

Gather for IETF 108 Online

Join at <https://ietf.gather.town/z6N2SDxHebMdDAfo/IETF-108>

Participation in Gather is voluntary and absolutely not required in order to successfully participate in the IETF 108 Online meeting. While nothing can completely replicate the experience of encountering IETF colleagues in meeting venues around the world, the IETF 108 Online Gather space is intended to provide an online simulation of the IETF meeting hallway experience, i.e. it is a space for IETF participants to socialize or collaborate in small groups. Gather is a WebRTC platform that uses peer-to-peer connections.

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Requirements

You can join the IETF 108 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.

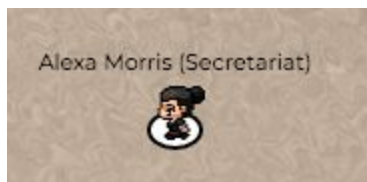
Getting Started

Joining Gather

Your avatar will spawn in one of several locations in the IETF 108 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 vertical 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, below:



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 vertically oriented menu bar that allows you customize your Gather experience.



Change your avatar name or the quality of your video, or respawn (takes you back to lobby)

Set your status to busy (mutes audio when Gather window is not displayed)

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

Share your screen with people in your interaction distance

Share/hide your video

Mute/enable your audio

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

Customize your avatar's appearance

Conversations

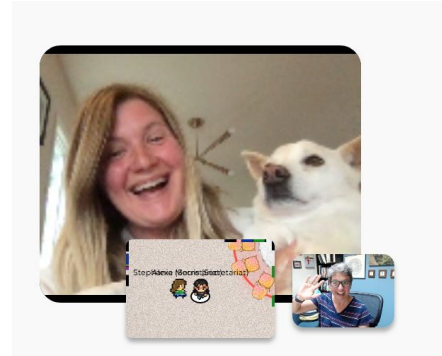
As you navigate around the Gather space you will see your IETF colleagues as other avatars, moving about the venue. When you are far away from them, the other avatars have a greyed out, ghostly appearance.

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. If you move too far away, you can't hear them (nor they you).

Also much like real life, in Gather you'll find that you can't talk to more than approximately four people simultaneously. If you find yourself in a crowd, navigate your avatar away from the crowd to get some virtual space.

Video Size

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

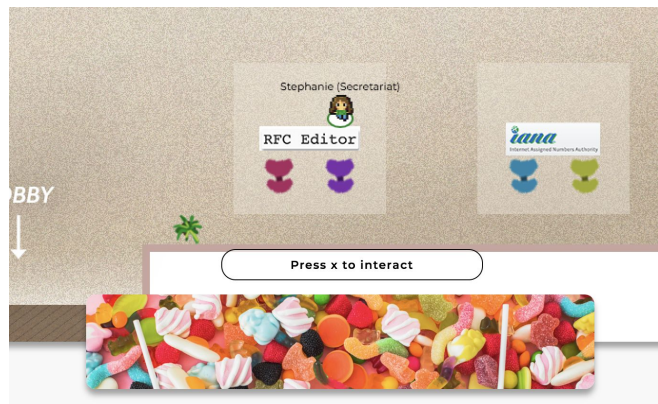


Interactive elements

There are a number of different types of interactive elements embedded in the IETF 108 Online map. Some are designed to provide helpful information, while other elements are intended to replicate

elements typical of a face-to-face meeting.

Finally, some interactive elements are simply there to provide a dose of fun and whimsy as you navigate around the "venue."

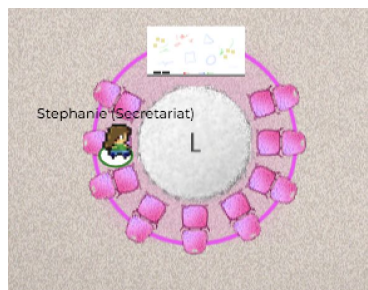


When you approach something you can interact with you will see a preview image. You will be prompted to press "x" in order to interact with the element.

Whiteboards

One of the interactive elements you'll see in the lounge are whiteboards by the tables. These boards allow you to collaborate through Awwapp. Awwapp automatically erases content after an unspecified period of inactivity, so if you would like to save your work we suggest taking a screenshot or signing up for an account.

Sound Pods



Throughout the venue you will see tables (and other spaces) with different color backgrounds. When you enter these spaces you are entering a sound pod, which means that you will only send (and receive) audio/video from other avatars within the same sound pod. The 'Local Chat' feature can also be used to interact with avatars within the same sound pod.



Sessions Room

The sessions room will have Meetecho links to the sessions happening for that particular day. Right-click on a link from the sessions room in Gather to open in a new tab. You will also have to mute your audio and video in Gather. To enter back into Gather, go back to your original Gather tab and turn your audio and video back on.

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. The times that these elements will be staffed is on the [agenda](#).

Chat

On the lower right side of the screen you will see a chat feature. The Gather chat is not connected to IETF Jabber. Note: if you logged into Gather during the initial testing phase before the meeting started, you may see “Room Chat” as an option however that is the same as Global Chat.

Local Chat

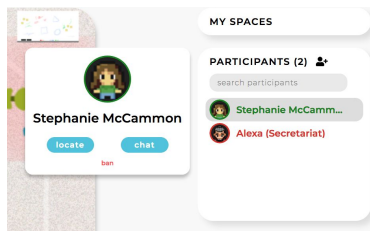
Messages sent to the local chat will reach only those within your interaction distance, i.e. only those you can see and hear at the time you send the message. If you are within a sound pod, this will include everyone who is currently in the sound pod with you. This chat history will be deleted at the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

Global Chat

Messages sent to the global chat are visible to everyone currently in the IETF 108 Online Gather space. Chat here will be archived.

Individual Chat

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



Fun Features

Avatar Customization

You can customize the appearance of your avatar by selecting among the different characters and t-shirts that are available. There are quite a few options.



Avatar Dancing

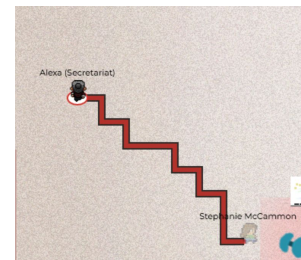
If you are feeling really happy, you can make your avatar dance by holding down the “Z” key.

Dashboard

The IETF NOC has created a dashboard with information about the meeting. The dashboard is located in the main common area on the way to the Newcomer’s Cafe.

Locating Colleagues and Friends

If you see one of your colleagues or friends listed in the participant list, this means that they are currently online in Gather. If you want to find them, you can highlight their name and you will see an option to locate them. Gather will draw a line connecting you to the other avatar, and you can follow that line to find 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!

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.