
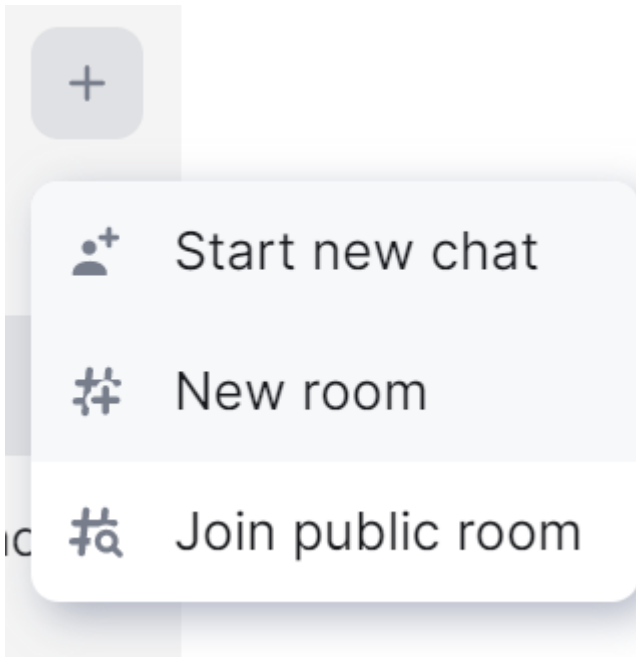


# Getting Started: Creating a Room

**Disclaimer:** This guide refers to using the Element Matrix clients, [Element Web](#) or [Element Desktop](#) apps

You can create a room by clicking the  button, located at the top alongside your current Space's name within the Left Panel - you will be presented with various options to create a room matching your requirements.



## Starting a Direct Chat

After clicking [Start new chat](#), you will be presented with the [Direct Messages](#) prompt, from here you can search for other people using their name, email address or username. You can select your desired contact(s) to directly invite them, or copy the provided invite link to send separately. You will see suggestions based on people you have most recently interacted with or search directly.

## Direct Messages

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Start a conversation with someone using their name, email address or username (like [@user:example.com](#)).

Go

SUGGESTIONS

S

Simon Demo

@simondemo:example.com

T

Terry Trial

@terryt:example.com

O

Only A Test

@onlyatest:example.com

Some suggestions may be hidden for privacy.  
If you can't see who you're looking for, send them your invite link below.

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OR SEND INVITE LINK

<https://matrix.to/#/@user:example.com>

📋

**Searching for users:** When searching for users, searching by name requires you to have interacted (been within a common room / space) with the user previously, otherwise you will need to specify their full Matrix ID, for example, `@user:example.com`.

After confirming the invitees for the chat, click `Go`. This will open a draft of the room in the Right Panel, you must then send your first message for the room to be created and the recipients to be invited.

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Go

## Starting a New Room

After clicking [New room](#), you will be presented with the [Create a private room](#) prompt, from here you can specify the room settings as desired.

## Create a private room



Private room (invite only)



Only people invited will be able to find and join this room. You can change this at any time from room settings.

**Enable end-to-end encryption**

You can't disable this later. Bridges & most bots won't work yet.



**Hide advanced**

**Block anyone not part of example.com from ever joining this room.**

You might enable this if the room will only be used for collaborating with internal teams on your homeserver. This cannot be changed later.



Cancel

Create room

## Create a public room



Public room



Anyone will be able to find and join this room. You can change this at any time from room settings.

Room address

# e.g. my-room :example.com

**Hide advanced**

**Block anyone not part of example.com from ever joining this room.**

You might enable this if the room will only be used for collaborating with internal teams on your homeserver. This cannot be changed later.



Cancel

Create room

- **Name:** This is the name your room will appear as, if you are making a public room, make sure you choose a name that will be easily found when searching and is appropriate for the homeserver.
- **Topic:** This works as a description for the room, it is presented at the top of a room

  **Hello World** ▾ This is my descripton

Click to read topic

- **Room Type:** Here you can customize whether the room should be publicly accessible, changing to public will change the available configuration options, per images above, and prevent enabling end-to-end encryption<sup>1</sup>.
  - **Private Rooms | Enable end-to-end encryption:** Enabling this at any time prevents disabling it, ensure when creating the room you would like encryption. It is always possible to enable encryption after room creation via the room settings.
  - **Public Rooms | Room Address:** Much like your Matrix ID `@user:example.com`, your room will also have an ID or address `#room:example.com` that can be used to link to it from other chats, using `#`. It maybe beneficial to choose a simpler name here, allowing the room name to be more descriptive. Do note some characters are not allowed, such as spaces, `#` and `%`.
- **Advanced - Block anyone not part of homeserver:** Enabling this prevent users from other homeservers from joining the room.

“<sup>1</sup> Whilst you can enable encryption for a public room via the room settings after creation it's not recommended to add encryption to public rooms. Anyone can find and join public rooms, so anyone can read messages in them. You'll get none of the benefits of encryption, and you won't be able to turn it off later. Encrypting messages in a public room will make receiving and sending messages slower.

## What's Next?

### Using A Room

Now you've created a room, try the next in the Matrix Rooms: Getting Started series, [Getting Started: Using a Room](#)

### Managing A Room

To learn more about managing a room, try our Matrix Rooms: Managing a Room series, starting with [Managing a Room: Room Info](#).

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