

Bitlbee

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Why?

- Something that allows you to use your favourite IRC client to access multiple IM networks would be handy...
- "An IRC to other chat networks gateway"
- Allows you to use an IRC client to talk to users of other IM protocols.
- Supports: XMPP/Jabber (including Google Talk), MSN Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger, AIM and ICQ
- Works with any IRC client, but ideal if you run irssi in screen.

- Why not use Gaim/pidgin/kopete?
 - Yes there's support for multiple protocols, but
 - Some IM protocols only allow you to sign in from one machine at a time, starting another client kicks out the one that's already signed in.
 - GUI applications are not easily shareable between multiple computers.
 - Many people think the IRC support in Gaim sucks. :) End up running Gaim + IRC client.
 - Does allow you to sign into multiple protocols at one go though.
 - You could use a CLI client (finch, tmsnc) and screen, but you either have to run multiple clients or change IRC client.

How?

- Sign on and off from different protocols individually.
- Send, accept and reject buddy requests - root tells you when there's a pending request.
- Rename a buddy.
- Block / unblock users.
- Away status supported across networks, including mapping most appropriate status (e.g. Food = Out to lunch on MSN)
- Group chats on MSN and Yahoo!

- Runs as a daemon. Or use public servers.
- Connect using your favourite IRC client, port 6667 by default.
- Get auto-joined to #bitlbee where you will see the bot (or bee) called root (or Bitlbee)
- Register: register \$password
- Add an account or two:
account add msn username@example.com password
account add jabber username@jabber.org password
- “Buddies” will join the channel when they sign in. Talk to them directly in the channel or in “query” messages.
- Type “help” in #bitlbee for more.

<http://www.bitlbee.org>