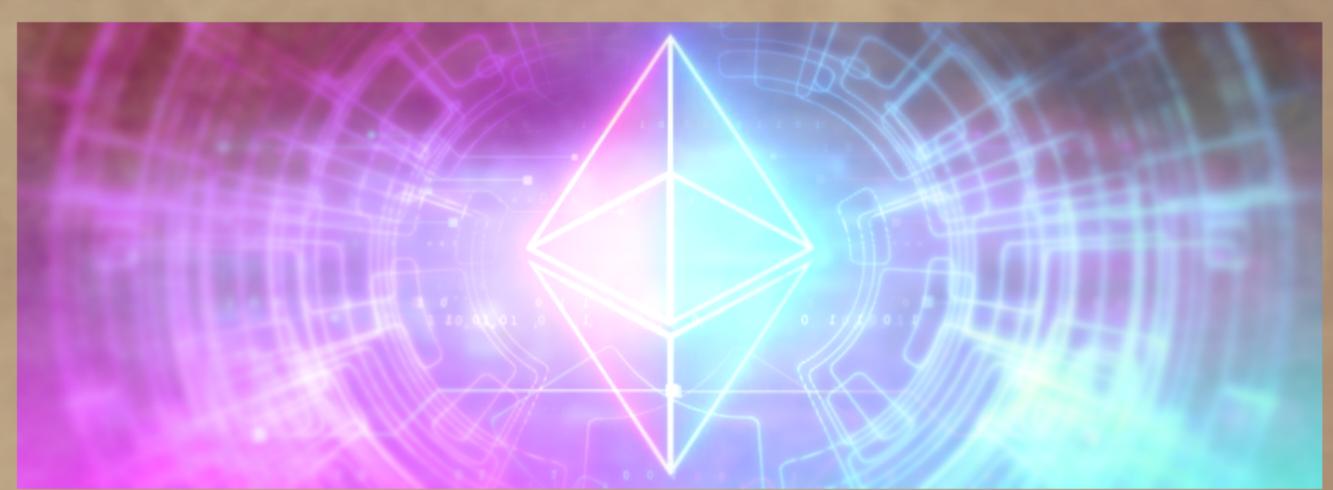
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THEMAPPEMING



On the latest Ethereum Developer call, a tentative date Merge: Sept 19, 2022. Although delays still may occur, testnet rehearsals have been successful, with the Sepolia merge completed on July 6. Twitter user superphiz.eth tweeted the details while retaining a little of the uncertainty that has surrounded the process: "This merge timeline isn't final, but it's extremely exciting to see it coming together. Please regard this as a planning timeline and look out for official announcements!"

According to the Ethereum.org webpage, "The Merge represents the joining of the existing execution layer of Ethereum (the Mainnet we use today) with its new proof-of-stake consensus layer, the Beacon Chain. It eliminates the need for energy-intensive mining and instead secures the network using staked ETH."

means that the Ethereum block validation responsibility will fall has been agreed upon for the on node operators who stake ETH instead of those solving the proof-of-work algorithm. Although running a full validator node takes 32 ETH, there are services such as Rocket Pool and Lido which allow users to participate in securing the network with lesser amounts of ETH by collectivizing deposits.

> It's a common misconception that running a validator node is the only way to participate in securing the Ethereum network. In fact, even before the change in consensus mechanism, it has been possible to run a nonblock-producing node from a fairly typical home computer. While the Merge will radically change the block production method, aspects such wallet balances, block history, gas fees, and transaction speeds will remain the same, just as though the Merge never happened.

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