Introduction to Second Life







This guide describes the steps to use Second Life as a communication platform.

Step 1: Getting and installing the viewer and setting up an account for SL

Go to the website http://www.secondlife.com and click "Join now"



- On the next page choose an avatar (your virtual personality) that you like, then click "Choose This Avatar".
- Select a username and click "Check Availability". If you found a name that is not taken click on "Next Step".
- Fill in the fields with your personal data and click on "Create Account".
- After your account is activated choose "Free Account" and click "Select".
- Lastly, download the viewer. When the download is finished, start the installer, follow the instructions and install Second Life on your system. (If you already downloaded and installed the viewer, please check the version. This guide assumes you use V2.6)
- Start the downloaded viewer. If you are using a personal firewall, please make sure that you allow "Any connection" because the Second Life viewer requires many network connections to operate normally.
- Before Login, press "Ctrl + p" on Windows or "Cmd + P" on Mac to open the preferences panel (Menu: Me -> Preferences). If you can't get the preferences panel, change the viewer mode to "Advanced" at the bottom of the window. This requires a restart of the viewer to take effect.



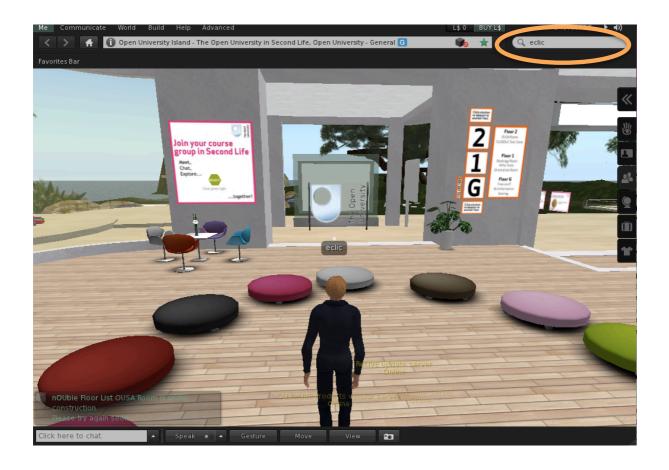
• Select "English" as the language for the viewer to follow the rest of this tutorial. Restart your viewer again to activate the new language.



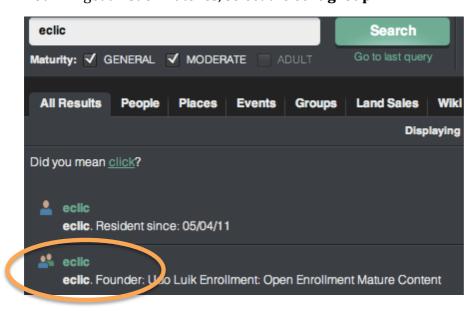
Step 2: Using your viewer to communicate in Second Life

After logging in with your username and password and accepting the terms of services you can see your avatar (virtual body). You can move around by using the cursor keys. You can even fly by using the page-up and -down keys. Flying is a great way to get around in Second Life quickly.

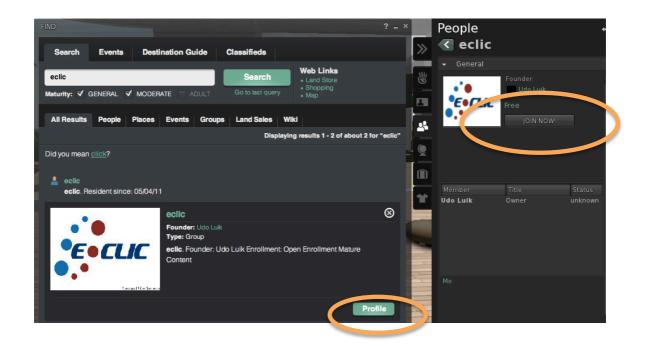
To ease communications between the E-CLIC members we have set up a special community group called eclic. To join this group enter the name "eclic" in the search box at the right of the viewer window:



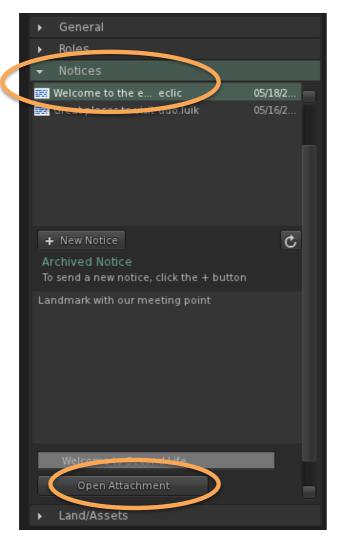
You will get a list of matches, select the eclic **group**:



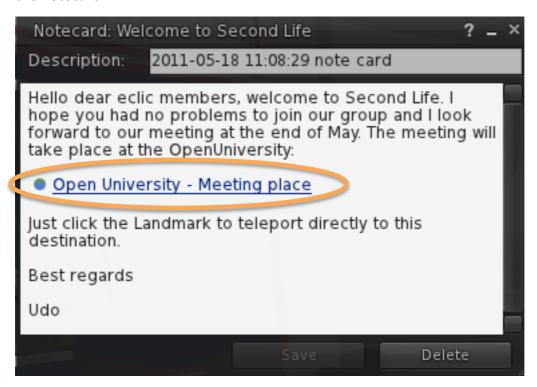
Click on the group and click again on "Profile". You will see the following screen. Click "Join Now!" to join the group.

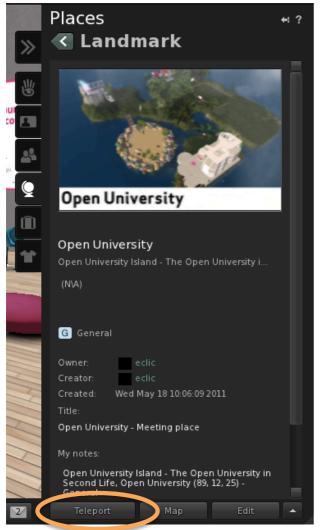


After you have joined the group you can access the group notices. In this notices you'll find a notecard with a landmark to our meeting point. To open that notecard go to "Notices", select the welcome message and then click on "Open Attachment":

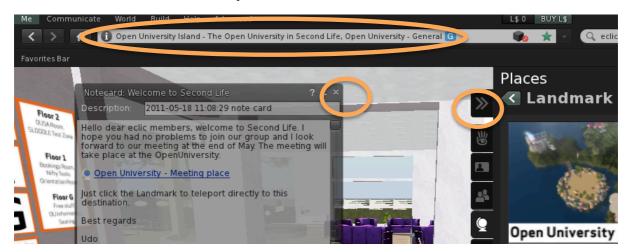


To go to our meeting point (this is called teleporting) click on the enclosed landmark in the notecard:





After confirming the teleport you should be at our meeting point at OpenUniversity. You can now walk around and communicate in Second Life. Close the notecard and the sidebar to have a better view on your fellow avatars:



To communicate with nearby avatars use the chat box at the lower left of the viewer window:



Here you can enter text which all nearby avatars (about 100 meter distance) will see. Normally each message will be shown only for a few seconds, but by clicking on the small triangle you can open the cat window permanently.

Another possibility to communicate is by voice. If you have a microphone attached to your computer you can click on "Speak" next the chat box. Any avatar in range will hear your voice now. This feature requires a lot of computing power, so avoid it if many avatars are nearby for performance reasons. Pressing the "Speak" button again will mute your microphone.

Some final notes:

- If you have a powerful graphics card, increase the "Draw distance" to approximately 200-300 meters (Preference panel, tab graphics, then "Advanced" to have a more realistic view.
- I have enclosed some beautiful places to visit in the notice "Great places to visit" to our eclic group. To go there just teleport using the enclosed landmarks.

If you have any questions please email me: willers@jade-hs.de