

# Welcome to Gather!

*Gather is a wonderful new tool to both explore and chat with other people. It is also a very new tool and has a few quirks. This document is to help you with the basics so you can discover and play on your own.*

## What you need:

- A **desktop/laptop** with a **mic** and **camera**.
- A web browser (Chrome or Firefox recommended).
- We strongly recommend using **headphones** to help prevent feedback.
- There is nothing to install and no software to download

## How it works:

- Gather is a video chat platform that has avatars move around a map. As you get close to other avatars, your videos will pop up and you will be able to chat.
- Move around the space using the **arrow keys**.
- By moving your avatar around you can have spontaneous conversations with those around you. These can be either one-on-one or small groups depending on how many people are around your avatar.
- When your avatar moves closer to an interactable object, it will glow yellow and there will be a notification that shows up saying 'Press x to interact with -object-'. This can range from informational flyers, quizzes, a hyperlink, a webpage, a video or even playable arcade games.

## Icon explanation:



Screen sharing ability



Change your **avatar** character and clothing



**Mini map** to preview the space you are in



**Emotes** that appear above your avatar.



Opens the **settings** menu:

- Change Name
- Change Audio/Video Devices
- Respawn button to return to start

## Not-So-Obvious Features:

Here are some things you might find useful but are not immediately obvious.

- There is a **messaging feature** that allows you to message people in four ways:
  1. *individually* by clicking on their name in the participant panel,
  2. *locally* to the people you are video chatting with,
  3. *room chat (must be requested)* with all the people in the current room you are in,
  4. *globally* to all the people in your map.
- There is a **locate feature** to find others by clicking their name in the participant panel.
- The participant panel is the bottom option in your toolbar on the left.
- Interaction distance is also sometimes altered by **designated private spaces**. This allows conversations to only include people inside that space.
- Want to **full screen someone else's video**? Just click on their video.
- Talking to a group of people? Click the down arrows centered below the videos to shift into **grid view**.
- Press the letter 'g' in in order to 'ghost' yourself and walk through another user

## Technical difficulties:

- Refreshing the page will fix most things!
- If that does not work, try muting and unmuting your mic and camera in Gather.
- Check if your browser permitted camera and mic access
- Additional troubleshooting at <https://gather.town/video-issues>