

Contents of this Tutorial

Warning: Netscape users must define their language as the default encoding or else each character in messages will be replace by a '?'.

This can be done as follows: View/CharacterSet/your language Auto-Detect, then View/CharacterSet/SetDefault.

[Choosing a language](#)

[Logging into the Chat](#)

[Registering](#)

[Modifying/deleting your profile](#)

[Creating a room](#)

[Understanding connection state](#)

[Sending a Message](#)

[Understanding the users list](#)

[Leaving the chat room](#)

[Knowing who is chatting without being logged in](#)

[Customizing the Chat View](#)

[Features and Commands:](#)

[Help command](#)

[Graphical smilies](#)

[Text Formatting](#)

[Invite an user to join your current chat room](#)

[Changing from one chat room to another](#)

[Private Messages](#)

[Actions](#)

[Ignoring other Users](#)

[Getting Public Information about other Users](#)

[Save messages](#)

[Special commands for moderators and/or the administrator:](#)

[Send an announcement](#)

[Kicking an user](#)

[Promote an user to moderator](#)

Choosing a language:

You may choose a language among those in which phpMyChat have been translated by clicking on one of the flags at the start page. In the example bellow, an user selects the French language:



[Back to the top](#)

Login:

If you have already registered, simply log in by entering your username and password. Then select which chat room you would like to enter and press the Chat button.

Else you can [register](#) first or simply enter a room but your nick won't be reserved (an other user may use the same nick once you have logged out).

[Back to the top](#)

To Register:

If you have not yet registered and would like to, please choose the registration option. A small pop-up window will appear.

- First, create a username and a password for yourself by typing it into the appropriate boxes. The username you choose is the name that will be automatically displayed in the chat room. It cannot contain spaces, commas or backslashes (\).
- Second, please enter your first name, last name, and your email address. In order to register to chat, all of this information must be provided. The gender information is optional.
- If you have a homepage, you may enter the URL into the box.
- The language field may help other users in future discussions. They will know which language(s) you understand.
- Lastly, if you wish to allow your email address to be viewed by other participants, please check the box next to "show e-mail in public information". If you do not want your e-mail address to be viewable, leave the box unchecked.
- Then, press the Register button and your account will be created. If you wish to stop at any time without registering, press the Close button.

Of course, registered users would be able to modify/delete their own profile by clicking on the appropriate links.

[Back to the top](#)

To create a room:




Registered users can create rooms. Private ones can only be accessed by users who know their name and will never be displayed except for users that are in.

Room's name cannot contain comma or backslash (\).

[Back to the top](#)

Understanding connection state:

A sign representing your connection state is displayed at the top-right corner of the screen. It may take three forms :

-  when no connection is required ;
-  when there is a connection in progress ;
-  when a connection failed.

In the third case, clicking on the red "button" will launch a new connection attempt.

[Back to the top](#)

Sending messages:

To post a message to the chat room, type your text into the text box in the lower left corner and then press the Enter/Return key to send it. Messages from all users scroll in the chat box.

You may change the color of the text of your messages by choosing a new color from the list of choices to the right of the text box.

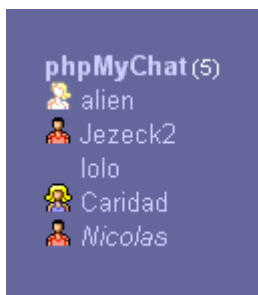
[Back to the top](#)

Understanding the users list (not for users popup window):

Two basic rules have been defined for the users list:

1. a little icon that shows gender is displayed before the nick of a registered user (clicking on it will launch the [whois popup](#) for this user), while unregistered users have nothing but blank spaces displayed before their nick;
2. the nick of the administrator or of a moderator is italicized.

For example, from the snapshot bellow you can conclude that:



- Nicolas is the admin or one of the moderators of the phpMyChat room;
- alien (whose gender is unknown), Jezeck2 and Caridad are registered users with no extra "power" for the phpMyChat room;
- lolo is a simple unregistered user.

[Back to the top](#)

Leaving the chat room:

To exit the chat, simply click once on "Exit". Alternatively, you may also enter the one of the following commands into your text box:

`/exit`


`/bye`

`/quit` These commands may be completed with a message to be sent before you leave the chat room. *For example* : `/quit CU soon!`

will sent the message "CU soon!" in the main frame then log you out.

[Back to the top](#)

Knowing who is chatting without being logged in:

You may click on the link that shows the number of connected users at the start page, or, if you are chatting, click on the image  at the top-right of the screen to open a independent window that will display the list of connected users, and the rooms they are in, in near real time.

The title of this window contains the usernames, if they are less than three, the numbers of users and opened rooms else.

Clicking on the  icon at the top of this popup will enable/disable beeping sounds at user entrance.

[Back to the top](#)

Customizing the Chat View:

There are many different ways to customize the look of the Chat. To change settings, simply type the appropriate command into your text box and press the Enter/Return key.

- The **Clear command** allows you to clean the main chat screen and display the last 5 messages sent on your screen.
Type `/clear` without quotes.
- The **Notify command** allows you to toggle on or off the option of seeing the notices when other users enter or exit the chat room. By default this option is on and the notices will be seen.
Type `/notify` without quotes.
- The **Timestamp command** allows you to toggle on or off the option of seeing the time the message was posted before each message and the server time in the status bar. By default this option is on.
Type `/timestamp` without quotes.

- The **Refresh command** allows you to adjust the rate at which the posted message are refreshed on your screen. The default rate is currently 10 seconds. To change the rate type `"/refresh n"` without quotes where n is the time in seconds of the new refresh rate.

For example: /refresh 5

will change the rate to 5 seconds. *Beware, if n is set to less than 3, the refresh is reset not to refresh at all (usefull when you want to read lots of old messages without being disturbed)!*

- The **Show and Last commands** allow you to clean the screen and display the last n messages sent on your screen. Type `"/show n"` or `"/last n"` without quotes where n is the number of viewable messages.


For example: /show 50 or /last 50

will clean the message frame and cause the 50 newest messages to be viewable on your screen. If all of the messages cannot be displayed within the message box, a scroll bar will appear on the right side of the message box.

[Back to the top](#)

Features and Commands

Help command:


Once inside a chat room, you can launch a help popup by clicking on the  image that sits just before the message box. You can also type the **"/help" or "/?" commands** in the message box.

[Back to the top](#)

Smilies:

You may have graphical smilies inside your messages. See bellow the code you have to type into a message to obtain each one of these similes.

									
:)	:D	:o	:(;))	:p	8)	:[:kill:	

For example, sending the text `"Hi Jack :)"` without quote will display the message `Hi Jack ` in the main frame.

[Back to the top](#)

Text Formatting:

Text can be bolded, italicized or underlined by encasing the applicable sections of your text with either the `` ``, `<I>` `</I>` or `<U>` `</U>` HTML tags.

For example, ``this text`` will produce **this text**.

To create a hyperlink for an e-mail address or URL, type the address (without any HTML tags). The hyperlink will be created automatically.

[Back to the top](#)

Invite someone to join your current chat room:

You can use the **invite command** to invite an user to join the room you are chatting in.

For example: `/invite Jack`

will send a private message to Jack suggesting him to join you in your current chat room. This message contains the name of the target room and this name appears as a link.

Note that you can put more than one username in the invite command (eg `/invite Jack,Helen,Alf`). They must be splitted by comma (,) without spaces.

[Back to the top](#)

Changing rooms:

The list to the right of the screen provides a list of chat rooms and the users who are currently in that room. To leave the room you are in and move into one of those rooms, simply click once on the name of that room. Empty rooms do not appear on this list. You may move into an empty room by typing the **command** `"/join #roomname"` without quotes.

For example: `/join #RedRoom`

will move you into the RedRoom.

If you're a registered user, you may also create a new room with this same command. But then you have to specify its type: 0 stands for private, 1 for public (default value).

For example: `/join 0 #MyRoom`

will create a new private room (assuming a public one has not already been created with that name) called MyRoom and move you into it.

Room's name cannot contain comma or backslash (\).

[Back to the top](#)

Modifying his own profile inside the chat:

The **Profile command** creates a separate pop-up window in which you can edit your user profile and modify it except your nick and password (you have to use the link at the start page to do this).

Type `/profile`

[Back to the top](#)

Recalling the last message or command you have submitted:

The **! command** recalls the last message or command you have submitted.

Type `!`

[Back to the top](#)

Responding to a specific user:

Clicking once on the name of another user from the list (to the right of the screen) will cause their "username>" to appear in your text box. This feature allows you to easily direct a public message to a user, perhaps in response to something he or she has posted above.

[Back to the top](#)

Private messages:

To send a private message to another user currently in your chat room, type the **command** `"/msg username messagetext"` or `"/to username messagetext"` without quotes.

For example, where Jack is the username: /msg Jack Hi there, how are you?

The message will appear to Jack and yourself, but no other users will see the message.

Note that clicking on the nick of a message sender in the main frame will automatically add this command to the input field for messages.

[Back to the top](#)

Actions:

To describe what you're doing you can use the **command `"/me action"`** without quotes.

For example: If Jack sends the message `"/me is smoking a cigarette"` the message frame will shown **"* Jack** is smoking a cigarette".

[Back to the top](#)

Ignoring other users:

To ignore all of the posts by another user, type the **command `"/ignore username"`** without quotes.

For example: `/ignore Jack`

From that time onward, no messages by the user Jack will display on your screen.

To have a list of the users whose messages are ignored, just type the **command `"/ignore"`** without quotes.

To resume display of message by an ignored user, type the **command `"/ignore - username"`** without quotes where `"-"` is a hyphen.

For example: `/ignore - Jack`

Now all the messages by Jack posted during the current chat session will be displayed on your screen, including those messages posted by Jack before you typed this command. If you don't specify an username after the hyphen, your "ignored list" will be cleaned.

Note that you can put more than one username in the ignore command (eg `"/ignore Jack,Helen,Alf"` or `"/ignore - Jack,Alf"`). They must be splitted by comma (,) without spaces.

[Back to the top](#)

Getting information about other Users:

To see public information about another user, type the **command `"/whois username"`** without quotes.

For Example: `/whois Jack`

where 'Jack' is the username. This command will create a separate pop-up window that will display the publically available information about that user.

[Back to the top](#)

Save messages:

To export messages (notification ones excluded) to a local HTML file, type the **command** `"/save n"` without quotes.

For Example: /save 5

where '5' is the number of messages to save. If n is not specified, all available messages sent to the current room will be taken into account.

[Back to the top](#)

Commands for the administrator and/or moderators only

Send an announcement:

The administrator may send an announcement to all users whatever the the room they are chatting into with the **announce command**.

For example: /announce The chat system is going down for maintenance tonight at 8pm.

[Back to the top](#)

Kicking an user:

Moderators can kick an user and the administrator can kick an user or a moderator with the **kick command**. Except for the administrator, the user to be kicked must be in the current room.

For example, if Jack is the name of the user to kick away: /kick Jack

[Back to the top](#)

Promote an user to moderator:

Moderators and the administrator can promote an other user to moderator with the **promote command**.

For example, if Jack is the name of the user to promote: /promote Jack

Only the administrator can access the opposite feature (reduce a moderator to simple user) at a dedicated page. There is no command to do it.

[Back to the top](#)