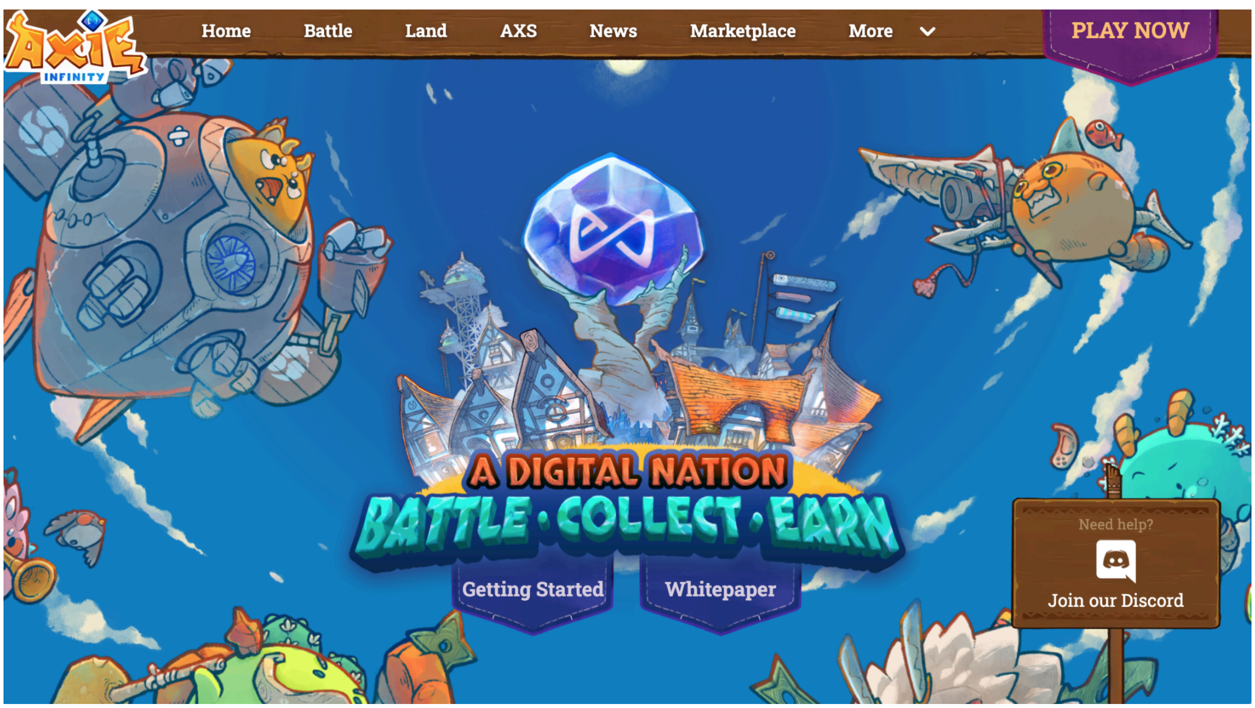
How to Earn Cryptocurrency by Playing Video Games: Welcome to the "Leisure Economy"

At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, many people suddenly found themselves without an income. Losing work is never a pleasant experience for anyone. But for people living "paycheck to paycheck" in the developing world, the situation was life-threatening. In dire need of a new way to earn an income, many people turned to an unexpected solution: video games.

Indeed, blockchain-based games like Mavis' Axie Infinity enables players to earn a virtual currency called "Smooth Love Potion" that can be converted into cryptocurrency, which can then be converted into real money. A short documentary by Yield Guild Games bankrolled, and Emfarsis Consulting tells the tale of a group of people in the rural Philippines who used Axie Infinity to turn their free time into money for food, clothing, and other essentials.

Today, the world of blockchain-based video games–the so-called "Leisure Economy"–is continuing to expand, with developers regularly releasing new "play-to-earn" games. Here are some of the most popular blockchain-based video games–and how to start earning cryptocurrency through them.

1. Axie Infinity



Source: https://axieinfinity.com/

What is Axie Infinity? The premise of Axie Infinity is somewhat similar to Pokemon. Players collect digital pets known as "Axies" that can be raised, battled, and traded within the game's ecosystem. The game actually has two kinds of cryptocurrency: in addition to the aforementioned Smooth Love Potion (SLP) that players can exchange for real money, there are also Axie Infinity Shards (AXS), the governance token for the Axie universe.

However, in order to start playing, you need to purchase three Axies from the Axie Marketplace. Each Axie is represented by a non-fungible token (NFT), and they aren't cheap–at $300-$400 a pop, it can cost around $1,200 to start playing. However, a few scholarship programs have been established to make the game more accessible, including Yield Guild Games (YGG) and the Lambda Clan.

Once you've begun your Axie Infinity journey, there are several different ways to earn within the game: farming Smooth Love Potions and selling them to the market, breeding and selling Axies, starting a scholarship, or investing in Lunacia Land.

How much can you earn playing Axie Infinity? As of October 2021, playing Axie for several hours a day won't make you into a millionaire. However, it can give you a little extra pocket money–or even enough to pay some of your bills. According to FX Street, players usually earn between $8 and $40 per day and can earn an average of $270 each time they sell an Axie on the marketplace.

2. Cryptoblades

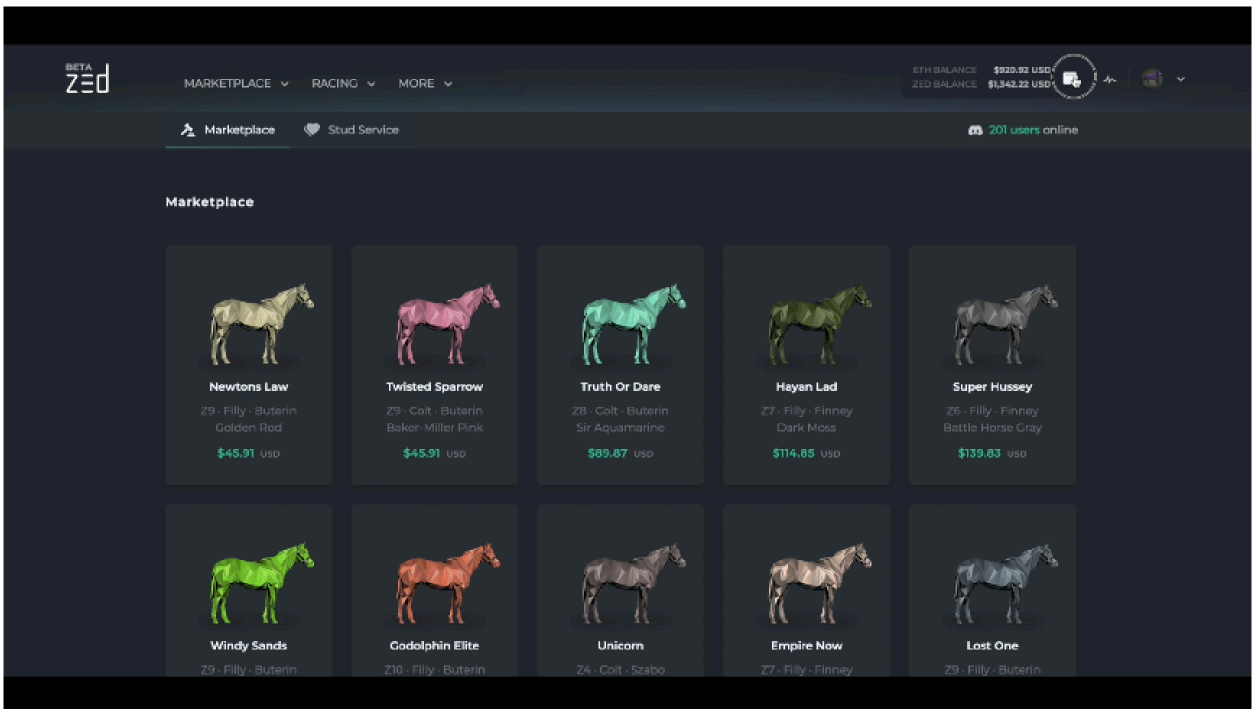
Source: https://www.cryptoblades.io/

What is Cryptoblades? Riveted Games' Cryptoblades is an NFT-based roleplaying game that runs on the Binance Smart Chain (BSC). Players use the platform to create and "mint" their own players as tokens that can be traded in the game's marketplace. Players earn a cryptocurrency called SKILL in exchange for fighting monsters, as well as creating and sell weapons and characters.

To get started in CryptoBlades, you must create a wallet for the BSC platform. You also need to purchase a few SKILL tokens (as of October 2021, they were selling for roughly $13.50 each.)

How much can you earn by playing Cryptoblades? While there aren't many clear statistics on how much money you can make playing Cryptoblades, one source details the story of a player who earned just over 2 SKILL by playing five rounds.

3. Zed Run



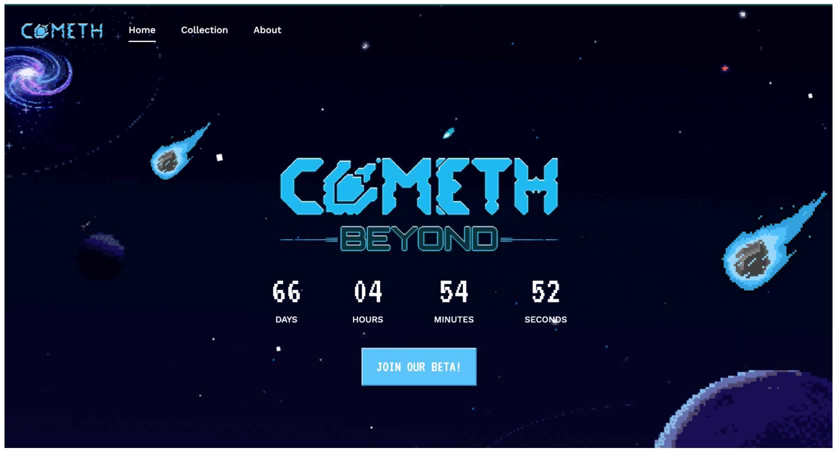
Source: https://community.zed.run/zed-wallet/

What is Zed Run? Virtually Human Studio's Zed Run is an NFT-based horse racing game with virtual horses that take on a life of their own. Players can either purchase horses or "breed" them through an algorithm that determines their color, strength, and speed based on their bloodlines. Players can then set their horses to race on digital tracks with the potential to earn prizes worth thousands of dollars.

Like other blockchain-based NFT games, you are going to need some startup capital to begin playing Zed Run. Each player has to purchase a horse, which can cost anywhere from a couple of hundred to a couple of thousand dollars in Ether (ETH). And due to the game's popularity, NFT horses are frequently sold out from the in-game marketplace. However, they can frequently be found in secondary marketplaces, such as OpenSea, or in Discord groups.

How much can you earn playing Zed Run? This game has the potential for serious players to make serious cash. In addition to winnings from races, players can sell their NFT horses–one man made $252,000 from selling his stable; another collected $125,000 from the sale of just one stallion.

4. Cometh



Source: https://www.cometh.io/

What is Cometh? Cometh is a decentralized finance (DeFi)-powered game with yield-generating NFT spaceships. Players can explore the galaxy, and earn MUST, Cometh's native digital asset. As of October 21, the game was transitioning into an upgraded version called Cometh Beyond that will primarily provide players with streams of passive income. Players can earn MUST by positioning spaceships in the game's virtual galaxy, and can earn interest on MUST by staking it in the game.

Players need to purchase an NFT spaceship in order to start playing the game. The minimal price is roughly $200 for each spaceship. However, players can also rent spaceships as a less expensive way to get started in the Cometh universe.

How much can you earn playing Cometh? According to *PlayToEarn.Online,* player can earn fairly high APYs on their staked MUST and NFTs.

Passive rewards on ship NFTs

Players can use one of their ships or multiple. That doesn't matter. However, for a ship to qualify, players need to have the right about MUST staked. The rewards are cumulative as long as you have the right amount of MUST. The system will give rewards to the ship that gives the best rewards.

- Common Spaceship in play and stake 1 MUST for a week to get ~33.3% APY on the MUST value staked
- Uncommon Spaceship in play and stake 4 MUST for a week, get ~41.7% APY on the MUST value staked
- Rare Spaceship in play and stake 55 MUST for a week, get ~45.5% APY on the MUST value staked
- Mythic Spaceship in play and stake 68 MUST for a week, get ~49% APY on the MUST value staked
- This airdrop will happen on a weekly basis every Friday until the release of Cometh Beyond

Passive rewards on Cometh NFTs as of 03.10.21. Source: https://www.playtoearn.online/2021/10/03/cometh-moves-to-passive-income-in-transition-to-beyond/

These are just a few of the most popular play-to-earn games currently available. There are many, many more on the market, and there will be many more in the future. The play-to-earn gaming space is still relatively new, so there will be many exciting developments to come. Watch this space.