FLIPSIDE XR

xkcd VR, a Virtual Ode to the Popular Webcomic Series, is Reborn in Flipside Studio

Fans of the webcomic can now make animated fanfiction using virtual avatars of the cast of xkcd characters, including a virtual comic strip set

WINNIPEG, CANADA, February 6, 2024 — Leading virtual reality (VR) animation software maker Flipside XR announces a tribute to the popular webcomic series, xkcd, available for free in its flagship Flipside Studio software for users to be able to create and share real-time animated content with.

xkcd is a webcomic series created by American author Randall Monroe in 2005, whose tagline describes it as "a webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language". Munroe states on the comic's website that the name of the comic is not an initialism but "just a word with no phonetic pronunciation". The subject matter of the comic varies from statements on life and love to mathematical, programming, and scientific in-jokes, and features an iconic cast of stick figure characters.

This version of xkcd VR is a recreation of a 2017 game jam experiment by Flipside XR co-founders Rachael Hosen and John Luxford to create an xkcd VR game which enabled users to create their own fanfiction comics based on the characters in the series. The updated version enables full animation and voice recording and playback, so users can make sketches, improvisational content, and more based on the characters they know and love.

"This is really a work for and by fans ourselves. Myself, I've been a big xkcd fan since the beginning, having read every comic and several of his books." says Flipside XR CEO John Luxford. "I even have an xkcd-style tattoo on my arm."

"What drew me to xkcd was the way the webcomic became this beacon for nerds like me on the internet, showing us it's not just okay but cool to lean into your weirdness and interests and often sardonic humour."

Flipside Studio was released in March of 2023 and is available for free in the Meta Quest and Rift app stores. The xkcd VR assets can all be found for free in Flipside Studio.

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About Flipside XR
Flipside XR is the team of passionate creators behind Flipside Studio, one of the leading virtual reality apps for creators building the future of entertainment. Originally founded by creators Lesley Klassen, Rachael Hosein, and John Luxford as The Campfire Union in 2014, they began working on Flipside Studio in 2016 and are backed by venture capital firm Boost VC, with additional funding from the Canadian Film Centre and Canada Media Fund.