

 Crypto Timeline – Evolution of Digital Currencies  
  
**Objective/Aim:**  
  
 To study the historical evolution, major milestones, and technological advancements in digital currencies, from early concepts to modern cryptocurrencies.

**Apparatus/Software Used:**

* Laptop
* WPS Office for documentation
* Google for research

**Theory/Concept:**

· **1983 – DigiCash Concept:**  
David Chaum introduced the concept of electronic cash using cryptography for secure and anonymous transactions.

· **1998 – b-money & Bit Gold:**  
Wei Dai (b-money) and Nick Szabo (Bit Gold) proposed decentralized digital currency systems. These were conceptual blueprints for Bitcoin.

· **2009 – Bitcoin Launch:**  
Satoshi Nakamoto released Bitcoin, the first decentralized cryptocurrency, based on blockchain technology.

· **2011 – Altcoins Emerge:**  
Litecoin, Namecoin, and others introduced variations of Bitcoin to improve speed, privacy, and use cases.

· **2015 – Ethereum and Smart Contracts:**  
Ethereum launched, enabling programmable blockchain applications through smart contracts.

· **2017 – ICO Boom:**  
Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) became a popular fundraising method, attracting global investment.

· **2020 – DeFi Expansion:**  
Decentralized Finance platforms like Uniswap and Aave enabled lending, borrowing, and trading without intermediaries.

· · **2021 – NFT Explosion:**  
Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) gained massive popularity, creating digital ownership for art, collectibles, and more.

· · **2023 – CBDCs & Regulation:**  
Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) gained momentum, and regulations around cryptocurrencies began solidifying worldwide.

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**Procedure:**

· Researched the history and milestones of digital currencies from early concepts to present-day applications.

· Collected information from credible sources such as whitepapers, news archives, and blockchain community resources.

· Organized events chronologically to create a clear timeline of developments.

· Analyzed the impact of each milestone on the adoption and advancement of digital currencies.

· Prepared documentation with both textual and visual timeline representation.

**Observation Table:**

| **Year** | **Event/Innovation** | **Key Contribution** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1983 | DigiCash | Introduced cryptographic e-cash for secure transactions |
| 1998 | b-money & Bit Gold | Proposed decentralized currency concepts |
| 2009 | Bitcoin | First decentralized cryptocurrency launched |
| 2011 | Litecoin, Namecoin | First generation of altcoins introduced |
| 2015 | Ethereum | Enabled smart contracts and decentralized apps |
| 2017 | ICO Boom | Fundraising through token sales |
| 2020 | DeFi Growth | Blockchain-powered financial services without intermediaries |
| 2021 | NFT Popularity | Digital ownership for art, collectibles, and virtual assets |
| 2023 | CBDC Development & Regulation | Government-backed digital currencies and global regulatory frameworks |

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