



# DEVELOPING ON DISCORD: STARTER PACKET



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# APPS 101

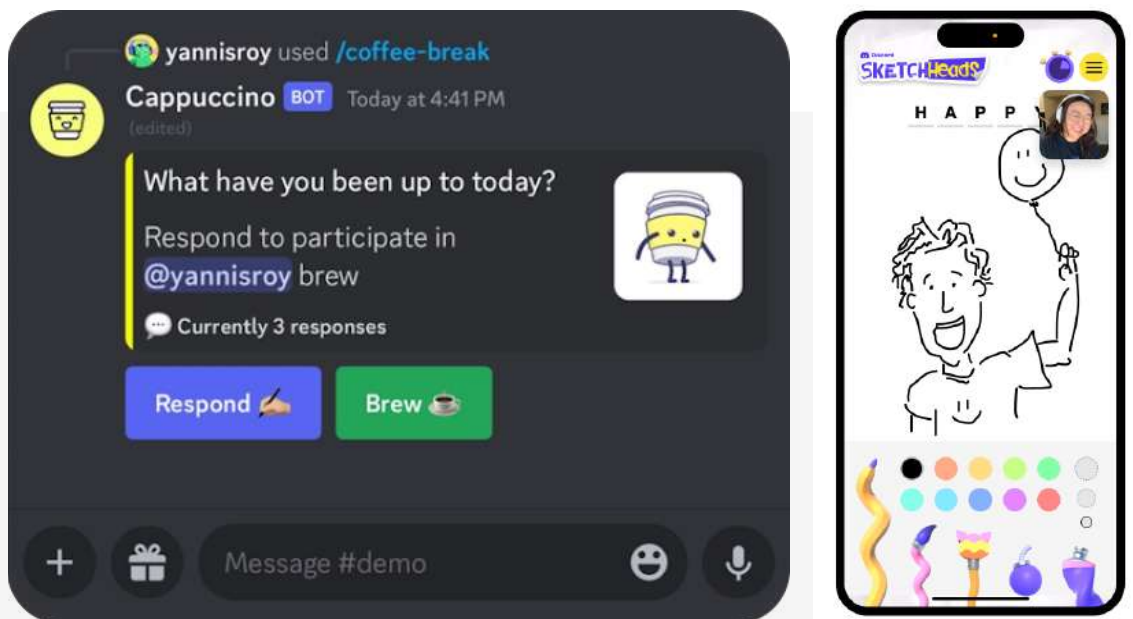


# What is a Discord App?

Discord Apps are a powerful way to delight communities and friends—and anyone can make them! With Apps, you can customize and personalize servers (the main spaces on Discord where users create and find community), automate useful tasks to free up time, and add fun and delight to communities.

**Apps** include anything that can be built with Discord's API. This includes bots and Activities, plus Linked Roles, Rich Presence, and Game Integration. Learn to build an app using our [Getting Started tutorial](#). In this guide, we will be highlighting Bots and Activities specifically:

- Bots or apps are automated users programmed to send messages and engage with users within channels. For example, some apps have bot users that respond to questions, generate images, provide entertainment, and more!
- Activities are immersive experiences, such as games and videos, shared with friends. Interested in creating an Activity? [Tell us about it.](#)



Above are two Discord Apps, “Cappuccino” and “Sketch Heads.” On the left, a user encourages other server members to reflect on their day via the Cappuccino bot. On the right, a Discord user draws in real time using the Sketch Heads Activity.

Read more about Apps at [discord.com/build](https://discord.com/build).

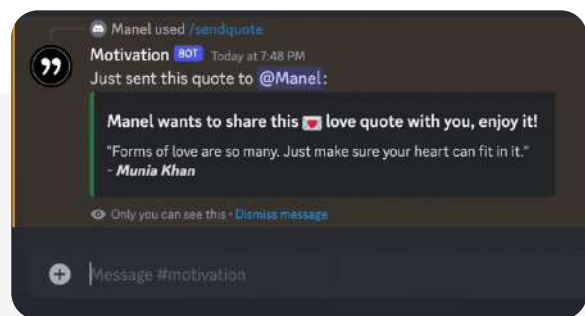
# What can I do with an app?

Apps allow devs to engage with users, customize servers, connect third-party metadata, and so much more!

## Engage Users

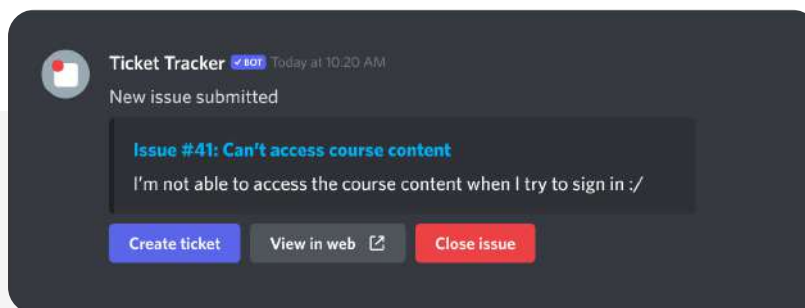
Add interactivity to your app with commands and message components to build engaging experiences in the place where users are already hanging out on Discord.

*On the right, a user sends a motivational quote to another user with the “Motivation” app.*



## Customize Servers

Customize Discord servers by using apps to do things like send messages, modify servers, help server moderators manage their communities, or [connect to voice calls](#). Apps can also respond to real-time events happening in a server, like when a reaction is added to a message.



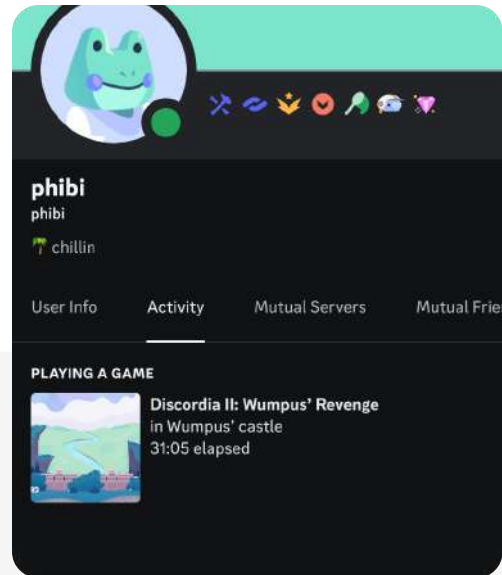
*Above, the “Ticket Tracker” app utilizes buttons to offer support links within a server, making it easy to support users.*



## Connect Metadata

Link and update metadata to enhance Discord for users. For example, you can add [Rich Presence](#) to display live data on users' profiles. Or, add connection metadata to make it easy for server admins to create roles using metadata associated with your app.

*On the right, a user's Discord profile showcases a game they are playing via Rich Presence.*



## Case Studies



*Memrise and Cappuccino* are two brands with mobile apps designed to help users share, learn and connect. These teams saw Discord as an opportunity to facilitate user engagement and reach a wider audience, so they reimaged their apps on Discord! [Learn more about their experience here.](#)

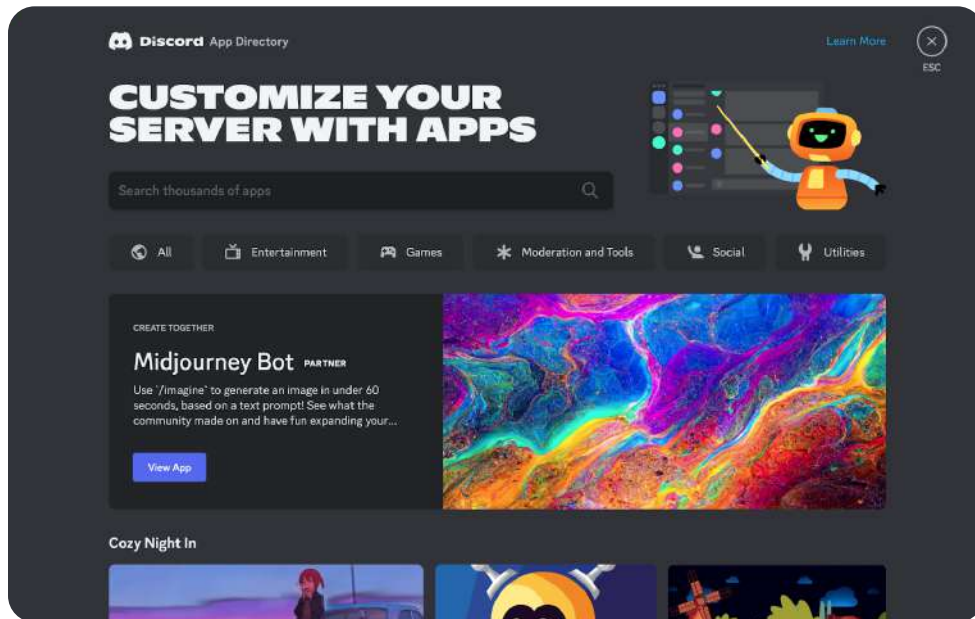


*CHANI and Motivation* are brands with cross-platform apps that educate and inspire their users with astrological information and motivational quotes respectively. Recognizing the significance of user connection and community building, both CHANI and Motivation seized the opportunity to build apps on Discord. By porting their apps onto Discord, these apps encourage connection, reach a broader audience, and establish thriving communities of their own.

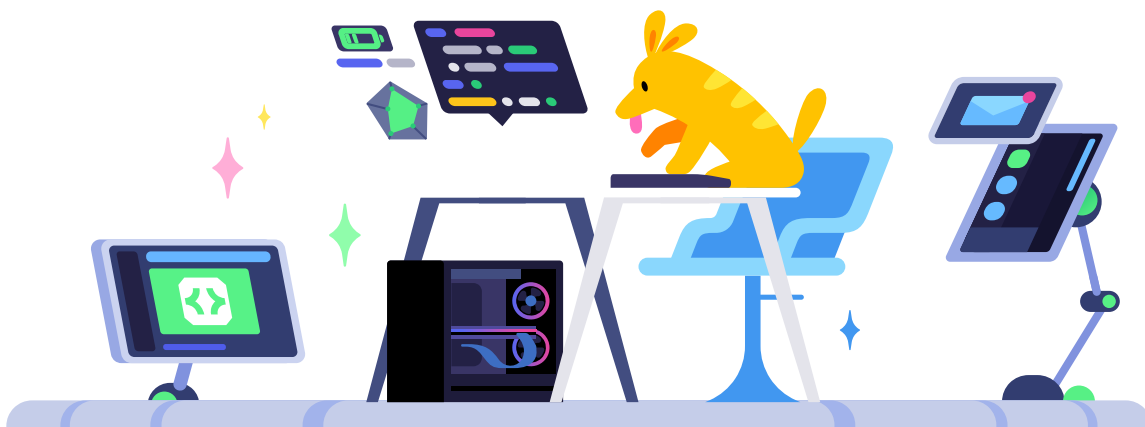
[Read the full case study here.](#)

# How do users find apps on Discord?

The **App Directory**, shown below, lets users search, browse, and explore thousands of apps to customize their servers, directly in Discord! [Learn how to access the App Directory here.](#)

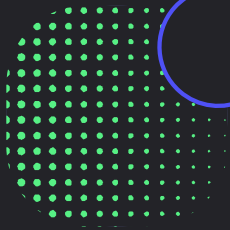


While there are thousands of Apps listed on the App Directory, apps are not added to the App Directory automatically. Server admins can also add apps to their servers via Bot Profiles or invite links without ever being added to the App Directory. Developers can opt-in to the App Directory after their app meets minimum requirements. [Learn more about opting-in to the App Directory here.](#) Developers can also see a server count, an approximation of the number of servers your application is in, via the [Developer Portal](#).





# **BUILDING APPS**



# Safety First

Our users matter! Which is why all developers must comply with the following when using Discord's API/building and operating an App:



[Discord's Developer Terms Of Service](#) →



[Developer Policy](#) →

Please be sure to review the above documentation before building an App.

## Can I port an existing app to Discord?

Yes! While porting your existing app's features onto Discord, it's worth considering how your app will be seen and used inside of the Discord client. [Our guide on commands](#) includes a handful of areas to consider when designing your app's commands, and what happens after they're invoked.

# Case Studies

"The process of building on Discord was made easy thanks to the Discord Developer Portal, which offers clear and user-friendly documentation for developers of any experience level."

-CHANI

[Learn how CHANI and Motivation ported their apps onto Discord here.](#)

## How long will it take to build an app?

This depends on the complexity of your app. If you're familiar with basic coding or have worked with APIs before, you can build your first app in just a few days! For beginners, you can follow along with our [Getting Started guide](#). We also encourage you to join our official [Discord Developers server](#) to get help from the Discord developer community.



# What resources will it take to build an app?

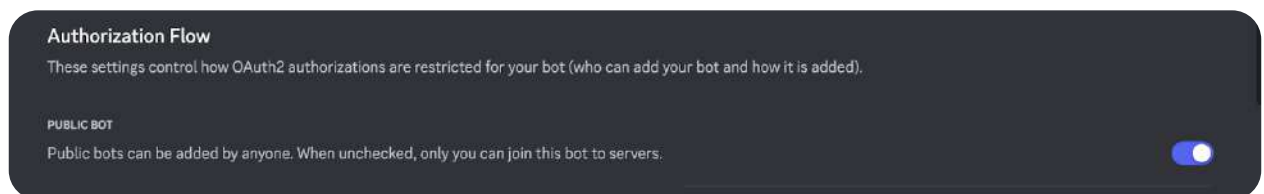
In general, you'll need to select a library, interaction, and/or another tool to access the Discord API within your code, and somewhere to build and host apps. Your selected hosting platform may have an associated cost. The exact cost will depend on the host's pricing policy and your resource usage.

An inexhaustive list of available third-party libraries, interactions, and other options are listed in our [Community Resources](#). Use whichever programming language and hosting provider you prefer!

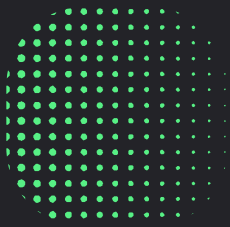


# Can I limit/gate access to an app I build?

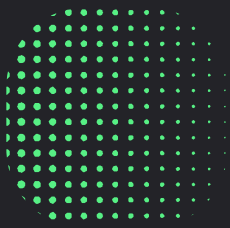
By default, apps are public and can be installed by server admins that have an install link. You can limit installation ability to simply you by going to [your app configuration](#) and toggling off "Public Bot" on the Bot page.



You can also limit access to an app's application commands on a per-command level. Developers can decide what they want the default permissions for each command of their app to be, and server admins and moderators can easily make customizations to optimize for safety and engagement within their community. [Learn more about slash command permissions here.](#)



**MORE  
DEVELOPER  
RESOURCES**



# Apps and app Development

## [Build On Discord](#)

Explore how to enhance your Discord experience with apps, browse case studies of brands who created Discord apps to reach more users, and apply to our Ecosystem Fund!

## [A Beginner's Guide To Using Discord Apps](#)

Learn about the user experience, such as how to find and use Discord apps.

## [App-Building Workshop | Event Recording \(2 Hours\)](#)

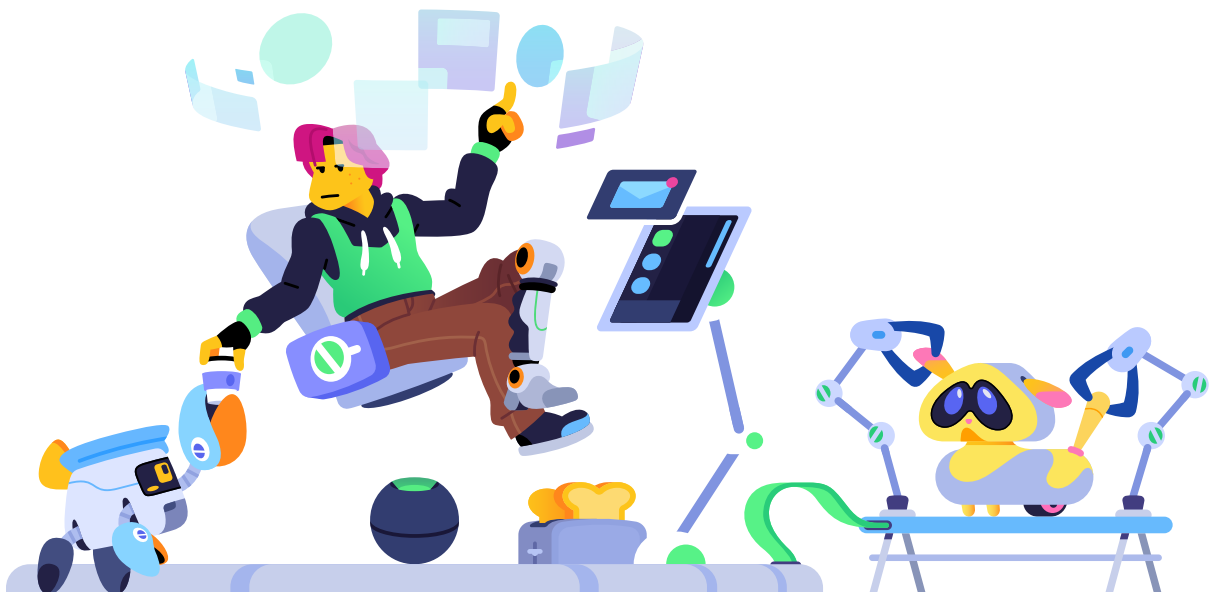
Learn how to create a fully-functioning Discord application! Here you'll learn best practices and the latest API updates from internal Discord staff. Geared towards those with prior programming experience.

## [Discord Developers Community](#)

Join Discord Developers (DDevs), the official home for developers on Discord! This community offers timely API updates, peer support, developer events, and more.

## [Developer Documentation](#)

Find a getting started guide, the basics of interactions, and all technical details needed for building on Discord.



# App Directory

## [App Directory Best Practices Session | Event Recording \(28 Minutes\)](#)

Learn how to increase visibility of your app through App Directory best practices.

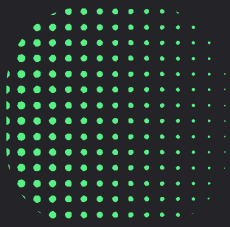
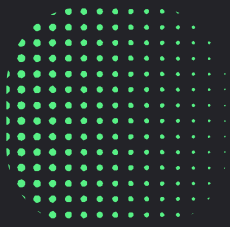
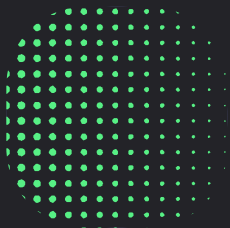
## [Welcome To The App Directory!](#)

Learn about the App Directory, including how to find and navigate it, plus how to share apps with others.

## [Crafting Your App Directory Page](#)

Follow this guide of tips and tricks to help boost performance of your App Directory Product page.





**Discord**