MetaMask is a popular cryptocurrency wallet and gateway to blockchain-based applications. It allows users to interact with the Ethereum blockchain (and other compatible blockchains) through a browser extension or mobile app. MetaMask enables users to manage their Ethereum-based assets (such as Ether and ERC-20 tokens), securely store private keys, and interact with decentralized applications (dApps) directly from their browser or mobile device.

How MetaMask is used:

- **Store crypto**: Users can send and receive cryptocurrency, including Ether and ERC-20 tokens.

- **Connect to DeFi**: MetaMask allows users to easily interact with decentralized finance (DeFi) protocols, lending, and borrowing platforms.

- **Use NFTs**: Users can connect their MetaMask wallet to NFT platforms, buy, sell, or manage NFTs.

- **Participate in DAOs**: MetaMask allows users to participate in decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) and vote on proposals.

In MetaMask, when you send Ether (ETH) or interact with a smart contract (for example, performing a transaction on a decentralized application or dApp), **transaction fees** are involved. These fees are commonly known as **gas fees**. Here's how they work:

Gas fees are paid to miners (or validators in proof-of-stake systems) on the Ethereum network to process and validate transactions or smart contract interactions. These fees compensate them for the computational work required to include the transaction in a block.

In Ethereum, the cost of a transaction is measured in **gas**, and the price of gas is denoted in **Gwei**, which is a smaller unit of Ether (ETH).

- **1 Gwei = 0.000000001 ETH**.

The MetaMask extension allows you to send and spend your digital assets. Make payments to anyone, anywhere. Customize your wallet with community-built Snaps. Log into websites securely to trade assets, lend, borrow, play games, publish content, buy rare digital art, and so much more.