

IRC

Everything you need to know about Hull Seals IRC systems.

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Why IRC?

IRC is, admittedly, really really old. So old, in fact, that it predates a lot of our Seals! Surely, you might tell yourself, unarguably there must be something in this modern world of today that would antique this old, old standard? Surely I don't have to go back to the glory days of dialup when TCP/IP was brand new and HTML3 ruled the world? Why would you switch off of the holy grail of chat, Discord?

Well, surprisingly, you'd be wrong.

That was the reaction that our Cyberseals had when we ran down our options for what chat software to use. We had seen the systems in place by our friends, the Fuel Rats, and really liked them. But undoubtedly, we thought, there undeniably was something that would perform better or something that facilitate our needs but with a modern standard. We sunk research into IRC-like alternatives, Discord, Rocket.chat, matrix.org, and others. And we came to the conclusion that Steve Jobs put so eloquently back in 2011.

5807453526_dv54025005_b.jpg

The Hull Seals had a few basic requirements for any chat solution we chose to use.

- Full Control of User Data
Including full management of the user, and all the information that comes with them
- Ability to have guest access
You should never have to register for an account to use our services.
- Push Notifications/Word Highlighting/Role Notifications
- Authentication of restricted usernames/accounts
- Guest access must be repeatable with the same name

These, among other requirements, quickly culled the field of possible alternatives until we came to the inevitable conclusion - the same reason that IRC is still used by the military and other groups across the world. IRC is the best solution for our needs.

Of course, the Seals will always be keeping our eyes out and looking for the next and greatest, or perhaps something that comes down the pipe that improves upon our services and systems. But, for the time being, the Seals will be sticking with IRC.

IRC Connection Guide

IRC is old technology. Given this, it's increasingly likely as time goes on that you have never used IRC. Thus, you may have many questions about IRC. This article attempts to answer them.

IRC Connection Details

Hostname/Address:	irc.hullseals.space
Port:	6697 (or +6697 in some clients)
SSL:	Yes
Nickname:	Your Registered IRC Name
Username:	Your Registered Seal Account Name
Password:	Your Seal Account Password

You may use as your Nickname any registered name in our [IRC Management portal](#).

How do I authenticate with the server?

The Hull Seals IRC server supports a number of different ways to authenticate with our server. Authentication insures that you are able to log in, and you are who you say you are. If you attempt to log in to a registered nickname, and don't provide authentication information, you will not be able to successfully log in.

[Recommended] SASL

SASL is the preferred method to authenticate with our IRC network. Every client is different and may have its own implementation of SASL, so we encourage you refer to [Freenode's guide](#) on SASL and clients.

In General, however, you can log in with SASL by using your Seal username and password, and setting your "Nickname" to any registered IRC Name. Refer to your Client's documentation for more details

/msg NickServ IDENTIFY

If you can't use SASL, the alternative is using /msg Nick Serv IDENTIFY. In this method, after connection you will be challenged to run the NickServ IDENTIFY command, in which you will provide your useraccount password in the format `/msg nickserv identify <your password>`. On a successful authentication, you will receive the +r flag and your vhost. If you don't, contact a CyberSeal.

Don't use /msg NickServ Register!

NickServ on many IRC networks is completely standalone and allows registration in the IRC network. We do not support that. All accounts must be registered on the website to be recognized.

Do I have to use SSL?

Technically, No. However, why wouldn't you?

The Seals strongly encourage connections to be made with SSL on port 6697. As such, a guide of how to connect in a less-secure mode will not be provided here. If for some reason SSL does not work for you, please contact the Cyberseals.

What are hullse.al links?

We have our own URL shortener! .al is the top-level domain of Albania. Several of these links are displayed for reference at <https://hullse.al/FantasticShortlinksAndWhereTheyLead>. These links can generally be trusted, but as always, think before you click.

I forgot my Password!

To reset your IRC password, reset your User Account's password on our website.

What do the markers in IRC mean?

The markers in IRC are rather complicated, and we understand that. The symbol you will see most commonly is the + symbol, which is the icon for a "Voiced" seal. This is assigned to an authenticated user who has been drilled. If you think you should have this, and do not, doublecheck your status with NickServ. Each client may display symbols differently, but often you will see Admins, Moderators, Cyberseals, and other higher-level Seals and Staff with special symbols.

The order of symbols is as follows:

- + for Voiced users, authenticated and Drilled Seals.
- % for Half Operators, generally our Bots.
- @ for Channel Operators. These users generally have most administrative commands.
- & for Channel Admins. These users have most administrative commands, as well as certain exemptions from spamfilters.
- ~ for Server Owners. This is probably Rixxan.

IRC Clients and Word Highlighting

This Page is Incomplete

Everyone has their own preference when it comes to IRC clients. No one client can do everything, and although we'll do our best to guide you on what we think are the best of the best, we cannot promise you'll like everything we present.

We're not the first - nor the last - nor likely the best - source when it comes to the technical ins and outs of IRC clients. This page itself is only designed to give you a brief overview of base-level functions you'll use often as a Seal. Try out a few, and see what you like.

Clients

Fun tip: In general, you can type the first few characters of a name, then hit tab to autocomplete that user's name!

Windows

HexChat

Key Details

- Price: Free
- Platform: Windows, MacOS, Linux
- Word Highlights: Yes
- Website: <https://hexchat.github.io>

Configuration

To begin, download the latest release from HexChat's official website, using the link above. For Windows, we recommend the Windows 7+ 64bit Installer, NOT the Windows 10 Native App. (The Win7 Version is Free!) Install like any other program, and open. You'll be presented with a list of IRC Networks preconfigured by HexChat. (You can remove these later.)

To begin, click ADD on the right-hand side, type in the name of the new network (Something like "Seals" or "Hull Seals" and hit ENTER. It's recommended at this point you also hit "Favor" on the new network, and select the checkmark labeled "Show Favorites Only" to help manage your list.

[hexchat-7.0.0-64bit-installer.exe](#)

Next, select your new network and hit the EDIT button. A new window will appear.



First, select the "ADD" button, and then type in our IRC Server Address, followed by the port. (irc.hullseals.space/+6697) Then, hit the ENTER button. Make sure that field saved! While recommended, it may not be required to have the + before +6697.

Next, make sure your check-marked boxes look similar to this example - especially the SSL information, if you're using port 6697. You also MUST deselect "use global user information", to enable the fields below. Third, type in your **IRC REGISTERED NICKNAME**, with a second option if you wish.

Finally, in the USERNAME box, enter your Seal Website Username, and your Seal Website Password in the Password field. Also make sure the login method is set to SASL (username + password), and, if needed, set your Character Set to UTF-8.

Next, we'll set up AUTOJOIN CHANNELS. This will allow you to automatically join some channels at program launch, instead of needing to manually join each one.



Select "Autojoin Channels", right next to the Servers tab, and click the "Add" button. Then, type in the name of the channel (including the # sign), and hit ENTER. Repeat for as many channels as you want. We recommend #Seal-Bob and #Repair-Requests.

Click close, select the server, and then hit Connect as seen in the first image! You may get a popup about the SSL Certificate - go ahead and accept or trust the popup you get. This is normal on a first connect, or every once in a while.

Word Highlights

Once you're connected to a server, click on SETTINGS and then PREFERENCES. Under Chatting, select ALERTS. You'll see a screen like this:



Put any words you want to see highlighted in the box labeled "Extra words to highlight:" as unique words, separated by spaces. DO NOT make the list comma-separated, or you'll get pinged every time a comma is used in chat.

Make sure "Make a beep sound on:" is checked under "Highlighted Message" up top, click OK, and you're set! HexChat will not notify you anytime any of those words are used.

AdiIRC

Key Details

- Price: Free
- Platform: Windows
- Word Highlights: Yes
- Website: <https://www.adiirc.com/>

Configuration

To begin, download the latest release from AdiIRC's official website, using the link above. We recommend the Stable Release 64-bit version. Install like any other program, and open. You'll be presented with a "Quick

Connect" window. Select the "Server List" option in the middle of the bottom row.

AddRC_NK4AnyR7Kgo.png

Now, you'll have a "Server List" dialog. Select the "Add a new network" button, and type in a network name in the new dialog box. We went with hullseals for this one.

AddRC_YUw25zTG.png

After clicking Add, you'll have a new set of options. Fill them out like we have below, replacing your details where appropriate. Be sure to select the right LOGIN METHOD, and use your SITE USERNAME and SITE PASSWORD, and check "Connect to this network on startup".

AddRC_5z8JuyJP.png

After filling out the General tab, click over to the Servers option. Click ADD, and then fill out the dialog box that pops up, being sure to put the + before 6697 and checking the "Use SSL" option. Be sure to click SAVE!

AddRC_Fu8ULzBN.png

Next, select the "Channels" tab and click "ADD". Fill out the channels you want to join on connection, being sure to select the option to do that inside the dialog box. We recommend #Seal-Bob and #Repair-Requests. Be sure to click SAVE!

AddRC_ayQoEueJo.png

Finally, go back to the GENERAL tab, and click SAVE in the bottom left corner, and then select CONNECT. You can close out of any other window at this point. If you've done everything right, your screen should look something like this.

AddRC_nAwDDE.png

And just like that, Congrats! You've successfully connected to the Hull Seals IRC Network. There are lots of configuration options we're not covering here, so as always, feel free to poke around and find the settings you like.

Word Highlights

Adding word highlights is very easy in AdrilIRC. First, click Tools in the top menu, then Options. Finally, select the Highlights option midway down the list. The menu should look something like this:

AddRC_NuGvWzUuY.png

Select Add on the right-hand side, and then fill out the box, similar to below, for all words you want to have highlighted. Make sure all the boxes and notification options you want are set!

AddRC_xyaOmQKE.png

And just like that, you're set upon AdrilIRC! Enjoy, CMDR.

mIRC

Key Details

- Price: Paid \$20 USD License (30 Day Free Trial)

- Platform: Windows
- Word Highlights: Yes
- Website: <https://www.mirc.com/>

Configuration

To begin, download the latest release from mIRC's official website, using the link above. Install like any other program, and open. You'll be presented with a first-run dialog, prompting you to either register, or "continue". Continue will start the 30 day free trial. Remember - the Seals do not support piracy. After selecting your option, you'll be presented with an options window.

 Image not found or type unknown

To begin, enter your **IRC REGISTERED NICKNAME**, with a second option if you wish. Then, select "SERVERS" on the left. Select "Add", and fill in the Seal Server Information.

 Image not found or type unknown

Make sure you change the default PORT to +6697 (the + is important!), and select the login method SASL (/CAP) and your Seal Website Password in the second Password field. Then, select OPTIONS, and make sure your window looks like ours.

 Image not found or type unknown

If you wish, many other personal preference options can be found in these menus. Poke around and find what you like!

When you're ready, go back to the SERVERS option, and highlight whatever you named your custom connection, then click SELECT. You'll be taken to a final confirmation window, then click "Connect".

Once you're in, your window should look something like this:

 Image not found or type unknown

Theoretically, it is possible to autojoin channels based off of scripts. At present, we do not have a good example script to show you while using SASL for authentication. Until then, we'll simply use the /join command to join the channels we want. In the text box presented in the status window, type /join #Seal-Bob and /join #Repair-Requests.

A channel listing option is also available under Tools->Channel Lists as well. This can be useful in rejoining channels!

Word Highlights

Once you're connected to a server, click on TOOLS, and then select ADDRESS BOOK. Then, select the Highlight tab, and check "Enable Highlight". Then, select ADD. A new dialog box will appear.

 Image not found or type unknown

Here's an example setup. Make sure to select the option under "Play Sound" to be "Beep", the time(s) to 1, and flash message selected. It's suggested you also make a highlight for your name - mIRC may not do this by default. You can also set custom sound files, if you wish.

After that, you're off, and ready to help clients!

MacOS

It is important to note that Elite is not supported on MacOS.

From Previous Sections:

Some clients mentioned earlier are also supported on MacOS:

- HexChat

Additional compatibility (such as for AdrilIRC) can be achieved by using Wine Staging or Winebottler for Mac.

The author of this article does not have a MacOS Environment to test on, so no clients can be recommended at this time.

Have a device running MacOS and a guide on how to set it up? Contact Rixxan!

Linux

It is important to note that due to the many varieties of Linux, we cannot guarantee entries on this list will work on your machine.

From Previous Sections:

Some clients mentioned earlier are also supported on many Linux Distributions:

- HexChat

Additional compatibility (such as for AdrilIRC) can be achieved by using Wine 1.5 or higher on most distributions.

The author of this article does not have a GUI-based Linux Environment to test on, so no clients can be recommended at this time.

Have a device running Linux and a guide on how to set it up? Contact Rixxan!

Web-Based

KiwiIRC NextClient

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

Seal-Hosted Kiwi Client

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

TheLounge Web Client

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

IRCCloud

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

Android

The Seals discourage the use of mobile clients if there are other alternatives available.

IRCCloud

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

Revolution IRC

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

AndroIRC

Key Details

Configuration

Word Highlights

iOS

The Seals discourage the use of mobile clients if there are other alternatives available.

The author of this article does not have an iOS Environment to test on, so no clients can be recommended at this time.

Have a device running iOS and a guide on how to set it up? Contact Rixxan!

Do you have your own personal favorite IRC client? If yours is not on the list please contact us, so we can take a look at it!

Word Highlights

Word Highlighting is a near-universal feature on most modern IRC Clients. This is the equivalent of "role pings" in other clients, such as Discord. Each client is slightly different, but most have this feature. Most clients include your current nickname by default on this list.

How word highlighting works is that every time your client receives a message with a word you have selected, it alerts you, usually with an audio cue or visual prompt, or both. There are many words that we strongly encourage you to set on your client.

Avoid using these words in general conversation! You'll alert a large number of users and get everyone grumpy at you.

Word	Use/Meaning
NEWCASE	Generic signal for any new, incoming case. Call your jumps!
CBCASE	Specialized signal for ALL CODE BLACK CASES.
PCCASE	Specialized signal for new PC Seal Cases
XBCASE	Specialized signal for new XBOX Seal Cases
PSCASE	Specialized signal for new PLAYSTATION Seal Cases
PCKFCASE	Specialized signal for new PC Kingfisher Cases

XBKFCASE	Specialized signal for new XBOX Kingfisher Cases
PSKFCASE	Specialized signal for new PLAYSTATION Kingfisher Cases

NEWCASE generally is accompanied by a more specific ping, however, it's generally a good idea to have NEWCASE set to alert you for all cases, so you can take a look.

Other Resources

[IRC Client Setup Guides](#) at the Fuel Rats Confluence

[A Comparison of IRC Clients](#) at Wikipedia

Delayed Case Board and Command Usage

The ability to have a record of long-distance, extended-duration cases has been a consistent feature request for a long time now. In the past, this was accomplished with large pins in private Discords, isolated holding channels where case information was stored, or simply word of mouth from one Dispatcher to another until the case was resolved.

Thankfully, as of HalpyBOT version 1.2, this ability has been hard-coded into the bot with a series of commands that may come in handy for Dispatchers and Seals alike. This system is designed for instances where a case is not fully continuous, when a meetup has to be scheduled in the future, or simply when there will be a significant delay between a Client coming in and that Client receiving repairs.

Commands

The following are valid commands in HalpyBOT for Delayed Case Management:

Command Format	What it Does	Who can Use It
!delaystatus	Checks the system for Delayed Cases	Everyone
!checkstatus	Checks the system for Delayed Cases	Everyone
!delaycase [case status] [notes]	Adds a new case to the Delayed system, and responds with a unique Case ID.	Trained Seals
!updatestatus [case ID] [case status]	Updates the Status Code of a case - see the table of different status codes below!	Trained Seals
!updatenotes [case ID] [new notes]	Updates the Notes attached to a case - this replaces the old notes entirely, so be sure to be complete in your new notes!	Trained Seals
!updatecase [case ID] (case status) (case notes)	Updates both the Status Code and Notes of a case - this replaces the old notes entirely, so be sure to be complete in your new notes!	Trained Seals
!endcase [case ID]	Closes a case and removes it from the Delayed Case system.	Trained Seals
!close [case ID]	Closes a case and removes it from the Delayed Case system. It's encouraged to update the notes before you close a case!	Trained Seals
!reopen [case ID] [case status]	Reopens a previously-closed case, if a case is improperly closed.	Moderator+

Case Statuses

You might notice several command require a Case Status element. Here are the different statuses and what they mean:

Case Status	What it Means
1	This Case needs Seals!
2	This Case has Seals, and the Seals are en-route, OR the Seals are on station, and awaiting the Client for a scheduled meetup.

Although status 2 may have Seals assigned and en-route, check the notes. If you are significantly closer than the current assigned Seals, try and contact them and the current dispatcher to see if joining the case is appropriate.

The Notes Field

Notes should contain AT A MINIMUM this information:

- Client Name
- Client System
- Client Platform
- Details about a Client's Situation
- Assigned Seals (If Any)
- Scheduled Meetup Time (If Set)
- Any and all information needed to ensure a successful repair

If a notes field is too vague or information is not known, the case may be closed or deleted by a Moderator.

Viewing Statuses

To check the status of Delayed Cases, you can either run the `! checkstatus` command, or view the board at <https://hullseals.space/dispatch-tools/delayed/>. The board auto-refreshes every 5 minutes, and is a live-view of the status of the Delayed system.

Disclaimer

This system is not the long-sought-after "Dispatch Board", and cases are not automatically uploaded to the Delayed Case system. Just because the Delayed system doesn't have any ongoing cases does not mean there are none ongoing!

IRC Hosts and Their Meanings

IRC Hosts and Their Meanings

All registered members on our IRC network are given a "vhost", or "virtual host". This is a mask overlaid on some of your connection information such as IP address or connecting host with more human-readable text. It is a quick way for us to tell what permission group a particular member is a part of, and to provide a basic level of information privacy, when combined with other systems.

Anyone who does not have a "vhost" on our network is given a pseudo-randomized IP string that masks their true connection information from non-admins. Below, you can find the most common vhosts you'll see on our network.

VHost	Role	Meaning
*.pup.hullseals.space	Pups	New Members, Seals awaiting their Drills.
*.seal.hullseals.space	Trained Seals	All Trained and Active Seals
*.cyberseal.hullseals.space	Cyberseals	Our technical help, with some special commands. Tech Support!
*.cybersealmgr.hullseals.space	Cyberseal Managers	Our Tech Staff bosses with elevated server permissions.
*.moderator.hullseals.space	Moderators	Enforcers of the rules, and those who help keep our community safe and clean.
*.admin.hullseals.space	Administrators	Our Administrators, who help lead the Seals.
*.bot.hullseals.space	Bots	Our automated tools and assistants.

HalpyBOT Command and Fact Listing

What is HalpyBOT?

HalpyBOT (v1.3) is our First-Generation IRC Assistant, designed to help Seals get limpets on target faster and more painless than ever before. It comes with a lot of features, and is easy to build upon with new features. Most notably for Seals, it powers our custom commands. Some of them are listed below!

Commands vs Facts

You may see two different terms thrown around a lot - Commands and Facts. In short, Commands do something while Facts are just spit out as programmed. If the response needs to be calculated, it's a command. If it's pre-programmed recital, it's a fact.

HalpyBOT Command Listing

Below are the HalpyBOT commands that may be used by Seals.

EDSM Commands

Command	Aliases	Arguments	Use
!lookup	!syslookup	<--new> [System Name]	Check if a system exists in EDSM
!locate	!cmdrlookup, !locatecmdr	<--new> [CMDR Name]	Check if a CMDR exists and shares their location in EDSM
!distance	!dist	<--new> [point 1] : [point 2]	Check the distance between two points in EDSM
!landmark		[EDSM Valid Location]	Check if a given point is nearby a given Landmark System
!dssa		[EDSM Valid Location]	Check for the closest DSSA carrier to a given location.

For Distance, Landmark, and DSSA commands, either a valid System Name or CMDR Name can generally be used.

Dispatcher Commands

Command	Aliases	Arguments	Uses	Requirements
!mancase	!manualcase	[Case Info]	Used to start a new Manual Seal Case by Dispatchers	Drilled Seals Only, and run in a channel.

!manfish	!manualfish	[Case Info]	Used to start a new Manual Kingfisher Case by Dispatchers	Drilled Seals Only, and run in a channel.
!tsping			Used to ping the "Trained Seal" role in the Seal discord.	Drilled Seals Only, and run in a channel.

[Case Info] means that any text after the command will be passed as the case information.

Abuse of tsping will result in heavy disciplinary action.

Delayed Case Commands

See the commands for the Delayed Case Board [Here](#).

Utility Commands

Command	Arguments	Uses	Requirements
!ping		Check to see if the bot is responding to commands.	
!utc		Check for the current In Game Time and Date	
!year		Check for the current In Game Year	
!whois	[name]	Check the user information for registered name	Must be a registered user, and run in DMs with HalpyBOT.
!whoami		Check the user information on yourself	Must be a registered user, and run in DMs with HalpyBOT.
!forcejoin	[user] [channel name]	Force a user to join an allowed channel in IRC.	Drilled Seals Only, must be run in a channel.

Common Commands

Below are all of the registered Commands in HalpyBOT.

Fact	Aliases	Use
!about		Provide information about HalpyBOT
!bacon		A fun little link - who doesn't love Bacon!
!beacon	!bc	How to turn on a Wing Beacon
!cbinfo		To gather Code Black information from a manual case.
!cbmining		Information about how mining works for clients in Code Black cases.
!chatter		If Repair Requests has too much side conversation happening, to redirect Seals to better places.
!clientinbob		For use when a Case is in the Seal Bob, and the channel must shift to a rescue focus.
!clientinfo		To gather case information from a manual case.

!cmdlist		This page!
!drillpw		Paperwork link for Drill cases.
!escapeneutron		Information and guides on how to escape a Neutron Cone
!fuel		Redirect a Client to the Fuel Rats
!go		Assign Seals to a case
!help		Links to resouces should a CMDR need help
!highg		Prepare a Client to take off from a High G planet.
!join		Provide a user information on how to join the Hull Seals
!kfbeacon	!srvbeacon	Request a Client turn on their Wing Beacon from their SRV
!nickserv		How to authenticate with NickServ
!paperwork	!pw, !clear, !ppwk	Send a Seal their paperwork link.
!pcfr		Request a Client add their Seals to their Friends List.
!prep		Get a Client ready for their Seal's arrival.
!psfr		Request a Client add their Seals to their Friends List.
!rebootrepair	!rr	Provide instructions on what a reboot and repair cycle is, and what it does
!securechannel		For when important Case info is being discussed in the Seal Bob, and other topics should wait until the case is over.
!stuck		To gather Kingfisher information from a manual case.
!synth		Instructions on how to synth a new life support refill
!tos		A quicklink to our TOS. If this is used, a hammer is likely to follow.
!verify		Request a suspect Client provide an image or other information to help validate their repair request. If used, immediately inform a staff member.
!welcome		Welcome a Client and get them ready for a Dispatcher's arrival
!wing	!wr	Request a Client add their Seals to their wing.
!xbfr		Request a Client add their Seals to their Friends List.

You have to be a registered (+r) user in our IRC in order to use these facts.