



CASPIAN

AMA

With Caspian CTO
Gerrit van Wingerden

We want to thank you all for contributing to a hugely successful first Caspian AMA! Gerrit very much appreciated the high level of questioning he received and we certainly look forward to putting on the next one so WATCH THIS SPACE!

Here are all of the questions and answers from the live AMA along with a couple of logged questions that Gerrit didn't manage to answer at the time. Thank you all for your valuable input.



@Alexa743

Question: How long did it take to develop the platform?

Answer: The core platform was released for equities over a decade ago and we have been continuously adding functionality to the platform since then. It took us about a year to add crypto as an asset class to the platform and spin it out as Caspian.

@herringolder5

Question: Who came up with the idea of Caspian and how many founders are there?

Answer: David Wills and I came up with the idea of Caspian. I have been interested in crypto since its inception. Here is the link to our fellow founders - <https://caspian.tech/management/>

@mikemenmandelbaum

Question: Isn't your business suffering from the bear market?

Answer: I would be lying if I said we have not been affected by the Crypto Winter 2.0, but all things considered the business is doing well. We continue to onboard new clients and continue to see existing client volume increase, both of which are great for the project.

@incorrectmaybe

Question: Why can't we get a free demo of the software and can only see a sample of it on YouTube?

Answer: This is a great question. We will look into ways that we can do a live demo en-masse to all community members.

@LorenzW

Question: What upcoming product features of the platform are you most excited about, and why?

Answer: I'm very excited about the development of our mobile platform which is being led by Ovidiu (our head of product). We will release it in the coming months and I expect it to lay the groundwork for the release of a retail offering (hopefully) in late 2019. I'm also excited about pairs trading which we've started to roll out on a number of exchanges.



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@BeScaredOfMe

Question: What is in store for the next few months?

Answer: Mobile, more OTC venues, and more derivatives!

@abuyoyoyo

Question: Do you see Caspian combining regular stocks in the platform in the future?

Answer: Caspian's parent company TORA offers a trading platform for all listed equities and equity derivatives and we operate our own network which connects TORA clients to hundreds of broker and exchanges across the planet. Where it makes sense we can leverage this network to provide crypto clients access to traditional exchanges and vice versa.

@merry788

Question: How many connected exchanges are there right now?

Answer: We have about 30 exchanges connected. I say about because for some exchanges we do not yet have all the products (such as derivatives) so I consider those to be not fully connected. For most exchanges though we offer all products/coins.

@CryptoKap

Question: How do you plan to increase the utility of the token? Customers have incentives, but can they also pay in Fiat?

Answer: Customers can pay in fiat but by optimally staking and paying with CSP they can reduce their fees by 50%!

@PrinceCasper

Question: Is the CSP token being used currently on the Caspian platform for trading fees, staking etc? If not, when?

Answer: The Caspian token is currently being used by our clients to receive discounts on fees within the system. Yes, clients are starting to use the token.

@polgar

Question: Do you target only big funds? It seems the average crypto Joe never heard of Caspian?

Answer: We target all crypto funds large and small for whom the platform makes sense.

@SOsmartWOW

Question: Why don't you list the token in your partner exchanges?

Answer: We are working on connecting the Token other exchanges.



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@anonfags

Question: Which party is responsible for custody of funds at different stages?

Answer: This depends on the client set up. At Caspian we take no custody responsibility, but we do integrate with a number of custodians programmatically to reconcile client balances and transactions.



@Billygeorge

Question: What's your background and how did you end up in Caspian?

Answer: My first job out of college was at Microsoft where I worked on the original Windows NT development team as a software engineer. After that I moved to Tokyo and worked at Lehman Brothers on the proprietary trading desk helping to build systematic trading systems and then left to start the company which eventually became TORA, the parent company of Caspian. I have been there ever since. I don't do a whole lot of programming these days but have over the past several years developed an interest in cryptography, in particular secure multi-party computing (SMC) and zero knowledge protocols through which I had the good fortune to get know one of our advisors Dr. Damgaard and the researchers at his company Partisia. When I'm not working on Caspian I have been spending time focusing on applying to ZK proofs and SMC to trading of digital assets.

@w0j4k

Question: Will we see the Caspian token on Binance?

Answer: I can't comment on the specifics at this stage but we are working on adding CSP to more exchanges.

@VivaLibertad

Question: Do you expect token value to increase?

Answer: I have a strong view on this but, unfortunately, I cannot comment on token price for legal/regulatory reasons.

@WhereIbe

Question: How many team members are working on Caspian?

Answer: TORA, Caspian's parent company has 250 staff globally, of which our employees work across both companies. There are approximately 50 developers dedicated to working on Caspian as well as front office staff.



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@CryptoKap

Question: Are you running governance nodes?

Answer: We are not.

@CryptoKap

Question: Can we get an indication of % of users that are staking please?

Answer: In terms of system volume I would say that right > 70% is being paid for with a staking discount.

@oopsIspilled

Question: How did you get into the cryptocurrency world?

Answer: I have been interested in crypto from the beginning and a meeting with Kenetic saw a synergy align between our two companies and expertise. The Caspian system provided a solution to a problem in the market.

@CryptoKap

Question: Any plans to run governance nodes?

Answer: We do have plans to give large token holders a big say in the direction of the product and we are already doing this to the extent that they are clients. When we do formalize this I'm not sure it will be through governance nodes.

@cryptoquyishereno

Question: Please explain what are the fees that go to Caspian directly (on which actions will the user pay the fees)?

Answer: Users pay fees based on their transaction volume that flow through the system.

@leanten4

Question: What are the most used features in platform?

Answer: I would say the OrderPad with all that it contains (monitoring market data, creating orders, amending and cancelling from the same view, montage view), the dashboard view where the user can create his custom view (he can bundle trades, executions etc. into the same blotter) as well as the charting integration and the compliance module with fat finger checks.



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@jasperistmich

Question: Why is there no updated roadmap yet?

Answer: That's a good and fair question. We do have an updated roadmap and will release it soon.

@rotatait557

Question: Why did the team go specifically with the KuCoin exchange?

Answer: We see KuCoin as a partner whose interests and strategy are aligned with our goal of increasing institutional participation in this space. Both Caspian and KuCoin are focused on institutional investors, high standards of customer service, cutting edge technology and a commitment to quality.

@hikitten72

Question: What do you do as the CTO? What are your daily activities in the company?

Answer: I spend a lot of time working closely with Ovidiu our Head of Product and Cotyso our Head of Development to make sure our technology resources are being allocated optimally. I also spend a lot of time with the development teams on the high level design and architecture of the system. Our Crypto development is done mostly in Romania and Tokyo (where I live) and I usually make about three trips a year to Romania, as I have been doing almost every year since we first opened the office there over a decade ago.

@LorenzW

Question: Can regular volume stats be shared, being traded through the platform?

Answer: It depends largely on what the market is doing but it is the tens of millions of USD per day and we have months were it has been in the billions (for the month). I would add that we continue to add clients and services such as additional OTC desk connectivity and expanded algo coverage which will only lead to increases in volume.

@Rammington

Question: Are you working in any other projects?

Answer: Yes we have another project in the works. However we can't disclose specifics at this time.

@choclatlove

Question: What are the fees for using Caspian?

Answer: We charge a notional fee based on the volumes that clients put through the system.



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@Sceshy

Question: Is Caspian good for private investors too?

Answer: It really depends on your trading volumes and level of sophistication. For some private investors Caspian could be a good fit.

@polgar

Question: Do you target only big funds? It seems the average crypto Joe never heard of Caspian?

Answer: The size of the fund is not so important to us. What matters is trading volumes and their need for a sophisticated platform.

@anonfags

Question: Can you walk us through the stages behind Smart Order Router (SOR)? Do clients need to have multiple accounts and sufficient balance on each exchange they trade on?

Answer: The logic of the SOR is as follows: 1) Searches for the best price 2) Nets for commission 3) Checks the available exchange balance 4) Slices the order 5) Keeps slicing and placing the order until 100% has been allocated. With regards to your second question - clients need an account for all exchanges, and, yes you do need sufficient balance on each exchange in order to trade.

@Chris443

Question: Does the team have a main office? Or is the personnel scattered across the world?

Answer: Our headquarters are San Francisco, however we have multiple offices across the world. Some of our biggest offices are in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Romania and New York. However we have other locations with other key members of front, middle and back office staff.

@foodfoodfoodplz

Question: How long did it take to build Caspian?

Answer: The build took 12 months. However we are always working on improvements and enhancements to the system.

@w0j4k

Question: Will we see the Caspian token on Binance? What are your plans on this topic? Also, roughly speaking, how many exchanges listing can we expect for CSP and in which approximate time frame?

Answer: We will be adding more.



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@maloonhamaleun

Question: what are the biggest achievements Caspian got in the past year?

Answer: We're extremely proud of the progress we've made in our first year. To start with - we created the world's first full-stack crypto trading platform and on the way we've partnered with some of the biggest names in the industry to help accelerate the institutionalisation of cryptocurrencies. One of the most satisfying aspects of our journey has been the number of institutional clients using the platform on a day-to-day basis, as well as connecting to over 30 exchanges and overall developing a tool that enhances the industry.



@CryptoKap

Question: Who are your competitors and how do you feel you are positioned with market share? Do you lock in clients fixed terms?

Answer: As far as we are aware there aren't any providers that offer OEMS, PMS and Algos solutions for crypto trading within one single interface.