

# AltCoins

What are they and why they exist

by Vagelis Antoniadis

# AltCoins

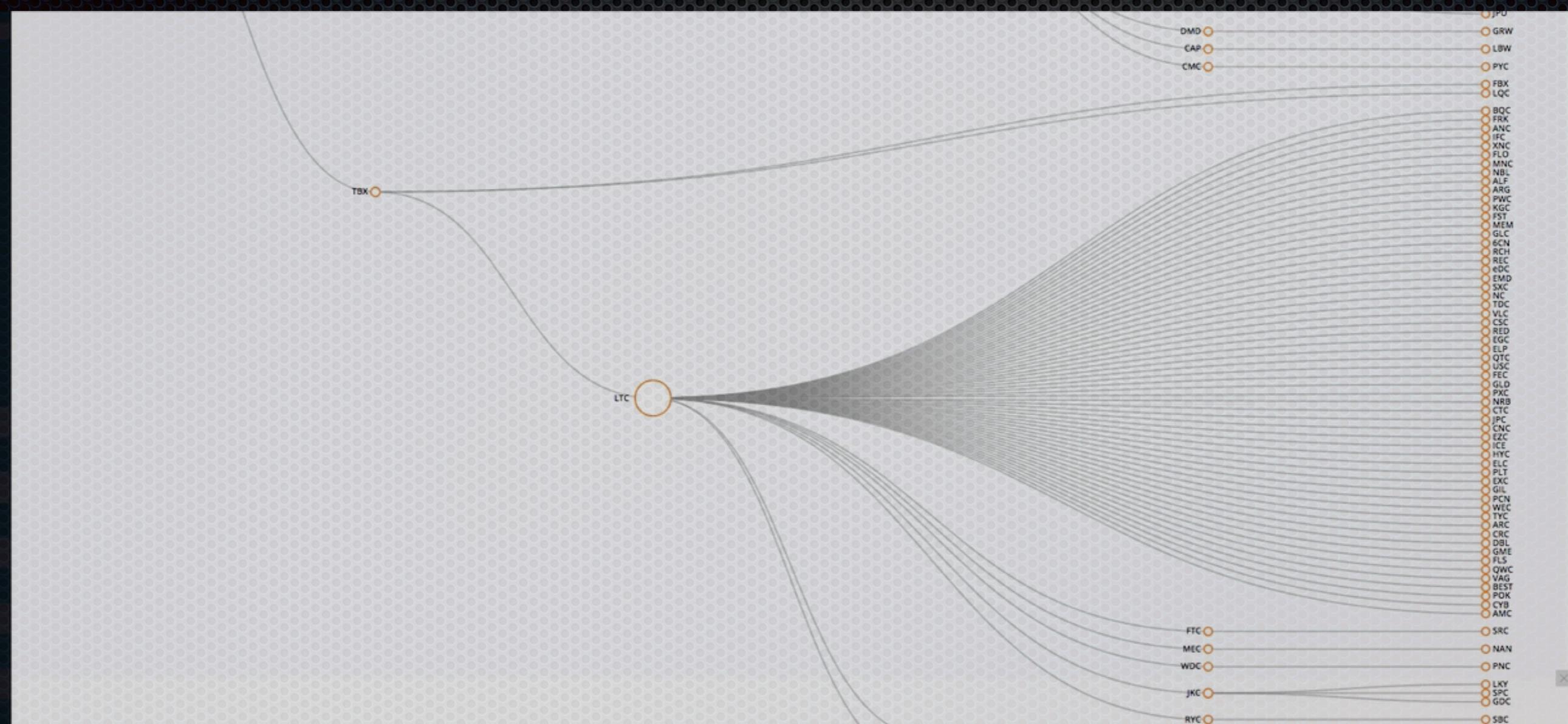
- Alternative To Bitcoin
  - They try to imitate Bitcoin's success
  - They try to overcome some of Bitcoin's limitations
  - Hundreds of them out there



# Brief History

- Bitcoin launched in 2008
- First Altcoins appeared in 2011  
(Namecoin, Litecoin)
- Massive launch of alt coins  
during 2014
- There are more than 1000  
altcoins out there
- Based on market cap Ethereum,  
Bitcoin Cash, Ripple, Litecoin  
and Dash are the top 5

# BTC altcoins over time



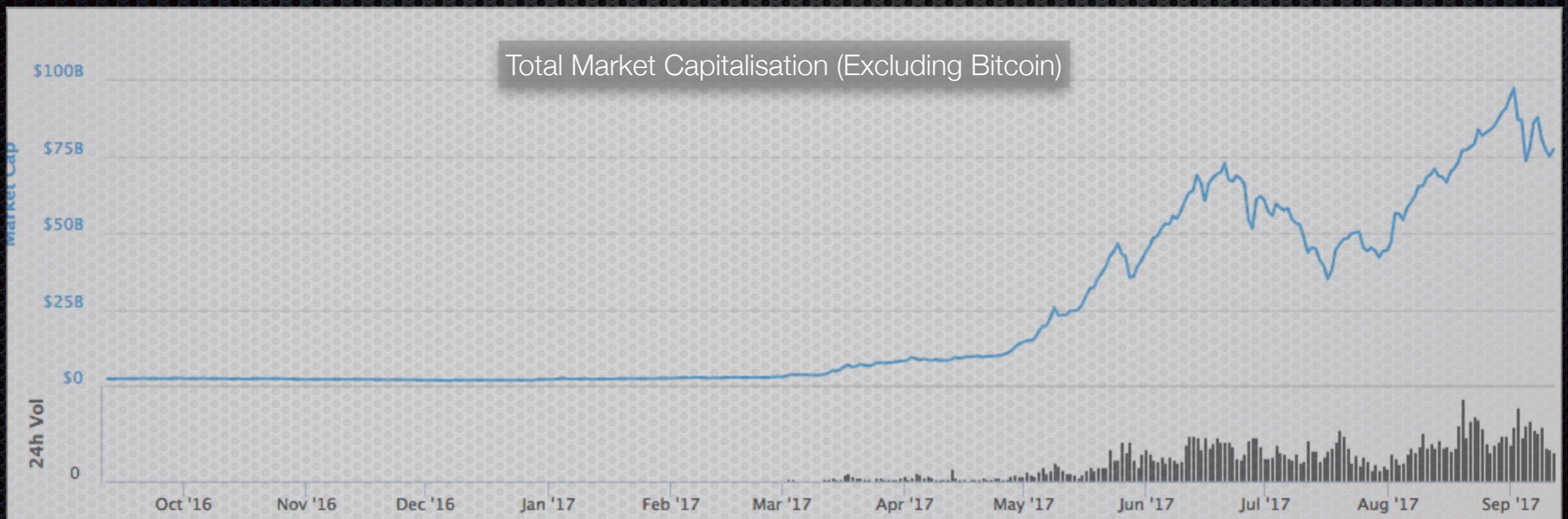
Source: [mapofcoins.com](http://mapofcoins.com)

# Market Capitalisation



Source: [coinmarketcap.com](https://coinmarketcap.com)

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# Why they exist

- Bitcoin is not perfect
- Altcoins solve some of its problems (speed, scale etc)
- Unique feature (anonymity, GPU resistant, powerful programming language)
- Different distribution model (give away to citizens)
- Non monetary use (Domain registration)

# Litecoin

- Launched in 2011
- Scrypt vs SHA256
- GPU resistant
- Faster transaction confirmation (2.5 minutes)
- Open Source
- The silver to bitcoin gold

# Bitcoin Cash

- Bitcoin's hard fork
- Block size 8MB
- Lower fees and fast confirmations
- Different Vision

# Ripple

- Established in 2012
- Enables Ripple Network
- Global payments in seconds
- For Banks and Payment providers

# Dash

- Open source peer-to-peer cryptocurrency like Bitcoin
- Instant transactions
- Private transactions
- Decentralized governance.

# Ethereum



	bitcoin	ethereum
<b>concept</b>	digital money	smart contracts
<b>transaction</b>	send from alice to bob	send from alice to bob if.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• date = jan 1, 2018</li><li>• bob's balance &lt; 10 eth</li></ul>
<b>market cap</b>	~\$18 billion	~\$1 billion
<b>founder</b>	satoshi nakamoto (unknown)	vitalik buterin and team
<b>release date</b>	jan 2009	july 2015
<b>release method</b>	early mining	presale raised \$18M in bitcoin

*Smart contracts permit to build applications on top of Ethereum in a decentralised way eg. Filecoin allows people to rent out their computer storage to others and get paid for it. Similarly, Golem allows people to rent out their computing power.*

# Ethereum Landscape 2017

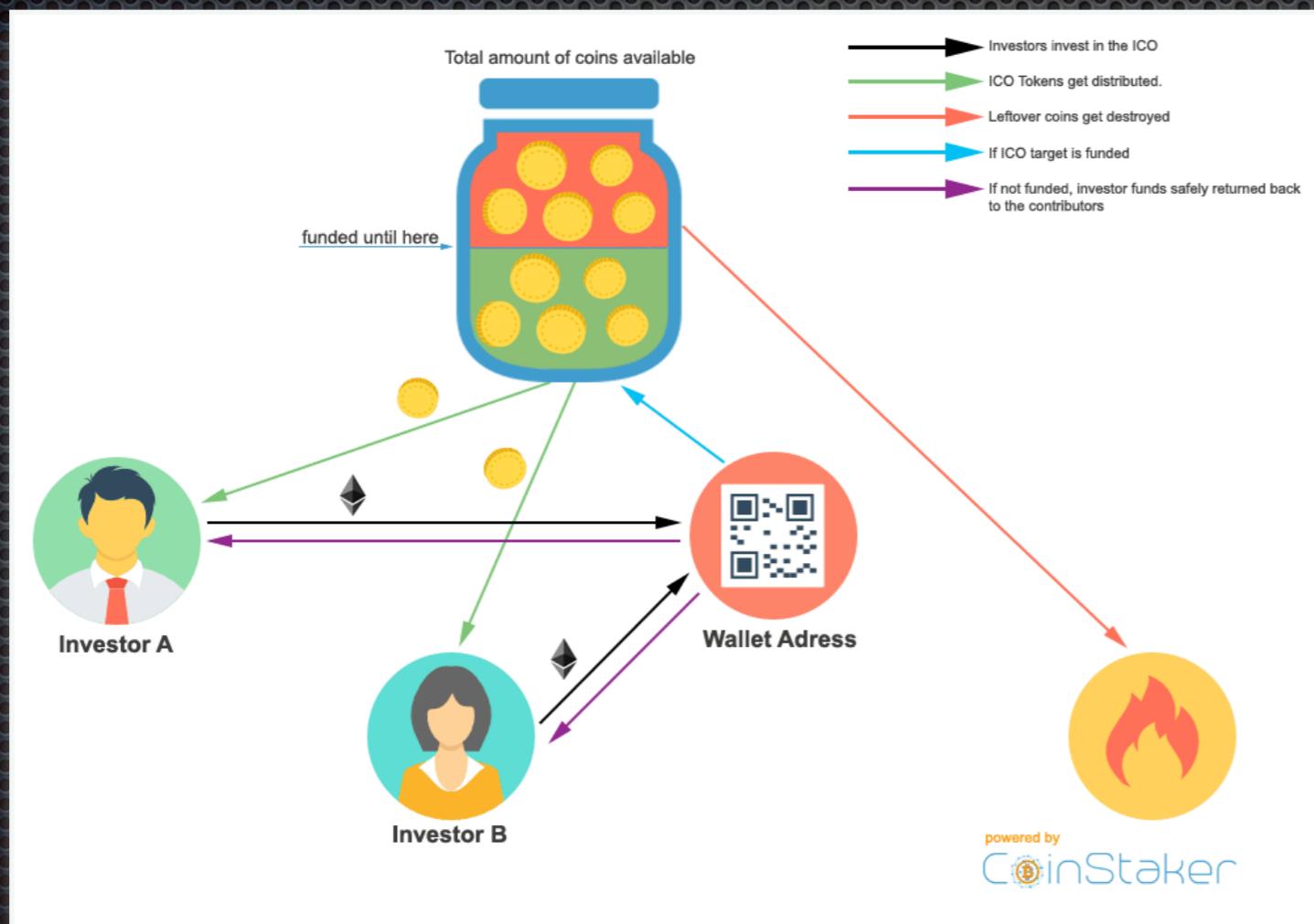


# ERC-20

- Token on top of Ethereum Blockchain (tx fees, validation etc)
  - Digital assets that can represent anything from loyalty points to vouchers and IOUs to actual objects in the physical world
- 
- A set of functions and events with a Database

# ICO (Initial Coin Offering)

An ICO is a popular way to raise money for a new cryptocurrency project by distributing a percentage of the initial coin supply among the early supporters and backers



- Smith and Crown

# Resources

- [What is an Altcoin?](#)
- [Short History of Altcoins](#)
- [CryptoCurrency Market Capitalisations](#)
- [What are Altcoins and ICOs](#)
- [A beginner's guide to Ethereum](#)
- [Ethereum Market Map – June 2017](#)
- [Reddit - Altcoin](#)
- [ICO List](#)

# Contact

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