**Biography of Vitalik Buterin**

Vitalik Buterin is a Software Engineer best known for being the co-founder of Ethereum, a decentralized, open-source blockchain with smart contract capabilities.

Vitalik was born in Kolomna, Russia in 1994. At age 6, his parents decided to immigrate to Canada where he started attending primary school. In third grade Vitalik was recognised to be exceptional gifted in Mathematics and showed a strong interest in economics. He was placed in a programme for the gifted in school, which made him misfit among his classmates. This caused Vatalik to be left out of social activities outside of school. He spent many hours at his computer, playing videogames such as World of Warcraft. When the developer of World of Warcraft nerfed one of Vataliks favourite game mechanics , he realized some flaws in centralized systems, and ended up quitting the game.

In 2011 Vitalik became interested in bitcoin, the world’s first decentralized crypto currency. He wanted to become a part of the bitcoin movement but didn’t have the computing power to mine it nor the finances to purchase it. Later on he got an offer to write articles for a blog in exchange for which he was paid in bitcoin. He put his economics skills into his articles, which quickly gained popularity and caught the attention of Mihai Alisie a bitcoin enthusiast. They became friends and later business partners by founding Bitcoin Magazine. He spent a large amount time on bitcoin magazine and because of this dropped out of university. This gave him more time to travel the world and research different crypto projects, he came to the conclusion that they were all focused on specific concepts and not broad enough for general use.

Vitalik soon realised that it would be possible to generalise all the protocols with a Turing-complete programming language, which birthed his idea of creating Ethereum. He wrote his ideas in a white paper which he shared with his friends that was later passed around their friend group. They reached out to him with their interest in the project and to start discussing the concept. Vitalik publicly announced Ethereum at the North American bitcoin conference on the 26th January 2015.

What made Vitalik’s cryptocurrency different at the time was ability to make Smart contracts, which essentially self-executed code, when specific conditions are met. This ensures trust and transparency between 2 parties as there is no third party involved, and encrypted records of the transactions are sent to the public ledger ensuring information hasn’t been tampered with. The parties involved can therefore be confident of the accuracy of information, and can rest assured that there is always multiple backups of the data on the blockchain.

References:

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