What is Metaverse?

By Muhammad Bilal

Basic concept

- Persistent, online, 3D universe that combines multiple different virtual spaces.
- Video games currently provide the closest metaverse experience.
- Cryptocurrencies allow for creating a digital economy.
- Metaverse-like applications already exist and provide people with liveable incomes.
- When we look to the future, big tech giants are trying to lead the way

Definition of Metaverse

- The metaverse is a concept of an online, 3D, virtual space connecting users in all aspects of their lives. It would connect multiple platforms, similar to the internet containing different websites accessible through a single browser.
- The concept was developed in the science-fiction novel Snow Crash by Neal Stephenson.
- The metaverse will be driven by augmented reality, with each user controlling a character or avatar.

Why are video games linked to the metaverse?

Because of the emphasis on 3D virtual reality, video games offer the closest metaverse experience currently. This point isn't just because they are 3D, though. Video games now offer services and features that cross over into other aspects of our lives. The video game Roblox even hosts virtual events like concerts and meetups. Players don't just play the game anymore; they also use it for other activities and parts of their lives in "cyberspace". For example, in the multiplayer game Fortnite, 12.3 million players took part in Travis Scott's virtual in-game music tour.

Crypto fit into the metaverse?

- Crypto can offer the other key parts required, such as digital proof of ownership, transfer of value, governance, and accessibility.
- To feel safe transferring these items and money around the metaverse.
- Blockchain provides a decentralized and transparent way of dealing with the topics.

The key aspects of blockchain suited to the metaverse are

- Digital proof of ownership
- Digital collectability
- Transfer of value
- Governance
- Accessibility
- Interoperability

Metaverse jobs

- many people already work at home, in the metaverse, you will be able to enter a 3D office and interact with your colleagues' avatars. Your job may also be metaverse related and provide you with income directly usable in the metaverse. In fact, these kinds of jobs already exist in a similar form.
- GameFy and play-to-earn models now provide steady income streams for people worldwide. These online jobs are great candidates for metaverse implementation in the future, as they show that people are willing to spend their time living and earning in virtual worlds. Play-to-earn games like Axie Infinity and Gods Unchained don't even have 3D worlds or avatars. However, it's the principle that they could be part of the metaverse as a way to earn money entirely in the online world.

Metaverse examples

- SecondLive
- Axie Infinity
- Decentraland

Future of the metaverse

- Mark Zuckerberg has explicitly mentioned his plans to use a metaverse project to support remote work and improve financial opportunities for people in developing countries.
- Other large tech companies are also targeting the creation of a metaverse, including Microsoft, Apple, and Google.
- When it comes to a crypto-powered metaverse, further integration between NFT marketplaces and 3D virtual universes seems like the next step.

Closing thoughts

While a single, united metaverse is likely a long way off, we already can see developments that may lead to its creation. It looks to be yet another sci-fi use case for blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. If we will ever really reach the point of a metaverse is unsure. But in the meantime, we can already experience metaverse-like projects and continue to integrate blockchain more into our daily lives.