



Trading Related Terms

Exchange

Websites where you can buy and sell crypto-currencies. **Coinbase** is an example of a popular North American exchange

FIAT

Government-issued currency, such as the US dollar.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiat_money

Volatility

Volatility refers to the amount of uncertainty or risk related to the size of changes in a security's value. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/v/volatility.asp>

Whale

Someone that owns large amounts of crypto-currency.

Limit order / limit buy / limit sell

Orders placed by traders to buy or sell a crypto-currency when the price meets a certain amount. They can be thought of as 'for-sale' signs. These orders are what are bought and sold against when traders place market orders.

Sell wall / buy wall

Using a depth chart, traders can see the current limit buy and sell points. The graphical representation on the depth chart looks like

walls: <http://media.coindesk.com/uploads/2015/05/image-1.png>

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Market order / market buy / market sell

A simple purchase or sale on an exchange at the current price. Market buys purchase the cheapest ETH available on the order book, and market sells fill the most expensive buy order on the books.

Margin trading

The act of ‘magnifying’ the intensity of your trades by risking your existing coins. **(NOTE: Very risky, only for experienced traders and only on certain exchanges even then)**

Going long

A margin trade that profits if the price increases. **Going short**

A margin trade that profits if the price decreases. **Bullish**

An expectation that price is going to increase. **Bearish**

An expectation that price is going to decrease.

ATH

All-Time-High.

Altcoin

Any crypto-currency other than Bitcoin or Ethereum. (Though some Bitcoin folks would probably still say Ethereum is an altcoin)

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Tokens

Refers to the ‘currency’ of projects built on the ethereum network that have raised money via issuing their own tokens. Examples:

GNT – Golem REP – Augur

ICO

Initial Coin Offering, somewhat similar to an IPO in the non-crypto world. Startups issue their own token in exchange for ether. This is essentially crowdfunding on the ethereum platform.

Shilling / pumping

Someone essentially advertising another crypto-currency. If a coin is promised to cure cancer or be the second coming of Jesus, it’s being shilled.

Stable coin

A crypto-currency with extremely low volatility that can be used to trade against the overall market.

Arbitrage

Taking advantage of a difference in price of the same commodity on two different exchanges. Often mentioned when it comes to comparing ETH prices on Korean exchanges against US exchanges.

FOMO

Fear Of Missing Out. The overwhelming sensation that you need to get on the train when the price of something starts to skyrocket.

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FUD

Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt. Baseless negativity spread intentionally by someone that wants the price of something to drop.

FUDster

Someone that is spreading FUD.

Pump And Dump

The recurring cycle of an altcoin getting a ton of attention, leading to a fast price increase, and then of course followed by a huge crash.

Bagholder

Someone still holding an altcoin after a pump and dump crash. Can also just refer to someone holding a coin that is sinking in value with few future prospects.

Market Cap

The total value held in a crypto-currency. It is calculated by multiplying the total supply of coins by the current price of an individual unit. This site shows a great run-down of each coin's market cap: <http://coincap.io/>

ROI

Return on Investment. The percentage of how much money has been made compared to an initial investment. (i.e., 100% ROI means someone doubled their money).

TA

Trend Analysis or Technical Analysis. Refers to the process of examining current charts in order to predict which way the market will move next.

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MACD

Moving Average Convergence Divergence. A trend indicator that shows the relationship between two moving averages of prices. More

info: <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/macd.asp>

Bollinger Band

A margin around the price of a crypto that helps indicate when a coin is overbought or oversold. More information available

at: <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bollingerbands.asp>

General Cryptocurrency Terms

Blockchain

The classification of technology that Ethereum falls into. Blockchains are distributed ledgers, secured by cryptography. They are essentially public databases that everyone can access and read, but the data can only be updated by the data owners. Instead of the data residing on a single centralized server, the data is copied across thousands and thousands of computers worldwide. More detailed information available

at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blockchain>

Whitepaper

A document describing a cryptocurrency's protocol in detail.

Node

A computer that possesses a copy of the blockchain and is working to maintain it.

Mining

The process of trying to 'solve' the next block. It requires obscene amounts of computer processing power to do effectively, but is **rewarded with ether**.

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Mining rig

A computer especially designed for processing proof-of-work blockchains, like Ethereum. They often consist of multiple high-end graphic processors (GPUs) to maximize their processing power.

Distributed Ledger

An agreement of shared, replicable and synchronized data, in this case spread across multiple networks, across many CPU's.

Central Ledger

Opposite of distributed data in that all of the data, while being synchronized and replicable is controlled by a singular network or individual.

Fork

A situation where a **blockchain** splits into two separate chains. Forks generally happen in the crypto-world when new 'governance rules' are built into the blockchain's code. Some more information available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blockchain#Hard_forks

PoW

Proof-of-work. The current consensus algorithm used by Ethereum.

PoS

Proof-of-stake (not piece of shit). The proposed future consensus algorithm to be used by Ethereum. Instead of mining in its current form, people that own ETH will be able to 'lock up' their ether for a short amount of time in order to 'vote' and generate network consensus. The plan is that these stakeholders will be rewarded with ETH by doing so.

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Sharding

A scaling solution for blockchains. Typically, every node in a blockchain network houses a complete copy of the blockchain. Sharding is a method that allows nodes to have partial copies of the complete blockchain in order to increase overall network performance and consensus speeds.

Software wallet

Storage for crypto-currency that exists purely as software files on a computer. Software wallets can be generated for free from a variety of sources. MyEtherWallet (MEW) is one of the popular. (more on MEW below)

Hardware wallet

A device that can securely store crypto-currency. Hardware wallets are often regarded as the most secure way to hold crypto-currency.

Ledger Nano S / Trezor

Two of the most popular hardware wallet models.

Cold storage

The process of moving crypto-currency ‘offline’, as a way of safekeeping your crypto-currency from hacking. There are a variety of ways to do this, but some methods most commonly used:

- Printing out the QR code of a software wallet and storing it somewhere safe, such as a safety deposit box.
- Moving the files of a software wallet onto a USB drive and storing it somewhere safe.
- Using a hardware wallet.

P2P

Peer-to-Peer. Peer-to-peer has become a very large focus of blockchain as one of the biggest selling points is decentralization. Nearly every interaction on the blockchain can be fulfilled P2P, or without a centralized variable like a store, bank or notary.

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Signature

The mathematical operation that lets someone prove their sole ownership over their wallet, coin, data or on. An example is how a Bitcoin wallet may have a public address, but only a private key can verify with the whole network that a signature matches and a transaction is valid. These are only known to the owner and are basically mathematically impossible to uncover.

Ethereum Specific Terms

Smart contract

Code that is deployed onto the Ethereum blockchain, often directly interacting with how money flows. Not my quote, but: “A normal transaction allows you to send money from A to B. Smart contracts allow you to send money from A to B, on the condition that C happens.”

Solidity

One of the most popular languages that smart contracts can be written in. Has some similarities to Javascript.

Dapp

Decentralized Application. This refers to an application that uses an Ethereum smart contract as it's back-end code.

Gas

A measurement of how much processing is required by the ethereum network to process a transaction. Simple transactions, like sending ether to another address, typically do not require much gas. More complex transactions, like deploying a smart contract, require more gas.

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Gas price

The amount of ether to be spent for each gas unit on a transaction. The initiator of a transaction chooses and pays the gas price of the transaction. Transactions with higher gas prices are prioritized by the network.

Wei

The smallest denomination of ether. 1 Ether = 100000000000000000 Wei (10^{18})

Gwei

Gas prices are most often measured in Gwei. 1 Ether = 1000000000 Gwei. (10^9)

Cryptocurrency Memes

Hodl

Long ago, someone on a bitcoin forum got drunk and made a post with this typo in the place of 'hold'. A meme was born. <https://bitcointalk.org/index.php?topic=375643.0>

Mooning

In the crypto-world, this means a price going up astronomical levels.

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