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# ZestChat

## Quick Start Guide

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### 1. Create or Unlock Your Identity

- Open the ZestChat website at <https://www.zestchat.online>
  - If you're new: enter your **name** and a **passphrase** under *Create Identity*, then click **Create**.
  - If you've used ZestChat before: choose the encrypted JSON file, enter your passphrase under *Import Backup* and click **Import**.
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### 2. Set Up Connection (Signaling)

- One user clicks **Generate Offer** and shares the JSON text with the other.
- The other user pastes the JSON into the box and clicks **Accept Offer/Answer**, then shares their answer back.
- When both sides exchange this data, the connection is established.

#### Privacy Notes

1. Exchanging offers/answers may expose your IP addresses.
  2. Always send them via a secure channel (e.g., encrypted messaging, PGP, etc.).
  3. For extra privacy, use a trusted VPN to mask your real IP.
  4. Never share offers/answers over insecure or public channels.
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### 3. Start Chatting

- Once connected, the **Chat & File Transfer** section appears.
  - Type a message into the input box and click **Send**.
  - Your messages will appear in the chat window, aligned right; received messages appear aligned left.
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### 4. Send and Receive Files

- Use the **Choose File** button and then click **Send File**.
  - The recipient will see the file name in chat with a **Download** button.
  - Clicking **Download** saves the file to their device.
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## 5. Backup and Restore

- To keep your current identity, use the **Download Encrypted JSON** button under *Export Backup*. even though this file will NOT save your current chat history for later.
  - Later, you can restore by selecting this file in *Import Backup* and entering the correct passphrase.
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### Security Notes

1. Your identity is always encrypted with your passphrase before saving but your chat history is not.
2. No central server stores your chats — connections are peer-to-peer.
3. If you forget or lose your passphrase, your backup cannot be decrypted.

### File Transfer Notes

- Although there is no limit regarding the number of files transferred in a chat on an aggregate basis,
- The file transfer limit per transfer is 200 KB at a time.
- Not abiding by this limit will lead to closure of the particular chat and no further communications can be conducted through it unless connection is reestablished normally through a new channel whatsoever in the same way through the offer/accept procedure as described in the above mentioned steps.

### Additional Notes

- Audio and Video Calling functionality will be rolled out in later versions.
- The same can be said about storage backup of chat history being loaded automatically when the Encrypted JSON Backup is imported. Only the user's identity backup is supported as of yet.