

Litecoin (LTC) is an alternative cryptocurrency (altcoin) created in October 2011 by Charles Lee, a former Google engineer. Litecoin was created based on Bitcoin's open-source code, but with several modifications. Just like Bitcoin, Litecoin is based on an open-source global payment network with no central authority in control of the network. This cryptocurrency differs from Bitcoin in different aspects such as faster block generation rate and use of Scrypt as a proof of work scheme. Litecoin was launched to improve several flaws perceived in the Bitcoin blockchain. One of the flaws that Litecoin improved was having faster transaction speed. Indeed, Charlie Lee developed a new hashing algorithm for Litecoin called Scrypt, this algorithm supports Litecoin's faster processing transaction speed. With Bitcoin, transaction processing speed was slow which was about five transactions per second, and generating new blocks on the Bitcoin blockchain could take 10 minutes. That would frustrate merchants who use the Bitcoin blockchain for payments since it was too slow. On the other hand, Litecoin processing transaction speed is 54 transactions per second, and new blocks on the Litecoin blockchain can be added to the Litecoin blockchain in about every 2.5 minutes. With Litecoin, merchants can make faster payments, faster transactions, and they can conduct their business more quickly. As of September 30, 2023, the market cap of Litecoin is \$4,860,795,077 USD. Litecoin's value is partially derived from its limited supply, Litecoin is programmed to have a finite supply of 84 million LTC. Similar to Bitcoin, Litecoin also reduces the block rewards that miners receive during its "halving events", which reduces the rate at which new coins are introduced in the market. Furthermore, due to its predictable and limited supply, Litecoin is considered a scarce asset, hence it derived its value partly from its scarcity. Another part that determines LTC value are its usability and its network size, both in terms of miners and in terms of buyers/sellers of this cryptocurrency. Litecoin halving is a crucial event that impacts both the Litecoin ecosystem and the wider crypto industry. It ushers in a period of reduced supply and potential price volatility in Litecoin. Litecoin's performance post-halving can also influence market sentiment and trends across the crypto space. The impact of halving may take some time to unfold, and investors would consider a diverse range of factors before investing in this cryptocurrency. I project this coin in 5-10 years at around \$400 USD per token. I said this value because the price of Litecoin will also depend on Bitcoin's price since it is a "lite" version of this blockchain. An interesting fact about Litecoin is that it is often referred to as "silver" to Bitcoin "gold". This comparison points out its role as a digital currency for everyday transactions, whereas Bitcoin is often viewed as a store of value or as "digital gold".

Decentraland (MANA) was launched to bring the Metaverse to reality, which is a virtual universe where users can interact with each other, socialize, play games, develop, purchase virtual goods and services and land in a decentralized manner. As of September 30, 2023, the market cap of Decentraland is \$581,748,574 USD. MANA has derived value from its technical capability and potential. This coin has derived value since its value depends on the number of users and the overall demand for MANA that people can use to buy a parcel in the digital virtual world. The demand for MANA also gives value to Decentraland and it serves as an indication of the growth of the community of this metaverse. As a metaverse Decentraland value is also derived through NFT sales since the scarcity and ownership rights associated with NFTs sales can add value to MANA as users purchase and trade these tokens. In Brief, decentraland has derived value due to the demand of this token on the market, and of the fact that its supply is fixed and limited. MANA has a lot of potential, but it is still too early to have a take on the future of this coin, Decentraland is still in development as we speak. For my part, I believe that this coin will gain more and more value with the advancement of technology. In a society where we rely more on technology combined with the growing metaverse trend, I think that it is only a matter of time until we see an exponential growth of people using the MANA coin. I really believe that the MANA coin will be widely adopted as metaverse will be the new norm for people to interact with others and buy goods and services virtually. I can see the price of MANA going up to around \$50 USD for a token depending on its use in society in the next 5 to 10 years. The MANA coin affects the greater ecosystem in many ways, such as the promotion of virtual real estate, the development of the metaverse, NFTs and digital ownership, the adoption of blockchain in society, the creative and development community and more. An interesting fact about the MANA coin is that Decentraland has made several partnerships with prominent brands and artists, which brings real world experience into the virtual realm. Decentraland collaborated with Atari, Samsung and superstars of the likes of DJ Dillon Francis, a producer and a songwriter; Soulja Boy, an American rapper and music producer; and Atarashii Gakkou, a Japanese music group composed of four girls. Decentraland is also the first metaverse that is built, governed and owned by its users. Decentraland played a significant role in setting the trend for other metaverses to be created by innovating the concept of a blockchain-based virtual world that incorporates digital ownership, decentralized governance, and user-generated content. The success of Decentraland and the lessons learned from developing this metaverse have laid a foundation for a growing ecosystem of metaverse, each having their unique features and goals contributing to the evolution of the metaverse concept.