

This group of tech firms just signed up to a safer metaverse | MIT Technology Review

By Tanya Basu

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The internet can feel like a bottomless pit of the worst aspects of humanity. So far, there's little indication that the metaverse—an envisioned virtual digital world where we work, play, and live—will be much better. [As I reported last month](#), a beta tester in Meta's virtual social platform, Horizon Worlds, has already complained of being groped.

Tiffany Xingyu Wang feels she has a solution. In August 2020—more than a year before Facebook announced it would change its name to Meta and shift its focus from its flagship social media platform to plans for its own metaverse—Wang launched the nonprofit [Oasis Consortium](#), a group of game firms and online companies that envisions “an ethical internet where future generations trust they can interact, co-create, and exist free from online hate and toxicity.”

How? Wang thinks that Oasis can ensure a safer, better metaverse by helping tech companies self-regulate.

Earlier this month, Oasis released its [User Safety Standards](#), a set of guidelines that include hiring a trust and safety officer, employing content moderation, and integrating the latest research in fighting toxicity. Companies that join the consortium pledge to work toward these goals.

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