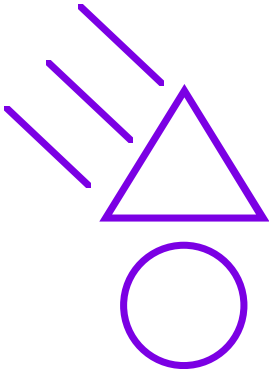
schMOOze '94



Welcome to schMOOze94, a demonstration of social virtual reality for the "real life" and “virtual" attendees of Supercomputing 1994.

The Purpose of This Demonstration

SchMOOze94 is an online electronic environment that you can use to meet people and share experiences, to learn about social virtual reality and collaborate with those visiting the conference via the Internet. The main goal of this project, which is running on a computer on SC94's show floor, is to familiarize the supercomputing community with this emerging collaborative environment technology.

SchMOOze94 is based on the popular Lambda MOO server developed at Xerox PARC. It is a text-based system that is at the core of several collaborative environment tools under development including PARC's own Jupiter project and Argonne's LabSpace project. These efforts enhance the text-based social virtual reality of the MOO by adding audio, video, and archiving mechanisms.

The virtual space in schMOOze94 is loosely modeled after the layout and activities of the Supercomputing 94 conference and demonstrates the notion of mapping the real world into a virtual environment.

In many ways schMOOze94 is an experiment. To our knowledge this is the first attempt to provide a multiuser collaborative virtual environment at a national conference. We hope that many people (both at the conference and on the net) will take a few minutes during the week to try it. We are very interested in your feedback on how future distributed collaborative tools can be used to facilitate better communications at large-scale conferences. Please e-mail comments to **schmooze94@mcs.anl.gov.**

How to Get Connected

The schMOOze94 server is scheduled to become available on Sunday, November 13, and run throughout the conference. Accessibility from the external internet will depend on the conference networking schedule. To connect to the schMOOze94 server, you must have access to a computer that can run telnet. (See the URL below for pointers to other, more powerful interfaces.) Using telnet, you would type:

telnet schmooze.mcs.anl.gov 1994

from any machine on the internet, including any machine at Supercomputing 94.
Once you connect, you can get help at anytime by typing:

help

Getting Started

When you first connect to the schMOOze94 server, you will be asked to supply information that will be used to identify you to other schMOOze94 users. Once connected and registered, you can "walk" about the conference, visit different "rooms" and participate in different conversations related to the conference. To keep the schMOOze94 system simple and easy to administer for the

schMOOze '94

conference, we have disabled many advanced features found in other MOOs (such as the ability to create virtual objects and new rooms).

Learning More

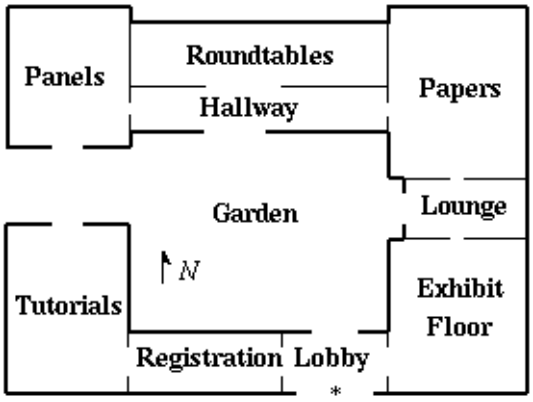
The schMOOze94 server is running on a machine in the Argonne research booth #R55 on the show floor. If you wish to learn more about it, please stop by and ask questions.

You may see "wizards" walking about in schMOOze94 and in real life (they will be identified by schMOOze94 Wizard buttons). The wizards can help you learn more about schMOOze94 and will try to keep the virtual environment running and usable.

More information about schMOOze94, and about MOOs in general is available via the Web at **http://www.ccs.neu.edu/research /labspace/schmooze** and at **ftp.parc.xerox.com/pub/MOO**.

Navigating the Virtual Space

SchMOOze94 is a virtual convention center. It's not exactly like the convention center that Supercomputing 94 is in, but it's similar. It has an exhibition hall in case people wish to talk with the exhibitors, and it has rooms for discussing the presentations and panels taking place at Supercomputing 94. It also has a garden, and a few other comfortable places to sit in and chat.



schMOOze94 Architecture

You can interact with SchMOOze94 and the other people using it by typing simple commands like **look**, **say hello**, and **walk to the lounge.** Type **@tutorial** for an on-line tutorial that will introduce you to more of these commands.

Be sure to visit the virtual registration booth in schMOOze94 in order to get a real SchMOOze94 pin!

Credits

SchMOOze94 is brought to you by the schMOOze94 volunteers and the LabSpace project, a joint Argonne National Laboratory and Northeastern University project to explore collaborative environments technology to enable wide-area scientific and technical collaborations.

A special thanks to the JHM development team for the use of their fully-featured MOO core.

The LabSpace logo: three elements, representing people (circle), and multimedia communication (3 lines --voice, video and data) enabled by computing and communications technology (triangle).