Ethereum: The First Programmable Blockchain

Launched in 2015, Ethereum extended the technology that powers bitcoin to create a blockchain with enhanced functionality. Ethereum allows for the creation of smart contracts (aka computer programs) that automatically execute when predetermined conditions are met.

Smart contracts are the building blocks of decentralized applications and other functions that can be built on the Ethereum Network.

Built on Ethereum ⌄

ASSET LEVEL

Ether (ETH): The native token of the Ethereum Network. Payment on Ethereum is always made in ether.

ERC-20 Tokens: Non-native tokens that exist on Ethereum. Today, thousands exist.

Non-Fungible Tokens: Represents true ownership of unique assets on the Ethereum blockchain.

PROTOCOL LEVEL

Decentralized Applications (dApps): Programs that run without a centralized computer or server. Games, exchanges, and even social networks can be dApps.

Quick Facts

Vitalik Buterin and a group of other developers created Ethereum.

Ethereum uses a **Proof-of-Stake (PoS)** consensus mechanism.

There is no hard cap on ether, but there is a **burning mechanism** to limit supply.

By switching to Proof-of-Stake, Ethereum **reduced its energy use** by 99%.

Ethereum is the **second largest digital asset** by market cap.