MINEPLEX NEWSLETTER

MARCH

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MINEPLEX 2.0 HUB

BY: SSNIP

If you have logged into Mineplex recently, you might have noticed that some things have changed. Notably, our lobby has receive a huge revamp. It's been decluttered and reorganized to make it easier to find the games you want to play. You can now choose your kit for each game directly from the main lobby, so you won't have to worry about picking one before a game starts. Additionally, we've added some new and exciting lobby games and parkour courses. The lobby compass has also had some changes to its layout, including an easier way to join the last gamemode you played. In addition to these new features, we have a limited-time treasure hunt in our main hubs. Make sure to check out these changes!

In addition to a snazzy new lobby, some games no longer have their own dedicated servers, but will instead be available in Mixed Arcade games, MPS's, or the Classics NPC. The core games that still have their own NPCs in the lobby will be receiving regular updates and map releases. This change has sparked a lot of discussion on the forums and various Discord servers, and Community Management is working extra hard to collect community feedback and forward it to the correct people. If you have any feedback, feel free to send it over to them.
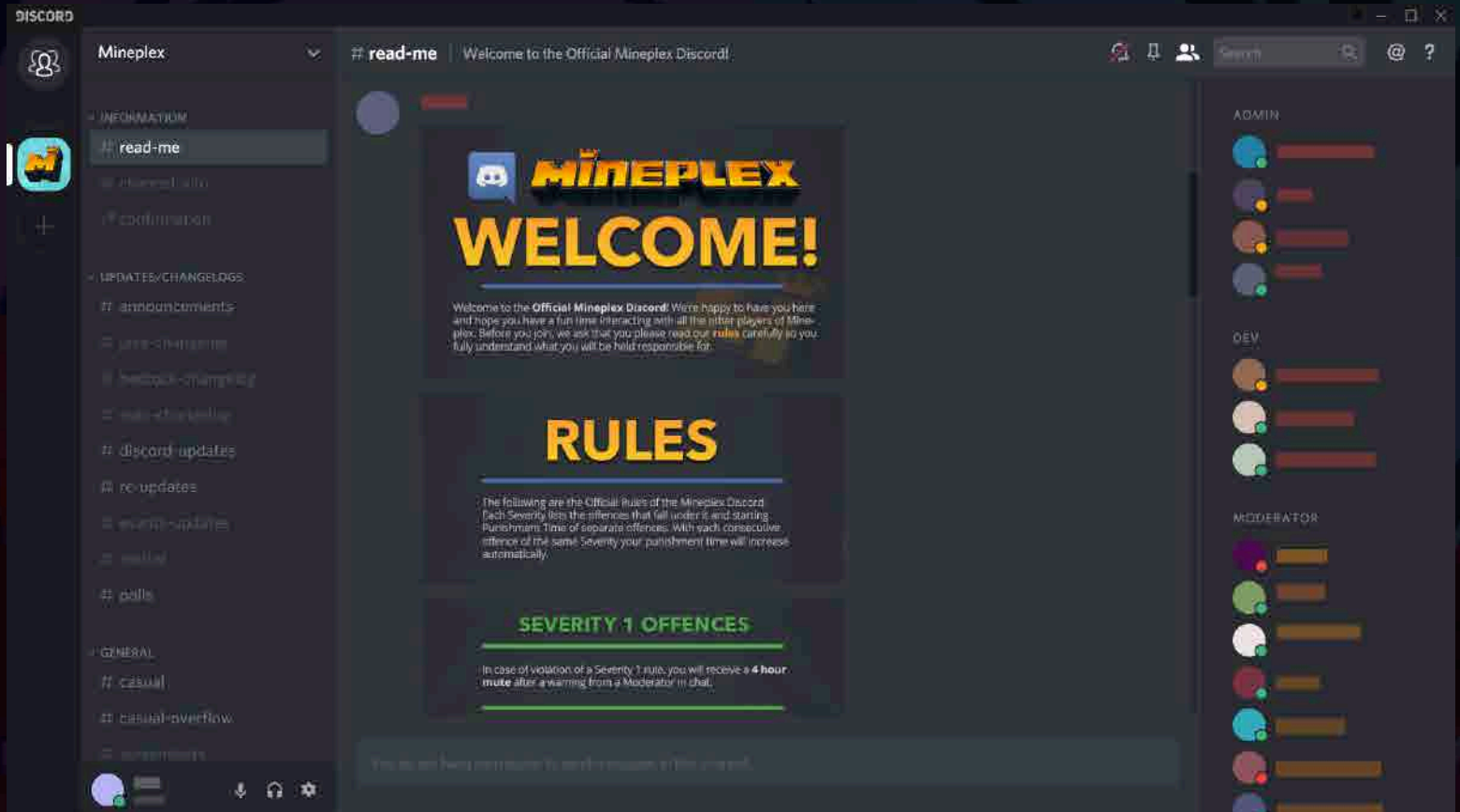
OFFICIAL MINEPLEX DISCORD!

BY: SSNIP

After an overwhelming amount of requests from the community, Mineplex has released its Official Mineplex Discord server! This Discord server is used to communicate various updates on our Java and Bedrock networks and will serve as an alternative hub for discussing community ideas and feedback. You can also hang out and talk with other members of the community in the #casual channel, or share pictures of your pets in the #pets-of-mineplex channel!

When you first join the server, you'll be asked to read and agree to the rules in #read-me. From there, you are free to explore and chat as you please.

The Discord server is still a work-in-progress at the moment, so anything is subject to change. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the server, you can put it up for discussion in the Discord suggestions channel. If you're interested in joining the server, paste the following link into your web browser!

Link: http://discord.mineplex.com

EVENTS TEAMS!

BY: SM_AWESOME

Mineplex hosts a large variety of events weekly that are run by the Events Squad, a Senior Mod team, along with people on Events Assistance, a sub-team that is open to both staff and community members. We got to step behind the scenes and talk to Harvvey, a community member on EA, and Bunni, a Sr.Mod and the EA lead, about their work.

Why did you join EA?

Harvvey: Events have always appealed to me. I love the atmosphere and the interaction with the community in different ways, whether that's through event maps or mini-games with a spin on them. I used to join events back in late 2016, and see the hosts and think, that looks fun, and so I set my sights on EA. I was lucky enough to be on Community Assistance, when the team was still around, as we had the opportunity to join Events directly in early 2017, and I'm glad I did!

Bunni: I joined the events team originally when it was called server management because it appealed to me, the idea of doing events for the community looked fun. Back then it wasn't the same team as it is now but it was still awesome to be apart of and see the whole team transform throughout the years.

What does your work on your team consist of?

Harvvey: The 'work' on the team is usually quite consistent. Our main role is to help co-host the weekly events we plan. We try to host around 2 US & EU events a week, but this can vary. We also comment and review event suggestions submitted by the community. Mineplex staff members on EA also have the opportunity to access the build server to create new event maps for our community events. These are events that are different to the weekly ones, and use an event map for the entire duration of the hosted event. The '12 Days of Christmas' event period last December is a brilliant example of this. Other than that, the event hosting is the main area of our work!

Bunni: On the events team, we have weekly events as well as the opportunity to build and create our own events. As a manager you have to make sure to the best of your ability that both are being worked on. Weekly events need to be set and hosted, prizes needed to be logged, monitoring ect. I also have to help come up with a new schedule and add it each season, as well as making sure everyone's behaving and doing what they're supposed to in events. Calling people bad is also common too though, but you know. We've got a lot of love here on events squad (:

Do you have a favorite memory from an event?

Harvvey: I have too many - there are memories from every event we host that stay with me! My favourite would have to be the screenshot that we take at the end of the event. It just shows how many people turn up and love the events that we host for the community every week, and looking back on them really does make the role of EA feel very special. I've collected over 80+ of these screenshots so far, that's 80+ events attended, and each one has different memories and moments that were brilliant.

Bunni: I remember a long time ago, in a galaxy far away.. nah, just your normal Teamspeak lobby. We decided to host a St. Patrick's Day event and for whatever reason advertise it globally with the announcement. Well it was cool and all until the event server ended up crashing from all the players trying to join at the same time and we couldn't really host anything. Besides that, at the time, we were in Teamspeak with a bunch of staff and community members. To me it was this awesome blend of community and staff all chatting and having fun together, and it was the moment I want to try to create in every event to come, minus crashing the server.

If you are interested in attending some events, the schedule can be found at www.mineplex.com/events. We hope to see you guys there!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

BY: COWIEH

"I was a little confused when I found out, purely because I got tagged in discord and in Slack congratulating me for something I hadn't found out yet," states Awquard, the Staff of the Month for January, describing the news of his accomplishment, "then when I did see the announcement I was really happy to have been chosen as Staff of the Month."

Awquard is currently the lead of Quality Assurance Testing, the only sub-team he shows interest in presently. As a staff member, he would describe himself as pretty easy going. He explains that he tackles any tasks that he has been assigned to with the best standard he can. On top of that, he makes sure that he can formulate his own opinions around things while being as honest as he possibly can.

During his two years as a staff member on Mineplex, Awquard would say his most memorable moment on the staff team probably be when he was invited to join Quality Assurance and become a Senior Moderator. "It was really unexpected and funny how it all happened, I was brought on to a lobby to 'help' test something out," he explains, completely unaware of what was going to happen next. "Little did I know that when I joined, KingCrazy_, the QA Lead, would be there to greet me with a huge sign congratulating me—and the others in my QA batch—and I think the thing that made it even more memorable was the fact that instead of the huge sign saying 'Congrats', it was actually misspelled and read 'Congats'."

As for our Mod of the Month, xVanessa, she explains her recent achievement as super exciting. "I was confused at first since I was in class and I just started getting a bunch of notifications, since apparently everything happens when I'm at school," she explains, unaware of what had happened, "but when I finally read the announcement I had a big dopey smile on my face."

xVanessa is currently on four sub-teams and helping with two Community Management projects. As a moderator, she would describe herself as pretty relaxed. "I like chatting with the community in lobbies from time to time. I also like making little jokes or one liners, they don't turn out well sometimes though since sarcasm doesn't translate well through text but I try," she explains, "but if I see you breaking the rules, don't think you're going to get away with it."

During Vanessa's two years on the staff team, she considers her most memorable moment on the staff team to have been her Trainee acceptance. "Getting trainee definitely takes the cake. Without that acceptance, I wouldn't be here today answering these questions," she says.

Please congratulate both of these wonderful staff members on their marvelous accomplishments!

COMMUNITY TEAM SHOWCASE!

BY: SNOWYKITTY

This month, we decided to take a look at a different type of team here in the Mineplex community. Aside from our official teams that are tied to the staff team, we have a few community-run teams as well. However, this particular community team isn't run by community members, it's actually run by staff members! The Community Mentoring Program (CMP), led by staff members as mentors and assistants, helps community members have a bigger impact on the community. We interviewed a few of these members to find out more about the program and their positions.

What position are you in CMP and what do you do as such?

DjKing03: My current position in CMP is a mentee. My role is to achieve my goal given by my CMP mentor. My goal includes in-game time and Forum Posts.

Marzie: I am a mentor and act like a Trainee Management Mentor, but for community members.

Squirrelflight05: I'm Co-Lead of the CMP along with Its_Tims who's the lead. I'm also a mentor. As a mentor, I create "Questions of the Week" for my mentees to complete in order to learn more about Mineplex, the staff team, and generally how it functions. I also send out logs and set goals such as a forum post goals and in-game time goals in order to keep my mentees motivated and involved in the program.

Why did you join CMP?

DjKing03: I joined CMP so I can further contribute to the Mineplex community as a whole. I love to help people and CMP is a great way to do that as you have Staff members helping you along the way!

Marzie: I joined because I wanted to help the players in this community reach their goals they set for themselves, and help me gain some experience with mentoring because I would like to become a TMA one day

Squirrelflight05: I knew about the CMP due to the fact that I was previously a mentee on the program before achieving staff. I always thought mentoring would be a great experience and a great way to get involved with community members a bit more. Overall, I wanted to join the CMP so I could help members of the community learn a bit more about Mineplex and everything it has to offer.

What do you enjoy about CMP?

DjKing03: The main thing I enjoy about CMP is the other members in the program. Don't get me wrong, I love how much I have improved during my time here helping everyone out, but if it wasn't for the great members who are in the program it wouldn't be same.

Marzie: I enjoy all the different people in CMP and most of them I know and have seen around or played with before, so it's basically a community with a bunch of my friends.

Squirrelflight05: When it comes to the CMP, I really enjoy interacting with my mentees and participating in the events hosted here. It's always really fun to get to know and talk to more people who share common interests with you. The CMP is a great way to get involved and further your enjoyment on Mineplex.

COMMUNITY TEAM SHOWCASE!

BY: SNOWYKITTY

What's your favorite memory from the program?

DjKing03: I got to say when I was accept and everyone welcomed me in like I was just like one of them. Other than that my favourite memory is just feeling good that I've reached my goal.

Marzie: I've only been a mentor for a little over a month, so I haven't done much. I guess my best memory so far was the day I got my CMA (Community Mentoring Assistant). It was the best because I was starting to want someone to help with the workload I had, and it was only a few days before that I brought up the idea. So that was pretty neat I guess

Squirrelflight05: My favorite memory from the program is probably when I first became a mentor and had a meeting with all my new mentees. It was so great to get to know them and hear what they had to say about Mineplex.

Would you recommend others to join and why?

DjKing03: Yes, I would recommend it to everyone! Even if you ain't going for staff it's still just an amazing program to help the community as well as just meeting new people and just having great fun in general.

Marzie: I recommend this for those that have a goal and need or want help reaching it, like learning rules, meeting new people, making new friends, doing better forum posts, stuff like that. Why? Because it's always a great opportunity to try some new things once in a while and to get out of the comfort zone, which is what I try to do with my mentees

Squirrelflight05: I would recommend the CMP as a great program to join if you're looking to get more involved with the Mineplex community. Through the CMP, mentees are able to learn more about Mineplex, the staff team, and the way things work.

If you are interested in becoming a mentee in this program, feel free to check our their thread on the forums! If you have any questions about the program, you can find all the answers you need there, too.
Thread: https://goo.gl/evM4KV

GUESS THE LOCATION!

BY: SNOWYKITTY

Your favorite newsletter game is back, and we're excited to show off the new lobby! Though there are many mysterious spots throughout the new hub, we decided to start off slow. Before we show you our screenshot, we have to answer the obvious question: what's Guess the Location? That's simple! We, the Newsletter staff, provide you with a picture taken in our main lobby. If you think you know where the picture was taken, give us your best description of the location using the form provided below. And don't forget the prize! Two Mythical Chests will be awarded to three lucky winners. You think you have what it takes to complete the challenge? Check out the image below and submit your guess!

This month's location:

You can submit your guesses here: https://goo.gl/forms/VZTQLdbKfl8zCX7y1

Congratulations to our last month's winners!
Sirstealyourkill
Nicodami
Darth_Nihilus_

You'll receive your two Mythical Chests soon!

CAPTION THE IMAGE!

BY: COWIEH

It looks like your favorite monthly article has returned! For those who do not know what Caption the Image is, the rules are very simple. The objective of this game is to create the funniest, most accurate, or just plain silliest caption possible for the image provided each month. If your caption is selected, it will be featured in the next edition of the newsletter along with the image and form for that month.

Lorem ipsum

For this month's image, it looks as if an unexpected guest appeared under our rainbow...

Do you think you have what it takes to meet this challenge? Give it a shot here!
https://goo.gl/forms/tjeqmDL5tBw6PScM2

As for last month, these two members of the community came up with very amusing captions for last month's theme:

"When you cook your best dish for your best woman..." - Stxne

"So... we meat again." - Abreaction

Congratulations to last month's winners, and best of luck to those who think they can meet this month's challenge!

PROMOTIONS/RESIGNATIONS BY: EMMAGRILL

This month, we want to give a shout out to promoted and returning staff members as well as our thanks to those who have decided to resign.

Promotions:

Java Trainee
February 9th - ABB77, BastetTheSatann, Cry_Baby__, Daamiaan, Hammie, Oscaros_Gaming
February 17th - Caameronn, Dacuments, JaBomb
February 24th - dirtysponge, Glitz, Rubbit

Bedrock Trainee
January 26th - KingNeptune13, LaurenceIsCool, mcplayer12345

Java Mod
February 3rd - JJCunningCreeper, ImADumbo, Kiaboneea, Shipopi, z33z
February 16th - BreezeBlockss
February 17th - xAlonzo, Misties

Java Sr. Mod
February 11th - FluffyUnicorn_ (TM Mentoring)
February 11th - Look_Dan (TM Recruitment)
February 16th - MrRevolver2 (Quality Assurance)
February 16th - WaitLife (Quality Assurance)

Bedrock Sr. Mod
February 12th - Assassind312 (Mod Coord)

Resignations:

Java
February 2nd - Tarn_Tara (TM Recruitment)
February 10th - kevithebear (Newsletter Writer)
February 20th - Haers
February 28th - MotherOfPandas (Forum Ninja)

Bedrock
February 10th - KingNeptune13
February 13th - Doqually
February 17th - mcplayer1234567

NEWSLETTER STAFF BIOS

Tortelett: Hi! I am a moderator on the Newsletter and Media Team! I am in charge of designing and assembling all the written articles and images into this newsletter and making everything look pretty. This issue marks my two year anniversary on the team!

SuspiciOus: Hi there, I'm SuspiciOus! I enjoy writing, reading, and technology. I'm currently a Sr.Mod that works in the Quality Assurance division for the Mineplex Pocket Edition and PC servers.

EmmaGrill: Ello! My name is Emma, and I'm a 15 year old book addict. I'm currently an editor and writer on the Newsletter team at Mineplex along with being a Senior Mod on ModCoord. In my spare time I enjoy doing competitive archery and playing the flute. If you see me around feel free to say hello!

Loofii: Hey y'all, I'm Loofii! I'm a Mineplex Mod. My favorite game is Speed Builders, with Team Skywars as a close second. I like dancing, writing, and I'm a huge fan of Troye Sivan and Hayley Kiyoko. If you see me ingame, be sure to say hi!

SnowyKitty: Hey there! I'm SnowyKitty and most call me Snowy. I am a Java Moderator here on Mineplex and the manager of the Newsletter Team. I love to read and write fiction stories, from realistic to sci-fi! My favorite game is Draw My Thing, though I'll really play anything even though I'm not the best at PvP. If you see me somewhere, don't be afraid to shoot me a hello!

ssnip: Yo! I'm ssnip, and I'm a moderator at Mineplex! I host events, moderate the forums, collect community ideas, and write for the newsletter! If you ever see me in-game (or at an event wink) don't be afraid to say hi!

sm_awesome: Heya! I'm sm_awesome, and I'm a moderator here on Mineplex. In addition to being a writer and editor for the newsletter, I'm also on the Translations Team and the Ideas Team. If you see me around, don't be afraid to say hi – I (usually) don't bite!

TheGrandmaster: Hey! I'm TheGrandmaster, and I'm a moderator on Mineplex presently on three sub-teams; MCA, FM and NL. Feel free to message me on the forums or friend me in-game if you require assistance!

Cowieh: Heyo! My name is Cowie, but you can call me Evan. I am currently a Mineplex Moderator on the Java platform. In my free time, I enjoy knitting, crocheting, and of course, writing! If you ever see me in-game, don't be afraid to say hello!