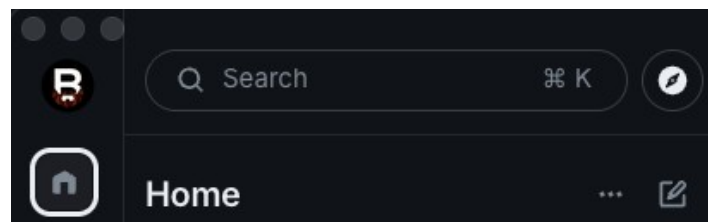


Matrix is very similar to Discord, but with some important differences:

- 1) All the same features are available: text channels, voice/video channels, screen sharing, DMs, group messages, plus others that aren't in Discord. The only feature that isn't natively available in Matrix is GIF searches, but you can still paste links to them and they'll show up like normal.
- 2) Rooms:
  - a) These are the equivalent of channels in Discord, but are formatted differently and can either be public or private (or invite-only).
  - b) In Discord a channel is just `#channel`. On Matrix, a room is also formatted with the server name, so this same room would be `#channel:ghostwater.net`. This is because Matrix servers are (typically) federated - meaning someone from another server could join a channel in this server without needing an account here. Federation is currently disabled on `matrix.ghostwater.net`, so an account is needed here.
  - c) Everyone can create their own rooms and spaces and you can choose if they are private or public.
- 3) Spaces:
  - a) These are a way to group rooms together, but aren't technically required. These can also be public or private and are good for grouping together rooms for a similar purpose (D&D campaign, for example). You could almost think of them as their own Discord server.

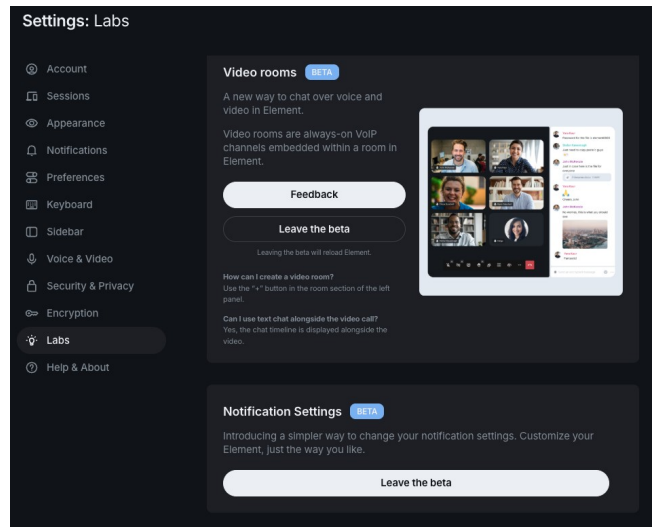
To find public spaces or rooms, you can use the compass icon to the right of the search bar on the home screen



By default, this searches for "Public Rooms", but you can change this to Public Spaces as well. If a room or space is private or invite-only, it won't show in this list.

- 4) Users are also labeled a bit differently than Discord, but they're similar to rooms. A user on Matrix is identified by their username and server, just like rooms. An example of a user with the username of *john* on Ghostwater would be `@john:ghostwater.net`.
- 5) Slash-commands are available on Matrix. You can type a forward slash (/) in any channel and see a list of possible commands. You could join a room by typing `/join #room:ghostwater.net`; you can DM John from above by typing `/msg @john:ghostwater.net Hi`; or you can flip a table by typing `/tableflip`.

- 6) Notifications are a bit different. By default, you'll be notified for everything. It's recommended to go into your settings on the bottom left, then "Labs" and join the "Notification Settings" beta.



From there, go into your notification settings and it's recommended to at least uncheck the option for playing a sound for "people"

- 7) Since rooms can be encrypted (public ones aren't), it's recommended to set up a recovery key and store it somewhere safe, so you don't lose access to encrypted messages (especially DMs) if you ever need to reinstall or get a new device. To set this up, go into your settings, then Encryption and you will see an option to configure it.
- 8) General server announcements and updates for things like scheduled downtime, etc will be in the "Server Announcements" room (#server-announcements:ghostwater.net). You'll be joined to this room when you first create your account (but are always free to leave, you'll just miss the announcements)
- 9) Private server notices will be sent to you in private room called "Ghostwater Server Messages" from "Ghostwater (Official Account)". The ID of this account is **@server:ghostwater.net**. This is the only official account that you would receive these messages from. If the ID doesn't match, please report the message.



There are a lot of different options for desktop clients, but the recommended one to match the web interface is **Element**. It can be downloaded from <https://element.io/en/download>

For a mobile client, download Element X from the App Store or Play Store. Then on the web or desktop client, click on your profile icon and choose "Link new device" to get a QR code to scan and follow the instructions.

If at any time you need any help with anything related to the Matrix server, join **#help:ghostwater.net** and ask away.