

How Crystal helped a crypto investigator successfully return stolen crypto to its owner

AQ Forensics founder and CEO [Albert Quehenberger](#) shares his experience of working with Crystal to solve a major crypto theft case



About AQ Forensics

First Austrian company of its kind to get certified as a crypto forensic expert in the US

€800,000 in stolen assets recovered in a single operation

660 cases of crypto crime investigated by Albert in three years.

AQ Forensics specializes in investigative services related to military intelligence, counterespionage, artificial intelligence, blockchain analysis, and financial crime. It was founded by Albert Quehenberger in 2023. Albert had previously served in both infantry and cavalry before heading a two-year research project on crypto and blockchain intelligence while still in the armed forces. After leaving the military in 2018, he worked in several crypto forensic investigation roles before founding AQ Forensics.

AQ Forensics's top investigative challenges

Albert was looking for a scalable and flexible tool to handle difficult crypto investigations. After trying various tools available in the market, he realized that some of them made lofty claims but failed to deliver the desired results. On the other hand, some tools were still in the development phase and not capable enough to meet his requirements. Additionally, Albert found that these tools were often confusing and challenging to operate.

Why Crystal

- Open and welcoming attitude of Crystal's team
- Crystal's highly accurate database
- Efficient, user-friendly UX

“The ability to exchange data seamlessly played a crucial role in ... assisting a client without burdening law enforcement with a prolonged case.”



Albert Quehenberger
AQ Forensics founder and CEO

Albert discovered Crystal through internet research on blockchain analytics. He approached Crystal and was surprised and delighted by our same-day response. Crystal and AQ Forensics have been proud partners ever since. Albert immediately noticed the open and welcoming attitude of Crystal's team. Crystal continuously engaged with and developed the tool with Albert, according to his specific requirements. He needed a trustworthy tool that could not only conduct risk assessments on e-Wallets but also extract transaction data and visualize findings in a user-friendly way. As well as this, Crystal's solution offered a highly accurate database that supported both Albert's day-to-day operations and their larger-scale investigations.

A case study of how Crystal helped AQ with a crypto investigation

In mid-2023, a Swiss client approached AQ to investigate the theft of cryptocurrencies from a hacked e-wallet. Using Crystal tools, AQ reported the assets stolen and wrote a report on the matter.

In December 2023, a crypto trading business informed Albert that the stolen assets had appeared on its platform. Once the issue was explained to the platform's compliance team and the police were called in, the assets were frozen, and returned to the client.

“We aim to help our customers in any way we can. Our goal is to work together to get to the bottom of cases like these to help recover funds if possible, and we'll be there to support customers every step of the way.”



Joe Yasseen

Crystal Customer Success Director

Crystal's School of Crypto Compliance and Investigations

Albert completed several Crystal training courses to become more familiar with the solution and stay updated with investigative methods. The skills he acquired helped him gain a better understanding of the perspective of compliance officers and supervisors. As a result, he was able to design his investigation reports to maximize their usefulness to every department of the organizations he worked with.

How Crystal can help crypto investigators

Crystal Expert helps you solve crypto-related crime with speed and accuracy.

Detect and disrupt criminal activities fast and more effectively with our advanced blockchain intelligence, trusted data and intuitive visualisation canvas.

Achieve real-time visibility

Follow funds through multiple wallets and chains with powerful visualization capabilities

Identify real-world suspects

Link pseudonymous blockchain transactions to real-world organizations

Connect the dots

See how individuals and organizations are connected

Collect evidence for court

Create clear visualizations illustrating flow of funds and links between entities as evidence for court

About Crystal

Crystal is a leading blockchain intelligence firm empowering financial institutions, law enforcement and regulators with real-time blockchain analysis, investigative and compliance solutions. Investigators and government agencies leverage Crystal's cutting-edge technology and unique real-time intelligence to solve crypto investigations. Available as a free blockchain explorer, SaaS, or API.

To learn how Crystal can help your investigations, please book in for a demo [here](#)