

Jeff Bezos says he's 'very optimistic this time around' about Trump

Jeff Bezos and President-elect Donald Trump famously didn't get along the last time Trump was in the White House. This time, Bezos says he's "very optimistic" and even wants to help out.

"I'm actually very optimistic this time around," Bezos said of Trump during a rare public appearance at *The New York Times* DealBook Summit on Wednesday. "He seems to have a lot of energy around reducing regulation. If I can help him do that, I'm going to help him."

Trump railed against Bezos and his companies – Amazon, Blue Origin, and *The Washington Post* – during his 2016 term. Bezos defended himself but it did little to help his reputation with Trump. Now, his companies have a lot at stake in the coming administration, from the FTC's antitrust lawsuit against Amazon to Blue Origin's efforts to compete with SpaceX for government contracts.

Onstage at the DealBook Summit on Wednesday, Bezos called Trump "calmer this time" and "more settled." He said he will try to "talk him out of" the idea that the press, which includes *The Washington Post*, is an enemy of the people.

"You've probably grown in the last eight years," he said to DealBook's Andrew Ross Sorkin. "He has, too."

Bezos also echoed Sam Altman's comments earlier in the day, saying he doesn't expect Elon Musk to wield his new political

power with DOGE against rivals. "I've had a lot success in life not being cynical," he said. "And I've rarely been taken advantage of as a result."

You can watch Bezos's conversation with Andrew Ross Sorkin below:

<https://www.theverge.com/2024/12/4/24313549/bezos-trump-optimistic-dealbook-summit-doge>