

Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets Basics

Cryptocurrency is a type of digital currency that uses cryptographic techniques to secure transactions, control the creation of new units, and verify the transfer of assets. Unlike traditional currencies issued by governments, cryptocurrencies operate on decentralized networks, often based on blockchain technology. Bitcoin, introduced in 2009, was the first cryptocurrency and remains the most widely recognized. Since then, thousands of cryptocurrencies have emerged, including Ethereum, Ripple, and Litecoin, each offering unique features and use cases. Digital assets go beyond cryptocurrencies to include tokens, non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and other blockchain-based assets. These assets can represent ownership, access rights, or value in digital ecosystems. Key features of cryptocurrencies and digital assets: - Decentralization: Operate without central banks or intermediaries. - Transparency: Transactions are recorded on public ledgers. - Security: Cryptographic methods protect transactions and wallets. - Accessibility: Available globally with internet access. Cryptocurrencies and digital assets are reshaping finance, investment, and digital ownership by enabling peer-to-peer transactions, decentralized finance (DeFi), and innovative applications in art, gaming, and the metaverse.