



GATHER TOWN GUIDE – VALUEUX CONFERENCE 2025



What is Gather Town?

Gather Town is a virtual space that enables attendees to interact effectively online by combining video-calling with a 2D map interface. You control an avatar that moves around a simple map space, and as you get close to other avatars, your video will pop up, allowing you to chat with people nearby.

Key Features

- Browser-based: No software download required - runs entirely in your web browser
- Spatial audio/video: Conversations happen naturally based on proximity
- Interactive objects: Shared documents, whiteboards, videos, and poster boards
- Easy access: Join via meeting link, leave by closing browser tab



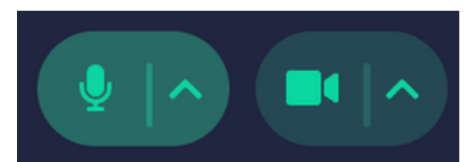
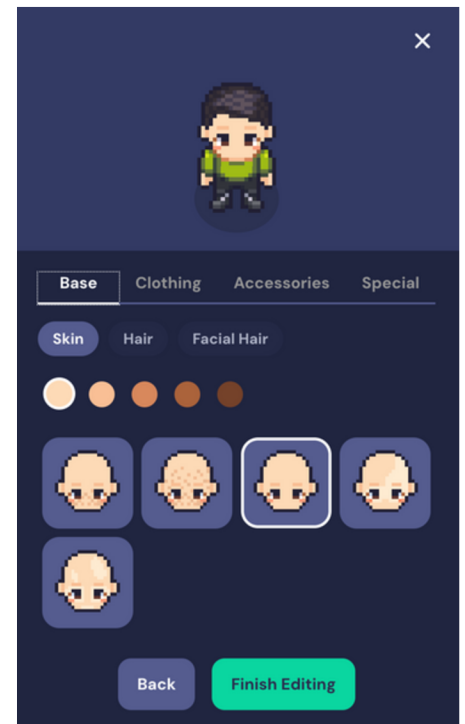
GETTING STARTED

Before Joining

- Mute other meetings: Close or mute any other video calls to avoid audio interference
- Browser permissions: You'll need to grant camera and microphone access
- Recommended setup: Use your full name for easy identification initial Setup

1. Create Your Avatar

- Enter your name (full name recommended)
- Customise your avatar's appearance and clothing
- Enable the camera and microphone for full participation
 - Green = On, Red = Off



2. Grant Permissions

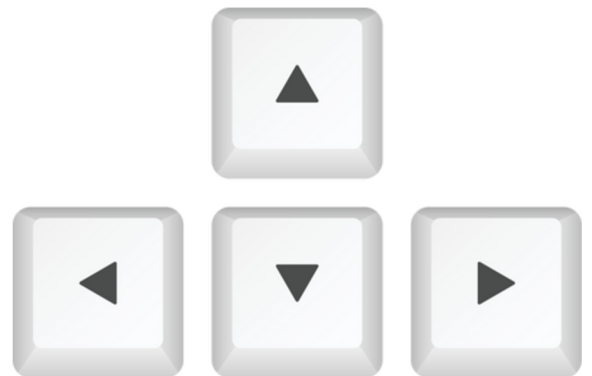
Important: You'll need to allow Gather Town access to your camera and microphone for the platform to work effectively.



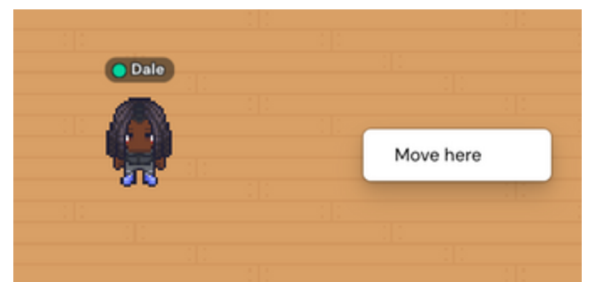
NAVIGATION & MOVEMENT

Moving Your Avatar

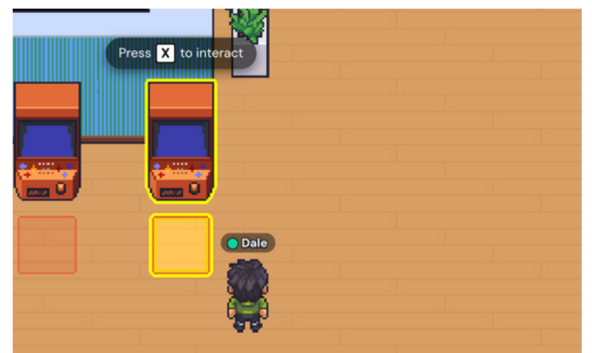
Keyboard: Use the arrow keys or directional pad to move your avatar around the conference



Mouse: Right-click on a location → click "Move Here" box

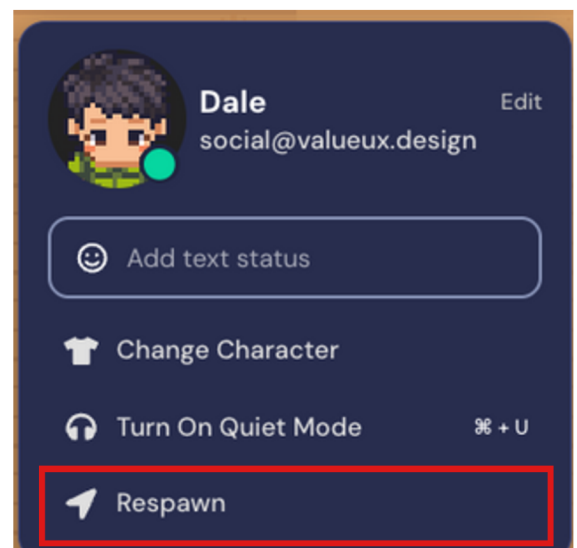


Physics: Navigate around people and objects like in a physical room



IF YOU GET STUCK OR CRASH!!

Respawn: Click your name in the bottom menu bar → "Respawn" to return to entry point



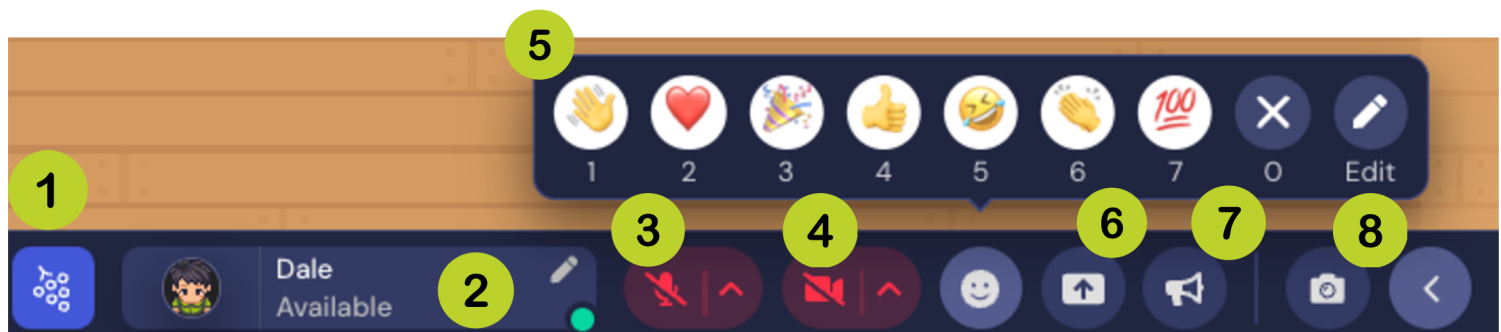


INTERFACE & CONTROLS

Bottom Bar Functions

The bottom bar provides various interaction tools:

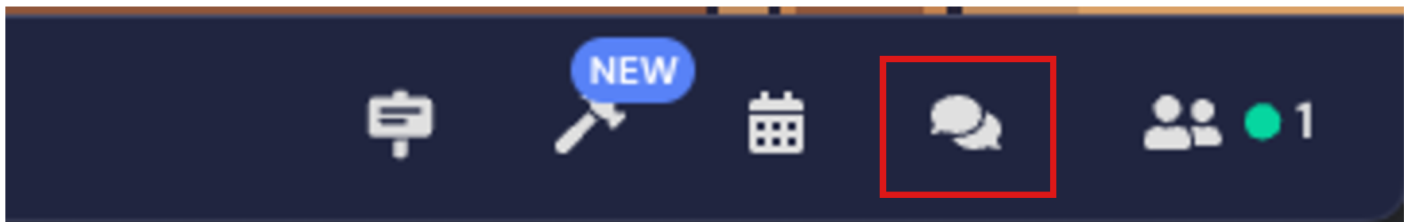
1. **Main Menu:** Settings, quick keys, and helpful tools
2. **Personal Menu:** Change avatar appearance and personal information
3. **Microphone:** Toggle on/off, adjust settings (green=on, red=off)
4. **Camera:** Toggle on/off, video effects, backgrounds (green=on, red=off)
5. **Emoticons:** React with library of emotions
6. **Screen Share (available to presenters):** Share your screen with everyone in the room
7. **Self-Spotlight (available to presenters):** Be heard throughout the entire room (presenter feature)
8. **Photo Mode:** Take pictures of the room and participants





COMMUNICATION TOOLS

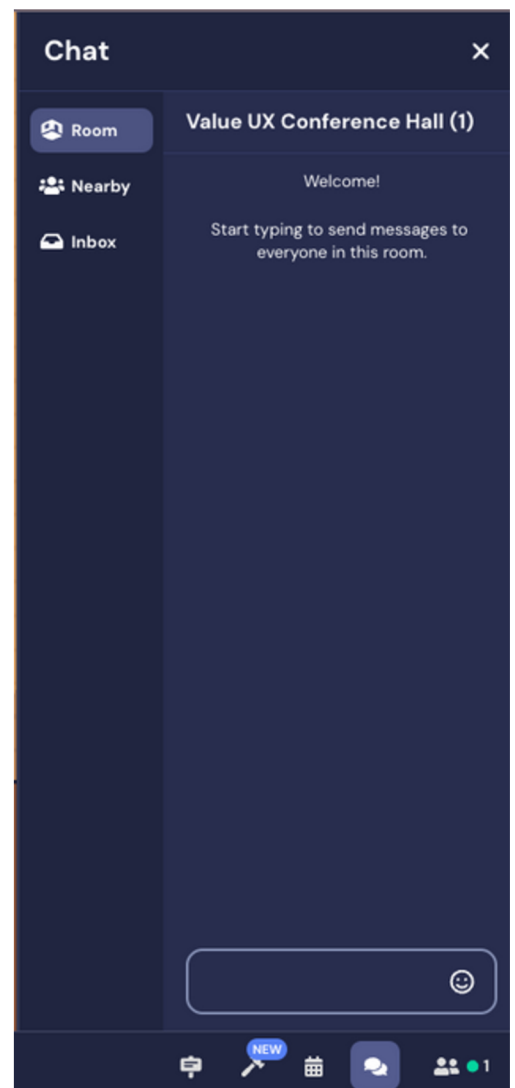
There are 3 levels for chatting with other participants: Everyone, Nearby and Private. To open the chat side panel, go to the speech bubble on the bottom right of the screen and click on the speech icon.



“Nearby” chat Messages sent here are only seen by the people you are currently connected to. Users will have a different local chat history, based on who they were talking to. New users joining a space do not see the local chat history.

“Everyone” chat Messages here are sent to everyone who was in the room at the same time. They will appear in green in your chat panel. New users joining a space do not see the global chat history.

“Private” chat. To chat privately with another attendee, go to the participant section in the menu on the left and click on his/her name. In the small window that will open, write your message to the participant in the box “message”.





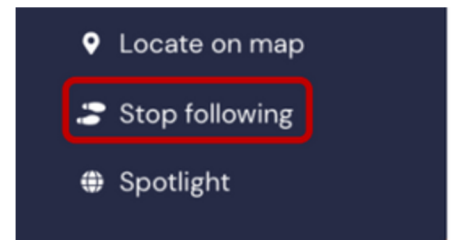
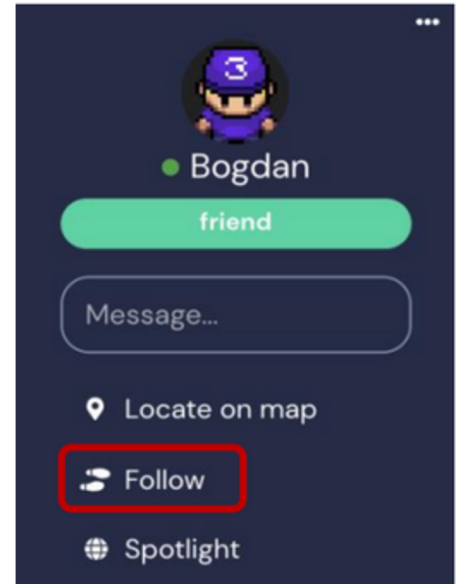
ADVANCED FEATURES

Finding Colleagues

Follow Feature:

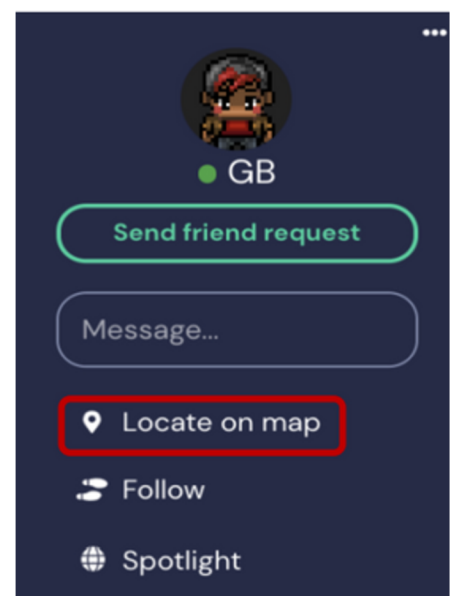
1. Look up participant in the participant list
2. Click their name → "Follow"
3. Your avatar automatically walks to their location
4. Click name again → "Stop Following" when done

Once you have reached the person, repeat the same process and click on "Stop Following". If you do not deactivate the feature, you will continue to move together with that person.



Locate on Map:

1. Click participant name → "Locate on Map"
2. See the colored path to follow to reach them
3. Click name again → "Stop Locating" when done



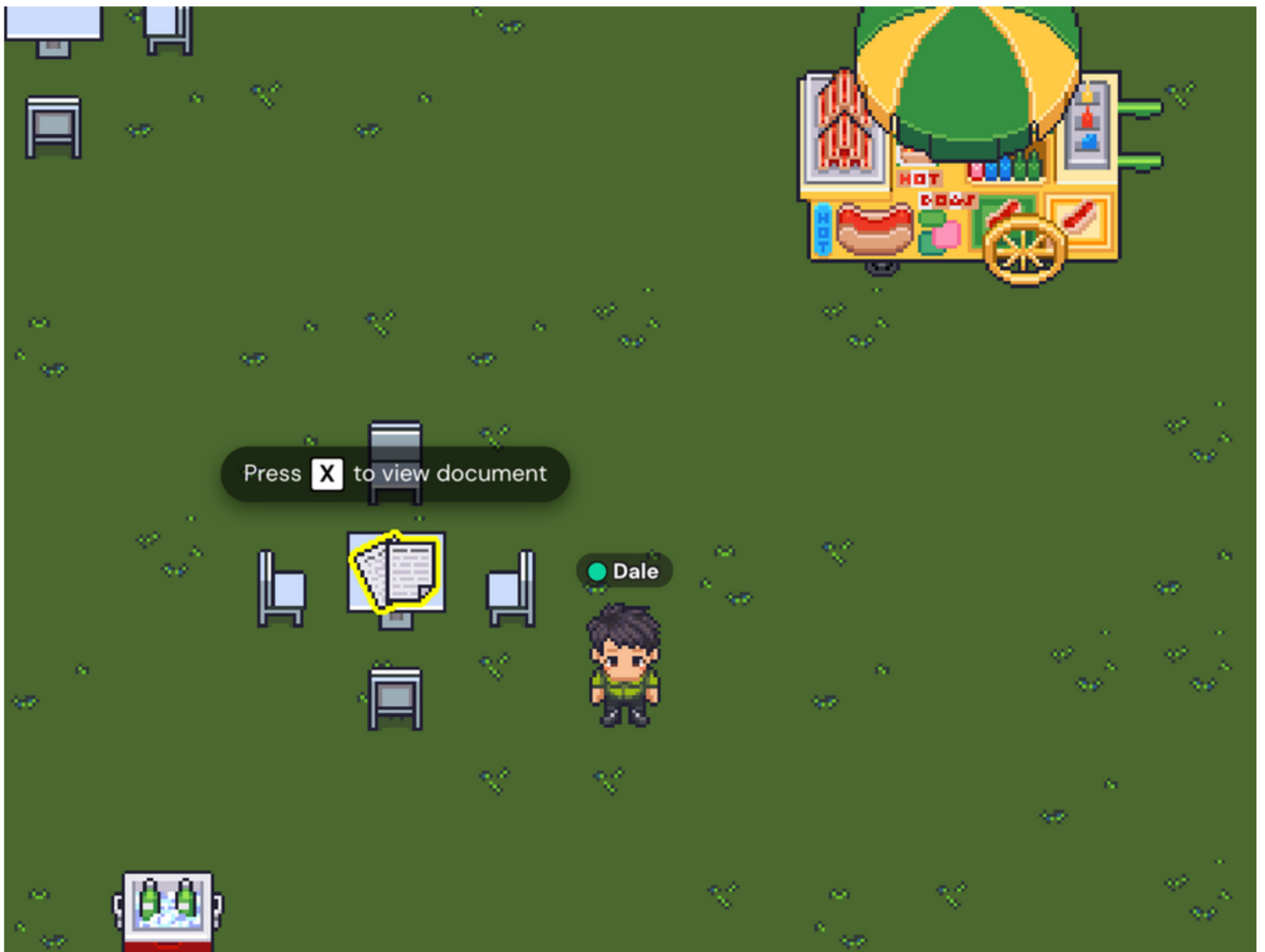


INTERACT WITH OBJECTS

For objects (signs, chalkboards, books, documents, etc.) that have available links, documents, videos, and images, you will see a prompt to “Press X to...”. Press the “x” key to view these items.

There are many objects to interact with at the conference, as well as some hidden gems and clues to competitions the conference is hosting.

Have fun in finding them and solving the puzzle

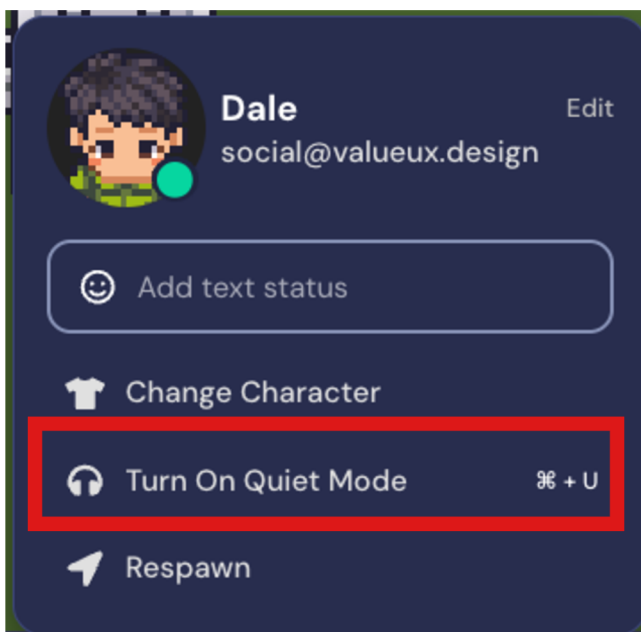




QUIET MODE

In Quiet Mode, you will only send and receive audio and video from others if they are immediately next to you (including diagonals). This will greatly reduce the number of videos you will see and interactions you will have.

You can toggle this on and off from the User Control Menu found by clicking on your name on the blue bar at the bottom of your screen (1 in figure) or by using the mapped hotkey (Ctrl/⌘ + u) : When you are in quiet mode, your status indicator will turn red both on your icon and on your name over your avatar's head.





TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Technical Issues

1. **First solution: Refresh the page (fixes most problems)**
2. Audio/Video problems:
 - Toggle mute/unmute microphone and camera in Gather Town
 - Check browser permissions for camera/microphone access
 - Ensure the camera isn't open in another application
 - Go to User/Video Preferences to select different inputs

Auto-Muting Behavior

Gather Town automatically mutes you when:

- You switch to a different browser tab
- You're not connected to at least one unmuted person

You'll be automatically unmuted when:

- You return to the Gather Town tab
- You connect to at least one unmuted participant

Getting Unstuck

- Lost or can't move: Menu bar → click your name → "Respawn"
- Stuck behind objects: Press "G" for ghost mode temporarily



KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

(g) - Enter ghost mode and walk through other participants.

(x) - Interact with an object.

(z) - Make your avatar dance.

(f) - Shoot confetti in the air.

(Esc) - Close interaction (e.g., close minimap, close object interaction)

(Ctrl/⌘ + P) - Open Settings.

(Ctrl/⌘ + Shift + A) - Turn personal mic on/off.

(Ctrl/⌘ + Shift + V) - Turn personal video on/off.

(Ctrl/⌘ + U) - Turn on/off quiet mode (events Spaces) or do not disturb

Alt/Option + mouse drag - Look around the Space.

Keys 1-6 - press the keys 1-6 to emote

(1) - Wave

(2) - Heart

(3) - Party popper

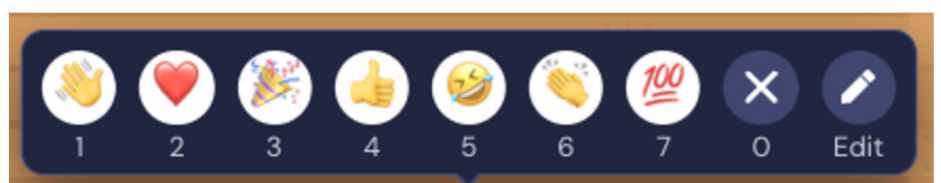
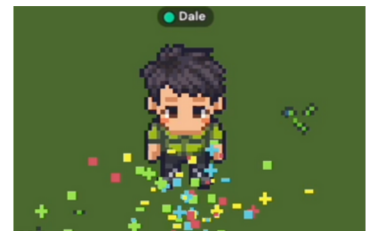
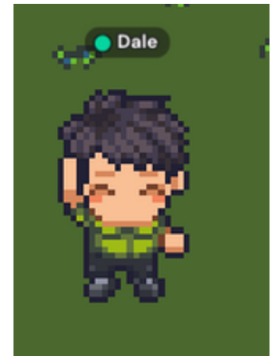
(4) - Thumbs up

(5) - Question mark

(6) - Raised hand

(0) - Clear emote

(You can also customise Emotes 1-5.)





FAQ

Q: I'm stuck behind a crowd (or behind some furniture)! How do I get out?

A: Press and hold the “g” key for Ghost Mode. This will allow your avatar to temporarily fade out and be able to walk through any people or objects. Please note that in Ghost Mode, others will not be able to interact with you.

Q: I've been exploring and have lost my way. How do I get to where I started?

A: If you would like to go back to the very beginning, you can go to the grape icon, and select “Respawn.” This will reload your avatar in the initial room where you signed in.

Q: I've been to Gather and have left. When I return, I'm in a completely unfamiliar place. How do I get out?

A: When you log into Gather, it will typically have you spawn where you last left the space.

You can select the grape, and then select “Respawn” to relog into the updated rooms.



WE HOPE YOU GET VALUE
FROM THIS CONFERENCE

IF YOU NEED MORE HELP PLEASE JOIN OUR SLACK CHANNEL
FOR ANY QUESTIONS. THE LINK IS IN THE FOOTER OF OUR
WEBSITE WWW.VALUEUX.DESIGN