

# AVAIL, The Self- Custodial Crypto Wallet Start-Up

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*In an era where digital currencies are not just an investment but a revolution, the importance of a secure, private wallet cannot be overstated. Amidst a sea of blockchain endeavours, **AVAIL** emerges as not just a start-up but as a beacon of autonomy and privacy in the cryptocurrency world.*

**A**VAIL's inception is rooted in a profound realisation by its founder, Zack Xuereb: the stark absence of privacy in blockchain transactions. Unlike traditional bank transfers that hide your balance from the recipient, blockchain transactions historically lay everything bare. This glaring privacy gap led Xuereb to Aleo, the first private programmable blockchain. 'It became clear that someone had to bridge this gap, making this technology accessible for everyday use. Thus, AVAIL was born,' Xuereb shares.

The name AVAIL itself is a testament to the startup's core

mission – providing users with the benefit (allowing them to 'avail' themselves) of complete control over their money and data while ensuring their privacy remains intact.

## UNDERSTANDING SELF-CUSTODIAL CRYPTO WALLETS

A self-custodial crypto wallet, as Xuereb explains, 'is essentially an application that stores the key to your crypto assets on your device, granting you full control over them.' This contrasts sharply with custodial wallets, where the platform holds the keys to your assets. AVAIL champions this self-custodial approach, ensuring users are not at the mercy of

AVAIL desktop app  
Image courtesy of AVAIL



*AVAIL's mission is ambitious and clear: to empower users with ownership of their assets and privacy.*

**The AVAIL team at an event showcasing the technology and product to the blockchain community in Malta**  
*Image courtesy of AVAIL*

third parties for security. 'In the event platforms like Coinbase or Binance face issues or experience a failure in their system, it's not just their problem – it's yours. But with AVAIL, you're in complete control,' Xuereb emphasises.

With self-custodial wallets, users have complete control over their cryptocurrencies and digital assets through private keys. These keys are essential for executing transactions on the blockchain. Since the user controls the private keys, the risk of losing assets due to the failure or hacking of a third-party service (such as a cryptocurrency exchange or custodial wallet service) is significantly reduced. Moreover, users are liberated from the potential impact of third-party policies or regulatory changes on their access to funds. With self-custodial wallets, users retain uninterrupted access to their assets as long as they securely manage and safeguard their private keys.

AVAIL's approach to self-custodial wallets emphasises the control and security benefits whilst aiming to make the technology accessible and user-friendly. By addressing common pain points, such as complicated recovery processes and the need for privacy, AVAIL is making it easier for a broader audience to benefit from the advantages of self-custody. Furthermore, with features like smart legal contracts and competitive international money transfer rates, AVAIL is expanding the utility of

self-custodial wallets beyond simple asset storage, making them a comprehensive tool for financial management and autonomy.

## **THE VISION AND GOALS OF AVAIL**

AVAIL's mission is ambitious and clear: to empower users with ownership of their assets and privacy. Leveraging Aleo's technology, AVAIL aims to redefine financial transactions – offering solutions ranging from smart legal contracts that facilitate seamless agreements between parties to ensuring competitive rates for international money transfers. 'Whether sending €1 or €1m, users can expect the same low fee. This democratises financial transactions on a global scale,' Xuereb explains.

Beyond its technical foundation, AVAIL distinguishes itself through its user-centric approach. 'Most self-custodial wallets don't consider users outside the blockchain ecosystem. We're changing that,' Xuereb states. AVAIL is developing features that cater to both blockchain enthusiasts and those new to the concept, focusing on inclusivity, ease of use, and innovative features like smart legal contracts and a robust wallet-recovery process.

AVAIL's journey has been one of relentless innovation and problem-solving. Developing on the cutting edge of blockchain technology has presented numerous challenges, particularly in

preserving transaction privacy and ensuring ease of use. 'Finding ways to make private decentralised blockchains easy to use posed significant hurdles. But through innovation and dedication, we're overcoming these challenges,' Xuereb recounts.

## **THE ROLE OF INCUBATORS**

The University's TAKE-OFF Business Incubator has been instrumental in AVAIL's journey, providing invaluable support and resources. 'Their guidance helped us navigate the complex path from concept to launch. We're incredibly grateful for their support,' Xuereb acknowledges.

With the launch of its mobile application on the horizon and plans to support real-money transactions, AVAIL is poised for significant growth. 'We're focused on launching new features and refining our platform based on user feedback. It's an exciting time for us and our users,' Xuereb shares.

AVAIL stands as a testament to the importance of privacy, security, and user autonomy in the digital age. With its innovative approach to self-custodial crypto wallets, AVAIL is set to revolutionise how we think about and interact with digital assets.

Xuereb offers sage advice to aspiring entrepreneurs: 'Don't limit your thinking. Explore freely and let your curiosity guide you. Logical planning and a boundless imagination are the keys to innovation.' **T**