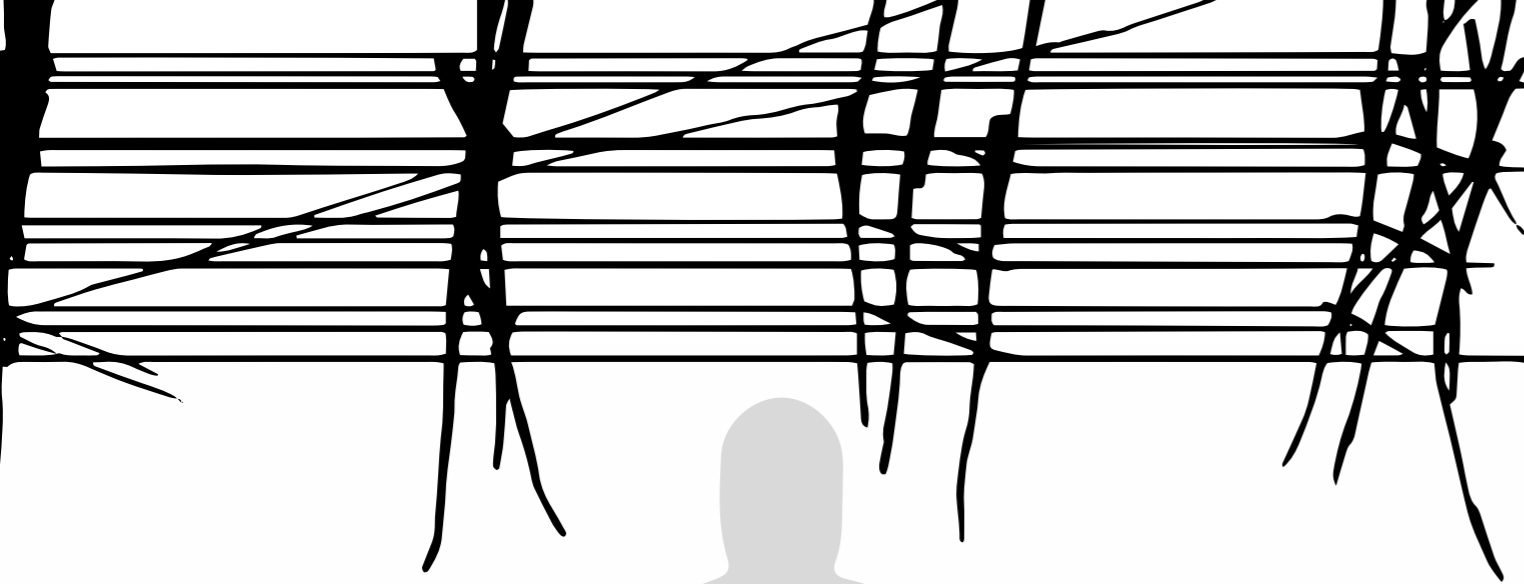


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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

BURN Arts, Inc and the Modifyre Community wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country upon which Modifyre takes place, the Bigambul and Kambuwal Peoples.

We also wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Country upon which many of us live, learn and work, the Jagera and Turrbal Peoples. We honour their Ancestors and pay our deepest respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to all First Nations People, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the nation. We honour and respect their continued cultural and spiritual relationship to their Traditional Lands, Seas and Waters and recognise their unique and valuable contribution to society.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE BUG**

Dear aspiring or returning Theme Camp Lead,

What a time! We hope you join us in creating this strange online world that brings us together in a time of physical distancing, and helps us look to the future we want once we get out of this mess.

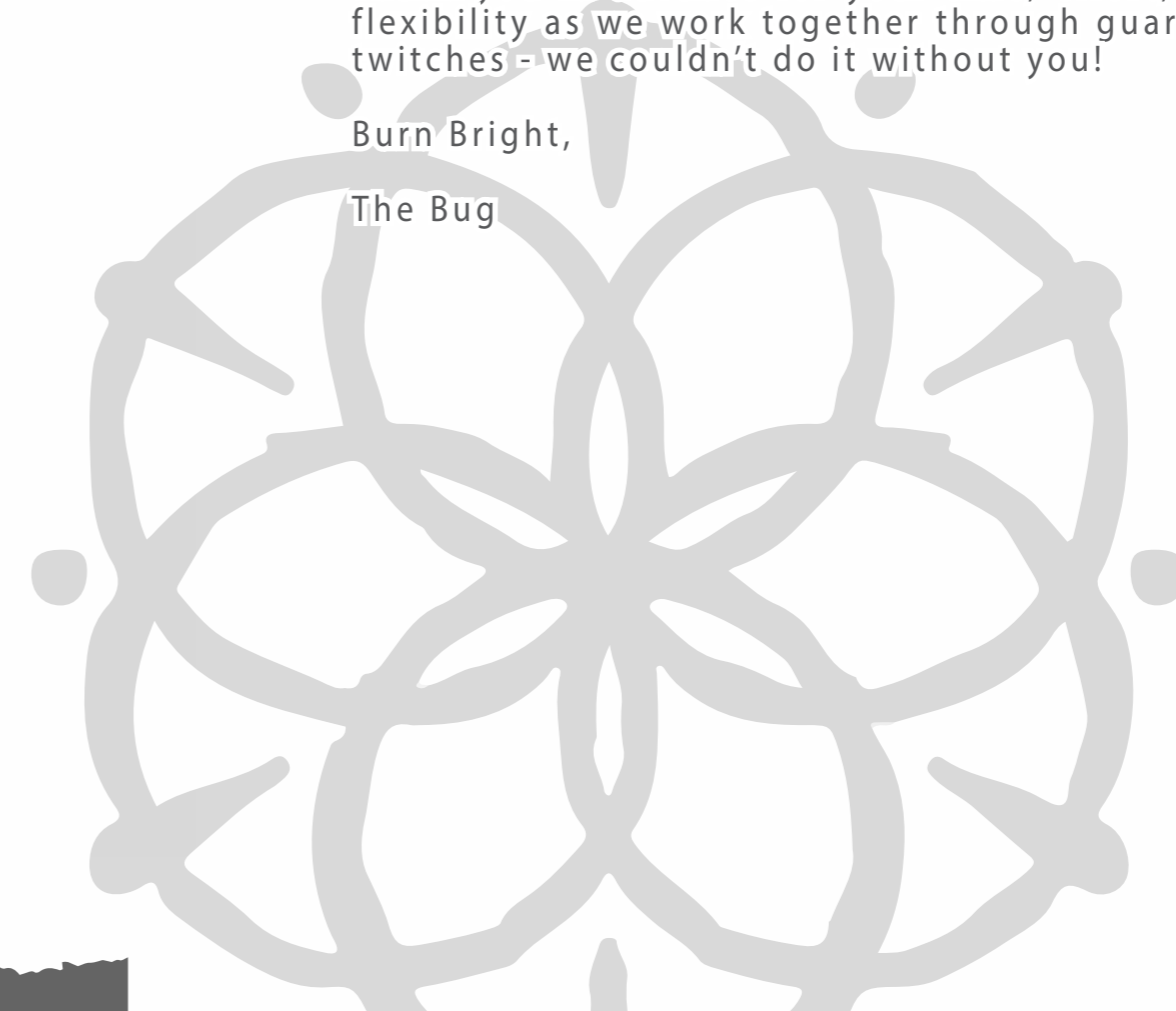
Modifyre is a curious thing to become a part of. Whether we're on the physical or virtual paddock, we're essentially running an experiment in participatory democracy. As always, the truth is, we on the Event Production Team don't run the show. As an organisation, the team can advocate for the sort of event we'd like to see, but ultimately it's up to YOU as the main content creators of our event to build an event that is fun, inclusive and safe.

If you're completely new to Modifyre and creating a Theme Camp, we recommend you check out last year's Theme Camp Handbook. In this edition, we're getting straight into making a Theme Camp in the digital sphere with lots of assumed knowledge about what a burn is normally about!

We hope to work with you to create the magic and the madness that is a burn, and help us inspire radical creativity, changemaking, discussion and acceptance within our community.

Thank you in advance for your time, effort, creative vision and flexibility as we work together through guaranteed glitches and twitches - we couldn't do it without you!

Burn Bright,  
The Bug



# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Modifyre 2020 is an online affair. As we do with the Paddock, we're creating a digital platform as our "blank slate" for you to populate with your wildest digital ideas! We're working with a game designer to create an interactive and participatory experience that will run over two days.

Individuals will be able to make their own avatars and explore our Cyberpaddock, and all of the Theme Camp offerings. Once they find your Theme Camp, they can click the links into the meeting space that you create. Like any burn, YOU are responsible for this space in its entirety - hosting the platforms, moderating them, and creating the activities to be experienced within. We are simply providing the "blank slate" with which to facilitate your wildest social creations.

## TIMES & DATES

Modifyre 2020 starts from 12:00pm (midday) Saturday 4th, ending at 9:00pm Sunday 5th July. We plan to officially close out the event with a temple burn on Sunday and there will be no scheduled events after that. However, the Cyberpaddock platform will stay open until the last person leaves.

### Important Dates & Deadlines:

- Theme Camp Registration Friday 5 June
- Artwork to Illustrators Friday 12 June
- Theme Camp Early Access Friday 19 June
- Event Saturday 4 July

## ONE IMPORTANT THING!

Before we begin, we must ask that you don't share the links of your events to non-ticket holders! That means no posting the links on Facebook events or passing it to your mates. It's important not only because this is a fundraiser for the Inglewood community, but also that we are able to know who is attending from a safety perspective.

# DESIGNING YOUR THEME CAMP AND ITS OFFERINGS

## 1) WHAT'S POSSIBLE? SOME IDEAS AND POINTERS...

I mean, the possibilities are manifold of course! Here's some of the formats for various offerings, and what they can be used for:

- Video Meeting Rooms: these are great for participatory or interactive activities, or just hanging out and having a chat, hosting a workshop, show & tell, live interviews etc.
- Chatrooms: these don't have webcam, but they are perfect for masking your identity. Why not play a character? Perhaps you're God or Gaia? Maybe you're a cat? Get your roleplay on!
- Livestreamed Performances & Sound: All sorts of web streaming services are available for non-interactive live works. These are for the sort of projects that you don't want people to interrupt. However lots of the services still allow messaging and chat.
- Digital Artworks & Gifts: You can link to prerecorded video artworks, images, websites, show off 3D models, podcasts, your favourite banana muffin recipe and more.

## 2) CHOOSING A PLATFORM

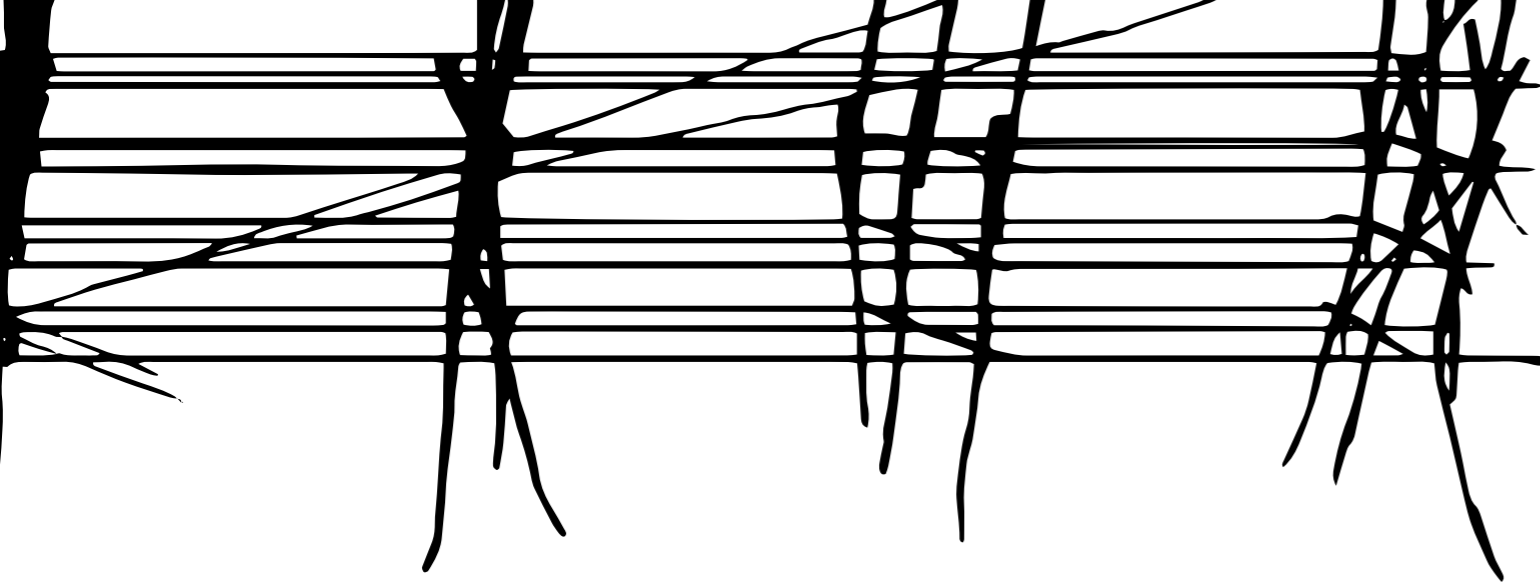
There are so many options for which platforms to choose. In the spirit of Radical Self-Reliance, the research is your responsibility. However if you are keen to shoot ideas around, why not post in the Burning Man Brisbane page and see what the other camps are doing?

Some things to take into account when choosing a platform:

- Security
- Cost (you may choose to pay for a subscription or account, but Modifyre participants must be able to use the platform for free)
- Accessibility
- Your own technical abilities setting it up
- Commodification (for example, is there an open source option?)
- How many people the platform can host
- Internet access & speed of the hosts & artists

A tip from us: try to make your experience interactive, engaging and SIMPLE!

And if you are not naturally tech-savvy, we recommend asking a friend to be your nominated tech-assistance during the event (they will deserve a beer by the end).



### 3) THE DIGITAL STRUCTURE OF YOUR THEME CAMP

Your camp will comprise a “facade” on our Cyberpaddock, which functions as the doorway to your camp, and the camp’s “foyer” in which participants can see what’s on offer to do. Our designer is offering three options for this foyer:

1. A collection of links and event information posted in the foyer on a blackboard
2. A chatroom
3. A room which people can walk around with their avatar, with decor, etc.

From here, you can link to your own external events.

Theme Camp leads will be given Administrator permissions for their camp, allowing you to edit these links and information during the event.



### 4) PLANNING YOUR CAMP'S DOMAINS

For an added layer of security, we will need to know what domains you will be linking to beforehand, so that we can put them on a “whitelist”. This will require you to have some idea of the kind of activities you will be hosting. If you already know the platforms you’re using, this will cover most of them.

To be clear: this is not the exact link of your scheduled event, just the domain that’s hosting your event (for example, [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com), [twitch.com](http://twitch.com), etc. will suffice). Please let us know as best you can during registration and have all of your links up by at least the day before the burn as our designer will not be around to troubleshoot on the day.

As far as security is concerned, once participants leave our platform and enter yours, security is YOUR responsibility. While we understand that no one can completely guarantee the security of any of these platforms, the research is up to you.





## 6) REGISTERING YOUR CAMP

Registration is essential for camps in order to work with our online design and illustration team to create the facade and foyer of your camp. It will ask you all of the relevant questions for our digital designers to create your theme camp facade.

Buy a ticket in order to login as an administrator - you are the one who can update the chalkboards etc. during the event.

## 6) CUSTOMISING YOUR CAMP

There are many customisable elements of your Theme Camp on the Cyberpaddock:

- A choice of the three Theme Camp “foyers” above
- Symbols indicating special information on the facade (LGBTQIA+, 18+ content, kids camp, etc...) which you can indicate during registration
- Noticeboard, announcements and links to your external events
- Open and closing time for your camp

In addition, once you have registered, you will be able to work with one of our Digital Illustrators to customise the facade and the interior of your camp. You can give an idea of the aesthetic that you consider your camp to be, perhaps send photos of your camp, or any photos that are representative.

## 7) EARLY ACCESS & EVENT SCHEDULING

Administrators will be given two weeks of early access to the platform to go in and check out any extra customisations, and schedule your events on your blackboard. Please bear in mind that you will have to have already bought your ticket to get onto the platform.

Please be considerate of everybody’s time and resources when working with our illustrators and designers, and don’t forget to shower them with appreciative vibes!

As usual, we will be scheduling an Opening Ceremony on Sat 2:00pm, Effigy Burn on Sat 7:00pm and Temple Burn on Sunday 7:00pm so you might want to remain mindful of scheduling if you don’t want to overlap with these events.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

### SOUND CAMPS

Sound camps play an integral role in soundtracking the burn, the virtual world is no different this year. We recognise the considerable skill and hard work that goes into producing a quality sound camp, and is critical to the survival and continued growth of our event. We encourage all musicians and musical artists to express yourself within and between camps - Live musics, along with our amazing array of DJ's are highly encouraged to play through the event, whether that be through sporadic pop-up sets/events on the paddock, to guest appearances or as a special "spotlight" feature in "The Heart".

Some considerations from our dedicated Sound Camp Liaison:

- Is my live stream platform (Zoom, Twitch, etc) currently widely adopted for global broadcasting and user friendly for non-tech savvy participants?
- Will my internet connection and equipment tolerate a high quality stream into your virtual sound camp?
- Have I tested and performed "dry runs" of our stream service and equipment to ensure a good feed into our virtual camp?
- Does the livestream platform have any permanent branding (watermark on screen) and can this be adjust to within the principles i.e. decommodification
- Review the current website whitelist (above) for ideas on certain platforms.
- You may want to incorporate a chat function with a member of your camp to enable participants to contact you whilst they are in your camp.
- Consider your carbon footprint and avenues for offsetting emissions whilst streaming- electricity, commuting of artists to stream platform, consumables/waste produced during performances from props, drink vessels, etc. you can consult our Earth Guardians for some positive ideas on mitigating this impact.

- Consider sanitation and hygiene protocols while sharing streaming facilities - please be respectful of your fellow burners. Refresh yourself on the 10+ principles with respect and application to the pandemic when in and around the DJ booth or stage.
- Have you considered collaborating with other camps or musicians to produce a feature outside of your sonic scope?
- Have you considered inviting artists (guest appearances) from other fraternity's (e.g. dancers, visual or digital artists, etc) to be involved in your camp/broadcast?
- Filling idle time with workshops in between artists sets is a great way to integrate deeper into the burner community and forge new exciting friendships. Consider creating not only a space of aural accessibility, but an integration of burner self expression - reciprocate what principals resonate with you and your team.
- "The Heart" will feature spotlight sets for whatever your imagination manifests - contact them directly if you have something to play at [art@modifyre.org](mailto:art@modifyre.org)

We are in volatile conditions of current state government guidelines and have to be resilient and adaptable to circumstance. It is our mission to work together with sound camps to ensure the party stays alive, so if you're planning to lay down some sick beats, let us know and we'll help make it happen!

## **MOOP (MATTER OUT OF PLACE)**

This is obviously largely a 'moop' point this year (sorry not sorry), however now your home is part of our paddock so treat it well! If decorating a room in your house to make an online venue, we recommend reusable decor over disposable plastic decor (bring it to Modifyre next year!). And remember that online activity still has a carbon footprint! Perhaps your camp wants to offset its contribution?

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

It's important to consider accessibility online as well as IRL! This can be as simple as making sure that the platform you've chosen is simple to use for a non-tech-savvy human, to looking at which interfaces are best for those with visual impairments.

It's cool to consider different ways of interacting online. Your Modifyre RAD team recently produced a "participatory performance rave" in which everybody communicated non-verbally and almost no speaking was needed- it was just beats and entertaining each other with visual antics via webcam, whilst people commented in the chatbox. Double tick for aural accessibility and avoiding awkward Zoom party conversations!

And if you know one of those amazing humans who can dance and do Auslan at the same time, it's time to recruit!!

## **COMMODIFICATION**

In our new digital realm, we have new ways to think about what it means to decommoify. You might want to consider the following when choosing a platform:

- Is there an open source or non-profit option?
- Is there an ad-free option?
- Can logos be removed?

Of course, linking to online stores for example is also an example of commodification.

Additionally, when in an online venue, it's very easy to want to link to your own artist/DJ/performer pages for likes and follows. Consider that this might also be an example of commodification, depending on the setting and your intention. Perhaps you decide to share these links afterwards instead?



## ONLINE CAMP CULTURE

### CREATING AN INCLUSIVE SPACE

- Running a Theme Camp means that you are responsible for creating a space that folks of all sorts feel safe to self-express in. How does this translate in an online environment?
- Here are some considerations:
- Will participants need an “induction” of any kind on entering your camp? Some spaces need this more than others (for example, if you are encouraging sexual expression), while for some, it’s less important. You can also be really creative with this - it doesn’t have to be a lecture! How is the way someone is greeted at the entrance going to inform their behaviour and expectations on entering? This could be done many ways online- why not post a 30 second video with a welcome and ground rules?
- Can you advocate for the vibe and behavioural standards you want through decor/signage by working with the illustrators?
- Is there an opportunity to include an Acknowledgement of Country anywhere in your programming/signage?
- How is the space “hosted”? You want to create a space that feels safe and secure without people feeling watched or policed. A personable host or two that is not afraid to be assertive when they need to be can go a long way to making this happen. How might the way you host the space enable or deincestivise toxic behaviour?

- Make a plan beforehand around how you would handle a situation if someone takes things too far online, as well as a person who will be looking over. This means less stress for you if it happens! You might also want to have a contact number of someone in your theme camp in case someone has an issue.
- Does this decor item, outfit or word make me feel icky? General Rule: If the item or look in question is traditionally used by a community or culture other than your own to express religious beliefs, political statements, or respected status within that culture, leave it alone.

Remember that our Moderangers are on-hand to assist with any issues (more on that below).



## CONSENT & CYBERSAFETY

A few years ago, Modifyre formalised Consent as our official 11th Principle! Being the principal content-creators at our event, and Theme Camps have a great opportunity and responsibility to promote consent culture.

There are many ways this principle can be adapted to an online environment. For example, our RAD department recently hosted an event with a No Screenshots policy. That way, the organisers could record or screenshot the proceedings, but the attendees could message the hosts if they weren't comfortable being shared.

Not only do things translate differently online, we tend to forget that the internet is a public space. The difference between a naked person walking around at Modifyre and a naked person on a webcam is that on a webcam there would be no context, no possibility to avoid it in advance from far away, and potentially very awkward cropping. Additionally, all local laws still apply in an online environment. We encourage the moderators to directly message anyone doing anything illegal or compromising on camera and encourage them to step away. The golden rule is, if you wouldn't do it in a crowded room at a public event, don't do it online.

We'll say it one more time, you need a plan for if (likely when) someone crosses online boundaries. Remember, this is YOUR space, and you get to decide who attends and what behaviour is appropriate. You're not obligated to host anyone that is making others feel unsafe. You might also consider how your administrator settings help with this in the case that you don't want to let someone back in (for example the "waiting room" function in Zoom).

Don't be afraid to call a Moderanger to help facilitate these discussions if you need to. Moderangers will be indicated visually on their avatars, and you can find one by visiting the Ranger HQ on the platform.

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

From the whole Modifyre Event Production Team, thank you in advance for bringing your Theme Camp - it wouldn't be a burn without you!

Don't be afraid to email us at [themecamps@modifyre.org](mailto:themecamps@modifyre.org) for any of the following:

- Questions about tech or logistics
- Shooting ideas with our resident "ideas man"!
- Sound camp problems with our resident "sound camp man"!
- Any feedback and suggestions for improvement
- You'd like to let us know what you've learned!

Burn Bright and see you on the Cyberpaddock!

The Modifyre Event Production Team

# 2020 CYBER-GLOSSARY

**Avatar:**  
A representation of how you want to be seen in the digital realm

**Bandwidth:**  
How much data you can upload and download per second

**Cyberpaddock, The:**  
The main platform that comprises Modifyre in 2020

**Domain:**  
The main website address/homepage of the website that you are linking to- e.g. [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)

**Facade:**  
The “front door” to your Theme Camp on the Cyberpaddock

**Foyer:**  
The place when, on entering through the front door, participants can see your offerings and links to your external activities.

**Livestream:**  
A live transmission of your event over the internet (generally non-interactive)

**Moderangers:**  
Our digital rangers!

**Platform:**  
A software or website or app that allows you to interact with the world wide web

**Server:**  
A computer that lives somewhere else and serves you

**Whitelist:**  
Our approved list of domains, which just makes sure that people aren't linking to any extremely shady/illegal corners of the internet.

