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### About Ethereum (ETH)

[Ethereum](#) is often called the second most popular [cryptocurrency](#) after [Bitcoin](#). But unlike Bitcoin and most other virtual currencies, Ethereum's purpose is far more than a medium of exchange or a store of value. On the contrary, Ethereum calls itself a decentralized computing network based on blockchain technology. Let's interpret what this means.

## Understanding of Ethereum

The core of Ethereum is a decentralized global software platform driven by blockchain technology. It is best known for its native cryptocurrency, Ether, or Eth. Anyone can use Ethereum to create any secure digital technology they can think of. It has a token designed for blockchain networks, but it can also be used by participants as a way to pay for work done on the blockchain.

Ethereum is designed to be scalable, programmable, secure and decentralized. It is the preferred blockchain for developers and enterprises. They are creating technologies based on it to change the operation mode of many industries and our daily lifestyle. It natively supports smart contracts, which are important tools behind decentralized applications. 1 many decentralized Finance (defi) and other applications use the combination of smart contract and blockchain technology.

## How Does Ethereum Work?

Technically speaking, AI digital currencies aren't all that different from other token kinds in the cryptocurrency market. Like bitcoin (BTC) and other cryptocurrencies, they function by means of a

decentralized user network and a blockchain ledger.

The Ethereum network is made up of numerous essential parts.

## **The Ethereum blockchain**

The Ethereum network would not be possible without the Ethereum blockchain, which serves as its foundation. The “state” including all information pertaining to smart contracts and transactions is kept and recorded by the Ethereum blockchain.

After a big upgrade in September 2022 known as “The Merge,” the consensus mechanism for Ethereum’s blockchain shifted from proof-of-work to proof-of-stake.

The project was able to significantly reduce its overall energy use after making the update, which was formerly known as Ethereum 2.0. Changes to Ethereum’s scalability, including the adoption of a proof-of-stake mechanism, should boost the network’s capacity to process transactions.

## **Nodes**

To run the Ethereum blockchain, a decentralized system of computers called nodes must be used. The Ethereum blockchain relies on nodes, which are distributed computers, to process transactions.

Ethereum is based on a decentralized network of nodes rather than a central server to provide the necessary computational power for the entire network.

In addition to running client software, which is essential for interacting with the blockchain, nodes also play a number of other crucial tasks.

As part of their responsibilities, these individuals keep a full record of all ETH transactions and store them. Additionally, nodes are useful for checking the status of data from smart contracts and new transactions.

Ethereum nodes can be operated by anyone with access to a computer, the internet, and enough processing power. Worldwide, there are around 6.1 million Ethereum nodes in operation right now.

The Ethereum blockchain's consensus and execution layers rely on nodes for security.

It becomes more difficult to manage 51% of a network as the number of nodes increases. By utilizing this kind of attack, an individual or group of individuals can change the sequence of transactions, process double-spend transactions, and even block incoming transactions.

In order to take part in the verification of transactions, every validator node (also called a staker) must store some Ethereum. The proof-of-stake consensus mechanism has been used by Ethereum to validate transactions from September 22, 2022. Gaining majority control over a blockchain gets more expensive and more time-consuming as the network size increases.

In addition, "slashing" is an automated penalty system that the network employs to deter harmful behavior. A user's staked assets may be immediately and partially or entirely confiscated by the network in the event that a node violates the protocol's hard-coded regulations.

## **Electronic wallet (EVM) for Ethereum**

A record of ether transactions isn't the only thing the Ethereum blockchain does. In addition to storing data from smart contracts, it must also log any modifications made to those contracts after execution. Such stages are known as "states."

The status of Ethereum is updated whenever a new block is added. For this reason, the blockchain technology behind Ethereum is dubbed a "world state machine."

The Ethereum virtual machine (EVM) is a program that operates on top of the Ethereum blockchain. Each smart contract is read and executed by the EVM. To ensure that smart contracts adhere to the protocol's requirements, the EVM software is executed by all nodes.

Solidity is the language of choice for creating smart contracts on Ethereum. The Ethereum network also makes use of Vyper, another widely used language.

These programming languages are readable and writable by humans, but not by the EVM. It has to

convert the smart contract language used by humans into EVM bytecode, a machine language.

There are 140 opcodes that make up bytecode. The EVM is able to execute a wide variety of functions, each of which is denoted by an opcode. A “Turing-complete” virtual computer is one that can execute any kind of operation by combining these opcodes; this is the case with Ethereum.

## **What is the Ether (ETH)?**

The “ether” or “ETH” cryptocurrency is the backbone of the Ethereum network.

The decentralized network’s smart contracts and transactions are powered by ETH. For the time being, Ether’s market cap ranks above all but one cryptocurrency on the planet.

Many people use Ether, like Bitcoin, as a store of value; it is traded on cryptocurrency exchanges.

In order to validate transactions and finish actions on the Ethereum blockchain, users must pay network costs, also called gas fees. As a token, Ethereum uses ETH to represent these costs.

The quantity of Ether that is staked determines how much Ether is issued. Because Ethereum gets burned with every transaction, the supply is elastic. Bitcoin being burned at a faster rate as its use grows.

It was through EIP-1559 that this ETH elastic supply was introduced. When Ethereum first launched, there were 72 million coins available for purchase. Twelve million were set aside for the Ethereum Foundation’s use, while eighty million were sold to the general public. Approximately 120.5 million Ethereum tokens are in circulation as of April 2023, and there is no cap on the total amount.

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