

Chat Room Guide and Rules

Friday, 30 September 2005

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THEGYC CHAT ROOM SERVICE

The chat room is a place where registered members can have conversations by sending text based messages to each other in real time. This service is sometimes monitored by Chat Operators. Chat Operators are indicated in amber, chat administrators are indicated in red.

The service is free but a connection to the internet is required on a computer with Java installed.

There are some rules that users agree to abide by when using the chat service. Chat room hosts have been given the authority to change a user's account and how they use the chat service if these rules are not kept to. Similarly, chat room hosts are governed by a section of these rules issued by TheGYC. If and when a chat room host does not keep to these guidelines anyone can report them to TheGYC who, depending on the circumstances, will take action.

The chat room rules are defined below and are correct as of Tuesday, January 07, 2007

CHAT ROOM RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

a. "USER"; any person who enters the chat room by any method including but not limited to: login, hacking (Identified in the chatroom by a black name. Your own name will generally appear green to yourself)

b. "THEGYC"; the registered owner(s) and manager(s) of "TheGYC.com";

c. "CHAT ROOM"; The computerized live message system hosted at theygc.com on computer servers accessible by TheGYC, which allows people to communicate with each other by sending and receiving messages from the web server

d. "HOST"/"HOSTS"; Those people with the authority of "Author" on TheGYC user database by TheGYC with the ability to ban, freeze, move and kick people (Operators/Moderators are identified by amber names on the user list, Administrators are identified by red names)

e. "CHAT DATA"; the data sent from and to users in the chat room including computer files, messages and action records

f. "MOTD"; Message of the day – displayed in the chat room when a user enters

g. "BAN"/"KICK" Where a user is removed from the chat service by IP blocking either temporarily or permanently

h. "FREEZE"; Where a user is made unable to send messages or change rooms for a defined period of time

2. WHO CAN USE THE CHAT ROOM?

a. All users must be aged 25 or less, unless otherwise permitted to use the service by TheGYC.

b. All users should hold an account (free) with TheGYC.COM with valid personal information contained within it

c. Those users who have been banned from the website by TheGYC must not use the chat room unless the ban is removed

d. Those users on TheGYC "white list" which is available to all GYC staff, may use the chat room regardless of any of the above conditions with the exception of condition 2c

3. USER INTENT

- a. Users may not enter and then use the chat room service if their intentions include one or more of the following the following. Partaking in any of the below may result in legal action.
- i. To advertise themselves (i.e. asking for webcam, displaying personal information, etc...), someone else, a service or a website

 - ii. To groom another user (groom: befriending a child, often in the negative context of preparing it to accept inappropriate behavior from the other person. [as defined by wikipedia.com])

 - iii. To access or attempt to access thegyc.com website servers without authorization, including but not limited to: virus attack, hacking ("Unauthorized use, or attempts to circumvent or bypass the security mechanisms of an information system or network.") [as defined by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission]

 - iv. To misrepresent TheGYC

 - v. To arrange a meeting for sexual intercourse

 - vi. To arrange or take part in cyber sex online

 - vii. To harvest, collect or store the messages sent by or to users as well as the users's personal information

viii. To post web links to adult or illegal websites

ix. To harass other members and chat users

x. To partake in illegal activity

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE USER(S)

a. Users are fully responsible for messages that they send using their computer in the chat room, their behavior in the chat room, any legal or other ramifications - including but not limited to internet grooming

b. Users are governed by the laws of their country of residence and those of the United Kingdom

c. Users are obliged to inform any available chat host or TheGYC at chatmanager@thegyc.com This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it if one is not available, of any user breaking these rules remembering to collect and supply TheGYC with messages that reflect the breaking of these rules

d. Users are responsible for any social issues that arise from use of the chat room and should not ask chat hosts or TheGYC to communicate with users on such matters on their behalf as agents

e. The users of the chat room agree to abide by any sanctions or sub-rules put in place by chat room hosts (obey fair instructions from chat hosts) unless obeying such instructions contradict the rules set here

f. If users believe a sanction or sub-rule called/defined by a chat host during chat is unfair or contradictory to these rules then they are responsible for notifying TheGYC Chat Management at chatmanager@thegyc.com

g. You should not design your font to appear overtly more flamboyant than another's. This includes, but is not limited to, abuse or over-use of capital lettering.

h . You should not create a username that is, obviously, intent to contradict the standing Terms and Conditions set by TheGYC. Your username will be deemed 'inappropriate' and account suspended if any of the following conditions are met:

A. Hinting and/or suggested act(s) that are:

i. Sexual in nature.

ii. To indicate the want to transfer illicit material.

B. Discloser of personal contact information or the discloser of contact information for the purpose of advertising and promoting other organizations, companies and websites.

C. Discriminatory or offensive in nature. This includes:

- i. Racial Intolerance.
- ii. Religious insensitivity.
- iii. Gender and sexual orientation discrimination.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAT ROOM HOSTS

a. Chat room host roles are as follows:

- i. To welcome chat users
- ii. To stimulate/start group conversation
- iii. To talk with users privately on a 1:1 basis

iv. To ensure conversation remains within the parameters of these rules

v. To ensure explicit (conversations that clearly are) arguments do not affect the public chat rooms

vi. To remind users of parts of these rules when necessary

vii. To freeze (prevent users from typing in the chatroom or changing rooms for a pre-defined period) to allow arguments to subside if they become significantly heated

viii. To request an extended ban from the chat service for members as a last resort to maintain these rules

ix. To kick/eject members from the entire chat service if they are (to the chat hosts knowledge) breaking the law or have intentions listed (but not limited to) those stated in section 3a of this agreement. In such instances it is essential that chat hosts inform TheGYC of this with reflective evidence from the chat room by email to the proper reporting address imparted during moderator training

b. Chat room hosts are governed by all of these rules without any exception unless a written waiver is otherwise put in place by TheGYC

c. Chat room hosts agree to obey the administrators with the username hamishrp, kidmystic, 1jonny, burgerboi11, robo, chironnightwolf, and 2hot_2touch

d. Chat room hosts must be sensitive and aware of each chat user, understanding that age and social circumstance can affect users' social behavior and social interpretations

e. Chat hosts must not "butt in" or interject discussion on the basis of authority without good grounds

f. In the cases of arguments during chat, the following are not kinds of argument that need to be prevented unless they become highly disruptive or very heated:

i. Miscommunication due to missing some message in part of a conversation or by misunderstanding words or phrases used

ii. Debate of any nature

g. Chat room hosts must not allow the name of TheGYC to be put into question in public chat, freezing and--at most--banning should be used. Hosts' must encourage any such users to view their experiences or opinions to TheGYC at info@thegyc.com

This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it

h. Chat room hosts must not allow individuals in the chat room or members of TheGYC to be bullied. Mediating discussion of this nature may at times take president of other roles but not always. Chat hosts should use their own discretion to prioritize

i. When three or more hosts are present in one room, they should arrange for a number of them to remove their Operator status so that only two hosts are "on-duty". The reason for this is so the chat room has a more liberal image.

j. Should chat room hosts have personal disagreements -- of judgment or otherwise -- with each other or a user, they must voice these privately and never in public chat

k. Repeatedly breaching these rules by chat hosts will result in the removal of the chat host position

l. TheGYC may remove a host's authority at any time

m. Hosts may enforce sub-rules which are 'rules' or decisions put in place by an individual host and not defined here. A sub-rule is temporary and applicable to the room in which the host is in. The chat room host may not move room to enforce the same rule without good reason. Enforcing of a sub-rule must be made public during chat (i.e. A NEW TEMPORARY RULE IS NOW IN FORCE:[state rule]). After doing this the host must email chatmanager@thegyc.com This email address is being protected from spam bots, you need Javascript enabled to view it explaining why the rule was put in place. If the grounds are unprofessional (as deemed by TheGYC) or if no email is sent then authority of the host will be removed

n. Sub-rules may not contradict this agreement. A host contradicting this agreement will have their authority removed unless under certain circumstances as defined by TheGYC upon investigation

o. Chat hosts may not change the MOTD without permission by any means

p. Inappropriate use of the admin area for chat hosts will result in legal action from both TheGYC and 'Good Space Computing' if its use disrupts the chat service for a period of more than 10 minutes

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THEGYC

a. TheGYC is NOT responsible for recording chat data and users agree that TheGYC will be unable to provide any such data

b. TheGYC is not responsible for any offense taken in messages displayed to them by other members on TheGYC chat

c. TheGYC is not responsible for enforcing laws in the chat room however we will act on information when it is provided to us

d. TheGYC cannot guarantee that this service will be available to all users nor any individual users. We are not responsible for any technical problems experienced when users attempt to login to the chat room due to their computer, connection to the internet or otherwise

e. TheGYC may terminate the entire chat service indefinitely without notice

7. LAW

a. TheGYC is governed by the laws of the United Kingdom

8. LIABILITY

a. TheGYC will not be liable for a loss of data whether generated in the chat room or not

b. All users hereby release and agree to save harmless TheGYC from and against any and all liability in connection with the use of the chat room, even should the same subject them to ridicule, scandal, reproach, scorn or indignity and waive any further claim that users may have to the eventual use to which users of the chat room may be applied

c. These rules form an agreement between all chat users and the registered owners of "TheGYC.COM". By using the chat service, all users agree with these terms of service.

