

MANUAL

Thank you for purchasing the Telegram-to-Secondlife relay! This product allows you to connect an object inside the world of Second Life with a chat in Telegram (individual or group), letting users of both services to chat. This particular version does not require that you have an intermediate server, but comes with a number of limitations, that will be discussed below.

Features

- Can work in group chats or individually (meaning that you will be the only Telegram user who can communicate via it).
- Replies are shown as such in SL chat.
- Can filter out messages from objects.

Setup

There are two stages: creation of the Telegram bot inside Telegram and in-world object setup.

Telegram bot

In Telegram, search for "Botfather". It is a bot that allows you to create and configure your own bots. Type `/newbot` to start creating a new bot. Type a display name for your bot, it can be anything. Then type the username for your bot, it must not contain spaces and it must end with "bot" (like `my_sl_relay_test_bot`). At this point, the bot is created, you will see a link that will allow you to find that bot in your Telegram window. Additionally, you get a token. You should keep it secret, as it allows you to control your bot's behavior. If at any point you want to generate a different token, type `/revoke` in Botfather and choose your bot.

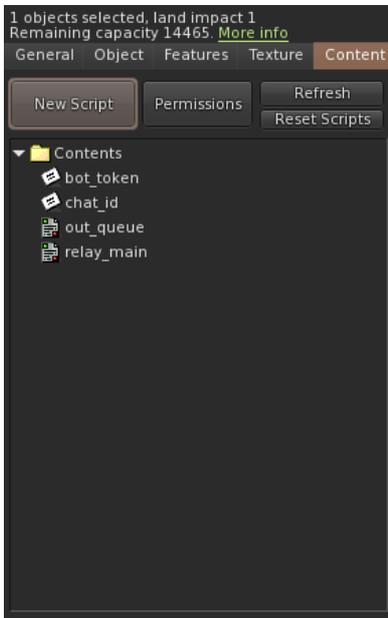
You can type `/help` in Botfather to see other options, like changing name or profile picture for your bot.

Additional actions for group chats

If you want the bot to be able to work in group chats, not only you need to invite it to your group chat, you also need to assign privacy settings. By default, a bot does not hear the messages that are simply said by users in group chats; only commands that are said by mentioning the bot. To make it be able to hear (and therefore, relay) all the messages, in Botfather type `/setprivacy`, pick your bot and choose "Disable". Now the bot is able to hear all messages in group chats.

Relay object in SL

Rez the Telegram Relay object, right-click it, choose "Edit", in the window choose "Content" tab. You will see two empty notecards in the object's inventory: "bot_token" and "chat_id".



First, you need to set the token that you have received from Botfather. Open the "bot_token" notecard, paste the token there and press "Save".

Now you need to let the bot know which Telegram chat it will relay messages from and to. All you need to do is send any message from Telegram, be it directly to the bot (then only you will be able to send messages via the relay) or in the group chat (then anyone in this group chat will send and receive messages via relay). Now your bot knows the ID of the chat.

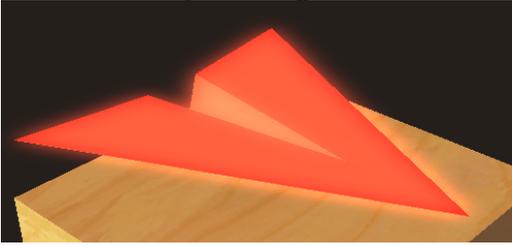
It is highly recommended that you touch the relay object and select "Show ChatID" in the menu that appears. The relay will tell you the ID of the chat that it has received; it is a number, positive for direct chat or negative for group chats (so mind the minus!). Paste it into "chat_id" notecard. That way, you will make this chat ID persistent: the relay will remember it if you move it somewhere or otherwise reset its scripts.

If at some point you want to change the chat ID, simply delete the number from the "chat_id" notecard (don't delete the notecard itself! Just make it empty!), send any message from a new chat and paste the new chat ID into the notecard.

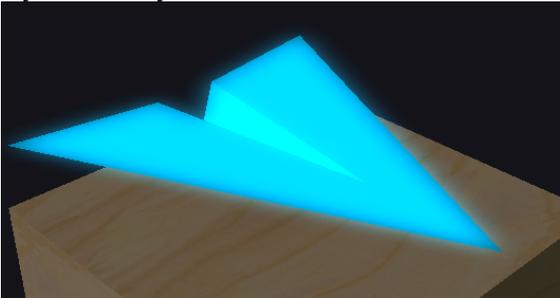
And that's about it!

Relay colors

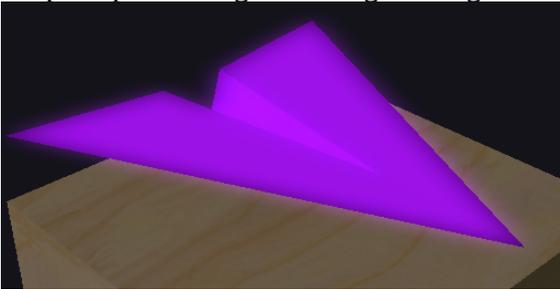
Red - not ready, waiting for token to be specified.



Cyan – ready.



Purple - processing incoming message.



Options

Telegram commands

There are some commands that you can send from Telegram chat.

`/help` - shows the list of commands

`/users` - shows the list of people in range of the relay and how far away they are

`/music` - shows the current stream URL. Note that this feature will only work if the relay object is owned by the land owner.

Menu commands

These commands are available in the menu that can be accessed by touching the relay.

Show ChatID - shows the Telegram chat ID (see above).

Object relay - by default, the relay sends messages only from users, not objects. You can toggle the ability to send object messages using this option.

Aggregate - if too many messages are said in the Second Life chat, it may take a while for them to be sent to Telegram. When this function is enabled, the relay will try to send them in a batch. It will be faster, but the messages waiting in the queue will be displayed as one message in Telegram.

Known issues

Here's the list of issues that could not be fixed in this (serverless) version of the relay due to LSL limitations. They may be fixed in the future in an alternative version of the relay which may require an intermediate server.

Slow message exchange

A message is read from Telegram chat and a message is sent to Telegram chat every 2 seconds. It is done because of LSL throttling on requests and cannot be bypassed. Message aggregation may boost the message sending from SL to Telegram, but the opposite is avoided due to memory issues.

Unicode characters

This problem exists only with messages sent from Telegram to SL

The processing of non-ASCII characters (basically, non-English letters and rare symbols) is extremely slow because of the format used by Telegram. Additionally, non-ASCII messages bigger than approximately 250 characters will cause an error and will not be relayed (both SL and Telegram users will be notified about the error).

Message size

Avoid sending messages that are bigger than a thousand characters from Telegram. LSL memory limit is painfully low.

Additionally, avoid replying to big messages, because they are also transferred and the sum of sizes of replied and actual messages may hit the memory limit.

Photos and stickers

Second Life chat is purely textual. Therefore, photos and stickers cannot be shown. They will be replaced by [PHOTO] and [STICKER] messages.