



Welcome to Virtual Math Teams (VMT)

mathforum.org/vmt/

A project of the Math Forum @ Drexel University



1 How do I register?

If you don't have a username and password for VMT yet, you need to register to participate in Virtual Math Teams. To register, go to mathforum.org/vmt/ and follow the "register" link. You chose your username and the system will assign you an initial password and send it on an e-mail. (You can change the password assigned to you through the VMT website)

2 How do I login into VMT?

To enter the VMT website, follow the "login" link in the VMT page (step 1) or directly at: vmt.mathforum.org/VMTLobby/ A login screen will ask you for your username and password. Once you authenticate yourself, you will be taken to "the lobby" which looks like this:

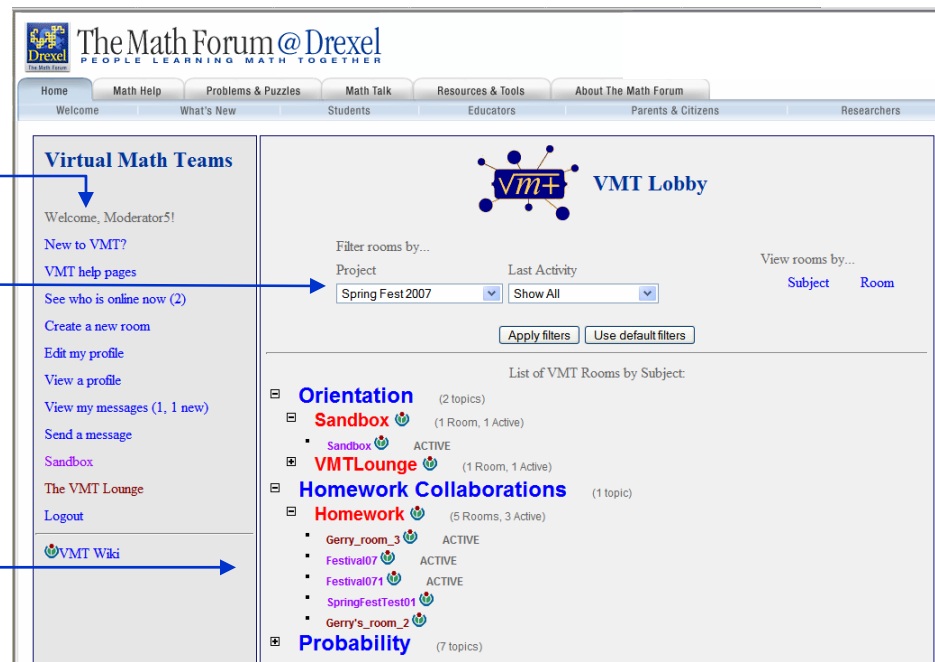
The three areas of the VMT website:

Get basic information about VMT, find out who is online now, send messages to users, update your profile, go to the wiki, etc.

Filter the rooms you want to see by the project they belong to or by the last time a room was active. View rooms organized by subject or by room name.

List of VMT Chat rooms, organized by subject (e.g. Pre-Algebra) and by topic or problem (e.g. Jar of Coins).

Click on a room's name to enter. Click on a topic to see a description.




The VMT lobby is a place where you can see all the chat rooms, create your own room, find people, enter a room, go to the wiki, and other basic functions.

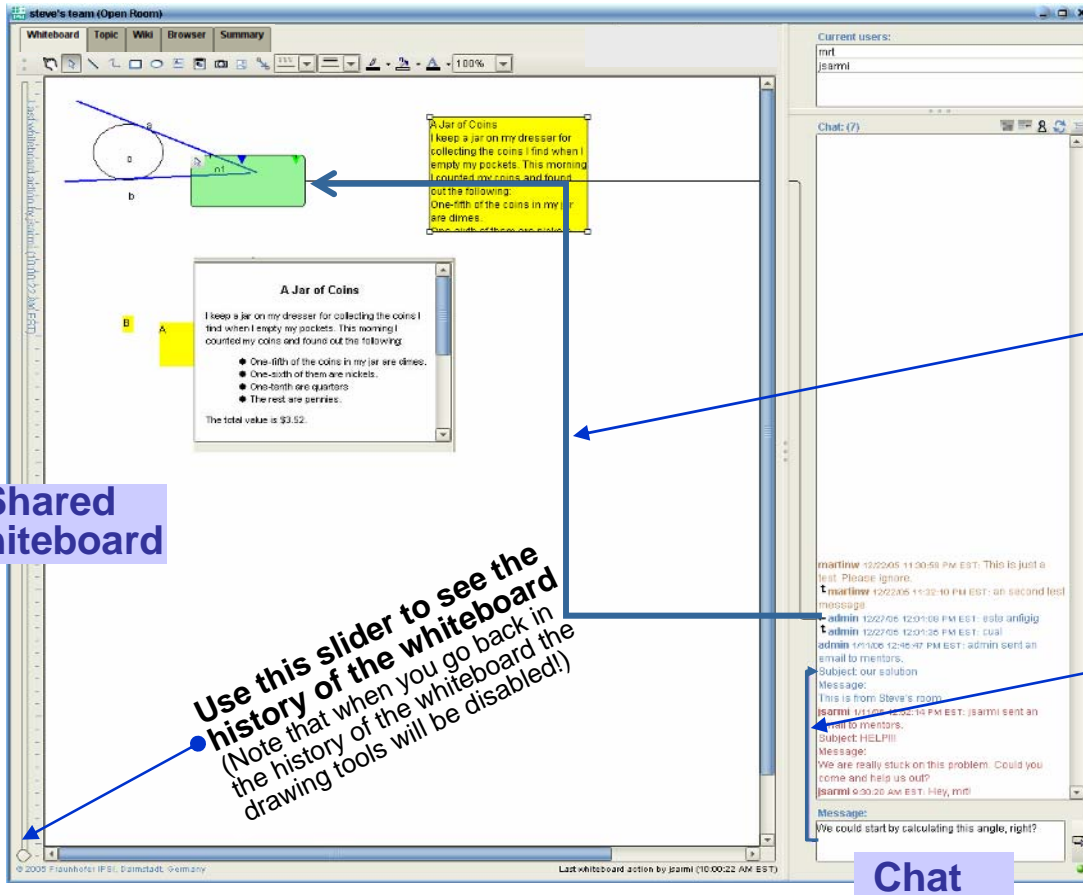
VMT chat rooms are used for groups to work together. They have a shared whiteboard, a chat application, and some other tools. (You can see what they look like in the back of this flyer.)

The VMT wiki is a place where you can read about the ideas of different groups and also post your own. As with any other wiki, the web pages can be edited by any user to improve their content.


3 How do I enter a Chat room?

You enter a room by clicking its name in the list presented in the lobby. The chat room runs as a Java application that will open up in a new window. To familiarize yourself with the system, use the "Sandbox" room located under the "Orientation" subject in the list.  VMT Chat uses Java to run. If you need to install the latest version you can get it from www.java.com/getjava/ For more technical information see the "troubleshooting" section of the VMT online help: mathforum.org/vmt/help.html

The VMT Chat room combines a shared whiteboard with a chat program and allows you to post links (“references”) from one chat message to another, or from a message to something on a tab.



The tabs give you access to different resources. You may have a shared **whiteboard** to do math with your group and another to **summarize** your work, and also some web pages. You can **point** from the chat to these tabs so that people know what you are referencing

To link a chat message to the whiteboard, use the hand icon () on the toolbar and then select the area of the whiteboard you want to refer to by clicking and dragging your mouse. A **blue arrow** connecting your message and the whiteboard will be displayed.

To link your message to another message, double click on the message you want to link to. A blue line connecting that message to the new message field will be displayed. If you change your mind before you push Enter, you can undo the link by pressing the **Esc** key.

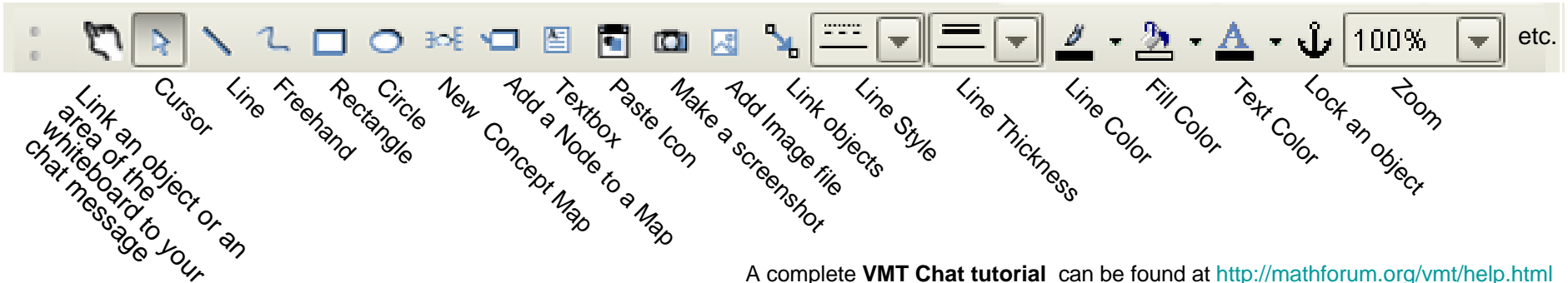
To type **math expressions** in a chat message or on the whiteboard, use ASCII notation and enclose your formula between \$ signs:

$$y = \log(x^3) + \sqrt{z-x/2}$$

Shared Whiteboard

Use this slider to see the history of the whiteboard (Note that when you go back in the history of the whiteboard the drawing tools will be disabled!)

Here is a general idea of what some of the **whiteboard** tools do:



A complete **VMT Chat tutorial** can be found at <http://mathforum.org/vmt/help.html>