

Timeline

- Oct 31, 2008 Whitepaper Released**
Satoshi Nakamoto publishes the Bitcoin whitepaper, introducing the concept of a decentralized digital currency
- Jan 3, 2009 Genesis Block Mined**
Bitcoin network officially launches with the mining of the first block
- Oct 5, 2009 First Exchange Rate**
New Liberty Standard establishes Bitcoin's first rate: 1,309 BTC = \$1
- May 22, 2010 Bitcoin Pizza Day**
10,000 BTC are used to buy two pizzas, marking Bitcoin's first real-world transaction
- Nov 28, 2012 First Halving**
Block rewards reduce from 50 BTC to 25 BTC, marking the first of Bitcoin's planned halvings
- Dec 2013 \$1,000 Milestone**
Bitcoin reaches \$1,000 for the first time, attracting wider attention
- July 9, 2016 Second Halving**
Block rewards halve again, from 25 BTC to 12.5 BTC
- Dec 2017 \$20,000 Peak**
Bitcoin reaches nearly \$20,000, setting a new all-time high
- May 11, 2020 Third Halving**
Block rewards are cut to 6.25 BTC, reducing new Bitcoin supply
- Oct 2021 First Bitcoin Futures ETF Launch**
The first U.S. Bitcoin Futures ETF launches, giving investors new ways to access Bitcoin
- Jan 10, 2024 Spot Bitcoin ETF Approved**
The SEC approves the first spot Bitcoin ETF in the U.S., which would go on to become the most successful ETF in history
- April 2024 Fourth Halving**
Block rewards reduce from 6.25 BTC to 3.125 BTC, continuing Bitcoin's fixed supply schedule.

Getting Started

- Step 1:** Get a secure Bitcoin wallet.
- Step 2:** Buy Bitcoin on an exchange.
- Step 3:** Transfer your Bitcoin to your wallet for safekeeping.

Fun Facts

- Anonymous Creator:** Bitcoin's inventor, Satoshi, vanished in 2011.
- \$600 Million Pizza:** In 2010, 10,000 BTC bought two pizzas; at its peak, that'd be \$600 million!
- 1 SAT:** Bitcoin's smallest unit (SAT) is 0.00000001 BTC.
- Space Nodes:** Bitcoin can even be confirmed from space, thanks to Blockstream Satellite!
- Global Asset:** Bitcoin can be sent bought and sold anywhere in the world – many view it as a store-of-value due to the finite supply – this is why some call it “digital gold.”

What You Need to Know

What is Bitcoin?

Digital Money: Exists online only, created for worldwide payments without banks.

Who Created Bitcoin?

Satoshi Nakamoto: An anonymous figure (or group) who disappeared in 2011, adding to Bitcoin's mythical status and mystique.

Who Controls Bitcoin?

Decentralized Network: No one entity is in charge; Bitcoin is powered by a global network of independent nodes. Over 17,000.

How Does Bitcoin Work?

Blocks of Data: Transactions are grouped in “blocks” that can never be changed, creating a secure chain.

How Much Bitcoin is There?

Capped Supply: Only 21 million bitcoins will ever exist, making it rare and valuable.

Why Do People Buy Bitcoin?

- Hedge Against Inflation:** Protects value where traditional money may weaken.
- Financial Freedom:** Ideal for those who can't trust banks or governments; Bitcoin allows complete control over wealth.
- Portable:** Use Bitcoin worldwide, anytime.

Is Bitcoin Secure?

Strong Security: Bitcoin's cryptography and decentralized design make it very secure, though securing your private keys is essential.

Critiques / Misconceptions of Bitcoin

Volatility: Prices swing fast and can be extreme.

Reality Check: Like early tech stocks, Bitcoin is volatile but has growth potential. Many see it as a long-term bet.

Energy Use: Mining uses significant energy.

Response: Bitcoin servers are highly incentivized to use the cheapest energy possible – therefore, they are moving toward renewables – such as solar, and it's greener than traditional banking and gold mining.

Security Risks: Losing your keys means losing your Bitcoin.

Solution: Options like multisig wallets, collaborative custody, and backups can help protect your funds.

"Not Real Money": Critics argue it's too volatile to be “real.”

Big Picture: Bitcoin's decentralized, international status gives it unique advantages, especially in unstable economies. On a longer timeframe – the value has only gone up and follows a “Power Law.”

What problem does Bitcoin solve?

The Problem

Many people lack stable access to banks and see their wealth erode due to inflation.

The Solution

Bitcoin allows anyone to securely store and transfer value, free from banks and government control.

Quick Stats

3–4 Million – Estimated bitcoins lost forever due to forgotten passwords and lost devices

~60% – Approximate share of Bitcoin mining energy from renewable sources

1% – Approximately 1% of the world population own any Bitcoin – about 80m people

4 Years – Frequency of Bitcoin halvings, reducing new Bitcoin supply by 1/2 each cycle

1,000 BTC – Only about 1,000 addresses have 1,000+ BTC – 32,000,000 have less than 1 BTC

