

The Blockchain Times

“All the Crypto News That’s Fit to Print”

Kusama News - January 2020

KUSAMA NEWS - JANUARY 2020

In a tumultuous start to 2020, the Kusama network - dubbed Polkadot's "wild cousin" - encountered and overcame a significant technical challenge, highlighting both the experimental nature and resilience of this blockchain platform. As Kusama enters its first full year of operation, the network is rapidly evolving and attracting increased attention from developers and investors alike.

Experimental Platform Overcomes Technical Hurdle, Continues Rapid Development

Technology Reporter

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Network Upgrade Gone Awry

Web3 Analyst

On January 4, 2020, an unsuccessful chain upgrade brought the Kusama network to a standstill, causing significant downtime and concern among community members. The incident occurred when developers accidentally uploaded the Polkadot mainnet runtime to the Kusama chain during what was intended to be a routine scheduled upgrade.

This mishap effectively "bricked" the Kusama blockchain, rendering it inoperable for several days. The development team, led by Polkadot and Kusama founder Dr. Gavin Wood, worked tirelessly to resolve the issue. After eight days of intensive efforts, they successfully restored the network to normal operation on January 12, 2020.

Web3 Foundation communications director Zeke Turner commented on the incident: "While un-

planned, this event demonstrated the experimental nature of Kusama and the ability of our team to respond quickly to unexpected challenges. It's precisely these types of scenarios that Kusama was designed to handle before they potentially impact Polkadot."

Rapid Recovery and Continued Growth

Staff Reporter

Despite the setback, the Kusama network quickly rebounded. By mid-January, the platform had resumed its rapid pace of development and community engagement. The incident served as a valuable learning experience for both the development team and the broader Kusama ecosystem.

"This event, while disruptive, provided invaluable insights into our upgrade processes and emergency response procedures," said Peter Czaban, Technology Director at the Web3 Foundation. "The lessons learned here will directly benefit both Kusama and Polkadot moving forward."

Governance and Technical Developments

Blockchain Policy Correspondent

January 2020 saw several key governance and technical developments for Kusama:

- Validator Expansion:** The network continued its gradual increase in validator slots, adding 10 new positions each week. This controlled growth helped maintain network stability while increasing decentralization.
- Treasury Proposals:** Multiple community-driven proposals for network improvements and ecosystem development were submitted and debated through Kusama's on-chain governance system.
- Runtime Upgrades:** Following the early January incident, developers implemented additional safeguards and testing procedures for future runtime

upgrades.

- Parachain Development:** Work continued on refining the parachain architecture, with several teams beginning to build and test potential parachains for future deployment.

Looking Forward

Editorial Team

As January 2020 came to a close, the Kusama network emerged stronger from its early challenges. The platform demonstrated its resilience, the dedication of its development team, and the strength of its community. With Polkadot's launch approaching and the continued refinement of parachain technology, Kusama is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the future of blockchain interoperability.

The events of January 2020 set the stage for what promises to be a transformative year for Kusama, as it continues to push the boundaries of blockchain technology and pave the way for Polkadot's vision of a decentralized web.

"Kusama continues to serve as the innovation hub for the Polkadot ecosystem, embracing chaos to drive blockchain evolution forward."

— Blockchain Observer