

A CONVERSATION WITH:

Kyle Akin

Kyle Akin is Lifepan Institute's metaVerse Commander who brings a blend of critical thinking and creative conceptual design to the task of developing the Lifepan metaVerse™. A resource coordinator with the same creative perspective as the youthful generation that Lifepan serves, Kyle is uniquely suited to evolve and promote Lifepan's virtual world portal. He holds a B.A. in Religious Studies with an emphasis on Critical Theory from Claremont McKenna College.

What is a metaVerse Commander?

The person responsible for the growth and refinement of our metaVerse concept. And as we continue to hone that vision, I am to ensure that it comes to life as we have conceived all of its constitutive parts.

Why does Lifepan matter?

Because it will provide today's young people with an opportunity to create themselves, rather than force-feeding them a predefined concept of what it means to live "well." It's a chance for them to discover their engine — that passionate thirst that will drive them forward in life.

Who does Lifepan help?

It's not only the young people. Sure, a Lifepan can help spark a real intervention – a real discussion – about the future, everyday choices, or even opening a bank account. But Lifepan primarily fosters human relationships. It founds an expectation and a bond that doesn't live with just the mentee or the mentor, but between that partnership.

What's the coolest thing about Lifepan?

More than just a Facebook or MySpace-style social network, the metaVerse will be a virtual economy in the truest sense. Not only will users be earning and trading virtual commodities and the metaVerse currency, but also ideas, stories, and best practices.

What's your role?

I've conceptualized it; now it's my time to bring the metaVerse to life. I'm responsible for puzzling together all the ideas, resources, and people into a single, accessible entity.

What does Lifepan mean to you?

I'm continually inspired by the rare examples of relentless and passionate human effort. If anything, the possibility that a young person could discover that power is what motivates me to stay working on this project.

What's your quote?

"If we build it, they will come." If we build the metaVerse to be a valuable tool and not just another virtual space, kids will take advantage of it.

What are you going to do next?

I just flew back from meeting with the designers of the learning maps kids will use when they enter the metaVerse. We're going to debrief, then I'm going to find a pickup basketball game.