +60.79% | +449.35% | -34.81%  |
| Average | +3.81%           | +13.12%  | +12.21%           | +13.06% | +8.18%             | -0.14%  | +7.60%               | +1.12%  | -3.08%    | +19.92% | +42.22%  | +4.75%   |

Bitcoin monthly returns (%). (Source: [Coinglass](#)) Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Adding to the case for some upward momentum in bitcoin is exchange reserves nearing a critical low. On leading exchanges, bitcoin reserves are approaching 610,000 BTC, a level not seen since July and one of the lowest levels seen in the last 12 months. The '[extremely aggressive](#)' decline is attributed to growing institutional and whale accumulation, particularly as spot exchange-traded funds (ETFs) increase demand.

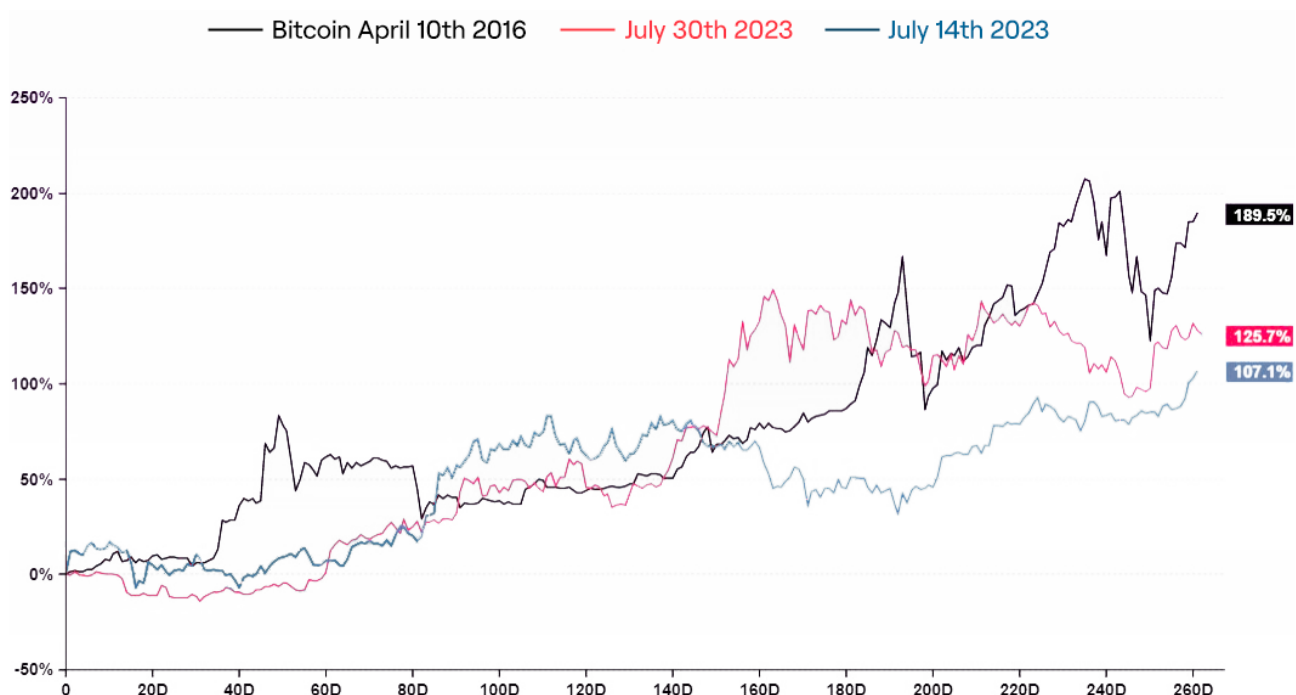


Bitcoin: exchange reserve – Binance. (Source: [CryptoQuant](#))

“It’s the classic beach-ball-underwater dynamic. The harder you push it down, the more explosive the move when it finally breaks free... The only way to survive this kind of volatility is to extend your time horizon.”

- [Julien Bittel, Head of Macro Research - Global Macro Investor](#)

Some market commentators have stated that the '[mega low-volume environment](#)' is another catalyst that will see bitcoin move higher (as evidenced in the chart below), and in an aggressive fashion, when the sell-off reaches a low. Further, as a 70-vol asset, meaning it is highly volatile, [downside moves of over 30%](#) are the price of holding for the strong upward swings that can follow. Maintaining a long time horizon and proactively planning what needs to happen in the market order for you to add or subtract from your positions is crucial in maintaining composure when volatility arises.



Bitcoin's 12-month returns following low-volume periods. (Source: [Global Macro Investor](#)) Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Bitcoin closed October at US\$109,555. While past results are not a reliable indicator of performance, the recent declines could potentially be positioning bitcoin for a rally when the current sell-off bottoms. If a turnaround arrives, monitoring whether the next upside moves have the momentum to produce fresh highs or, in contrast, form a lower high, will be crucial in understanding bitcoin and the broader crypto market's trajectory in the coming months.

## Ethereum continues its decline

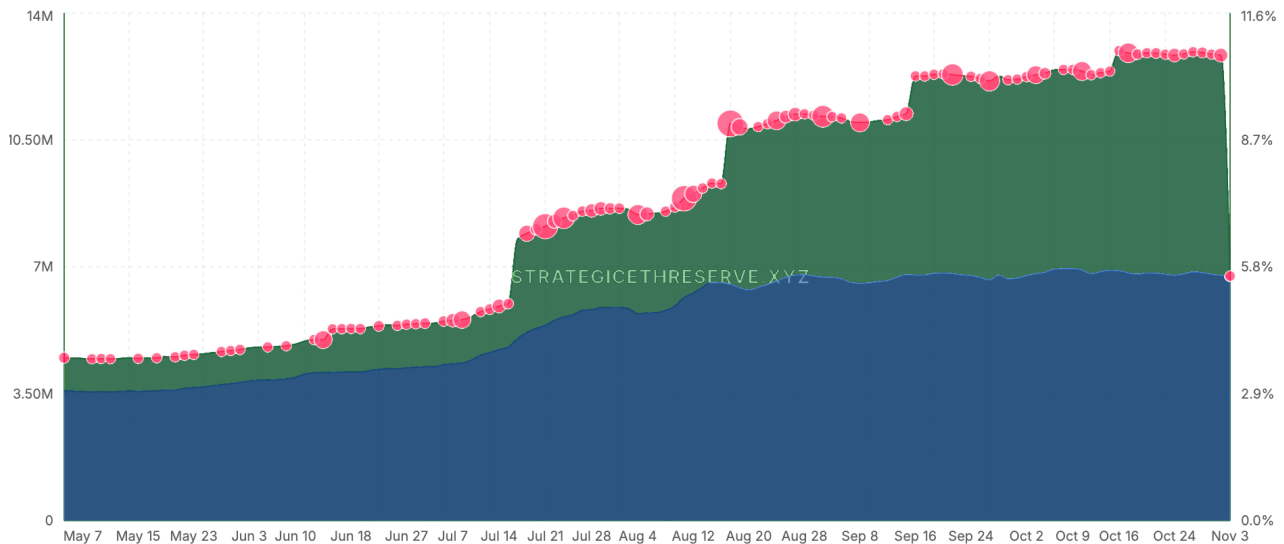
Opening the month at US\$4,145, Ethereum gained to a monthly high of US\$4,759 on October 7 before breaking down amidst the October 10 and November 3 crypto sell offs. Ethereum broke the key level around US\$3,750 to the downside and declined further in the first week of November, reaching a low of US\$3,055 on November 4 due to interest rate uncertainty and the [US\\$128 million Balancer](#) exploit.

Despite the bearish sentiment, whales appear to be positioning for a turnaround. The same bitcoin whale who earned US\$200 million from shorting bitcoin before President Trump's tariff-fuelled flash crash on October 10, has opened [long positions on bitcoin and Ethereum](#). The positions are worth US\$37 million and US\$18 million, respectively. The same whale also rotated US\$5 billion worth of BTC into ETH between August and October.

ETF and strategic Ethereum reserve accumulations continued to grow throughout October despite the bearish price action. ETF and strategic Ethereum reserve holdings now account for over 10% of total ETH supply, indicating continued institutional demand.

## SER+ETF ETH RESERVE - Historical Data

SER+ETF ETF SER



Institutional Ethereum accumulation May to November 2025. (Source: [StrategicEthReserve](#))

In other positive news for the network, the Ethereum Fusaka upgrade is scheduled to go live on December 3. The upgrade introduces PeerDAS, which is 'the key to layer-2 scaling', driving Ethereum into its next stage for [mass, low-cost adoption](#). Layer-2 scaling will be improved by building on the introduction of 'blobs' in the 2024 Dencun upgrade, which allows layer-2 data to be stored in Ethereum blocks, reducing gas fees and processing time.

Ethereum closed October at US\$3,845 (-7.2%), amid bearish sentiment. However, whale activity, institutional buying and the upcoming Fukasa upgrade signal that potential for a turnaround remains.

## It's a battle of the cycles in alts

When volatility picks up across crypto, whether it's to the upside or downside, the divide in views on market direction typically widens. The October 10 and November 3 sell offs have been no different. Two schools of thought on a potential altseason have emerged: those following the bitcoin cycles and those following the business cycle. The prevailing thesis amongst market commentators who believe that the four-year bitcoin cycle remains is that a cycle high across bitcoin and altcoins will occur sometime in Q4 this year or Q1 2026. In contrast, those who believe an extended business cycle is emerging don't anticipate highs until late 2026.

"Everyone is too focused on the US and what the Fed is doing. What really matters is that our GMI Total Liquidity Index continues to trend higher, because that captures all of it."

- [Julien Bittel, Head of Macro Research - Global Macro Investor](#)

The case for a top in the coming months, which aligns with bitcoin's four-year cycle, is that with the economic and labour market slowdown in the U.S., some commentators have the view that the Federal Reserve is cutting interest rates into contraction. Further, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stated this week that some parts of the economy are [already in a recession](#). As an example, average S&P 500 returns following the first U.S. rate cut after the past 10 cycles is [-14.3%](#) in the three months following the first cut. The first cut of the current rate-cutting cycle was on September 18, meaning that there's potential for risk assets to rally to a top in the near future and then decline rapidly if the typical 'recession cut' cycle performance occurs.

And for those following the business cycle theory, the market's performance is largely contingent on global liquidity. The [Global Macro Investor Total Liquidity Index declined in October](#), presumably due to the Treasury General Account rebuild and government shutdown. Those watching the business cycle believe that, from January 2026, a combination of quantitative tightening ending, adjustments to overnight repurchasing agreements to minimise the risk of a rate spike and enhanced supplementary leverage ratios for banks may provide the liquidity reserves needed to spur an uptick in the business cycle, and, as a result, a rally in risk assets into late 2026. Further, China's balance sheet is expected to reach a record US\$8 trillion by the end of 2026, which could also be bullish for risk assets. In short, growing global liquidity in 2026 could turn around the current U.S. economic slowdown and drive a rally across risk assets, including crypto.

## Identify your catalysts and act accordingly

Given there are valid cases to be made for crypto continuing to align with the four-year bitcoin cycle or extending with a prolonged business cycle, it's important to do your own research, identify the key catalysts you need to inform your investment decisions, and cultivate your own conviction to act on as market noise grows in times of volatility and uncertainty.

If you have questions about your portfolio as you navigate Q4, speak to your Caleb & Brown broker about your approach.

## November key dates and crypto catalysts

The U.S. Federal Reserve's rate trajectory, U.S.-China trade policy and global liquidity are expected to influence sentiment in the weeks ahead.

| December 10        | December                                    |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| FOMC rate decision | China trade deal to be finalised (date TBC) |

### U.S. trade policy

**What's at stake?** While a formal and finalised U.S.-China trade agreement hasn't yet been established, the two nations agreed to resolve several deal points that have been the source of escalating tensions throughout 2025. The deadline for a finalised U.S.-China trade deal has been moved to December, though a firm date has not been announced.

**What to consider?** Expect volatility in risk assets around trade announcements. Engage with your broker to understand how tariff changes may affect your positions.

### U.S. Federal Reserve rate decision (December 10)

**What's at stake?** The next FOMC meeting is on December 10. The meeting minutes will be released on December 30.

**What to consider?** The U.S. Fed's rate trajectory will affect market sentiment. Discuss potential outcomes with your broker.

## Crypto policy and legislation

**What's at stake?** Following passage of the CLARITY Act in the House, the Senate is considering its own version of crypto market clarity legislation, the [Responsible Financial Innovation Act of 2025](#). In late October, the Senate [resumed talks](#) on finalising the market structure bill that stalled in recent months.

The [Securities Clarity Act](#) was reintroduced to the House and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services on March 26. It remains before the Committee at the time of writing.

The [Lummis Crypto Tax Bill](#) was introduced in the Senate on July 3. Senator Lummis also introduced the [21st Century Mortgage Act](#), a bill that would allow financial institutions to include a mortgage applicant's crypto holdings in the assessment process. Both bills remain before the Senate for consideration.

[State-based crypto legislation](#) is before Congress in several U.S. states. [Michigan's crypto and bitcoin reserve bill](#) advanced to the House Government Operations Committee on September 18.

**What to consider?** If you're assessing your exposure to stablecoin-related or U.S.-based crypto projects, now may be a good time to reach out to your broker to revisit your strategy.

**Need help navigating the markets? Speak with your Caleb & Brown broker to align your portfolio with evolving macro and crypto developments.**

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