

Communication

Things you can use to communicate! There are so many options out there: we live in an age providing numerous methods of communication, each providing its own advantages and disadvantages.

- [Matrix](#)

Matrix

Multi-platform messaging made easy, convenient, secure, and private.

The Matrix Protocol

[Matrix](#) is a messaging *protocol*. The term "Matrix" often refers to the method of communication or the app to be used, but it's actually about *how* the messages are managed and transmitted.

You can read more about it here: <https://matrix.org/about/>

How it Works

It's a lot like any instant messaging, chatting, or [RCS](#) (SMS). One simply types a message to an individual or group (also called a *room*) and sends it for all to see. It supports lots of functionality, like message [threading](#), reactions (emoji responses to messages), and bots.

To get started, simply choose an available [client](#) (the app/tool you will use to log in and communicate) and create an account.

Don't fret too much about picking a client; they all do the same thing and have only niche differences important mostly to aficionados.

An example benefit is that you can log in from more than one device and keep all your conversations going, rather than having to always go back to the same tiny, pocket device to finger-type as fast as you can.

Easy Start: Element

[Element](#) is the easiest and most common client service to get started (in fact, "chat me on Element" is commonly used to mean talking via Matrix), having apps for numerous devices. However, you can *also* use it entirely in a web browser, so you don't even have to install anything!

1. Head to <https://app.element.io/> and click **Create Account**.
2. Under "Host account on" will be listed *matrix.org* as the default option.
 - If you know another server you'd like to use, enter it here.
3. Pick a username and password, or sign in using one of the provided linking methods (Google, Facebook, Apple, GitHub, etc.).
4. Enter an email so you can recover your account if you need.
 - Some servers don't require an email.
5. Click Register, and you're in!

Many servers are End-To-End-Encrypted (E2EE), meaning only you and the people with whom you are **intentionally** communicating will be able to read the messages or data you send. (Not even the owner of the server can see what you're sending!)

Once you're in the Element (web) app, you'll be presented with a mostly blank screen. To start talking, you'll need the address of someone or some room to join. If you don't have one yet, try searching for public rooms, such as those listed on <https://view.matrix.org/>.

Talk to a Person

User contact addresses are formatted as `@user:server.tld`, so your friend Sam at www.popsicles.biz would be `@sam:popsicles.biz`. It should feel just like sending a text message, but with more features!

Send *Me* a Message!

You'll notice that the footer of every page on this Wiki contains a link to [Message Me via Matrix](#) using my handle `@starlord:starlord.zip`. Feel free to reach out!

Join a Room

Room addresses are formatted as `#room-name:server.tld`, so if your friend Sam had a room on the www.popsicles.biz server discussing flavors, it might be `#flavors:popsicles.biz`.

Matrix is a Polyglot!

Matrix is a *protocol*; it's about *transmitting* messages as data. As such, it's capable of talking to other messaging services! This is known as a "bridge." Users on apps like Signal, Telegram, Discord, etc. can all be "connected" to a Matrix room and chat with each other in the same space.

Note: this takes some advanced tooling on the part of the server administrator. At time of writing, there are 26 bridges.

Matrix is Free!

There's no cost to any of this. You can download the apps for free, chat for free, message anyone for free, it's all free! If someone is trying to charge you, it's either for premium features you don't need or can get for free elsewhere, or it's a scam. Don't pull out your plastic digits!

The White Rabbit

It's so easy and it works so well! Dive in and enjoy a seamless, private, feature-rich chat experience.

Neo is waiting for you...

Further Reading

By the way, all of this information is [provided by The Matrix Foundation](#) in really easy-to-consume reading. I've just pared it down here.