

Meta's Zuckerberg shakes off Apple Vision Pro: report

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Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg is reported to have told employees that Quest virtual reality gear is meant to be affordable and social, which appears to be a different approach than Apple is taking with its coming \$3,499 Vision Pro 'spacial reality display'

Meta chief Mark Zuckerberg on Thursday told employees that while

Apple's mixed reality gear may be nice, it is not his vision of the future, according to US media reports.

Zuckerberg's comments came during the first all-hands gathering at its Silicon Valley campus since the pandemic, and just days after Apple unveiled Vision Pro mixed reality headsets.

"I mean, that could be the vision of the future of computing, but like, it's not the one that I want," Zuckerberg reportedly said while assessing what he has seen of Apple Vision Pro.

"There's a real philosophical difference in terms of how we're approaching this."

Meta makes Quest virtual reality headsets and has invested heavily in Zuckerberg's belief that internet life will one day play out in virtual worlds referred to as the metaverse.

"Our vision for the metaverse and presence is fundamentally social," Zuckerberg said, according to a transcript of remarks posted by tech news website The Verge.

"By contrast, every demo that (Apple) showed was a person sitting on a couch by themselves."

Meta was so confident it could create the metaverse—an idea of a 3D immersive internet—that it changed its name from Facebook in 2021 and began funneling billions into the project.

But the idea has been hampered by botched launches, dodgy graphics, no clear path to profitability and a general feeling that few people know what it is.

Meta's Reality Labs, the division helming its metaverse effort, has lost \$4 billion so far and Zuckerberg has been increasingly talking up artificial intelligence rather than the metaverse.



A new Apple Vision Pro mixed reality headset shown off by chief executive Tim Cook is so packed with technology that it plugs into a portable battery for power.

Zuckerberg was quoted by CNBC as saying at the all-hands gathering that Meta planned to build generative artificial intelligence into "every single one" of its products.

Apple this week unveiled a sleek Vision Pro "spatial reality display"

packed with technology and priced at \$3,499.

Vision Pro is to be available early next year.

It allows users to communicate, work, watch movies, listen to music—and even choose whether to be immersed or to keep an eye on the outside world.

Meanwhile, a new-generation Quest 3 with improved performance and slimmed design will be available later this year at a starting price of \$500.

Zuckerberg described the coming model as Meta's "most powerful headset yet" and promised it would provide the best wireless way to experience mixed and virtual reality.

The starting price of Quest 2 headsets currently available was cut to \$300.

Meta's Quest headset has failed to break out from specialist users and gamers.

"We innovate to make sure that our products are as accessible and affordable to everyone as possible," Zuckerberg was reported to tell employees.

"And we have sold tens of millions of Quests."

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