Ethos
The future is for everyone.

Lecture 8: A Whole New World of Coins!

Hello and welcome to your 8th and final lecture, A whole new world of coins.

In this lecture you will learn:

- Why the checklist is useful for comparing tokens
- Some high-level descriptions of other coins
- Some things that make each token unique
- How you can go about learning more about these coins

Here at Ethos,, we are working on building more courses to help newer users learn about the new economy and all the different tokens that are out there! In future courses we may go into more detail on each coin than we do in this lecture.

In the last lecture we looked at comparing Bitcoin and Ethereum

Similar analysis can be applied to any token.

You can use the checklist to do extensive analysis on any crypto token.

In this lecture we will be doing one-slide analysis on a variety of tokens so you can get an idea of what is out there.

In future courses we may do full analysis of tokens using the checklist, but now you have all the knowledge required to do the analysis yourself!

Ripple Coin Spotlight
Ripple is the largest company founded coin. Unlike other coins which strive to create an equal distribution (no pre-mine), Ripple's entire 100 Billion coin supply was created and issued to the founders and Ripple Labs. 20% is owned by the founders, 80% distributed to Ripple Labs intended to be used to fund operations. Boasting an impressive $93.6 Million raised along with billions of dollars worth of XRP, Ripple is set to be the king of the FinTech (financial tech) companies. Ripple has a slightly different consensus protocol that is being targeted specifically at making bank settlement fast, cheap and easy. Using a system of "liquidity providers" which are essentially local markets, banks can buy and sell ripple to move value around rapidly while at the same time stabilizing the price of XRP. Ripple doesn't actually operate on a blockchain, but rather a Ripple Consensus Ledge (RCL) which relies on trusted validator nodes.

As of August 2017, Ripple has the 3rd largest market cap with over $6B circulating.

Litecoin Coin Spotlight
The Silver to Bitcoin's Gold. Litecoin seeks to solve many of the technical issues that plague the bitcoin network and intends to be an alternate store of value to Bitcoin. Litecoin aims to be complementary to Bitcoin and is has a community intent on improving the consensus algorithm. Litecoin uses Scrypt - a memory bound algorithm that was designed to be ASIC resistant, however, ASIC hardware was created once it became economically viable. Furthermore, LTC seeks to activate network upgrades such as Segregated Witness (Seg-Wit) which other coins have adopted in order to increase network throughput and solve scaling issues. Litecoin also chooses to have a lower block time for faster confirmations, but higher number of orphaned blocks.

Litecoin has 4x everything of Bitcoin. 4x faster blocks, 4x larger supply, 4x emission.

Dash Coin Spotlight
Dash was originally called Darknet, but was later rebranded to disassociate with the negative image. Dash, however, has a troubled past emerging during a time of scam alt-coins which were pumped and subsequently dumped (leading to the term pump-and-dump being added to cryptocurrency vernacular) with an instamine of 1.9 Million coins in the first 2 days of release attributed to incorrect difficulty calculation. Dash uses a different form of governance utilizing Masternodes which forms a two-tiered network. Masternodes control the governance (voting on proposals, computing PrivateSend and InstantSend) while Miners do the normal consensus through PoW. Utilizing a treasury system, Dash is able to fund development of the network and the model has been very successful thus far. A notable fork of DASH, PIVX, seeks to solve the troubled beginnings of DASH.

Dash was the first masternode based currency which demonstrated the viability of the masternode system.

Ethereum Classic Coin Spotlight
The most notable and contentious hard-fork in cryptocurrency history produced Ethereum Classic. When a large smart-contract went awry and many millions of dollars worth of ethereum that the community had pooled for development had been attacked due to a vulnerability in the contract, the community had a choice to make. Either alter the blockchain to return the funds to the original owners or leave it be. A majority voted to give the funds back to the investors, but a vocal minority did not and exercised their right to vote with their mining power. The ethereum network split and now we have ETH and ETC. ETC is identical to ETH except with a different development schedule and different community and different blockchain.

ETC reminded everyone that if you disagree with a development decision, you can always "vote" against it with your hashrate!

Monero Coin Spotlight
Monero, translating to coin in Esperanto, is the only coin that can truly claim to be completely private. A transaction is private by utilizing a three layer system. Senders utilize a ring-signature to hide their address, RingCT hides the amount and stealth addresses hide the receiver. In the pipeline is Kovri which is similar to TOR and would even hide the node and sending IP address. With this level of paranoia in transactions, it's no surprise that Monero has been adopted by many parts of the darknet for illegal transactions after multiple busts of illegal Bitcoin transactions that were thought to be anonymous. Another notable feature of Monero is its scalability using dynamic block sizes. With no set block size, it immediately sidesteps many of the scaling issues plaguing the Bitcoin network today. It also uses a memory bound PoW algorithm to provide ASIC resistance. The Monero network is also the only network that undergoes 2 scheduled hard forks a year consistently with no competing chains.

Bitcoin isn't truly private, but Monero is!

As always, do your own research! All investment decisions are your own. Never invest more than you are willing to lose. The crypto space is very volatile and it is important to always do your own research and due diligence into projects.

And this concludes the final lecture in this course! Now that you have completed this course, you know all about what a cryptocurrency is, how Bitcoin and Ethereum work and how to analyze tokens in the space. Congratulations on completing this course and the course helpful!