

Gather for IETF 109 Online

Join at <https://ietf.gather.town/app/L4fNNdm1NJalsE2v/ietf>

(Datatracker account required to login)

Participation in Gather is voluntary and absolutely not required in order to successfully participate in the IETF 109 Online meeting. Gather is a WebRTC platform that uses peer-to-peer connections. The 109 space has been designed to replicate a face-to-face IETF meeting, as much as is possible in a virtual environment.

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Requirements

A Datatracker account is required to login to Gather. If you do not yet have an account on the IETF Datatracker, you can register for one [here](#).

You can join the IETF 109 Gather room from your computer (laptop, desktop) on any OS (Windows, Mac OS, Linux). Mobile devices are not currently supported.

Web browser

Because Gather is WebRTC-enabled, there is no client to install. We recommend using Chrome or Firefox. Safari is not recommended.

Getting Started

Joining Gather

Your avatar will spawn in one of several locations in the IETF 109 Online lobby. On subsequent visits, you will reappear in the last place you were. If you would like to respawn back to the lobby, there is an option in the settings (cog) in the horizontal menu bar.

Naming your avatar

You will be prompted to enter your name. While you can enter any name you want, we encourage you to use the name you registered with (or a recognized nickname). If you also serve in a particular role in the IETF (e.g. working group chair), we encourage you to include your role as well. You can change your name at any time by going to Settings (cog) on the left menu bar. See one example of how to include both name and role, to the right.



Navigation

You use the arrow keys or WASD keys to move throughout Gather space.

The Basics

Menu Bar

On the lower left corner of the screen you will see a horizontally oriented menu bar that allows you to customize your Gather experience.



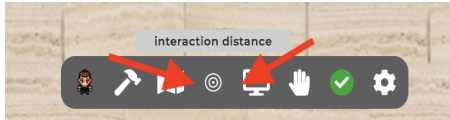
Customize your avatar



Change what your avatar looks like and what they are wearing

Interaction Distance

Increase/decrease your 'interaction distance,' i.e. how close you need to be to other avatars to interact with them.



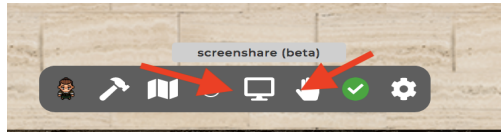
Minimap

Show a map of the Gather space, and where you are within the map



Screenshare

Share your screen with people in your interaction distance



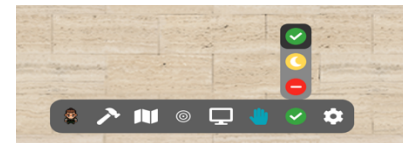
Raise Hand

This is useful when speaking with large groups of people. When active, a hand will show up next your name in the participant list.



Busy Status

These options allow you to indicate your availability for conversation, and also to configure your video and audio to be automatically disabled when you have tabbed away from Gather.



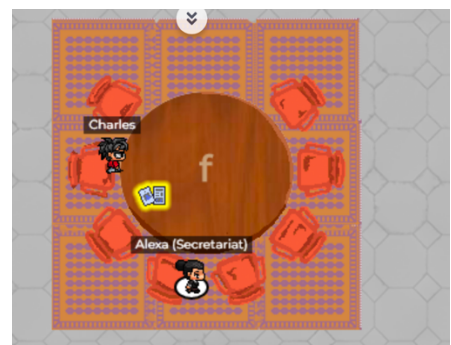
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Conversations

As you navigate around Gather you will see your IETF colleagues as other avatars, moving about the venue. When you are far away the other avatars have a greyed out, ghostly appearance. As you get closer, the avatar becomes more vivid and the IETFer's video and audio will appear. However, if you once again navigate your avatar away, you will quickly lose your colleague's video and audio. This takes some getting used to, however -- much as you would not leave your colleague standing at the cookie table and expect to continue your conversation while you got into an elevator -- you need to be standing near another avatar to engage with them.

Private Conversations (sound pods)

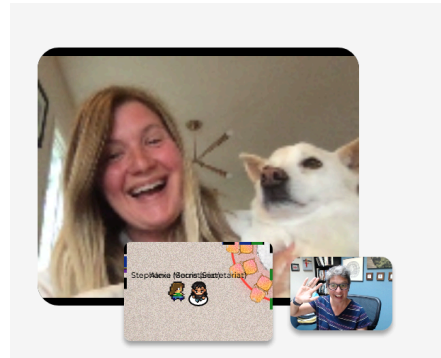
Throughout the venue you will see tables (and other seating configurations) on carpet. When you are on these carpeted areas, you are in a private sound pod, which means that you will only see and hear other avatars within the same sound pod. The 'Local Chat'



feature can also be used to interact with avatars within the same sound pod.

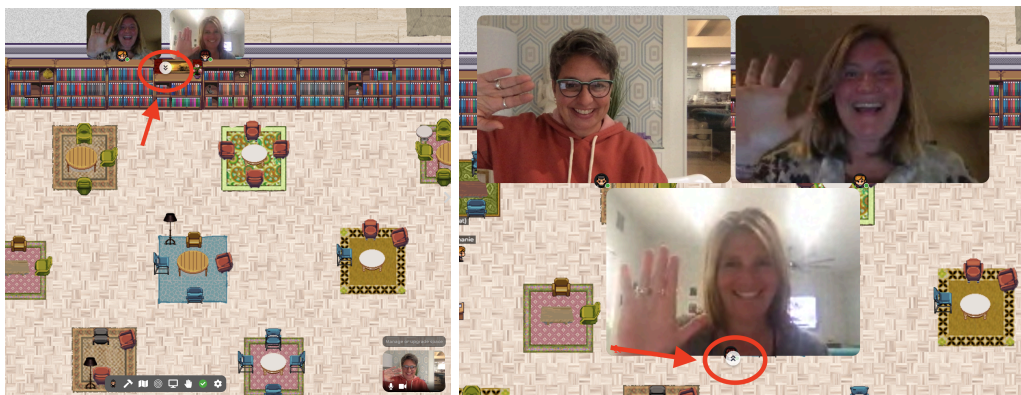
Video Size

By default, the map occupies most of the screen space and your colleague's video will appear small. You can switch this (i.e., increase video and decrease map) by double clicking on your colleague's video. To switch back, simply double click on video again.



Gallery View

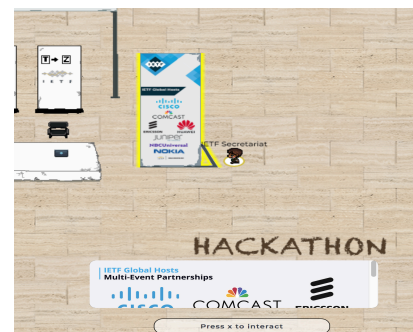
If you are interacting with multiple people in Gather, you can control the size of the videos with the arrows below their photos.



Interactive elements

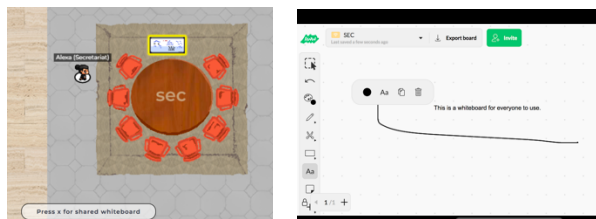
There are a number of interactive elements embedded in IETF 109 Gather. Some are designed to provide helpful information, while others are simply there to provide a dose of fun and whimsy as you navigate around the “venue.”

When you approach an interactive element, you will be prompted to press “x” in order to interact with it. For some elements, you will also see a preview image.



Whiteboards

The whiteboards found adjacent to some of the tables in the lounge permit you to collaborate through Awwapp.



CodiMD



Other tables in the lounge have links to IETF-hosted CodiMD pages.

Session Rooms

IETF 109 Gather contains eight “rooms” (i.e., Room 1 - Room 8) that have been designed to replicate the eight session rooms found at face-to-face meetings.

You can join Meetecho directly, at the designated time/date, from these rooms in Gather. When the Meetecho session concludes you will have the option to return to Gather.



Staffed Desks

The Registration Desk, NOC Help Desk, RFC Editor and IANA tables will be staffed at various times throughout the meeting week in Gather, as noted in the meeting [agenda](#).

Chat

The Gather chat is not connected to IETF Jabber.

Local Chat

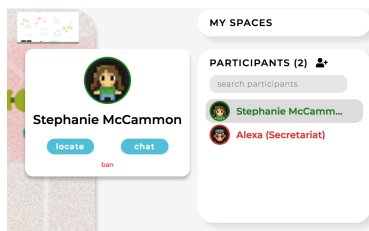
Messages sent to the local chat will reach only those within your interaction distance, i.e. only those you can see and hear at the time you send the message. If you are within a sound pod, this will include everyone who is currently in the sound pod with you. This chat history will be deleted at the conclusion of the meeting week.

Global Chat

Messages sent to the global chat are visible to everyone currently in the IETF 109 Online Gather space.

Individual Chat

If you want to chat privately with another IETF participant in Gather, you can select their name from the list of participants.



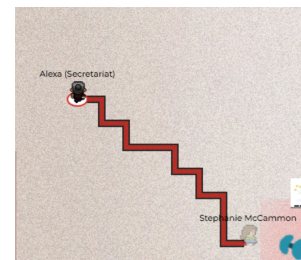
Miscellaneous Features

Dashboard

The IETF NOC has a dashboard in the main common area near the Help Desk.

Locating Colleagues and Friends

If you see one of your colleagues or friends listed in the participant list and want to find them, you can highlight their name and you will see an option to locate them. Gather will draw a line that you can follow to your colleague.



Ghost Mode

If you get stuck in a corner without the ability to move, press the 'G' key to activate Ghost Mode. This will enable you to walk through everyone around you!

Avatar Dancing

If you are feeling really happy, you can make your avatar dance by holding down the “Z” key.

Reporting Issues

If you encounter an issue while using Gather for the IETF, please report it to one of the Secretariat staff at the Gather registration desk or send an email to mtd@ietf.org.