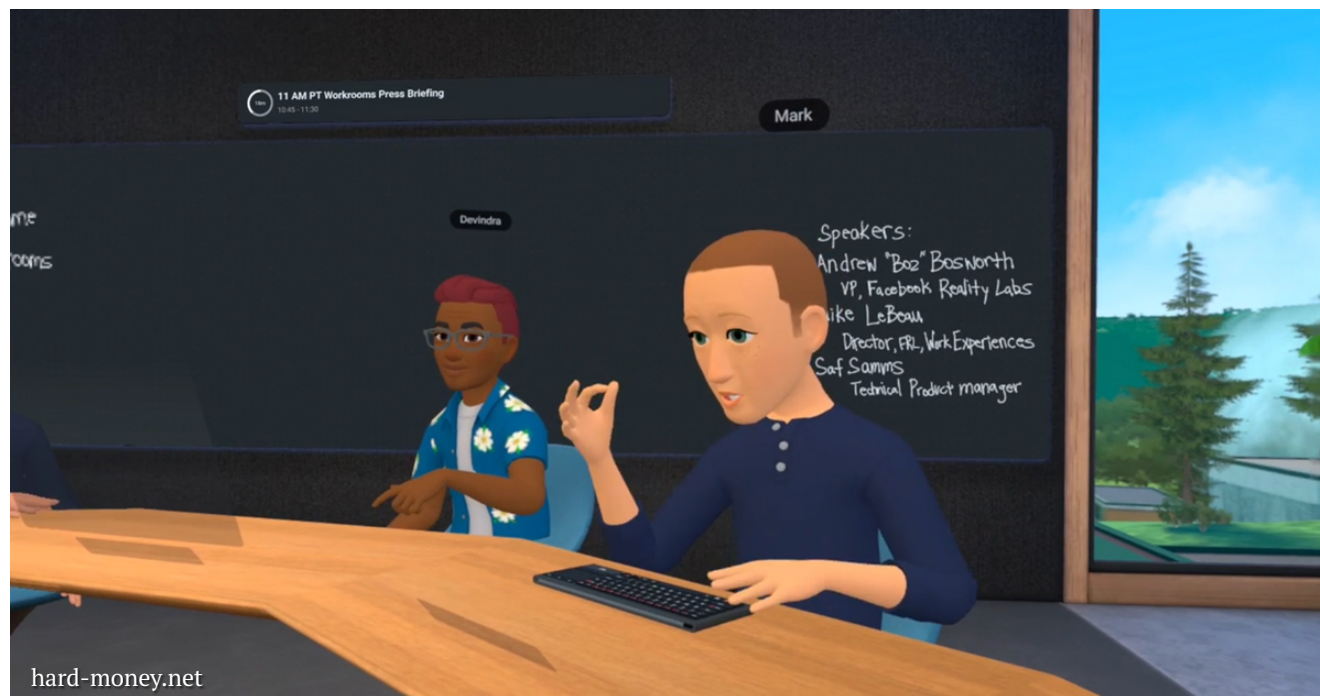


NEWS

Zuckerberg's Digital Workplace Avatar Fails to Capture Likeness, Too Human-like

BY CHRISTOPHER ROMANO ON AUGUST 19, 2021



Social Media and Tech Giant Facebook unveiled its newest development in the global digital community — Horizon Workrooms. Currently in beta, the VR workspace will satisfy working America's burning desire to be represented as legless cartoons in remote meetings. However, the project is off to a shaky start with prominent design failures being noticed in the avatar of the company's own Founder and CEO. The biggest failure? The avatar appears human-like.

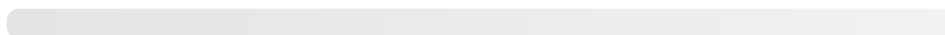
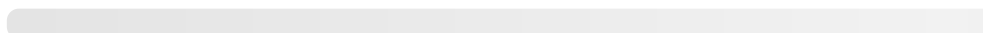
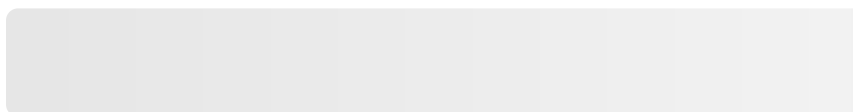
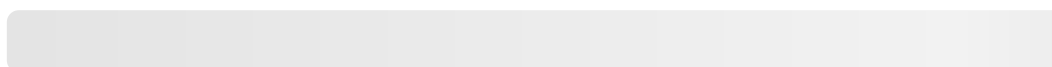
3-D Modeling experts broke down the flaws: An engaged facial expression occupies a region of the avatar's head that should display an expression best described as 'scanning.' The avatar's eyes exude alertness and consciousness in the stead of Zuckerberg's actual eye-type: translucent portals into a boundless vacancy of spirit. The detail of the head shape is overdone – 32 polygons were used to create it when Zuckerberg's actual head is best represented with just 4.

Facebook is also playing with the idea of using AI to model people's mental and behavioral processes, allowing the avatars to operate autonomously. After 6 years of building an AI of

Zuckerberg's personality, they think they've nailed it, and they've sent us a copy to see for ourselves. We tried downloading it, but our computer returned a warning message "ERROR: Calculator App Already Installed."

It seems Facebook still has a few kinks to work out in their code, but all in all, the roadmap to the future they provided shows great promise. The days when remote meetings stop being somewhat tiresome affairs and start being manic excursions into a postmodern hyperreality are ahead of us – and for that, there is only one man* to thank; CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

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