

ETHEREUM, TECHNOLOGY


# Ethereum Network Congestion Doubles Gas Fees as Game dApps Capture \$7.5M in 24 Hours




Sam Town



15 hours ago



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The Ethereum distributed app ecosystem is currently

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Top Coins by Market			
1		Bitcoin   BTC	+0.36%
		\$8,400.73	2B
2		Ethereum   ETH	-1.49%
		\$170.15	45B

experiencing explosive growth,  
with Etherueum dApps  
capturing over \$7.5 million USD



applications and 11,000 use  
the last 24 hours. While  
increased use of the Ethereum  
blockchain is arguably a good  
thing, however, the surge in  
transaction throughput has  
caused congestion, doubling  
Gas fees.

According to distributed app tracking  
website Dapp Insight, more than 10,000  
ETH has been transacted over Ethereum-  
based dApps over the last day, consuming  
more than 14 million GAS. The dramatic  
increase in dApp use mirrors the impact  
of CryptoKitties, an Ethereum-based dApp  
that caused significant ETH transaction  
delays in December 2017.

The screenshot shows the right-hand side of the CryptoSlate website. At the top is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for a coin, ICO, event or topic'. Below it is a list of cryptocurrencies, each with a rank number in a circle, a logo, the name, ticker symbol, and a percentage change in a colored bubble. The list includes:

Rank	Coin	Ticker	Change
3	Ripple	XRP	-0.9%
4	Bitcoin Cash	BCH	0.2%
6	Litecoin	LTC	-1.77%
7	Cardano	ADA	+0.58%
8	Stellar Lumina	XLM	-1.2%
9	TRON	TRX	+8.07%
10	IOTA	MIOT	-1.41%

Below the list is a 'Browse All Coins' button. Further down is a 'Latest News' section with a featured article titled 'Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Prepares to Launch' with a 'MUFG' logo.

# Ethereum Game dApps Slow

First  
Bank-  
Issued

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The dramatic rise in GAS fees is attributed to the viral popularity of a slew of games emerging from online forums. While not as damaging to Ethereum transaction throughput as CryptoKitties, these new dApps have amassed over 26,000 transactions in 24 hours, causing GAS costs to double in price to \$0.02.



? Shrimp

Producing ? eggs  
per hour

According to the website, Ether Shrimp Farm is the #1 shrimp farming simulator and idle game on the blockchain.

The spike in Ethereum dApp game interest has demonstrated the fragile nature of the Ethereum blockchain, illustrating the impact of a relatively small increase in transaction throughput on the capacity of the network. Ether

ago



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VeChainThor**

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Surges**

**Shrimp Farm**, one of the most popular games causing network congestion, places players in control of a virtual shrimp farm with the goal of optimizing shrimp production, **ultimately trading eggs** for ETH.

**Ether Cartel** takes a similar approach, providing players with the opportunity to manage a narcotic empire through an idle-clicking style format. While there are a number of serious Ethereum dApps that provide legitimate utility, such as document publishing dApp **documentary**, games are currently dominating the dAppRadar leaderboard – Ether Cartel currently ranks number one, clocking up over 11,000 transactions over the last week.

**19%  
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TECHNICAL  
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May  
20:  
Bitcoin,  
Ethereum,  
Bitcoin  
Cash,  
Litecoin  
and  
Ripple**

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The whimsical use of the Ethereum blockchain to play games may be mildly amusing to some but many market participants are unimpressed, highlighting the fact that if the second largest cryptocurrency by market cap can be “destroyed by CryptoKitties and shrimp farms” then it probably isn’t “ready for prime time.”

Increased transaction volume does have a detrimental impact on GAS fees and transaction times, but has an overall positive effect on adoption as a whole —

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Congestion  
Doubles  
Gas  
Fees  
as  
Game  
dApps  
Capture  
\$7.5M  
in 24  
Hours**

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Founder  
Bullish  
About  
Blockchain  
But  
Doesn’t**



data available from BitInfoCharts demonstrates that the number of active addresses on the Ethereum network has exceeded inactive addresses for almost one week, approaching the previous best streak of 4 straight days in mid-January:

## Is the Ethereum Blockchain Ready for Large-Scale Transaction Volume?

At this point in time, the Ethereum blockchain can handle roughly 13

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transactions per second, which is halved for token transfers. As a result, it's not easy to create a distributed application on the Ethereum blockchain that can be used by an extremely large user base at the same time.

Related Story: [Ethereum Founder Provides Updates on the Progress of Casper After Community Development Conference](#)

The upcoming Ethereum **consensus method change**, once implemented, should ultimately see the sharding scaling solution integrated, which could potentially provide a solution to the



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transaction throughput issue.

For now, however, innovative distributed app developers are creating workarounds in the form of DAppchains, which creates application-specific sidechains that run parallel to the Ethereum main chain.

The **Loom** project, which promises large-scale blockchain-based apps and games, is a strong example of sidechain-based dApp innovation that could see Twitter-scale dApps become feasible in the near future.



 Cover Photo by Jeff Neale on Unsplash

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