

Securing the Metaverse in the UK

Presentation to First ITU Forum on Embracing the Metaverse

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Outline of presentation

- UK and the Metaverse
- Steps taken so far
- Security of networks
- Building confidence

UK and the Metaverse

- The metaverse offers new and exciting opportunities for innovation and exploitation
- The UK has sound research and innovation bases
- UK to exploit potential of metaverse platforms for benefit of industry and consumers
- The metaverse in the research phase – so is UK regulatory policy
- One key principle - the metaverse to develop organically, be decentralised and be based on a bottom-up approach with open standards.

Steps taken so far

- Two digital-specific UK Agencies:
 - Digital Catapult – accelerating cooperation and innovation in adoption of advanced digital technologies
 - Digital Regulatory Cooperation Forum – coordinating cooperation amongst regulators on online regulatory matters
- Mid 2022, Digital Catapult workshop on metaverse regulatory issues
- Late 2022, Intra-government consultation on legislative/ regulatory environment
- 2023 + UK Government starting analysis on the development of the metaverse(s) with regard to the legislative/ regulatory environment.

Security of Networks and Technology

- Network security
- Application security
- [Application security](#)
- Operational security
- Disaster recovery
- Identity management
- Crimes in virtual world

Building of Confidence

- Collection and retention of PII
- Content moderation (on-line harm)
- Ethics
- Human Rights
- consumer protection