

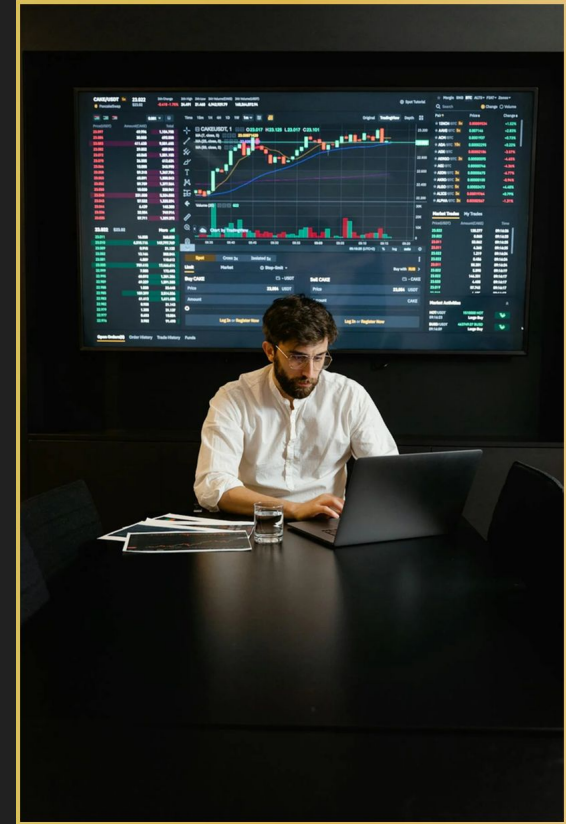
The background of the image features a dark, textured wooden surface. Scattered across this surface are numerous physical cryptocurrency coins, including gold-colored Bitcoin tokens and silver-colored Litecoin tokens. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a digital chart displaying price movements for various cryptocurrencies, specifically ETH/USD and XRP/USD. The chart includes candlestick patterns and line graphs in red and green. The title 'Cryptocurrency' is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font, while the names 'Drew, Brody' are positioned below it in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# Cryptocurrency

Drew, Brody

# What is cryptocurrency?

- Digital payment system
- Doesn't rely on banks to verify transactions
- Peer-to-peer system that enables anyone anywhere to send and receive payments
- Payments are only digital entries to an online database that describes specific transactions, instead of having physical money you can possess and carry
- When cryptocurrency funds are transferred, the transactions are recorded in a public ledger, which is a decentralized database that records all transactions within a network
- Cryptocurrency is stored in digital wallets



# How does it work?

- They run on a public ledger called a blockchain, which records all the transactions done by cryptocurrency holders
- Units of the crypto are made by “mining” a process which uses a computer to solve very complicated math problems which generate coins
- There are also brokers that sell crypto, and you can buy from them which allows you to use your digital wallet to store and spend the crypto
- Not tangible, but a “key” that allows you to make transactions without a third party
- Still developing, and more advancements will come in the future, like stocks, bonds and more

# When was it invented

**2008:** The concept of cryptocurrency was introduced by an anonymous person or group known as Satoshi Nakamoto

- Published a whitepaper titled *"Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System"* in October 2008
- The whitepaper outlined how digital currency could work without the need for a central authority (like a bank)
- It introduced blockchain technology as a secure, decentralized ledger to record transactions

**2009:** Bitcoin, the first cryptocurrency, was officially launched

- The *Genesis Block* (Block 0) was mined by Satoshi Nakamoto on January 3, 2009
- The block contained a hidden message referencing a newspaper headline from that day, hinting at mistrust of the banking system
- This marked the start of the Bitcoin blockchain and the beginning of decentralized digital currency in practice



# Bitcoin



- First and most well-known cryptocurrency
- Runs on a decentralized blockchain network — no central authority or bank controls it
- Transactions are peer-to-peer and verified by network nodes through cryptography
- Limited supply: Only 21 million bitcoins will ever exist
- Used for investing, online purchases, and as a store of value
- Mining: The process of verifying and adding new transactions to the blockchain
  - Miners solve complex mathematical puzzles to confirm transactions
  - The first miner to solve the puzzle adds a new "block" to the blockchain
  - Reward system: Miners earn new bitcoins and transaction fees as a reward  
Mining gets harder over time and uses significant computing power and energy



# Other types of crypto

## -Ethereum:

- Developed in 2015
- Blockchain platform with its own crypto called Ether or Ethereum
- Second most popular cryptocurrency

## -Litecoin:

- Very similar to bitcoin
- Faster payments and processes which allow more transactions

## -Ripple:

- Founded in 2012
- Can be used to track different types of transactions, not just crypto
- The company behind Ripple works with banks and financial institutions



# Important crypto events

## 1. Bitcoin's Creation (2009)

- Launch of Bitcoin by Satoshi Nakamoto.
- This was the birth of blockchain and decentralized digital currency, laying the foundation for the entire crypto ecosystem.

## 2. Ethereum Launches (2015)

- Introduction of Ethereum and smart contracts.
- Expanded blockchain's use beyond currency, enabling decentralized apps (dApps), DeFi, and NFTs.

## 3. 2017 Crypto Bull Run & ICO Boom

- Bitcoin hits ~\$20,000; thousands of ICOs raise billions.
- Brought massive public and media attention, but also led to scams and regulatory crackdowns.

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## 4. Ethereum DAO Hack & Hard Fork (2016)

- \$60 million stolen; Ethereum splits into ETH and Ethereum Classic (ETC).
- First major security crisis for smart contracts, tested the resilience and governance of decentralized systems.

## 5. Bitcoin Reaches New Highs & Tesla Buys BTC (2021)

- BTC hits ~\$65,000; Tesla invests \$1.5B and briefly accepts Bitcoin.
- Signaled mainstream and institutional interest in crypto.

## 6. FTX Collapse (2022)

- Major crypto exchange FTX implodes due to fraud.
- Shook investor confidence and triggered global regulatory scrutiny — seen as crypto's “Lehman Brothers” moment.

(Lehman Brothers was a huge financial firm who filed for bankruptcy in 2008)



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## 7. Ethereum Merge (2022)

- Ethereum moves from proof-of-work to proof-of-stake.
- Huge technical milestone that cut energy use by over 99% and reshaped Ethereum's future.

## 8. Spot Bitcoin ETFs Approved (2024)

- U.S. SEC approves spot Bitcoin ETFs.
- Major step toward institutional adoption, allowing traditional investors easier access to Bitcoin.

# Future of crypto

## **More People Using Crypto**

- Big companies and apps are starting to accept cryptocurrency
- It might become a normal way to pay for things in the future

## **New Rules Are Coming**

- Governments are making laws to keep crypto safe and fair
- This could help more people trust and use it

## **Better Technology**

- Blockchains are getting faster and using less energy
- New tools like smart contracts are making crypto more useful

## **Still Risky, But Growing**

- Prices can change quickly, but many believe crypto will grow long-term
- More banks and investors are paying attention

# How to buy crypto

Select a trusted cryptocurrency exchange (e.g., Coinbase, Binance)

Create an account and complete identity verification

Deposit funds via bank transfer or card

Choose a cryptocurrency and place a buy order

Store purchased crypto in a secure wallet

# Memecoin

- Memecoins are cryptocurrencies inspired by internet memes, jokes, or pop culture references
- Often created for fun or satire, but some gain real popularity and market value
- Dogecoin (DOGE) was the first major memecoin, launched in 2013 as a parody of Bitcoin
- Many memecoins have no serious utility or underlying technology — they rely heavily on community hype and social media
- Influencers and celebrities (like Elon Musk) have helped drive interest and prices
- High risk and high volatility — prices can spike or crash quickly based on trends



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