Allium | Stellar

Franklin Templeton on Stellar: Onchain Analysis

April 2026

Franklin Templeton on Stellar

The first U.S.-registered money market fund on a public blockchain. Five years of onchain evidence.

$1.98B	32%	95%
BENJI total asset value	of total asset value on Stellar	of holders on Stellar

Data as of April 2026 · Source: Allium

Analytics by Allium Research

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Highlights

1. BENJI is one of the most established tokenized real-world assets (RWA), spanning retail to institutional investors.

With $1.98B in total asset value across nine chains and 1,023 distinct holders, BENJI ranks among the top tokenized U.S. Treasury products globally. Unlike most tokenized RWAs which are institutional-only, BENJI leads across the full investor spectrum: from retail to institutional. BENJI is also the first U.S.-registered mutual fund launched onchain. Over time, BENJI has become a reference point for how regulated financial products can operate onchain, contributing to the growth of the broader tokenized fund category, which now exceeds $18 billion in value.

2. BENJI continues to grow despite a crowded tokenized Treasury category.

BENJI total asset value grew from $734M to $1.98B year-over-year (+170%), even as USYC, USDY, USTB, and BUIDL launched in parallel. Holder count expanded to 1,023 across all chains.

3. BENJI has expanded beyond fund subscription into active institutional infrastructure.

BENJI is now used across four institutional workflows: idle collateral (earning MMF yield on margin), off-exchange exchange custody (counterparty protection), cross-venue collateral settlement (major-dealer networks), and corporate treasury distribution (broker-dealer rails).

4. Stellar remains BENJI's primary blockchain for distribution and compliance infrastructure.

Per the FOBXX prospectus, the fund's transfer agent maintains the official record of share ownership via a "proprietary blockchain-integrated system that uses features of traditional book entry form and the Stellar network's blockchain." Beyond that legal designation, Stellar holds $638M of BENJI's total asset value and 974 of 1,023 distinct holders (95%), including the entire retail long tail of small-balance wallets. Institutional-sized onboarding continues on Stellar ($5M added in March 2026, $3M in December 2025).

Key findings at a glance

Metric	Value
Launched	April 2021
Ranking by total asset value among tokenized U.S. Treasury and MMF issuers	4
7-day SEC yield (SEC filings, Mar 2026)	3.58%
Total asset value YoY growth	+170%
Chains Supported	9
BENJI cross-chain total asset value	$1.98B ($638M on Stellar)
BENJI holders, all chains	1,023 (974 on Stellar)

1. BENJI

Franklin OnChain U.S. Government Money Fund (FOBXX) (BENJI) is a U.S.-registered money market fund launched in 2021 that uses public blockchains like Stellar and others as its system of record for processing transactions and recording share ownership. It represents one of the earliest implementations of a tokenized mutual fund, combining traditional fund structure with onchain infrastructure to enable greater transparency, programmability, and continuous market access. Since inception, the fund has delivered returns in line with leading government money market funds, while introducing operational efficiencies such as near-instant settlement, 24/7 accessibility, and automated, real-time dividend distribution.

A BENJI token is a legal share of FOBXX (see Appendix 1 for details). Holding 100 BENJI tokens is equivalent to holding 100 shares in the FOBXX mutual fund, with the same rights: proportional claim on the fund's assets, redemption at NAV, and dividend distributions (paid as additional BENJI). This is structurally different from owning a tokenized T-bill note (e.g., USDY or USYC), which is a security that references underlying holdings, and different from owning a stablecoin, which is a digital liability backed by the issuer's reserves. Legal claims, yield mechanics, and transfer restrictions vary across these product types.

BENJI's structural properties, summarized:

Dimension	BENJI
Legal form	Registered mutual fund share (1940 Act, Rule 2a-7)
Yield	Daily distributions paid as new BENJI tokens
Access	Permissioned (issuer-approved trustline per wallet)
Primary activity	Issuer mints and burns (subscriptions and redemptions)
Closest traditional analogue	Transfer agent system for a mutual fund

Access minimums by chain

Chain	Minimum Investment	Channel
Stellar	**$20**	Benji Investments app (retail + institutional)
Base, Solana	$100	Benji Investments app
Polygon, Arbitrum	$1,000	Benji Investments app
Ethereum	**$5,000,000**	Institutional portal only

For technology leaders

BENJI is the mutual fund's share registry, not a token referencing the fund. This structural distinction from tokenized T-bill notes (USDY, USYC) means BENJI inherits the legal protections of a registered fund share: SIPC coverage does not apply to MMFs, but 1940 Act shareholder protections do.

Total asset value versus peers

In the broader cross-chain tokenized U.S. Treasuries and money-market category ($13B across 28+ issuers), Franklin Templeton ranks **#4** at $1.98B, behind Hashnote, Ondo, and BlackRock.

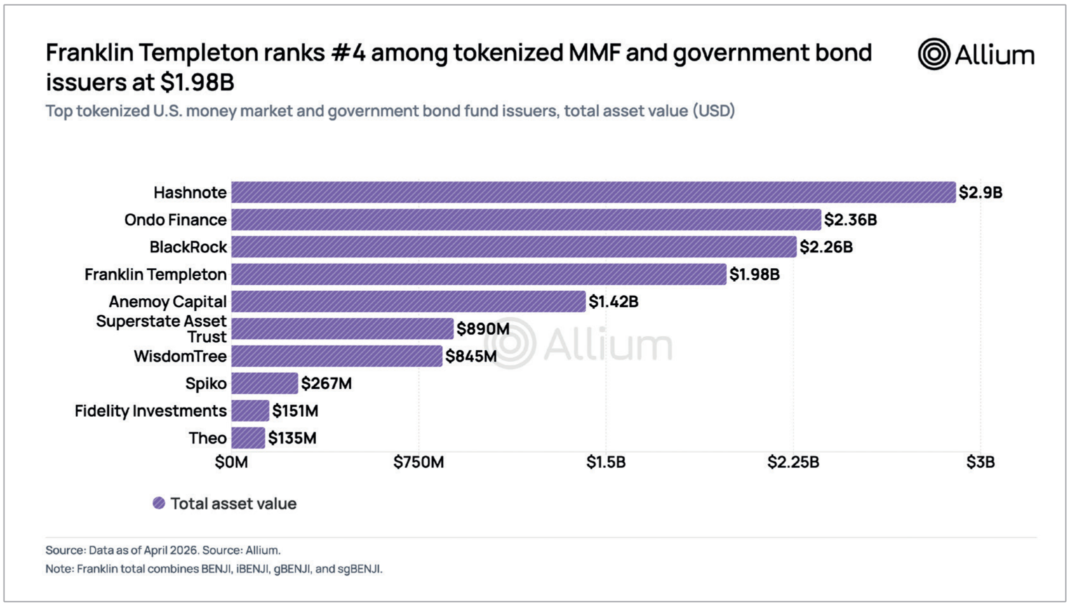

Fig 1. Top tokenized U.S. Treasury and MMF issuers by total asset value, all chains.

2. Franklin Templeton's tokenization strategy

Franklin Templeton's public materials frame BENJI's advantages across three themes:

- **Operational infrastructure:** Onchain transfer agent (share ownership recorded directly on public blockchains) plus 24/7 blockchain-driven settlement for institutional distributors
- **Capital efficiency:** Intraday yield calculated to the second, distributed daily including weekends and holidays; off-exchange collateral programs that let institutions earn yield while collateral remains with a regulated custodian
- **Market structure modernization:** Low cost institutional peer-to-peer share transfers on public blockchains (enabled 2024) and cross-market collateral mobility

Sandy Kaul (Head of Innovation): "We're not here to watch the future happen, we're here to help shape it. We believe the future will be a blockchain-based system delivered with the trust, scale and regulatory rigor that investors expect."

For strategic leaders

Franklin Templeton's framing emphasizes operational and capital-efficiency benefits. The positioning is as infrastructure for existing institutional workflows, consistent with the onchain activity patterns observed in this report.

3. Distribution channels

Retail: the Benji Investments app

Retail users complete KYC via the Benji Investments app (iOS/Android) and receive a dedicated Stellar wallet created by Franklin Templeton's transfer agent. Per the FOBXX prospectus, each user gets a distinct onchain address. The transfer agent holds private keys by default; self-custody is opt-in.

Institutional: multi-channel access

Institutional holders access BENJI through qualified bank custody, broker-dealer platforms, off-exchange collateral programs, privacy-preserving dealer networks, and direct onchain subscription, with BENJI held in a custodian wallet or a client-controlled wallet depending on channel.

4. Multi-chain position and why Stellar

BENJI launched on Stellar in April 2021, expanded to Polygon (October 2023) and Arbitrum (November 2023), then added Aptos, Avalanche, Ethereum, Base (late 2024), Solana and BSC (2025). Nine chains in total.

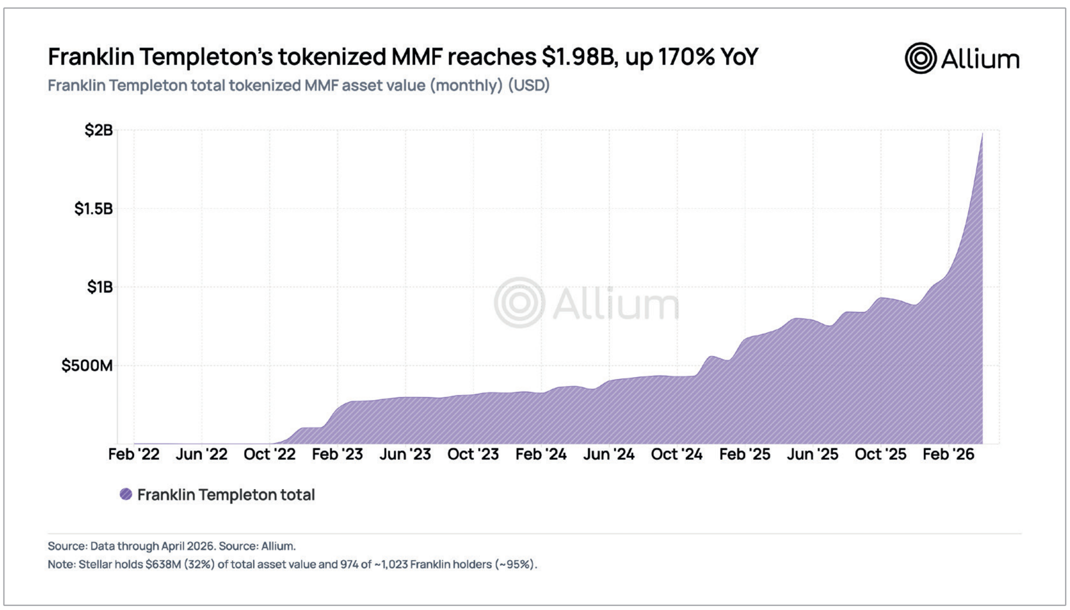

Fig 2. BENJI total asset value (monthly), all chains.

Stellar holds $638M (32%) of BENJI's total asset value and **974 of 1,023 distinct holders (95%)**, including the entire long tail of small-balance wallets. The other eight chains together host 49 holders.

Fig 3. BENJI holder balance distribution on Stellar (size buckets).

Retail Benji app users on Stellar dominate the long tail of holders' wallet count. At the other end, 15 wallets above $1M hold $563M (98% of Stellar BENJI supply); the next 30 wallets in the $100K-$1M band hold another $11M.

Why Stellar

Stellar has been BENJI's primary chain since launch. Franklin Templeton's public statements and the FOBXX prospectus identify five reasons for the selection:

1. **Token-level controls that satisfy SEC requirements.** Franklin Templeton has stated that Stellar provided the token-level control mechanisms required to meet U.S. SEC standards for a registered mutual fund, including the ability to securely manage where and how tokens are held and transferred

2. **Cost efficiency and transaction speed.** Executing 50,000 transactions on Stellar costs approximately $120; equivalent operations through traditional settlement infrastructure can run into the tens of thousands of dollars

3. **Tokenization as a core use case.** FOBXX became the first U.S.-registered mutual fund to manage shares on a public blockchain in April 2021

4. **Institutional compliance and auditability.** Stellar supports real-time transaction monitoring, regulatory reporting, and audit features aligned with regulated-fund requirements

The FOBXX prospectus describes the technical record-keeping arrangement directly: *"The Fund's transfer agent maintains the official record of share ownership via a proprietary blockchain-integrated system that uses features of traditional book entry form and the Stellar network's blockchain."*

Stellar has recently introduced "Yardstick" (Protocol 26), launched on testnet on April 16, 2026, which adds new host functions and protocol-level improvements aimed at enhancing execution efficiency and developer capabilities. These upgrades could potentially improve the reliability, flexibility, and responsiveness of the underlying infrastructure supporting tokenized funds, particularly as applications scale and require more dynamic transaction handling.

The Stellar RWA Ecosystem

Stellar is a weathered RWA platform, ranking **#3 globally** for tokenized RWA total asset value, behind Ethereum and BSC. It has built a strong reputation among RWA institutional issuers.

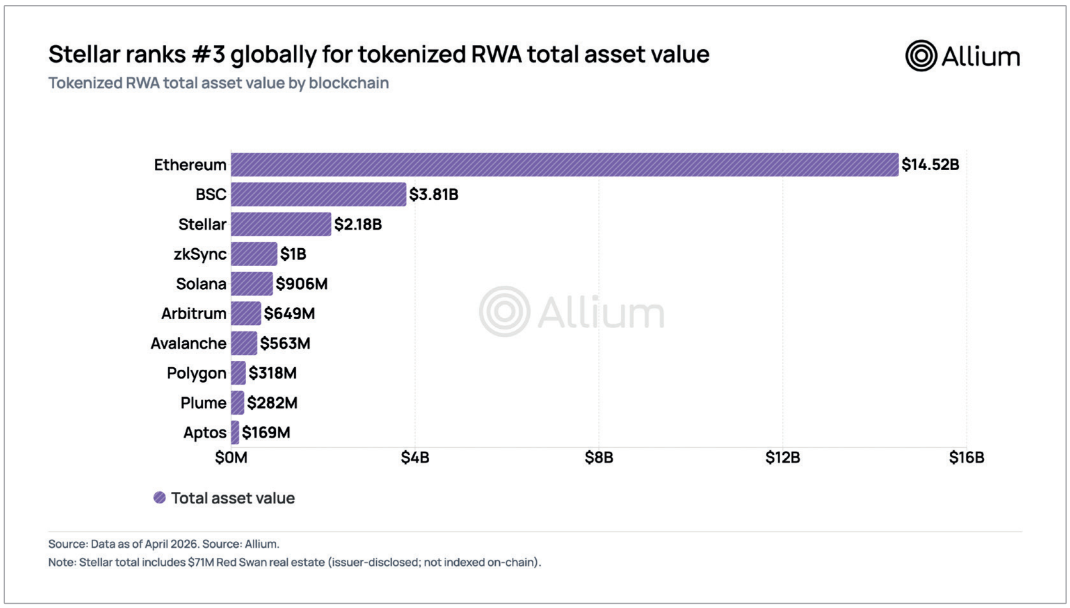

Fig 4. Tokenized RWA total asset value by blockchain, all issuers.

The Stellar network's tokenized RWA total asset value has grown to approximately **$2.2B** as of April 2026, up from under $50M two years ago.

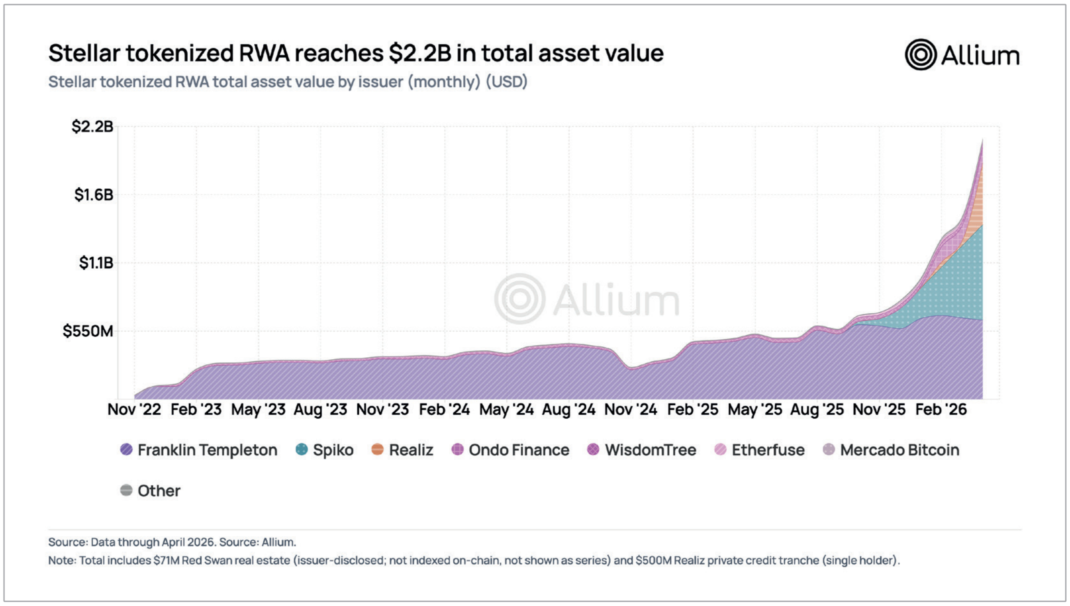

Fig 5. Stellar tokenized RWA total asset value by issuer, monthly.

Stellar has become a venue of choice for top-tier financial institutions issuing regulated tokenized products. Stellar hosts 70+ distinct products from 10 issuers.

Franklin Templeton (parent AUM ~$1.6T) anchors the chain with three onchain share classes totaling $638M. Spiko is the largest single issuer at $770M, providing EU-regulated MMF products denominated in USD, EUR, GBP, and Swiss francs. WisdomTree ($110B+ ETF AUM) has tokenized seven of its digital funds on Stellar, including a government MMF (WTGXX) and a Treasury duration ladder (WTSYX, WTSTX, WTLGX, TIPSX, FLTTX, WTTSX). Realiz holds a $500M private-credit tranche. Other regulated names include Janus Henderson / Anemoy Capital (JTRSY treasury fund) and abrdn (UK liquidity fund, recent launch). Crypto-native issuers include Ondo Finance (USDY, $124M), Etherfuse (Mexico/LATAM real-yield products), and Mercado Bitcoin (Brazil's largest crypto exchange).

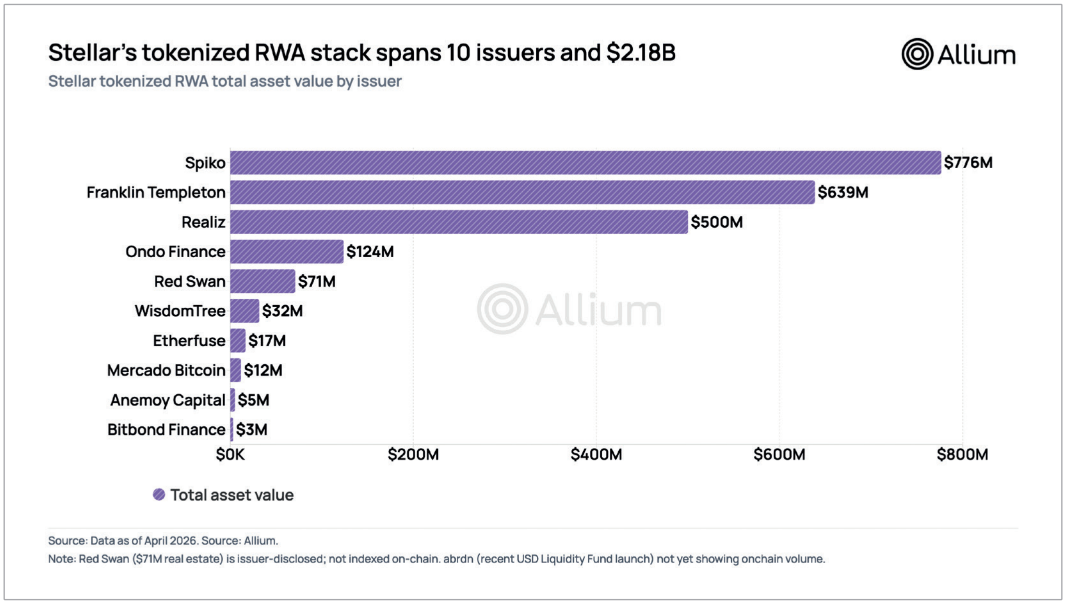

Fig 6. Stellar tokenized RWA total asset value by issuer, snapshot.

For strategic leaders

A multi-chain footprint expands the venues where BENJI can serve institutional workflows (collateral programs, cross-market settlement, ecosystem-specific integrations). Despite that expansion, Stellar has consistently been a major holder of BENJI supply and nearly all of its distinct holders from launch through April 2026. The pattern indicates durable distribution on the original chain alongside deliberate, purpose-driven expansion elsewhere.

For technology leaders

Because every Stellar RWA token uses the same protocol-level primitives, downstream integrators (custodians, exchanges, wallets, settlement venues) build once and support all of them. That uniformity is unusual for an EVM-style ecosystem where each issuer ships a custom contract, and it lowers the integration cost of bringing additional Stellar RWAs into existing workflows.

5. Compliance

What the compliance operations do, in plain terms

Stellar requires the issuer to explicitly approve a wallet before that wallet can receive BENJI. The mechanisms:

- set_options: the issuer changes account-level rules (e.g., enabling the "holders must be approved" flag).
- allow_trust: the issuer approves a specific wallet, allowing that wallet to hold BENJI. Executed once per new holder.
- clawback: the issuer reverses a transfer, returning tokens to the issuer. Used for compliance remediation. Never invoked for BENJI on Stellar.

BENJI's five-year record on Stellar:

Operation	Count
allow_trust (holder approvals)	**6,262**
set_options (issuer config changes)	77
clawback (transfer reversals)	0

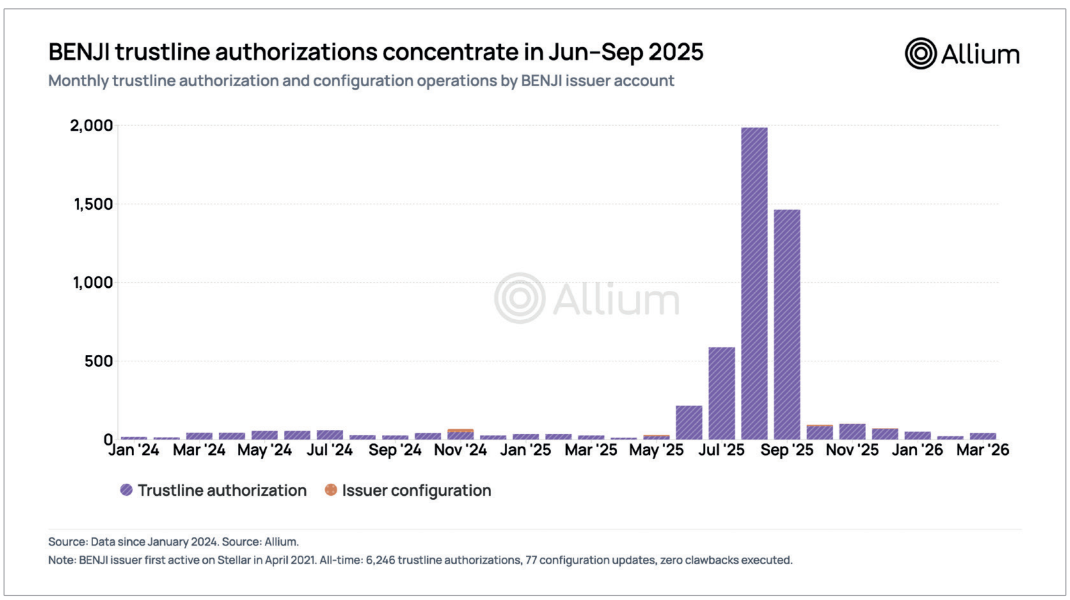

Fig 7. BENJI issuer operations on Stellar since January 2024.

Approximately 67% of all holder approvals occurred in June-September 2025. This wave correlates with the holder count roughly doubling over the same months. The Anchorage Digital (Aug 2025) and Mercurity Fintech (Jun 2025) partnership launches fall in this window, which is the most plausible explanation for the burst: batch onboarding of customers via new distribution partners.

Protocol-native vs smart-contract compliance

On Stellar, BENJI compliance is enforced at the **protocol level**: the Stellar network consensus itself validates every transfer against issuer authorization flags. On Ethereum, Polygon, Arbitrum, Base, Avalanche, BSC, Aptos, and Solana, compliance is enforced through **smart contract code**: the token contract on each chain includes whitelist and transfer-restriction logic.

Dimension	Protocol-native (Stellar)	Smart contract (other chains)
Enforcement layer	Network consensus	Contract code
Attack surface	Issuer account key	Contract exploits + issuer key
Flexibility	Fixed to Stellar's feature set	Custom logic, composable with DeFi
Audit scope	No per-deployment contract audit	Each chain's contract audited separately
DeFi integration	Limited; Stellar smart contracts open this path	Straightforward where access rules permit

Stellar’s protocol-native model minimizes smart contract risk at the cost of composability. Stellar smart contracts (Soroban) launched 2024, could eventually host BENJI-based DeFi features while trustlines handle core transfers, though Franklin Templeton has not announced plans for this.

For technology leaders

Stellar’s RWA stack runs on shared protocol primitives, not per-issuer smart contracts. New tokens inherit the same transfer-control mechanics BENJI uses, which is part of why a diverse set of issuers have launched here without per-deployment audit cycles.

For risk leaders

Zero clawbacks over five years reflects a compliance model that screens before access rather than remediating after. The tool is available; it has not been needed because pre-issuance screening is catching issues upstream.

For strategic leaders

Stellar’s protocol-native asset and trustline model lets RWA issuers launch without writing or auditing per-deployment smart contracts. The compliance primitives BENJI uses are available to every other issuer on the chain, which compresses time-to-launch and reduces the ongoing security surface as the issuer count grows.

6. Use cases

Institutions adopt tokenized products when they solve a specific operational problem. BENJI's traction clusters around four:

- **Idle collateral:** Cash and stablecoins earn 0%; MMFs settle T+1 with limited mobility. BENJI offers MMF yield with instant onchain settlement. A $100M margin position recovers roughly $4M per year without changing its liquidity profile.
- **Counterparty risk on exchanges:** Traders want collateral that does not sit on the exchange's balance sheet.
- **Cross-venue settlement friction:** Moving collateral between venues without unwinding positions and reposting.
- **Corporate treasury yield:** Treasurers need yield-bearing cash equivalents with blockchain-speed settlement.
- **M&A and corporate settlement:** Tokenized funds can serve as payment consideration in corporate transactions, with onchain settlement replacing traditional escrow and wire processes.
  - **Example:** Franklin Templeton's pending acquisition of 250 Digital will incorporate BENJI tokens as payment consideration, one of the first uses of a tokenized fund in corporate acquisition settlement.

Retail has a separate logic: the Benji app's $20 minimum on Stellar is rare for a registered MMF, where brokerages typically require $1K to $10K.

7. Upcoming Catalysts

Beyond BENJI-specific and Stellar-specific catalysts, four developments would meaningfully reshape the broader tokenized RWA market:

1. **Regulatory clarity in the U.S. and EU**
   The next 12-24 months are likely to bring material regulatory updates: SEC interpretive guidance on tokenized securities, finalization of MiCA's RWA scope in the EU, and evolving ELTIF rules for tokenized retail funds. Each affects the size of the addressable distribution channel for onchain funds.

2. **Custody bank engagement**
   Most institutional allocators can't hold tokenized assets at scale until their custodian supports them. Federally chartered custodians like Anchorage Digital have built this for tokenized MMFs (its August 2025 BENJI integration drove the bulk of new Stellar onboardings that quarter). The next unlock is engagement from global custody banks, each of which has digital-asset initiatives underway.

3. **DeFi and lending integration**
   Composable integration (lending collateral on permissioned pools, compliant DEX liquidity, structured yield, transfers for retail) would shift RWAs from pure subscription infrastructure to a building block in onchain finance. This is happening to some degree but we are still in the early innings.

4. **Asset class expansion**
   Most onchain RWA volume today is U.S. Treasuries and government MMFs. Tokenization of private credit, real estate, and corporate fixed income at scale would expand the category several-fold.

Appendix 1. The fund behind BENJI (FOBXX)

BENJI is the tokenized form of **Franklin OnChain U.S. Government Money Fund** (ticker FOBXX, CUSIP 35473R104). It is a registered open-end mutual fund under the Investment Company Act of 1940, classified as a government money market fund under Rule 2a-7. NAV is maintained at $1.00 via amortized cost, the same mechanic as traditional government MMFs (VMFXX, SPAXX). The fund invests at least 99.5% of assets in U.S. government securities, agency debt, and fully-collateralized repos.

Attribute	Detail
Inception / Legal structure	**April 2021 / 1940 Act open-end mutual fund, Rule 2a-7 government MMF**
Tokenized AUM / NAV	$1.98B (according to onchain data) / stable $1.00
Custodian / Auditor / Transfer agent	JPMorgan Chase / PwC / Franklin Templeton Investor Services
Portfolio managers	Joanne M. Driscoll, Michael J. Lima, Shawn Lyons (Franklin Advisers)
Gross expense ratio / Net (after waiver)	0.89% / 0.20%
Minimum investment by chain	$20 (Stellar) / $100 (Base, Solana) / $1K (Polygon, Arbitrum) / $5M (Ethereum)

Two characteristics distinguish FOBXX from typical government MMFs:

Single share class, retail minimum. Most large government MMFs have tiered share classes (institutional vs retail). FOBXX has a single share class with a $20 minimum on Stellar, a $100 minimum on Base and Solana, and a $5M minimum on Ethereum.

Fee structure. FOBXX's gross expense ratio is 0.89%, higher than peer government MMFs (VMFXX is 0.11%). Franklin Advisers waives expenses down to 0.20% net. The 0.69% gap is absorbed by the adviser. The fund's N-1A filing attributes "other expenses" of 0.74% to blockchain infrastructure and operational costs; that is the issuer's characterization, not an independent audit line item. The waiver has been renewed through the current prospectus period, with the specific expiry date disclosed in each annual prospectus update.

Yield in context

FOBXX's 7-day SEC yield was 3.58% in March 2026. For reference, Vanguard's VMFXX (a peer government MMF with no blockchain overlay and 0.11% expense ratio) has historically yielded roughly in-line with FOBXX net of fees. Tokenized Treasury products with different structures yield differently: BlackRock's BUIDL distributes roughly in line with short-duration Treasuries after fees; Ondo's USDY is structured as a tokenized note and has historically offered comparable net yield. Yield differentials between these products are primarily driven by expense ratio and portfolio composition, not by tokenization itself.

Year	FOBXX total return
2022	1.69%
2023	4.92%
2024	5.09%
2025	4.10% (est.)
2026 YTD (thru Apr)	1.07% (7-day SEC yield 3.58% annualized)

For finance leaders

FOBXX operates as a conventional government money market fund with a non-traditional distribution layer. Risk profile is equivalent to other 2a-7 government MMFs (short-duration Treasuries and agency debt, JPMorgan as underlying custodian, PwC audit). The higher gross expense ratio reflects blockchain infrastructure costs, fully absorbed by the adviser through fee waivers.

Methodology

Onchain metrics via Allium, primary tables

Data through April 2026.

Off-chain details (FOBXX fund attributes, fees, custody, audit, portfolio management, partnerships) sourced from Franklin Templeton product pages and press releases, SEC EDGAR filings (CIK 1786958, N-MFP3 and N-1A), and public disclosures of named partnerships.

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