

# Ethereum and Smart Contracts

MGT 4074 Fintech & Crypto Tokens, Section A, Spring 2025

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Georgia Institute of Technology

Sep 22, 2025

# Reading

For **Wednesday**:

Please read “The Market for Promises” by Anthony Lee Zhang  
<https://anthonyleezhang.substack.com/p/the-market-for-promises>

## In the News

# Can Ethereum remain the go-to “utility” blockchain?

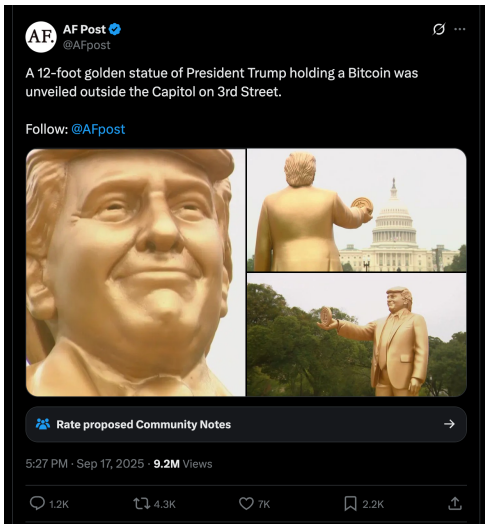
by Nikolaos Panigirtzoglou, Mika Inkinen, Mayur Yeole, and Krutik P Mehta of JP Morgan “Flows & Liquidity”

**Uniswap** is one of ethereum’s largest gas consuming protocols, and a migration from ethereum could induce substantial loss for ethereum’s fee pool. This trend of dapps migrating along with their users to layer 2s or alternative layer 1s or them creating their own chains for scalability and cost-effectiveness, could have a negative impact on ethereum by reducing activity in the main network, leading to lower transaction revenue and validators’ earnings, and making ethereum inflationary from a supply point of view as fewer transactions imply reduced token burning. The ethereum network appears to lag competitors’ growth, in particular **Solana, which saw exponential growth in its user base due to surge in memecoin activity.**

# In the News

Despite all the above challenges, **the ethereum ecosystem appears to be still dominant in stablecoin, DeFi, and tokenization spaces.** It remains to be seen whether the ethereum network manages to maintain its advantage/dominance in these spaces. To boost institutional interest around ethereum, the Ethereum Foundation has supported and partially funded Etherealize, with the aim of educating and marketing smart contract functionality. Etherealize also aims to increase the tokenization of real world assets on ethereum. Notable examples of institutions involved with tokenization on ethereum are the European Investment Bank which has issued digital bonds on the ethereum blockchain, BBVA utilizing Visa's tokenized asset platform for ethereum-based tokens with pilot projects slated for 2025, and Blackrock and Franklin Templeton increasing their tokenization efforts on the ethereum network. Tokenization initiatives could play a significant role in bringing further institutional demand to the ethereum network but competition from other networks is likely to remain intense in the foreseeable future.

# Also in the News





# Roadmap

- 1 Intro
- 2 History
- 3 Structure
  - Smart Contracts
- 4 The Market For Promises
- 5 Smart Contracts, Cont.
  - Gas Fees
  - Gas
  - User Interface
  - Data
  - Proof of Stake
- 6 Competition



# Roadmap

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# Vitalik Buterin

- Born in Kolomna, Russia, 1994, father a computer scientist
- Moved to Canada at 6
- Attended University of Waterloo, RA'd for cryptographer Ian Goldberg
- Wrote [Ethereum whitepaper](#) in 2014
- Got \$100k Thiel fellowship in 2014, dropped out to work on Ethereum full-time

# Vitalik Buterin

I was born in 1994 in Russia and moved to Canada in 2000, where I went to school. I happily played World of Warcraft during 2007-2010, but one day Blizzard removed the damage component from my beloved warlock's Siphon Life spell. I cried myself to sleep, and on that day I realized what horrors centralized services can bring. I soon decided to quit.

In 2011, searching for a new purpose in life, I discovered Bitcoin. At first, I was skeptical, and did not understand how it could possibly have value without physical backing. But slowly I became more and more interested. I started writing for a blog called Bitcoin Weekly initially at a meek wage of \$1.5 per hour, and soon with Mihai Alisie cofounded Bitcoin Magazine.

In 2012, I entered the University of Waterloo; in 2013 I realized that crypto projects were taking up 30h/week of my time, so I dropped out. I went around the world, explored many crypto projects, and finally realized that they were all too concerned about specific applications and not being sufficiently general - hence the birth of Ethereum, which has been taking up my life ever



# Universal Computers

- Any computing system with, essentially, if statements and ability to read data, is Turing complete
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- No need to build lots of “buttons”: give devs a Turing-complete system, they can build their own buttons!

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- Vitalik's insight: instead of application-specific blockchains, we should build a blockchain universal computer
- No need to build lots of “buttons”: give devs a Turing-complete system, they can build their own buttons!
- Next, let's talk about the structure of Ethereum, and how it enables universal computation

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  - Simple understanding of the tech helps you evaluate ideas that are “fits”, vs pure marketing
- If you want to start a company, need to have at least a nontechnical understanding
  - What is special about the technology? What can I do that I couldn’t do before?
- Hopefully, as you’ll see, the tech is not *that* hard



# Smart Contracts

“A smart contract is essentially an automated agent that lives on the Ethereum network, has an Ethereum address and balance, and can send and receive transactions. A contract is “activated” every time someone sends a transaction to it, at which point it runs its code, perhaps modifying its internal state or even sending some transactions, and then shuts down.”

-Ethereum Whitepaper, Vitalik Buterin (2014)

# Smart Contracts

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  - A wallet, which can hold Ether (ETH),
  - Functions it can call when requested as determined by its code,
  - (optionally) a source of data to which it can read and write

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Deploying a smart contract or calling its functions requires a **gas fee**: ETH must be paid to the network to run the code.

# Smart Contract Example: Tokens

- An ETH address, “technically”, only “holds” Ether (“ETH”) natively – no other tokens!
- An ETH address can be assigned non-ETH tokens through smart contracts
- A smart contract can define tokens using the **ERC-20** standard
  - So-called because it was originally the 20th submission to “Ethereum Requests for Comments”

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- This is by design: ETH itself is a currency to pay gas fees to run smart contracts
- Think of ETH like PACE credits at GATech: kept in short supply only to ensure people don't abuse computing resources

# The ERC-20 Standard

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- Transfer tokens from one wallet to another

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The ERC-20 Standard requires that a smart contract issuing tokens have certain functions including:

- Report the name and symbol of the token
- Transfer tokens from one wallet to another
- Report the balance of a wallet
- Report the total supply of the token

The full standard from [eips.ethereum.org](https://eips.ethereum.org)

# A Token Contract in Solidity

```
pragma solidity ^0.5.10;

contract Token {

    address public owner;
    mapping (address => uint) public balances;

    constructor() public {
        owner = msg.sender;
    }
    // Creates an amount of new tokens and sends them to an address.
    function mint(address receiver, uint amount) public {

        // Only the contract owner can call this function
        require(msg.sender == owner, "You are not the owner.");
        // Enforces a maximum amount of tokens
        require(amount < 1e60, "Maximum issuance exceeded");
        // Increases the balance of `receiver` by `amount`
        balances[receiver] += amount;
    }

    // Sends an amount of existing tokens from any caller to an address.
    function transfer(address receiver, uint amount) public {
        // The sender must have enough tokens to send
        require(amount <= balances[msg.sender], "Insufficient balance.");

        // Adjusts token balances of the two addresses
        balances[msg.sender] -= amount;
        balances[receiver] += amount;
    }
}
```

# Can Smart Contracts be Changed?

## Can Smart Contracts be Changed?

- Code cannot change, but data can
- Trick: use data to reference code!
- Make a “proxy contract” A, which has “implementation” address X, and simply calls the contract at X
- If you change X, you change what A does!

Source: [ETH documentation](#)



\_\_\_\_\_

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

# Can Smart Contracts be Changed?

Potentially important for:

- Security: can devs change code and steal my money?
- Legal implications: can devs conceivably change code, hence are they responsible for behavior of code?

## Can Smart Contracts be Changed?

## Takeaways:

- Smart contracts can be built in a way that makes them upgradable
- But (from the code) you can tell whether a smart contract is upgradable or not
- Devs can commit to never update a piece of code by hard-coding functions into the public solidity code

# Can Smart Contracts be Changed?

## Takeaways:

- Smart contracts can be built in a way that makes them upgradable
- But (from the code) you can tell whether a smart contract is upgradable or not
- Devs can commit to never update a piece of code by hard-coding functions into the public solidity code
- **or**, Devs can avoid committing to that promise by writing functions that reference other sources of data (which can in principle be indecipherable to the public)
- Thus, developers face a **tradeoff**: contracts may be either *upgradeable and private* or *public and immutable* – they can never be both.

## Can you tell what the code in a smart contract is?

## Can you tell what the code in a smart contract is?

- Smart contracts on ETH store a code hash of compiled EVM code
- Given Solidity code, can check whether compiled code hashes to contract address
- However, can't reverse the hash: can only verify correctness if code is submitted
- Developers can voluntarily publish their code (and anyone can verify that it matches the compiled code hash)

# Can you tell what code in a smart contract is?

Etherscan

ETH: 51,324.54 (+0.25%) | 50 Gas

All Filters

Q

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Contract
0xA0b86991c6218b36c1d19D4a2e9Eb0cE3606eB48
ERC-20
Token Contract

[Buy](#)
[Exchange](#)
[Erm](#)
[Gating](#)

Featured: Curious on Ethereum's hottest trading pairs? View top pairs and details with DEX Trading Pairs!

### Contract Overview

Centre: USD Coin

Balance: 0 Ether

Ether Value: \$0.00

Token: >\$56,215.77

### More Info

My Name Tag: Not Available, login to update

Contract Creator: Circle: Deployer at 0xa7606390354509cd

Token Tracker: USD Coin (USDC) (@\$1.001)

[Transactions](#)
[Internal Txns](#)
[ERC20 Token Txns](#)
[ERC721 Token Txns](#)
[Contract](#)
[Events](#)
[Analytics](#)
[Info](#)
[Comments](#)

[Code](#)
[Read Contract](#)
[Write Contract](#)
[Read as Proxy](#)
[Write as Proxy](#)

Contract Source Code Verified (Exact Match)

Contract Name: FlatTokenProxy

Compiler Version: v0.4.24+commit.e67f0147

Optimization Enabled: No with 200 runs

Other Settings: default evmVersion

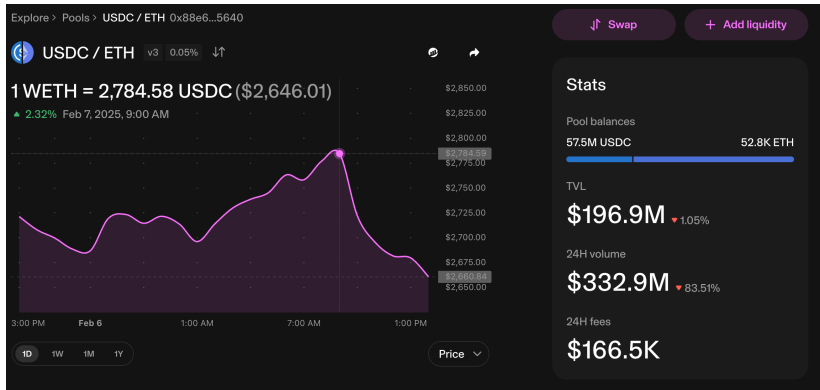
Contract Source Code (Solidity)

```

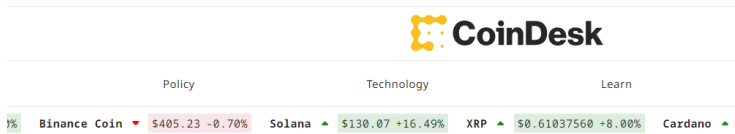
1 // **
2 // Submitted for verification at etherscan.io on 2018-08-03
3 // **
4 pragma solidity ^0.4.24;
5
6 // File: 205-lib/contracts/upgradesability/Proxy.sol
7
8
9 // **
10 // @title Proxy
11 // @dev Implements delegation of calls to other contracts, with proper
12 // forwarding of return values and bubbling of failures.
13 // It defines a fallback function that delegates all calls to the address
14 // returned by the abstract _implementation() internal function.
15 // **
16 contract Proxy {
17     // **
18     // @dev Fallback function.
19     // Implemented entirely in "_fallback".
20     // **
21     function () payable external {
22         _fallback();
23     }
24 }

```

# Uniswap is (essentially) a Smart Contract



# Smart Contracts and Regulation



## Policy

### Netherlands Arrests Suspected Developer of Sanctioned Crypto-Mixing Service Tornado Cash

The country's Fiscal Information and Investigation Service hasn't ruled out making more arrests.

# Smart Contracts and Regulation

[HOME](#) < [NEWS](#) < [MARKETS](#)

# Crypto Exchange Uniswap Hit With Class Action Lawsuit Alleging Wrongdoing

Developers can embed a Uniswap trading window in any app with one line of code, while a class action lawsuit alleges the exchange promotes unregistered securities

BY MACAULEY PETERSON / APRIL 19, 2022 12:17 PM

# Smart Contracts and Regulation

A [class action lawsuit](#) against developers and venture capital backers of decentralized digital assets exchange Uniswap alleges because the protocol allows users to freely list and trade tokens, its creators are responsible for “rampant fraud on the exchange,” and it needs to register as a broker-dealer with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA.

The plaintiff in the case is Nessa Risley, a North Carolina resident who claims to have purchased about \$8,545 worth of obscure ERC-20 tokens via Uniswap in May and June of 2021. The suit was filed in the Southern District of New York.

“Uniswap has offered and sold unregistered securities,” the lawsuit claims, and, consequently, the people who developed and funded the software that facilitates the exchange owe restitution to anyone who has ever used Uniswap.

The suit names Hayden Adams, Uniswap’s creator, as a defendant, along with [Universal Navigation Inc.](#), formerly known as Uniswap LLC, the company he founded. Other defendants are venture capital firms

# Smart Contracts and Regulation

A class action complaint against Uniswap was tossed on Tuesday, Aug. 29 after the judge found that some of the claims were “devoid of factual support.”

Judge Katherine Polk Failla oversaw the case — she is also overseeing the US Securities and Exchange Commission’s case against Coinbase — and issued the ruling on the dismissal.

“Due to the Protocol’s decentralized nature, the identities of the Scam Token issuers are basically unknown and unknowable, leaving Plaintiffs with an identifiable injury but no identifiable defendant,” the judge wrote.

**Read more:** [SEC sues Coinbase for alleged securities violations](#)

She added that the plaintiffs launched the suit “hoping that this Court might overlook the fact that the current state of cryptocurrency regulation leaves them without recourse.” But that does not allow them to blame [Uniswap](#) for their injury.

# Is Uniswap a Securities Exchange?

## From Uniswap's letter to the SEC: **The Protocol Is an Automated Market Maker Technology Controlled by No Individual or Entity.**

The Protocol is an autonomous set of “smart contracts” that run on the Ethereum network—that is, software on the Ethereum blockchain programmed to automatically execute trades, akin to a pre-programmed digital vending machine. The Protocol is the first widely successful automated market maker (“AMM”), and relies on LPs contributing liquidity into a liquidity pool that generally contains two specific assets. Liquidity pools represent the quantity of assets that users in the aggregate are willing to have swapped at prices determined using a constant-product market maker formula ( $x*y = k$ ), which automatically rebalances with swaps as the ratios of various assets fluctuate. The formula ensures that the product of  $x$  and  $y$ , representing the balance of the two tokens in any pool, equals a constant,  $k$ . Because the relative price of the assets can be changed only through trading, divergences between the Protocol price and external prices create market opportunities. The combination of the formula plus the rebalancing mechanism thus ensures that Protocol prices always trend toward the market clearing price.

Welcome! Today is Wednesday September 24, 2025

No quiz today, roll call instead.

Homework 3 has been published to Canvas. It is due a week from Monday (10/6) at the start of class.

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- 3 Structure
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- 4 The Market For Promises
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## Gudied Discussion: the Market for Promises

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**For:**

- Dysfunctional legal systems make DeFi's neutrality more valuable (demand side)
- Low state capacity = weak ability to suppress blockchain adoption (supply side)

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- Low state capacity = weak ability to suppress blockchain adoption (supply side)

### Against:

- Poor infrastructure, connectivity, and literacy hinder DeFi uptake.
- Capital and liquidity still concentrate in developed markets.



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- Trust derives from a system for promise enforcement: the legal system and the government's monopoly on violence
- But many people can't use these systems!



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  - Criminal organizations

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- BB sees valid tx’s submitted by Alice (sends, votes, bets...)
- BB can’t steal Alice’s money, without Alice’s private key
- BB can’t change Alice’s tx’s, without Alice’s key
- All stakers can do is “execute” Alice’s tx’s, putting them in the chain and collecting gas fees
- Stakers could try to boycott Alice’s tx’s...
  - But there’s many other stakers happy to collect Alice’s gas fees, and BB can’t fight longest chain

# Blockchains and Access



- Relative to court systems, blockchains are low-cost, and have very low barriers to access
- Anyone with an internet connection can make promises on blockchains!
- Costs fairly low, rel. to hiring lawyers + going to court in high-income countries



# Limits of the Market



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- If there exist valuable on-chain assets, this is a pretty big set of promises!
  - Generalized financial derivatives
  - Generalized voting mechanisms
- Some core problems:
  - Referencing real world assets and events is hard

# Blockchains and Discretion



- Governments and courts are discretionary by default
  - Cons: costly, takes time, errors, corruption...
  - Pros: “rule of reason”, better handling of edge cases

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- Governments and courts are discretionary by default
  - Cons: costly, takes time, errors, corruption...
  - Pros: “rule of reason”, better handling of edge cases
- Blockchains are nondiscretionary by default
  - Pros: low-cost, “instant” outcomes
  - Cons: cannot apply “rule of reason”, unforeseen cases can be handled badly, and hard to reverse!

See ALZ blog post on [discretion](#)



# Roadmap

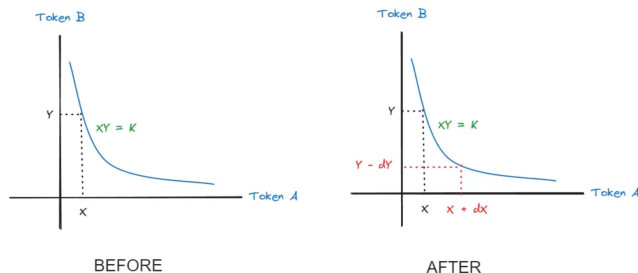
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# Explore Uniswap

<https://app.uniswap.org/explore/pools>

# Constant Product Automated Market Making

**Liquidity Providers** deposit  $X$  units of Token  $A$  and  $Y$  units of Token  $B$ . They earn fees when the pool is used.



Before and after each transaction (a swap or a liquidity injection), the **constant product rule**  $XY = K$  must hold. Image Credit: Pari Tomar





# Constant Product Rule Math

**Q:** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be the number of type-x and type-y tokens.  
When I trade  $dx$  type-x tokens, how many type-y tokens will I receive (what is  $dy$ )?

The equation

$$X \cdot Y = K$$

becomes

$$(X + dx) \cdot (Y - dy) = K$$

Substitute  $K = X \cdot Y$  and use algebra to isolate  $dy$ :

$$dy = \frac{Y \cdot dx}{X + dx}$$

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**A:** Look at the equation and ask what happens when you **double**  $dx$ : the numerator doubles, but the denominator increases as well – so  $dy$  **less than doubles** – the price moves *against you*.

**Q:** When the liquidity of the pool increases (higher  $K$ ), does this effect (the price moves against you) get stronger or weaker?

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**Q:** When you increase  $dx$ , does the price move *in your favor* or *against you*?

**A:** Look at the equation and ask what happens when you **double**  $dx$ : the numerator doubles, but the denominator increases as well – so  $dy$  **less than doubles** – the price moves *against you*.

**Q:** When the liquidity of the pool increases (higher  $K$ ), does this effect (the price moves against you) get stronger or weaker?

**A:** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be extremely large relative to  $dx$  and  $dy$ . Now,  $X + dx \approx X$ . In this case,  $dx$  and  $dy$  are *approximately linear* – the price movement is close to zero. **More liquidity means that prices move against you less.**

# How do we police the smart contract ecosystem?

- How to ensure:
  - Programs don't run for too long, getting stakers stuck?
  - Programs don't use too much storage, running stakers out of "hard drive" space?

# How do we police the smart contract ecosystem?

- How to ensure:
  - Programs don't run for too long, getting stakers stuck?
  - Programs don't use too much storage, running stakers out of "hard drive" space?
- Basic idea: charge people for resources they use
- Next, we'll talk about gas
- $10^{-18}$  ETH is called one **Wei** (for [Wei Dai](#))
- $10^{-9}$  ETH is called one **Gwei** ("Giga-Wei")

# Compiled Code

## THE EVM

For the [EVM](#) to be able to run your contract it needs to be in **bytecode**. Compilation turns this:

```
1  pragma solidity 0.4.24;
2
3  contract Greeter {
4
5      function greet() public constant returns (string) {
6          return "Hello";
7      }
8
9  }
```

[Show less](#)[Copy](#)

into this

```
1  PUSH1 0x80 PUSH1 0x40 MSTORE PUSH1 0x4 CALLDATASIZE LT PUSH2 0x41
2
```



# Pricing Scarce Computation Resources

- When you run smart contract code, every ETH staker has to run it!
- When you edit smart contract data, every ETH staker has to store it!
- Core idea: users pay for the computation + storage resources they use, using ETH
- “Computational resources” used by a function call measured in units of “gas”

# Pricing Scarce Computation Resources

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- “Computational resources” used by a function call measured in units of “gas”
- Often unclear how much gas a transaction will take... (“halting problem”)

# The Halting Problem

Consider an algorithm (a set of instructions for a computer)  $g$ .

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Can you define a function  $\text{halts}(g)$  which returns TRUE if the program halts and FALSE if it will run forever?

E.g., if  $g$  is

```
while(1==1){  
  print("Another Overtime in the Georgia-Tech Game!")  
}
```

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The shortest possible proof: suppose such a function  $\text{halts}(g)$  exists. Then let  $g$  be:

```
def g():  
  if halts(g):  
    loop_forever()
```

# Unlike BTC, ETH has native gas fees

“In Bitcoin, there are no mandatory transaction fees. Transactions can optionally include fees which are paid to miners, and it is up to the miners to decide what fees they are willing to accept. In Bitcoin, such a mechanism is already imperfect...In Ethereum, because of its Turing-completeness, a purely voluntary fee system would be catastrophic. Instead, Ethereum will have a system of mandatory fees, including a transaction fee and six fees for contract computations.”

-Ethereum Whitepaper, Vitalik Buterin (2014)



# Gas Tables

| Stack Name    | Gas                | Initial Stack  | Resulting Stack  |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 00 STOP       | 0                  |                |                  |
| 01 ADD        | 3                  | a, b           | a + b            |
| 02 MUL        | 5                  | a, b           | a * b            |
| 03 SUB        | 3                  | a, b           | a - b            |
| 04 DIV        | 5                  | a, b           | a // b           |
| 05 SDIV       | 5                  | a, b           | a // b           |
| 06 MOD        | 5                  | a, b           | a % b            |
| 07 SMOD       | 5                  | a, b           | a % b            |
| 08 ADDMOD     | 8                  | a, b, N        | (a + b) % N      |
| 09 MULMOD     | 8                  | a, b, N        | (a * b) % N      |
| 0A EXP        | <a href="#">A1</a> | a, b           | a ** b           |
| 0B SIGNEXTEND | 5                  | b, x           | SIGNEXTEND(x, b) |
| 0C-<br>0F     |                    | <i>invalid</i> |                  |
| 10 LT         | 3                  | a, b           | a < b            |
| 11 GT         | 3                  | a, b           | a > b            |
| 12 SLT        | 3                  | a, b           | a < b            |
| 13 SGT        | 3                  | a, b           | a > b            |
| 14 EQ         | 3                  | a, b           | a == b           |
| 15 ISZERO     | 3                  | a              | a == 0           |

# Ethereum Virtual Machine Native Gas Costs

evm.codes

# Gas Fees and Smart Contracts

Meet BankBot (“BB”), a friendly hypothetical smart contract



# Gas Fees and Smart Contracts

Meet BankBot (“BB”), a friendly hypothetical smart contract



- BB's actions may cost ETH stakers compute + storage. But BB is a bot!
- BB only does things when human wallets ask it to...

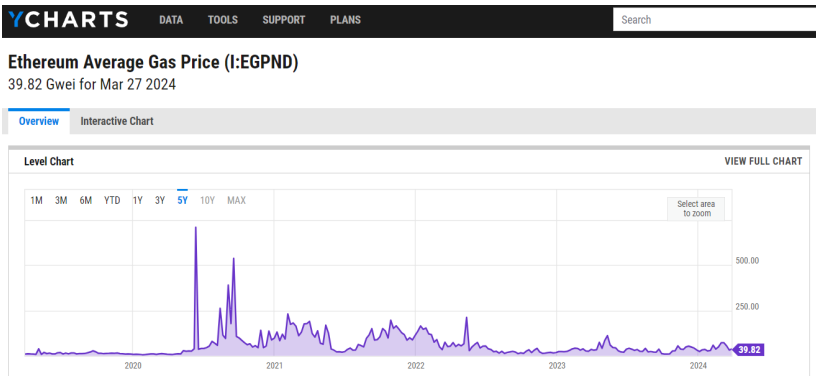
# Gas Fees and Smart Contracts

Meet BankBot (“BB”), a friendly hypothetical smart contract



- BB's actions may cost ETH stakers compute + storage. But BB is a bot!
- BB only does things when human wallets ask it to...
- ...So BB only turns on if you pay for gas *up front*

# Gas Prices Over Time



Source

# Gas Prices and Transaction Demand

**COINTELEGRAPH**  
The future of money

|   | BTC      | ETH     | BNB    | SOL    |
|---|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| ▼ | \$19,116 | \$1,290 | \$282  | \$32   |
|   | -1.12%   | -2.45%  | +0.12% | -2.18% |

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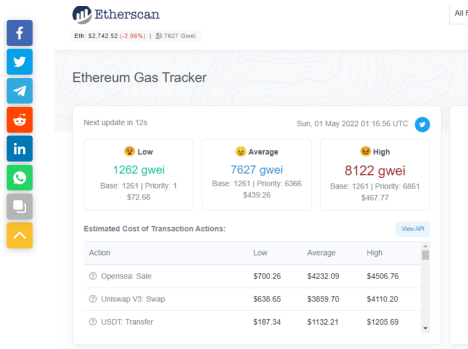
ARIJIT SARKAR

MAY 01, 2022

## ETH gas price surges as Yuga Labs cashes in \$300M selling Otherside NFTs

While the Otherdeed NFTs could be minted only in APE, it also required ETH for gas fees.

# Gas Prices and Transaction Demand



Ethereum gas tracker. Source: Etherscan

The above screenshot was shared by Redditor u/Jeux99 sharing their experience with high gas fees at the time, asking:



"Why is gas \$450 right now??? I've seen high gas fees, but nothing like this before!"

# Gas Prices and Transaction Demand



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NFTs

## Ethereum user spends \$44,000 in gas fees to mint Bored Ape 'Otherside' NFTs

Bored Ape Otherdeed NFTs were so popular the Ethereum blockchain struggled to cope with demand.



Samuel Wan



May 2, 2022 at 11:18 am UTC

2 min read

Updated: May 2, 2022 at 11:18 am

# Capacity of Ethereum

- Ethereum currently processes around 15 transactions per second
- This is pretty bad! Visa is 24,000 tps!
  - Every ETH staker has to run every transaction, and keep a copy of all data!
- Decentralization very expensive, in terms of computational efficiency!
- Proof-of-stake doesn't help throughput
  - Rollups do, which we will cover

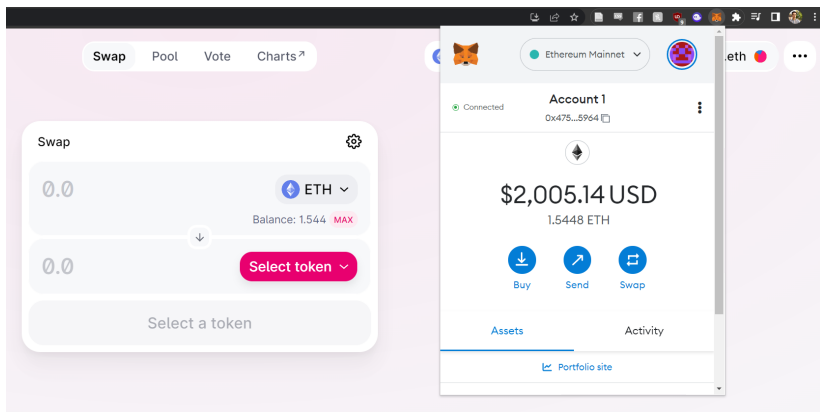
# Gas Fees: Summary

- You have to pay to do stuff (sends, smart contracts, etc.) on Ethereum
- The more computation/storage you use, the more you pay
- Price depends on overall level of transaction demand
  - When network is “congested” and everyone wants to transact, gas prices high
- Next subject: the Ethereum **user interface**

# User Interface

- Like Bitcoin, interact with ETH through wallet software, which helps you manage private keys, sign transactions, etc.
- By far most popular ETH wallet software is [Metamask](#)
- Metamask is set up as a browser extension
- **Warning:** there are many scammers pretending to be Metamask customer support! Just try posting "metamask" on Twitter...

# Metamask



# Metamask: Private Keys

**BIP39 Mnemonic**

utility dove tragic roast sleep split alley doll uniform syrup jacket bleak

☐ Show split mnemonic cards

**BIP39 Passphrase  
(optional)**

**BIP39 Seed**

299b025ee28d80c171e46ba746d81e3ed71ce667e791f3182fdea01ebac52c35edcf116120611b3170521bef40cfd223b8d5478f1a97162d769ea23965bd6ff2

**Coin**

BTC - Bitcoin

**BIP32 Root Key**

xprv9s21ZrQH143K3eMg7utUFGVqz5H2wr61J523iPc2Kp1365DkHepG3XVDHKKGjp4T5bkRxEp3142axkfDo4iPUwCbnvhUzkexZXRRnP51qXD

# Rule Number 1 of Blockchain Security

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Never,

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Never,  
Never,

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Never,  
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## Rule Number 1 of Blockchain Security

Never,  
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Never give out your seed  
phrase!

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Never,  
Never give out your seed  
phrase!  
EVEN IF THEY SAY THEY  
LOVE YOU

# Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme



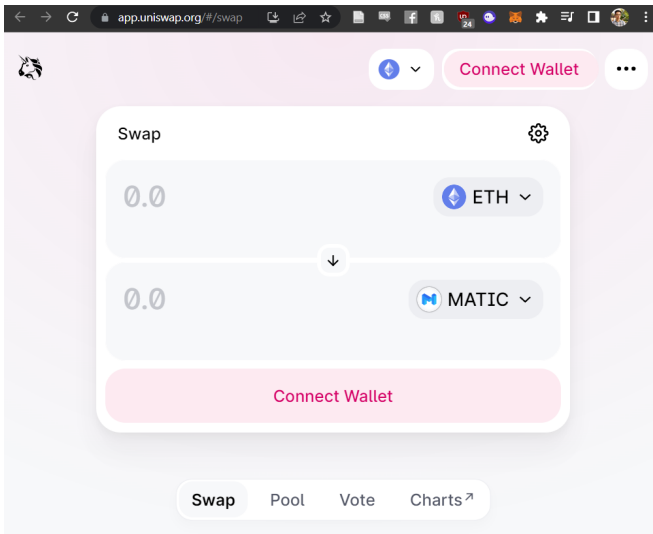
# Hardware Wallets

- For better security, use a hardware wallet
- Popular brands include [Trezor](#) and [Ledger](#)
  - Common sense: don't buy used! Closed-box from a reputable merchant, and if you're paranoid, reset firmware before using
- If you give away your seed phrase you still lose!

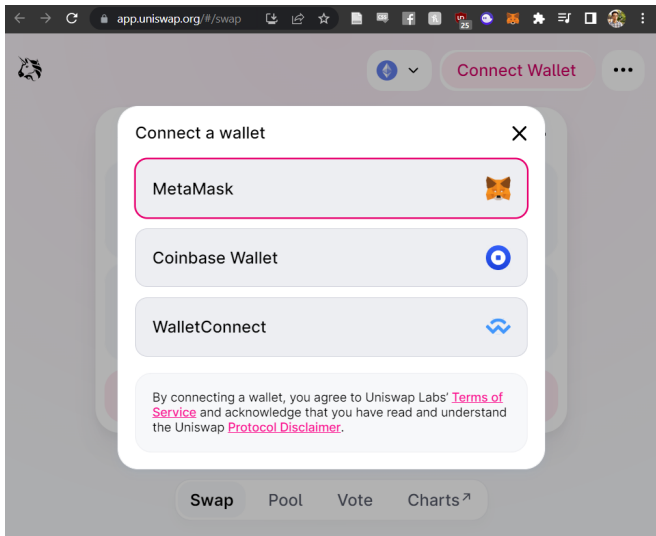
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  - Common sense: don't buy used! Closed-box from a reputable merchant, and if you're paranoid, reset firmware before using
- If you give away your seed phrase you still lose!
- Moral of story: be careful with your crypto!

# Uniswap Example



# Uniswap Example







# Native Composability

- Web3 (DeFi) gives us native composability
- In web2, app functions and data are closed by default
  - FB, Goog, Twitter have internal functions, data...
  - But can't access each other's data + functions, unless they specifically build APIs to do so
  - If Google doesn't want your app to "plug into" Google maps, hard for you to do so
- In web3, app functions + data are open by default!
  - Very hard for Uniswap to "stop" your app from calling Uniswap functions!
  - All data is on chain: everyone can see every app's data!

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  - All data is on chain: everyone can see every app's data!
- Harder to construct "walled garden ecosystems", lower barriers to entry + less incumbent advantage

See “Appendix: Composability” in Saffron Huang’s post [here](#)



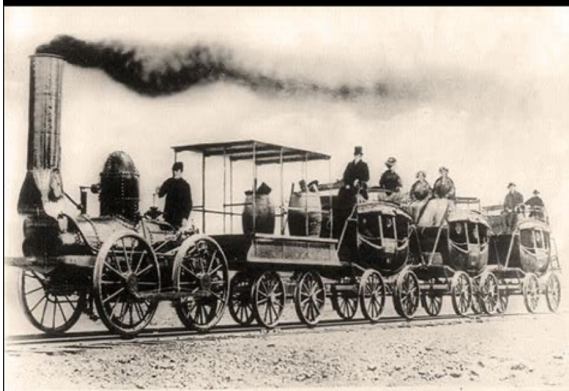
# Faster Horses



**Paul Graham** ✓

@paulg

These early railway carriages are a good illustration of how much old stuff gets dragged along into the first versions of new things. At first even the inventors of trains couldn't think of them as more than sequences of linked horse carriages.



# Web3 Identity

- What's in a physical wallet?

# Web3 Identity

- What's in a physical wallet?
  - Cash, credit cards, and identity cards!
- An ID card is an item which:
  - Proves who you are (student, gym member...)
  - Gives you certain rights (discounted tickets, gym access...)
- ID cards are not transferrable!
- We can create web3 ID cards through non-transferable tokens
- May 2022 [Weyl-Ohlhaber-Buterin](#) paper: soulbound tokens as the basis of web3 identity

# Project Ideas: SBTs and Web3 Identity

Identity very young, essentially no apps yet, so a good area for class projects! Many taken from [WOB paper](#)

- What are good SBT use cases?
  - Diplomas? Employment history?
  - “Social credit scoring”? Rewards for good deeds?
  - Some examples: [Otterspace](#), [Disco.xyz](#), [Lens](#), and [others](#)
- How should SBTs work?
  - Who gets to bestow SBTs?
  - Who gets to remove SBTs? Privacy? “Scarlet letter” SBTs?
  - How do we solve “walking away from my soul”?
- In a world where SBTs are ubiquitous, what functions are enabled that can’t exist yet?
  - SBT-based uncollateralized lending?
  - SBT-ML and recommendation filtering?
  - SBT-gated social organization? Private clubs? Dating apps?
- More broadly, what are some implications of “native composability” that the world hasn’t realized yet?



# Etherscan



ETH: \$1,309.32 (+1.54%) | 5 Gwei

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Address 0xd8dA6BF26964aF9D7eEd9e03E53415D37aA96045

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ENS

Domain

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## Overview

Balance: 1,007.937311331264270941 Ether

Ether Value: \$1,319,712.48 (@ \$1,309.32 ETH)

Token: >\$2,545,860.10

## More Info

vitalik.eth

More

My Name Tag: Not Available. [login to update](#)



Blockscan Chat

Wallet-to-wallet instant messaging platform.



Start Chat

Transactions

Internal Txns

Erc20 Token Txns

Erc721 Token Txns

Erc1155 Token Txns

Analytics

Comments

25 Latest 25 from a total of 1,266 transactions

| Txn Hash                | Method            | Block    | Age               | From                   | To  | Value       | Txn Fee    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|------------------------|-----|-------------|------------|
| 0xd42e239649b51eaf7...  | Ether Transaction | 15655289 | 8 hrs 40 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00007338 |
| 0x2d9e7168da40d6543...  | Ether Transaction | 15655286 | 8 hrs 41 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00002941 |
| 0xc454c1688e95e4ed7...  | Ether Transaction | 15655283 | 8 hrs 41 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00009157 |
| 0x7f75fab2bc8bb95ca...  | Ether Transaction | 15655280 | 8 hrs 42 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00006422 |
| 0xedc1ac05d15b7c8122... | Ether Transaction | 15655270 | 8 hrs 44 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00003895 |
| 0xa4722785651b70e4b...  | Ether Transaction | 15655267 | 8 hrs 45 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00006256 |
| 0x07de72695c3b95b09...  | Ether Transaction | 15655258 | 8 hrs 46 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.000549   |
| 0x7b3727c7b72ec284d...  | Ether Transaction | 15652169 | 19 hrs 9 mins ago | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 0 Ether     | 0.00073383 |
| 0xa4a90f10555a6d76da... | Transfer          | 15647077 | 1 day 12 hrs ago  | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 99 Ether    | 0.00051761 |
| 0xc5f7eaa4590c79da57... | Transfer          | 15634567 | 3 days 6 hrs ago  | vitalik.eth            | OUT | 1 Ether     | 0.00024213 |
| 0xdcb68afe505242197b... | Transfer          | 15631201 | 3 days 17 hrs ago | 0xd9c16d8ea26d9903...  | IN  | 0 Ether     | 0.00033963 |
| 0x1cd73255947b497ae...  | Transfer          | 15625184 | 4 days 13 hrs ago | voodooemployer.eth     | IN  | 0 Ether     | 0.00030862 |
| 0x8b764406a08dcd8f...   | Transfer          | 15621733 | 5 days 1 hr ago   | 0xc57697775cda8a893... | IN  | 0.001 Ether | 0.00020275 |

## Etherscan

Etherscan

Eth: \$1,308.93 (-1.57%) | 4 Gwei

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Transaction Hash: [0xabaa7b4d26e18c3c747a90fca5293c6685768a470deb13d0ad10ec3018d9](#)

Status: Success

Block: 15618644 38232 Block Confirmations

Timestamp: 5 days 11 hrs ago (Sep-26-2022 04:09:59 PM +UTC) | Confirmed within 11 secs

From: [vitalik.eth](#)

To: [Contract 0x0e21f729137c5af1b01d73af1dc21ef9a2b8a0d6](#) (Gitcoin: MultiSig)

Value: 78 Ether (\$35,478.60)

Transaction Fee: 0.000715344214794621 Ether (\$0.94)

Gas Price: 0.00000026175279549 Ether (26.175279549 Gwei)

Ether Price: \$1,336.65 / ETH

Gas Limit & Usage by Txn: 27,329 | 27,329 (100%)

Gas Fees: Base: 24.675279549 Gwei | Max: 36.329062472 Gwei | Max Priority: 1.5 Gwei

Burnt & Txn Savings Fees: Burnt: 6.866674350714794621 Ether (\$6.68) Txn Savings: 6.88827748273502967 Ether (\$9.36)

Other Attributes: Txn Type: 2 (EIP-1559) Nonce: 892 Position in Block: 38

Input Data: 

0x

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Private Note: To access the Private Note feature, you must be [Logged In](#)

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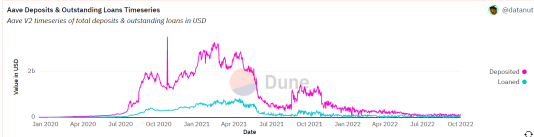
FYSA: The queries are not pulling correct information for Aave

## Deposited and Loaned-out — Aave, MakerDAO, & Compound Finance

**Aave Deposits & Outstanding Loans Timeseries**  
Aave V2 timeseries of total deposits & outstanding loans in USD

| Day              | Deposited     | Loaned       |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2022-10-01 00:00 | \$88,948,258  | \$26,211,357 |
| 2022-09-30 00:00 | \$114,994,186 |              |
| 2022-09-29 00:00 | \$29,102,718  |              |
| 2022-09-28 00:00 | -\$401,182    | \$51,441,253 |
| 2022-09-27 00:00 | \$59,327,721  | \$25,971,195 |

1,001 rows

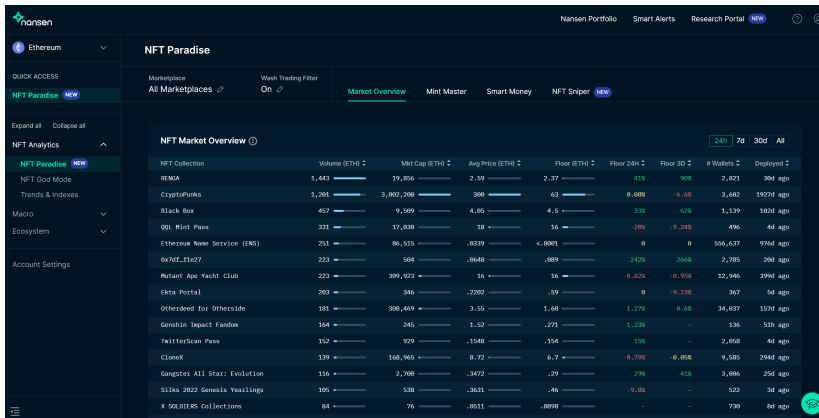


**MakerDAO Deposits & Outstanding Loans - Last 12 Months**  
Visualization of MakerDAO deposits and outstanding loans over the last year

| Day              | Protocol | Loaned           | Deposited        |
|------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| 2021-10-02 00:00 | MakerDAO | \$ 6,318,783,239 | \$ 8,672,848,861 |
| 2021-10-03 00:00 | MakerDAO | \$ 6,341,056,270 | \$ 8,879,685,493 |
| 2021-10-04 00:00 | MakerDAO | \$ 6,356,128,722 | \$ 8,641,122,424 |
| 2021-10-05 00:00 | MakerDAO | \$ 6,386,718,879 | \$ 8,993,018,365 |



# Nansen



# Yield Samurai

7 platforms 21 apps 13,325 assets 50,835 pools \$30.17b TVL +2.19%

Search pools by assets, address / Q

Platforms Apps Rankings Trending Calculator

Assets Apps Platforms Types Filters

| App         | Platform | Pool   | Type    | Age  | TVL <sup>1</sup> | DAPR <sup>1</sup> 7d <sup>▼</sup> |
|-------------|----------|--------|---------|------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aave V3     | Ethereum | WSTETH | Lending | 427d | \$4.13b          | 0.00%                             |
| Aave V3     | Ethereum | WETH   | Lending | 427d | \$2.49b          | 1.71%                             |
| Spark       | Ethereum | WSTETH | Lending | 387d | \$2.24b          | 0.00%                             |
| Aave V3     | Ethereum | WBTC   | Lending | 427d | \$1.91b          | 0.08%                             |
| Compound V3 | Ethereum | USDC   | Lending | 594d | \$1.30b          | 11.78%                            |
| Aave V3     | Ethereum | USDC   | Lending | 427d | \$1.12b          | 10.31%                            |
| Spark       | Ethereum | DAI    | Lending | 387d | \$990.30m        | 13.80%                            |
| Aave V3     | Ethereum | USDT   | Lending | 409d | \$904.33m        | 8.76%                             |
| Aave V2     | Ethereum | STETH  | Lending | 760d | \$902.63m        | 0.00%                             |
| Spark       | Ethereum | WETH   | Lending | 387d | \$856.20m        | 1.45%                             |

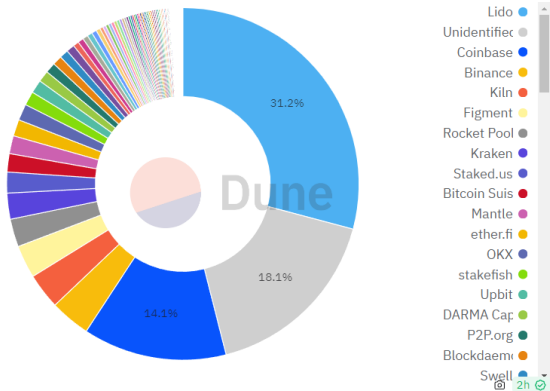
# Proof of Stake

- Originally, ETH mining proof-of-work, similar to BTC
- On Sept 15 2022, ETH switched to proof of stake – called **“The Merge”**
- Reduced energy consumption by **over 99%**!
- Users deposit (“stake”) 32 ETH into a special smart contract
- Stakers randomly selected (prop. to stake) to propose new blocks
- If a staker is caught trying to do “bad things” (e.g. propose 2 inconsistent blocks), they are “slashed”: staked ETH is removed by smart contract
- Most newer blockchains (SOL, LUNA, AVAX) use proof-of-stake

# Staking is Very Concentrated!

## ETH Stakers

Ordered by Amount Staked



Source: [Dune](#)

# Staking is Very Concentrated!

## ETH Stakers

Ordered by Amount Staked

| # | Entity                         | Category       | ETH Staked                                                                                  | Validators | Marketshare | 1WΔ |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-----|
| 1 | <a href="#">Lido</a>           | Liquid Staking | 9,818,140  | 307k       | 31.2%       | 0%  |
| 2 | <a href="#">Coinbase</a>       | CEXs           | 4,433,345  | 139k       | 14.1%       | 1%  |
| 3 | <a href="#">Binance</a>        | CEXs           | 1,219,360  | 38k        | 3.9%        | -9% |
| 4 | <a href="#">Kiln</a>           | Staking Pools  | 1,081,056  | 34k        | 3.4%        | 3%  |
| 5 | <a href="#">Figment</a>        | Staking Pools  | 992,096    | 31k        | 3.1%        | 1%  |
| 6 | <a href="#">Rocket Pool</a>    | Liquid Staking | 838,007    | 26k        | 2.7%        | -1% |
| 7 | <a href="#">Kraken</a>         | CEXs           | 779,009    | 24k        | 2.5%        | 0%  |
| 8 | <a href="#">Staked.us</a>      | Staking Pools  | 620,668    | 19k        | 2.0%        | 5%  |
| 9 | <a href="#">Bitcoin Suisse</a> | CEXs           | 540,438    | 17k        | 1.7%        | 0%  |

Source: [Dune](#)

# Roadmap

- 1 Intro
- 2 History
- 3 Structure
  - Smart Contracts
- 4 The Market For Promises
- 5 Smart Contracts, Cont.
  - Gas Fees
  - Gas
  - User Interface
  - Data
  - Proof of Stake
- 6 Competition

# ETH L2s

ETH is getting expensive! One set of solutions is rollups (also called L2's). Idea:

- Put our ETH, tokens, etc. in a “smart contract pot” (L2 bridge)
- People do transactions (smart contract, etc.) using funds in the pot, without doing anything on “main chain”
- Transactions are periodically batch settled

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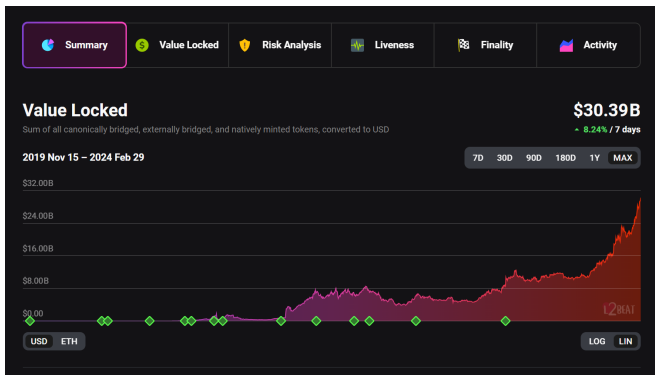
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- Need to guarantee whatever happens on “rollup” is exactly what would happen on ETH main chain! Two methods:
  - **Optimistic rollup** (Optimism, Arbitrum, Coinbase Base): Can “challenge” L2 transactions, will (essentially) run on L1 if challenged
  - **ZK-rollup** (zkSync, StarkWare, Polygon): Some math black magic proves validity of transactions

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- Industry state:
  - \$30B locked! ETH market cap is \$408B, stables ~\$141B
  - Optimistic rollups somewhat bigger than ZKs

# ETH L2s



Source: [L2beat](#)

# ETH L2s

| <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Show rollups only           <div>Select type</div> <div>Select stack</div> <div>Select stage</div> <div>Select purpose</div> </div> |               |       |                   |         |           |                               |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <div> <div>🔍 Active projects 42</div> <div>📅 Upcoming projects 36</div> <div>📁 Archived projects 11</div> <div>🏠 Layer 3 projects 4</div> </div>                   |               |       |                   |         |           |                               |           |
| #                                                                                                                                                                  | NAME          | RISKS | TYPE              | STAGE   | PURPOSE   | TOTAL                         | MKT SHARE |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                  | Arbitrum One  |       | Optimistic Rollup | STAGE 1 | Universal | \$13.80B <span>+ 9.24%</span> | 45.42%    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                  | OP Mainnet    |       | Optimistic Rollup | STAGE 0 | Universal | \$7.80B <span>+ 5.67%</span>  | 25.66%    |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                  | Manta Pacific |       | Optimium          | n/a     | Universal | \$1.87B <span>+ 1.29%</span>  | 6.16%     |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                  | Starknet      |       | ZK Rollup         | STAGE 0 | Universal | \$1.26B <span>+ 4.81%</span>  | 4.15%     |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                  | Base          |       | Optimistic Rollup | STAGE 0 | Universal | \$996M <span>+ 18.03%</span>  | 3.28%     |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                  | Metis         |       | Optimium          | n/a     | Universal | \$879M <span>+ 22.70%</span>  | 2.89%     |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                  | zkSync Era    |       | ZK Rollup         | STAGE 0 | Universal | \$803M <span>+ 22.17%</span>  | 2.64%     |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                  | Mantle        |       | Optimium          | n/a     | Universal | \$763M <span>+ 13.89%</span>  | 2.51%     |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                  | dYdX v3       |       | ZK Rollup         | STAGE 1 | Exchange  | \$339M <span>+ 13.86%</span>  | 1.12%     |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                 | Linea         |       | ZK Rollup         | STAGE 0 | Universal | \$322M <span>+ 29.24%</span>  | 1.06%     |

Source: [L2beat](#)