Using the Online Community

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1. **Joining Engineering Communities**

Joining the Engineering Communities online community is quick and simple for IET members and non-members alike.

If you do not have an IET website account, please register an account first and then return to Engineering Communities to log in. If you already have an IET website account, simply log in using your existing username and password.

To aid creation of your profile and to personalise your experience within the community, some elements of your profile are pre-populated from your IET website account and the IET’s customer database when you log in.

**Please note:** Although some areas of the online community are publicly available, many of the features (such as liking content and posting and replying to discussions etc) are only available to those who are logged in. Therefore to get the best out of being part of the community, please make sure you’re logged in!

2. **Your Profile**

Your online community profile is a great way for others to learn more about you. A full and complete profile (with a profile photo) helps others to feel that you’re authentic and credible as a community member.

The information within your profile is made up of some of the information the IET holds in its customer database about you and any other information (such as your biography and social media accounts) you wish to share with other community members. How much or how little information you share and make visible to others is entirely up to you.

3. **Notifications and Privacy**

In your account area you can apply privacy settings to determine who can contact you and who sees your information within your profile, as well as decide upon notification and subscription settings so you don’t miss out on any content that interests you.

4. **My Home**

The ‘My Home’ page is your personalised community homepage where you will find the latest featured content; a preview of the latest topics and activity within our discussion forum; the most recent blog posts; quick access to the communities you join and any community members you connect with.

5. **Communities**

Engineering Communities contains over 300 local, technical and specialist communities for you to join and participate in. Use the Communities Directory to search for and find communities of interest to you. When you’ve found a community you’d like to join, simply click on the join button.
Each community contains a list of events; a discussion forum as well as a blog written by volunteers; and photos, videos and documents shared by other community members. Once you’ve joined a community, don’t forget to visit the community’s ‘Settings’ area to apply notifications and subscription settings so you’re made aware of any new activity and content within the community.

6. **Discussions**

Our public discussion forum contains a variety of discussion categories on general IET themed topics. Our communities also have their own discussion forums dedicated to their particular area of interest or technical specialism.

Want to discuss something with community members? Find the most suitable category (or community) and click on the ‘New Topic’ button to start a discussion. If you read a discussion that you’d like to respond to, click on the Reply button within that topic.

7. **People**

Find and connect with other community members in the People Directory. See someone you want to connect with? Click on their name or profile image to visit their profile page and ‘Add as Contact’.

8. **Resources**

The public resources area contains photo, video and document content that has been uploaded and shared publicly by our community members.

9. **Blogs**

Our public blogs area contains blogs by selected authors on a variety of subjects related to Science, Technology and Engineering.

For more detailed support in using the features of Engineering Communities, visit our [Online Community Help](#) section.