

## A VR Kit from Microsoft? May be budget-worthy contender

September 28 2015, by Nancy Owano

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It's interesting what a simple cardboard box with a pair of lenses can do in drawing interest from techie sites worldwide. But then again we are in a VR-conscious marketplace and have already seen the news over Google Cardboard.

Now a VR Kit from Microsoft is being talked up as a possible

competitor to Google's Cardboard. Sounds like Cardboard: "Microsoft is trying to attract developers to an upcoming hackathon that will use the company's VR-Kits," reported *Thurrott* on Sunday. The report said the kit works by inserting a Lumia into a cardboard [box](#) and then the user holds it to the face. Microsoft VR Kit can, like Cardboard, turn a phone into a VR [experience](#).

The Microsoft flavor was spotted on a site to promote a hackathon in Russia, an event to take place on October 17. Jared Newman of *PC World* said that "Participants will get their own cardboard phone holder, and will compete to win prizes for the best VR game, education app, and corporate app. A Kinect scanner will allow people to bring 3D [models](#) of themselves into the virtual world."

Brad Linder in *Liliputing* reminded anyone who is not yet familiar with Cardboard: This is "a project that can turn just about any recent iPhone or Android phone into a virtual reality [device](#). Just follow Google's instructions for assembling a VR headset from a piece of cardboard and insert your phone to use it as the brains and screen of the system... or buy a pre-made kit."

While it sounds a lot like Cardboard, Linder poked at what could be seen about it and came up with how it might differ:

"It's interesting to note that while the back of Google's Cardboard design covers up the entire smartphone, the Microsoft VR Kit seems to have a cut-out for the camera, suggesting that the company envisions VR apps that can take advantage of the camera to snap photos, videos, or perhaps create augmented-reality situations where virtual objects are overlaid on real-world environments captured with a smartphone camera."

Still, all this talk about comparisons between Google Cardboard and this spotted promotion remains buzz.

*WinBeta* said on Monday that "no word has emerged on Microsoft's plans for this VR [platform](#) of what its implications would be for the Windows 10 Mobile."

Katie Collins in *CNET* similarly said on Monday that "It's not yet clear what [product](#) plans if any the company has for its own [cardboard](#) kit, though. Microsoft didn't immediately respond to a request for comment."

Shane McGlaun of *SlashGear* said it was also not yet clear if the VR Kit will hold devices other than Lumia [smartphones](#).

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