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## The Evolution of Blockchain Technology to Watch in 2024

#### **Assignment Summary:**

In 2024, blockchain technology is evolving faster than ever, with groundbreaking advancements in scalability, interoperability, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI). From Layer 2 scaling solutions that make transactions quicker and more affordable, to the rise of new crypto coins and decentralized finance (DeFi) 2.0, blockchain is reshaping industries globally. The convergence of blockchain and AI is also transforming how we manage data, improving security, and automating decision-making. This year promises to be a significant turning point for blockchain's impact on everything from finance to supply chain management.

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In the ever-evolving world of technology, blockchain has emerged as a revolutionary tool. Originally associated with cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, blockchain is now transforming industries worldwide through innovations in scalability, interoperability, decentralized finance (DeFi), and artificial intelligence (Al). As we step into 2024, blockchain technology is rapidly evolving, offering exciting opportunities for professionals, researchers, and students alike.

In this article, we explore the major developments that are set to shape blockchain in 2024. From layer 2 scaling solutions and cross-chain interoperability to the convergence of AI with blockchain, these trends are driving the future of decentralized systems. Understanding these advancements is not only essential for keeping up with technological progress but also provides valuable insights into the future of industries ranging from finance to supply chain management.



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## The Evolution of Blockchain Technology to Watch in 2024

#### 1. Layer 2 scaling solutions: Addressing Blockchain's scalability challenge

One of the most persistent challenges blockchain has faced since its inception is scalability—the ability to process large volumes of transactions quickly and affordably. In 2024, layer 2 (L2) scaling solutions have taken center stage, providing innovative ways to tackle this issue. These solutions, built on top of existing blockchain networks, aim to increase transaction throughput without compromising security.

Among the most notable L2 technologies this year are zero-knowledge rollups (ZK-rollups). These bundle multiple transactions into a single batch, which is then processed off-chain, significantly reducing the load on the main blockchain network. Ethereum, one of the largest and most widely used blockchains, has benefited enormously from this technology. Solutions like ZkSync and StarkNet have enabled Ethereum to handle thousands of transactions per second (TPS), compared to its previous limit of 15 TPS on the base layer. This advancement makes Ethereum faster, more efficient, and more accessible for decentralized applications (dApps) and smart contracts.

Another key L2 solution is Polygon and its zkEVM (zero-knowledge Ethereum Virtual Machine). By allowing developers to deploy Ethereum smart contracts directly onto Polygon's L2 network, zkEVM has drastically reduced transaction costs. In 2024, transaction costs on Polygon's zkEVM are as low as \$0.01, compared to the soaring gas fees of several dollars on the Ethereum base layer during high-demand periods. These improvements are making blockchain more practical for everyday use and are driving its adoption across various sectors.

The evolution of the Bitcoin Lightning Network is also a major highlight this year. In 2024, the network's liquidity exceeded 5,000 BTC, a 25% increase from 2023. This demonstrates that L2 scaling solutions are just as critical for Bitcoin as they are for Ethereum, paving the way for faster, cheaper, and more scalable payment systems that bring blockchain technology closer to mainstream use.





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#### 2. New and emerging Crypto Coins: Innovations beyond Bitcoin and Ethereum

While Bitcoin and Ethereum remain the dominant forces in the blockchain world, 2024 has seen the rise of new crypto coins and ecosystems that are pushing the boundaries of innovation. These emerging blockchain platforms bring unique architectures and consensus mechanisms, contributing to the ever-expanding landscape of decentralized technologies.

Coins such as Aptos and Sui have gained traction by offering alternative consensus algorithms and novel features. However, the proliferation of multiple blockchains has brought the issue of cross-chain interoperability to the forefront. As the blockchain ecosystem becomes more fragmented, the need for seamless transfer of assets and data across different networks becomes critical.

One of the most promising solutions in this space is LayerZero, an omnichain bridging protocol. In 2024, LayerZero has powered billions of dollars in cross-chain transactions by enabling developers to build dApps that can communicate across multiple blockchains. This year alone, LayerZero has formed over 100 partnerships, solidifying its position as a key player in blockchain interoperability.

Another important player is the Cosmos Network, which leads with its Inter-Blockchain Communication (IBC) protocol. This technology allows different blockchains to transfer assets and information, making cross-chain transactions more efficient. As of 2024, over 50 blockchains actively use the IBC protocol, representing a 30% increase from 2023. This growth showcases the expanding role of interoperability in the blockchain ecosystem.





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#### 3. Blockchain and Al Convergence: A Symbiotic Future

One of the most exciting developments in 2024 is the convergence of blockchain and artificial intelligence (AI). These two powerful technologies complement each other in ways that could revolutionize industries. Blockchain offers transparency, security, and decentralization, while AI brings advanced data analysis and decision-making capabilities.

Al and blockchain integration is particularly evident in the creation of Al-generated smart contracts. By using machine learning to audit and optimize smart contracts, these Al tools reduce the risk of human error and improve the security and efficiency of decentralized applications. For example, Autonomous Smart Contracts can adjust their algorithms based on real-time data, providing a dynamic and adaptable solution for businesses.

One project at the forefront of AI and blockchain convergence is Fetch.ai, which uses AI to enable autonomous agents to perform tasks such as data analysis, energy grid optimization, and supply chain management. Fetch.ai's decentralized network of intelligent agents has gained significant momentum in 2024, proving the potential of AI-powered blockchain applications.

Moreover, blockchain is playing an increasingly important role in addressing some of Al's fundamental challenges, such as data manipulation and bias. By using blockchain to track and verify the datasets used to train Al models, companies can ensure the validity and transparency of their Al systems. This combination of Al and blockchain is expected to bring new levels of trust and reliability to industries requiring real-time autonomous decision-making.





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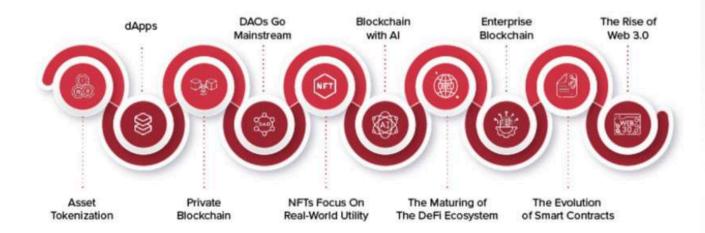
#### 4. Decentralized finance (DeFi) 2.0: Enhanced security and usability

Decentralized finance (DeFi) has been a transformative force in the financial world, and in 2024, we are witnessing the rise of DeFi 2.0. This new generation of DeFi solutions is focused on improving security, usability, and scalability, addressing the vulnerabilities that plagued early DeFi platforms.

One of the most significant trends in DeFi 2.0 is the tokenization of real-world assets. Institutions have begun to utilize DeFi protocols to tokenize assets such as real estate, commodities, and bonds. By 2024, the market for tokenized assets has surpassed \$1 trillion, with platforms like Aave and MakerDAO leading the charge in integrating real-world assets into decentralized finance.

Additionally, DeFi platforms have made significant improvements in user experience (UX) and security. For example, Uniswap V4 has introduced user-friendly interfaces that make decentralized trading and lending accessible to non-technical participants. Meanwhile, the implementation of multi-signature wallets and auditable smart contracts has enhanced the security of DeFi platforms, making them more robust and reliable.

## Find out the Top Blockchain Trends in 2024



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## The Evolution of Blockchain Technology to Watch in 2024

#### A Year of Transformation for Blockchain

As we move through 2024, it is clear that blockchain technology is undergoing rapid and transformative changes. The development of layer 2 scaling solutions, cross-chain interoperability, Al integration, and the evolution of DeFi are all shaping the future of decentralized systems. These innovations are not only making blockchain more efficient and secure but also expanding its applications across various industries.

For those interested in deepening their understanding of blockchain and its impact, there has never been a better time to explore this field. Atlantic International University offers a wide range of programs related to blockchain, artificial intelligence, and decentralized finance. By studying these emerging technologies, you can position yourself at the forefront of innovation and contribute to the global movement toward transparency, security, and decentralization. Start your journey with AIU today and take the first step toward leaving a lasting legacy in the world of blockchain.

Also, you can learn more about this topic in AlU's, wide range of recorded classes that cover various subjects of interest and that can be very useful to expand your knowledge. If this topic interests you, you can explore related live classes. Our extensive online library is also home to a wealth of knowledge, comprised of miles of e-books, serving as a valuable supplemental resource.





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Below we share a series of resources that will help you expand your knowledge on this topic:

Main Developments in Developed Market in the First Quarter of 2024 by Abdulkadir D

Harvesting Innovation: Cultivating Tomorrow's Farming with Blockchain Technology.

Antitrust Law for Blockchain Technology.





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Recent Advances in IoT and Blockchain Technology

Deep intelligent blockchain technology for securing IoT-based healthcare multimedia data.

<u>Machine Learning, Blockchain Technologies and Big Data Analytics for IoTs: Methods, Technologies and Applications</u>

<u>International Approaches to Blockchain Technologies: The Choice Between Legal Curtailment and Expansion.</u>

Top 15 Blockchain Technology Trends to Follow in 2024

<u>Understanding Blockchain Technology in 2024: Trends, Applications, and Challenges</u>

Zero-knowledge rollups

Blockchain to the Rescue? How Technology Could Revolutionize Timeshare Cancellations



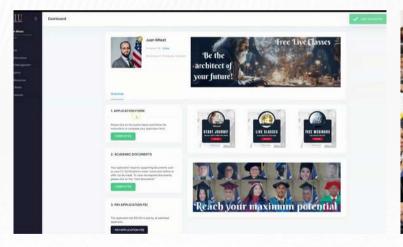


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