

Guide to the mIRC

Soldat is played by many people, who have never (or seldom) used mIRC. Therefore many wonder how IRC and Soldat relate to each other. Actually they have more in common than most happen to know.

mIRC is the place where all Soldat players are able to chat with each other. It is the place where the clanwars are arranged and the rest socializing within the Soldat community happens.

At the moment over 200 Soldat players have the mIRC installed on their computer. This is far too less. All the Soldat gamers should have mIRC or some another IRC-client. Now you might ask why? With this article I shall try to answer this question, attempt to explain how one learns to use IRC and how the program itself works with all it's features.

What is IRC?

IRC is of "Internet Relay Chat". That means it could be translated as real-time conversation. It's like a building, which is full of different kinds of chat- rooms called channels.

Like Soldat IRC also contains various usable servers. The most common one nowadays is the QuakeNet. This is the server that almost all IRC-using Soldat players are connected to.

You can read more about the history of IRC from Wikipedia:

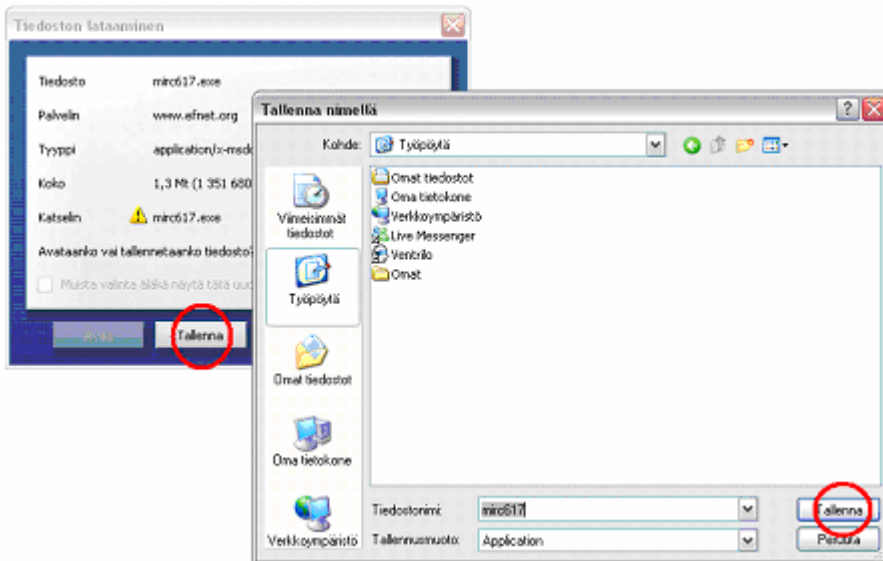
IRC versus MSN Messenger

You might also be interested of why IRC is a better choice when compared to the Messenger. Here we have a list of reasons:

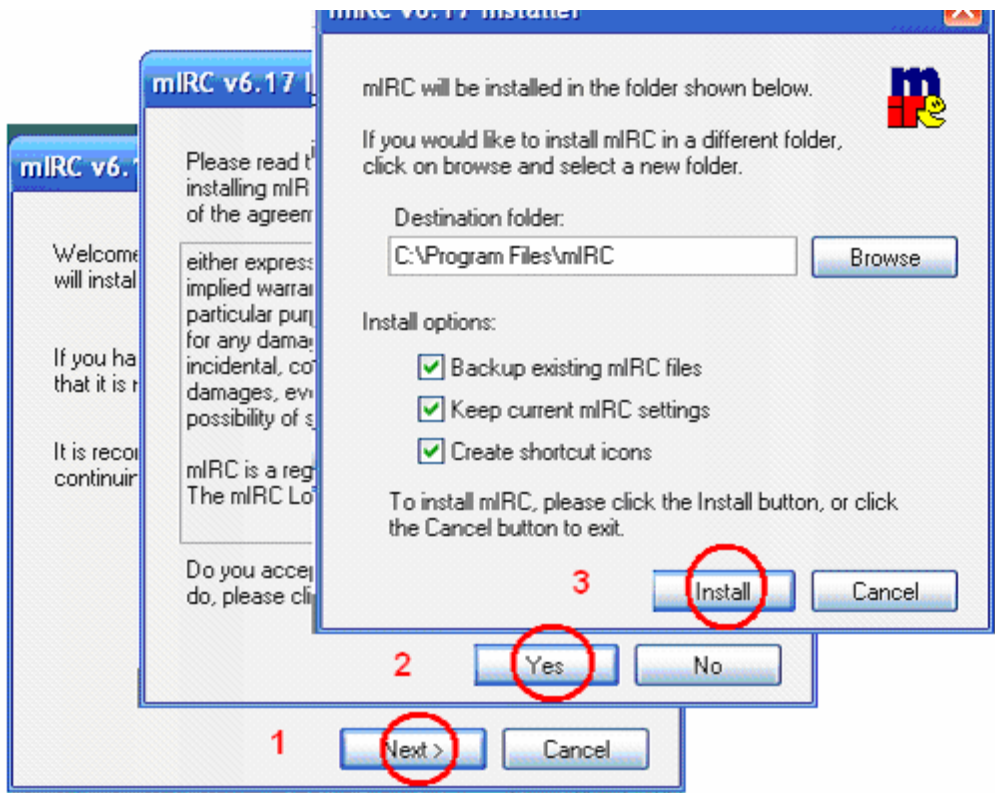
- * IRC is far more adjustable and convertible than Messenger.
- * IRC operates in only one window, regardless of how many people you discuss with. This saves space of your low bar.
- * In IRC it is possible to discuss with several dozens of people at the same time. Actually there is no limit.
- * In IRC one can join channels where they find the very persons interested in the same topic he/she is.
- * To discuss with someone you do not need to add them into your friends-list.
- * IRC requires far less effort from your computer in order to work properly.
- * IRC is more stable than Messenger. It doesn't crash randomly.
- * In IRC you can use various useful scripts.
- * The Window will not begin flashing immediately after you receive a new message if you don't want to.

* And to the best part; you reach all the Soldat players in no-time! This is the top reason of how you find clanwars far more easier than in MSN Messenger.

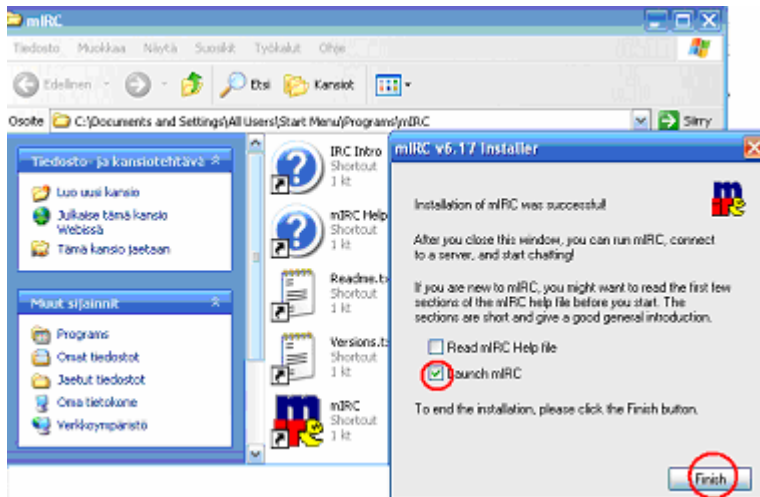
First steps of using IRC (installation)



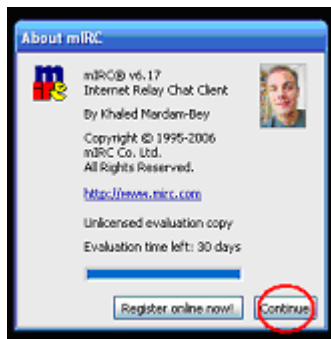
First you have to download the installation file of the IRC-client. You can download it from:
http://www.soldatfinland.com/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=36&Itemid=46



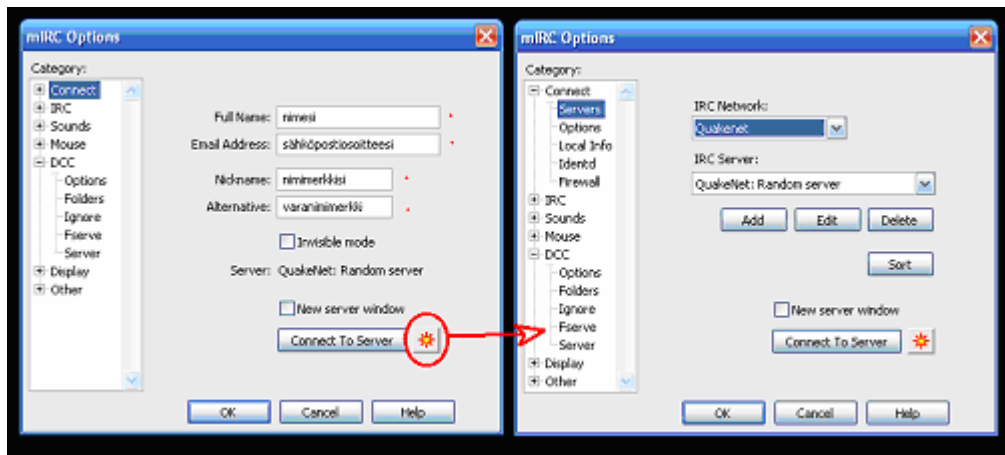
After this you doubleclick the installation file and follow the instructions given by the Setup Wizard.



After the installation we suggest to tick the Launch mIRC-box. Then click "Finish". mIRC should start immediately.



When starting the program a window as above should appear to you. To go on, click continue. Although this note claims that you should register within 30 days, this is not necessary. To use mIRC you'll never have to actually register.



If the Setup window pictured above doesn't appear instantly, you might have to press alt+o to reach them.

After this change the settings as follows (these are the necessary parts)

Full Name: Your name

Email Address: Your email

Nickname; The name you want to be known by other IRC-users.

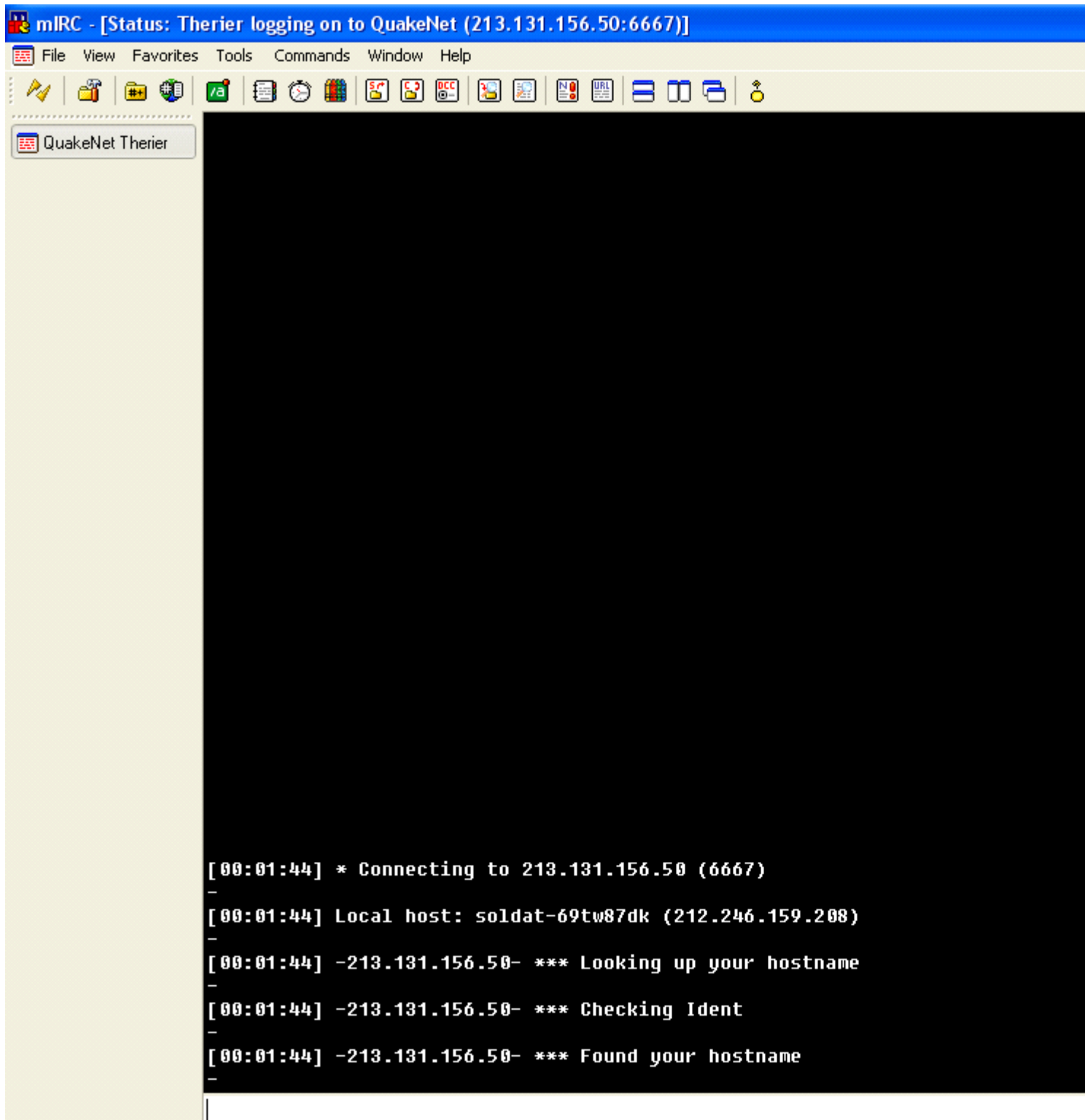
Alternative: So called "backup-name". Your name-to-be if the primary nick you chose is in use already.

After this you should click the circled "flower"-icon to open another screen used to adjust the server settings of the IRC.

IRC Network: Server Network you will be using. Choose *Quakenet*

IRC Server: The Server of the Server Network you will be using. This one doesn't really matter. Usual choice is *QuakeNet: Random server*

Click the flower icon again to jump back to the earlier window. Then click Connect.



The mIRC should start connecting to the IRC-server. Usually at the same time text will start rapidly bursting into the screen as pictured above.

When the mIRC finally establishes the connect to the server it is possible for you to join different channels. It is easy and effortless and works with command, which must be written on the pad below. Command is as follows:

`/join #channel` (there cannot be a space in the name of the channel)

For example `/join #soldatfinland`

I COULDN'T CONNECT TO THE SERVER

If that happens you couldn't reach their IRC-server after all, there may be several reasons. The most common ones are:

- * The firewall prevents you from connecting to the IRC-server.
- * The primary and secondary nicknames you chose are both already in use.
- * The server you are trying to connect to has crashed or it doesn't exist.

Usually if any problem occurs when attempting to connect to the server, you should be informed in the window.

If you think that firewall is for some reason stopping you from connecting, you could try to close it for a moment.

If the problem is that nickname is taken, try typing `/nick newnickname` for example `/nick Michael`
After this, try to connect again.

It might also be about the server, so you might want to try connecting to another server than QuakeNet.

If you had any problems during the installation, send email to the address: therier@gmail.com

or go and tell us about your problems on our forums: www.soldatfinland.com/forum

The most important commands:

Actually everything apart from talking (and talking too at some level) in IRC works by commands. That's why it is useful to know the most important commands needed to operate with the IRC. Here we present you the most useful and important.

Command	Information	Example
/help	Shows a very large guide of information and commands in english.	/help
/help command	Gives you more detailed info of some known command. The instructions are in english.	/help join
/join #channel	Joins the chosen channel unless it is password- protected or restricted in some other way. Remember, no spaces in the channel address!.	/join #soldatfinland
/nick nickname	Changes your nickname unless it is already in use. There may not be any spaces in the nickname.	/nick Michael
/msg nickname	Sends a private message to anyone you would like to speak with.	/msg Billy
/query nickname	Starts a private discussion with the person you'd like to speak with.	/query Billy
/whois nickname	Shows the given information about the user. You can also check how long the user has stayed idle without writing anything..	/whois Billy /whois Billy
/away reason	You can set yourself as away. When one writes a private message for you, the IRC automatically informs that you are away in other business. You can take the away status off simply by typing /away once.	/away eating /away

/me	By this command you are able to express your own feelings. It's almost the same as writing to the channel in a normal way, with an exception that the program shows the message with your own name in the beginning. For example if you type /me laughs the channel will receive a message as below: * Michael laughs	/me laughs
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Want to learn how to use more commands? Type "irc commands" to google, it will certainly result as many handy hits.

But there is some most important links:

- <http://www.mirc.com/cmds.html>
- <http://www.ircbeginner.com/ircinfo/ircc-commands.html>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_IRC_commands

The most important channels

I also took as a task to inform everyone about the most important channels that IRC-users should at least visit.

The name of the channel	Information about the channel
#soldatfinland	The official channel of Soldat Finland Homepage: http://www.soldatfinland.com
#selfkill	The official channel of Selfkill.com Homepage: http://www.selfkill.com
#soldat.forums	The official channel of Soldat Forums Homepage: http://www.soldatforums.com
#soldat.gather	The official channel of Soldat Gather. Homepage: http://gather.soldat.nl/
#soldat.match	The official channel of Soldat match. If you look for Soldat match, do it on this channel!
#soldat.news	The official channel of Soldat.News. Homepage: http://news.soldatcentral.net/
#sna.gather	The official channel of the Gather of Northern America. SNA is sponsored by Ultimate 13. Homepage: http://nagather.u13.net/index.php
#u13	The official channel of the Ultimate 13 Homepage: http://www.u13.net/
#soldat.mapping	The official channel of Soldat.Mapping. This channel is decicated to all creators of Soldat maps.
#soldat.devs	The official channel of Soldat.Devs This channel is dedicated to coders playing Soldat.
#soldat.polyworks	The official channel of Polyworks. Polyworks is apparently the best Soldat map-making program.
#soldat	The official channel of Soldat 2D wargame. Homepage: http://www.soldat.pl
#lrs.gather	Soldat Gather for real mode enthusiasts Homepage: http://www.realsol.org

Of course there are a lot more cool IRC-channels, but I would say those are the most important ones. I suggest you to take a look at another channels as well as you beging to use IRC, for example the channels of famous Soldat clans (like #alterego).

The last word

Now the guide is about to end. I would like to tell the reason which got me to do this guide and put a little effort in it. Sadly too many of the Soldat gamers quit playing just because they couldn't take a look at the world behind the scenes. They never realize the true players are not to be found on the public servers.

These proper Soldat players can be contacted most easily with the IRC. I wish that this guide would get people to give IRC a try and even start using it. I hope that we could get more permanent players who would not remain as worthwhile public noobs instead they'd become true Soldat-players!

So if you have been rumbling on the public servers to this point make a move right now! Be a man, download the IRC and get to know the actual world of this game!

Think this guide wasn't satisfying? Don't worry, proper instructions are to be found elsewhere:

- http://wiki.soldat.nl/IRC_tutorial#More_interesting_stuff_for_Soldat_in_IRC.21
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Relay_Chat
- <http://nic.phys.ethz.ch/readme/13>
- <http://www.mirc.com/irc.html>

If you still think you need help:

- Type "IRC guide" to <http://www.google.com>
- Contact to me by email: therier@gmail.com
- Post your problem to official Soldat forums: <http://www.soldatforums.com>

Let's talk together in IRC!