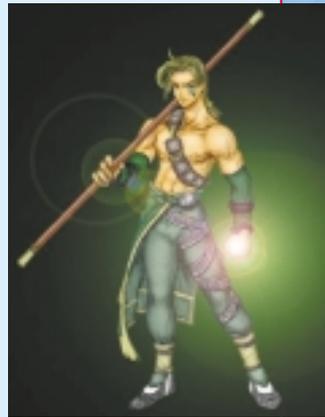
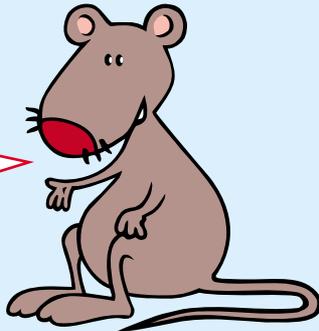


MULTI-USER DIMENSION 1

Dive into an Internet MUD adventure game and you'll interact with fantasy characters, using all your imagination and intelligence. There are no flashy graphics or sound effects, but MUDs are very addictive.

Your fellow players on the net may help you, ignore you, or hinder you – just as in real life.



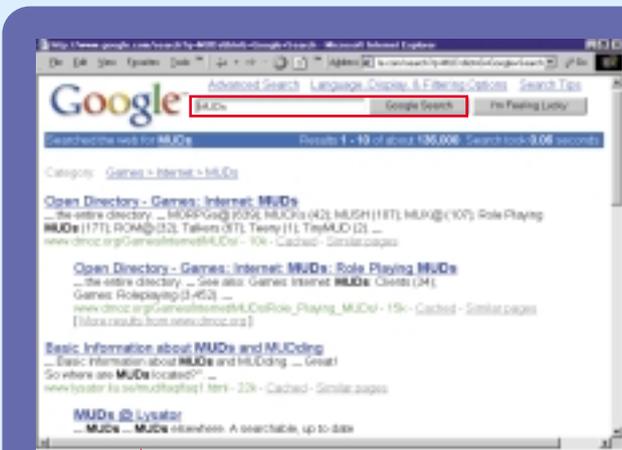
GEEK SPEAK

MUD Multi-User Dimension (also sometimes called Dungeon or Dialogue) is an imaginary, interactive, competitive Internet world. Online players take on the roles of fictional characters. To gain skills, power and promotion, text commands are entered to

pursue quests, overcome demons and monsters, and solve puzzles. Tools, weapons and spells picked up during the game all help. MUDs are often based on a combination of characters from Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, the Middle Ages and wizardry.

TELNET A method of sending text commands to a PC across the net. You send commands and receive responses from the server computer through a numbered port. MUD clients issue connect commands specifying that port number – such as 6547.

JAVA A computer language that enables small programs (applets) to be sent to your PC and then run.

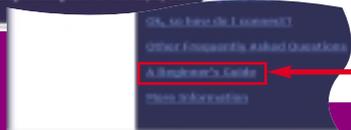


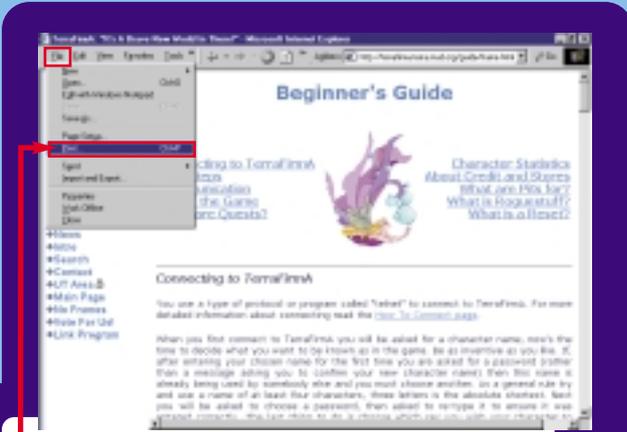
search for **MUDs**. But, for this exercise, let's head to **TerraFirma** at <http://terrafirma.terra.mud.org/>.

1 It's best to connect to the net using Internet Explorer 5, which is Java-enabled and has a Telnet client. (If you don't have IE5, download it free from www.msn.com.) You can go to a search engine, such as www.google.com and



2 Fellow online gamers may not welcome inept beginners blundering into their world, so first take some time to learn the ropes. If you don't, they may kill you off before you even start! Click on **Guide**. On the next screen, click on **A Beginner's Guide**.





3 Save your phone/internet charges by printing the **Beginner's Guide** and reading it carefully offline. Before connecting to TerraFirmA, let's check out some of the screens you'll encounter.



4 Go back to the TerraFirmA **Guide** screen and click on the other helpful links. **Maps of TerraFirmA** is a good place to start. You'll explore your MUD world using compass directions to say where you want to go – north, south and so on. You won't be using browser commands, and the display panel will be black and white with no pictures as such. So it may help to print the introductory maps provided.

WATCH OUT!

TIME IS MONEY

MUDs are played online. They take time to unravel and explore, and once you're in a game you may spend much longer than you think online. Ensure you have your parents' permission before you start playing and that they are aware of how much time you may spend – it could be many, many hours if you get hooked!



5 If you want more detailed geographical information you can also print out the ASCII-type (text-based) maps to help you with the game.

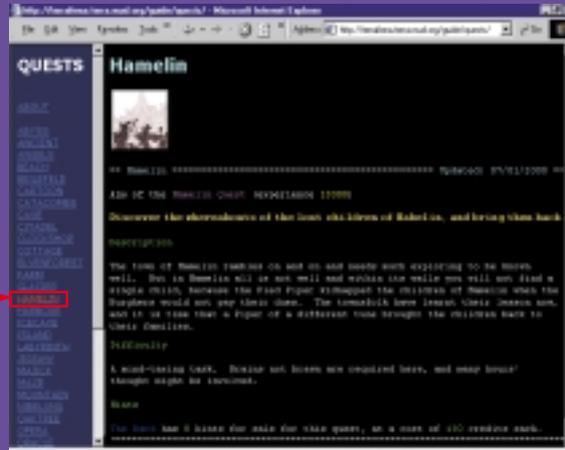


6 Go back to the Guide. Let's check out **INFO Files From The Game**. Choose any topic from the menu by clicking on a link, such as **GAME**. Print these pages for reference if you wish.



7 Click on any of the topics in the **HELP** column for additional gameplay information. For example, **ASK** tells you how to communicate.

8 Go back to the **Guide** and click on **TerraFirmA Quests**. This takes you to links that outline each of some 40 quests in this MUD arena. Solving them is one of the most rewarding and challenging parts of the game. Look at **HAMELIN**, for example.



9 Knowing the territory will be a bonus, too. Go back to **Guide**. Click on **Tourist Guide** then **Travel Information** and so on.

TIP

JOIN AN E-ZINE

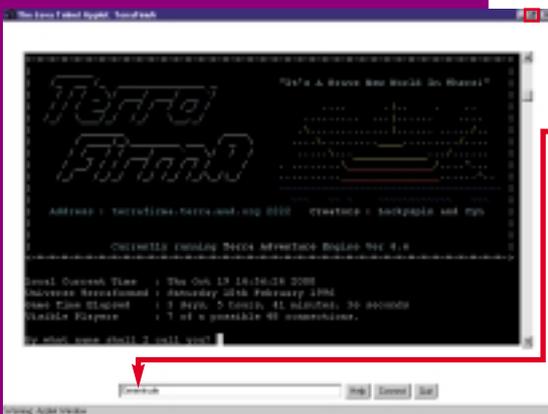
TerraFirmA has an electronic magazine which tells all about the game. To subscribe free, click on **FreeWheeling** on any TerraFirmA main screen. Read the welcome page, then click **Go Here To Subscribe Now!** Fill in the **Send A Mail** box with your e-mail address and other details. Click **Send This Mail**. To check out recent editions, scroll down the **FreeWheeling** page and click on **Latest Issue** or any of the **Past Issues**.

Getting Connected

1 On any of the **TerraFirmA** main screens, click on a **Play Now!** link. The **JAVA Telnet Client** window opens. Read the instructions, then click on **JAVA TELNET: Connect To TerraFirma!**



3 Your character name appears and you are asked **Did I get the name right?** If so, type **yes** and hit **Return**. If not, type the name again and repeat. Type a chosen password into the command line and press **Return**. At the prompt, retype the password and hit **Return**. Then state your sex – type **M** (male) or **F** (female), and press **Return**.



2 The **Java Telnet Applet: TerraFirmA** window opens. Click the maximize button. Overtyping your character name in the command box. This must be at least four characters long. Make it as inventive as you like, but don't use your real name. Hit the **Return** key on your keyboard.

```

Welcome

To TerraFirma v Version 1.0

Has the previous the initial time and counts the mill seconds, a
base of lambda power that has been lost for maximum!

It is a new meaning in another new challenge. Can you
inside hell to escape the user mind and still keep your sanity!
TerraFirma now features full access to the game spellbook. Watch out
for those lightning bolts and cursed spells!

Where is food and need it fast? Mobile food stalls are now available!
Oh thanks to all those who have helped with this version of the game.
Bye
    
```

4 You are welcomed to TerraFirma. Read the screen and then hit your **Return** key.

```

TerraFirma now features full access to the game spellbook. Watch out
for those lightning bolts and cursed spells!

Where is food and need it fast? Mobile food stalls are now available!

Oh thanks to all those who have helped with this version of the game.
Bye

Press *Return* to continue, or type commands here
* Login *****

Welcome to TerraFirma, Remembrance. What do you wish to do?

[ENTER] TERRAFIRMA
CHECK YOUR INVENTORY
See [WHO] is out
[?] Investigate your character
[Q] Quit the game
[?] Show menu
    
```

5 Now let's configure your character. Type the command letter in the square brackets – in this case, **C** – and press **Return**.

```

[ENTER] TERRAFIRMA
Check your [W]all
See [WHO] is out
[?] Investigate your character
[Q] Quit the game
[?] Show menu

ENTER: [D] To DANCE, AND [I] For menu : C
Configuration

TITLE "Remembrance the beginning"
[?] Description
[?] Antenna [w] [?] Blue [w] [w]
[?] Color [w] [?] Memory [w]
[?] Headband [w] [?] Wavy [w]
[?] NoColor [w]

Enter the letter to toggle an option, or obtain a prompt to change the value.
Player what? :
    
```

6 The configuration options appear. Again type in the command letter for the option you choose. Start with **D** for **Description** and hit **Enter**.

TROUBLE SHOOTER

CONNECTION CLOSED

Don't dither about too much or TerraFirma will cut you off with a **Connection Closed** message. If this happens, click on **Connect**, re-enter your name and password at the prompts, and continue.

```

[?] NoColor [w]

Enter the letter to toggle an option, or obtain a prompt to change the value.
Player what? :
and the player description with "*" on the beginning of a new line.
You can continue a command by prefixing it with ">".

[ENTER] TERRAFIRMA
Configuration

TITLE "Remembrance the beginning"
[?] Description
[?] Antenna [w] [?] Blue [w] [w]
[?] Color [w] [?] Memory [w]
[?] Headband [w] [?] Wavy [w]
[?] NoColor [w]

Enter the letter to toggle an option, or obtain a prompt to change the value.
Player what? :
    
```

7 Type in your chosen character description, such as **Tall dark and handsome**.

Hit **Return**. Type ****** and press **Return** to denote that the description is complete. Confirmation will be given by **Update Completed OK**.

```

TITLE "Remembrance the beginning"
[?] Description
[?] Antenna [w] [?] Blue [w] [w]
[?] Color [w] [?] Memory [w]
[?] Headband [w] [?] Wavy [w]
[?] NoColor [w]

Enter the letter to toggle an option, or obtain a prompt to change the value.
Player what? :

Update completed OK.
Player what? : C
Configuration

TITLE "Remembrance the beginning"
[?] Description
[?] Antenna [w] [?] Blue [w] [w]
[?] Color [w] [?] Memory [w]
[?] Headband [w] [?] Wavy [w]
[?] NoColor [w]

Enter the letter to toggle an option, or obtain a prompt to change the value.
Player what? :
    
```

8 Now let's get some colour, so key words appear in different colours on your screen, rather than all white. Type **C** and hit **Return**. You'll now see some colours. When you've finished the configuration, hit **Q** for **Quit**. Click on the **X** button to close and go offline.



Come back next week for some real online gaming.