The Future of Big Events in the Metaverse:

Opportunities, Challenges, and 8agora's Solutions

By Lisa Orlandi and George Deac August 12, 2024



As technology continues to evolve, the concept of hosting large-scale events in the Metaverse has gained significant traction. This new frontier offers a plethora of opportunities but also presents several challenges. Understanding both the advantages and disadvantages of Metaverse-based events is crucial for organizers aiming to leverage this innovative approach. In this context, 8agora emerges as a pioneering platform, providing solutions that address these challenges effectively.

Advantages of Hosting Big Events in the Metaverse

1. Global Accessibility

Metaverse events enable global participation, breaking down geographical barriers and increasing attendance, while reducing travel and accommodation costs.

2. Cost Efficiency

These events can be more cost-effective, saving on venue rentals and logistics, while reducing travel expenses for attendees.

3. Enhanced Engagement and Interactivity

The immersive nature of the Metaverse, enhanced by VR and AR, allows for highly engaging and customizable virtual environments that boost participant interaction

4. Data and Analytics

Organizers gain valuable insights from real-time data on attendee behavior, enabling immediate improvements and more effective event management.

5. Flexibility and Convenience

On-demand content and the ability to access sessions later provide flexibility for attendees, enabling a wider range of sessions and activities.

6. Sustainability

By minimizing the need for physical travel and resources, Metaverse events support sustainability efforts and reduce carbon footprints.

7. Safety and Health

In situations like pandemics, the Metaverse offers a safe alternative to physical gatherings, ensuring continuity without health risks.

Challenges Today's Metaverse Solutions

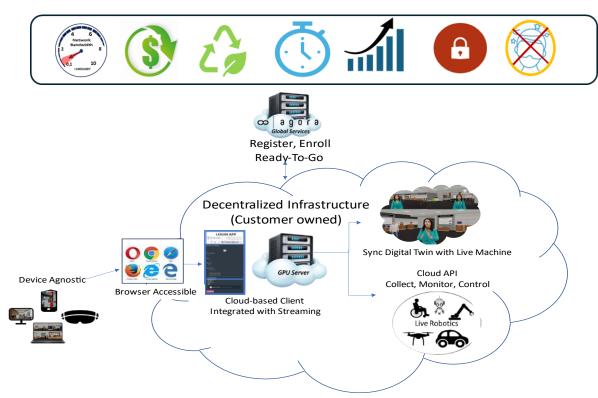
Large-scale events in the Metaverse require robust infrastructure, widespread internet access, and minimal latency. Current internet capacity and the high cost of advanced VR equipment pose significant challenges, alongside issues of inclusivity due to platform restrictions. Achieving seamless user experiences demands improvements in network infrastructure, like widespread 5G deployment, and solutions to make these events more accessible and affordable for all participants.



- 1. Internet Capacity: High Bandwidth Requirements Demands High-Speed Internet: Applications requiring substantial data transfer or real-time interaction, such as HD video streaming and immersive virtual environments, need robust internet infrastructure. High user demand can strain bandwidth, leading to issues like buffering, lag, and reduced service quality, necessitating high-speed connections.
- 2. Low Latency to Function (5G): Needs Widespread 5G Deployment: Low latency is essential for real-time applications like online gaming and VR/AR experiences. While 5G networks are designed to reduce latency, achieving widespread coverage requires significant investment in infrastructure, which poses a challenge.
- **3. Low Performance to Load Virtual Environments:** Loading large or intricate virtual environments directly onto user devices can be slow, leading to decreased satisfaction and interrupted experiences. This challenge arises particularly with detailed or expansive virtual spaces that require substantial processing power.
- **4. Predefined Software Limits Scalability and Adaptability:** Software with predefined structures can struggle to scale or adapt to new use cases, often requiring extensive reengineering. Updates or new features frequently necessitate recompilation, which is time-consuming and resource-intensive, hindering agility.
- **5. Device GPU Rendering and Local Software Limits Features:** Devices with lower-end GPUs may struggle to render complex graphics or run resource-intensive applications, limiting the features and experiences that can be effectively supported. This creates a barrier for users with less powerful hardware.
- 6. High Power Consumption / High Cost: Significant Energy Usage and Financial Investment: Today's Metaverse Solutions often require specialized, high-power equipment such as gaming computers with powerful GPUs or VR headsets. The high cost of this equipment can be prohibitive, limiting access to advanced experiences for many users.
- 7. Compromised Security: Software Installation / Multiple TCP/UDP Ports Required: Installing software on user devices can introduce additional security risks. Users may inadvertently install software from untrusted sources or fail to apply necessary security patches and updates, leading to potential security breaches. In addition, Metaverse applications run various services and applications that often require the use of multiple TCP and UDP ports. Each open port represents a potential entry point for attackers. Effective network security measures are needed to monitor and control access to these ports.
- **8. Health Concerns:** Extended use of VR headsets can lead to dizziness, motion sickness, eye strain, fatigue, and headaches.

Overcoming Challenges 8agora's Cloud-Streaming Spatial Computing

8agora tackles the challenges facing the Metaverse head-on by leveraging GPU optimizations and incorporating advanced AI and compression techniques that eliminates dependency on extravagant VR equipment, allowing users to access the Metaverse through standard devices and web browsers. By optimizing our technology, we mitigate the strain on internet bandwidth, ensuring a smoother user experience. Additionally, our commitment to inclusivity means that 8agora is designed to be accessible to a broad user base, promoting equal participation and eliminating barriers related to device affordability and brand restrictions.



- 1. Internet Capacity: Bandwidth Efficient Streaming Allows Standard Internet Connection: 8agora overcomes the challenge of high bandwidth demands by using a compression algorithm that reduces vast amounts of data into a single, efficient audio-video stream of less than 500KBps. This allows users to access complex virtual environments using standard internet connections without the need for high-speed internet or powerful local hardware.
- 2. Low Latency High Performance: 8agora addresses low latency needs by utilizing advanced data compression and cloud-based processing, eliminating the requirement for widespread 5G deployment. With GPU optimizations and adaptive streaming, 8agora ensures a smooth, real-time experience without the need for high-speed internet, effectively minimizing latency.
- 3. Instantly Loads Virtual Environments in the Cloud: 8agora's cloud-based architecture allows virtual environments to be loaded directly from the cloud to a GPU server, bypassing the need for downloads on user devices. Users can remotely control these environments from any device, ensuring instant interaction with high-quality virtual spaces.
- **4. Flexible, Cloud-Based Real-Time Editing Tool:** 8agora supports real-time editing and customization of virtual environments directly from the cloud. Changes are implemented instantly without requiring software recompilation, ensuring adaptability and scalability, and allowing the platform to evolve quickly to meet new demands.
- 5. 8agora's Al-Driven Cloud API for Sensor Integration: 8agora's Al-driven cloud-based API integrates directly with sensor hardware, enabling real-time data collection, monitoring, control, and analysis through interactive digital twins. This integration provides users with the ability to optimize operations, monitor machines, and analyze telemetry data effectively within the virtual environment.

- 4. Overcoming Device GPU and Local Software Limitations with 8agora: 8agora overcomes the limitations of device GPU rendering by offloading all processing to cloud-based GPUs. This approach allows users to access and control complex virtual environments without relying on high-end devices, ensuring a consistent and high-quality experience across all platforms.
- 5. Optimizing Energy Usage and Reducing Costs: 8agora reduces high-power consumption by optimizing cloud GPU resources, enabling multiple sessions on a single server. This reduces energy usage and costs, making the platform more sustainable and allowing it to run in greenenergy data centers.
- **6. Eliminates Need for High-Cost Equipment:** With 8agora, there is no software running on the user's device. Our client application is seamlessly integrated with the streaming application in the cloud. All heavy computing tasks are offloaded to cloud-based GPUs, thereby eliminating the need for expensive high-performance hardware. Users can access complex virtual environments from standard devices, democratizing access to advanced technologies.
- 7. Decentralized Infrastructure and Customer-Owned Digital Assets: 8agora operates on a decentralized infrastructure, ensuring that customers fully own and control their digital assets within their secure environment. This structure provides flexibility, security, and autonomy, allowing organizations to scale and adapt without relinquishing control.
- 8. Enhanced Security: No User Software Installation/ Single Port Communication: 8agora enhances security by eliminating the need for local software installation, reducing vulnerabilities associated with outdated security patches. All processing occurs in the cloud within a secure environment, ensuring access to the latest security updates. Furthermore, 8agora consolidates all network communication through a single HTTPS port, reducing potential security risks associated with multiple open ports. This approach enhances security by minimizing entry points for attackers while maintaining encrypted, secure data transmission.
- **9. Minimizing Health Risks:** 8agora addresses health concerns by offering both non-VR and VR interaction modes. Non-VR users interact comfortably through standard devices, avoiding the discomfort of prolonged VR headset use. For VR users, 8agora supports a mode that streams the environment without relying on internal headset sensors, reducing the risk of motion sickness and ensuring a stable experience.

Enhancing Exhibitor Engagement with 8agora

With 8agora, you can offer your exhibitors an unparalleled opportunity to engage with a global audience through virtual replicas of your physical events. Break down geographical barriers and engage a worldwide audience effortlessly. Our platform allows users from different locations to connect and participate in real-time, fostering a truly global community.

Customized Virtual Booths and Environments

8agora can collaborate with you and your exhibitors to develop personalized virtual booths, TV studios, theatres, conference rooms, and more. These virtual spaces can feature interactive product demonstrators, interactive presentations, videos, and access to websites.

Hybrid Environment

8agora supports a hybrid environment with unified interaction. Attendees at your live show can interact with virtual participants using smart displays, enhancing engagement for all participants.

Al-Driven Avatars: 8agora leverages advanced Al allowing users to create lifelike avatars that enhance user interaction in virtual environments. These fully customizable avatars exhibit natural movements—they breathe, blink, and lip-sync with the user's voice. They can even shake hands to exchange contact information. Al powers facial expression recognition, and facial navigation, making interactions more intuitive and lifelike.

Al-Driven Transcription, Translation and Recording Tools: The platform offers real-time transcription and translation with over 200 languages supported. Each of the avatars can also record their own sessions.

Al-Driven Bi-Directional Spatial Audio Communication: The platform features live audio communication with spatial awareness, where avatars respond to and engage with the active speaker, making conversations feel more realistic and immersive.

Multimedia Presentation Tools: Present slides, videos, and live streams seamlessly within the virtual environment, supported by WebRTC live streaming for synchronized web and live broadcasts.

Interactive Productivity Tools - Virtual Browser

8agora supports interactive productivity tools and the ability to virtualize any software and make it interactive inside of the virtual environment. Users can log into their own software through a web entity and instantly becomes interactive with all other users in the room. Users can play videos, have interactive whiteboards and scrum boards for brainstorming sessions.

Detailed Analytics

8agora's inventory system allows visitors collect catalogues, brochure and business cards, and web site information. This inventory can be accessed anytime inside the VR platform, or external on a web application, based on username authentication. And our user monitoring system can provide you with detailed information on who visited your space with detailed traffic, username, date, access time, and what promotional materials they collected.

AI-Driven Remote Assistance

8agora's Al-driven remote assistance feature includes GenAl for user assistance, offering responsive support within the virtual environment. Experts can provide clear audio and video guidance, regardless of network limitations. This capability is particularly valuable for offering technical support and conducting training sessions, ensuring that users receive timely and effective assistance, no matter where they are.

Immersive Campaigns

Brands can deliver immersive marketing campaigns with high-quality multimedia content that doesn't strain users' bandwidth. This ensures a captivating experience for the audience.

Virtual Showrooms

Sectors like automotive and real estate can offer virtual tours and showrooms with smooth and detailed visual and audio presentations. 8agora's technology enhances the virtual sales process.

AI-Driven Interactive Product Demonstrations

Our platform allows for real-time interaction with live products through digital twins. Exhibitors can synchronize their virtual to live products, configure settings, collect data, and display important telemetry in real-time. This allows users to experience real-time interactions with virtual representations of physical products, offering a deeper understanding and engagement with your offerings.

Advanced VR and AR Capabilities

Capture and showcase your content with advanced Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) features. Record videos, create 360-degree panoramas, and scan products to provide additional information and enhance the interactive experience.

Conclusion

8agora represents the future of virtual events and exhibitions, combining advanced technology with user-friendly features to create a fully immersive, interactive, and engaging experience. By eliminating geographical barriers and enhancing user interaction through collaborative tools, digital twins and lifelike avatars, 8agora not only meets the evolving demands of today's digital age but sets a new standard for virtual engagements across industries. Whether for large-scale trade shows or intimate business meetings, 8agora delivers a comprehensive and compelling virtual experience, ensuring every participant leaves with a lasting impression.