

Società Italiana di Biofisica Pura e Applicata

XXV Congresso Nazionale

SIBPA 2020-2021



June 28 - July 1 2021

Contents

- 1 Browser Settings and Permissions 4**
 - 1.1 Chrome Settings 4
 - 1.2 Firefox Settings 5
 - 1.3 Safari 5

- 2 Audio & Video 6**
 - 2.1 How to View and Navigate Your Video Calls 6
 - 2.2 Grid View 6
 - 2.3 Turning off another user’s video and audio for yourself 6
 - 2.4 Blocking users 6
 - 2.5 Screen Sharing 6
 - 2.6 Raised Hand 7

- 3 Conversations 7**
 - 3.1 Poster session 7
 - 3.2 Zoom call 7
 - 3.3 Private space 7
 - 3.4 Ring Feature 7
 - 3.5 Conversation Bubbles 7
 - 3.6 Messaging 7

- 4 Movement on map 8**
 - 4.1 Follow Feature 8
 - 4.2 Locate on map 8
 - 4.3 Ghost Mode 9

Instructions

Gather Town is a video call space that allows several people to hold separate conversations in parallel, entering and leaving these conversations as easily as they would in real life. Just as in real life, we can only converse with people in our immediate vicinity. If we move on the map and move away from our interlocutor, he will no longer be able to hear us and vice versa (See sections 4.1 and 4.2).

The map (Figure 1) is composed of:

Foyer: is the entrance where it is possible to see all documents related to how the conference will work;

Main: is a room that link the foyer with all other rooms;

Poster & Sponsor: all the posters and sponsors are displayed in this room;

Keynote: is the room on which will be possible to join zoom calls;

Rooms: the two room on the left are suppose to be used for small reunions.

More information on using this fun platform can be found at the following link [Gather Town](#).



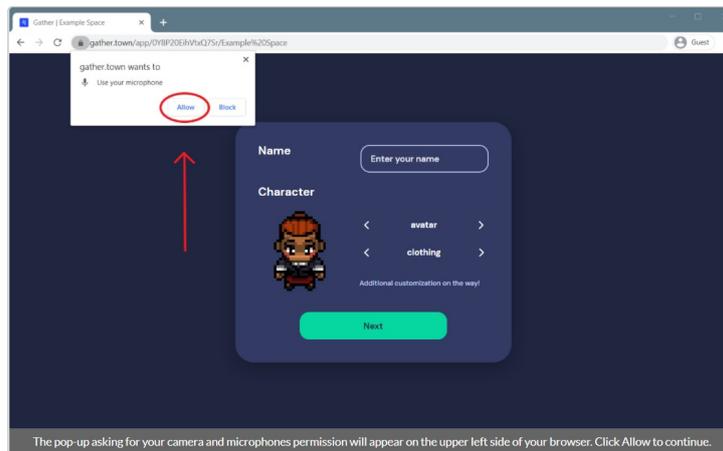
Figure 1: Map

1 Browser Settings and Permissions

Gather must request permission to use your mic and camera from the web browser. To work properly, Gather should be allowed access to the microphone and camera. If you dismiss or block the initial mic/camera permission pop-up window, you may see a message stating that *"Gather needs your permission to access your Camera/Microphone..."* You may close this warning, but if you do not change your settings, others may not be able to see or hear you inside of Gather.

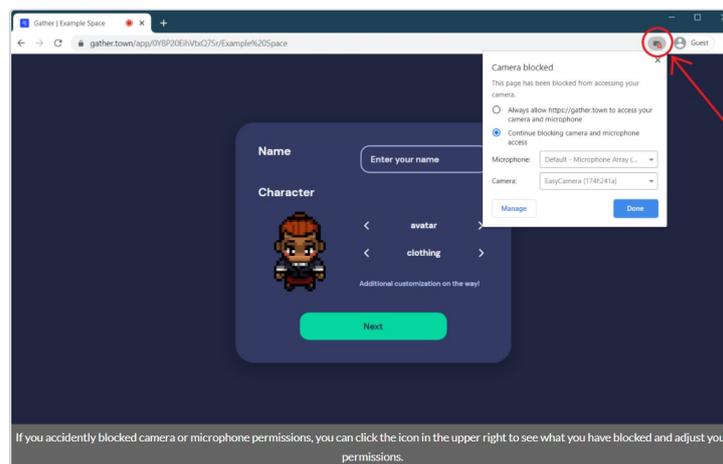
1.1 Chrome Settings

When you first enter Gather, you will see a pop-ups asking for camera and microphone access permissions. Click *"Allow"* in order to provide the best experience in Gather.



The pop-up asking for your camera and microphones permission will appear on the upper left side of your browser. Click Allow to continue.

If you accidentally blocked Gather from accessing your camera or microphone, you will see a camera icon in the upper right of your site address bar with a red "x" to indicate that you have denied the site access. You can click on this to change your preferences.



If you accidentally blocked camera or microphone permissions, you can click the icon in the upper right to see what you have blocked and adjust your permissions.

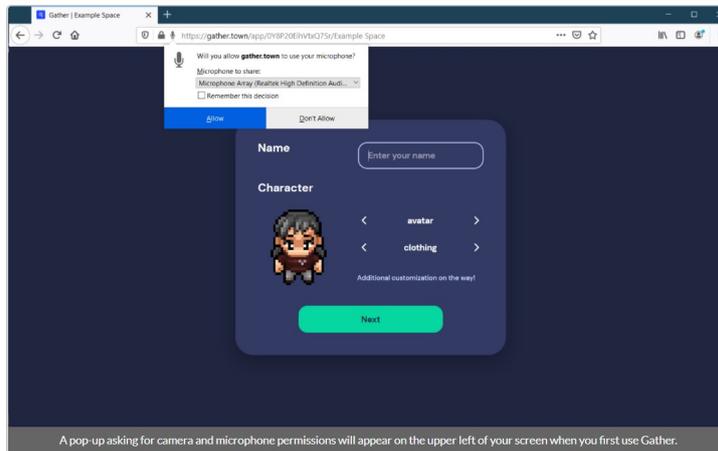
After selecting the radio button to allow Gather access to your camera and microphone, you will need to refresh the page for the changes to go into effect.

You can always check or change your permission settings by clicking the lock icon in the upper left of your site address bar. To remove the blocked permissions and allow Gather access to your camera and microphone, click on your site privacy and security settings by clicking the lock icon on the left side of your site address bar and then clicking the "x" next to each blocked permission. Refresh your page.

1.2 Firefox Settings

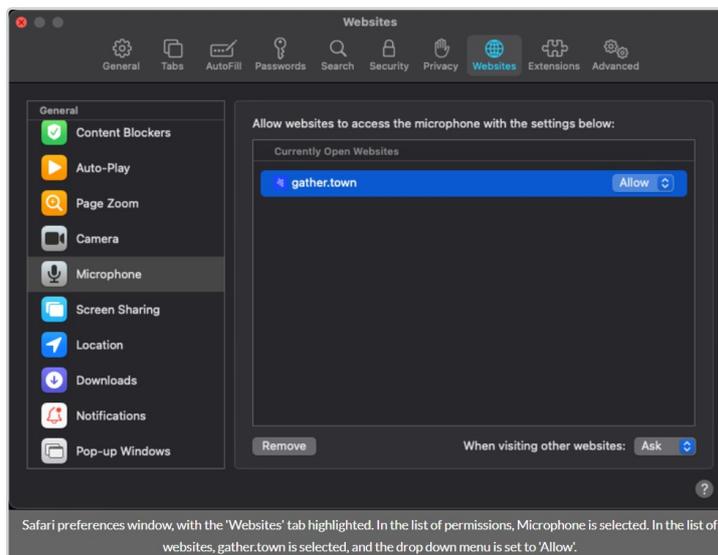
When you first enter Gather, you will see a pop-ups asking for camera and microphone access permissions. Click "Allow" in order to provide the best experience in Gather.

If you accidentally blocked Gather from accessing your camera or microphone, you will see a camera and/or microphone icon in the upper left of your site address bar with a grey slash through it to indicate that you have denied the site access. You can click on this to change your preferences.



1.3 Safari

Safari will prompt you for camera and microphone permissions when you first log into a space. Safari will prompt you twice for camera and microphone permissions when you first log into a space. Click 'Allow' to permit Gather to use your microphone, and to use your camera. If you accidentally click 'Don't Allow', refresh the page and try again. If you accidentally click 'Never for This Website', you can change this setting in your Safari Preferences. In Safari Preferences, open the 'Websites' tab and scroll down on the left side bar until you see 'Camera' and 'Microphone'.



2 Audio & Video

2.1 How to View and Navigate Your Video Calls

In Gather, when your avatar approaches others, a video call automatically starts between you and the people you approach. All videos will initially appear at the top of your screen. In an open area, you will be connected to everyone within 5 tiles unless you activate Quiet Mode. When you are in a Private Area, you will be connected to everyone who is also inside of the private area. When there are multiple participants in one gathering, a select number of video call windows will be shown at the top of your screen. The number of video participants shown depends on the size of your browsing window and resolution of your screen.

2.2 Grid View

To increase the number of videos visible to you or to enlarge the videos you are currently seeing, you can enter Grid View. Grid View will display up to 9 videos in a grid format at the same time with their names and avatars visible. To exit Grid View, click button in the upper right of your screen with the arrows pointing towards each other.

2.3 Turning off another user's video and audio for yourself

If there is another participant who you do not wish to hear or see you can mute them or turn off their video. To do so, hover your mouse over their video box and click on the microphone and/or video camera icons to mute and/or turn off their video for yourself. When you hover your mouse over another person's video, it will display the "microphone" and "video" buttons you can use to mute or turn off their video. Doing this will only mute their audio/video for yourself and no one else in the space. They will still be able to see and hear you, and everyone else will still be able to see and hear them. To turn their audio/video back on you would follow the same steps. Note that if you turn off another person's audio or video for yourself, if they leave your range of conversation and return, it will reset the setting so that you will be able to see and hear them again.

2.4 Blocking users

Blocks are done by account and can be undone if needed. This is very different than Banning a User which is done by IP. Blocking a user will disable all communication between you and the other person, but not for anyone else in the space. Other Participants will still be able to see and hear both of you, and you will still be able to see that user's avatar in the space. How to block a user:

1. Hover your mouse over their video feed.
2. Click the circle with the cross through it.
3. Click the "Confirm Block" button that appears on their video feed.

To unblock a user follow steps 1 and 2 above. After you block a user a space will still show where their video will be, but it will appear to be transparent for you. They will not be notified that they have been blocked and for them your video will show as a black box which looks similar to if you turned off their audio and video. You can also block someone from the participants list.

2.5 Screen Sharing

You can share your screen with all of the people you are connected to on Gather if it is enabled in the space that you are in (Screen Sharing can be disabled in Metropolis Spaces). To do so, click on the Screen Sharing icon in the center Control Bar at the bottom of your screen.

2.6 Raised Hand

To raise your hand, you can either select it from the Emotes Menu or press the number 6 on your keyboard. While your hand is raised, your name will move up to the top of the Participants list. For the raise hand emote, you have to press the number 6 again for the emote to disappear. Alternatively, you can click on the raised hand emote in the emote menu or the clear all button to lower your hand.

3 Conversations

3.1 Poster session

When you approach a poster, you see the preview. If you want to see the full poster, just press "x". When your avatar is in the private space next to a poster, you can only interact with people in this space. The rooms have been created to have meetings and talk directly with the authors.

3.2 Zoom call

User enters a Gather room that has a press 'x' to enter zoom call button. They see the text reported in figure below. Enter presentation is hosted on Zoom directly. They exit the zoom call, and head back to Gather to see this message. They click the green button to enter the Gather space exactly where they last left off.

To enter, click this external link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4671271999?pwd=ZytkcGR3dVZac2M2Z3p4Unkrb3RBUTO9>

Clicking the link will disable your audio/video on Gather, so it won't interfere.
 To enter back into Gather, just come back to this tab!

3.3 Private space

For more flexible conversation dynamics, you can enter "*private spaces*". Private spaces are areas in the map where everyone inside can see each other, no matter how far they are with no video/audio fading. Furthermore only other users in the same private space can see or hear you.

3.4 Ring Feature

The Ring Feature is available when a user in the space is muted. The Ring Feature's main function is to call the user's attention back to the Gather tab. When clicked, there will be a short audio ring played to grab their attention.

3.5 Conversation Bubbles

A bubble is a temporary conversation between you and another person. Need to get a word in, but don't wanna disturb the flow or the larger meeting going on? Break out into a bubble. Bubbles are great for a speedy whisper with your neighbor without talking over the current group conversation.

3.6 Messaging

Users can send and view messages in the Chat Panel, located above the participants tab, second from the bottom on the left of your screen. Here, you can view past messages, as well as send messages of your own. There, you can send messages to three different kinds of recipients, which you can toggle using the options located in the drop box at the bottom of the Chat Panel. These options allow you to send a message to:

1. *Everyone* - Your message will appear in the chat panel for every user in the space.
2. *Nearby* - Your message will appear in the chat panel for every user that you are currently video chatting with. This could be whoever is standing within your interaction distance, or whoever you are in a private space with.

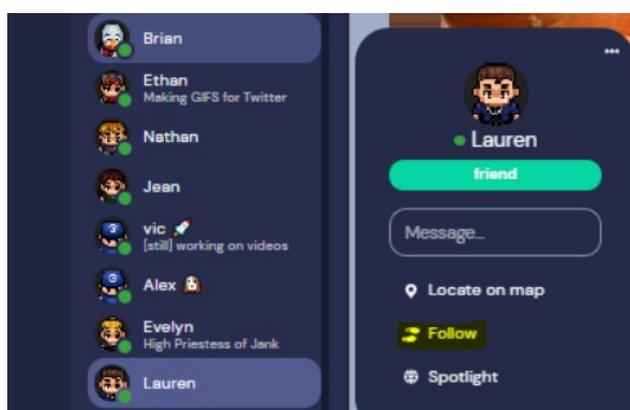
3. *Individuals* - The remaining options will display the names of other users in the room. You can scroll through this to select a user to send a private message to. You can also click on a users name in the chat history to make them the recipient of your next message.

You can also click on a person's name in the chat panel to automatically start private messaging them. Note that you can only send private messages to users that are currently online and in the Space with you.

4 Movement on map

4.1 Follow Feature

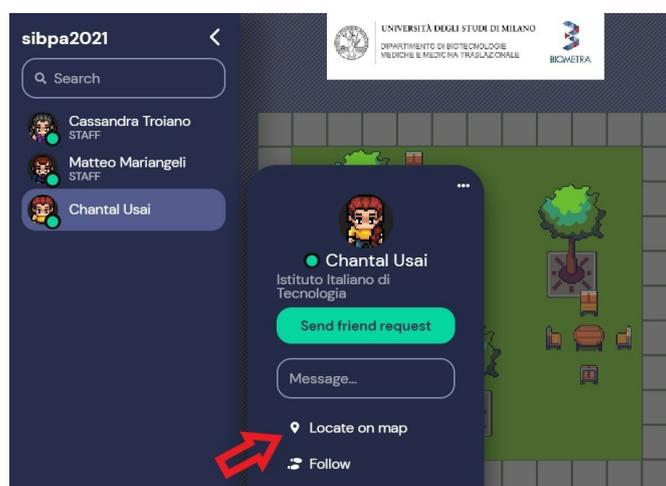
The Follow Feature allows someone to easily follow another person without having to move their own character around a space. When you are in follow mode, you automatically follow the person you chose to follow. To exit follow mode, press any arrow key to move away from the other person. To activate follow mode, click on the person's name in the Participants List and select 'follow.'



To stop following someone, press any arrow key on your keyboard.

4.2 Locate on map

Another very interesting function that Gather Town offers is "*Locate on Map*" which allows us to find a person of interest. To do so, simply click on the person's name in the list of participants and select "*Locate on Map*". A highlighted route will appear on the map, allowing us to reach the person we wish to locate.





4.3 Ghost Mode

If you are 'blocked in' by other people, you can use ghost mode to pass through them by holding down the "G" key on your keyboard as you move. This allows you to pass through tiles that are occupied by other people. Consequently, this means you can use Ghost Mode to have multiple people 'stack up' on the same tile. Note that while in ghost mode you will be disconnected from everyone and unable to make new audio or video connections until you leave ghost mode.