## De-Fi The Future of Banking and Finance

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Web 1.0 – Information

Web 2.0 – Commerce

#### Web 3.0 – Decentralized Finance (De-Fi)

De-Fi is driven by smart contracts

which ride on blockchains

that are powered by cryptocurrencies



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# Blockchains, Smart Contracts and Cryptocurrencies



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#### Blockchains

 A blockchain is a distributed ledger in which information is stored in blocks that are cryptographically linked in a chain



- Private and permissioned blockchains must trust a central authority
- De-Fi uses public blockchains which are run by a decentralized, peer-to-peer network where trust is replaced by a consensus protocol



#### Bitcoin and bitcoin (BTC)

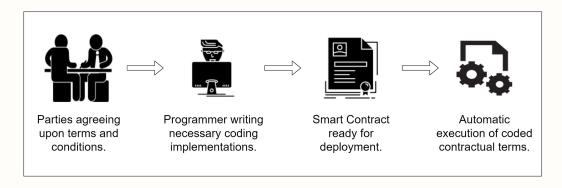
The blockchain Bitcoin was built for transactions of the cryptocurrency bitcoin

Latest Blocks The most recently mined blocks				Latest Transactions The most recently published unconfirmed transactions			
Height	Mined	Miner	Size	Hash	Time	Amount (BTC)	Amount (USD)
705131	5 minutes	Unknown	1,370,997 bytes	943091d6d0be108d93f9	16:42	0.00033171 BTC	\$19.83
705130	54 minutes	Unknown	1,492,238 bytes	170589b7ed316fb57bb29	16:42	0.00175998 BTC	\$105.21
705129	1 hour	Unknown	1,273,094 bytes	576005fd7b1b913dcc420	16:42	0.00258680 BTC	\$154.64
705128	1 hour	Unknown	1,518,454 bytes	7aea2f747f497787e5e929	16:42	0.20538578 BTC	\$12,277.87
705127	1 hour	Unknown	1,691,208 bytes	b702dc0b26f9e0372008	16:42	0.00409070 BTC	\$244.54
705126	1 hour	Unknown	1,412,111 bytes	b48e261e697a7b1cc9558	16:42	0.00086976 BTC	\$51.99



#### **Smart Contracts**

 Smart contracts are programs stored on a blockchain that run automatically when certain conditions are met



- They automate the execution of an agreement that is coded via a sequence of conditional actions
- Common applications of smart contracts include **crowdfunding**, **trade finance**, **insurance**, **real estate**, **P2P loans** and any type of **cash-flow financial instrument**



#### Ethereum and ether

The blockchain Ethereum was build to carry smart contracts powered by gas





#### Crypto Assets

#### Thousands of 'cryptocurrencies' are different types of crypto assets

- Currencies like bitcoin and ripple are only used to transfer value. Any fundamental value depends on there being a limited supply.
- Commodities like ether, litecoin and dot have a fundamental utility value
- Securities are the crypto version of stocks and bonds



- Stable coins like tether or DAI are supposed to be crypto versions of the USD
- Central bank digital currencies, CBDC



### The Future of Financial Markets

Risky new types of financial instruments emerge

Unregulated De-Fi companies take on traditional roles of banks and financial services



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#### Crypto Derivatives

 New types of derivative products include perpetuals, inverse products, leveraged up and down tokens



- Prices and volatility (especially of bitcoin and ether perpetuals on Binance) are manipulated by large propriety trading groups
- This way, the risk and return characteristics of all crypto assets are being driven by a few large players which are completely under the regulators radar



#### Centralized Exchanges

There are two types of centralized exchanges (CEX)

- Regulated: Coinbase (spot), CME (futures), LedgerX (options)
- Unregulated: Binance, Bybit, Huobi, OKEx.....

The unregulated exchanges are not just a trading venue:

- They act as brokers giving tether (USDT) in exchange for fiat currency
- They operate as custodians of these fiat reserves
- They also operate as their own clearing house





#### Decentralized Exchanges

- De-Fi innovations are even more remarkable on the decentralized exchanges (DEX) so-called because they operate on a blockchain
- Decentralized exchanges swap tokens using automated market makers

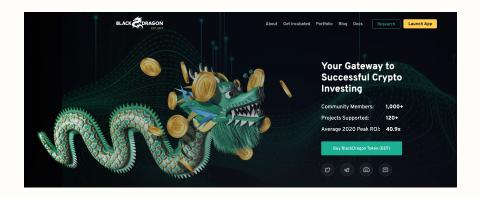


- Swap prices depend on size of each token's liquidity pool
- High interest is available to liquidity providers
- Again, none of this activity is regulated



#### New Underwriting Services

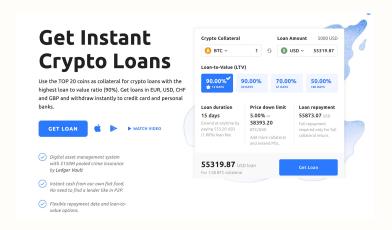
- Tokens are crypto assets that ride on another blockchain (via smart contracts)
- Fungible tokens are used to crowdfund new De-Fi projects
- Non-fungible tokens represent things like art, collectibles and real estate
- Early investors pay large sums to buy tokens before they are launched
- Underwriting services for initial CEX and DEX offerings are in great demand





#### New Lending Services

 Centralized exchanges are also moving into the crypto P2P loan business



High interest rates (but no protection) for crypto liquidity providers

 Crypto-backed loans in USD and other fiat currencies are facilitated via oracles



 The exchange rate a borrower receives for crypto collateral is determined by Coinbase or another CEX



## Governance and Regulation



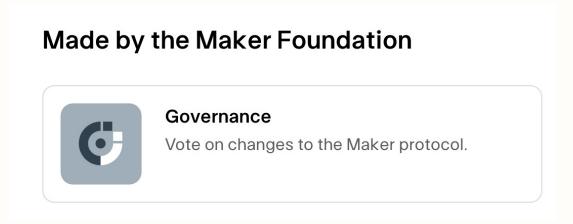
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#### Distributed Autonomous Organizations

 Many De-Fi companies are governed by a peer-to-peer network called distributed autonomous organization (DAO)



- Funds are invested in the DAO via a token such a Maker (MKR)
- By allowing investors to pool funds, members of a DAO can vote to invest in a variety of De-Fi start-ups, while sharing their risk and returns



#### Regulation

- Both the NYDA and the CFTC have fined Tether
- The FCA have banned Binance Holdings
- The SEC have been investigating Ripple
- China has banned both trading in and mining of crypto
- The US Department of Justice and the CFTC are investigating Binance Inc.
- The IRS are fining tax dodgers
- The SEC are considering crypto exchange-traded funds
- Etc. etc. .....

De-Fi regulation has a very long way to go.



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