

Meta's Quest VR gear to let people 'hang out' in metaverse

June 11 2022



Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg sees the future of the internet as people working, playing and exploring in life-like virtual worlds using ever slimmer and more powerful headsets.

Meta on Friday said that it is adding the ability to easily socialize in virtual reality with an update to its Quest 2 headsets in another step

toward the metaverse.

The tweak heading for the latest model Quest from Meta-owned Oculus will let wearers hop into virtual settings with friends, chief Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on his Facebook page.

"I'm here to announce the ability to, as soon as you put on your Quest 2 headset, to have people hang out with you in a [social environment](#)," Zuckerberg said in a video.

The software update will open a door to Horizon World [virtual reality platform](#) that Facebook-parent Meta opened to the public in North America at the end of last year.

Meta is also working on letting people create their own virtual worlds where they host gatherings of avatars, Zuckerberg said.

Horizon Worlds is far from a fully realized metaverse, a future internet where online experiences like chatting to a friend would eventually feel face-to-face thanks to VR headsets.

But the platform does let people gather online with friends or others, play games and immerse themselves in 360-degree videos.

Facebook parent Meta earlier this year instituted a minimum distance between users' avatars in its virtual reality Horizon network after reports of harassment, one of the thorny issues for its metaverse vision.

The "personal boundary" function in the immersive platform puts a ring of space around users' digital proxies.

Facebook renamed its [parent company](#) to Meta in October to emphasize its aim to shift from scandal-prone social media platform to its virtual

reality vision for its future.

The firm's metaverse push also includes tools for remote working, which boomed during the pandemic.

Facebook bought [virtual reality](#) headset maker Oculus in 2014.

The technology has taken off in the gaming industry, and become popular among players of Fortnite and Roblox.

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Citation: Meta's Quest VR gear to let people 'hang out' in metaverse (2022, June 11) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2022-06-meta-quest-vr-gear-people.html>

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