

Crypto Timeline – Evolution of Digital Currencies



**Objective/Aim:**

To study the historical evolution of digital currencies, from early concepts to modern cryptocurrencies.

**Apparatus/Software Used:**

* Laptop/PC
* Browser
* Internet (for research on crypto history)
* Presentation/Word for documentation

**Theory/Concept:**

### **Early Digital Currencies (1980s–1990s)**

* Before blockchain, there were centralized digital money experiments.
* DigiCash (1989) by David Chaum introduced anonymous digital payments using cryptography. It failed because it was centralized and depended on banks.

**Birth of Bitcoin (2009)**

* Introduced by Satoshi Nakamoto in the Bitcoin whitepaper (2008).
* First decentralized cryptocurrency powered by blockchain + Proof-of-Work.

### **Rise of Altcoins (2011–2014)**

* Developers created new cryptocurrencies with improvements over Bitcoin.
* Examples: Litecoin (2011) (faster blocks), Ripple (2012) (focus on bank payments).

### **Ethereum & Smart Contracts (2015)**

* **Ethereum**, founded by Vitalik Buterin, introduced **programmable smart contracts**.
* Enabled creation of **DApps (Decentralized Applications)**, NFTs, and DeFi projects.

### **ICO & Stablecoin Boom (2017–2019)**

* ICOs (Initial Coin Offerings) allowed startups to raise funds through tokens.
* Many scams, but also birth of strong projects.



**Procedure:**

Step 1: Research early digital currency systems like DigiCash (1989) and e-gold (1996).  
 Step 2: Study the launch of Bitcoin (2009) as the first successful cryptocurrency using blockchain.  
 Step 3: Explore the rise of altcoins (2011 onwards) like Litecoin and Ripple.  
 Step 4: Analyze the introduction of Ethereum (2015) with smart contracts and decentralized apps.  
 Step 5: Note the boom of ICOs (2017) and stablecoins (like USDT, USDC).  
 Step 6: Observe modern developments: NFTs, DeFi, and CBDCs (2020 onwards).

**Observation Table:**

* Digital currency concepts existed before Bitcoin but failed due to centralization.
* Bitcoin introduced decentralization with Proof-of-Work in 2009.
* Ethereum expanded blockchain use beyond payments to smart contracts.
* Stablecoins solved volatility problems of cryptocurrencies.
* Current trend: Governments exploring CBDCs and adoption of Web3 technologies.

