

# Ethereum vs. Bitcoin: How Do They Compare?

Ethereum and Bitcoin are currently the two largest digital assets by market capitalization, but they serve two distinct use cases. **Below we break down what makes each digital asset unique:**

BITCOIN NETWORK		ETHEREUM NETWORK
Most decentralized and secure monetary network	<b>Primary Purpose</b>	Distributed world computer, a multipurpose platform
Unknown	<b>Founder(s)</b>	Known
Very slow and deliberate	<b>Speed of improvement implementation</b>	Faster and more responsive to user demand
No (or very limited)	<b>Programmable or Smart Contracts?</b>	Yes
No, only bitcoin	<b>Ability to host multiple tokens?</b>	Yes
Fixed, pre-programmed and has never changed	<b>Monetary or Token Issuance Policy</b>	Has changed and is expected to change again
Very easy to audit at any time (can be done with consumer-grade computer)	<b>Auditability (How many tokens exist?)</b>	Can be audited but may be more difficult
More decentralized	<b>Level of Centralization</b>	More centralized
Cheap (~\$100 per node)	<b>Cost of node (a computer that maintains the ledger)</b>	Expensive (at least ~\$1,200 per node)
Proof-of-Work	<b>Consensus Mechanism</b>	Proof-of-Stake
None (all tokens have been mined through proof-of-work)	<b>Initial Funding</b>	Crowdsourcing and "pre-mined" tokens

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