

No NFTs In Minecraft, Mojang Says

The update starts with a quick rundown of the NFTs, as well as an explanation of their extreme volatility, before setting out the current policies for Minecraft servers. The main goal of these policies, Mojang said, is "to ensure that Minecraft remains a community in which everyone can access the same content." NFTs however, are designed to "create models of exclusion and scarcity," which is clearly in contradiction to this principle. And so, they're out.

"To ensure that Minecraft players enjoy a safe and inclusive experience, blockchain technologies are not allowed to be integrated into our server and client applications, nor may Minecraft in-game content, such as skins, worlds persona items, or any other mods, be used by blockchain technology to create a precious digital asset," Mojang wrote.

The update was likely prompted by the fact that many Minecraft-associated NFTs and play-to-earn servers are already available and taking advantage of the lapse in the official policy and splitting the community into "the haves and the have-nots," Mojang said.

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Also a matter of concern is that some NFTs "may not be trustworthy and may end up costing the players who purchase them," which is a remarkably polite way of putting it the unofficial Minecraft NFT game Blockverse (opens in a new tab) that vanished with more than \$1.2 million in January, is just one of the many instances of NFT-related fraud (opens in a new tab) and criminality (opens in a new tab) that we've seen in the past few years. This is especially true for Minecraft which has a smaller audience than other games and is therefore more susceptible to fraud.

The official Minecraft usage guidelines (opens in a new tab) are being updated to address the matter in detail, but the simplest version is a hard no: "NFTs associated with any in-game content, including skins, worlds and other items, or any other mods" are strictly prohibited.

Mojang said it will continue to monitor the development of blockchain technology to determine whether it will "enable safer gaming experiences or other applications that are practical and inclusive in gaming," suggesting official support could be a possibility in the future. "We do not have plans to introduce blockchain technology in Minecraft," however.