Join MIT Matrix: Walkthrough

because it's not the most intuitive lol

matrix@mit.edu

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1 What is Matrix?

Matrix is an open protocol and decentralized communication network. Rather than relying on a single company or central server, Matrix is made up of many independent "homeservers" that can communicate with each other over a shared network.

SIPB hosts MIT's Matrix homeserver at `matrix.mit.edu`. MIT users can sign in using their Kerberos credentials through Touchstone. Once connected, you can create or join spaces for clubs and groups (such as the SIPB space!), create private or public chat rooms, and even automatically join rooms for your classes through Hydrant.

Matrix also supports bridges, which allow messages to be shared between Matrix and other communication platforms. For SIPB chats, the recommended method is currently to use a Matrix client directly (this article), but many of our rooms can also be accessed through our bridges to Mattermost and Zephyr.

If you're interested in improving Matrix at MIT, consider joining the Matrix team! There is plenty of work to do making the platform easier to use, improving the onboarding experience, and building tools that make Matrix more useful for MIT students and groups.

Once you've signed in the SIPB space, we recommend everyone to join our general discussion Matrix rooms: **Town Square**, **General**, **Office**, **Other**, and **Other Other**. You should also search and join rooms that interest you, such as project-specific rooms.

Send questions and feedback to `matrix@mit.edu`

2 Matrix through a Browser

Go to `https://matrix.mit.edu` and Sign in with Touchstone.

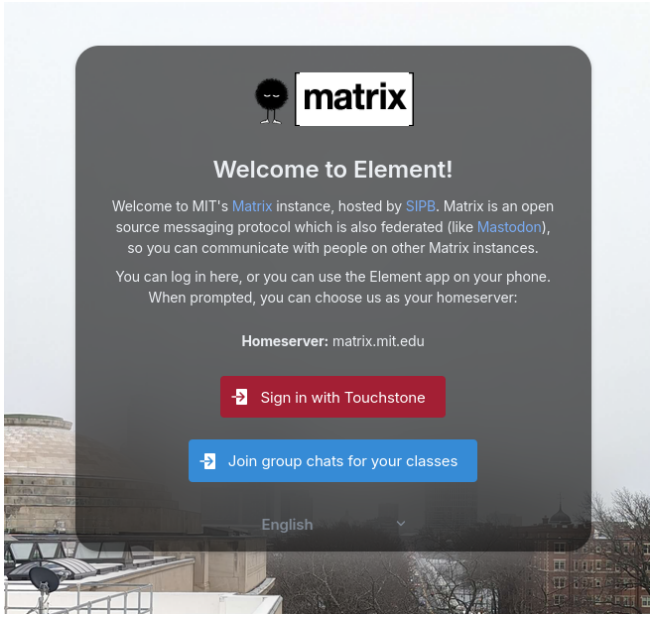


Figure 1: Front page of `matrix.mit.edu`

After you have chosen your display name, you are now in our Matrix instance, and can join spaces – such as SIPB. Click the + symbol in the left sidebar

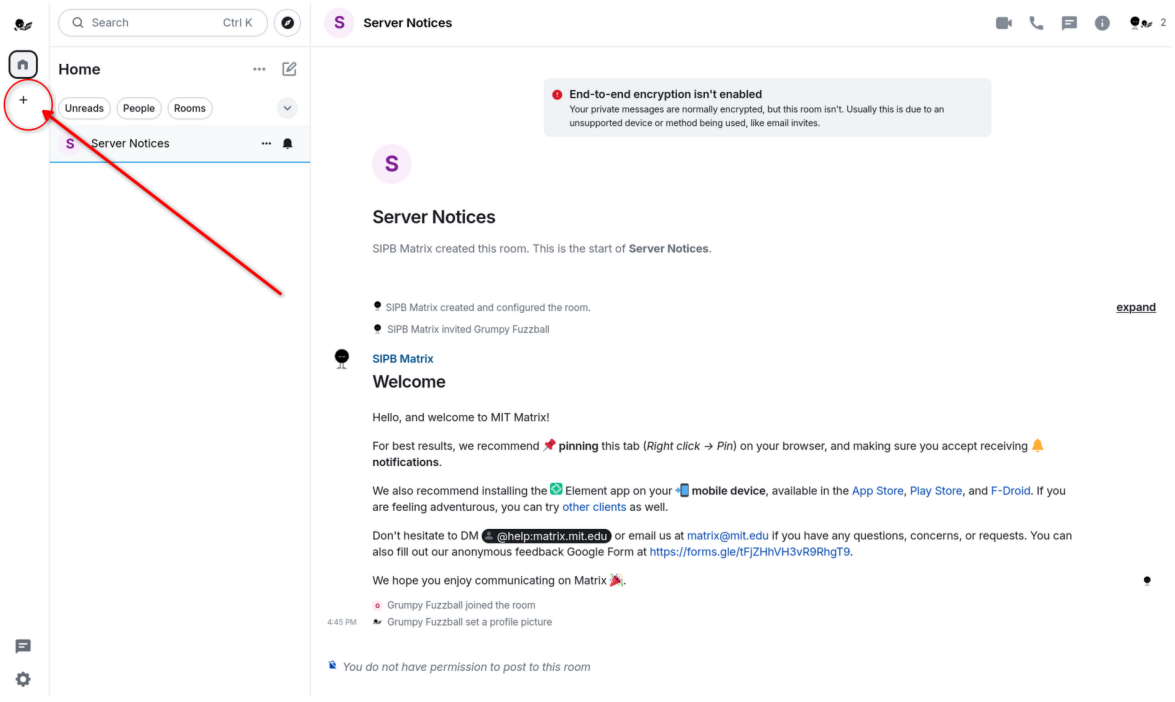


Figure 2: User that hasn't joined any spaces or rooms yet

... now we'll look for existing public spaces (you can also create your own spaces for your own groups or clubs)

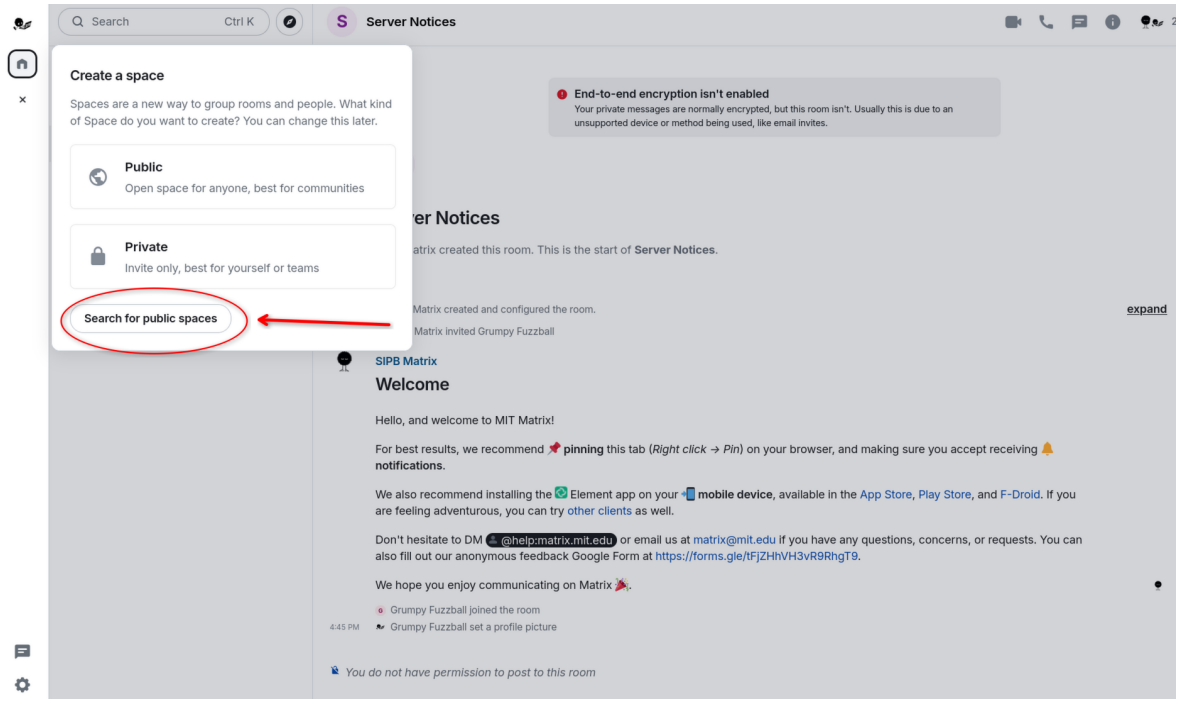


Figure 3

Find and join the SIPB space!

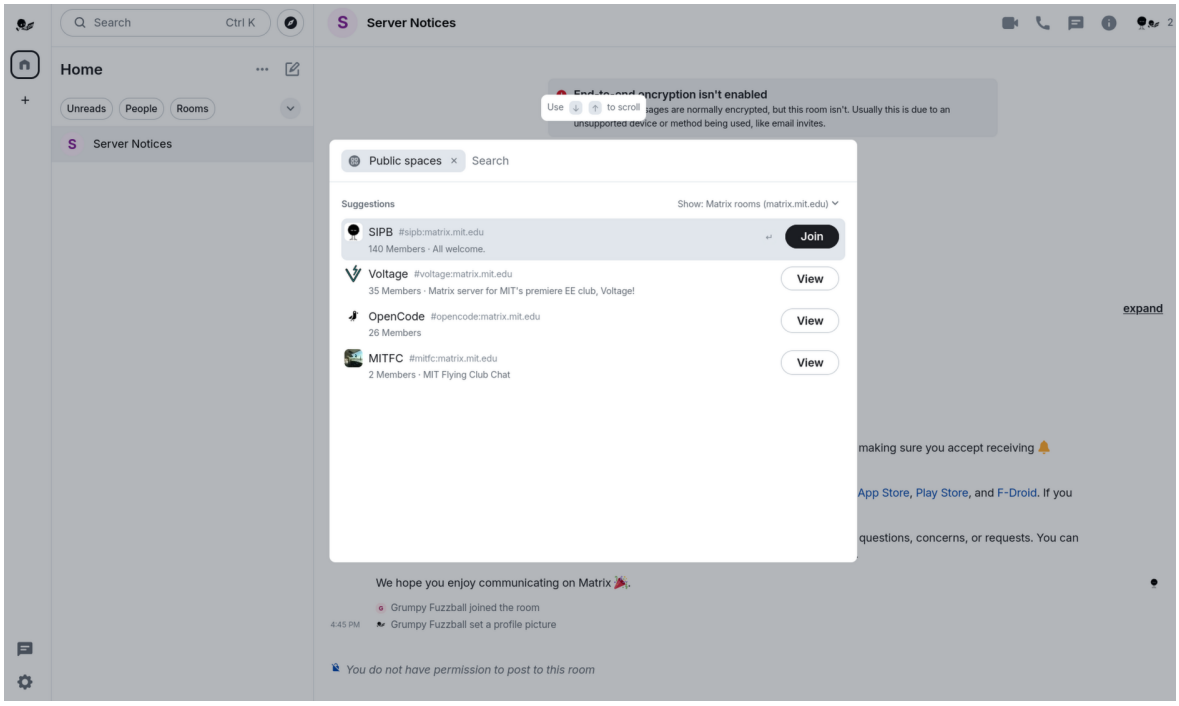


Figure 4

Cool... you're now in the SIPB space, but you haven't joined any rooms! Let's fix that. Search and join the rooms that interest you [figure 5]. **Important: Every time you want to search and join a new room, you need to hit the SIPB Space icon in the sidebar** [figure 6].

We strongly recommend you join our general discussion rooms: **Town Square**, **General**, **Office**, **Other**, and **Other Other**. You should also search join projects and rooms that interest you, such as project-specific rooms.

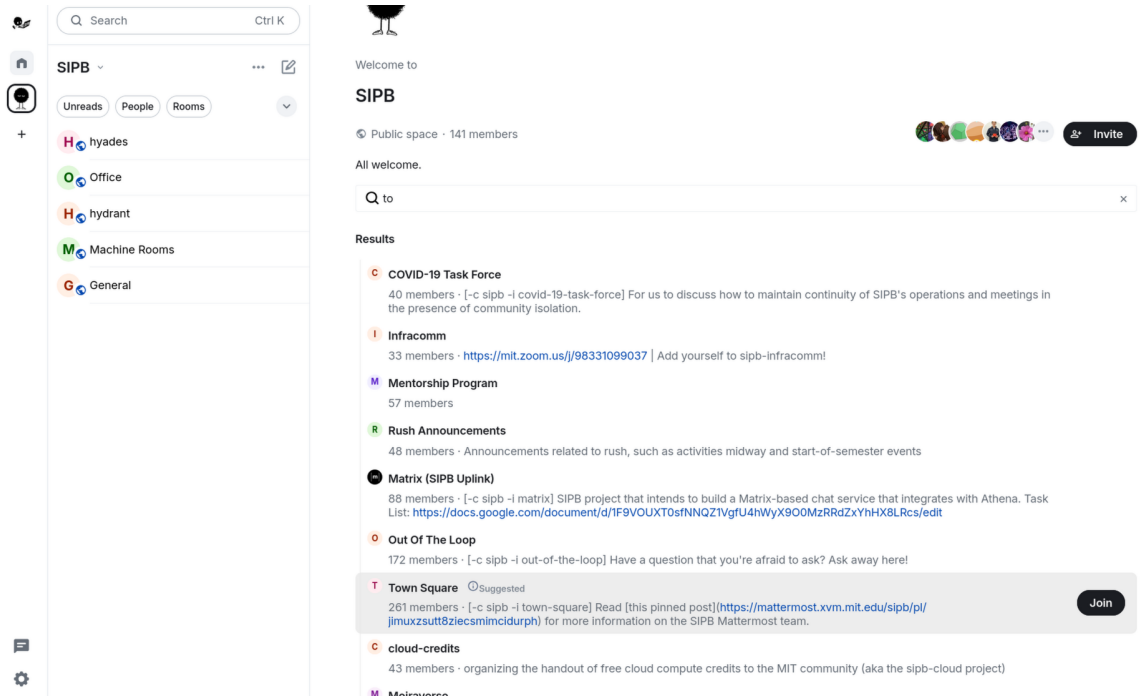


Figure 5

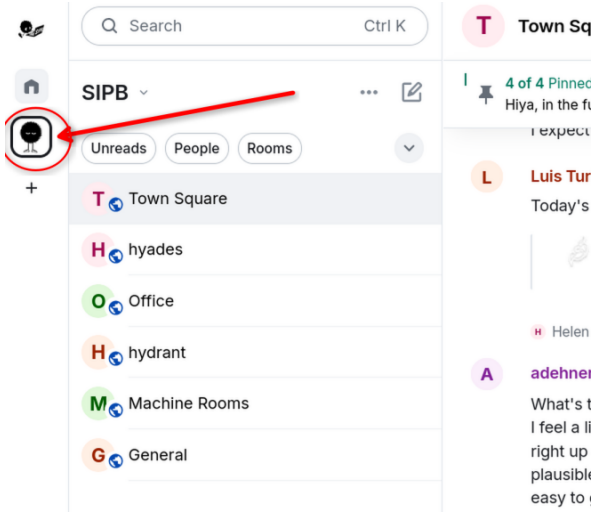


Figure 6: Click the space icon to search and join more rooms in the space

And now you can chat with other SIPB members!

3 Joining through a mobile client

Go to `https://matrix.mit.edu` on your mobile phone, and **download the Element app**.

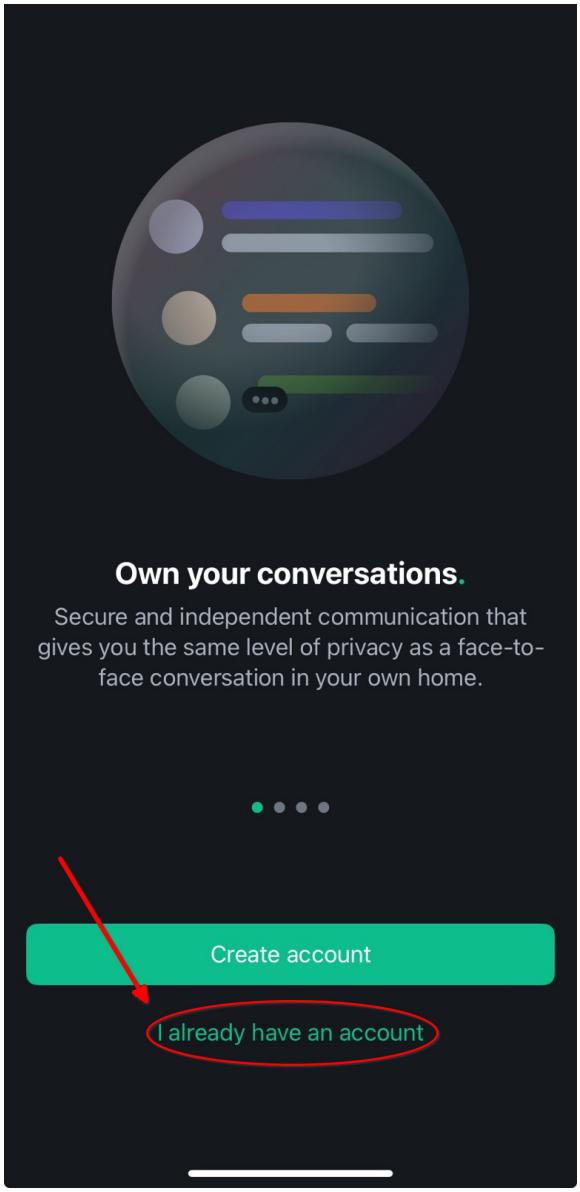


Figure 7: Initial screen of the Element app. Tap **I already have an account**

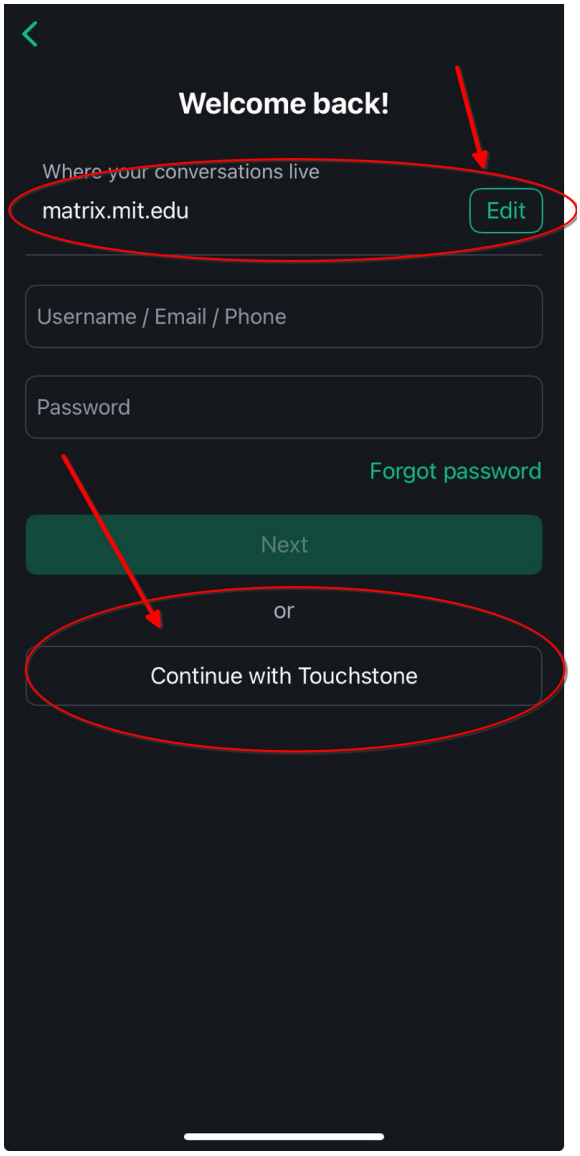


Figure 8: Edit the homeserver address to **matrix.mit.edu**, then tap **Continue with Touchstone** (you don't need to put any username or password here).

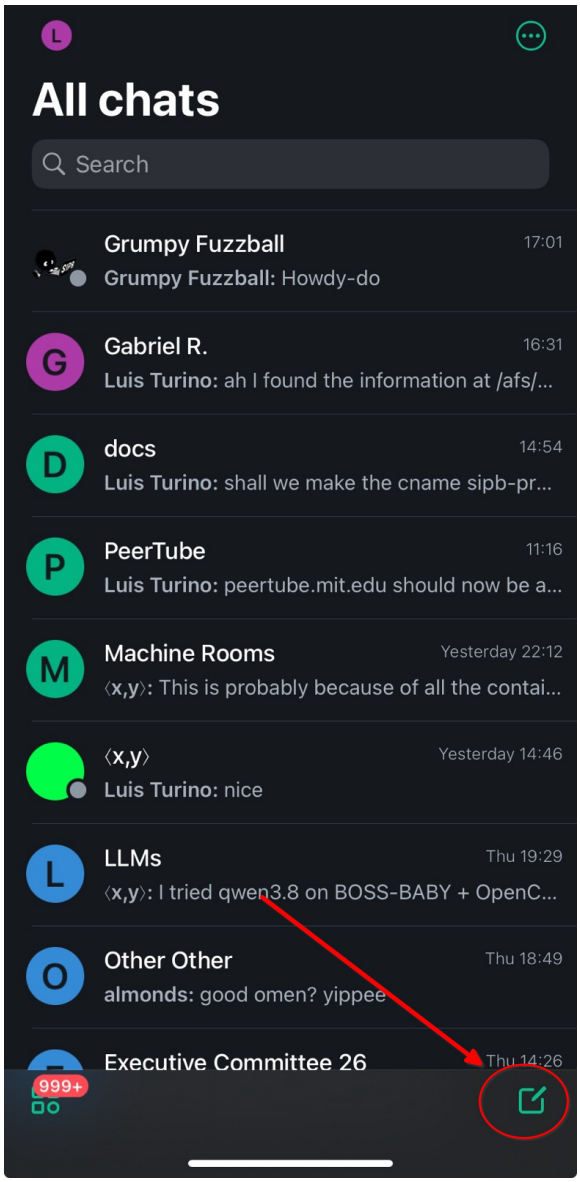


Figure 9: Once you have logged in through Touchstone, you will see All chats (which will be mostly empty for you). You need to join the SIPB space.

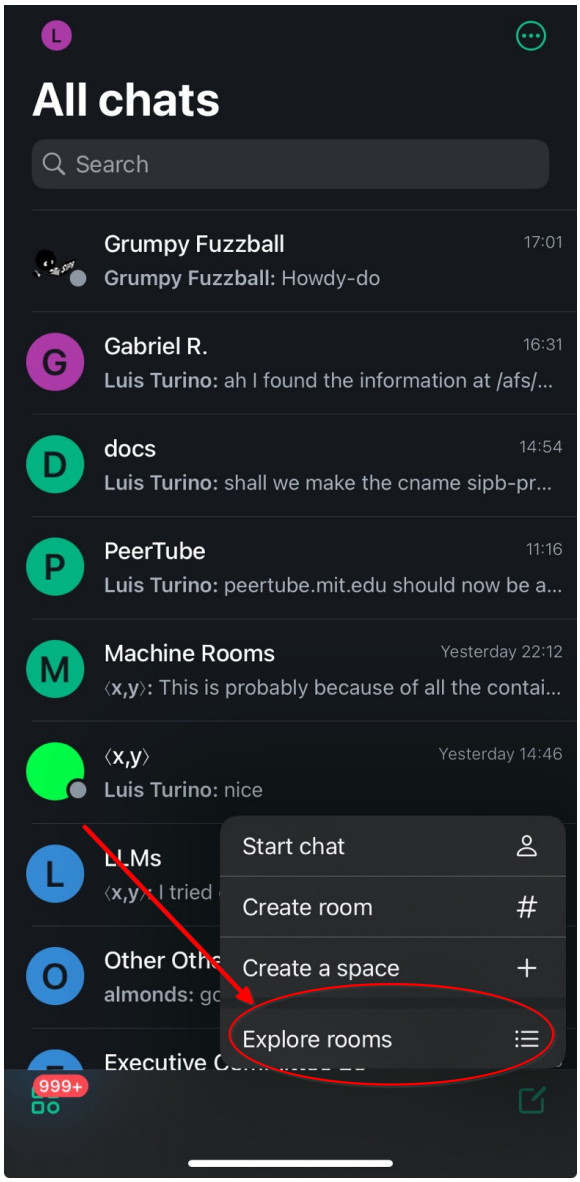


Figure 10

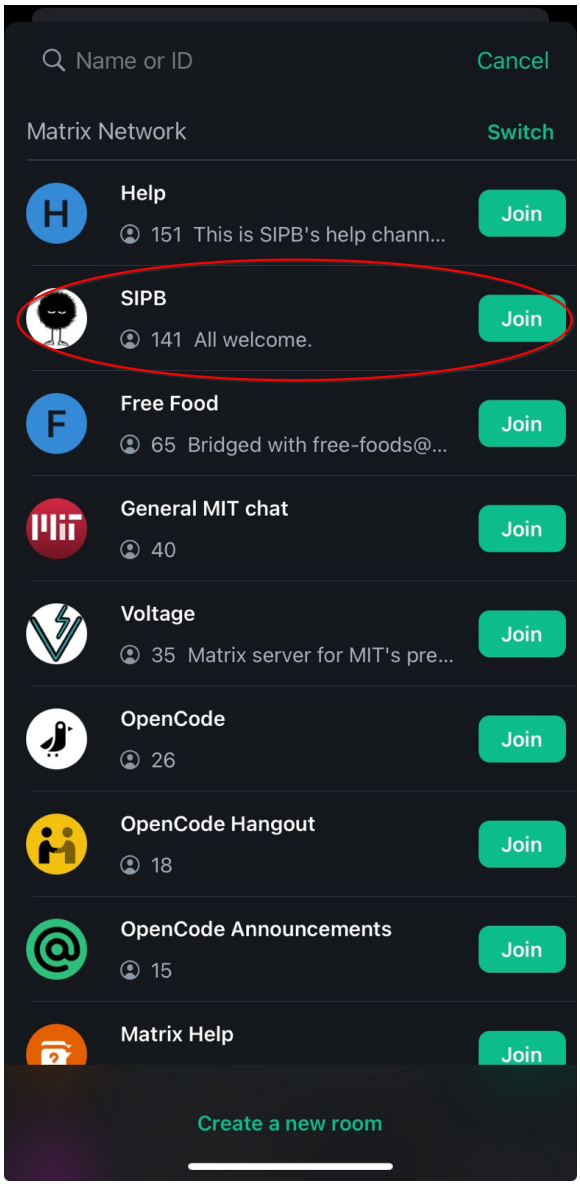


Figure 11: You will see the SIPB space, hit join!

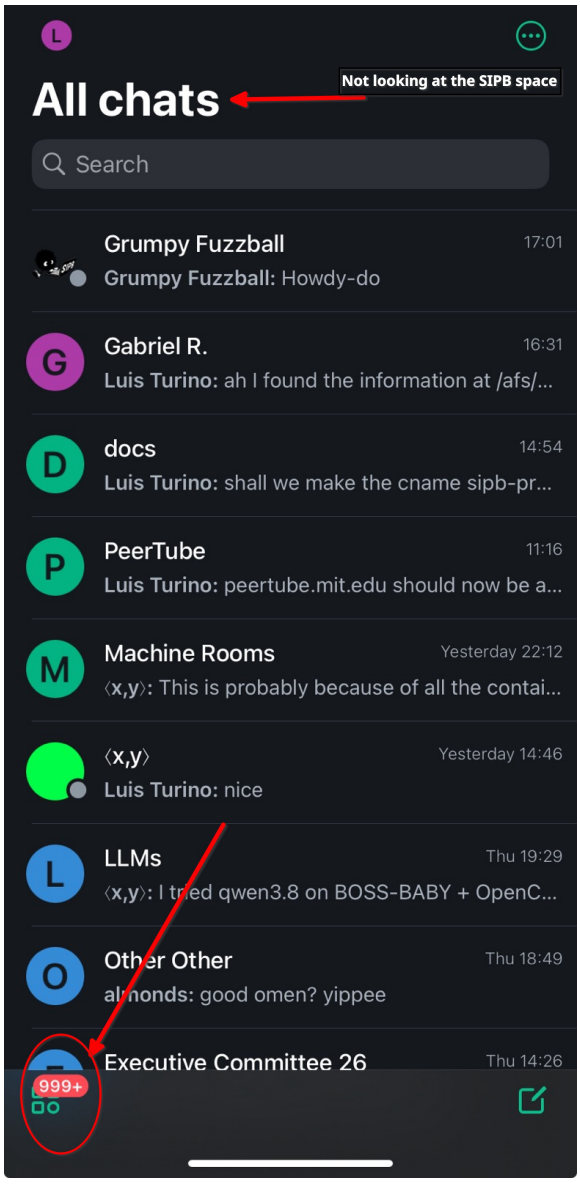


Figure 12: You might still not be seeing the SIPB space, even though you joined. Click on the Spaces icon in the left corner.

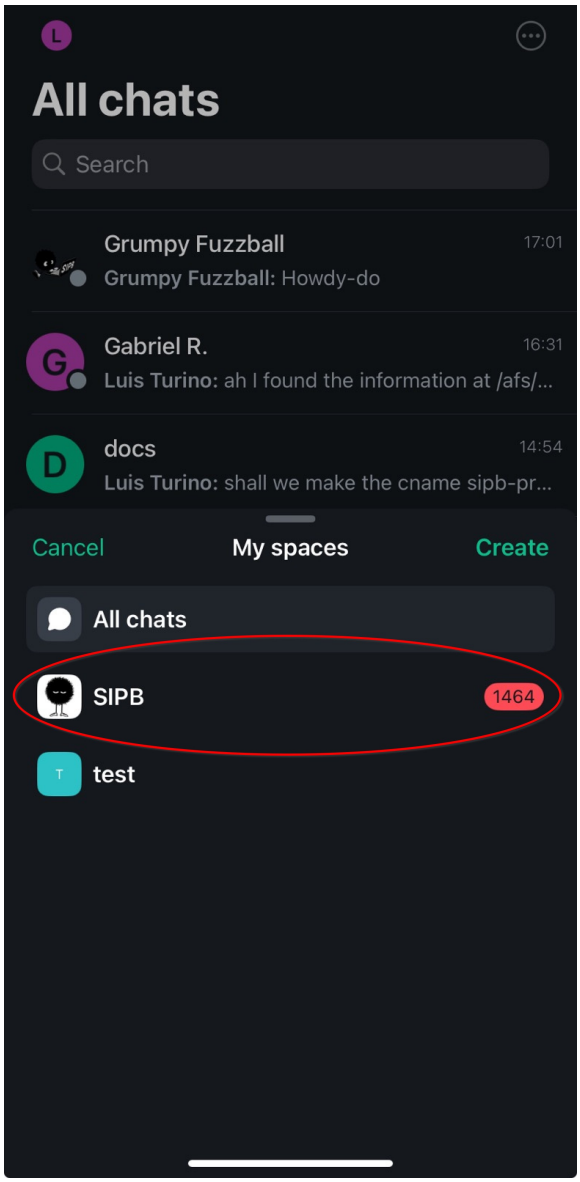


Figure 13: Now actually switch to the SIPB space.

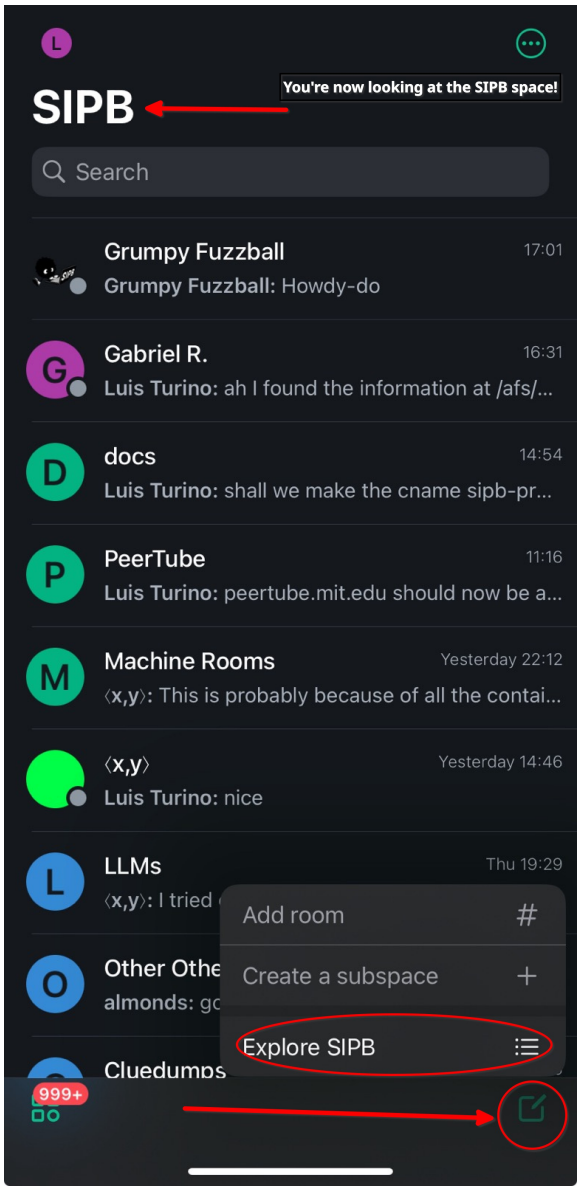


Figure 14: On the top, you will now see "SIPB" as the name of the space. You can now tap the right corner room icon and Explore SIPB rooms.

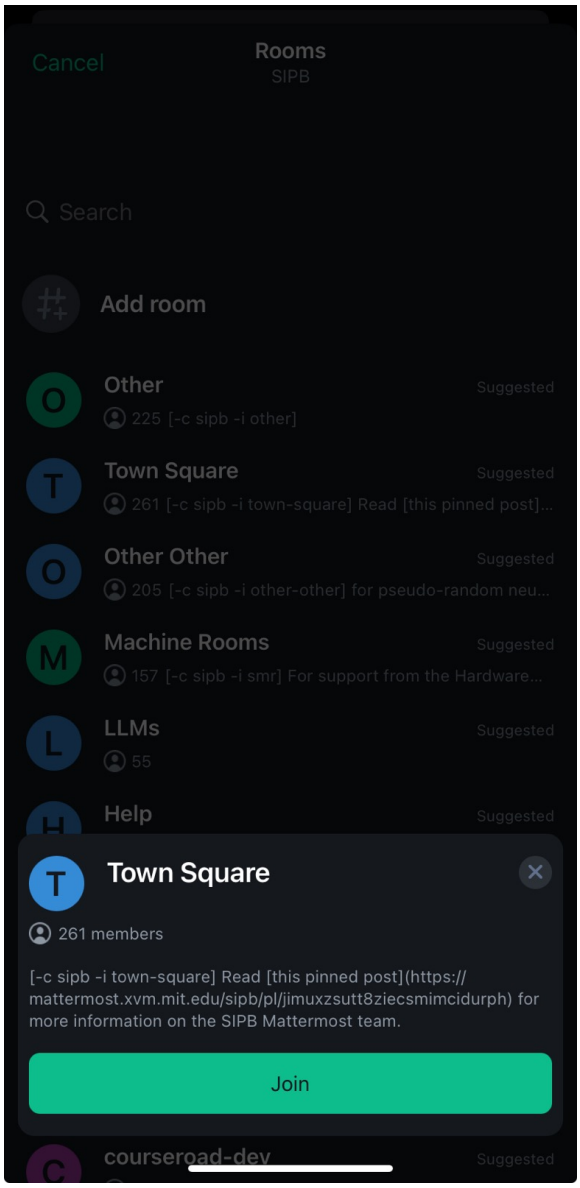


Figure 15

Now search and join all the rooms that you want!

We strongly recommend you join our general discussion rooms: **Town Square**, **General**, **Office**, **Other**, and **Other Other**. You should also search and join projects that interest you, such as project-specific rooms.