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## Unleashing the Potential of DeFi: A Comprehensive Guide to Maximizing Rewards While Mitigating Risks

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*Decentralized Finance; DeFi, High Returns; Crypto Assets; Risk Management*

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### **Abstract**

*This article discusses the potential rewards and risks of decentralized finance, or DeFi. While DeFi can offer high returns on investment, it's important to approach the industry with caution and understand the potential drawbacks and complexities. The risks involved include the potential for significant losses, and returns are not fixed, with potential for the depreciation of crypto assets. Understanding the industry is crucial to making informed investment decisions, and reading papers on tokenized assets and tokenomics can help investors gain a better understanding of the industry. DeFi is generated by venture capitalists and landing protocols also play a significant role in generating revenue for the industry. DeFi is different from traditional finance in that it is not regulated by the government and is an anonymous and independent industry. Mitigating risks is important, and investors should not put all their life savings into this field. Understanding the complexities and mitigating risks can help investors achieve high returns with minimal risks.*

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### **Kata Kunci:**

*Decentralized Finance; DeFi, Imbal Hasil Tinggi; Aset Kripto; Manajemen Risiko*

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### **Abstrak**

Artikel ini membahas potensi keuntungan dan risiko keuangan terdesentralisasi, atau DeFi. Meskipun DeFi dapat menawarkan imbal hasil investasi yang tinggi, penting untuk mendekati industri ini dengan hati-hati dan memahami potensi kekurangan dan kerumitannya. Risiko yang terlibat termasuk potensi kerugian yang signifikan, dan pengembalian yang tidak tetap, dengan potensi depresiasi aset kripto. Memahami industri ini sangat penting untuk membuat keputusan investasi yang tepat, dan membaca makalah tentang aset token dan tokenomics dapat membantu investor mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang industri ini. DeFi dihasilkan oleh pemodal ventura dan protokol pendaratan juga memainkan peran penting dalam menghasilkan pendapatan bagi industri. DeFi berbeda dengan keuangan tradisional karena tidak diatur oleh pemerintah dan merupakan industri yang anonim dan independen. Mitigasi risiko adalah hal yang penting, dan investor tidak boleh

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menaruh seluruh tabungan mereka di bidang ini. Memahami kompleksitas dan memitigasi risiko dapat membantu investor mencapai hasil yang tinggi dengan risiko minimal.

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## **Introduction**

Blockchain and DeFi have created new financial inclusion potential in recent years. DeFi and other blockchain applications are helping more teens and kids make money (Kleinman, 2021). This has led to a trend of teaching kids about bitcoin and blockchain technology, which might give them a financial head start (Packin, 2021).

Non-KYC solutions allow teens and kids to explore the banking system without exposing their identities (C. Team, 2021). DeFi and other blockchain applications allow kids to use them with just a few clicks, unlike traditional banking systems, which need a lot of personal information like ID, parents' names, schools, etc.

Determination, not genius, is the key to success in the blockchain ecosystem. Like Solidity-programmed platform made a 13-year-old 7th pupil in India, which becoming rich because of the platform he created (Ahonen, 2021).

Like teaching them to use a smartphone, YouTube, Facebook, etc., we must start early. They can explore their passions, curiosity, and creativity without fear of being identified. Exposing kids to blockchain technology early may help them succeed financially.

We should avoid misinterpreting NFT and crypto. Avoiding misinterpretation requires understanding these terms. Even if you're not majoring in computer science or informatics, college students and lecturers must learn these concepts to keep up with blockchain ecosystem trends.

Teaching kids about crypto and blockchain technologies could lead to financial inclusivity. It might connect the old banking system to the new digital economy. Start early to prepare the next generation for decentralized finance and a financially inclusive society.

## **Blockchain and DeFi: A Possible Future**

As we step into the world of blockchain business, it becomes essential to understand the significance of DeFi or decentralized finance. With an increasing number of institutions and public companies trusting the crypto world, the total value locked (TVL) in decentralized finance has risen to \$263 billion worldwide. Although

the figure has dropped from the peak of \$350 billion in December 2021, it still indicates the immense capital in the blockchain ecosystem (defillama, 2021).

Thus, why do people trust their funds in decentralized finance? It is because DeFi is independent and not subject to government policies, rules, or regulations. Even in Indonesia, people can use DeFi to share and transact funds with people worldwide. The trust of public companies in DeFi has elevated the importance of crypto assets like Bitcoin, which has become a parameter of index for investment decisions. Companies like Tesla, Micro Strategy, and Square have invested in Bitcoin, adding to its growing popularity (C. Editor, 2021).

Despite the massive amount of money invested in DeFi, there is still a vast opportunity to grow bigger. With only 4.6 million users globally, DeFi has an untapped potential to reach a larger audience. Although it started in July 2020 with the creation of Yearn Finance by Andrey Cronier, it has since snowballed into a massive ecosystem of various platforms (Com, 2021). The surprising fact is that Vietnam and Thailand are among the top three users of DeFi, indicating the potential for growth in Southeast Asia (S. Team, 2021).

As we look to the future, it becomes clear that DeFi is only in its early stages, and there is an enormous opportunity for growth. While the TVL continues to fluctuate, DeFi's independence and growing popularity offer financial inclusion to people worldwide. As a result, we need to be aware of the potential of DeFi and the crypto world to make informed investment decisions. With blockchain technology and DeFi rapidly gaining prominence, it is essential to understand the implications and the potential it offers for our financial future.

This article merely touched on DeFi and the crypto world, a massive ecosystem of utility, research, and commercial prospects. The history of the blockchain, which underpins crypto assets like Bitcoin, is crucial to understanding the crypto world.

The first paper on hashing-secured blocks was released in 1991, launching blockchain technology. Bit Gold, a forerunner to Bitcoin, was established by Nick Szabo in 1998. Blockchain technology attracted global interest with Satoshi Nakamoto's 2009 Bitcoin launch (I. Editor, 2020).

Since then, Vitalik Buterin, Fantom's Michael Kong, and others have helped develop the technology (Choi et al., 2018). Blockchain technology is constantly changing and has many contributors. Bitcoin and blockchain technologies go together.

Bitcoin's decentralized, secure, and transparent blockchain network makes it possible. No crypto assets without the blockchain. The blockchain was designed to increase trust in networks, data, and money. To build confidence, the public blockchain containing crypto assets must be used. It would be meaningless if we use a centrally controlled private blockchain (Lardner, 2020).

Finally, the blockchain and crypto assets are not single-person inventions. They are emerging technologies with numerous contributors. To invest wisely, you must comprehend the blockchain and digital assets like Bitcoin. To stay ahead, you must stay current on blockchain technology's commercial, research, and financial prospects.

Blockchain technology and DeFi are growing rapidly. It's crucial to comprehend web 3.0's possible impact (Chen & Bellavitis, 2020). Decentralized finance in the blockchain ecosystem has many advantages over traditional financial systems. DeFi's independence from government policies, central authority, and decentralization are its biggest advantages. These services authenticate transactions using a network of users without requiring personal information (Tasca & Tessone, 2019).

Despite huge investment in DeFi, just 4.6 million subscribers worldwide (S. Team, 2021). The industry has huge growth potential. Note that blockchain technology has evolved since Bitcoin. The first generation was Bitcoin, the second was smart contracts, and the third is Ethereum, with many additional companies like Solana and Fantom joining. These new blockchain solutions aim to overcome the scaling issue, which restricts transactions per second. Third-generation blockchains can process 100,000 transactions per second, compared to Ethereum's 200 (Kaur & Gandhi, 2020). Efficiency and scalability will boost DeFi expansion.

Blockchain data is immutable, making it a crucial characteristic. This is a double-edged sword, yet it allows for transaction verification and data security. Transaction histories cannot be removed, and everyone may access an address's history (Tasca & Tessone, 2019). Furthermore, the blockchain ecosystem and DeFi space have an uncertain future. It's impossible to forecast which blockchain brands will succeed. The blockchain sector is young, and its winner is unknown. Like investing in Google or other digital businesses in their early days, investing in the appropriate blockchain now can yield big benefits in the future.

## **The Rise of Blockchain Business: Revolutionizing E-commerce Transactions**

Blockchain has revolutionized business and web3. Amazon, eBay, and Alibaba are replaced by blockchain businesses. Traditional digital businesses utilize PayPal, Visa, or Mastercard to acquire things from a marketplace. The marketplace connects sellers with a centralized payment mechanism. Blockchain eliminates this. Smart contracts let customers buy products directly without intermediaries using blockchain technology (Ali et al., 2021).

Buyers and sellers use smart contracts to buy and sell items in blockchain business. The oracle sets the item's price using the smart contract. The smart contract verifies delivery and pays the seller. Transactions are more safe and transparent without centralized platforms (Cong & He, 2018).

The blockchain owns data, not a third party like Amazon or Google. Blockchain transactions are open and visible to all participants. Buyers can track their orders on the blockchain. This tool improves openness and accountability, boosting consumer and seller confidence (Hu et al., 2021).

Blockchain businesses are less vulnerable to data breaches because they deal less with centralized platforms. The blockchain protects data against tampering. Smart contracts also build confidence because purchasers don't pay until the item is delivered, validated, and approved (Taylor et al., 2020).

The blockchain business brings a secure, transparent, and trustless method to e-commerce. Smart contracts enable secure, transparent, and efficient peer-to-peer transactions by eliminating intermediaries. The blockchain secures data and smart contracts increase buyer-seller confidence, making it suitable for e-commerce's

## **DeFi and Smart Contracts: Revolutionizing the Future of Finance**

Smart contracts are being used in gaming, real estate, land registration, cinema, music, insurance, and fashion. Smart contracts have changed business with secure and transparent transactions. Decentralized finance (DeFi) is based on smart contracts and blockchain technology. DeFi eliminates intermediaries and central bodies that govern transactions (Foundation, 2020).

Traditional finance intermediaries manage money, transactions, and data. DeFi allows peer-to-peer transactions without intermediaries or central agencies. In standard e-commerce transactions, a buyer interacts with a financial payment system like PayPal,

Visa, or Mastercard, then the marketplace, which keeps buyer and vendor data. The platform records DeFi transactions, but users hold the money (Sandner, 2021).

DeFi transactions are public and money is stored on a blockchain. No KYC means no government regulation of transactions. DeFi users must be careful because there is no government protection (Abdulhakeem & Hu, 2021).

Crypto assets have gained increasing acceptance in various countries, including El Salvador (Hernandez, 2021), where bitcoin is now accepted as a means of payment. This acceptance has made it possible for individuals to pay with their crypto assets, thereby eliminating the need for a crypto exchange. The business opportunities that arise from the adoption of crypto assets are decentralized finance (DeFi) products.

Decentralized exchange is the first DeFi product, where buyers and sellers interact directly, and the liquidity providers, who are users like us, provide liquidity. Liquidity providers are individuals who offer liquidity in the decentralized exchange to enable smooth transactions. This is different from traditional finance, where financial institutions provide liquidity (Aigner & Dhaliwal, 2021).

The business opportunities in decentralized exchange include liquidity provider, which is similar to a money changer selling foreign currency. This is profitable because of the difference in exchange rates, and the fact that liquidity provider in DeFi products offer a higher return rate than traditional finance. For example, providing liquidity for USDC and FTM Fantom in the SpookySwap decentralized exchange can yield approximately 8.14% returns (Erie, 2021).

However, the return rate is not fixed and can fluctuate depending on the number of trades that take place on the exchange. Liquidity providers are rewarded with the native token of the decentralized exchange, such as the Boo crypto asset in SpookySwap.

The transparency of the DeFi products, particularly the decentralized exchange, is a significant advantage because it enables users to see which products have the most liquidity. For example, USDC and Fantom token have the most liquidity on the SpookySwap decentralized exchange.

The blockchain Fantom is developing and the next generation of DeFi products is emerging. The new type of decentralized exchange enables liquidity providers to provide liquidity for four crypto assets in one package: USDC, Fantom, Bitcoin, and

Ethereum. The rebalancing of these assets has an annual return rate with fees shared among the pool holders.

This new development offers new business opportunities for individuals of all ages. However, it is important to ensure that you have enough crypto assets to pay the gas fee, which is the fee per transaction on the Fantom network.

Another interesting aspect of DeFi products is the stablecoin yield aggregator (Cousaert et al., 2021). This product allows for stablecoin packets in one product, such as the Australian dollar, the Euro, the Japanese yen, and the US dollar. The value of each stablecoin remains constant, enabling users to maintain their initial investment. This product offers an annual return rate of approximately 9.64%, which is subject to fluctuations in the platform (Y. Team, 2021).

It is important to note that these return rates are not fixed and may vary based on the trade fluctuation and volume on the platform. Nonetheless, DeFi products are creating new business opportunities for individuals to earn significant returns with minimal investment. The emergence of next-generation DeFi products is a promising development for the future of finance (Digital, 2016).

Blockchain technology enables decentralized finance (DeFi) transactions without intermediaries. The DeFi lending protocol money market is intriguing. Traditional finance requires collateral and a repayment deadline. As long as the collateral has value and the loan does not surpass the liquidation barrier, the DeFi ecosystem allows unlimited loan repayment.

The decentralized financial money market is intriguing because borrowers can repay their loans without a deadline. If they have the money, the borrower can return the loan. Unlike traditional finance, there is no loan repayment deadline. The borrower borrows from the lender's liquidity in the protocol smart contract. Keepers uphold protocol and pay gas expenses.

DeFi relies on the immutable protocol smart contract. Only a DAO that designed the smart contract to be amended can change the protocol. Keepers protect the procedure from danger. DeFi allows crypto asset lending and borrowing with the Compound Protocol. Compound token (COMP) holders receive a percentage of borrower interest and give liquidity to the protocol. Like traditional financing, coin holders and lenders share interest (Castro-Iragorri et al., 2021).

To join the DeFi ecosystem, one must buy tokens on a DEX or CX (CEX). Token holders can profit from borrower interest. The dividend must be claimed on DeFi.

### **Exploring Innovative DeFi Protocols - Lending, Real Estate and More**

DeFi is a revolutionary alternative to traditional finance. The lending protocol money market, which lets borrowers repay loans without a deadline, is one of the most intriguing parts of the DeFi ecosystem. The Compound Protocol, a DeFi network that lends and borrows crypto assets, is stable due to the protocol smart contract and keepers. The DeFi ecosystem requires token purchases in a DEX or CEX and dividend claims on the platform. Compound is the second-largest decentralized lending protocol on Ethereum. The largest is Aave, which has over \$22 billion in total value locked and has not experienced any accidents or hacks(Bartoletti et al., 2021).

The Compound protocol displays important metrics such as the supply APY, borrow APY, and borrow APY interest. The supply APY represents the interest one can earn by supplying crypto assets to the protocol. The borrow APY interest is the interest rate that borrowers need to pay to borrow stable coins such as DAI. However, the interest rate is not fixed and varies according to the liquidity available in the protocol. If the liquidity is low, the APY interest rate will be high, and vice versa.

The smart contract powering the protocol automatically adjusts the interest rates to match the liquidity and consumer behavior, making it transparent and reliable. The next generation of lending protocols is the compliant lending protocol, which allows borrowers to put up collateral to borrow money with zero interest. This means that if you love a particular crypto asset like Bitcoin or Ethereum and need money, you can put it up as collateral and borrow money against it. If you have funds, you can pay back the loan (Gudgeon et al., 2020).

Lending protocols provide liquidity for blockchain power users who want maximum exposure to the platform. For instance, one could put up one Bitcoin as collateral and borrow money against it, then buy more Bitcoin, put it up as collateral, and borrow again. This process can be repeated until the limit of the liquidity threshold is reached. If the crypto asset appreciates in value, the exposure will be higher than before.

In conclusion, lending protocols provide a service that offers liquidity to power users of the blockchain. The decentralized nature of the protocols provides transparency



and flexibility, allowing borrowers to put up collateral to borrow money with zero interest. The APY interest rate is not fixed and is adjusted automatically by the smart contract to match liquidity and consumer behavior. The compliant landing protocol is an innovative development in this field that offers an array of utilities for borrowers.

Other platform that interesting is Tokenized Real Estate Asset, a groundbreaking DeFi platform, lets users buy US real estate with tokens. The quantity of tokens owned determines the owner's part of the property's rental income. This platform is not decentralized, but it uses a public blockchain, a law firm, and the government, making it a safe investment (Mohamed, 2021).

The platform's dashboard lets users see the property's real-world location. Dubai and other nations may soon embrace this platform, but it's only available in the US.

As a new technology, this platform offers business opportunities to foreigners. This platform lets users rent their home to international tenants without KYC or other legal hassles. The contract only needs the wallet address, not the owner's name or address, making it easier.

The platform poses distinct legal issues because the property is registered under a corporate company rather than the owner's name, and further agreements link the property to the owner's wallet address. The wallet address owns property tokens, not the individual.

Finally, DeFi's Tokenized Real Estate Asset platform is exciting. Investors can buy tokens to own US property and buildings and split the rental income. This platform is not decentralized, but it offers a safe investment and a new business opportunity for foreign property owners who want to rent to international tenants. To maximize investor returns, this platform must manage legal risks.

### **Mitigating Risks in Cryptocurrency Investment**

Lastly, we discuss about cryptocurrency investment risk mitigation. Your information could be used to steal your coins from your wallet. Thus, watch your wallet and earnings. Do not submit your phrase or private key to anyone, including the platform or developer, because they do not need any additional process to provide you access.

Another point is, do research before investing. The cryptocurrency market is like the wild west, with no guarantees of aid. Unless you're a "maxis" or a true believer who knows the technology and people behind it, don't spend your life savings in crypto.

No one can master crypto overnight. This new technique relies on deep learning, not gambling. Instead of betting your life savings, understand the technology. Only use an audited platform. The platform usually audited by audit company specialize in crypto like CertiK, Zeppelin, Peckshield, etc (Gu, 2020). Therefore, ask the platform developer if the platform is audited, or trust the investor or team behind it, as most platforms are invested in by well-known venture capitalists like Pantera or Ace.

Because there is no police or government here, do your research before investing in crypto. You're alone, therefore determination is crucial. Keep learning and you'll succeed at crypto. Learn or lose in crypto. Due to ignorance, crypto laws are silly, and \$90 billion has been lost since 2016 (Defillama, 2022). Some investors bought on the wrong platform and lost their money.

Cryptocurrencies can do several things, like banks can demand your money back. You must also be mindful of crypto dangers. Thus, invest in audited platforms and research before investing. Understand the dangers and keep learning. Then you can profit in crypto.

## **Conclusion**

DeFi, or decentralized finance, is an exciting field with the potential for high returns on investment. However, investors must approach this industry with caution and understand the potential risks involved. Investing in the wrong platform can lead to significant losses, and returns are not fixed, with potential for the depreciation of crypto assets.

To maximize rewards while mitigating risks, investors must educate themselves on the field by reading papers on tokenized assets and tokenomics. It's also important to note that DeFi is very different from traditional finance and is not regulated by the government. Investors should be independent and do their own research before investing in DeFi. By approaching this industry with caution and mitigating risks, investors can achieve high returns with minimal risks.

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