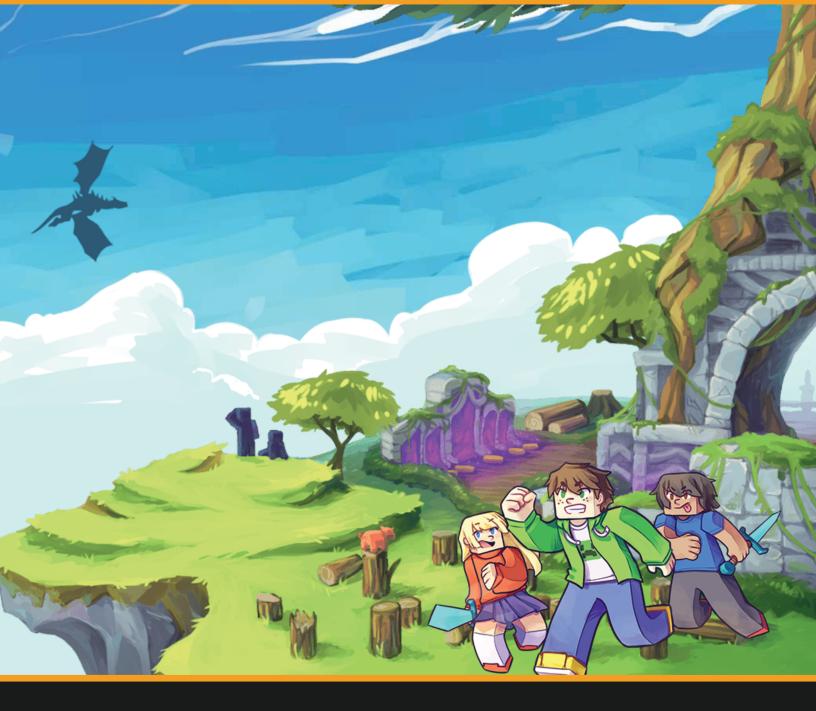
NEWSLETTER



Issue 75 December 2021

New Admin Introductions and Interviews, Content Creator Video Showcase, and more.

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> Have any feedback? We'd love to hear it. Share with us on our feedback form!

From the Editor

It's December! I hope you all had a fantastic 2021 year - it seems as though this year flew by super quickly. This year, we did our best to recover from the pandemic, and thankfully a lot of us are returning to our normal lives day by day. Hopefully, each and every one of you was able to make it through the year as joyful as possible, but even if not, I know 2022 will be a better year for all of us!

This year, Mineplex went through a ton of changes - regardless of whether they were big or small. New Admins were promoted, new staff members joined the team, and plenty of new players joined the network. Despite our player-count dropping, much of the community has remained by Mineplex's side and that's great to see. Additionally, I would like to thank the members of the Newsletter Team specifically (resigned and current) for putting in great work this year. Although I was not the lead for the entire year, I witnessed the great work of everyone on the team and this article wouldn't feel complete if I didn't commend them for their efforts.

Last month, I mentioned changing up the number of articles we push out every month. After consideration, the team and I have decided that we will have around 6 articles each month: Our regular From the Editor and Monthly Staff Statistics, Our regular contests Guess the Staff Member and Caption the Image, and 2 unique articles! If there are specific ideas brought up for these unique articles or contest replacements, don't be shy to bring them up via the Suggestions Box as you may see them in the Newsletter!

If you have any specific inquiries in which you would like to speak with me privately about the Newsletter, the team, an article, or any other concern, you're more than welcome to and can do so through messaging me on the forums. Otherwise, as mentioned, you can always submit comments or feedback through our official form or on the thread. I hope you enjoy this month's edition of the Mineplex Newsletter!

Have a delightful December!

- Arjun, Newsletter Program Manager

New Admin Introductions and Interviews By ddgolfer

On the 25th of September, there was an exciting announcement informing us of two new additions to the Admin team. The first is rosmeme, who is now the Admin of the Quality Assurance team, and secondly chhase, who is now the Admin of the Forum Management team! To find out more about their experiences, what their plans are for the future of their teams, and some fun memories along their journey, the Newsletter team interviewed both of them!



chhase: "My name is Chase, and I first got involved with the Mineplex staff team in June 2014 but ended up resigning in May 2015. I was re-accepted to the staff team in January 2020 and joined the Forum Management team in June 2020. Some of my favorite things to do are hiking, playing tennis, going on drives, and going to Disneyland! With Mineplex, I'm the Admin of the Forum Management and Reports Patrol teams. Under Forum Management, I supervise the Forum Managers as well as the Forum Management Assistants while maintaining a mentoring role there. With Reports Patrol, I'm currently a mentor there too! While my Admin duties keep me busy. I'm also an editor for the Newsletter as well as a member of the Map Testing team."



rosmeme: "Helloo I am Maggie/ rosmeme and I am the Quality Assurance Admin and Game Insights Lead. I am also part of the marketplace team and rules committee subteam. I fully run the QA/T team, hosting testings, making sure things run smoothly and efficiently, etc. I pretty much do the same thing for the Game Insights team. My role on the marketplace team is being a skin artist. I create skin packs that get released on the Bedrock Marketplace. Lastly, on the Rules Committee, I aid in discussions of rules and rule changes, as well as just being an overall helping hand for the staff and community to help clarify rules."

I believe it is safe to say that we're all curious as to what their experience was like when the Admin position was offered to them individually. Many past Admins had faced several creative ways that this position was offered to them, but here is how their initial reactions and personal experience went down:

chhase: "I was very overwhelmed but also super excited. On the day that I was offered the position, Dean actually messaged me wanting to meet with me and told me he was going to ask me a few questions regarding my Admin (Wanderer)'s performance and leadership. I thought getting into a call for that was a bit weird but, of course, I did it anyway. Turns out I was correct to be suspicious and after a few questions about my Admin, Dean told me he was messing with me and then gave me the news of Wanderer stepping down and offered for me to be the replacement. Of course, I accepted the invitation but had to keep quiet for a few days whilst the internal transition happened. While seeing Wanderer go was not fun, I knew that he was going on to bigger and better things and I was also very excited for this new challenge for myself to fill his shoes."

rosmeme: "I was honestly a bit shocked, I didn't really expect it to happen when it happened. I thought maybe sometime in the future it would happen, but definitely not so soon. I think I was definitely a little overwhelmed with the fact I was being promoted, at the moment I really forgot to react. I think literally what I told Dean was "yes" and went silent for a minute. I remember him asking if I was alright. I was originally hoping in a vc thinking we would be talking about something entirely unrelated. It was a shock finding out really why we were having a voice chat."

While their experiences were fun and motivating, we next asked them how the transition was from their previous positions. It would seem as though the jump would be difficult into an Admin position, but here is how they described it:

chhase: "Honestly, it was not as overwhelming as I thought it was going to be. I had taken over as the Forum Management Assistance Lead the previous month and had gotten the hang of that so stepping up into the Admin position wasn't too much of a difference. Of course, I now partake in Admin-only duties and, while some of those things took some getting used to, everybody involved has been very helpful and understanding of my need to get comfortable."

rosmeme: "The transition for me really was not that bad. I was the Quality Assurance Manager and Quality Assurance Testing Lead for a few years already, I was pretty much already leading the team in regards to anything QA/T related. The only difference really was the added admin responsibilities. The extra workload is really manageable for me."

With an easy and comfortable switch into their new position, we asked them both to reflect on their earlier times on the staff team, if they had ever thought they would make it this far, and to revisit their favorite and most memorable time on the team:

chhase: "When I first joined the staff team in 2014, I had no earthly idea of what I wanted to do there. I became somewhat of a team-hopper, joining four different Senior Mod teams in the span of less than a year haha.

While switching teams was a lot more common back then, the uncertainty behind my decisions when joining each team was ultimately something that led me to resign. When I rejoined the team in 2020, my goal was to focus more on the tasks at hand instead of longing for other teams. After I gave Forum Management a go, I just really fell in love with the team. Some of my closest friends here were on the team and I knew it was where I belonged. I planned to work as hard and as consistently as possible but I never dreamed that it would lead me to the Admin position. I figured I would eventually try and make my way up to Forum Management Assistance Lead (so long as other parts of the team moved around) and then I would be content in that role. So ultimately, while I never expected to be in the position I am today, I am very grateful for those who saw the potential in me and trusted me to take on this role.

One thing that I never really thought too much about before is how deeply the Admin team cares about the network. I knew that they cared before but now that I am in this position and seeing everything firsthand, I am realizing that is the forefront of the Admin team. As Admins, we do not have a ton of power regarding the state of the server but we do our best in our own respective positions to make everything as stable as possible for the community as well as the staff team. Whether that be taking the time to go through each network ban appeal as a team or giving feedback on internal team changes, every member of the Admin team (including Dean) is very involved in decisions and working to make a better future for the network."

rosmeme: "When I first got staff in 2017, I never would have imagined I would become an admin around four years later. It has been sort of wild to me, I am leading the team I have always wanted to be on since I became staff. I got super lucky with the fact that QAT apps opened right when I became a trainee. I was also really fortunate to have been accepted in the first place. If it were not for apps opening when they did, who knows how things would be now."

Favorite Memories

chhase: "This is definitely one of my favorite memories here on Mineplex. This screenshot was taken by joshuart the day that I was announced as Admin (I'm the green goose on the right if you couldn't tell). I was actually in my first ever Admin meeting when this screenshot was taken and mine and rosmeme's promotions would shortly be announced to the public."



rosmeme: "I have switched computers a few times since I've been here playing on Mineplex so I do not have any old screenshots or anything to show from my past with Mineplex unfortunately. I do however have a bit of a story I can indeed share. This was a few years ago back when we had that massive hub with the different rooms for every game mode. I do not quite remember why I was in the lobby, to begin with, but it was Sean, Toki, and I all in one of the emptier lobbies. Toki was chilling in creative before I even got there and had already built some flowers and a bee here and there. Honestly, it did not take as much convincing as I expected to actually get creative as well. We had all been helping Toki with building bees and flowers around one part of the lobby. I just remember at one point I stopped building and chuckled for a good five minutes because Toki built this massive beehive. This was the absolute most beautiful beehive I had ever seen. The part that really made me laugh though was the fact that this massive beehive was hanging from the tiniest tree I had seen in my entire life. Toki had just attached it to one of the trees that were already there instead of making a bigger tree to go along with the hive. Honestly, I still think about that beehive a lot and how much joy a simple beehive actually brought me."

With self-reflections and great memories in the past, the future of Mineplex still lays ahead of us. Huge responsibilities are now in their shoes that they have to fill, so, as a closing, we asked them what they have done so far as an Admin and what they have planned for the foreseeable future:

chhase: "I am a huge fan of making decisions as a team, so everything that has happened on the Forums Team has been in the favor of the entire Forum Management team. We have made a few internal changes regarding documents and rules as well as just a few general procedure updates. In the past few weeks, we have also expanded our Appeals Team by one member which has been a great help. Since I have only been Admin for a little under two months. I have not had a ton of time to make changes, nor do I think a bunch of huge changes are necessary at this time. However, I am always open to new ideas and discussing those as a team.

Currently, the Forum Management team is in the process of updating a few documents relating to Forum Management Assistance. This is due to, in the next month or two, we plan on opening Forum Management Assistance applications and adding a few new members to the team. I think there are a few other changes within the team that may occur in the next couple of months that our Forum Managers are currently discussing and planning, but I guess you will have to wait and see. As for Reports Patrol, the lead of our team, FairestLordHarry has been doing an amazing job training us

new mentors and getting us all used to this side of Reports Patrol. This past month, we began sending out questions of the week quizzes to the Reports Patrol members again and we plan on continuing these in the future in order to further improve the knowledge of our Reports Patrol team."

rosmeme: "These past few months, a lot of effort has been put towards getting all of the updates together and then tested thoroughly so they are the best they can be when you guys see them.

There is a lot of stuff going to be happening that I cannot really talk much about, but I will say I do want to open QAT apps up again, so y'all should keep an eye out for that."

I would like to give a huge thanks to both chhase and rosmeme for taking the time to speak with us!

Hopefully, now you have learned more about the new Admins and what they have planned for the teams they lead. They are both open to team-related and general feedback so if you have a question or concern, feel free to message them on the website.

Content Creator Video Showcase By Looof

The Content Showcase channel in the <u>Mineplex Discord</u> is a place where Mineplex Content Creators can put their videos for all of the server to see. Let's take a look at what videos have been shared recently!

Rebel Guy, one of the more recently accepted Content Creators, is a veteran on the server. This challenge video by Rebel Guy takes place in Survival Games. Rebel takes on the lobby, looking for a victory, but with one hindrance - he has to shift while playing! As expected, the first few games result in utter defeat, however, Rebel didn't give up. Rebel develops and betters his style as time progresses, finding out which strategies work and which don't. Will Rebel Guy be able to beat the infamous Turtle Challenge or will he fall? Find out now!



Hunger Games 273 - The Turtle Challenge V2

Two of the best things come together in <u>AbletoStrafe's</u> newest video: Cake Wars and a challenge. AbletoStrafe goes after the Patriot Challenge, a challenge where the player is unable to stand on any blocks placed by an enemy and also cannot use any of the materials from enemies dead bodies or their generator. As AbletoStrafe goes into Cake Wars Duos, he finds himself dominating the lobby until an unexpected counter appears: the bow and arrow. Will AbletoStrafe be knocked onto an opponent's block or will he dodge all the arrows and win the game?

<u>Cra-ZGuy</u> braves Mineplex's new addition, Cake Wars Solo, in his newest action packed video! Cra-ZGuy makes easy work of players as he gives tips and shows some cool strategies to win in one of the most fun games on Mineplex! All seems to be going extremely well until he runs into a player with a ton of resources. Will he be able to come out victorious or will he fall to this stacked player?



Mineplex Cakewars Patriot Challenge!



MINEPLEX'S NEW GAMEMODE!!!

Guess the Staff Member

By Marzie

Come one, come all! Step up to the plate and try to guess at which staff member this is! Each month, we have selected a Mineplex staff member for you to guess who they are. We will provide you with 2-3 hints and a description for this mystery staff member to help you guess. Don't be afraid to take a guess, either! Any guess is better than no guess.

Description of the staff member:

I am a person of many skins. I love watching TikTok and calling people bad. I've been part of the staff team since 2018.

Hint #1 I'm a Bedrock Staff Member

Hint #2 I'm part of Reports Patrol

Hint #3 Glow Squid best squid

Does this staff member sound familiar to you? Take your guess here: https://forms.gle/ArquC5zXrq5TqjS36

Last month's staff member was xstr4fiingx!

We had quite a lot of people guess this staff member correctly. We threw all the names of those who guessed correctly on a wheel and spun it 3 times to choose winners as fairly as possible. Round of applause to these 3 lucky winners!

scarlands annadot CloudyDay1234



Caption the Image By EmmaLie

2021 has been a wild ride, but thankfully, we get to end this year off by celebrating the holiday Season - hopefully with our loved ones. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any other holiday, we wish you guys a wonderful holiday season jam-packed with delicious food and excellent company.

Ever since Frosty magically came to life that one snowy day, he knew he had limited time to spread holiday cheer to the people around him. The snow would start to melt as the season changed from winter to spring and his only choice was to make it to the North Pole. So, he hopped on a train hoping it'd take him all the way there.

Big surprise, he didn't make it that far. He actually only made it a few states over. As he stepped off the train, he took in the surroundings around him. There were buildings that reached the sky and he couldn't believe how tall they were. He was mesmerized by how beautiful the city looked at night and he couldn't believe the world had more to offer than small towns covered in snow. His dream became so much more than spreading holiday cheer that night. He wanted to spread joy all over the world and experience the different traditions the human race celebrated every year.

His love for the holidays and spending time with loved ones was so powerful that Santa felt it radiating off of him from the North Pole. He knew deep down that he had to help Frosty achieve his dream, even if it meant he would be celebrating more than just Christmas. Santa hopped in his sleigh with his reindeer and traveled all the way to pick Frosty up, and he gave him the ultimate gift. The ability to never melt.

From that day on, Frosty was able to celebrate every holiday. From Hanukkah to Halloween, Frosty spread holiday cheer all year round!

Caption what's happening in this month's image here: https://forms.gle/SroodKDNBsRZ43ce9



Last month we learned about Gendo The Angel's defeat and his will to get revenge on the people of Plexville. He has recruited his demon Lord Ramihigh to take on the task of spying on the village to gain information. Has he found the weak link in the village? Is it almost time to start another attack? Will the people of Plexville regret celebrating their victory? Who knows what Gendo has in store for them...

Here are our two favorite responses from last month!

_hazza: "At last Gendo is gone, can finally enjoy a bewitched fire. "

Ariannna: "Hmmm... There's something off here o.O"

November Staff Statistics By Arjun

This month, we wanted to issue a huge welcome to all the new staff members who joined us and say thank you to all of the staff members who have sadly resigned for all of their hard work for the network.

Java Trainee November 27: FILTHYRODDER **Resignations** November 30: Eroca

Bedrock Trainee November 6: ceralmuncher (Cross-Platform)

Java Moderator November 1: _ItsMusic_

Bedrock Moderator November 7: ItsMqrk (Cross-Platform)

Senior Moderator November 28: BlondieBrook

(Staff Management)

Builder November 25: osme **3 Year Milestones** November 3, 2018: firefox54

5 Year Milestones November 4, 2016: EmmaLie

7 Year Milestones November 22, 2014: Toki

Meet the Team



Arjun: Hey there! I'm the Newsletter Lead. I'm also a Sr. Recruiter/Manager on the Recruitment team, a Rules Committee member, and I work on a couple of other sub-teams. Hope you enjoyed this month's issue of the Newsletter!



Tortelett: Six years of making the pdf!



Sophie_OGrady: Hi, I edit the newsletter.



Marzie: For your safety, this product has been carefully removed from shelves and will be carefully disposed of.

Meet the Team



EmmaLie: Hiya! I'm Emily and I'm that one weirdo who loves lollipops and doing stuff for the community. I'm currently the admin of Community Management & the Event Squad, so you'll see me a lot in-game, especially in EVENT-1. Outside of Mineplex, a lot of my time goes toward family, friends, Netflix, and Overwatch.



neotheater: <-- recruiter, newsletter writer and ghirahim's number #1 stan.

chhase: goose admin

Meet the Team



aiirr: Hey guys! My name is Alyssa, though most people call me aiirr! I am an editor for the Newsletter team! On Mineplex, you can see me playing either Champions Domination or Turf Wars. If I am not on Minecraft, you'll most likely find me playing Overwatch or doing school work for my last year of college!



ddglfer: Hey y'all, I am ddgolfer and I am a writer for the Newsletter as well as a Scout on the Translations Team! I am an ex-Forum Manager and was on the staff team for eleven months before my departure in January of this year. Now I spend my time wondering why I pay for so many streaming services but never have time to watch anything on them.



Looof: yea yea yea yea yea we paid