Overview

Comic Chat is a comic-strip version of Internet Chat. You can connect to a chat room on an Internet server and conduct real-time conversations with other people. You can pick a cartoon character to represent you, and your conversation appears as word balloons in frames of a comic strip. With Comic Chat, you can express a wide range of emotions, send "thoughts," and save the chat session for offline viewing.

The Comic Chat window is composed of the following parts:
- A Starring pane, which prints the title of the chat and lists the participants
- The member list pane, which displays all the members in a chat room
- The viewing pane, where conversation occurs and chat history appears as a comic strip
- A self-view pane, which shows what your character looks like
- The emotion wheel, which displays all of your character's emotions
- A compose pane, where you type your messages

To connect to a chat room

1 On the **File** menu, click **New Connection**.

2 Type the name of the server that contains the chat room you want to connect to—for example, comicsrv1.microsoft.com.

3 Type the name of a chat room on the server. If you type a name that does not exist, a new chat room is created with that name.

{button ,AL("change;offline;favorite;switch")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To switch to a plain text connection

▶ On the **View** menu, click **Plain Text**.

Tip

▪ If you are conversing with an <u>IRC</u> client that does not support comic mode, you should use this type of connection

Internet Relay Chat.

To connect to a favorite chat room

▶ On the **Favorites** menu, click **Open Favorites**, and then click the room that you want.

Note

▪ You keep the same character from your most recent chat session.

{button ,AL("favorites")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To add a chat room to your Favorites

▶ While you are in the chat room, click the **Favorites** menu, and then click **Add To Favorites**.

Tip

▪ Comic Chat adds a shortcut to this chat room to your Favorites folder.

{button ,AL("favorite")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To change to a chat room on a different server

1 On the **File** menu, click **New Connection**.

2 Type the name of the server that contains the chat room you want to connect to—for example, comicsrv1.microsoft.com.

3 Type the name of a chat room on the server. If you type a name that does not exist, a new chat room is created with that name.

{button ,AL("server;favorite")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To search for a specific chat room

1 On the **View** menu, click **Chat Room List**.

2 In the **Display Chat Rooms Which Contain** box, specify the type of chat room you want to enter.

   If you want to search the descriptions of the chat rooms, click Also Search Descriptions.

3 Click Go To.

Tip
- If you want to begin another search, click **Update List**.

To change a character's expression

1 In the **emotion wheel**, drag the black dot to an emotion.

2 Right-click, and then click **Send Expression**. The character's expression in the most recent pane changes.

{button ,AL("freeze;unfreeze")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To freeze a character's expression

1 Click the black dot in the center of the **emotion wheel**, and then drag it to the expression you want.

2 Right-click, and then click **Frozen**.

The character in each frame displays the emotion you selected until you unfreeze the expression.

Tip
- To unfreeze a character's expression, point to the **emotion wheel**, right-click, and then click **Frozen**.

{button ,AL("expchange;wheel")} Related Topics

To view information for a character

1 In the **member list pane**, right-click an icon or nickname.

2 Click **Get Profile**.

{button ,AL("ignore")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To ignore a character

1 In the **member list pane**, right-click the icon or nickname for the character you want to ignore.

2 Click **Ignore**.

   Messages from this character no longer appear in your conversation panels. Others in the chat room can still see them.

{button ,AL("getinfo")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To read chat files offline
▶   On the **File** menu, click **open**.

Tip
▶   By reading chat files offline, you can view, print, and share chat room sessions with friends.

{button ,AL("server")} <u>Related Topics</u>

To define a character's emotion

▶ Click the black dot in the center of the **emotion wheel**, and then drag it around the wheel.

You can choose eight different emotions for your character:

Shouting	Angry
Happy	Laughing
Bored	Scared
Sad	Coy

The character in the self-view pane displays each emotion as you move around the circle. The closer to the outer edge of the wheel you move the dot, the more extreme the emotion.

Note

▶ Not all characters display the full range of emotions.

{button ,AL("expchange;freeze;gesture")} Related Topics

Comic Chat keyboard shortcuts

CTRL+A	Selects all text in the compose window.
CTRL+C	Copies selected text from the compose window to the clipboard.
CTRL+I	Sends text as a caption from the compose window to the chat pane. This is the Action command.
CTRL+N	Closes the current chat session and opens a new connection.
CTRL+O	Opens a file.
CTRL+P	Prints a file.
CTRL+Q	Views member options.
CTRL+S	Saves a file.
CTRL+T	Sends the contents of the compose window as a thought. This is the Think command.
CTRL+V	Pastes the clipboard contents into the compose window.
CTRL+W	Sends the contents of the compose window as a whisper. This is the Whisper command.
CTRL+X	Cuts the selected text and stores it on the clipboard.
CTRL+Y	Sends the contents of the compose window. This is the Say command.
CTRL+Z	Reverses the most recent action in the compose window.

To use character gestures

When you begin a sentence with these words	Your character does this
I	Points to itself
You	Points to the other person
Hello or Hi	Waves
Bye	Waves
Welcome	Waves
Howdy	Waves

When your sentence contains these words	Your character does this
are you	Points to the other person
will you	Points to the other person
did you	Points to the other person
aren't you	Points to the other person
don't you	Points to the other person
I'm	Points to itself
I will	Points to itself
I'll	Points to itself

I am   Points to itself

When you type this	Your character shows this emotion
All capitals	Shouting
!!!	Shouting
ROTFL	Laughing
LOL	Laughing
:) or :-)	Happy
:(or :-(	Sad
;-)	Coy

To specify settings for a connection

The following options are available in the Connect dialog box.

Favorites

Displays your favorite chat rooms. In the list, select the room you want to enter.

Server

Displays the chat room server. In the box, type the name of the server where the chat room is located.

Go to Chat Room

In the box, type the name of the chat room you want to enter.

Show all available Chat Rooms

Specifies that you want to connect to a server and have a list of channels to choose from when entering a chat room.

To modify your personal information

▶ On the **View** menu, click **Options**, and then click **Personal Info**.

Type a Real Name

Provides a space for you to type your real name. In the box, type your real name.

Type a Nickname

Provides a space for you to type your online nickname. In the box, type a name you want to use as your nickname.

Type a Brief Description of Yourself

Provides a space for you to type a personal description for others to view when you are in a chat room.

To choose a character

1 On the **View** menu, click **Options**, and then click the **Characters** tab.

2 In the **Character Name** list, click the character you want. The **Preview** box displays the selected character.
   You can click the emotion wheel to see what the character looks like in different moods.

Character Name

Lists the names of the comic characters you can select. In the list, select the character you want.

Preview

Displays a preview of the character in a chat room.

To change your settings

▶ On the **View** menu, click **Options**, and then click the **Settings** tab.

This tab includes the following options:

Page Layout

Displays the Comic Chat window in panes. In the list, select the number of panes you want to display.

Connection

Specifies that you do not want to send your comic (graphical) chat information to all related members of a chat room.

Content Advisor

Specifies that you want to start Content Advisor. This feature is useful if you want to control what kinds of material other people can view on the Internet.

Accept Whispers and Invitations

Specifies that you want to receive whispers and invitations in a chat room.

Prompt to Save the Conversation on Exit

Specifies that you want to save your chat room dialogue when you quit Comic Chat.

To choose a background

1 On the **View** menu, click **Options**, and then click the **Backgrounds** tab.

2 In the **Background** list, click the background you want. The **Preview** box displays the selected background.

Background

Displays the names of backgrounds you can use in the comic strip. In the list, click the background you want.

Preview

Displays a preview of the selected background.

To customize a chat room

1 On the **Room** menu, click **Room Properties**.

2 Type the room topic that you want.

3 Check the items you want.