# Welcome to Gather!

*Gather is a wonderful new tool for getting 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.
- That's it! There's nothing to install, 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, playable arcade games, integrated Zoom meetings, and more!

## Icon explanation:

 Change your **avatar** character and clothing

 **Mini map** to preview the space you're in

**Screen sharing** ability

 **Emotes** that appear above your avatar.

 Opens the **user settings** menu:
- Change Name
- Change Audio/Video Devices, and test your audio level input
- Toggle various features such as HD video quality
- Click for Space Settings (if your user role grants permission): Change room password, change mod message, etc.

## Not-So-Obvious Features:

Here are some things you might find useful but aren't 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. ("Nearby")
    3. *globally* to all the people in your map. ("Everyone")
- There is a **locate feature** to find others by clicking their name in the participant panel. There is also a **follow feature** to automatically move your avatar to follow another user. The participant panel is the bottom-most 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 box with two white arrows to the right of the video carousel to open the **grid view**.

## Privacy Features:

We have three ways for you to control who has access to your map:
- You can add a **password** via the mod setting for a room
- If you want to only allow certain people you can create an **email guestlist**
- **Domain whitelists** allow the moderator to allow entry into the space for all those who share the same email domain (ex. something@gather.town).

For managing people who are already in the space we have the following options:
- Any moderator has the ability to **ban** individuals during the event
- Any guest has the option to hide a person's video or mute a person's audio **for themselves only**, by using the individual block feature.

## Technical difficulties:

- Refreshing the page will fix most things!
    - If that doesn't 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

For more information on our platform, please feel free to stop by our Help Center or check out our YouTube tutorials.