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VR GAMER'S GUIDE TO NFTS

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INTRODUCTION: VIRTUAL REALITY AND THE METAVERSE

VIRTUAL REALITY

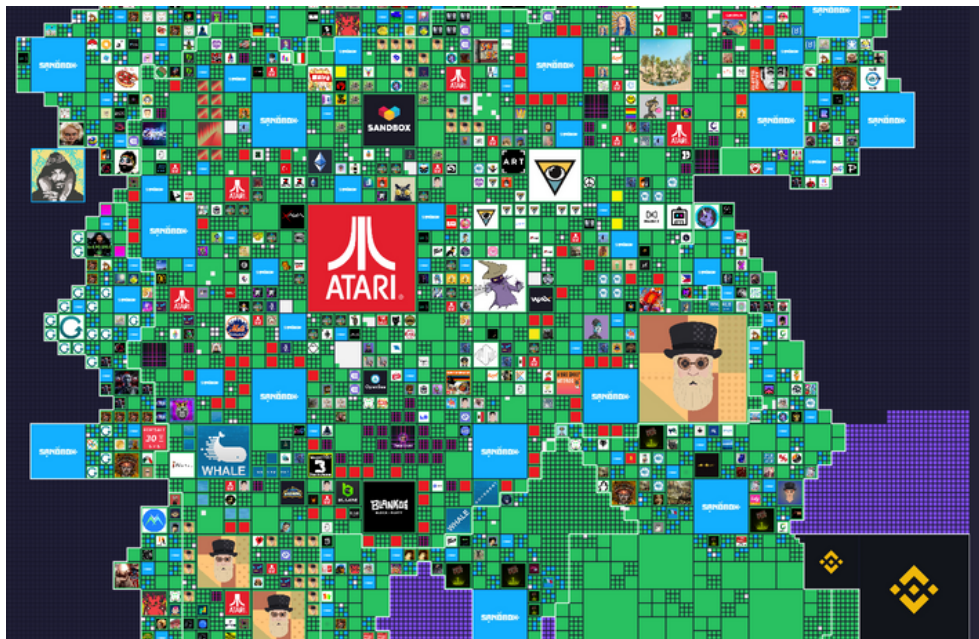
Virtual reality (VR) is an immersive technology that bridges the gap between physical human movements and digital interactions. Unlike traditional console and handheld gaming, VR gives you, the player, the ability to control your virtual environment and experience with real motor movements. Virtual reality experiences utilize a 360 degree-view headset that gives users a panoramic view along with a fully immersive and realistic experience. VR leaders include Microsoft, Google, and VAIL VR.



Source: VAIL VR

THE METAVERSE

The Metaverse is the digital universe. "The metaverse" is used to describe what the future of the internet and our personal interactions will look like in a virtual world. Instead of chatting, gaming, and interacting with friends or the community in chat rooms or groupchats, the metaverse is the digital realm where internet users' avatars can meet up in a virtual, multi-dimensional space as people do in the real world. Some leading metaverse projects include Decentraland and Sandbox. See a map of Sandbox below.



Source: sandbox.game

HOW ARE VIRTUAL REALITY AND METAVERSES RELATED?

The metaverse is most prominently displayed in Steven Spielberg's film, *Ready Player One*, where users wear advanced virtual reality suits and headsets to allow one to interact with the virtual world in any way they like. The future of VR is likely to include a similarly as immersive and realistic experience.

Imagine a digital world where instead of pulling out your phone to listen to your favorite song, you could virtually walk inside a digitally-attended stadium and watch a live performance from Guns and Roses despite being physically located in your living room. Virtual experiences can take place without you leaving your home, all while your Avatar has the ability to explore any part of the digital universe. With a virtual reality metaverse, the possibilities are endless.

HOW IS VR THE NATURAL EVOLUTION OF GAMING?

The gaming industry as a whole has seen major improvements over the years. From simple games such as *Pong* with a single joystick on the Atari CSV, to playing first-person-shooter and strategic games like *Call of Duty* on an advanced graphics processor on the Play Station 5 with access to online gameplay, gaming has evolved immensely since its inception in the 1970's. One thing has stayed fairly constant throughout game development, however: Players interact with the game from either a handheld console or a controller to command the actions their characters perform on a screen. Modern gaming is adapting so rapidly that players are wanting a more immersive experience within these games instead of solely engaging from the outside. Virtual reality has responded to these demands, and allows gamers to fully immerse themselves into gaming universes. Instead of pressing a button to pick up an in-game weapon, virtual reality allows players to actually reach down to pick up a digital weapon with their hands and swing that weapon in a game. VR gaming is revolutionizing the way the world interacts in the digital realm as digital experiences become more prominent in 21st century human routines.



HOW IS THE METAVERSE CONNECTED WITH THE CRYPTO ECOSYSTEM?

The metaverse and the crypto ecosystem are innately connected through the ways in which they apply cutting edge technology to redefine the future of interaction. In the current stages of metaverse development, leading metaverse projects are built by crypto companies across various blockchains. Leading metaverses are built on blockchains because of blockchain's abilities to process, store, connect, and distribute data on a global scale in an instant, the most efficient approach to data transfer ever invented. For the metaverse to reach a global audience, the technology that it is founded upon must be scalable enough to withstand and process the massive amounts of data that need to be exchanged simultaneously for it to function, and blockchains are the most clear solution.

Blockchain will not only be the foundation of the metaverse, but can serve as a medium of exchange inside the metaverse. The metaverse is primed to represent one of the first global models for cryptocurrency use cases, where players can pay for in-game transactions using cryptocurrencies and play with in-game, blockchain-based assets such as NFTs.

In the metaverse, NFTs can be purchased with cryptocurrencies as the medium of exchange. The NFTs that are purchased can then be used for interaction in games in the form of character skins, plots of land, weapons, and even pets, such as the VAILIENS in the VAIL VR metaverse.



DEFINITION: NFT

An NFT, or non-fungible token, is a unique digital asset whose data is stored on a blockchain. NFT ownership is digitally verified by the blockchain to protect authenticity of the asset.



Right: VAILIEN pet in VAIL VR
Source: VAIL VR

NFTS: INTEROPERABILITY ACROSS VIRTUAL REALITY METAVERSES

We are yet to truly experience the full capabilities of the metaverse and what movies like *Ready Player One* have shown us may soon be possible. As the metaverse develops, many envision it will have full integration and interoperability with blockchains and VR in order to facilitate a fully immersive digital experience. NFTs and in-game transactions of many video game experiences are currently supported by blockchain technology and will soon allow for cross-game interoperability of NFTs. Blockchain integration will unlock a new horizon for VR metaverses, adding real-time, globally verifiable data storage and exchange capabilities to the metaverse and priming the digital realm for universal application and utility.



Source: Pinterest

With a blockchain-based metaverse, cross-game compatible NFTs are primed to become a quintessential feature within the digital realm. Many of these NFTs are anticipated to be functional and dynamic, with some expected to use artificial intelligence to complete tasks and interact on behalf of their respective owners. With blockchain as its core, the metaverse will become a fully interactive place that expands upon the possibilities and limitations of the real world.

Quantum computers are unlocking never-before-seen computing capabilities that are redefining the bounds of our internet and the possibilities of globalization. With the ethical harnessing of quantum powers, a new era of innovation will surge across the internet, artificial intelligence, blockchains, and the metaverse, delivering a new normal that is defined by unstoppable technological evolution and societal advancement. Functional NFTs may very well be at the core of society's new normal.

NFTs are already becoming the next standard for media delivery and exchange as media companies and artists recognize the blockchain as the most efficient and secure way to deliver movies, songs, and digital art to authenticate and verify personal ownership of these assets. With the emerging prominence of Web 3.0 and smart contracts, NFTs are on their way to becoming the standard for asset ownership and authenticity verification via the blockchain. The crypto community is eager to use the metaverse to showcase the true utility of NFTs to the world.

BEYOND THE METAVERSE

NFTs can replace every single piece of plastic identification or payment card in our wallets. We all probably have had physical wallets loaded with IDs, payment cards and cash. Every physical card or asset carried on us can be minted as an NFT - and we can finally relieve ourselves of some of that now unnecessary pocket weight.

DEFINITION: MINTING NFTs

Minting is the process of creating an NFT and digitally storing and verifying it on a blockchain.

From an ecological perspective, NFTs can replace many products that currently use natural resources - paper and plastic being the most evident - as NFTs can replace every collectable card and physical storage necessary for asset distribution or longtime storage.

With the future of the metaverse heading toward interconnectivity of the digital realm, there is no better method for information and asset storage and distribution than NFTs. NFTs are primed to be at the forefront of every physical and digital asset or identification.



Source: VAIL VR

THE FUTURE OF VIRTUAL REALITY, METAVERSE, AND NFTS

The future of Virtual Reality lies in the metaverse and the crypto ecosystem. Led by VR and Metaverse leaders such as VAIL VR, Google and Microsoft, VR leaders are pushing the bounds of innovation to make the metaverse the most immersive experience for users. As functionality for interoperable metaverses and digital assets develops, the metaverse is eager to become the first model for real world, scalable and fully-functional applications of virtual reality and digital asset integration.