



# Digital Currencies: An Introduction

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## Biography

*James Turner, Director at Turner Little (<https://www.turnerlittle.com/>), has a proven track record in helping clients maximize their assets in creative and bespoke ways. He is directly responsible for sales and marketing, with considerable specialist knowledge of UK and offshore banking.*

*James doesn't just have drive in the world of business. In his spare time, he has a passion for fast cars and boats.*

*While Turner Little is one of the longest-established businesses in the industry, it remains under the ownership of the two founders – Granville and James Turner, a father and son team. This close family structure enables Turner Little to provide asset protection with a personal touch and develop bespoke solutions which always prioritize its clients' assets and safeguards clients' reputation.*

*Based in the UK, it has a wealth of experience offering professional services to its clients, as professional Company Registration Agents, Registered Bank Intermediaries, Business Consultants and Trust providers.*

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## Abstract

*Cryptocurrencies have been in existence for quite some time, the concept being introduced by computer engineer Wei Dai that led to him publishing a paper in 1998 where is discussed "B-money" and the idea of a digital currency which could be sent along a group of untraceable digital pseudonyms. But it wasn't until Satoshi Nakamoto published a whitepaper called "Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System" that cryptocurrencies have taken off. While Bitcoin remains the most famous since its introduction over ten years ago, there are new cryptocurrencies being launched on a regular basis. With so much information out there about cryptocurrencies, it can all get a bit bemusing. In this article, the author demystifies the subject, and explains how they work, why they matter, and where to start if you are considering cryptocurrencies as an investment option.*

## Introduction

As the name suggests, cryptocurrencies are an emerging currency based on cryptography. Bitcoin is the most famous example, but new ones are being launched all the time. But with so much information out there about cryptocurrencies, it can all get a bit bemusing.

As it happens, cryptocurrencies have been in existence for quite some time, and many believe they are the future of currency, so it's important to invest in your



understanding. Here is our simple cryptocurrency explainer – how they work, why they matter, and where to start if you’re considering investing in them.



### **How do they work?**

There are a limited number of digital ‘coins’ available, and powerful computers ‘mine’ these coins by solving highly complex equations. People are then able to buy and sell these ‘coins’ via cryptocurrency exchanges. Cryptocurrencies are stored in digital wallets and can be exchanged for certain goods and services, although it is important to note that not everyone accepts them. To reduce the risk of fraud, every transaction is recorded in a blockchain.

### **What is a blockchain?**

A blockchain is a distributed ledger. In other words, every transaction is recorded as a new block of information in an encrypted chain of data. With traditional



currencies, banks oversee the ledger, whereas with blockchain, it is shared and synced across multiple places. This means if anyone attempts to alter the blockchain, it will no longer match the other copies that exist.



### **Why do cryptocurrencies matter?**

Cryptocurrency is transforming the financial landscape because it decentralizes financial transactions. Essentially, people no longer need to use banks to transfer money. Fans say that this democratizes money and respects people's privacy. Whereas its detractors say that this relative lack of oversight and regulation can make it unreliable.

Cryptocurrency also has periods where it has risen sharply in value in a short period of time, which has attracted investors. That said, its price has generally been quite volatile compared to traditional currencies.

### **Should I invest in cryptocurrency?**

There is no simple answer to this question, nor can we give direct financial advice. As with any potential investment, it is worth considering the risks and rewards and consulting a financial advisor.

To discuss your personal situation and find out more about the options available with cryptocurrency, get in touch with us today.